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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN STUDENT VOICE

April 4, 2008

www.uwrfvoice.com

Volume 94, Issue 20

UWRF to instate first health psychologist

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Next fall the psychology department will offer classes taught by the first health psychologist ever hired in the department.

Health Psychologist Todd Wilkinson is one of the new psychology department hires whose contracts will hopefully be finalized next week according to associate dean and for-

mer psychology department chair- man, Brad Caskey.

"It is excit- ing for the department to have young, new ideas," Caskey said. The department now has a better mix of young and older facul- ty."

Once they are signed, Wilkinson's contract will not take effect until August, when he will begin teaching full time.

"Health Psychology is a whole new area of expertise, he [Wilkinson] will bring in new expertise we don't have," psychology professor Travis Tubre said. "So it is very excit- ing, and it makes our depart-

ment more diverse."

Tubre was also the chair of the search committee in charge of hiring the new professors. The committee included department faculty, out-of- department faculty and senior psychology major Hannah Davidson.

"Students have a different mindset about what they want to see in a professor," Tubre said. "It [having a student on the committee] brings a level

of commitment to UW goals.

Davidson was the only student on the search committee and said it was a lit- tle intimidating, but enjoyed the

experience.

"I learned a lot from the experience," Davidson said. "I never realized how much is involved in the search and hire process."

Search committees are formed all over campus to coordinate new hires. After the application deadline the psy- chology search committee reviewed the applications, con- ducted phone interviews and did reference checks.

"We looked at their training

See **Psychologist**, page 3



Kate Garlock/Student Voice

A group dancing for the Dance Theater performance rehearse March 31. The Dance Theater has been practicing for the event since October. Performances will continue through April 5 in the Blanche Davis Theater of KFA.

Dance Theater performs concert

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UW-River Falls Dance Theater has been choreographing, practicing and perfect- ing dance pieces since October. It unveiled their work Wednesday and will continue performing until Saturday.

Dance Theater's annual concert took place in the Blanche Davis Theater of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building at 7:30 p.m.

on the aforementioned dates, and they have two remaining performances, according to a UWRF public affairs news release. This year's concert consists of faculty, guest and student-choreographed pieces. Dance Theater plans to present a wide variety of pieces.

"With Dance Theater it's such a variety of what you get," UWRF dance team member Diana Schueller said. "You get everything from the comical pieces, like

two years ago we had a slumber party [theme], and this year we have another very comical piece. You have some that are very serious that are dedicated. Last year we had some that were dedicated to people that died."

UWRF faculty member and Assistant Director of Dance Theater Mari Kline chose a somber theme for one of the three

See **Dance Theater**, page 3

Acrobats deliver world tour performance to UWRF



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

The Golden Dragon Acrobats perform in the Abbott Concert Hall April 1. All 25 performers are from the People's Republic of China and have been practicing since they were children.

Students have trouble finding teaching jobs

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UW-River Falls students from the College of Education and Professional Studies (COEPS) are finding it increas- ingly difficult to find teaching jobs close to home.

The demand for educators is moving slowly decreasing, according to the 2006 U.S. Educator Supply and Demand Report, which is the most recent released report.

The saturated local market for teachers is flooded with education majors from various UW System schools. In conse- quence, some UWRF graduates are being forced to either move away from home in search of full-time employment or settle

on temporary positions.

Mike Martin, an academic advisor in COEPS, is aware of the market and said future teachers are as well.

"Students are coming into college understanding the market," Martin said. "I am aware that more and more of my freshman are already aware of this."

Students majoring in Elementary Education are especially conscious of the current local market.

"I face that fact everyday when I walk into my classes and see 30 or 40 other students," Rachel Merrier, a sophomore majoring in elementary education said. "The demand is low right now and the supply is more than ample."

In Wisconsin, the school district supply rating for the elementary level was in the

well above average range, where the ratio of applicants to vacancies was 47.99, according to the 2006 Wisconsin Educator Supply and Demand Report. The 2007 report is not yet available, Wisconsin Department of Instruction Assistant Director Laurie Derse said in an e-mail interview.

The 2006 report suggests a variety of reasons for the limited vacancies, includ- ing a slight increase in the percentage of teachers ages 55-64 over the past few years. This may be due to the fact that school districts reported that some teach- ers delayed retirement in the wake of state budget cuts affecting education. Only 2.8 percent of the Wisconsin teach-

See **COEPS**, page 3

D2L looks to find alternatives to old software

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D2L has been involved in an ongoing legal battle with its competitor, Blackboard Inc., since July of 2006, when Blackboard announced a patent granted to them for spec- ific elements included in their course management products. On the same day, the

company sued D2L for infringement of that patent.

In February, a court in Texas ruled in favor of Blackboard. According to court docu- ments, the company was awarded \$3.1 million, a frac- tion of the \$17 million in lost revenue and royalties they had originally claimed. Of the 44 initial counts of infringement, the court dismissed all but

nine.

On March 10, Blackboard filed an injunction that gave D2L 60 days to discontinue the use and sale of version 8.2.2 of its Learning Environment product in the United States. The 60 days are set to expire the Friday before finals week.

"Can you imagine what would happen if we had to get

rid of D2L that close to finals?" UWRF's D2L Administrator, Mary-Alice Muraski said. "It would pull the rug out on professors across the country."

She said she was "shocked and appalled" by the patent claims, which she said are on software that existed long

See **D2L**, page 3

New stores await grand opening in former Ben Franklin building

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From designer apparel to award- winning chocolates, customized lighting and eco-friendly fitness wear, the new Beyond Lighting store has it all. The downtown store moved into the former Ben Franklin building and expanded into a specialty shop that includes a variety of businesses.

The store was vacant for two months after the Ben Franklin craft

store went out of business. The space was bought, leaving April Ingalls, owner of Beyond Lighting, next door to the abandoned space.

After the space was bought, Ingalls introduced herself to the new owner of the empty building. His plans for the space were no longer feasible, and he sold her the space.

"It just kinda clicked how it hap- pened. It was on the market for only days. I was sick to find out about it being sold. Then it just happened. It

was meant to be," Ingalls said.

Beyond Lighting was originally a custom lighting store that specializes in lighting. The business also repairs lamps and does home consultations.

Also available are greeting cards unique to the area, home décor and Wicked Wick candles that are made of soy, created locally and are refill- able.

Ingalls also hopes to sell local art in her store. She encourages any of the University's students or local artists

to submit their work for display.

As a frequent customer to Kristi Straub's store, Little New York, in Ellsworth, Ingalls convinced Straub to join her at the new, large location in River Falls. Little New York specializes in jewelry, purses and acces- sories.

"I am keeping my prices really low. I think it's better to sell a lot at lower prices than nothing at high prices. There is nothing over \$60," Straub said.

Straub's shop has been the only one opened for business of the potential eight stores to appear in the large space. The others will open for busi- ness on Saturday.

"I bought two purses from Little New York already. I also bought three rings and am probably going back tomorrow to shop," student Megan Shervey said. "They have an awe- some selection."

See **Store**, page 3

VOICE SHORTS

Rugby teams to play at home this weekend

The UW-River Falls men's and women's rugby teams are at home this weekend against St. Cloud State University. The first game is set to begin at 1 p.m. on the Intramural Fields and the second game will follow directly after. Both games are free and open to the public.

Visiting professor to speak on women in China

Wang Ping, an associate professor of English at Macalester College will be speaking about the changing roles of women in China April 7. She will discuss how gender identity has evolved in popular culture. Ping's presentation is entitled "Focus on China: 'Women in Modern China.'" The event is free and will begin at 2 p.m. in the Wind River Room of the University Center.

Rally in the River Valley event to be held

On April 7, Rally in the River Valley will be going on in the University Center Mall. The event starts at 3:30 p.m. and lasts until 6:30. There will be live music, free food and speakers. The event is being held to present a unified voice to strongly oppose wars for profit and imperialist gain. This event is sponsored by the UW-River Falls Socialist Alternative, College Democrats and River Falls Peace and Justice. All portions of the event are free.

Popular comedian to perform on campus

The peculiar, sarcastic and constantly changing comedian Andy Hendrickson is coming to our campus April 9 at 8 p.m. Andy has opened for comedian greats such as Dave Chappelle, Lewis Black and Dave Attell. Covering a wide a wide range of styles and subjects, Hendrickson has made his act perfectly suitable for the college lifestyle. The event is sponsored by the Student Entertainment and Arts Committee and is free. It is located in the entertainment complex of the University Center.

University to host annual International Bazaar

Enjoy an evening filled with culture! Visit the University Center Ballroom April 10 from 5-9 p.m. and experience the UWRF International Bazaar. Enjoy many different types of delicious ethnic foods as well as fascinating cultural entertainment and meet with UWRF international students to learn more about their cultures and home countries. Tickets to the bazaar can be bought in 102 Hagestad Hall, Global Connections, or at the door. The cost for students is \$3 and \$5 for the general public.

Local elections impact students, staff

The Wisconsin elections took place April 1, and students and staff were affected by the outcome of the elections. The race for the county board position for District 4 in River Falls was between two members of the UW-River Falls community. The election results reported that student Ben Plunkett beat UWRF assistant to the chancellor Blake Fry 121 to 83. Student Niki Shonoiki was defeated incumbent Michael Larson 84-41 in the city of River Falls for the position of county supervisor in District 6. In the race for school board, incumbent Stacy Johnson Myers and physics professor Rellen Hardke are unofficially on the board for the next three years. Johnson Myers unofficially led the vote count with 1,626 and Hardke was close behind with 1,130. Geoff Force had 486 and Peggy Foster Harris received 374 votes. Write-in candidates received 35 votes.

Voice Shorts compiled by
Joe Nourse

Student Voice Correction

An article in the March 28, 2008 edition of the *Student Voice* had an error in it. The article entitled "Ramer Field's restoration raises student fees" stated that student fees will pay for a bulk of the restoration, when in actuality the fees will only cover \$500,000 of the \$3.5 cost. The *Student Voice* regrets the error and any confusion it may have caused.



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

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

ALL NEWS AND INFORMATION BLOCKS: 5-6 p.m.

Senate supports new advising program

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The Student Senate voted to pledge their support Tuesday for a new campus-wide academic advising program. The program will implement a "total intake model" that would use trained, professional academic advisors to advise new students regarding their academic goals, according to a proposal from the Faculty Senate's Advising Committee. The proposal did not mention a total cost for the new program. The professional advisors are intended to supplement the advising from department teachers, allowing first year, transfer and undeclared students to grasp a broader

picture of what the University has to offer them, Kim Mogen professor of biology and member of the committee said. "This is not to take the place of those interactions," Mogen said. "But to make sure these students get the breadth and depth in this advising, as well." Mogen was joined by three other members of the Advising Committee who came to answer questions on the initial proposal: Brian Shultz of the College of Business and Economics, Sarah Egerstrom of the First Year Experience Program and Nan Jordahl, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. The motion to support the initial proposal passed 15-1. The Senate also added a recommendation that the committee

require all departments to participate in the total intake model. Egerstrom said it could take 6-12 months to finalize a proposal, and 2-3 years for implementation. The Senate also voted unanimously to approve \$1,000 in funds for the fifth annual Diversity Awards Banquet April 16. The Senate will vote on a \$331,000 budget proposal for the Leadership Development and Programming Board at their next meeting, April 8, along with motions concerning shared governance fees and funding for student participation in the state-wide Building Unity Conference. The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. in the Willow River Room of the University Center.

Textbook Services to the move to Hagestad

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Textbook Services is going to be moving from the basement of the Chalmer Davee Library to the old Freddy's dining hall, inside the former student center, Hagestead Hall. The move has been in the works for at least five years, since the plan was in the making for the new University Center.

checkout area is set up so that there are six terminals instead of four, with room for up to four more if needed. A staging area will be where the kitchen was located during the time of Freddy's, where all the new books hat are ready for processing will be. The volume of new books plays a large role in the move, due to the growing population on campus.

Sally King/Student Voice

"Summer is actually a very busy time for us because we are getting in all the new book orders in for the fall," Monroe said, "There's a two month period when it is slower. Spring break time is the slowest time of the year, that's why we are doing the move right now." The old Textbook Services is going to be used by the Archives Research Center for their expanding collection. Monroe is working on setting up the new center while Assistant Manager Shirley Matzek is heading up the old Textbook Services. Textbook Services is using the same equipment from the old center. The new location has had a face lift with ceilings painted and new drywall put up, with a lot of help from the University's Facilities Management, to convert the old Freddy's. Students feel they were ade-

Textbook Services is moving from the basement of Chalmer Davee Library to Hagestad. quately informed about the upcoming move. "They did a really good job of getting the word out in advance, I saw that they were moving from all the fliers outside Textbook Services. The employees told us as we were getting our books for this semester, and I think it was on our book print out lists as well," senior Mike Femling said. "I've known about it all semester." In May, Student Counseling, Health Services and Career Services are all going to be moving to Hagestad Hall. "The only bad thing is that I'll have to walk a little farther for staff meetings," Monroe said. The move for Textbook Services is right on schedule and Monroe hopes to be fully moved into Hagestead Hall by mid-April if not, by the end of the semester. "The main thing that I want to convey is that students will have to return this semester's books to the new location in Hagestead," Monroe said.

Education students to practice their dance moves

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Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) is a game, a social activity, a dance, performance platform, a workout and weight loss tool as well as a classroom and workplace activity. Its appeal stems from a variety of factors: the game's challenges, the music, the movement, the workout and social interactions. Dance games are now found at home, arcades, fitness clubs, health centers, schools and workplaces. DDR has been introduced into high school gym classes all around the country to meet students half way between their love of video games and the need for physical activity. "The game is used in high school as a supplement to many other activities in a fitness unit," Dean Culpepper of the health and human performance department said. DDR was created in Japan in 1998. Since then, the game has become popular all around the world. As of this year, over 100 official versions, or mixes of DDR have been produced, with over 1,000 songs featured across the various versions.

The game was released in America in 2001. The game is typically played on a dance pad with four arrow panels: left, right, up, and down. Additional gameplay modes may utilize two four-panel pads side-by-side (doubles mode), or a single six-panel pad with additional arrows corresponding to the upper diagonals (solo mode). These panels are pressed using the player's feet, in response to arrows that appear on the screen. The arrows are synchronized to the general rhythm or beat of a chosen song, and success is dependent on the player's ability to time and position his or her steps accordingly, UWRF student and avid DDR player Luke Stickan said. The game has been compared to a Stairmaster and to jogging. The objectives of the lessons for students are to quicken foot speed, increase coordination, practice competition, increase the chemical ability to use oxygen for optimal energy, gain muscle, increase self-esteem and enjoy participating in physical activity. "DDR is used one day in my PE Techniques class for majors to learn the proper teaching progression for teaching

in the public schools," Culpepper said. Many home versions of the game have a function to estimate calories burned, given a player's weight. Also, players can use the "workout mode" to make a diary of calories burned playing DDR and any self-reported changes in the player's weight. "The game gets people moving around, so it is definitely worth looking into to," Stickan said. More video game makers are designing potential exercise games as well. X-Box came out with a game in 2004 called "Yourself Fitness," used primarily as an interactive workout video. "Eye Toy Kinetic," released in 2005, and designed with help from Nike fitness experts, used the Playstation 2's camera to stage an interactive exercise session that puts arm-swinging and jumping into action on the player's television and also counts calories burned. The maker of DDR, Konami, has now made a contract to feature the game in 24 Hour Fitness centers around the country.

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.

March 12

--A River Falls man entered a residence hall in the early morning hours and made female residents feel uncomfortable. UWRF Public Safety and RFPD remind students to not let anyone you do not know into the buildings, especially early in the morning. The man is still in jail at this time.

March 22

--Approximately \$1,400 worth of CDs and a \$200 stereo were stolen from a car in K-Lot. Also, an additional \$400 worth of damage was done to the vehicle. There are no suspects at this time.

March 23

--Mia Gee Yang, 19, was cited for disorderly conduct.

March 26

--Christopher J. Huston, 25, was cited a bond amount of \$715 for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

March 29

--Shawn P. Styer, 19, was cited \$172 for first offense underage drinking and \$172 for disorderly conduct.

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Store: Multiple businesses fill vacant space in downtown River Falls

from page 1

Among the other businesses to start at Beyond Lighting are Lori’s Massage and Day Spa, River Chocolate Company and Bella Luce.

Bella Luce, formed by Hudson resident Stacy Corbo is a new family owned and operated business in River Falls.

Five different lines, prom dresses, sports wear, footwear, oils, moderately priced jeans, gift packs, incense and high end designer clothes at an affordable cost will be available at Bella Luce. These all include brands that are environmentally friendly clothing line made of soy and bamboo.

“My 21-year-old daughter [Jaden Giraud] is

my fashion confidant and has traveled with me checking out clothes. My son [Jesse Wohlhoeser] has helped out my partner Jeff a lot with the finance and construction of the store,” said Corbo. “We’ve found clothing in Minneapolis and have done fashion research in Florida.”

Corbo’s other daughter, Jamie Womick, is involved with the sales. Corbo is excited about starting a new business so quickly and is happy to have her family involved in the process.

“It’s all about family here,” Corbo said.

Lori’s Massage and Day Spa is already an established business in River Falls located on North Second Street, but will be opening an Express Spa in the Beyond Lighting store.

Massages and body products will be available.

The River Chocolate Company, famous for its truffles, is already an established business from the area as well. With many awards, including the 2003 City Pages “Best Of” for Chocolate in the Twin Cities and the 2002 Best New Food Product for the Midwest Food and Wine Experience, the chocolates are worth a try. This will be the chef, Allen Whitney and his partner Deirdre Davis’ first attempt at a small restaurant.

“Most of our fruits are from small, sustainable farms within the area,” said Davis.

Included will be deli-like soups ranging from exotic flavors like watermelon and Thai, all-organic ingredients, vegan, vegetarian, and clas-

sic foods, paninis, chocolate drinks and seating for 30 people. An espresso machine will be used to provide “real coffee” without syrup.

“I can’t even tell you about the salads. You won’t use any utensils to eat it and no, it’s not grazing,” Davis said. “You’ll just be able to pick out your salad and walk out the door.”

Beyond Lighting, now as a collaborative store, decided to keep its name from the former lighting store now referring to the entire space and all its available products.

The store’s hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday with hours on Thursday until 8 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The grand opening of the store is set for April 5.

D2L: Patent claim causes court to rule in favor of Blackboard, Inc.

from page 1

before Blackboard was even a company.

“It’s like trying to copyright spreadsheets,” she said.

In a statement to its clients, D2L said it believes Blackboard’s claims to be invalid, but the company plans to release a new version of its learning suite.

“We expect to release the redesigned product in the next few weeks,” the company said in a March 11 press release, “and well before the end of the 60-day grace period that the Court has granted.”

D2L has been the software of the UW System since 2002, when it was selected by the Board of Regents from many possible providers, including Blackboard, Muraski said. It is now used by a large majority of students and faculty. Between March 5 and 12, over 5,000 UWRF students and 256 instructors used their D2L accounts.

Some professors, like Glenn Potts of the economics department, who has used

Blackboard, hopes D2L use will end.

“[Blackboard] is more attractive,” he said, “and easier to set up to meet the needs of faculty.”

Over the last few years, Blackboard’s rising profits have made it the leader in the industry, taking in more than \$239 million. In late 2005, the company merged with its main competitor, WebCT. Last year, Blackboard earned more than \$239 million in total revenue.

In a statement posted on their Web site, D2L issued a harsh critique of Blackboard’s business practices.

“Blackboard, which claims to have over 90 % of the course management system market today, wants to exclude its most effective competitor from the United States market entirely.”

Muraski agrees with the sentiment.

“Why would such a large company take on such a small one unless they thought that company had a better product? Think about it.”

COEPS: Students experience difficulty in landing local teaching jobs

from page 1

ing stock in 2006 was between the ages of 20-24, while teachers 55 and older accounted for 14.5 percent, according to the report.

Despite the challenges the current market presents, some think the increasing supply of young teaching prospects can be beneficial as well.

“There’s a difference between no jobs and a highly competitive job market,” Martin said. “Competition can be healthy and lead applicants to strive harder.”

Students who aim to land a full-time job with greater ease can take on markets with high vacancies, like those found in the southern United States. Some states are even going as far as offering incentive packages for young teachers who wish to relocate, Martin said.

It’s hard for some future teachers to think of leaving home, but vacancies in other markets are causing them to rethink their future plans.

“I heard that the market for teachers is better in the southern U.S. as well as other areas,” Jill Lambach, a sophomore

majoring in health and human performance said. “I would like to stay in the Twin Cities area to teach, but I would consider moving.”

With the current lack of demand in local areas, there are other alternatives besides relocation for teachers.

“Teaching is one of the few career fields where you can work without finding a job,” Martin said.

Because so many Wisconsin graduates in education will not move, many of them are substitute teaching, according to the 2006 U.S. Educator Supply and Demand Report.

Martin recognizes this trend, but doesn’t necessarily view it as a bad thing.



Mike Martin

“By substituting, [the students’] network within districts which helps increase their employment opportunities.”

Mike Martin,
COEPS Academic Advisor

“Teaching is one of the few career fields where you can work without finding a job.”

Mike Martin,
COEPS Academic Advisor

“It would be fun to be put into different situations with different students all the time,” Giles-Lauer said. “But I would rather have a steady classroom so I could make personal connections with my students over time.”

Substituting may also lead to bigger and better things in the future for graduates.

“By substituting, [the students] network within districts which helps increase their employment opportunities,” Martin said. “It’s not guaranteed, but it’s a helpful strategy.”

Accompanying the multiple advantages to substitute teaching are some substantial disadvantages.

“Pay is not at the same level as a full-time position, and often there aren’t any benefits provided,” Martin said.

Along with the opportunities teachers have in dealing with the challenges presented by the local market, a more under-the-radar tool exists: perseverance.

“Professors and deans in my major tell us that jobs will always be available.” Lambach said. “With a good portfolio, experience and communication skills it will be very possible to find a great teaching job.”



Career Road Map

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Managing Your On-line Persona 11-11:50 & 1-1:50 St. Croix Room
Succeeding In Your First Job 11-11:50 & 1-1:50 Willow River Room
Human Resources Panel of Experts 12-12:50 & 2-2:50 Kinni Theater
Marketing Your Liberal Arts Degree 3-3:50 Kinni Theater

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Wilkinson: Teacher hopes to use expertise to teach psychology classes

from page 1

and education, as well as teaching experience,” Tubre said. “We also looked at their research and if there was a student connection to research, and if they were committed to diversity, because that is very important on this campus.”

The committee narrowed the search down to five appli-

cants who were brought to campus to give 50-minute presentations, or teach a mock-class.

“I thought he [Wilkinson] did a wonderful job. He spoke about research on the psychology of eating,” Davidson said. “His presentation was interesting, well organized, interactive and fun.”

Dance Theater: Performance showcases variety of talent, diversity

from page 1

pieces she choreographed for the concert.

“[My piece,] ‘Interrupted,’ is about the heroes, victims and survivors of the 35W bridge collapse,” Kline said.

Brittany Warren, the vice president of Dance Theater, is one of the students who choreographed a piece for the concert.

“It’s a half live performance, half video tape performance that meshes together,” Warren said. “It’s very modern—there’s some small pieces of martial arts and stage combat as well as a lot of surrealism. The title of the piece is ‘Insomnia,’...‘ode to the attention deficit’—if you’re one of those people that have a short attention span and want to see something just totally crazy and off the wall, that’s the piece to watch.”

will be performing an ethnic piece with a Chinese theme.

“Ten Dance Theatre members will perform a beautiful Chinese folk dance with authentic costumes designed by Dance Theatre member Haiya Zhang, a freshman business administration major from Kunming, China,” according to the public affairs press release.

The concert is capped off by a large group piece, choreographed by UWRF faculty member and Dance Theater advisor Karla Zhe, Warren said. The piece has all of the student members of Dance Theater performing in it.

The amount of time, effort and dedication that each student performer put into preparation for the concert is substantial, and Kline wants the Dance Theater members to be recognized for their efforts.

“Just the amount of work that these dancers put in is ridiculous,” Kline said. “The amount of work that the dancers do is really amazing—I don’t think they give themselves enough credit.”

UWRF faculty member Linda Jordan attended last year’s concert.

“The level of artistry was unbelievable,” Jordan said. “It was breathtaking.”

Tickets for the concert are \$5 for students and seniors and \$7 for adults, and are available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the box office in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building and before each evening performance beginning at 6 p.m. For more information about the concert, contact Dance Theatre at 715-425-3114.

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Student Voice

The Student Voice is currently accepting applications for the fall 2008 semester.

Editor and assistant editor applications are due April 18. All other positions are open and applications will be due April 23.

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EDITORIAL

Networking sites
flag warning signs

Facebook, a wide spread trend around the world, has its uses, but students need to be sure to use it in the right way. Students need to make an effort to portray themselves in a proper way when using the popular social networking site. Do not use this site as a way to misrepresent yourself. One of the countless features Facebook offers is that of updating your status. The status is a way of telling people right of the bat what you are feeling or what you are doing. For example: Suzy is working out and then going to class or Joe is excited for the warm weather to finally arrive. But sometimes students take the status feature too far. Sometimes students have statuses that are somewhat depressing, and in most circumstances they are overlooked by friends and family on their friends list. Even though it may seem silly to worry over something as seemingly simple as a Facebook status, it’s not.

It’s possible that people don’t stress out as much about a depressing Facebook status is because it’s not actual face-to-face interaction. There is an emotional disconnect when conversing with someone online. Students know that almost everyone uses Facebook these days and we should be able to use it to help catch warning signs for problems. It should be an attention getter to the reader. If people really don’t want to talk about something, odds are they’re not going to post it on Facebook. If someone you know or love has depressing statuses for extended periods of time, do not ignore it. Although it may just be an attempt for a person to get attention, it could also be a cry for help.

That is one of the problems with Facebook. How can you tell when people actually need help or if they’re just having a bad day? What shows a difference between having a rough time because you fail a test or having a rough time because you’re depressed about more serious matters in your life? Post your profile in a way that really represents who you are. Do not give people any room to doubt you or your character. If someone you know is worrying you, talk to them. Do not think it’s not a big deal or put off asking until tomorrow. Ask if they’re OK right away. Lend a helping hand, a listening ear or a shoulder to cry on. It’s important to help your friends before they do something they can’t take back.

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

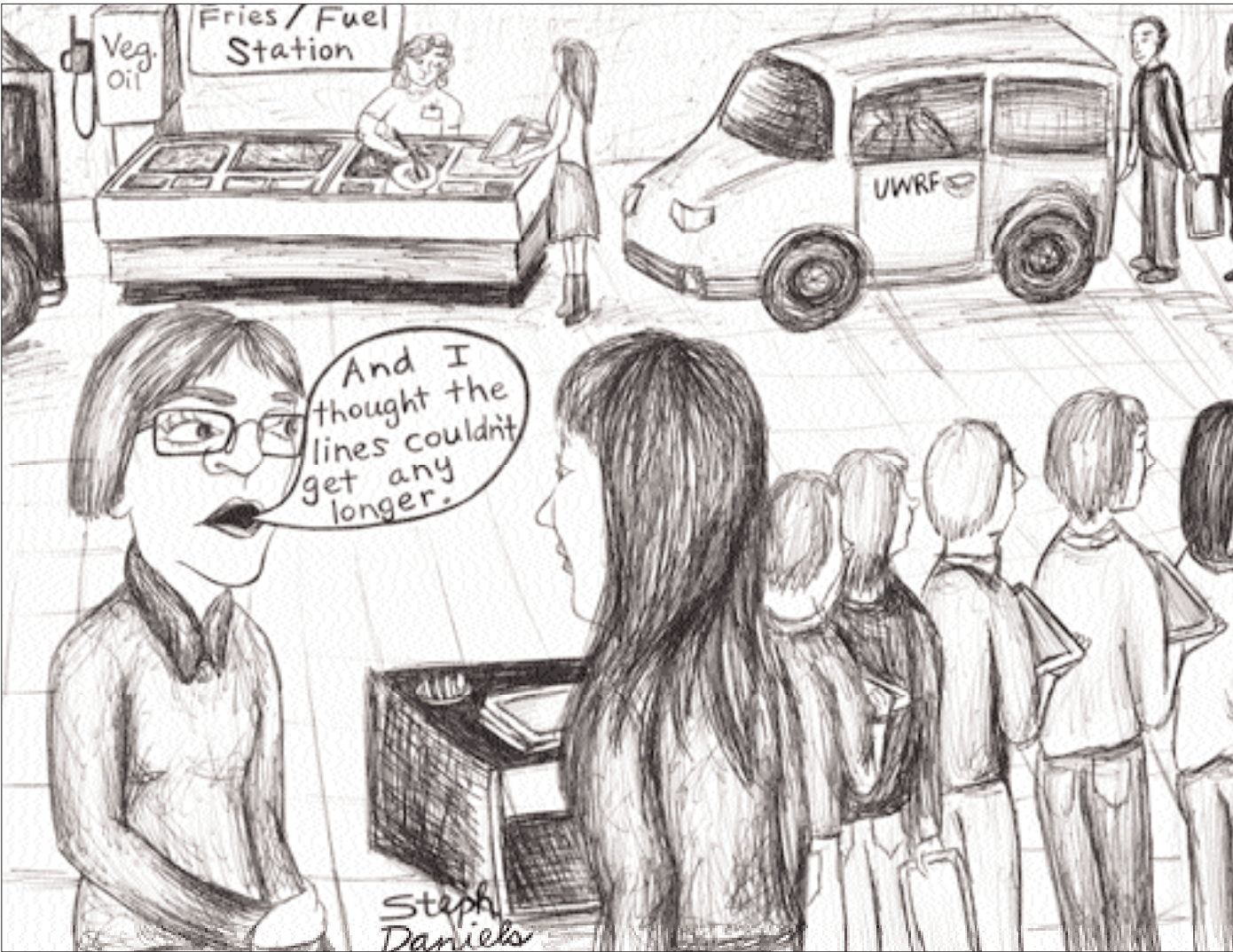
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STUDENT VOICE

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kinni Coffee owner
stands by business

After reading your article on the comparison of the coffee houses in town I had mixed feelings. I appreciate the first amendment and strongly believe in all it stands for. At first, I was questioning the journalist and her commitment to write about what her readers need to know.

After that I had to think to myself, is it her responsibility for the article taking a biased turn on information that had nothing to do with the article. Or was it an editor’s mistake for not fulfilling her fiduciary duties to the students? It was poorly written, a lot of the information couldn’t be justified and wasn’t followed up on. Either way I’m glad the article was written because it encourages the students of

River Falls to come in and compare my business to the competition. I’m confident and proud of Kinni Coffee & Lounge and everything it stands for. Our Fair Trade organic products, eco friendly containers, our recycling dedication, clean label bakery, live acts on weekends, and specialty beer selection sets us apart from any “coffee house” in town. Actually we are more of a lounge that will soon have

lunch specials and a pet friendly patio. We donate to the ECO club on campus, sponsor the dance team, host the small business chamber meetings and take part in the events that this town hosts. River Falls is a community that should have supportive writers and involved readers.

Eric Anderson,
Kinni Coffee
Owner

College students meet money issues daily

Money is something that has great importance in our everyday lives, but holds different value for each and every one of us. Generally, college students can be considered poor. The “poor college student” label is nothing we haven’t heard before, and for good reason.

Being a college student, I know that at this point in our lives, schoolwork and studying are the most important things we should be focusing on. However, the gas tank in the car isn’t going to fill itself, and the lights in the apartment won’t stay on if we don’t pay the electric bill. These types of expenses are considered a priority, but what about those splurges many college students make that aren’t necessary? Upon talking to a few students here at UWRF, I have found that while some are saving their weekend earnings for a

rainy day, or a future, others are living it up and “enjoying their college life,” as one student told me. I have noticed that living in a dorm and having a meal at the swipe of a card isn’t giving students a reality check. I’m sure that those students who live off-campus and have to pay their bills and still maintain a healthy college life find it a challenge sometimes and understand the value of a dollar. Those of us who live in the dorms have things quite easy.

Our whole lives here are basically paid for and until the loan payments are due. Basic financial issues are not at the top of our worry list. Much like many other college students, I too have a part-time job that absorbs my weekends, but really it’s only enough to keep the gas tank above “E” and the occasional pizza in my stomach. Within a couple of years I will no



Linda
Abel

longer have the luxury of swiping a card for food or leaving the lights on while I’m not in the room. Money is definitely changing in value as our college days progress. Upon realizing this, I couldn’t help but notice that many other people simply don’t consider the “someday” and only live for the moment. While talking to a friend about the issue of saving money, she told me, “life is too short to not enjoy it now. We could die tomorrow and never have experienced something we wanted to try.” I suppose this is one way to go about it, but what is going to happen when that couple hundred dollars is standing between you and your monthly rent. Overall, money means a million different things to a million different people, but as college students we need to start thinking about tomorrow and planning for life after the plastic food card.

Linda is double-majoring in marketing communications and business communications with an emphasis in professional organization.

Worship more specifically with unpopular gods

For the last 2,000 years, the western world has been enamored with the mythos of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. This whiskered, blue-collar artisan first earned his divine chops assembling tables and cabinetry, but graduated quickly to full-bore miracles and lengthy discourses on morality and ethics. As a deity, his success is palm frond—worthy and almost unparalleled. People across the world have chosen to follow Jesus, despite the abundance of other divine figures available for worship. Conveniently, many of these other gods specialize in certain fields, like the divine dragon Zirnitra, the Slavic god of sorcery. Though Zirnitra may not possess the handy skills of a carpenter or the soft, brooding eyes of Jesus in human form, he can still be useful in those rare situations requiring a dragon, like needing to set a skyscraper on fire. Let’s walk through a few of the deities available for worship. You don’t—as one of my favorite authors, Dan Simmons, points out—have to choose any of the currently fashionable gods. Find a god that suits your needs and personality; it’s all about what you’re most comfortable with. Personally, I get a little sweaty at the thought of an omnipotent, all-knowing god. I’d like my god to be less powerful and less invasive, like one I can call up from time to time when I need to talk. For instance, especially around April Fool’s Day, one could’ve worshiped the Norse god Loki, a famous trickster and the god of mischief, strife and fire. If you’re having trouble in the bedroom, appeal to Norse mythology again by shooting a prayer to Frey, the badass god of masculine virility. If you’re really boring, or thrilled by sameness, pray to Acca Larentia, the Roman goddess of cornfields. If you break your hip eating pureed mac n’ cheese, you’d better prostrate yourself, deliberately or not, in reverence of Elli, the wise and for-



Joe
Hager

getful god of old age. A pesky neighbor trespassing on your shit? Throw a prayer to Terminus, the Roman god of lawn boundaries, and allegedly, he’ll sacrifice someone at each corner of your yard. Or is it the worshipper who does the sacrificing? Regardless, this needless waste of human life will undoubtedly serve your purposes just fine, keeping neighbors, kids and Jehovah’s Witnesses on the far side of the street. And by the way, I was kidding—I don’t condone human sacrifice and haven’t since the early 1990s. I’m not sure why you would pray to this next god, but perhaps there are situations out there that could benefit from his assistance. Julana, an Australian aboriginal god, is a “lecherous spirit who surprises women.” Apparently he impresses the womenfolk by burying himself in the sand, and then surprises them to great extent by jumping out at lecherous moments and in lecherous manners. Maybe you’re weird, or a weird English major, in which case start standing and kneeling for the aid of Bragi, the Norse god of poetry. Ag majors can do no wrong by worshipping Consus, the Roman god of grain storage, or Spiniensis, another farm deity who will assist you in the removal of thorny bushes. The Roman goddess Paventia might help new parents, as this deity is known mostly for “comforting frightened children.” If you just think you’re better than everyone else, take comfort in the iron embrace of Freya, the Norse goddess of fertility, wealth, love, beauty, magic, prophecy, war, battle and death. That’s one-stop shopping right there, but that it sounds like a dangerously slippery slope. Personally, I find that it works better to keep one’s worship portfolio well-diversified and open to change.

Joe is a marketing communications major and creative writing minor. He is interested in movies, religion, politics, culture and people.

Maturity issue runs throughout lifetime

Last Tuesday was a day I’d been dreading for the past seven months. While the world carries on the day-to-day-business of existence, I’d been counting down the days, waiting in dread.

For elementary age kids across the country, April Fool’s Day has been the only day on which practical jokes and pranks are not only accepted, but expected. Well, elementary school kids and my roommates.

My roommates, all of them, look forward to April Fool’s Day more than Christmas. For them, April Fool’s Day is not merely a day, but a month. It’s now my turn to deal with the consequences.

I’d been forewarned by a mutual friend that April Fool’s Day would create a dog-eat-dog world in my house.

I, along with my roommates, have been in school for the past five years. We should have outgrown the childish desire to prank one another for personal amusement. We haven’t. All this tomfoolery leaves me with a question: what does it mean to be mature?

College is supposed to have taught me a number of things. Political philosophy of the Renaissance, the slope-intercept formula (which took me, admittedly, a long time) and any number of obviously important things.

However, maturity has not been something I think I’ve picked up. Come May I’ll be sent out on my own to try to find gainful employment. With my political science degree, I want to lobby in the great capitols of our nation for lofty and important issues. How can I have a meaningful conversation with a key legislator, discussing an important piece of legislation, when I am still debating whether or not I



Joe Eggers

should put a fake snake in the dresser drawer of a roommate who is deathly afraid of them?

I have not always had this internal moral dilemma about maturity. In fact, I’ve coasted pretty easily through the past few years, knowing full well that there are kids adjusting to middle school who are on the same maturity level as me. It hadn’t dawned on me until this semester that adults may not find the same jokes a sixth grader likes as funny as I probably would.

One of my favorite authors, John Steinbeck, has offered me some solace in my quest for the happy medium between majority and adulthood.

“When I was very young and the urge to be someplace else was on me, I was assured by mature people that maturity would cure this itch. When years described me as mature, the remedy prescribed was middle age. In middle age I was assured that greater age would calm my fever and now that I am 58 perhaps senility will do the job. Nothing has worked,” he wrote.

Steinbeck, one of America’s most cherished and accomplished authors, the same issue as me. The only difference is that I’m only 22.

The reality of the situation is simple. Maturity is something someone back in the day invented to stifle fun. Life is short, work is long and you have to make the best of it. Maturity may be customarily important in certain situations, but will never create the lasting memories which make life worth living.

In the end, if someone tells a funny potty joke or asks you to pull their finger, laugh—you can always find a new job.

Joe is a political science and international studies major, graduating this May.

Press contributes to an informed public

It occurs to me that we should all be concerned about a situation in Alabama in which former Democratic Governor Don Siegelman was convicted of a myriad of charges stemming from a political contribution.

My concern does not come from the fact that Siegelman was convicted of anything at all, but more from the way the case against him came about.

In what appears to be significant evidence, the trail of gross abuse of power leads back to Karl Rove, the (evil) wizard Merlin to George Bush’s (inept) King Arthur.

A political crony of Rove’s, William Canary, is married to Leura Canary, a deputy attorney in the Alabama Attorney General’s office, who was part of the case against Siegelman until she recused herself and handed it over to Alice Martin, another deputy attorney in the office.

One might ask why Don Siegelman is of such interest to Karl Rove and his minions. The answer is that during a re-election bid, Siegelman questioned voting irregularities that appear to have handed the election to his Republican rival.

In cases similar to this the convicted

has been freed pending appeal, as Siegelman’s case currently stands. However, Siegelman was recently released after serving almost a year in jail.

The reason he was not released immediately is that the Attorney General’s office could not find the court transcripts. To add insult to injury, those convicted under similar circumstances are given some time to get their affairs in order before being required to begin their sentence, but Siegelman was taken away immediately in shackles.

This situation is garnering a great deal of attention from the press and other Attorney Generals’ offices across the nation, and rightly so.

This administration has repeatedly used the Justice Department to further its political ends, and the cost to you is an erosion of freedom and constitutional rights.

The Gonzales fiasco appears to be just the tip of the iceberg, and I predict that more and more abuse of power will become apparent as the Bush administration



Bill Henderson

tion nears its long-awaited conclusion.

I’m actually hoping that this whole scenario does not play out too quickly. If Rove is found to be duplicitous in this situation and charges are brought against him, he could be pardoned by Bush if it all plays out before Bush leaves office a la Scooter Libby case.

I sincerely hope that the student body of this university is paying attention to this kind of news item. The importance to the future of this nation cannot be overstated.

We rely on the press to be our watchdog, guarding us from these kinds of dangers, but we must read, listen and pay attention to the news and use this information to stop abuse of power at every opportunity, but mainly at the voting booth. I encourage all of you to stay informed and not let your rights be taken away bit by bit.

Don’t forget to stretch every day!

Coach Bill Henderson is the swimming and diving head coach at UWRF. He also serves as the athletic department’s equipment manager.

Nude models allow artists to practice purely

The human body, with all its curves, tints and follicles, consists of differences between persons, demographics and histories.

The nude is presented to some as an art form of shapes and lines. To others, nudes are unwillingly demonstrating a method of humiliation. Surprisingly, I found that many people find nudity comparable to pornography.

To most art students, the nude model becomes only angles, spheres and triangles floating in the air. Once these lines and shapes come together they form something similar to what some people refer to as “miracle.”

This beautiful structure that makes a human a human still has its uniqueness. What is the same still has the ability to prove its originality through lifestyles. An athlete will have defined muscles and vegetarians may be thinner than others.

For those who say they could never model nude, draw a person nude or be nude in public, I ask why. Is the body something to feel humiliated about? If so, then the lifestyle led is not the right one if the individual is unhappy with the shell of their soul

It is insulting to fine art nude models, the students and to all humans to label such as humiliating, or worse, pornographic. The career of a nude model is far less humiliating than say, flipping burgers at McDonald’s.

Pornography, the most erotic and obscene of art, has been in existence longer than the actual word. “Porne” is Greek for “whore” and “graphos” is Greek for “written.” Etymologically, the term “pornography” refers to writing or written work about prostitutes (whores) and their customers.

Obviously, this word has broadened in its usage as well as



Teresa Aviles

its definition. Today, pornography is viewed as revolting and lewd, not art at all.

Yes, most pornography is distasteful and usually fails to represent an inner beauty of the body or an outer beauty of the human race.

If done in a respectable, more tasteful manner, then pornography has the ability to become art. Generally, the purpose of pornography differs greatly in the purpose of fine nude art. For pornography, sexual arousal is expected, but not in nude art.

For nude art, the model can sometimes be the object. “The bowl of fruit” is a common phrase for a still life subject of art. Even though the model is being watched and is mostly inert, this does not mean he or she is passive.

For artists, reproducing the image in front of them allows for them to only think in shapes, contours and proportions. In this sense, the purpose is to practice technical drawing and is much more of a learning experience for art rather than being art itself.

It does not matter whether the object is an apple or a pear, what does matter is the way the artists perceive and represent the object/subject.

Other times, the model can be much more than an object or not an object at all. With movements and poses, a personality may shine through the outer part of the person.

A good artist will find this light and portray it in his or her own personal, creative way as if the model were actually the source of inspiration.

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

STUDENT Voices

“What do you think when you hear UWRF?”



Mike Feiling, freshman



Lindsay Seeman, freshman



Warren Page, junior



Isac Oliver, sophomore



Andy Kruz, freshman

Columnist wonders where the college has gone

A marketing agency out of the Twin Cities has begun figuring out what UW-River Falls is all about. Its goal is to identify a platform that UWRF can use to market itself to the world.

Prospective students will know exactly what UWRF has to offer and why they should choose this university over others.

What does UWRF have to offer? I’ve heard that there is a pretty stellar education program here and the physics department was recently recognized. But it’s actually difficult to track down any awards that UWRF’s undergraduate departments have obtained.

While there are bountiful academic programs offered here, there seem to be few reasons why not to choose UWRF as the college of choice for those who want small class sizes and tons of hands-on experience.

But when class is over...where has the rest of college gone?

There are no places to hang out or gravitate toward. You can’t eat all day in Riverside Commons, and the Falcon’s Nest is often locked.

Where is the college within UWRF? A walk across the beautiful campus reveals buildings and trees and a little black clock—no sign of students in sight in the summer, on the weekends or in the evening.

My little sister is planning to attend school here in the fall, and I almost want to plead with her to go to UW-Stevens Point instead. Somehow that campus was planned correctly with intramural and practice fields laced within the residence halls and academic buildings. Wherever you go—to class, lunch or to visit

friends across campus—you always see something going on and people engaged in activity.

You’re exposed to people and before you know it, you’re blissfully enjoying that very moment in The Encore rocking out in front of The Lonely Ninjas. And for that natural fix, there are Schmeekle Reserve’s miles of running/walking/biking trails where the deer comfortably watch you go by, and there are places where you can rent bikes if you don’t own them.

But rather than blissfully enjoying my college years in the middle of the state, I’m hanging out near the cities, clinging onto our awesome marketing program because it isn’t offered at UWSP.

What are supposed to be considered “our best years” may be spent in this ghost town of a college community. Are college students spending their best years locked away behind the thick cement within their dorm rooms or packing their bags for a weekend’s return to home? If not, where are they?

There are events provided on campus for students with many interests. But if an event begins at 7 p.m., what is there to do before it? Where do you hang out before or after the event without traveling to a different city?

I like that St. Paul and Minneapolis are so close. There’s something about the cities that I can always run away to—it’s different from the lack of college atmosphere offered here.

I like that St. Paul and



Abby Maliszewski

supporting the community that I live in and the college I attend?

I suppose students could trek downtown and take a walk. They could go bowling again. Or go see that movie again. Or get drunk again. But unless students are 21, there are slim pickings for places to just relax and hang out.

Actually, I can think of one: Kinni Lounge—it’s the only “college” I see in River Falls...but it’s not even on campus.

So why not get a pub in the University Center? It’d be a place we could go and hang out in a setting other than the Falcon’s Nest (when it’s open) or playing Buck Hunter (when it’s available).

Yeah, most people think a pub is a great idea. The idea was actually brought before Student Senate where about 95 percent of people were in favor of the pub. But nothing happened after the vote.

The thing is, nothing ever happens. If Woychick Design was to develop a brand platform to “strengthen the identity of the University” right now, it would be: UW-River Falls: where academics flourish and your social life remains lonesome. And perhaps they’d toss something in there about how the [lack of] technology sucks. But how are they supposed to let the external world know who we are when we don’t even know?

So what do we do? Do we say something? Will they listen? Or will life on campus continue to diminish? Will I forget UWRF once I graduate?

Will you?

Abby is a marketing communications major and a journalism minor. She believes every college should offer something for everyone. Perhaps she should simply attend a larger university.

Simon’s aggression adds to Wild game play

Just a couple months ago, the Minnesota Wild were in need of some serious help. They were one of the most inconsistent teams in the league.

One minute, you’d think that the Wild would catch fire, take the NHL by the throat and choke it until it had no life left. The next, you’d be genuinely wondering if the Milwaukee Admirals could play better hockey.

The Wild needed to get on the phone and acquire a player to help make them a more consistent team. Names like Petr Forsberg and Ollie Jokinen were being thrown around as possible targets. In the end, the Wild made one move: they sent a conditional sixth round draft pick to the New York Islanders for Chris Simon.

Simon is a goon and a cheap shot artist.

He isn’t known for his career on the ice, but more for the trouble he causes on it. Simon has been suspended for a variety of reasons including racial slurs, cheap shots and pulling a

Triple H impression by taking his stick and trying to decapitate a New York Ranger. Simon was suspended 25 games for that offense, and one would have thought he learned his lesson.

However, after his suspension, Simon went out and tried to slice Penguins forward Jarko Ruutu’s Achilles tendon with his skate. The league suspended Simon again, this time for 30 games. The Islanders would go on to trade Simon to the Wild at the trade deadline.

Many fans griped about how the Wild were trying to become the Charlestown Chiefs by adding their own version of the Hanson Brothers. The Wild, looking for toughness, had already added Todd Fedoruk in November, but after Derek Boogaard rearranged his face a couple years ago, Fedoruk isn’t that much of a fighter any-

more.

This decision does make sense if you consider last year’s playoff series against Anaheim. In Game four of that series, the Wild were on their way to a blowout victory. After the Wild went up 4-1 in the third period, a massive brawl ensued.

Boogaard was involved with a couple of Ducks while Brad May snuck up on Kim Johnsson and drove him face-first into the ground. The Ducks would win the series four games to one the next night.

Fast-forward to Friday night’s game against the Vancouver Canucks. The Wild were leading 4-0 in the third when Canucks forward Alexandre Burrows speared Pierre-Marc Bouchard with his stick.

Bouchard had enough of Burrows’ antics and



Chris Schad

took a two-handed slash at Burrows and dropped the gloves. Once again, a huge brawl ensued. Boogaard wasn’t on the ice for this melee, but Chris Simon was. Simon knocked out one Canuck and then skated over to help Bouchard. After this, the Wild fans erupted because of the fact that Simon stood up for his teammate.

This kind of toughness wins games in the NHL playoffs. Like it or not, physical play has its place in the NHL. While Simon has made some bad decisions in the past, he has been on his best behavior so far in Minnesota. If the Wild can continue to rough up their opponents, the State of Hockey may just start liking Mr. Simon, especially if he finally brings the Stanley Cup to Minnesota.

Chris is a 21-year-old junior majoring in journalism. He is also the sports director for 88.7 FM WRFW and is the play-by-play voice for the Falcon football and hockey teams.

Former Falcon first, only to be drafted by Major League

Ben Brewster
benjamin.brewster@uwrf.edu

Baseball season is getting into full swing, and with UW-River Falls entering its sixth year without a varsity team, it can easily be forgotten that there was once a baseball program here to be proud of.

As Falcon baseball slips further from memory, a look into the past can help keep it alive.

One of their strongest seasons was 1996, when they went 11-1 in conference play and were led by starting centerfielder Randy Stearns.

“We had a very good team and a lot of depth,” said former UWRF baseball coach Craig Walter in a telephone interview. “[Stearns] gave us some extra juice because he could run so well.”

Many talented players came and went at UWRF, but Stearns was unique in that he was the only one to ever be drafted by a Major League team.

Stearns grew up in Bloomer, Wis. and played baseball, football, basketball and track.

“Track was always my favorite because I could only place the pressure on myself to perform well,” Stearns said in an e-mail interview.

He was recruited out of high school for all four sports, but decided to go with baseball and football in college. “I thought it was the sport I could have a chance to turn pro in,” he said.

He ended up attending Northern Illinois University on a scholarship and was named to the Freshman All-American team in baseball, but was splitting his time between baseball and football.

To focus on baseball, he transferred to Triton College (River Grove, Ill.) after his freshman year at NIU. Triton has an outstanding baseball program that has produced several Major Leaguers, including Minnesota Twins’ Hall-of-Famer Kirby Puckett.

“[Triton was] excited to have me come and play and it was there I learned all the aspects and fundamentals of baseball,” he said.

Stearns said he expected to be drafted after he had a strong year at Triton, but it did not happen. He was playing for the Menomonie Eagles that summer when he met the Falcon head coach at the time, Craig Walter, who convinced him to come to UWRF.

“I was worried about not being seen by scouts at such a small school, but he assured me that if I was good enough they would find me,” Stearns said.

Stearns once again had an excellent season. He led the team in most offensive categories, including batting average (.447), home runs (14), stolen bases (19) and hits (59). Upon arrival at UWRF, Stearns immediately stood out.

“I think we all immediately recognized that he was an amazingly fast guy, easily the fastest player in the conference,” former Falcon pitcher Dan Tschida said in an e-mail interview.

Walter said he remembered Stearns’ speed in the first game of the 1996 season, played at the Metrodome.

“He ran so well, by the time that ball landed he was already at second base,” Walter said.

Stearns started the 1996 season off slow, but he went on a tear when conference play began.

“Stearnsy went something like 15-for-16 with a few walks and a couple of bombs in our first four conference games against UW-Stout and UW-La Crosse,” Tschida said. “It was really one of the most impressive streaks I had ever seen.”

Stearns’ play was finally rewarded when he was taken by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 12th round of the 1996 amateur draft, and 358th overall.

After the draft, he was assigned to the Dodgers’ affiliate in the short-sea-



Archive Photo/Student Voice

Major League baseball player Randy Stearns steps up to the plate for the Falcons during his college career at UWRF. Stearns was drafted to the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1996.

son Northwest League, the Yakima Bears, a team that was managed by current Minnesota Twins’ hitting coach Joe Vavra.

“My first year in Yakima was completely a great experience,” Stearns said. “[Vavra], the other coaches and my teammates made it a blast.”

The Bears went on to win the Northwest League Championship, and Stearns had a solid year, batting .257 with 17 stolen bases, playing left field.

Stearns went on to spring training in Vero Beach, Fla. with the Dodgers in 1997.

He proved his speed in Vero Beach, winning a 60-yard dash against all the players in the Dodger organization.

“I got a gold watch for that one,” Stearns said.

He also rubbed shoulders with some of the stars of the time.

“Having spring training at Vero Beach with all the big leaguers and

being able to see them everyday was pretty cool,” Stearns said. “Listening to Mike Piazza and Eric Karros speak on how to act like professionals and the other things that we need to be careful of.”

After spring training, Stearns was scheduled to be playing for the Dodgers’ affiliate in San Bernardino, Calif., but was switched at the last minute and sent to the Savannah, Ga. club instead.

“The coach [in Savannah] didn’t know my name, my position, which side I batted from or anything,” Stearns said.

The first half of the 1997 season he only played on the off-days, backing up the starting centerfielder.

“They would rest him on days when a left-handed pitcher started for the other team because he hit lefty and I’m sure they didn’t want to hurt his statistics, so I was the one who bit the bullet,” Stearns said. “Being a left-

handed hitter myself, things were beginning to come clear.”

He improved in the second half, batting over .300, but it was not enough to erase the first, and he ended the season with a .226 batting average.

The Dodgers dropped one of their minor league teams after the 1997 season. Stearns was given his release as a result because they no longer had as many roster spots available.

He is currently back in Bloomer, has been married for 11 years with two children, and works in construction.

“I thought hard and long about getting on with another club, but realistically I never thought I would get to the big show,” he said. “With a baby that was due two days after I was supposed to be at spring training, I decided to let the dream go and find a new one to follow.”

UWRF club volleyball men show off top form



Submitted Photo

Kevin Schmidt (7) goes up for a spike as Trevor Fletcher (9) looks on in a match against Mankato March 22.

Club baseball team waits for warmer weather

Joe Engelhardt
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The club baseball team is ready to get started, as soon as the weather permits. This team started just over a year ago when several students who were interested in baseball wanted to get a club started.

“Several students came to me about creating a sports club that would be more than what intramurals had to offer,” Kurran Sagan, the recreational leadership coordinator said.

One of those students was Robert Silvers, who helped initiate getting a team together.

“I love the game of baseball and could not believe that a college would not have some sort of program set up for America’s pastime,” Silvers said. “So I started talking to Kurran in September about setting up a meeting for baseball.”

With the help of Ben Fraser, the assistant director of Hunt/Knowles and the advisor to the club, Sagan discussed how the club would run and its overall structure. Once that

was finished, a mass e-mail was sent out to get students interested. Just before Christmas, another meeting was set up so the players would know what was going on. The team started practicing at Knowles after the end of J-term.

This club currently has about 25 students and was able to get in the National Club Baseball Association for this season. UW-River Falls was put into a southern league with the Illinois schools. UWRF will play UW-Madison, two Southern Illinois teams and the University of Illinois this season. However, the weather has brought the start of the season to a halt.

“We’ve already had to cancel the last two weekends,” Fraser said. “We were scheduled to play at Illinois and against Madison, but both didn’t happen.”

The team is still waiting for their season to begin. As of right now, there are 15 league games scheduled. Games are held every weekend. UWRF plays their games at Spring



Niki Paton/Student Voice

Matt Kurz pitches to club baseball teammate Adam Monson during a late night practice at Knowles.

Valley, located 25 miles east of River Falls.

Fraser and Sagan tried to work out an agreement that would allow the club to use the River Falls High School’s baseball field, but the school was unable to cooperate.

“It’s just too bad that there isn’t a baseball field available in River Falls,” Fraser said.

As the snow melts away, the club baseball team waits patiently to play ball.

Facebook serves as inspiration for student’s book

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Procrastination may have paid off for UW-River Falls student Zach Nagle.

Nagle compiled, wrote and published his first booklet entitled “Facebook Quotes.”

“[The idea] came to me during finals week last spring,” Nagle said in an e-mail interview. “I was procrastinating in the best way I know possible: browsing Facebook. I came across a few quotes that I thought were funny enough that they should be shared with as many people as possible, so I threw them into a word document and continued browsing. By the end of the week I had over two pages of quotes that I thought were pretty funny. That’s when I knew if I put in enough time, I could find enough quotes to warrant a book.”

Nagle’s idea got put on the backburner as the summer of

2007 progressed, but once the fall semester started he began researching self-publishing and realized that it really was a feasible option for him.

“I cut my winter break short and came back to RF a few weeks early with the goal of finishing the book before the start of spring semester,” he said. “It took me a little longer than anticipated, but I finished the book in the middle of February.”

And although a lot of people do not know about Nagle’s book, those who do have given him positive responses.

“I don’t think it’s a stretch to say that for a lot of college students, Facebook is their favorite Web site, so it’s not surprising they’re excited about a book celebrating something they use on a daily basis.”

The book is broken into five different sections of quotes including: Sex (and relationships), Alcohol, Intelligent

Statements, Randoms and Professor Sayings.

“I tried to find quotes that summed up most of what makes the college experience unique and exciting for many people,” Nagle said. “I tried to keep my editorial observations to a minimum in the book because I think there are plenty of quotes that are a lot funnier than anything I could write.”

Nagle found all the quotes in his book by looking through an estimated almost 1,000 different profiles. He said a majority of the quotes were from the UWRF network.

“The book doesn’t contain famous quotes or sayings,” Nagle said. “These are strictly quotes said in conversations involving the real lives of college students.”

While it may seem easy to gather quotes to compile into a booklet, Nagle said it was a task he quickly grew tired of.

“There were stretches where I wouldn’t find anything funny for 20 or 30 profiles and I would just want to give up,” he said. “Some people have ridiculously boring profiles. Categorizing the quotes and selecting which would make the cut was also no easy task. There are a lot of quotes that are kind of funny but are ‘you had to be there moments,’ so I did my best to eliminate those.”

Nagle is self-publishing his book. He wrote, laid out and designed the cover. He also found a printing company online that is located in Davenport, Iowa, where he had the book published.

For those who want to purchase the book, it is now available at the University Bookstore in the University Center and online at the Web site www.fb-quotes.com. Copies are \$10 each and quantities are limited.

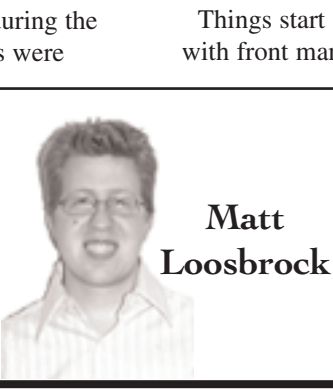


Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

UWRF student Zach Nagle spent most of the winter months compiling humorous Facebook quotes. His book was published in February.

Gnarls Barkley back on the scene with ‘addicting’ new album

When “Crazy” hit airwaves during the summer of 2006, audiences were entranced by its smooth vibes and self-destructive lyrics just as they were by Gnarls Barkley, the eccentric duo who dressed as gladiators and Star Wars characters for live performances. With such a mega hit behind them, can they do it again on their second effort, “The Odd Couple?” Chances are slim that they will achieve another high notewiththe general public like that classic single. Even still, “The Odd Couple” proves Gnarls Barkley are not merely one-hit-wonders. The album is dark, similar to their debut “St. Elsewhere,” but there’s a fleeting tone mocking any sense of security upon listening.



Matt Loosbrock

Things start off with the cool “Charity Case,” with front man Cee-Lo Green confessing, “Are you needing me like I need you / Even my shadow leaves me all alone at night / Guess I need to start to take my own advice,” which takes a stab at hypocrisy in general throughout society.

“Would Be Killer,” one of the album’s highlights, has Green slithering words and provocative thoughts into our heads:

“I’ve got a secret / Something I thought maybe I could do / But I can’t now, can I / Lucky, lucky you...” It reveals the black in us and our animosity toward each other.

Too much angst can be bad. Good thing Gnarls Barkley’s other half, multi-instrumentalist/beat master Danger Mouse, does wonders

here, making sad songs you can tap your feet to. The beats are dense and rich, following Cee-Lo’s tender voice masterfully. The light, Spanish guitars beautifully underscore the vocals with finesse on “Who’s Gonna Save My

That’s essentially what makes Gnarls Barkley so damn addicting. They know what sounds good and what needs to be said. They understand the importance of listening.

Soul.” Quirky accordion chords run along a honky-tonk drum beat on “Blind Mary,” and with “Open Book,” Danger Mouse crafts 60s pop with synths and a chorus of la la las.

That’s essentially what makes Gnarls Barkley so damn addicting. They know what sounds good and what needs to be said. They understand the importance of listening. The formulas falter here and there, as “Whatever” feels like they spent too much time messing around, and “A Little Better” never really lifts off, but that’s okay. Listening to “Run,” “The Odd Couples” best track, gets your blood flowing, your mind racing and your body moving. “Hurry little children run this way / I have got a beast at bay!”

Cee-Lo cries out over Danger Mouse’s static beats like a fallen saint with a sly grin. I’ll take a moment like that over “Crazy” any day.

Matt is a senior double majoring in music and creative writing who likes lots of music types, both old and new, especially if it’s good.

Las Vegas’ glitz, glamour shine in gambling-themed ‘21’



A.J. Hakari

“At first they had everything...then it all came crashing down ...”

These words can be applied to not just every episode of “Behind the Music” ever produced, but also to more movies than are humanly possible to count. It’s a time-tested formula that’s had its ups and downs, its success almost completely dependent on whether or not these flicks can get viewers to care two flips about the parties involved.

“21” is an example of how a movie can stick to its predetermined game plan pretty much to the letter, yet it has a way of getting you so wrapped up in the action that you stop caring about predictability and start having a good time.

Based on a true story, “21” centers on Ben Campbell (Jim Sturgess), a bright young kid whose grades are the pride of MIT and who hopes to move onto medical school at Harvard. The problem is that he’s nowhere near to coming up with the \$300 grand that he needs for tuition.

That is, until his proficient skills catch the eye of professor Micky Rosa (Kevin Spacey). As it turns out, Rosa leads a motley crew of other students in learning the game of blackjack inside-out, and using their card-counting skills to clean up in Vegas on weekends.

Although reluctant at first, Ben’s financial situation forces him to accept Rosa’s offer, and in no time at all, he

becomes the team’s star player. But with increasing success at the tables comes an increasingly big head for Ben, and his inflating ego and ensuing riskiness not only start to alienate his teammates, but also incur the wrath of a casino security specialist (Laurence Fishburne) who hates to lose.

The trick with “21” is that director Robert Luketic doesn’t just allow the film to become a slave to convention. As a good filmmaker should in this situation, Luketic takes the predictable elements he has and at least tries to make the experience enjoyable, if not totally mind-blowing.

This he easily accomplishes, presenting a story too crazy not to be based in fact with healthy amounts of energy and moxie to back it up, as well as a style that captures the glitz of Vegas while still keeping the plot grounded with the kids who are getting in way over their heads. Speaking of which, a decent ensemble job is done by the actors playing the card-counters in question, with a sympathetic turn from Sturgess leading the bunch.

Spacey does good work here as well but the most intriguing role belongs to Fishburne and his character, an old-school security consultant slowly being run out of business by the proliferation of face-recognition technology used to bust hustlers.

In a year of films that have thus far been dominated by routine, “21” has the good sense to be as entertaining as possible considering the restrictions it comes packaged with. The flick may not be all

aces, but there are definitely worse movies you could fork over cash to see nowadays.

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

If this house is a rocking then don’t bother knocking...just come on in!” Stevie Ray Vaughn’s immortalized words appear as more than mere window dressing for “21”—they stand as a modus operandi for the film, a Declaration of Groove boldly emblazoned across each frame.



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.

There is a certain wham-bam-thank-you-ma’am effect, a slight used and abused feeling, that comes on only after the credits roll. Flashy lights, pressed flesh and neon sex—”21” uses it all to sucker-punch you with tantalizingly empty vows, offering seemingly seductive rewards before a cruel realization dawns like a swift kick in the teeth: even in celluloid Sin City, the house always wins.

Something like a card shark porno, “21” cracks into the same undercurrent that sparked rare life into the Ocean’s series. There’s just something intangibly cool about ripping-off Vegas. Ben Campbell (Jim Sturgess) is the most-gifted student at MIT, and is on the fast-track after being accepted to Harvard Med. But greatness comes at a price: \$300,000 in tuition.

Catching the eye of professor Micky Rosa (Kevin Spacey), Ben is invited to join a secret little society of mathematical whizzes that use their talents not to win Math Leagues, but to swindle hundreds of thousands out of the Mecca of greed by counting cards in Blackjack. The only real danger lies in Loss Prevention Specialist Cole Williams (Laurence Fishburn), a one-man task force who knows a little too much about the team’s tricks and tells.

Don’t let this simplistic premise fool you—it’s betrayed by layers of vibrant intensity. The Strip is captured with Candy Land clarity, filtered through neon gloss and given a final waxing of sparkle. Director Robert Luketic makes Vegas look



Ken Weigend

alive as he pops colors off the screen. The vision reflected in your mind’s eye is that of everything Vegas is supposed to be: the grime is given a fresh coat, the seedy underbelly swept under the rug.

The film comes dangerously close to advertising a new American Dream: get rich quick not with hard work, but instead by swindling cash from corrupt big business. Spacey turns a wonderful card as the insidious puppet-master, preacher to a new congregation, building up his droogies into larger-than-life Robin Hoods for a new millennia.

But for as bright and brilliant the day dawns over “21,” nightfall finds the lights burned out, the paint chipped. An ending spotted miles away coupled with a formulaic subplot involving Ben’s two geeky friends back in drab Boston who act as greasy beggars outside, diverting too much attention away from the party with their dreary clichés and poorly dressed plotting. These gussied up contrivances disguised as catalysts shatter the vibe; deadlly blood clots killing the cool.


If you pardon “21” for its relatively few shortcomings you may find yourselves caught up in something. Agree or not with the morality, even legality, of card-counting, you’ll catch yourself rooting for the underdogs.

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.



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