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STUDENT VOICE

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Political clubs prepare as election looms

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With the 2008 election in sight, UW-River Falls' political clubs have been busy preparing for the big day. The College Republicans, College Democrats, the Union of Democratic Progressives and Rise Up for Women's Rights all have their own plans leading up to Nov. 4.

College Republicans student contact Casie Kelley said in an e-mail interview that the organization is a marketing tool for the Republican Party on both the state and national levels.

"In my group we do as much as possible with the little manpower we have to get out our information," Kelley said.

The College Republicans have also done literature drops in various communities near River Falls. Other activities included "Running for McCain," in which the club jogged around campus wearing shirts promoting McCain and one member representing the group on an episode of Focus on U, a UWRF broadcast news feature.

Finally, the College Republicans had set up a table in the University Center to inform people about Republican candidate John McCain and his policies. The group, which Kelley said has between 15 and 20 members, is advised by business and economics professor Brian Huffman and meets on Mondays at 7 p.m. in the St. Croix River Room of the University Center.

College Democrats co-



Sarah Schneider/Student Voice

UWRF College Democrats freshman Lee Monson and sophomore Charlie Guerin talk to an interested student Wednesday at their table in the University Center. Other student political groups include the Socialist Alternative and the College Republicans, who also had a table set up throughout the week at the University Center in lieu of Election Day on Nov. 4. See page 8 for extensive coverage and a Voter Guide.

Chair Thomas Friant said his group was also hosting a table in the University Center from Oct. 29-31 to endorse Democratic candidate Barack Obama.

"Every week I would say we have anywhere from 15 to 30 people at our meetings. Of course this is pre-election, so that's pretty high," Friant said in a telephone interview.

The College Democrats have primarily been working on getting votes for Obama,

which was the same thing Sen. Russ Feingold talked about when he visited the campus on Oct. 27, Friant said. The group meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the 1874 Room of the University Center and is advised by political science professor Davida Alperin.

The Union of Democratic Progressives is one of the newer campus organizations. Student contact for the group, Alex Halverson, said he and

three other students founded the club this semester after leaving the Socialist Alternative group.

"We thought we could better realize our ideals with a new and fresh political organization rather than trying to work within Socialist Alternative, which is part of a larger national organization," Halverson said in an e-mail interview.

The UDP emphasizes third-party candidates and ideas,

and plans to campaign for Ralph Nader before Nov. 4 to draw attention to his presidential campaign. Other plans include two group discussions, one about alternative political parties and the other about reforming the current voting system in the U.S.

The group is advised by economics professor Jackie Brux and meets on Thursdays in the Resource Room of Davee Library.

Another student organiza-

tion with pre-election plans is Rise Up For Women's Rights, advised by assistant English professor Greta Gaard. Co-founder Teresa Pollock said the group was started earlier this year.

"I formed Rise Up for Women's Rights with another student, Nikki Shonoiki, who is on the Diversity and Women's Initiatives Committee on the Student Senate," Pollock said in an e-

See Clubs page 3

University copes with change, looks to fill 7 interim positions

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UW-River Falls currently has seven senior administrators serving in interim roles while national searches are either in progress or will soon commence for the campus leadership positions.

"The people we have in place [as interims] have a long history with this institution,"

Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor Terry Brown said.

All individuals on the 13-member Chancellor's Cabinet have been at UWRF for more than two years with a majority of members having more than a decade of experience at UWRF, Interim Chancellor Connie Foster said.

Foster joined UWRF as a health and human performance professor and subsequently was college dean and interim provost before being promoted to interim dean. When Foster became the interim dean, Terry Brown took over as interim provost and vice chancellor; she pre-



Connie Foster

viously served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Brad Caskey, who previously was associate dean of CAS, is filling her position on an interim basis.

Interim President of the UWRF Foundation Dan McGinty previously was alumni director. IT Services Chief Information Officer Lisa Wheeler has replaced Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Mary Halada since her retirement last week.

Interim Dean of College of Education and Professional Studies Faye Perkins started out in the health and human performance department and chaired it for five years; Interim Dean of College of Business and Economics Brian Schultz served as the associate dean for the economics department

before moving into the associate dean position this semester.

"The University is not standing still while we are waiting to fill the positions," Mark Kinders, director of public affairs, said. "We have a strategic plan and we are acting on it."

The changes in senior leadership have no affect on the direction and overall priorities of the institution, which remain the same due to the vision outlined in the strategic plan, "Living the Promise." The plan is a five-year vision emphasizing 10 operational and strategic functions including globalization, diversity, sustainability and leadership initiatives.

UWRF remains a desirable destination for students. Fall enrollment was the largest in its

"The University is not standing still while we are waiting to fill the positions. We have a strategic plan and we are working on it."

Mark Kinders,
director of public affairs

See Interim page 3

Obama, McCain on higher education creates mixed feelings on campus

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Federal funding for higher education may not be on the forefront of either Sen. Barack Obama or Sen. John McCain's talking points, but both of their platforms receive criticism from all sides.

Seventy-five percent of UW-River Falls students use some type of federally funded financial aid according to the outgoing Financial Aid Director Sandra Oftedahl.

One issue that the presidential candidates agree on is that difficult federal aid process for college needs to be simplified.

The current free application for federal student aid is eight pages long and contains over 100 questions.

"You never feel like it's done right," Brian Huffman, advisor for College Republicans, said. "Hopefully there will be a movement for change no matter who gets elected."

If elected, McCain would like to simplify the higher education tax benefits, simplify federal financial aid, improve research by eliminating earmarks and fix the student lending programs, according to his Web site.

"Sen. McCain wants to simplify the higher education tax code because many families do not claim higher education tax credits," Casie Kelley, the student contact for the College Republicans, said in an e-mail interview.

Beyond basic ideas, McCain has no solid proposals.

"My guess is that [McCain's] complete lack of proposals means [higher education] is not a priority," Matt Dale, the College Democrats

secretary, said. "No one should expect that college students will get assistance from a McCain presidency—financial or otherwise."

Obama has proposed an American Opportunity Tax Credit of \$4,000 to make college affordable. In order to receive the tax credit, 100 hours of public service is required, according to Obama's Web site.

"I think this is a great plan to help students pay for college while giving back to their communities at the same time," Alexandra Dorgan, a recruiter for Obama's campaign stationed in River Falls, said in an e-mail.

Dale, director of legislative affairs for the Student Senate, said that although UWRF has one of the lowest tuition rates, he does not see the trends of increasing fees changing.

"The Obama credit is necessary to keep this school accessible," Dale said.

Obama's tax credit requiring service does not sit well with Huffman, chair of the management and marketing department, who called the idea fascist.

"Service learning is another attempt to make Hitler youth out of all of you," Huffman said.

Alex Halverson, member of the Union of Democrat Progressives, said he looked into joining the Peace Corps, but found out that one cannot say anything bad about the American government while serving.

"It seems ridiculous that you need to completely support the government before you get the money for school," he said.

The government pays for Dale's college tuition because he is a medic in the 34th

See Higher education page 3

VOICE SHORTS

UWRF to broadcast election results

UWRF Students in a digital film and television production class will cover the 2008 elections in a special broadcast called "The Valley Vote--Election '08" to be broadcast live at 8:30 p.m. Nov. 4 on local cable access channel 19. The program will also be streamed live on the Internet at <http://www.uwrf.edu/election08>. Students will report results from 16 local elections including district attorney, county clerk, register of deeds and the state senate race as well as the presidential race.

Observatory viewings

The UWRF physics department continues its fall observatory viewing sessions on the first clear night of Nov. 3-6 in the observatory in Centennial Science Hall on campus. Eileen Korenic, a UWRF physics professor, will present "Toys in Space," at 7:30 p.m. in room 271 CSH where she discusses a space mission that tested toys such as a yo-yo, Wheelo, Slinky, and paddleball among others to see how they would work under conditions of weightlessness. A telescope viewing will follow in the observatory at 8 p.m., where stargazers will view Jupiter and its moons, the moon as a waxing crescent, Uranus, Neptune, globular and open clusters, nebulae, and several double stars including Albireo and red and blue pair. The telescope viewings take place on the 3rd floor outside deck of the same building; viewings typically run until 10 p.m. All events are free, open to the public and suitable for all ages. Dressing for the weather is advised. Interested people are advised to check the UWRF physics department Web site (www.uwrf.edu/physics) and click on "observatory" or call 715-425-3560 on the night to see if skies are clear enough.

Snow blower tune-ups

The Ag Mechanic Club will be servicing snow blowers on Nov. 7th, 12-4 p.m.; Nov. 8th, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Nov. 9th, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The staff and general public are welcome to come and take advantage of the service. The tune-up will be held at the Agricultural Science building in the Engineering Annex. The cost is \$15 per blower and \$10 for pickup or delivery.

Royal showmanship contest

On Saturday, Nov. 8th at 11 a.m., the Block & Bridle club will host the Royal, a round robin showmanship contest open to all UWRF students with an interest in livestock. The sheep, beef, pigs, dairy and horses are provided by the Lab Farms. Novice students are paired with an experienced showman, and together they work to improve their skills. There is also a complementary hog roast for participants and guest to conclude the afternoon! Contact Kayla Anderson with questions at kayla.anderson@uwrf.edu. The event will be held at UWRF Lab Farm 2.

Veterans Day

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs will hold a benefit clinic in the UC Commons on Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The benefit will answer any questions veterans and dependents might have regarding counseling, education benefits, medical benefits or deployment assistance. Veterans Club, RF Legion, ROTC and the American Patriot Riders are holding a memorial ceremony at 11 a.m. at the North Hall flagpole. The Veterans Club is hosting a cookout on the UC lawn from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. They will also have an assortment of military vehicles on display.

Voice Shorts compiled by
Natalie Conrad

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Students prepare to cast their ballot

Sara J. Pitcher
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Students on campus are preparing for the election on Tuesday, Nov. 4 by getting information around campus to help register and remind students to vote in the general election.

Students who live on campus can vote at the University Center on Election Day. Students who live off campus or commute to River Falls can vote at their local voting precinct. The polls are open in Wisconsin and Minnesota from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Student Senate has been working in the past weeks to notify students of how they can register early to vote, where they can vote and informing students on who's running for the positions.

"In addition to simply registering students to vote we also made a point to have all of our volunteer deputies tell every student where there polling location was," Director of Legislative Affairs on Student Senate Matthew Dale said.

Student Senate has also sent letters to every residence hall reminding students who live on campus to vote. They are also looking at other options for voting support, such as chalking the sidewalks and setting up programs in the halls.

"It's time for this generation to step up to have an impact," state Senate candidate Alison Page said.

U.S. Senator for Wisconsin Russ Feingold and State Assembly candidate Sarah Bruch and Page, who is running for state Senate, have all been on cam-

pus promoting their campaigns. "These are the people who determine how much money goes to the University System and, therefore, how much tuition ends up costing us," advocate for democratic students Ben Plunkett said.

Organizations for specific parties are promoting student voting by having tables and informational brochures in the lobby of the University Center.

"Currently we have been active doing literature drops in district towns on our meeting nights," UWRF College Republican Chair Casie Kelley said.

These meetings take place Monday at 7 p.m. in room 321 of the University Center. UWRF College Republicans also hosted "Running for McCain," an event where students jogged through campus with shirts that read, "Students for McCain."

The Rise up for Women's Rights student group is working on issue advocacy. They are arguing on behalf of an organization called MomsRising. Its goal is to work to bring together millions of people who share a common concern about the need to build a more family-friendly America. This organization was started in May 2006 and is rapidly growing to over 150,000 citizens. Greta Gaard, UWRF professor of English, is an advocate for women's rights and recently became a member of MomsRising and makes calls a few times a night to support mother voting. Pre-registration is recommended to all students who live on and off campus. You can register to vote at your local

city hall, as well as other locations, by providing your driver's license number or the last four digits of your social security number. Students also will have to show proof of residency by an official identification card or license issued by a Wisconsin or Minnesota government unit or by an employer. There are numerous ways to show residency that can be checked by your city hall officials.

"Early voter registration avoids lines and is more efficient," UWRF alumnus Paul Webb said.

Webb is also running for register of deeds and has been on campus multiple times to stress the importance of voting to students.

Wisconsin and Minnesota both have same-day registration, which allows voters to register and vote on Election Day. Only six states have same day registration. Voters in Wisconsin and Minnesota have an opportunity that other states do not have to register the same day as the general election.

"Student voting is very important this election," Plunkett said.

Students who live off campus must vote at the polling location in their ward. In order to find out where to vote you can visit www.vpa.wi.gov/ for Wisconsin voters and www.pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/ for Minnesota voters.

Even if you have pre-registered you still need to bring your driver's license or state issued ID to the polls in order to vote. For a map of the River Falls voting districts, see page 8.

UWRF pre-registration project draws record numbers

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The 2008 presidential election season has brought with it a record number of students who turned out to participate in the pre-registration project at UW-River Falls.

The UWRF Student Senate conducted the pre-registration. One of the major roles of the Senate is to ensure that the entire student body has the opportunity to take part in the electoral process.

The process of registering voters requires that students be deputized. It was started this past summer when Ben Plunkett and Bob Hughes were deputized at the city and state levels to register voters. Twenty five UWRF students were also deputized at the city level and could register voters in the city of River Falls. The pre-registration project was lead by Legislative Affairs Director Matt Dale of the Student Senate.

Cindy Bendix, president of the Student Senate, said that the pre-registration tables were set up in the University Center on Monday through Wednesday for a period of three weeks that started Sept. 30. She said that no registration can be done on Oct. 15 and that registration was done on the prior day. The Student Senate also set up tables in the residence halls on Oct. 7 and 8 to give students additional access to the early registration.

"We sat at the dorms themselves for two hours to help register voters," she said.

Plunkett said that 1,060 students had pre-registered to vote on campus and that students who have not yet registered may still do so at the City Clerk's office in River Falls. Same-day registration is also available in Wisconsin and Minnesota and will be accessible at the polls on Election Day.

Sara Deick, the shared governance director of the Student Senate, was involved in pre-registering students. She said that when students register, they fill out a registration form and certain information is needed. The documentation necessary for early registration is the student's driver's license and the student's social security number.

"Generally we have a registration form for you and what you'll need if you are a Wisconsin resident, you'll need your driver's license," she said. "If you're from Minnesota they will just need the last four digits of your social security number."

Katrin Seaborg is a UWRF junior who participated in the pre-registration on campus. She said that she had been previously registered and that she needed to update her information. Seaborg also said that she registered using her driver's license and that the process was easy to complete.

"It was really easy. I had already registered to vote before so I just went and updated my information," she said. "It's really important this year."

Plunkett said that the large turnout could be attributed to the work done by the Student Senate and the students who took part in the effort.

"Student Senate participation and the student body made it possible," he said.

Plunkett said that he thought that the large number of people who pre-registered to vote did so because they have seen an opportunity to bring about change.

"We have a generation of people who are recognizing that our generation can and has the opportunity to do better for ourselves and country," Plunkett said. "One of the ways to achieve that is to be active in the political process."

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

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

October 17
- Brittany E. Johnson was cited \$249 for underage consumption.

October 20
- The damage done to the vandalized trees found in Hathorn Hall on Oct. 17 equals approximately \$50. It will not be known until spring if the trees will survive.

October 21
- A Blanket and 250 CDs were reported stolen from a vehicle at 1029 State St.
- Collin J. Lahay, 18, was cited for speeding.

October 22
- Officers from Public Safety and River Falls Police Department, as well as Pierce County and St. Croix County officers executed a search warrant in May Hall. Two suspects were arrested under suspicion of drug possession.
October 23
- Melanie M. Canto, 20, was cited for speeding.

October 25
- A bar stool valued at \$80 was stolen from Bo's 'N' Mine.

October 26
- Battery/disorderly conduct was reported at 930 S. Main St.

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Interim: Two-thirds of UWRF faculty eligible for retirement within the next decade

from page 1

134-year history and the academic profile of the freshman class has improved from previous years, Foster said.

Administrative and faculty turnover is not limited to UWRF. The aging of the baby boom generation is leading to an increase of retirements over the next several years. Currently seven out of 15 provosts in the UW System are interims and there are three interim chancellors, Brown said.

“This kind of transition is the wave of the future not just here, but across the nation,” Kinders said. “We will see a lot more changes in the future and it’s difficult because we are competing at a national level.”

It’s getting much more competitive for jobs and those universities that have competitive compensation and benefits are more attractive, Brown said.

Two out of every three UWRF faculty members will be eligible for retirement in

the next decade. UWRF is being proactive in regards to this by instituting leadership development programs for current staff and offering professional development opportunities and grants for faculty and staff, Foster said.

“It is more important than ever to mentor faculty who could become strong administrators and provide opportunities for them,” Foster said.

UWRF plans on announcing the chancellor by Dec. 23, 2008, and a provost search committee has been formed. The search for a new provost will go into January 2009, and the position will be filled by March. A committee has also been formed to replace Schultz.

Future searches will be for the dean of College of Education and Professional Studies, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, vice chancellor of administration and finance, and executive director of University advancement.

Clubs: Rise Up for Women’s Rights to sponsor pro-choice tables on campus

from page 1

mail interview. “We formed the group to bring awareness to the issues of reproductive choice, [and] sexual and domestic violence awareness, as well as eating disorder issues.”

The group will be hosting pro-choice tables every week leading up to the election to distribute information on John McCain and vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin’s abortion views. The tables will lead up to a larger event that involves putting 300 flags in front of the University Center. Pollock said each of the flags will represent ten women, roughly equaling the number “who died of illegal abortion deaths in the U.S. before Roe v. Wade.”

Higher education: UWRF students disagree on federal financial aid issues

from page 1

Infantry of the Minnesota National Guard. He does not see the tax credit as something to be scared of because Obama’s plan is not saying that the student has to join a specific organization.

“I am glad to see Obama is widening the scope with different non-military ways for students to get help,” Dale said.

Federal funding comes from bureaucracy and resources—all spending bills originate in the House of Representatives. Whoever is elected will have a little pull, but not a lot.

“Despite the best intentions of both candidates, when it comes down [to] practicalities, they can only do so much,” Oftedahl said.

Halverson, a Ralph Nader supporter, said that the current federal aid system for higher education is not doing a good job. College has become expensive and

Halverson, 24, said that he is around \$20,000 in debt.

“I view higher education as a fundamental right,” the senior history major said in regards to living in a modern society. “It should be a constitutional right.”

Republicans like Huffman disagree with this view on higher education.

“College is not a right, since rights do not cost money. If you have a right to speech, and you do, all I need to do is let you speak. If you have a right to a college degree then someone else must have an obligation to pay for it,” Huffman said. “Rights involve things like the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. None of these real rights require anything on my part.”

Dale, 23, said that he thinks that the drive and the will to succeed should be rewarded.

“[Obama] believes in making higher

education in reach for anyone who wants to achieve it and is willing to work for it.”

Sometimes the issues surrounding higher education are put on the back burner because the presidential candidates tend to focus on what are seen as bigger issues, such as the war and the economy.

“It is challenging to make a case for higher education in America because it is viewed more as a privilege and not an expectation,” Oftedahl said. “It’s expendable because it is not something that is quantifiable.”

Incoming financial aid director Barbara Stinson said she describes herself as cautiously hopeful as to what will happen with federal funding when the presidency changes hands.

“I will believe it when I see it,” Stinson said. “We need to make [higher] education a priority.”

UWRF, FVTC joining forces to create agriculture transfer degree program

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UW-River Falls and Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) are working on a 2+2 Agriculture and Transfer Agreement Program which would entail students spending two years at each school to complete a baccalaureate degree.

“What we’re attempting to do is develop a program which would allow them to receive two years of credit for their work at a technology college system and apply that not as a course-by-course transfer but a program-to-program transfer into our program where they could conceivably complete their

degree in another two years in a baccalaureate degree,” Associate Professor of Agriculture Engineering Technology Jerry Nechville said.

A grant that was written by FVTC indicates the importance of Wisconsin students receiving a four year baccalaureate degree instead of just a two year associate degree. It is estimated that 30 to 50 percent that enroll in the agriculture technology program at UWRF are from FVTC. However, there is still a need for expanding transferring so that students can achieve a baccalaureate degree at a four year university.

UWRF is particularly interested in FVTC because it is one of the oldest agricultural programs in the technical college system. It is well-established and has several faculty alumni that are connected to UWRF.

The difference between the two year degree at FVTC and the four year degree at UWRF is the intent in training service technicians for local dealerships.

“[UWRF is] providing education for students to move into the field as application engineers or field-test engineers,” Nechville said.

One of the criticisms of UWRF is that it does not have an extensive experience of

hands-on teaching. UWRF focuses more on teaching theory of technical education. While the technical colleges are heavy on the hands-on teaching they would spend two months on a specific area where a university might only spend a month.

There is also a higher demand for a four year degree, because it would increase salary for graduates of this 2+2 Agriculture and Transfer Agreement Program.

“With the potential of earning a higher wage [after graduation] and college expenses...it will continue to be a factor in a student’s decision to attend FVTC or UWRF,” instructor and Department Chair of FVTC’s Agriculture Program, Randy Tenpas said.

Many students are unaware of these opportunities, and because the program is expanding, it’s important for students to gain that knowledge. According to Nechville, many people who go to a technical college think they are not ready for university level schooling, some then decide that they are capable, which is why transferring is common among students at universities.

Right now FVTC and UWRF are working to review the curriculum and are making sure that it is aligned with the guidelines for achieving a four year baccalaureate degree. They will be looking at the courses that each individual has and then see how they correspond to the program at UWRF. The plan is to be finalized two years from this fall according to the grant that was issued.

Elect

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EDITORIAL

Student votes impact individual life plans

Participating in an election, whether local or national, is one of the most important things that college students can do for their own futures. Voting allows students to have a say in what direction the country is heading. While students can get involved with politics on a family and party basis, they can also look past their own political affiliations, or those of their families, to figure out where different candidates stand on the issues that affect them most personally, now and in the near future when they graduate. Voting, for students, is not merely about politics. It is also about asserting ourselves as individuals—going beyond the ideas we were brought up with and beginning to shape our own.

This new American generation can do more than simply repeat what it was told by an older one. It can get involved and informed, and not just over the Internet. At college students are finally out from under the veil of their parents influence. After college students will be on their own, responsible for every possible decision that comes across. It is time to make decisions on your own positions as an individual that will affect you after college.

Students need to know what kind of economy they will be entering when they graduate and what kind of jobs will be available. Policies on education funding, financial aid, and auto and health insurance are pressing concerns for students. They can also go beyond federal matters and express their views on legislative referendums. One example is the referendum dealing with state health care coverage on Tuesday’s ballot. The results determine whether the legislature will guarantee health care coverage to all Wisconsin residents.

Students can also focus on candidates’ positions on educational funding and financial aid. Financial aid is experiencing a crunch because of the weakened state of the economy. Tuition is expected to rise as a result. Research the candidates and determine where they stand on educational funding and vote to influence your future. The Student Senate pre-registered a record number of voters this semester. The pre-registration is a good start, but now the students have to follow through with their obligation and vote Nov. 4.

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

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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.

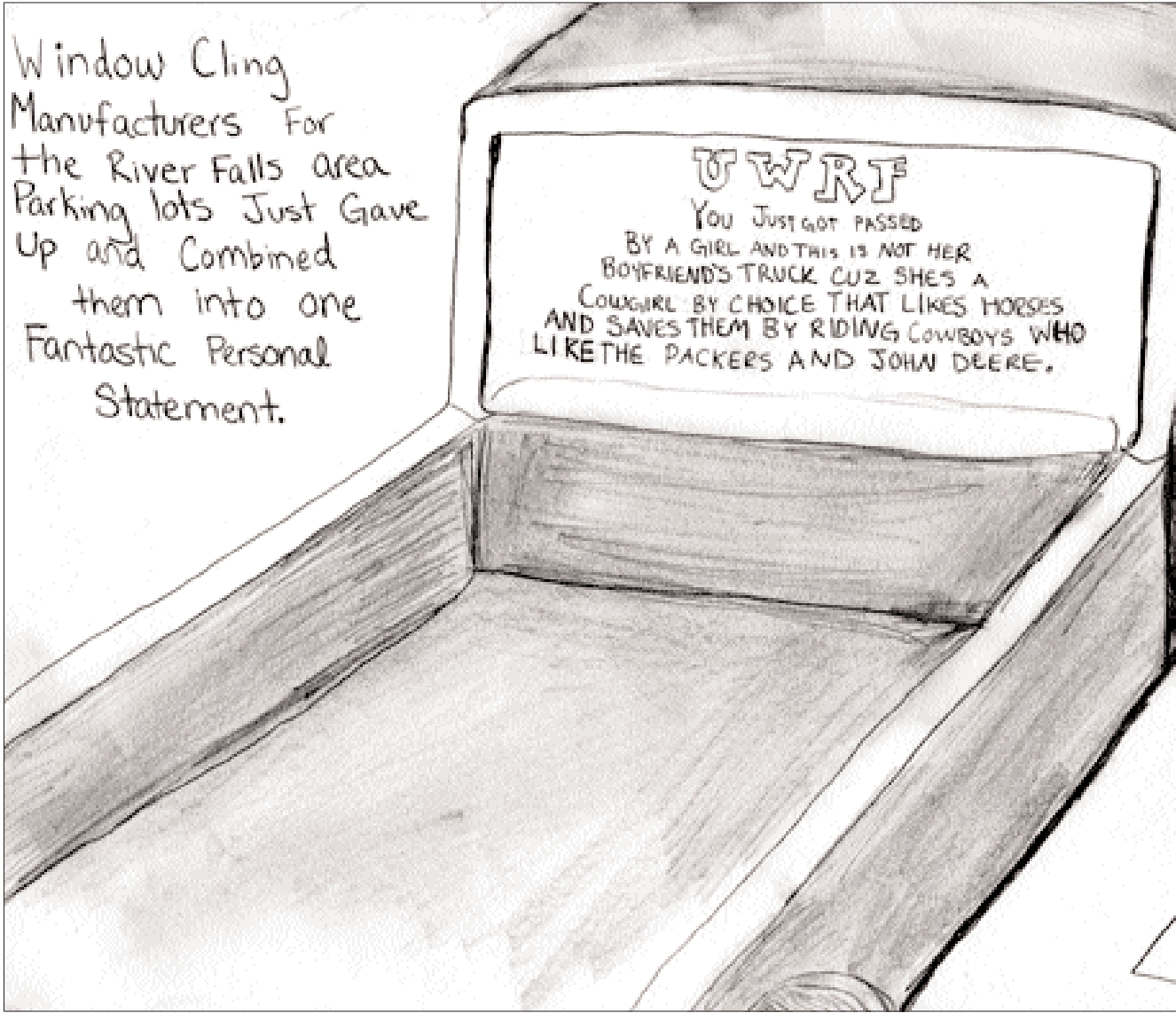
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Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall or to editor@uwrfvoice.com.

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

Food science cut back in Madison

Back in 1985, Menomonie legislator Dick Shoemaker single-handedly bumped the UW-River Falls physical education building off the state building commission’s list of approved projects and replaced it with a UW-Stout project. Today, UW-Stout has its facility while UWRf has an unpaved parking lot adjacent to the Robert P. Knowles Building, named for the man who, as regent and state senator, was the last elected official truly committed to the well-being of this University in the legislature.

If he were still alive, Republican Knowles would be dismayed at the benign neglect of this, his alma mater, by the party loyalists who have succeeding him. For example, this newspaper reported a few weeks ago that the food science and technology program faces possible elimination from the college curriculum.

Since 1992, the faculty has dwindled from five professors to two because budget cuts in Madison made it impossible to hire replacements for the three who retired or took other positions. National accreditation has been lost and the program’s demise appears to be likely.

UWRf’s voices in Madison today are a rural River Falls dairy farmer and a Hudson businesswoman who grew up on a St. Croix County farm. Isn’t it ironic that they’re marching along to the drumbeat of “do more with less,” helping drive an agricultural program on this campus right into the ground?

Food science’s death by 1,000 little cuts isn’t solely the faults of Kitty Rhoades and Sheila Harsdorf. Nevertheless, they were certainly complicit, providing no advocacy for UWRf, and they may even have some specks of blood on their hands. How could they not? Since 1992, the River Falls area assembly seat has been held exclusively by Republicans. On the Senate side, Republicans have held sway 12 out of the 16 years in question. Even College Republicans should be able to connect those dots, which reveal a 16-year downhill slope headed straight toward oblivion for food science majors.

At a political forum back in the early 70s, Bob Knowles

was asked, “Why are there so many stupid state senators?” He replied, “Well, Wisconsin has quite a few stupid people, and those folks deserve representation too.”

Let’s hope Knowles had it mostly wrong, especially among the staff and students at UWRf, and that Abe Lincoln had it mostly right when he said, “You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can’t fool all of the people all of the time.”

Nicholas Carow,
River Falls

McCain proves to be a balanced choice

The last eight years have been too far to the right for most Americans. To get the country moving again, Obama wants to move us to the same extreme, but on the left. Sen. Obama seeks to change our county, but what is this change he speaks so well of? It is the change of the old, a dressed up, blogged version of a New Deal, where Sen. Obama will change the current tax code to radically take away from some to give to others?

McCain equals balance. He is center right, not far right; he fought against Fannie and Freddie, fought with Feingold on campaign finance and with Joe Lieberman on global warming. McCain fought for a successful strategy in Iraq; Sen. Obama wanted to destabilize the region in a rapid pullout. Iraq has changed in way that even hope is possible.

Obama, with 143 days in the Senate before his quest for presidency, has run more attack ads against McCain than McCain has run ads period. Obama refused to do town halls with McCain and forced the McCain to debate foreign policy on a Friday night just to make sure nobody actually watched the debate.

John McCain has fought the left and the right in his years as a U.S. senator and has fought for his country in a way few can understand. What has Sen. Obama ever done other than write and speak? Where are his legislative accomplishments? When did Sen. Obama ever disagree with the left wing of his party?

Vote John McCain to keep government divided as Pelosi

and Reid tilt to the left. We don’t need change of the old, just balance to secure our future and the brighter days ahead.

Nicholas Carow,
River Falls

Local races directly affect students’ lives

Paul Webb is a recent graduate from UW-River Falls and is now running for Pierce County Register of Deeds. I have known Paul for a few years now and have found him to be trustworthy, responsible and meticulous. His attention to detail makes him the perfect person to serve our county.

Don’t just stop at voting for president; vote all the way down the ballot. Local races—like register of deeds—directly affect our lives as students and citizens. Vote Paul Webb for register of deeds!

Thomas Friant,
student

Bruch understands area concerns

I am writing this letter in support of Sarah Bruch. In many conversations with Sarah I believe that she understands what this district needs from a state representative. Sarah listens to people’s concerns and will make her decisions in Madison on what will benefit her constituents the best.

Sarah is running for state assembly because she is concerned of the current path of our government. She will not be interested in the special interests. As a small business owner struggling to make end meet, I believe that she will not forget her humble beginnings as she represents us in Madison. She understands fiscal responsibility and will bring that knowledge and experience to Madison.

As a mother of four, I believe Sarah will make the decisions that will best benefit our future in western Wisconsin. She understands the importance of funding education at all levels and the benefit of having an educated population. Sarah also cares about the environment and knows that we need to have a good environment for all our future generations.

As health care costs increase, Sarah knows the

importance of having health care available for all families.

Sarah cares deeply for western Wisconsin and wants to be your voice in Madison.

For more information on where Sarah stands on your issue please visit her Web site at www.votesarah.org.

Nate McNaughton,
student

Campus recycling systems explained

Recycling and trash bins in the basements were phased out because of health and safety reasons. Building custodians and recycling representatives lugged the heavy bins up the stairs outside of the halls, which tend to become slippery with ice during winter. Most of the dumpsters, both trash AND the one specifically marked for recyclables, are located near the halls. The dumpsters are not placed closer to the halls because of the accessibility for the MSW trucks used to pick up the trash and recyclables, they need room to turn around and maneuver.

The University supplies a trash bin AND a recycling bin in each room, there is no reason that students can’t already separate trash and recyclables. Residents can most definitely ask for a second trash bag to line their recycling bins with (or reuse plastic Econo or Shopko bags). There are not recycling bins on every floor for safety reasons, they can get heavy and they are extremely bulky.

The reason there have not been recycling bins in the Suites for the first part of the year is because there was not a recycling representative to bring the recycling bins outside. Now that the Suites have a recycling rep, they will be putting a recycling bin in each trash room on each floor.

We have entered a nationwide recycling contest for the past two years called Recyclemania that occurs in the spring semester and the University plans to compete again this year. Thank you for pointing out that recycling is one easy way to be more sustainable, that it is important, and that it deserves more recognition and awareness on campus.

Becky Alexander,
Earth Conscious
Organization

Life’s reality hidden by lack of challenges

You know, it’s a real shame I’ve never been shot or stabbed. I’ve never had a life-threatening addiction or even gotten in a legitimate fight. I’ve never broken my nose or been in a car accident. I’ve never been hit in the teeth with a lead pipe and nobody has ever run over my legs with a John Deere. This bro has never been tased. I’ve never disappeared completely or run away or faced my fears.

I’ve always been just a middle-class Midwesterner. Safe, bland and risk-free.

Herein lays my painful realization: this absolute lack of street cred undermines some of what I would like to pass off as my “personal identity.”

Nothing bad has ever really happened to me, yet here I am listening to the melodies of Bob Dylan and Bob Marley, pretending to commiserate with the struggles of past generations, pretending to fight against all the politicians and bankers and businessmen, going down and taking The Man with me. I read dangerous books and listen to dangerous songs, but man, I don’t do dangerous things.

I wish I’d been shot nine times like 50 Cent. It just sounds so damn dramatic and sexy. If getting gunned down in the street is what it takes to give me some shred of credibility, so be it. Please use a Super Soaker—with warm water, not too hot, not too cold. Actually Kool-Aid’s even better.

I’d like to pretend I’ve lived a hard-knock life, like perhaps having done so would somehow cast my life’s utterly average achievements in a more impressive light. I’d like for people to believe that I’ve struggled heroically to get where I am, but that’s not the truth. Sure, I’ve had my moments of crisis, but no bullets flying through my window or broken teeth in my mouth.

The truth is I come from Woodbury, the land of safety, shopping centers and sport utility vehicles. It was a wonderful place to grow up, but now I wonder at its long-term effect on me.

On one hand, this suburban Eden has afforded me all sorts of chances at success, including the ability to attend a 5-star public high school for free (couldn’t do it without taxes!). But has the

safety of Woodbury irreversibly weakened my resolve? Have the plush comforts and indulgent amenities of life in the land of McMansions conquered my tenacity and caused me to slip into an eternal cycle of complacency and instant gratification?

I want to scrap and yell and struggle and fight to figure out what life is supposed to be about. I want a challenge bigger and more significant than all the other tiny challenges that have come to occupy my daily brain space.

Pay the rent, read this chapter, write this analysis, do the laundry—do you realize what percentage of your daily life is busywork? Maybe I’m just wishing for some big, terrible struggle to befall me, to test my mettle, to unearth meaning in all of my life’s meaningless little things.

Whatever my struggle is, I just hope it doesn’t leave me with some long-term disability like post-traumatic stress disorder. Fear Factor eating contests and prison rape come to mind—fuck that.

If by chance I do ever end up in prison, I hope the worst they do to me is make me eat 50 hardboiled eggs in an hour, like Cool Hand Luke. Only with an experience like that will I ever make sense of all this crap.

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



Joe Hager

I wish I’d been shot nine times like 50 Cent. It just sounds so damn dramatic and sexy. If getting gunned down in the street is what it takes to give me some shred of credibility, so be it.

Classroom walls crave bright colors

I’m a good student. I go to class and take notes and study them for exams. I usually pay attention to what the instructor has to say (unless I don’t believe they have anything interesting to say). But I still feel that some classrooms are lacking an intellectual stimulus that universities should have. We need color on the blank walls.

Most classrooms are concrete with a sort of off-white paint on the walls. Some of the rooms have bulletin boards overflowing with vibrant posters of study abroad opportunities that you’ll never even consider. Some have rooms with windows so high on the walls you can only see the tops of trees from the desks.

I listen to the professor go on about the legislative process, direct democracy and law making policies. I absorb all the information and actually find the content to be interesting, but all I can ever think about in that KFA classroom is the fact that there is a large white-board attached to a white wall.

All of the lights are on making the room incredibly overlit, which in itself is an energy hogging issue. In between thoughts of how much a professional legislature’s salary is I try to envision various colors that would suit the classroom.

It’s straining, the bright white. It is uncomfortable. It is anti-education. Did the person who designed classrooms even go to college? Did they know nothing of feng shui?

A color, any color, would affect the mood of the students as well as the instructor. It would be lively and more participatory. What teacher wants their students to feel as if they are being lectured in a prison cell for fifty minutes? Students learn best in colorful settings. There have been many movements and programs

across the nation in attempt to bring color into the classroom.

Deep tones, such as blues and greens, are exceptional for focus. Brighter tones, such as oranges and reds, are good for stimulation. In any room it is best to use a functional color scheme that considers education before aesthetics, which should come in very close behind education. One study showed that a monotonous color scheme actually increased absenteeism.

I envy the art majors. Their learning environment is surrounded by creativity. There are some days I wished I were an art major so I could sit quietly in a room and be stimulated by the walls.

According to the University’s Mission, Vision and Values Statement, our school believes that “We create an environment of professional behavior.” If this is true, then shouldn’t education come before the cheap paint? It

is obviously more professional to aid in the education of students than to not.

The statement also says that “Students learn in an environment of academic freedom.” If this is true, then why does it feel like I am in an empty room? That is not academic freedom. This is basic eggshell with no room for critical and creative thinking, no flexibility in brainstorming.

Avoid visual monotony; energize students with an interesting learning environment. We could even have art majors create murals in some rooms. What looks like cheap labor could be college credit.

Our education at UW-River Falls needs an upgrade. Let’s start in the classrooms.

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



Teresa Aviles

... why does it feel like I am in an empty room? ... This is basic eggshell with no room for critical and creative thinking, no flexibility ...

Winter’s approach brings quiet warmth

Today I had to scrape the frost off of my windows to go to the bank. An insignificant gesture to some, perhaps, but to me it is always symbolic. It signals the start of that quick decent into winter, to remain frozen there as it hoards more months of the year than is fair.

I will soon break out my paintbrushes, oils and watercolors, and desperately attempt to keep some color in my life. I will gather pastels and crayons in bulk until they tumble, little fingers of blue, orange, red, green and stunted nub of black over the paper, tinting the snow.

I will pledge, yet again, not to take summer for granted; to savor each sunlit moment, each picnic, each open-windowed, late night conversation.

Summer was, again, a paradox this year. Each day dragged on like sand-paper across wood but the whole of it seems like such a blur now.

I have been feeling a little soggy lately, but feel myself warming and perhaps making steps to embrace the next thing, as we all should do.

With winter, distractions minimize and tiny buds of extra time blossom in spite of the crippling cold; time in which to study, to read, to drink cocoa and watch movies under blankets, to breathe. It is imperative to take steps to make the most of spare time, in whatever way is most needed.

A change in the season can be refreshing. Start a new book, go home and see your family, vow to get a head start on things (and perhaps go through with it). Make slow (but consistent) progress in that curious act of self-discovery and acceptance.

It’s an anomalous feeling at times ... rather like a slow, illuminated prickle under the skin and at other times it feels as natural as breathing. Learn something new, take steps

to do one brave thing every day. Wash the clothes that have indubitably been festering in the bottom of your hamper. Embrace chilly walks and bulky sweatshirts.

Exchange soda for tea or coffee and swap Frisbee for snowball fights. It is important to seize as many opportunities for revitalization as possible.

I was excited for autumn and very sad to see summer fade. I will miss sunshine and still moments and softness.

With autumn I found myself excited for breezes and sweaters and that crispness in the air that nothing can produce quite as well as a fall morning.

But it is all fading yet again, so perhaps I can muster a meager acceptance for the cold of the upcoming months. Perhaps I too, can make room in my chest for silence and snowflakes; breathe them in with enthusiasm.

Hopefully this year the frost won’t creep quite so fiercely on my soul.

Katie is double majoring in international studies and history, with a German minor.



Katie Heimer

Halloween goes beyond costume, candy

I remember one dark and surreal night 17 years ago. I had no idea where I was. I was cold and confused and had only my little brother beside me, and even he was difficult to focus on through the blanket of snow that was falling.

It was hard to imagine that we would ever make it home again, and maybe I didn’t want to.

We were traveling slowly through a very strange world, a maze of dim and empty streets, blacked out and whited out at the same time. One of our parents was pulling us along in a sled, but I forgot which.

Every minute or so we ventured over to whatever houses we could see, holding our buckets out like beggars. We ran back to the sled just as quickly, and the journey went on.

The air was so frigid that parts of our plastic costumes were cracking and falling off. Pieces of ourselves we didn’t need anymore, left behind on the endless roads and buried in seconds.

It was one of the best nights of my life. Today people call it the Halloween Blizzard of 1991. What stood out for me was not the blizzard, but the Halloween. It was always my favorite holiday. The idea of getting out of myself, and being something other than what I was, fascinated me as a child. A Ninja Turtle, a caveman, a devil ... anything that

was different. My normal life felt like a prison sometimes, and Oct. 31 was one of those rare days when I could escape.

My town actually looked interesting then. Houses were decked out with spider webs, grinning jack-o’-lanterns, cackling skeletons and witches that had just smashed into the doors.

I loved it all—dressing up, pretending, getting scared, shouting “trick or treat.” It was a night when I could stay up late and go wherever I felt like going.

Strangers actually welcomed me, complimented me. And, of course, there was free candy everywhere. My favorite kind was Baby Ruth. In a way, it fit. On nights like that, I didn’t want to grow up.

The candy was all some kids seemed to care about. For me it was mostly an afterthought, an excuse to be out there. But a rewarding afterthought, too, when the evening was finally over and I had to go home and be myself again.

That was what Halloween meant to me. Not a chance to do stupid stuff like throw toilet paper on trees or egg

houses or steal little kids’ trick-or-treat bags or smash pumpkins that families just like mine spent hours carving ... but a chance to feel free.

Ironically, as I’ve become a happier and healthier person, my Halloweens

have become less special. I trick-or-treated for the last time in 2000, and I’ve steadily lost the spirit ever since. I don’t go to costume parties or haunted houses much anymore. This year, I’m more likely to celebrate by languishing in my room at home with some really good death

metal, like Dead Congregation or Grave.

As a matter of fact, that’s what I’m doing as I write this. The music is a crushing wall of noise, overwhelming and soothing at the same time.

There is still that part of me that wants to find a costume and a pillowcase, run outside and stalk the streets for candy and fulfillment once again ... but I have grown up, against my own wishes. I guess part of growing up is losing that genuine, wide-eyed excitement you once had for days like Halloween. Maybe that’s just the way it is.

But it’s a shame.

Nathan is a journalism major, free thinker and perpetual miscreant.



Nathan Sparks

The idea of ... being something other than what I was, facinated me as a child. ... My normal life felt like a prison sometimes, and Oct. 31 was one of those rare days when I could escape.

STUDENT Voices

What are you dressing up as for Halloween? Why?



Qurina Khan, junior

“Princess; it was an elegant costume. I wanted to be something different.”



Dalal Jaman, freshman

“Cleopatra; she’s a strong, elegant lady—a good role model!”



Maamoun Slayhi, junior

“A Vampire—by popular demand, for me to become the real Edward Cullen.

Michaael Leonad, sophomore

“Steve Bartman; Cubs fan who wrecked the Cubs’ chance to go to the World Series in 2003.”



Charlie Guerin, sophomore

“I’m going to wear raggedy clothes a mask and straw, then sit with a bucket of candy in my lap and scare kids.”

Student Voices compiled by Sarah Schneider.

Falcons lose more than just game to Stout

Justin Magill
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With a win over then 11th-ranked UW-Eau Claire, 27-19 on Oct. 18 and a loss to UW-Stout 29-19 on Oct. 25, the UW-River Falls football team is in fourth place in the WIAC standings.

After defeating Eau Claire, the Falcons were in a tie for second place in the conference behind UW-Whitewater, who was undefeated until its loss to UW-Stevens Point, but a poor rushing defense against Stout dropped them back in the middle of the standings.

In the game against Eau Claire, Joel Yogerst scored four touchdowns on five carries. His longest run resulted in a five-yard touchdown, the first touchdown for UWRF.

“I don’t care what our record is, it was just a big win for our kids and our program.”

John O’Grady,
UWRF head coach

Yogerst ran in his second score of the game from the one-yard line, but Eau Claire’s Cory Sartorelli ran in his second touchdown of the game from 11 yards out.

UWRF answered right back with Yogerst’s third touchdown of the game from the Eau Claire four.

The Blugolds answered back quickly as Sartorelli punched in his third score of the game, with a 26-yard touchdown run that capped off a four play, 62-yard scoring drive that took less than one minute.

With less than two minutes to play, Yogurst put the game away for good when he scored his fourth and final touchdown of the game, a three-yard run.

“I don’t care what our record is, it was just a big win for our kids and our program,” UWRF Head Coach John O’Grady said of the victory.

Matt Pollock led UWRF with 131 yards rushing with most of those yards setting up Yogerst’s touchdowns.

UWRF had 209 yards rushing for the game and O’Grady said he was happy with the ball control.

“We were able to run the ball against them

and I was very proud of that,” he said. “ Matt Pollock had a great game and we controlled the ball all afternoon.”

Michael Zweifel caught five passes for 137 yards, averaging more than 27 yards per catch.

“Nothing he does surprises me anymore,” O’Grady said of Zweifel. “He finds ways to make big plays for us.”

A problem UWRF faced in its game against Stout was that Zweifel did not play a single down.

Zweifel, arguably the conference’s best wide receiver, injured his ribs and pulled a muscle during pregame warmups while turning for a ball and pulled a muscle.

“I tried going after warm-ups but couldn’t do it,” he said. “They have been sore for a couple of weeks, but I must have pulled something in my ribs. I turned for a ball during warm-ups and must have did it then.”

Zweifel stayed on the sidelines most of the first half, went in and got treatment, but was not physically able to play in the second.

“[I] tried to warm it up again after the half but couldn’t go,” he said.

O’Grady alluded to the importance of having Zweifel on the field.

“He’s been nursing his ribs now for a couple of weeks and, for some reason, was unable to go. Obviously it makes a huge difference in your offense when he’s not in there,” he said. “You lose some big play capabilities.”

Mike Woodward did a fine job stepping in for Zweifel as the big play threat for the Falcons. He had five catches for 109 yards, 40 of them coming on a fade route down in the third quarter down the right sidelines. He fought off a Blue Devil defender and ran in the



Sally King/Student Voice
Falcon running back Matt Pollock is tackled by Jake Pomputis of the Blue Devils in their Oct. 25 math-up. UWRF fell 29-19 to UW-Stout, pushing the Falcon record to 3-4 overall and 2-2 in the WIAC.

final 20 yards untouched. His touchdown brought UWRF within 10 points.

“Mike [Woodward] played a great game today,” O’Grady said. “I think he plays even better when he’s a compliment to Zweifel.”

Before the game, O’Grady said Stout’s rushing offense is similar to Whitewater’s, who torched the Falcons on the ground a few weeks ago. It was like déjà vu against Stout.

Freshman Craig Warminski had four touchdowns. His longest came late in the third quarter and he broke several tackles which resulted in a 49-yard score.

“They did what they should’ve done against us,” he said. “Just line up and run the ball right at us. They wore us out and we weren’t tackling in the third and fourth quarters.”

UWRF got touchdowns from quarterback Storm Harmon, who ran in a draw from 22 yards and from Yogerst who punched one in late in the fourth from two yards out. It was Yogerst’s eighth rushing score of the season, which leads the Falcons.

Harmon had 194 yards passing making him the Falcons career yards passing leader with 3,615, passing Jerry Trooien, who had 3,528 in the 1967-69 seasons.

However, the Stout defense sacked Harmon five times and forced him to fumble twice.

“They put pressure on us, but we expected it,” he said. “It really hurt us not to have Michael [Zweifel] in the lineup to take that pressure off.”

With the loss, UWRF falls to 3-4 and will play at UW-Platteville on Nov. 1, who is 2-5.

Falcon women’s hockey skating into action, looking to contend for national title in 2009

Paul Stanton
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Building on the success of last season, the Falcon women’s hockey team looks to its strong leadership and exciting play to help contend for NCHA title in the 2008-09 season.

The Falcons season kicks off as they travel to Augsburg College on Nov. 7. Their first home game is Nov. 8 vs. St. Catherine at 2:05 p.m.

Last year the Falcons were an impressive 17-9-2, but came up short against UW-Superior in the O’Brien Cup Final where they lost 2-1 in overtime. This year, Falcon Head Coach Joe Cranston has set the bar even higher and said he is hoping for a better outcome.

“My expectations are to win our conference and the tournament and get the bid for the NAAs,” Cranston said.“I think it will be a three horse race again. Superior and Stevens Point will both be good again and I think Eau Claire will be much improved.”

Returning All-NCHA goaltender Cassi Campbell also said that this season could be a special one for the Falcons.

“It’s very possible that we’re one of the strongest teams to come through this school. We have true talent in all our young players and true leadership in all the returners,” she said.

Campbell, a sophomore, played in all 25 regular season games last season. She recorded a 1.81 goals against average and a .926 saves percentage, with three shutouts, which was tied for second in the conference. Campbell also led the



Renae Bergh/Student Voice
Women’s hockey will begin regular play Nov. 7.

conference in total saves with 377.

After receiving a lot of playing time last year, Campbell said she realizes the steps she must take to become a better overall goalie.

“I know what to expect this season over last season. Through that experience, I was able to learn what I need to personally work on to be the best goaltender I can be for my team,” she said.

Also returning to the Falcons this season is 2007-08 top goal scorer Jamie Briski.

Briski, a sophomore, led the Falcons in scoring with 15 goals in 28 games. She also added 14 assists, giving her 29 points for the season, numbers Briski said she believes could go up.

“I personally feel more confident coming into this season. With a year’s experience, I feel like I have adjusted more to the pace of college hockey and I hope it will help prepare me for this season,” Briski said.

STANDINGS						
Football			Soccer			
WIAC Standings	W	L	WIAC Standings	W	L	T
UW-Whitewater (6-1)	4	1	UW-Stevens Point(14-3-0)	8	0	0
UW-Stevens Point(6-1)	3	1	UW-Eau Claire (15-1-3)	7	1	0
UW-Eau Claire (5-2)	3	2	UW-Whitewater(9-8-0)	5	3	0
UW-Stout (4-3)	2	2	UW-La Crosse(8-7-2)	4	3	1
UW-River Falls(3-4)	2	2	UW-Stout(6-10-3)	3	3	2
UW-La Crosse(2-5)	2	2	UW-River Falls(5-12-0)	3	5	0
UW-Oshkosh(3-3)	1	3	UW-Oshkosh(7-9-2)	2	5	1
UW-Platteville(2-5)	0	4	UW-Platteville(9-8-2)	2	6	0
			UW-Superior(3-15-1)	0	8	0
Volleyball			Tennis			
WIAC Standings	W	L	WIAC Standings	W	L	
UW-Oshkosh(30-2)	7	1	UW-Whitewater(12-1)	6	0	
UW-Eau Claire(19-10)	7	1	UW-La Crosse(10-2)	5	1	
UW-Whitewater(25-6)	6	2	UW-Eau Claire(8-4)	4	2	
UW-La Crosse(22-10)	6	2	UW-Oshkosh(8-5)	2	4	
UW-Platteville(16-15)	4	4	UW-Stevens Point(7-5)	2	4	
UW-River Falls(13-19)	2	6	UW-River Falls(7-8)	1	5	
UW-Superior(11-15)	2	6	UW-Stout(3-7)	1	5	
UW-Stevens Point(12-19)	1	7				
UW-Stout(5-22)	1	7				

Football brings joy, anguish

Minnesota football sure is an interesting creature, isn’t it? Both the Vikings and the Gophers are very similar. Both teams toy with their fans’ emotions. Even when it looks impossible that they’ll be relevant, they always find a way to come back and crush the souls of their fans. Heck, a couple years ago, the Vikings were eliminated from playoff contention on CHRISTMAS! Regardless, the two have started to separate their similarities. This is a story that’s so simple, it can be divided by two coaches.

It was January 2006, and I was home on winter break in Rochester, Minnesota. The Vikings were just about to make their announcement on who the 8th coach in franchise history would be. That man would be Brad Childress. Childress went to the podium with a calm demeanor and promised that he would field a competitive, disciplined team and get the Vikings to the next level. He also boasted how he molded Donovan McNabb into an elite NFL quarterback. This seemed to be what the doctor ordered, prompting yours truly to state that the Vikings would win the Super Bowl sometime within the next 5 years.

One year later, The Minnesota Golden Gophers were coming off a 6-7 season. Glen Mason was fired as the Gophers coach and the Gophers were looking for someone who would get them to the next level. Names such as Wisconsin Badgers Offensive Coordinator Paul Christ and Florida Gators assistant coach Charlie Strong were thrown out there as potential replacements. Instead, the Gophers went with Tim Brewster. At Brewster’s press conference, he appeared wide-eyed and repeatedly mentioned “Rose Bowl”, “Pasadena”, and “Gopher Nation.”

Brewster boasted about how he made Antonio Gates an elite NFL tight end and how he recruited Julius Peppers and Vince Young. In the same spot I was in a year ago, I thought to myself, “ARE THEY INSANE?” However, for how alike the two football teams are, their current stories are completely different.

Take a look at the recruiting between the two teams. The NFL doesn’t exactly have recruiting, but they do have free agency. The Vikings went out and got a receiver

with a bad toe (Benard Berrian), a safety with a bad neck (Madeiu Williams), a full-back with a Eagles pedigree (Thomas Tapeh), and the new Chris Hovan (Jared Allen). Meanwhile, Brewster went out and got a highly acclaimed recruiting class that has helped revitalize a defense that was historically bad in his first season.

Both teams are looking for upgrades to their stadium. The Gophers have already received that upgrade in the new TCF Bank Stadium that will open next season. Brewster has taken full advantage of it, shoving it in every recruits face as they walk onto the Minnesota campus. The Vikings would love to get a new stadium, but until Childress is gone, they have about a snowball’s chance in hell of receiving their wish.

Brewster has also defeated Childress in team discipline. Honestly, have you seen a Gopher get in trouble with the law, excluding the Dominic Jones trial? Then look at the Vikings. Dwight Smith getting busted in a stairwell, Kevin and Pat Williams getting busted for water pills, THE LOVE

BOAT (Not during Childress’s tenure, but oh well). The Vikings have not shown the discipline that Childress promised when he was hired. Brewster, meanwhile, has gotten the team to accept the “team” concept. Players that aren’t starting understand that their time will come and when it has, they have stepped up.

For all the similarities that these coaches have, there is one major difference: win/loss record.

The Gophers are currently 7-1 and ranked 17th in the Bowl Championship Series, a resume that would make Badger fans blush because of their struggles with Bret “Living off Barry Alvarez” Bielema. Childress’s Vikings are 3-4 and look absolutely pathetic.

Hindsight is obviously 20/20, but it appears that the first impression that Brewster gave was an accurate one.

Meanwhile, until Childress is fired, the Vikings may actually play second fiddle to the Golden Gophers. What a shocker.

Chris is a 22-year-old senior 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.

'Valley Vote '08' prepares for live election coverage

Blake Gandrud
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“Valley Vote ‘08,” a channel 19 cable TV event being produced by a class of communication studies and theatre arts (CSTA) students, aims to provide live election coverage on Nov. 4. The focus will largely be on the county races in St. Croix and Pierce Counties and the state races (Senate District 10 and State Assembly District 28, 29 and 30), but there will be some coverage of the national races as well.

The coverage, produced by Mass Communication Practicum (CSTA 377), is seeking to fill an “informational niche” that is left open by the Twin Cities stations designated to cover our area, Jim Zimmerman, professor of CSTA and one of the instructors of the class, said.

“We are reliant on them [Minnesota media] for whatever information we get on election night, which is little to none,” Zimmerman

said. “There is certainly no breakdown of how River Falls or Hudson voted on state issues.”

The coverage can be divided into four major categories: reporting the results, analyzing the results, interviewing the candidates involved in the races and pre-packaged videos that cover various human interest aspects of the election.

The director of the coverage and one of the students in the class, Bradley Brookins, said that he is satisfied with the candidates that they were able to book for the show. The two confirmed candidates are Alison Page (10th Senate District) and Sarah Bruch (30th Assembly District).

“We’ve had some trouble getting people to commit to [interviews], and that could be any number of reasons,” Brookins said. “We’re a small college. Maybe they don’t take us seri-

ously, but we are bringing in some of the College Democrats and Republicans.”

In addition to candidates Page and Bruch, there will be possible phone interviews with Kitty Rhoades (30th Assembly District) and Chris Buckel (29th Assembly District). The guests will be interviewed by the hosts of “Focus on U,” Andrew Murphy and Mallory Macal.

Don Richards, the mayor of River Falls, will help analyze the voting results, along with Mark Kinders, UWRF public affairs director, and Melissa Murphy, a student in the class.

“It’s the only ringside seat there is for things that affect [students] in River Falls,” Zimmerman said. “If they want to know whether Sheila Harsdorf or Alison Page won that Senate election, which is their

direct representation to the state of Wisconsin that determines what the budgets for their education are, and indirectly what their tuition and fees are, it’s a ringside seat.”

The class responsible for the show had what Brookins said is a “crash course in politics.” At the start, they knew nothing about the candidates. He also notices that the local races are neglected by other students as well.

“You could ask the average college student, ‘Who are you going to vote for?’ And they’re going to say Obama or McCain,” Brookins said. “[If asked] But what about the other races in Wisconsin? [They ask] What other races?”

The coverage, which will be focusing on the other races, begins at 8:30 p.m. after the polls close and ends when all of the votes have been counted. It can be seen on cable channel 19 or steaming live at Valley Vote ‘08’s Web site <http://www.uwrf.edu/election08/CoverageArea.html>.

'High School Musical 3' same old song and dance



Ken Weigend

At the heart of it all, films are intended to elicit a reaction, good or bad, emotional or physical, something needs to happen to the viewer on a deeper level. In that respect, “High School Musical 3” works to perfection - as it played out, I felt myself dying inside.

That’s not to say “HSM3” is a bad film—wait, scratch that, it absolutely is - but it at least has good intentions. As the all-too-clever sub-title of ‘Senior Year’ states, this final installment (and first to the big screen) of Disney’s sing-along trilogy chronicles the final year that Troy, Gabriella and the rest of the Wildcat gang spend at East High together. As Sharpay plots to usurp the spotlight during the spring musical, Troy and Gabriella must deal with the separation anxiety of leaving each other behind in favor of a world in which their classmates are not choreographically trained singers and dancers, a world in which poor life choices and social missteps are not solved by a snappy song & dance: college.

The film opens on a familiar basketball-themed note, and from there reuses the same plot devices, backbeats and even characterization as the first two installments. Every song I listened to rang with a familiar clarity, the kind of feeling you get when slipping on hand-me-down clothes for the first time. And that is exactly what “HSM3” is: a hand-me-down movie masquerading

as a Hollywood film.

As if expecting droves of new audience members, director Kenny Ortega ignores his existing fan base by, for a third time in a row, starting from scratch with each character. As is expected in any Disney sermon, “HSM 1 & 2” each closed with the obligatory moralization, life lessons aimed squarely at the fledgling youth toe-tapping along to the Disney World order. But these ethics are continually forgotten, erased by the scrolling marquee of the credits, packed neatly away in the subconscious of each stick figure cast member, waiting patiently to be rediscovered. By now, watching Troy’s teammates discover that there is relevance in musical theater, and seeing Sharpay finally learn all she should have learned in kindergarten, is wearing a little thin.

And who gave this flick the right to such a narcissistic finale? In true egotistical fashion, the last number is a numbingly obtuse argument for self-righteousness—a song whose chorus sings “All the songs that we lived through, the best of times! So why leave them behind? Why can’t the rest of my life be like high school musical... the best part we’ve ever known.”?

Now that “HSM” has climbed beyond the mere made-for-TV and joined the ranks of the theatrically released elite, it has to play ball on a whole new level. Although it stands head-and-shoulders above its two predecessors, it attempts to present an emotional story totally irrelevant to its main demographic. Children can’t relate to a story about leaving the comforts of friends and family, about discovering who you are in the face of

immense pressure to be who they want you to be. In too many ways, “HSM3” is an adult expose caged within children’s propaganda.

But while this shallow and vain attempt at real world drama doesn’t near compare to other films exploring the same social issues, fans of the franchise are sure to be suckered in once more by the bright colors, impressive choreography and sickeningly sweet lyrics.

Personally, I found myself in shock while walking out of the theater, feeling more than a little exploited by the over the top campy exaggerations of a serious issue. I found myself choking on the cheese, dying inside, a casualty in the Disney Revolution.



A.J. Hakari

It took me a good three hours before I could even think of how to start talking about “High School Musical 3: Senior Year.” Having already reviewed the first two entries in Disney’s mystifyingly successful franchise, I knew even before paying for my ticket that I would have the exact same criticisms. But after sitting through the House of Mouse’s latest festival of bubblegum pop, I can safely say that “HSM3” isn’t

as bad as its predecessors. It’s worse.

“HSM3” kicks off as senior year is winding down for the East High gang. Troy (Zac Efron) and his basketball team win the championship, Gabriella (Vanessa Hudgens) is busy editing the school yearbook, and brother/sister pair Sharpay and Ryan (Ashley Tisdale and Lucas Grabeel) maintain their strangehold on the drama club. But when the spring musical is to be modeled after the East High troupe’s senior year, everyone starts to question their plans for the future. Troy’s plans to play college ball are put on the backburner when he finds out he has a shot at winning a scholarship to Juilliard.

On top of that, Gabriella’s upcoming move to Stanford puts her and Troy’s relationship in jeopardy, a dilemma Sharpay takes advantage of by scheming her way to starring in the show. It isn’t just that “HSM3” is an extremely corny and conspicuously peppy musical romp. It’s also an incredibly lazy film, a big accomplishment considering how hackneyed the previous two flicks were. But as clichéd as they were, those movies actually had stories that gave them at least a little bit of narrative flow. “HSM3,” on the other hand, is two hours of stuff just *hap-

pening* — random events tied together by the flimsiest of plot threads.

The script never decides on a main story, so it spends its time playing hot potato with the subplots, never concentrating on one long enough to make any sort of impact whatsoever. The flick feels five times longer than it lasts. I wholeheartedly recommend “HSM3” to all viewers who got a kick out of the first two movies. As for the rest of us, I wouldn’t drink the Kool-Aid just yet. I’m sure the kids in the cast are a spirited bunch of performers, but the monotone manner in which they enact their respective teeny-bopper dramas makes any “Dawson’s Creek” episode look like “Citizen Kane.”

The music is even worse off—a stream of soul-sucking pop flavorless enough to make the Backstreet Boys weep, all accompanied by hilariously awful dance routines. While not as inherently evil a film as last year’s “Brazz,” “High School Musical 3” is cinematic junk food at its gnarliest.

I’m surprised so many parents give it a free pass and allow their kids to fall victim to its insultingly simple story and even more basic soundtrack. I’m willing to bet most of these folks never actually took the time to watch a “High School Musical” feature; if they had, then you’d see a lot more people using the DVDs as skeet shooting

“The script never decides on a main story, so it spends its time playing hot potato with the subplots...”

“I wholeheartedly recommend ‘HSM3’ to all viewers who got a kick out of the first two movies.”



Movie ratings are based on a scale from one to five. A film that scores five stars is worth seeing. A film that scores one star is horribly acted or directed, with no substance.



Hawthorne Heights experiments with new album 'Fragile Future'



Erik Wood

When Ohio quintet Hawthorne Heights suffered the loss of Casey Calvert in late 2007, the band had to overcome much more than the lost physical presence of a fifth member, but even more, the loss of a foundational friend. After a six-month hiatus, the quartet is back with their third studio album entitled, “Fragile Future.”

You will notice almost immediately a completely different song format from their previous albums. This album is much more experimental than anything they’ve done before. Foreign instruments such as organs, keyboards and various strings were explored for this album. “Fragile Future” possesses an overly heavy pop feel and, as much as I hate to say it, it’s much more fitting for vocalist JT Woodruff. Although the band has reinvented themselves, it isn’t for the better, nor does it innovate and spark this drowning genre.

If you’re familiar with Hawthorne Heights’ previous works, “The Silence In Black And White,” and “If Only You Were Lonely,” you’ll

notice immediately the lack of Micah Carli’s trademark screaming. If you truly loved the aspect of Micah’s growls and howl, then you will be sorely saddened by the lack there of in Fragile Future. With that said, the screamless album produces a very different feel to a middle of the road, genre confused band.

The opening track to “The Business of Paper Stars” begins with a heavy rock sort of feel, but quickly fades into everything I hate about pop rock. The transitions to the choruses in each song are laid back and have an overabundance of JT’s lack of testicular fortitude vocal abilities. The second track, “Rescue Me,” is a bland song with repetitious lyrics and everything that the band has

been previously criticized for: lyrics that produce a whiney and gloomy twelve-year-old emo feel.

The album drones on for what felt like an eternity, actually timing out at 43:02. There truly isn’t a track on this album that separates itself from any other. The format becomes predictable and dull. JT’s whiney vocals begin to numb your brain and almost make you want to perform your very own lobotomy in a desperate search for your thalamus. There is one thing this album doesn’t do and that is absolutely slaughter a horse in regards to songs about the loss of the guitarist. The only track that vocally professes the lost of Calvert is “For Become One” which in all actuality isn’t a

bad tune. It’s a rather touching hymn to the former guitarist. If anything, “Fragile Future” further dedicates itself to lyrics plagued with failing relationships and hopeless romanticism. While the album doesn’t get a “C” in my books, I do applaud the band for trying something new instrumentally. The overall feel for the album is bland and boring, but the production is worth a few listens with the creative textures and layered vocals and guitars.

I guess the death of a member isn’t only needed to revitalize a pathetic effort put forth by this predictable now pop quartet. I miss Casey Calvert, for the sole fact he was the only one in this band who truly possessed any ounce of musical talent.

HOW TO VOTE

You registered, waited in line forever and finally have a ballot in hand. All that’s left to do is slip into the little booth, pull the curtain closed behind you and cast your vote.

To avoid a Florida-esque incident, the City of River Falls has provided a sample ballot so voters know what to expect.

Each ballot will have a straight party option for die-hard partisan voters. If you’re not a straight-party person, all you need to do is complete the arrow alongside the candidate of choice.

WHEN TO VOTE

In the City of River Falls, the polls will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 4.

Though those are the official hours, first-time voters should know that it is unlawful for any person to deny the right to vote to anyone in line at the time that polls close. Further, it is unlawful for any person to deny anyone from joining a line after the polls close.

It’s kind of like being in the grocery store when it closes, except it is illegal for the grocery store to close its checkout counter until everyone in the store is gone. The grocery

WHAT TO BRING

You must be registered before you vote, but the good news is that you can register at your polling place on Election Day. Anyone who is at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, has lived at their current address (including residence halls) for at least 10 days can register and vote.

To register, you will be asked to provide your driver’s license. If you don’t have it, you can use the last four digits of your social security number.

To prove residency the following forms can be used: Wisconsin ID card, a credit card or plate, a library card, a check cashing courtesy card, a real estate tax bill or receipt for the current year or the year preceding the date of the election, a residential lease which is effective for a period that includes Election Day, a University, college or technical institute fee card or ID card, an airplane pilot’s license, or a gas, electric or telephone service statement for the period commencing not earlier than 90 days before the election.

If you can’t supply acceptable proof of residence, your registration form can be substantiated and signed by one other elector who resides in your municipality, corroborating your residency information. The corroborator must then provide acceptable proof of residence.

Voters can also register on Election Day at their voting site. They must bring the same information and meet the same requirements for Election Day registration as they would for registering before the election.

store can’t lock its doors to keep people out of the store either.

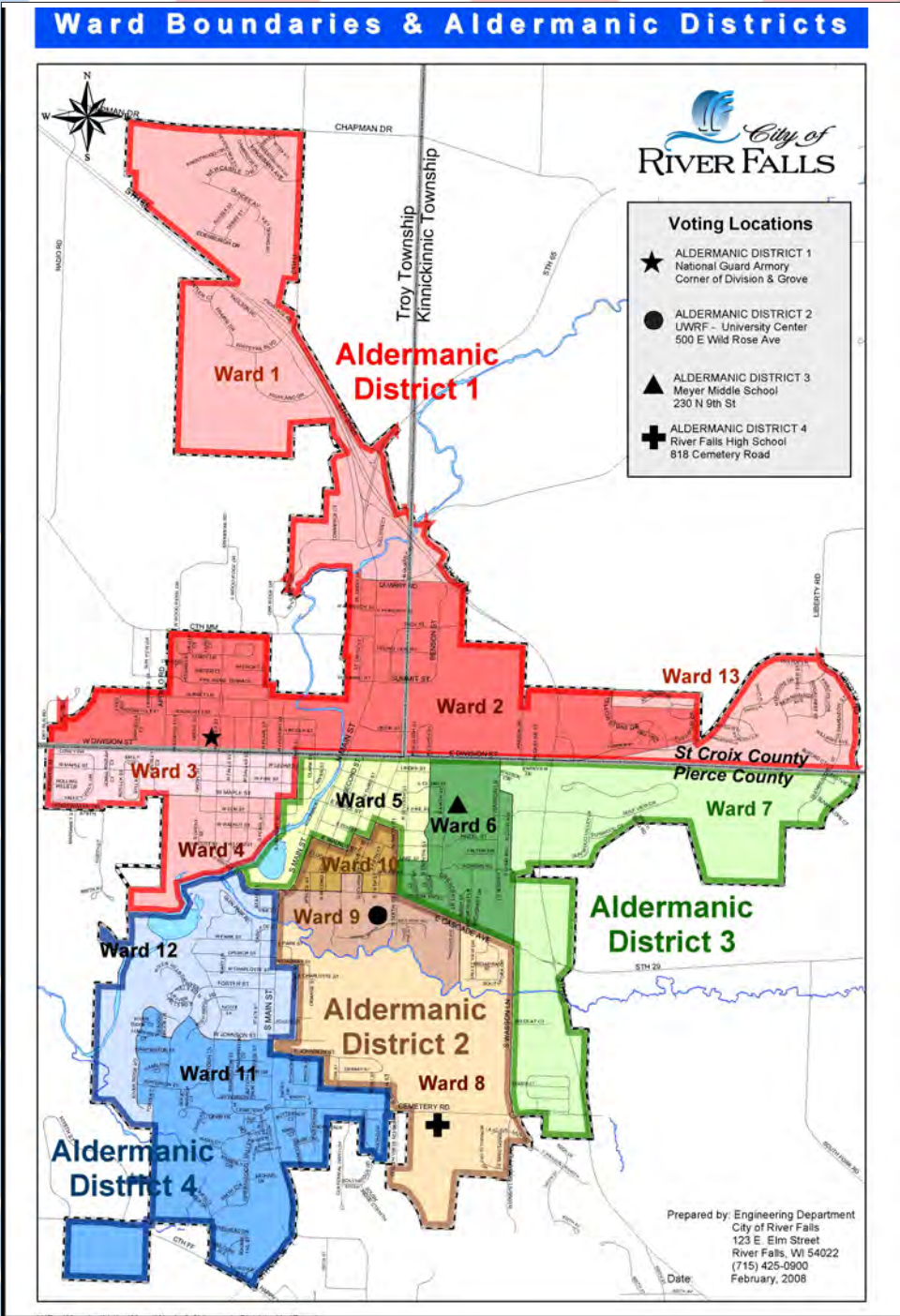
Don’t let anyone take advantage of your election inexperience. If someone tries to keep you from voting, cry foul.

VOTER RIGHTS

Take this list with you when you vote to remind yourself—and anyone who challenges you—that:

- *If you forget your ID, you can vote.
- *If records incorrectly show that you have moved, you can vote.
- *If you forgot to register, you can register on Election Day and you can vote.
- *If you have been convicted of a felony, but have completed your sentence and are no longer on parole, you can vote.
- *If you are in line at the polling place before 8 p.m. on Election Day, you can vote.
- *If you live in state while attending college or graduate school, you can vote as a resident.
- *If you are physically disabled, or are over the age of 65, you have the right to an accessible polling place and help in voting.
- *You can bring your minor child into the voting booth with you.
- *You are entitled to vote without harassment.

Do not let anyone tell you differently.



City District	Voting Location
Aldermanic District 1	National Guard Armory
Aldermanic District 2	UWRF-University Center
Aldermanic District 3	Meyer Middle School
Aldermanic District 4	River Falls High School

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Democratic Party

U.S. presidential candidate U.S. vice presidential candidate



Barack Obama

Illinois
Senate 1996-
2004, U.S.
Senate 2004-
present



Joe Biden

U.S.
Senator
from
Delaware
since 1972

On climate change: Wants 10 percent of our electricity to come from renewable sources by 2012 and 25 percent by 2025. Supports a cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050. Wants to invest \$150 billion in “strategic” areas to build a “cleaner” future.

Health care: Wants to require insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions. Require large corps to contribute towards employees’ health costs. Tax credits on premiums. Establish a National Health Insurance Exchange with a range of private insurance options as well as a new public plan based on benefits available to Congress that allows individuals and small businesses to buy affordable health coverage. Allowing medicinal drug importation from other developed nations.

Economy: Enact a windfall profits tax on excessive oil company profits to give American families an immediate \$1,000 emergency energy rebate to help families pay rising bills. Invest in manufacturing to create new, green jobs. Cut taxes for working and middle class.

Education: Focus on raising math and science scores. Close low-performing charter schools and increase funding to lower cost on high-quality childcare and school system. Increase resources and salaries of teachers.

Foreign policy: Believe in non-weapon ways of diplomacy. Wants to pursue an increase in successful foreign diplomacy. Wants to end the war in Iraq.

Republican Party

U.S. presidential candidate U.S. vice presidential candidate



John McCain

House of
Representatives in
1982, Senate in
1986, served as
chairman of the
Commerce
Committee



Sarah Palin

Governor of
Alaska since
2006

On climate change: Supports a cap-and-trade system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 60 percent by 2050, provide tax credits for alternative energy, promote zero-carbon nuclear power, offer incentives for America’s automobile industry to develop electric cars.

Health care: American families will receive \$5,000 tax credits to purchase insurance, will work for reforms to lower costs and provide coverage to Americans with pre-existing conditions

Economy: Must spur growth, create jobs, improve educational attainment and enhance financial security. Wants to keep income and payroll taxes low, reduce price of gas, give deserving homeowners new fixed mortgages, slash high business taxes and expand trade.

Education: System must focus on standards, accountability and choice. Plans to recruit highly qualified teachers in the neediest communities, expand online educational opportunities and provide low-income families with access to tutors.

Foreign policy: Will stand up for democratic values and human rights and will oppose aggression and international lawlessness that threaten U.S. security.

Wis. State Congress District 3



Ron Kind

- *Democrat
- *Eliminate independence on foreign oil
- *Advocates women equal rights
- *Favors more federal funding for health care
- *Favors giving illegal immigrants citizenship
- *Redeploy ground troops in Middle East



Paul Stark

- *Republican
- *Abortions legalized when woman is endangered
- *Federal gov. should not be involved in state/local issues
- *Supports domestic oil exploration
- *Wants to stay in Iraq
- *Supports legal immigration
- *Favors making English official language in the U.S.

Wis. State Senate District 10



Alison Page

- *Democrat
- *Universal health care
- *Pro-life
- *Make health care a right, not privilege
- *Protect natural resources
- *Provide property tax relief



Sheila Harsdorf

- *Republican
- *Wants to use state budget to increase funding for agriculture, education and health care
- *Abortions only legal in the case of rape, incest, life endangerment
- *Does not support same-sex marriage rights in Wisconsin

Wis. State Assembly District 30



Sarah Bruch

- *Democrat
- *Supports comprehensive health care plan for residents under 65
- *Focus on lowering taxes for middle and working class
- *In favor of testing higher-level thinking, not standardized testing



Kitty Rhoades

- *Republican
- *Supports death penalty
- *Supports Wis.’s five year limit in welfare benefits
- *Ensure that citizens have access to basic health care, through managed care, insurance reforms, or state funded care