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STUDENT VOICE

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UWRF professor dies after battle with cancer

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UW-River Falls political science professor Tracey Gladstone-Sovell, 54, died Feb. 4 after a 20-month battle with brain cancer.

She spent her final time with her family and friends in the home of her father-in-law's in Minneapolis.

Gladstone-Sovell was first diagnosed with brain cancer in June 2007.

According to Davida Alperin, a UWRF political science professor, Gladstone-Sovell began receiving painful headaches in the spring of 2007, but assumed it was allergies and would soon pass. After the persuasion of her family and friends, she went to the hospital where doctors discovered a brain tumor.

Gladstone-Sovell fought the disease using several treatment methods throughout the course of the battle.

"She had brain surgery but they were not able to remove it all. She then went through a series of chemo and radiation. Eventually, when it stopped working, she went on some experimental drugs," Mary Zoubek, a student and close friend, said.

According to political science Chair Wes Chapin, Gladstone-Sovell tried with every ounce of being and willpower to teach. She returned working in the fall but, her health did not allow her to continue and she went on a work-leave

halfway through the semester.

"I think it is a difficult time for all of us. We have been hoping that her cancer would go into remission, so we watched her fight violently and it's a lost and a sad situation," Alperin said.

Gladstone-Sovell began teaching political science at UWRF in the fall of 1986. Throughout her teaching career, she accomplished many achievements.

Gladstone-Sovell was the previous chair of the political science department, and the co-author of "The Web of Democracy," an American politics textbook. She was also awarded the 2007 College of Arts and Sciences University Service Award, worked on the American Democracy Project and was a strong advocate of technology in the classroom, according to the UWRF political science department Web site.

"She was a leader of the department even when she was not the chair because she had a lot of experience and knew how the University worked," political science professor Neil Kraus said.

Among Gladstone-Sovell's numerous accomplishments within the University, as well as her impeccable drive to help others, her role as a professor was a perfect fit.

"Tracey absolutely loved interacting with students as a teacher, advisor, coach and advocate. I don't



Kenny Yoo/File Photo

UW-River Falls political science professor Tracey Gladstone-Sovell died on Feb. 4 after a 20-month battle with brain cancer. Gladstone-Sovell is depicted above teaching at UWRF in September 2007.

think she could have chosen a better profession for her passion and skills," Chapin said.

Gladstone-Sovell filled her small shoes as a professor by guiding her students with enthusiasm and knowledge.

"She stands less than five foot but she could stand her ground any day. She was very passionate about teaching if the students were willing to learn," Zoubek said. "She struc-

tured her classes in such a way that it wasn't just a normal class when she was teaching."

Students were not the only ones

See Gladstone-Sovell page 3

Sodexo introduces more changes this semester

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Sodexo has been the food service provider at UW-River Falls for one semester, and for this semester, some changes are being made in multiple aspects of the program.

Dining Services Director Jerry Waller said the University was fine-tuning all the way through first semester.

"Students, staff and Sodexo were all making adjustments during the fall. It was a learning process for us all," Waller said.

Changes to UWRF's meal services this semester include added hours to the C-Store. The store will now be open Friday nights and all day Saturday and Sunday. During these new times, transfer meals will be offered.

"Making these adjustments increases meal options for students," Waller said.

In addition, Dining Services is working with Sodexo to make menu rotations within Riverside Commons throughout each week. Regardless of feedback, Riverside will make changes in their menus semester-by-semester to keep items up-to-date and fresh.

In addition to the improvements Sodexo is making at UWRF in terms of food, the service is also working aggressively to be a sustainable program. Biodegradable and compostable containers and cups are being used on campus.

Students have different views about the new dining service on campus.

Cassie Paulson, a junior at UWRF, said she is not impressed



Waller

See Sodexo page 3

Campus resources provide students with guidance in midst of recession

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With the national unemployment rate rising to 7.6 percent last week, recent and upcoming college graduates face the daunting task of job-hunting in the midst of an economic recession.

And after employers nationwide eliminated 598,000 jobs in January, UW-River Falls graduates will be up against more students for fewer positions.

"The first group of graduates to really face the effects of this poor economy just graduated in December, so as a professor I haven't really gotten any reports back yet about the difficulties they've been facing," UWRF economics professor John Walker said.

Beginning around 1999 and up until recent years, UWRF business graduates generally had no problem finding jobs in booming areas such as mid-level management, according to Walker. However, he admits that is no longer the case.

"I suppose business administration, management and even marketing graduates will have trouble finding jobs," he said. "It's just too tough and competitive out there."

Megan Leoni, who graduated from UWRF with a degree in marketing communications in December, said she has not yet found a job that pertains to what she wants to do with her degree.

"I began searching a few months ago, but so far I've only found telemarketing jobs which really isn't what I want to do," she said. "I think it's tougher finding jobs in my field right now because a lot of companies aren't really advertising much."

On the other hand, fellow December 2008 graduate Cassandra Vogt said that she has had success in finding a job that works with her degree.

"I work at Positive Alternatives with teenagers and have a degree in psychology," she said. "I did not job hunt for more than a few weeks [and] have been working there since November."

Walker said that students should look for something that helps them stand out against the masses of job-seekers, and that a polished résumé can go a long way.

He said he encourages students to utilize Career Services. The department offers free assistance to both students and alumni looking for help with developing cover letters and résumés, according to Krista Kasten, a UWRF senior and student staff member of Career Services.

"My recommendation for students would be to come to Career Services and let us help you nail that interview so you can be the best you can be and get that job," she said. "Recent graduates or those graduating in May know that there's not that many jobs out there, so it's important to do anything you can to make yourself more valuable to employers."

Career Services held the first ever "Career Destination" on Feb. 5 to help students find on-campus positions for the summer and next school year. Kasten said that 163 students attended the event in the University Center Ballroom, but noted that it was directed more towards freshmen, sophomore and junior stu-

See Economy page 3

"Recent graduates or those graduating in May know that there's not that many jobs out there, so it's important to do anything you can to make yourself more valuable to employers"

Krista Kasten,
UWRF senior and Career Services staff member

Lifetopia Web site brings roommate matching system to University

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A new program called Lifetopia, a Web site that allows student residents to search and pick who they want to room with, went live Feb. 5 for new students and will go live in December for returning students.

Students who want to reside on campus will be able to go to the Web site, www.uwrf.roommateclick.com to create a profile that will allow them to search and match up with roommates that they are compatible with. The Web site allows a student to answer questions about their major and interests as well as information regarding cleanliness, studying and other living habits a person may have.

"When students come in nine times out of 10 they coexist but some may have different schedules. Like sleeping—some people sleep a lot and others just a little," Alyse Good, a Johnson Hall Resident Assistant, said.

Students can also provide additional information as well as download pictures of themselves. Students will be able to contact each other through e-mail and by a chat feature that works similar to instant messaging. It will show when a person is on the Web site and able to chat.

"The biggest thing is that when people get to be able to choose who they room with, they're happier and they're happy for a long time," Greg Van De Mark, UWRF information systems analyst, said.

Students can search for roommates two ways, by criteria or by browsing. Once a student has found someone that they want to room with they can request to be their roommate and once the other person accepts, they will be assigned roommates. This is different from the previous process in matching roommates, where it was only a few key characteristics that linked students together, but this allows students who have never met before to become roommates.

"It may not reduce the number of roommate conflicts but they'll take responsibility because they signed up for that roommate and they'll work through it, typically, themselves," Jason Neuhaus, west area coordinator of Residence Life, said.

If a student changes their mind about rooming with someone they can delete them and continue searching until May 1 when the process is

See Lifetopia page 3

VOICE SHORTS

UC hosts debate on Feb. 16

The College Democrats, College Republicans and the Union of Democratic Progressives will debate on the economy and energy policy at 6 p.m. Feb. 16 in the University Center Ballroom There will also be an open session for questions from the audience at the end. The debate will be moderated by professor Neil Kraus. For more information contact nancy1387@gmail.com or matthew.dale@uwrf.edu

New society merges two groups

The Accounting Society is now the Accounting and Finance Society, and encourages all accounting and finance majors of any grade to join. The meetings are scheduled for 1 p.m. Feb. 16, March 2, March 30, April 13 and April 27 in the second floor student lounge in South Hall. Check the bulletin board for more events and more information, or contact the president at stephanie.noreen@uwrf.edu with any questions.

UC hosts Valentine's Day dance

Students will be able to enjoy Big Band Swing and Jazz Dance Music at the UW-River Falls Swing Dance! Featuring the UW-River Falls Jazz Ensemble, directed by David Milne. Swing dance instruction will be provided. The event will cost \$5 for students with ID and \$8 for general admission. The dance will be heldin the University Center at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 14.

Graduation application deadline Feb. 13

The deadline to apply for Spring Commencement is Friday, Feb. 13. Applications are available in the Registrar's Office, 105 North Hall. A \$40 application fee will be added to the student's UWRF account once the application is filed in the Registrar's Office. For more information, contact Linda Matzek at 425-3342 or check the commencement Web site at <http://www.uwrf.edu/commencement/>.

UWRF preps for cuts

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Faculty and staff at UW-River Falls have been gathering to prepare for the coming budget cuts that have been brought on by the current economy.

The amount of money to be cut from the budget at UWRF has not yet been disclosed and the University has been unable to determine what areas of its budget will be most severely impacted. Gov. Jim Doyle is expected to announce the amount of money to be cut from higher education in the coming weeks.

Lisa Wheeler, interim vice chancellor of administration and finance, said that the state of Wisconsin is currently dealing with a statewide revenue shortfall of \$5.4 billion and the administration is waiting to hear how it will be allocated in the University system. Each campus in the UW System is assigned a percentage of the allocated cut. UWRF will be assigned 2.83 percent of the total UW System cut, Wheeler said.

“We know that there are budget cuts coming,” she said. “We don’t know the amount yet because there are so many variables.”

Wheeler said that the faculty and staff on campus have been meeting to discuss and brainstorm possible options to deal with the budget cuts and to make possible preparations. She also said that cuts

will not be made in every department and area of UWRF.

“We know that we will not make across the board cuts because it’s not strategic, it’s not smart,” she said. “There will be some departments cut more than others, there will be some departments cut less than others and maybe there will be some that won’t experience anything.”

“The state of Wisconsin has over the last several years been gradually decreasing its contribution to the cost of education.”
Glenn Potts, professor of economics

The administration has known for a few months that the budget cuts were going to be made and the cabinet of the administration has worked to find ways to deal with the budget cuts, Wheeler said.

“We came up with a number of ideas and out of those we’ve formed five different project teams just to explore some specific options,” she said.

The Administrative Assembly at UWRF has also met to discuss and to

think of ideas to contend with the upcoming budget cuts. The assembly is a group comprised of every department head and chairperson on campus.

“We went through a similar exercise with them where we did some brainstorming around ‘Ok, we know we’re going to have a budget cut, what are some ways we can deal with it, are there better ways to fund something, do we have some sort of savings or reserve account in places that we could use, are there possible sources of revenue that we aren’t taking advantage of that we could?,’” Wheeler said. “So we kind of tried to get people’s thinking going around those things.”

Glenn Potts, economics professor at UWRF, said that he has participated in the discussions regarding the budget. He said that the budget cut is likely to have an impact in the current fiscal year, which concludes at the end of June, and larger impacts on the budget will be seen during the next biennium, a period of two years.

“The state of Wisconsin has over the last several years been gradually decreasing its contribution to the cost of education,” he said. “This is a particularly difficult situation for the state, so there is bound to be some implication on all of the budgets, and the University budget is a big part of the state budget.”

Students voice their opinions on Iraq

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A survey on U.S. policy in Iraq conducted by the UW-River Falls political science department last semester indicated the average UWRF student favors economic development and partial U.S. troop withdrawals in Iraq.

The questions asked the students’ opinions on Iraqi affairs, and the past and present role of the U.S. military in the country. A scale was used ranging from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree.” According to the results, 67.1 percent of respondents did not want any more troops sent to Iraq, 34.9 percent strongly disagreed with keeping the current Iraq policy and 73.5 percent at least mildly agreed that the country was in a state of civil war. A majority (67.9 percent) also said economic development would be an effective tool to promote peace in Iraq, and 52.3 percent agreed (from mildly to strongly) that U.S. policies should switch its focus to the Iraqi

economy.

The survey was created in the summer of 2008 by political science professor Erick Highum, UWRF alumna Tara Sowle and student Peter Wetzel. Students took the survey anonymously, from August to December. It was done both online through SurveyMonkey.com and on paper in some political science classes with the professors’ permission. The paper version was also available at tables in the University Center, set up by Wetzel and Sowle as well as students John Byers, Regina Kunesh and Marissa Merchant.

The results also showed students were widely split about whether the recent troop surge made a positive impact in Iraq, and 46.6 percent were unsure about the reliability of Iraq’s current security forces. On whether U.S. forces were adequately protecting Iraqi citizens, 23.7 percent were neutral and 49.7 percent agreed in some capacity.

Of the 332 students who took the survey, most answered all of the questions. Forty-nine

students had had some sort of military service, 20 of them in Iraq and 29 in Afghanistan or elsewhere. There was a diverse range of opinions, but many consistently leaned toward disapproval of the current policy. Other questions in the survey included how long the military should be training Iraqi forces, whether other Middle Eastern nations should provide funding for Iraq’s economic development, and whether the presence of U.S. troops is making the current situation better or worse.

“The impetus for the survey came out of a small-group exercise I used in my international relations classes that compared various policy approaches to the Iraq War,” Highum said in an e-mail interview. “...Tara, Peter and I co-wrote the questions in the survey...We relied on Peter’s military background for basic questions regarding military service.”

Wetzel, a junior majoring in political science, served four years on active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps. His experience included a tour in Iraq. Wetzel said he was pleasantly sur-

prised by the amount of student participation in the survey.

“The survey was kind of lengthy, but a lot of people took the time to take it, and that was appreciated. I think we got a good array of different opinions.” Wetzel said.

Highum said the survey, pre-approved by the school’s Institutional Review Board, was the first of its kind that he has ever done.

“[The survey] enabled me to work with students in a collaborative effort to test policy options on a major international issue,” Highum said. “I am also working on another questionnaire using the same research method for next year to test student opinions on global climate change policies.”

Since the survey was conducted, Wetzel and Merchant have applied for a Falcon grant to present the results at a spring conference in Iowa. The results can be viewed through a link on the main page of the political science department’s Web site.

UWRF competes in recycling contest

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In an effort to increase the amount of recycling on campus, UW-River Falls is participating in Recyclemania, a 10-week competition involving schools from across the nation to see who can recycle the most. This is the third consecutive year the campus has been involved with this event. McMillan Hall Resident Assistant Becky Alexander is coordinating the effort to push recycling. She has also worked closely with the Earth Consciousness Organization Club to help spread the word. “Through the ECO Club, we’ve been able to hand out promotional material and try and gain publicity,” Alexander said. “I’ve also been working closely with the recycling representatives and other resident assistants to develop and design programs that would increase the amount we, as a campus, recycle.”

Junior Tony Hart said he did not know that the campus was participating in a competition, but is glad that the campus is improving its recycling efforts.

“I’m happy to see UWRF participate in such a competition, the environment is important, and we need to do everything we can to save it,” he said.

Schools can participate in many different categories, but UWRF has only agreed to participate in one - the per capita classic. This tracks the amount of recycling done by the whole University. The results are collected weekly throughout the

competition.

Manny Kenney, the recycling coordinator on campus, said the reason for participating in one category was that the school is still new at tracking recycling.

“There are two reasons why we participate in one category. One reason is that we have single sort recycling, and the other is the fact that we don’t have a long history of tracking our

recycling, it’s still fairly new to us,” he said. Overall there has been progress made toward recycling. Last spring was the first semester for every residence hall room to have blue recycling bins. New this year are trash cans with a blue cover and the recycling logo in front. They are similar to the stone trash units around campus except for the recycling logo and the blue cover that is open on all sides.

“We were able to find room in our budget for us to purchase those units and they have been well received,” Kenney said.

The four bins are scattered around campus - one behind the University Center, one near the clock tower in the center of campus, one on the corner of Cascade Avenue and Fourth Street, and one located at the corner of Cascade and Sixth.

The hope is to get more as early as next year. “We have four now. By the start of next year, we’d like to see eight on campus,” Kenney said.

Kenney also said, the four trash cans have been strategically placed based in high traffic areas. With only four units, not all areas could be hit.

“There should be one on the west side of campus near the

residence halls and Karges, since a lot of students live and have class over in that area,” Hart said.

Another step that may be taken would be to get recycling bins in the hallways of academic buildings.

“In the hallways is good, but I’d prefer to see recycling bins by the exits inside, or just outside academic buildings,” Hart said.

Even with the progress, Kenney said that there is always something to improve.

“Recycling is a continuous program that is never completed,” he said. “We are always trying to educate and encourage students to help save the planet and recycle more.”

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

Editor's note: Information for this section is a collaboration of River Falls Police and UWRF Public Safety incident reports.

January 31
Matthew C. Chwala, 19, was arrested for shoplifting at 1777 Paulson Rd.

February 1
- Thomas M. Harm, 20, was arrested for ID card violation.
- John B. Herman, 19, was cited for underage consumption.

February 6
- Brandon B. Harrison, 18, was cited for underage consumption at the 100 block of West Walnut Street.
- Tracy B. Rose, 19, was cited \$249 for underage consumption at May Hall.
- Joseph J. Marthaler, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption and depositing human waste at May Hall.

February 8
- Jordan M. Armstrong, 19, was cited for underage consumption.
- Anthony V. Staves, 18, was cited for underage consumption.
- Benedict J. Letourneau, 19, was arrested for ID card violation.

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and Hellmann's mayo

Tullius
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tomato, lettuce, Hellmann's mayo and onion

SEAFOOD
Geeter
Chopped Seafood, tomato, lettuce,
Hellmann's mayo, bacon and sprouts

Bornk
Tuna Salad mixed with onions & celery,
topped with sprouts, tomato, lettuce

Comet Morehouse
Ham, provolone cheese, tomato, lettuce
and Hellmann's mayo

Shortcake
Double Ham, provolone cheese, tomato,
lettuce, Hellmann's mayo

Comet Candy
Ham, Roast Beef, provolone cheese, tomato,
lettuce, Hellmann's mayo and Dijon mustard

Tappy
Capicola Ham, Genoa Salami, provolone
cheese, oregano, onion, tomato, lettuce,
oil & vinegar dressing

Flash
Capicola Ham, Genoa Salami, Ham,
provolone cheese, oregano, onion, tomato,
lettuce, mayo and oil & vinegar dressing

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Double Ham, provolone cheese, tomato,
lettuce, Hellmann's mayo

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Gladstone-Sovell: Professor taught in political science department at UWRF for 22 years

from page 1

on campus who went to Gladstone-Sovell for help and direction.

“She didn’t only help students learn, she also helped me,” Tricia Davis, professor and close friend, said at Gladstone-Sovell’s funeral service. “Tracey was a mentor to me and I don’t know if she knew that. If I need advice on anything, I could go to Tracey.”

Outside the classroom, Gladstone-Sovell was a loyal friend and a strong shoulder to students.

“She wasn’t like the typical professor. She was so much more. I would tell her about my differences with my mom and she would tell me about her very stubborn grandmother,” Zoubek said. “Tracey was willing to always listen to me and she shared so much. She even shared her old clothes with me that she had from her college days.”

Even though Gladstone-Sovell did not have

any children of her own and her beloved mutt, Tuxedo, passed away a few months ago, she was a mother to her pupils.

“We had a group of us in both political science and international studies that would sit in the caucus room and talk,” Zoubek said. “We called her Mama T because she played the role of a second mom to me.”

When not teaching political philosophy classes or promoting political participation and activism, Gladstone-Sovell participated in several hobbies and activities.

According to Gladstone-Sovell’s Facebook profile, she enjoyed listening to Bruce Springsteen, Green Day and the Beatles.

Gladstone-Sovell was also a strong supporter of the Rolling Stones. The famous words, “you can’t always get what you want...but you...might find that you get what you need” were often heard from Gladstone-Sovell’s classroom discussions or from the radio

speakers in her office.

According to Alperin, Gladstone-Sovell also loved to eat chocolate and chopped liver, a Jewish comfort food. During her free time, Gladstone-Sovell loved to knit, bead and do crafts. She eventually incorporated her personal hobby to benefit others in need.

“A couple of years ago she led an effort to knit hats for babies of families living in Afghanistan and Asia who were having difficulty keeping warm because they couldn’t afford clothing and bedding,” Chapin said.

Over her 22 years at the University, Gladstone-Sovell’s petite frame left a large

impression on the political science department, faculty, students and friends. Her drive to make a change in students and her power as a professor and a leader on campus will remain in the hearts of the individuals she touched the most.

“I will miss you so much - your fighting spirit and laughing smile,” Jennifer Willis-Rivera, a communication studies and theatre arts professor, wrote on Gladstone-Sovell’s Facebook profile.

“Keep watch over us, throw down lightning bolts when necessary, as I’m sure you will! Be at peace and free from pain my friend.”

“She wasn’t like a typical professor. She was so much more ... Tracey was willing to always listen to me and she shared so much.”

Mary Zoubek, student and close friend of Gladstone-Sovell

Economy: Polished résumé, cover letter necessary to stand out to potential employers

from page 1

cents.

“[Career Destination] wasn’t really geared towards seniors...we do however hold a career fair every fall where we bring in outside employers to help upperclassmen find jobs,” she said.

In addition to those events, Career Services also offers career workshops and events, such as the annual Etiquette Dinner, Runway to Success and the Networking Social, according to the Career Services Web site.

Leoni said she did not go to Career Services for help, but knows the importance of a good résumé and cover letter.

“I tweaked it [her résumé] after graduation and included my final GPA,” she said. “As for my cover letters, I always try to tailor them to the specific company I’m applying to and try to do a little research on the company.”

Vogt said she agrees.

“I went to Career Services and they helped me to maximize my customer service

[experience] on my résumé and outline my research experience and coursework,” she said.

Kasten also said that, aside from résumés and cover letters, career counselors and peer advisors can be invaluable resources in helping students find jobs.

“Counselors and peer advisors are great ways for students to find jobs to apply for,” she said. “I also encourage students to attend the Networking Social, because creating professional relationships and contacts can really help.”

Walker said he thinks it is important that students take advantage of the free career resources on campus, and that graduates should not get too discouraged if they are not able to find jobs right away.

“I would tell graduates who are having trouble finding jobs to not take it personally,” he said. “It’s really tough right now, but just hang in there.”



Walker

Sodexo: Specific input, feedback always welcomed from students

from page 1

with the new program.

“I feel like the food selection is repetitive, but on another note, I feel like they try to force meal plans on me that I can’t afford. I live on campus, but I don’t want a meal plan. They won’t let me out of it, though. If you live on campus, you have to have a meal plan,” Paulson said.

Brennen Toquam, a sophomore at UWRF, said he feels the cafeteria lacks variety.

“I don’t know if the quality is any better than before,” he said, “I do like the food that isn’t included on the meal plans, though, like World of Wings.”

Devin Mayer is a freshman at UWRF, and he said he is not disappointed with Sodexo’s variety and quality.

“Maybe it’s because it’s the only thing I’ve known at River Falls, but I think the way things are run and the things that are offered are pretty good,” he said. “I rarely find things to complain about.”

Waller said he appreciates anyone’s comments.

“We welcome comments. They’re very, very important to us. We get e-mails asking for more variety, but we need the input to be specific,” Waller said. “E-mail us with what we can do for you specifically.”



Tennae Maki/Student Voice

Top: Students and faculty dine in the lower level of the University Center. Bottom: Sub Connection is one of the five dining establishments offered through Sodexo.

Lifetopia: Web site preparations have been in progress since December

from page 1

finalized. An e-mail will then be sent notifying that person that their roommate has dropped them. Once two students have decided to be roommates they can deactivate their account so other students will not be able to search for them. However, if they decide to change roommates they can always reactivate their account to begin searching again.

“When I came in as a freshmen I was nervous about who my roommate would be so it’ll be a good opportunity to secure that relationship,” Kyra Scanlan, a Hathorn Hall RA, said.

Lifetopia has been discussed by the Residence Life staff since June but the

contract was not officially signed until November. Preparations for the Web site to go online have been in progress since early December.

A meeting for the Residence Life staff was held on Feb. 2 for the final preparations for the Lifetopia online roll out. The meeting included a conference call to Michelle Rivera and the Lifetopia Projects staff in New York to show UWRF staff members what the Web site

looks like and how it operates.

“I never anticipate problems, but I’ve encountered problems,” Van De Mark said. “We always have back up plans in case something doesn’t go right.”

Postcards with information regarding the new Web site will be distributed to those students who have signed a housing contract or those that have showed an interest in rooming in the residence halls.

“When I came in as a freshman I was nervous about who my roommate would be, so it’ll be a good opportunity to secure that relationship.”

Kyra Scanlan, Hathorn Hall RA

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EDITORIAL

Sustainability goals require awareness

UW-River Falls has a goal of going completely off the grid by 2012. This means that in just three years, this campus should be operating in self-sufficient ways that result in zero energy loss, leading to 100 percent sustainability. But the details on how the University hopes to achieve this lofty goal seem to be scarce, with projects coming sporadically, few and far in between. According to Mark Gillis, the University building and grounds supervisor, UWRF is committed to a large range of projects all working towards the off-the-grid goal. Students should be more widely informed about these initiatives. The student body is the backbone and central nervous system of this University; without them this institution does not exist, and yet the Student Voice feels there is a disconnect from the sustainability decisions that influence student lives everyday.

The St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development (SCISCD), the organization created by UWRF to pioneer, develop and implement new sustainability ideas, recognizes that “all solutions are ultimately local ... it is not until solutions are identified and applied at the local level that we will ever solve any of them individually, much less all of them together.”

These words flat-out state that in order for the ideas being applied to UWRF to have an impact, they must be embraced by every person involved with the campus. That cannot happen until every person on campus understands exactly what is being done to promote sustainability. UWRF needs to launch an aggressive advertising campaign outlining and detailing each of the projects, from the biomass powered steam plant to the wind turbines slated for the campus and community, the neighborhood electric vehicles to the push to convert waste vegetable oil to biodiesel.

As is stands now, the only spot for information is on the SCISCD Web site, accessed through the “sustainability” link in the A-Z index on the UWRF homepage. Out of the 23 projects mentioned on the page, only 15 have links to more information.

It is honorable that UWRF is attempting to be a UW System leader in the realm of sustainability, but that cannot happen if the details behind what this campus is doing in that arena is kept obscured. Sustainability should be a prominent focal point, one that is not just shuffled into the dark recesses of the sustainability kiosk in the UC.

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

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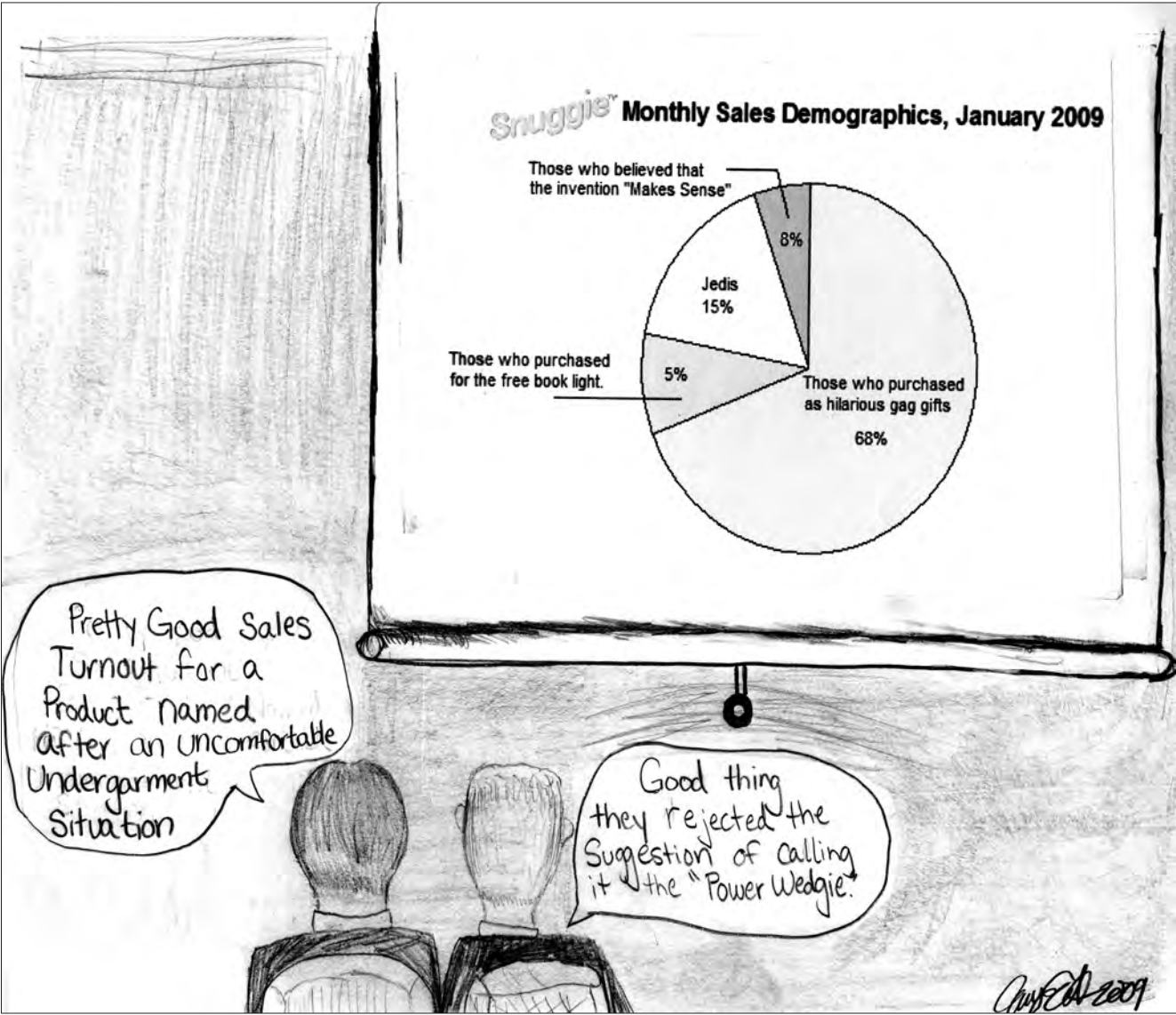
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The Student Voice reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters.

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“Pro-life” activist proves selflessness

My daughter has skating lessons at Hunt Arena on Saturday mornings and during that half hour wait, I enjoy reading your newspaper. I feel the need to respond to Tracey Pollock’s “viewpoint” regarding the “pro-life” movement printed in your last issue. Tracey, in essence, believes that to be “pro-life” is equivalent to being “anti-choice.” That statement is simply not true. I consider myself to be “pro-life” and think I speak for all pro-lifers when I say that we believe that human life is sacred from conception to natural death. PERIOD. Yes, we are interested in having Roe v. Wade over-

turned due to the fact that it is unconstitutional. After all, didn’t we all lose ancestors in the Civil War on the “pro-life” premise that African-American slaves were human and that they were eligible to the rights of Life, Liberty and The pursuit of Happiness? (If we don’t protect Life itself then the other rights become worthless, don’t they?) Tracy seems to think that those involved in the “pro-life” movement do nothing but sit around trying to think of all the ways they can restrict others’ choices. Not true. many of us devote our lives helping women. My pro-life husband (OB/GYN physician in River Falls) wakes up every day and cares for women’s health care needs. As a pro-life family, we donate funds to

help women who are pregnant and need help with groceries or rent or baby supplies. We have also given six women free room and board in our home who are pregnant and in need, through Share-A-Life. I guess what I am trying to do is negate the idea presented by Tracey that we “pro-lifers” don’t have “any compassion for the life of the baby after it has left the womb, or empathy for the mother and family of the child.” Also, for the record, many of us “pro-lifers” are against war and capital punishment as well! Tracey is ill informed as well about “abstinence-only” education in the public school system. Believe me, as a mother of five children who have gone through the public school system, there

is no such thing as “abstinence-only” sex education—they are exposed to it all as early as 6th grade (I mean everything from birth control to STDs) and yes, this has done nothing to help prevent teenage pregnancy. However, do you know that most babies are aborted by mothers who are over 21 years old (American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology)? I would like to conclude by saying that to be “pro-life” does not mean “anti-choice.” We are not out to eliminate every choice a U.S. citizen possesses: we are simply interested in putting HUMAN LIFE back into the hands of GOD—where it belongs.

Bobbie Hallman
Pregnancy Help Line

‘Revolutionary’ ideas border on insanity

The evidence continues to mount, dear readers. Though not yet official, the picture is becoming clear: there’s a solid chance, a real solid chance, that I may be verging on genius. Every so often, an intellectual hero—a genius—comes along with an idea that sparks the imagination of an entire culture and can lead to great change that can be, at least in my book, loosely interpreted as divine intervention. Think Edison here. These are special ideas, transcendent in their creativity and unifying in their spirit. I will now reveal to you my own revolutionary thoughts, but first I have to warn you: if you steal any of my ideas, I’ll poke you in the eyeball several times until you’ve learned your lesson.

First of all, a new product. Sick of buying the same old mints? Try my new idea: mints, but they’re called “Legitimints.” Pretty sweet, huh? Gourmet mints for classy and sassy folk, Legitimints will sell for \$9.99 per tin.

That’s a huge profit on the per-mint cost of production, which will hover consistently around the \$0.0002-per-mint mark thanks to my underpaid, underage factory workers, all yanked from the slums of Indonesia and granted the dreamy opportunity to spend 12-20 hours per day bent over mint-molding machines, vertebrae grinding



Joe Hager

in their weary, twisted backs, sweat and grime from the slums dripping into the mixture as it pools into thousands of individual mint molds. My second idea is just as stupendous. I was pouring ice into a glass the other night, preparing a can of warm Dr. Pepper from the pantry. I stopped and thought: instead of putting all this ice in a glass, is there any reason—any reason at all—that I can’t simply keep an ice cube in my mouth and let the pop get cold in there? I have yet to try it, but it might work ... My third idea is to encourage parents to get babies for their babies. What can a two-year-old actually learn from a doll? Even the creepy realistic kinds that cry tears and scream can’t actually prepare a toddler for the burden of parenthood. Your kids will grow up faster than you think. Stop playing with dolls and get your baby a real baby to take care of. It could prove to be a good learning experience. My fourth idea is one for college students and high schoolers: condense Cliff Notes to an even shorter format-preferably under a paragraph. My version will be for those of you who are used to rushing into class, using the last few seconds before the quiz to interrogate the girl next to you, hoping she can compress 50 pages of text into two or three simple sentences. My version of Cliff Notes will be restricted to

several incomplete sentences describing the entire philosophy and ALL the significant or semi-significant details and themes of a wide variety of literature. The entire thing in five seconds. How can I not make money? I thought about switching my shower to pour out Drano instead of water. There’s something from a Japanese horror film growing in my shower drain-I think it’s from the previous residents. But anyway, I finally figured showering my body daily with a noxious chemical soup like Drano wasn’t a good idea. My last idea might be a panner-outer. I thought of inventing a line of alarm clocks that feature extremely realistic, jarring soundscapes to shock the customer into wakefulness instead of that damned incessant beeping. For example, imagine your alarm clock thundering in your ears the ominous authority of Hitler screaming at a Nazi rally or the explosive rattle of someone killing a deer with an assault rifle. I have a tendency to push my snooze button over and over for about the first seven hours of the day before I finally wake up. I think an alarm clock that could recreate for me the sound of waterboarding or perhaps the opening scene of Saving Private Ryan would jolt me awake in a far more effective way. Would you pay money? So now you tell me: am I cresting the hill of geniusdom or do I still have a ways to go? I probably still have a ways to go.

Joe is a marketing communications major .

Something on your mind?

Write a letter to the editor.

Submit your letter to editor@uwrfvoice.com or deliver it in the box outside 304 North Hall.

‘Sexual Depravity’ author scores print in limitless media

I like to step out of my bounds every once in a while to get a whiff of what’s goin’ on down the road—like UW-Stout or UW-Eau Claire, namely Eau Claire.

Actually, I lied. Though I do enjoy seeing what’s going on elsewhere, I didn’t seek anything out this week. I was actually handed an article published on insidehighered.com in response to ANOTHER article published in Eau Claire’s biweekly FlipSide magazine. Upon reading this response I knew it was part of my destiny to read FlipSide’s original article entitled “Sexual Depravity.”

Before I lose you, I’d like to note that FlipSide magazine is a non-traditional mass media organization funded through UW-Eau Claire similar to our very own literary magazine, Prologue. It is a magazine published on a bi-weekly basis throughout the year and frequently advertises itself as being able to print anything and everything they receive within reason. This means they don’t find offensive material like bad language an issue, provided their editors deem the piece decently written.

The Student Voice is printed weekly and is contributed to by hired students looking to polish their writing and journalistic skills. Prologue serves as an outlet for those who wish to have their writing and art displayed in the annual literary magazine format, and is thus printed only once a year.

The idea of FlipSide magazine is stupendous. No limits, no warnings, plenty of funding, advertising space—complete freedom. The magazine has come under scrutiny from their



Brad Brookins

advising English faculty and public for the publication of some rather raunchy material—in some cases even articles surrounding odes to pro-rape behavior have been printed. Here’s where “Sexual Depravity” comes in.

The writer, Jake Everett, is a guy who I knew nothing about prior to reading his poorly structured article. It’s also worth mentioning the Jake proudly states in his first sentence that he “was feeling a little lazy this week and decided to just grab one of [his] blogs from MySpace and turn it into an article.” MySpace blog. Wonderful. Jake talks about his love life, which is non-existent, as he says, and, in great detail, about his perfect “(you-know-what)-mate.”

Here’s where I’m going to shift gears. First off, MySpace blogs. They are not meant to be read in any form of true mass media outside of the Internet. Jake, sorry man, but you are truly the epitome of douchebaggery. I hate your article merely because you are an attention wench. Your poor structuring regarding the perfect romp in the sack lacks the true edginess and class it deserves. You are part of a group of the new generation that exists in a constant state of entitlement. You use FlipSide as a source to be heard, and I’ll give you that, but ironically, you’re nothing more than a quickie. Something to be forgotten.

Every time you drop the F-bomb, every mention of the double sided you-know-what, and pretty much everything else in your article is sheer crap. Jake, man, you are like the personified flesh and blood that is Target Field. Any monkey

with three fingers, a cigarette and a keyboard can write a MySpace blog, submit it and get it published. But you, man, you are the center of the universe.

By and all, this guy completely ruined a potentially interesting article on sexual cravings by injecting it with clichés. Had I read this piece as a FlipSide editor there’s absolutely no way in hell I’d have gotten past the first paragraph. I think you copped out by throwing out so many raunchy situations and curses. Swearing on paper, like violence in a book, needs to be mastered and molded into something real. Your piece sucks, and I’m thankful you’re the sole reason why FlipSide is losing its funding.

As for the kind of person you represent, I feel bad. You’re like this kid that came up to me once as I was listening to my iPod and said something along the lines of “whoa, that’s an old iPod.” Bewildered, I replied “it’s only three years old.”

“But it’s not in color.”

“I don’t need color. I don’t need to watch movies on my iPod.”

“Why wouldn’t you?”

And so on and so forth. Really? Does it matter? I have a TV to watch movies on and a computer to surf the Web. But enough is enough, Jake, you selfish, broken waffle iron. Don’t ever write anything again. Actually, destroy your hard drive, delete your MySpace, burn all your term papers, break all your pens and pencils and move to Tijuana. There you can start a new magazine from scratch and distribute it as widely as you want having started over as a true, fresh writer.

Brad is double majoring in creative writing and digital film & TV.

Quick fixes ‘shed pounds easily’

I tend to be very vocal when watching TV. I can’t just sit quietly and accept whatever I see and hear on the tube—I have to question it. And that goes double for commercials. At best, they are artfully disguised grabs for money and at worst they simply insult our intelligence.

There are a lot of “quick fixes” to our problems, and one thing they really exploit is weight loss.

It’s been going on for decades now: a steady stream of miracle pills, mysterious drinks and complex supplements that all claim to help you “LOSE WEIGHT-FAST AND EASY!” They throw out the names of people who allegedly lost 200, 90, 140, 45, pounds, blah blah blah, using their formula. Many throw out “before” and “after” pictures of their subjects as proof, even though some subjects look like completely different people, rather than the same person who just dropped a few pounds between photos.

When I see commercials like this, I mutter to myself, “whatever happened to just eating less and exercising more?” And I think I’ve figured it out. The problem with simply eating less is that (ideally) you’re buying less food and dropping the snacks.

So they try to convince you that you can save a lot of time and energy by taking their bizarre concoctions, often at a higher cost than most regular food. It’s a clever scheme, but also misleading. Why not spend the money on a gym membership instead?

But there are other problems with diet formulas besides their cost. Some can actually be a threat to your health, more so than just eating a few too many Twinkies. Earlier



Nathan Sparks

this week, the Food and Drug Administration exposed 69 weight-loss products with hidden ingredients that could have dangerous side effects. One of them is StarCaps, which contain bumetanide, the same drug some NFL players were suspended for using under the steroid policy and can cause digestive problems and muscle weakness.

These particular products are just the latest entry in the mad diary of America’s dieting history. The examples are varied and often quite entertaining. One of my personal favorites is the CDC, or “Calories Don’t Count” diet back in 1961.

A nutty doctor claimed you could fill your stomach with almost anything and still lose weight, offering a practically useless pill to back it up. The FDA sued him silly, and he was convicted of conspiracy, mail fraud and violating federal regulations.

All of these products can teach us the same lesson: “if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.” We’ve heard the saying a million times. Yet, we fall for things like that frequently, almost obsessively.

Maybe we let ourselves be fooled because it’s easier than facing reality. Too many people would rather spend all day pretending and throwing money at quick fixes than acknowledge a hard truth. And in this case, the truth is that getting ourselves in shape takes a lot of time and effort.

So don’t be fooled. I’m no nutrition expert, but I doubt if any of these bizarre products is a good substitute for time-tested weight loss methods—and some of them can be more trouble than they’re worth.

Wal-Mart cheap in pay, benefits

Wal-Mart is a common household name wherever you go in the United States, as well as in parts of Mexico, Brazil, Canada and 11 other countries in the world. The mega store is the largest private employer in the U.S., with 1.2 million employees, and accounts for 8 percent of retail sales (excluding automobile sales) in the U.S.

I’m sure you have been in the argument that Wal-Mart is evil, but so is every other mega corporation, like Walgreens and Target. I would generally agree with the ideology that corporations that have profits in the billions of dollars annually are not ethical when it comes to labor relations and where they are getting their products from (sweat shops).

However, I would, and always do, make the argument that Wal-Mart sticks out among the nasty corporations as being particularly sleazy and underhanded.

Wal-Mart’s slogan has become “Save money. Live better.” This obviously does not apply to the employees of the company, since the average annual wage of a Wal-Mart employee is just under \$14,000 a year. The company continuously claims billions of dollars in profit each year, yet the average worker’s annual income falls below the poverty line for a family of three.

Wal-Mart also openly opposes unions among employees, giving managers a “tool-box” to keep employees from organizing a union. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, union workers have a 26 percent higher wage than non-union employees.

As well as being underpaid, an estimated 41 to 46 percent of workers in the company are not insured through the company. Wal-Mart does offer a health care plan but has high premiums, which underpaid employees

can rarely afford.

The chief executive officer and president of the company, Lee Scott, said in a 2005 speech that “in some of our states, the public program may actually be a better value—with relatively high income limits to qualify, and low premiums.” So Wal-Mart is screwing their employees over, and taxpayers who pay for the state health insurance plans.

And then there are the lawsuits.

There were 57 lawsuits filed in 2006 alone related to wage and hour issues by employees. The company had to pay \$6 million in order to settle 13 different disability lawsuits.

In 2001 six women sued the company for discrimination, which later escalated to over one million plaintiffs in one of the largest class action lawsuits in U.S. history. The company has also broken several environmental laws, including being sued by nine states in 2004 for breaking the Clean Water Act.

In less than a decade, Wal-Mart has had 85 lawsuits filed against them for an array of issues like the ones



Tracey Pollock

mentioned above.

These few statistics do not even get into the issues of ruining small businesses, getting products from sweatshops or the real cost of the company to taxpayers. This information came from less than a half-hour of research on the company, so there are many more disturbing facts not mentioned.

It is hard to avoid shopping at a place like Wal-Mart or Target, but I urge you to avoid shopping at those stores as much as possible, or even all together.

Tracey is a junior journalism major and sociology minor.

Modern day Valentine’s Day sells boxed love

We’ve all seen those Hallmark commercials on TV where the guy gives the girl “the sweetest card ever,” or the advertisements for the open heart necklace from Zales or the diamond jewelry advertisements from Kay Jewelers...the list goes on and on.

Valentine’s Day is the second largest card-sending day of the year, right behind Christmas.

The legend behind it involves the ancient Roman soldiers and a priest, St. Valentine.

In third century Rome, the emperor decided that single men made better soldiers than those who had wives and children, so he made marriage illegal for the young men of Rome who would eventually become his soldiers.

Thinking this a ridiculous law, St. Valentine continued to perform marriages for young couples in secret.

While the story behind the holiday has a romantic aura to it, I don’t think that he needed a day to be named after him and celebrated because of him. I think that Valentine’s Day is just like any other regular day of the year.

Going back to the days of elementary school, Valentine’s Day was so much simpler.

To us, all it meant was that we got to miss some classes on a school day for



Christie Lauer

a party.

Kids stuffed the corny-phrased valentines with Snoopy, Winnie the Pooh or Looney Tunes on them into our overdecorated pink and red boxes on our desks, and if we were lucky, some included candy.

Everybody would get one from everybody else, and no one was left out. There weren’t any obligations or expectations for the day and there weren’t any feelings of loneliness or isolation.

Today, it has evolved into a day for merchandisers to have another reason to make people buy their stuff.

The day already separates those who are in relationships and those who aren’t.

Those who have significant others will subtly mention to their friends that they’ll be busy Saturday, as if they wouldn’t know whom with and why.

Yes, some get sucked into celebrating the day by giving their significant others the stereotypical gifts of boxes of chocolates, jewelry, candy or flowers.

But there are also some in relationships that don’t feel the hype of this one specific day of the year.

They’re already with each other almost every day of the year, so what makes this one day so much more special?

Instead, some prefer the other undocumented days—the average, normal days of the year.

They feel that just spending time with each other is enough, that they don’t have to make a big deal out of Valentine’s Day to show how much they mean to each other.

Going out to eat, watching a movie or just spending the day with each other, not really doing much of anything ... simple things like that on any day of the year would mean a lot more to me than receiving a lavish amount of gifts on this one day.

Christie is a sophomore journalism major.

Going back to the days of elementary school, Valentine’s Day was so much simpler ... we got to miss some classes on a school day for a party.

Instead, some prefer the other undocumented days, the average, normal days of the year.

STUDENT voices

What are you doing for Valentine’s Day?

Hailey Myren, freshman



“I am going to dinner and a movie and going to play video games with my boyfriend.”

Angela Hull, senior



“Hanging with friends watching movies and eating lots of chocolate.”

Justin Collins, freshman



“I am going up to a cabin in Minnesota and will be cooking dinner for my girlfriend.”

Paige Skelton, freshman



“I am not going to be celebrating Valentine’s Day because I don’t have a boyfriend.”

Tyler Tesmer, sophomore



“I will be spending time with my girlfriend going to dinner and a movie.”

Student Voices compiled by Renae Bergh.

Men’s basketball loses two at home

Renae Bergh
renae.bergh@uwrf.edu

The Falcons lost important home-court advantage games against UW-Superior and UW-Eau Claire Feb. 4 and 7, forcing them to face the challenges of fighting for their spot in the conference playoffs on foreign turf.

The Falcons’ first loss came from the Superior Yellowjackets with a final score of 69-56. The Yellowjackets dominated the first half but the Falcons stuck with them, trailing by one point at the break. The Falcons came out strong in the second and took the lead but were soon overtaken once more and trailed the Yellowjackets for the remainder of the game. Top scorers were Aaron Anderson and Wade Guerin with 15 and 14 points respectively.

Head Coach Jeff Berkhof said he was not pleased with the performance against the Yellowjackets.

“We did not compete the

way we needed to in order to win,” Berkhof said.

Senior Jesse Elling, who scored six of the Falcons’ 56 points, said he had similar feelings about the team’s performance.

“We just didn’t really play like we wanted it very much,” Elling said.

The second straight loss came from the Eau Claire Bluegolds with a final score of 78-72. River Falls started the game with a 6-4 lead. Eau Claire was able to accumulate a 16 point lead near the end of the first half but River Falls came back, trailing by just four points by the break. At 15:46 in the second half, UWRF was able to take the lead with a three-pointer from Wade Guerin and held that lead until Eau Claire stole it back for good with 5:27 left in the game. Anderson performed exceptionally well, scoring a career-high 21 points.

Even though the Falcons fell to the Bluegolds, Berkhof said he was pleased with the way



Sally King/Student Voice
UWRF’s Jesse Elling goes in for a layup at a Falcons home game this season.

his team performed.

“We came and competed,” Berkhof said. “I will be able to sleep tonight with the way they played.”

Elling agreed with Berkhof.

“We played well on Saturday,” Elling said.

“Unfortunately they are just a good team.”

These home court losses do not push the Falcons out of the conference playoffs. However, they must now win on the road to stay in the running.

Berkhof said he is optimistic about the rest of the season and playoffs.

“The next three teams that we play on the road we have beat earlier in the season,” said Berkhof.

“We just have to win some games.”

As of now River Falls is 9-12 in the conference and is set to travel to UW-La Crosse in a matchup against the Eagles. The Falcons beat the Eagles the last time they met with a close score of 62-61.

Conference title within reach for women’s hockey team

Justin Magill
justin.magill@uwrf.edu

With the NCHA playoffs in two weeks, the No. 8 UW-River Falls women’s hockey team is in control of the conference after a sweep against Concordia University-Wisconsin (CU) last weekend.

The Falcons 11-2-1 NCHA record (13-5-3 overall) has them in the top spot in the conference, ahead of UW-Stevens Point, which has played two more NCHA games than the Falcons.

“It’s nice being in the driver’s seat,” UWRF Head Coach Joe Cranston said. “We haven’t been in that position for a long time.”

The last time the Falcons won the regular season conference championship was the 2002-03 season, when they went 12-1-3 in the NCHA. It was also the last time UWRF won the conference playoffs when it beat UW-Superior 4-3 in the title game.

This season has been a perfect model of balance for UWRF.

Juniors Stefanie Schmitz and

Abby Sunderman, along with sophomore Jamie Briski, are among the team leaders in goals, but the freshmen have come along and contributed to a team contending for the regular season title.

“I don’t think they realize how important they are to the team,” Schmitz said. “Every one of them plays and they had to step up this year and they have.”

Freshman Emma Nordness had a hat trick against CU last Friday, a 6-0 win for UWRF, said the mindset of the team has helped her and the rest of the Falcon freshmen.

“The game is a lot faster than high school,” she said. “We [freshmen] got used to the speed of the game and we have played really well with each other.”

The most recent goals Nordness has scored have been a joy, but also a relief, she said.

“It’s a lot of fun. I haven’t scored in a long time, so being able to put some away has been really exciting,” Nordness said.

With UWRF’s youth tallying

as many goals as they have been, it has lead to more balanced scoring, which means the Falcons can have three or four lines that can score on a consistent basis.

“It’s huge,” Cranston said. “It doesn’t matter who I throw out there. We will have lines out there that can score and play well defensively.”

The Falcons have won four NCHA games by two goals or less this season and Cranston said the freshmen have been a large part of those wins.

“We’ve gotten some big goals from them all season,” Cranston said. “You look at it this way. If they don’t score those goals, we don’t win those games.”

UWRF is also one of the best when it comes defense.

Its 1.90 goals allowed per game is second best in the conference, lead by the goalie tandem of sophomore Cassi Campbell and freshman Melissa Deardorff.

After Campbell dislocated her patella in the closing seconds against UW-Eau Claire on Dec. 13, Cranston said he thought that might have been the last time she would be in a Falcon uniform, but her return to the lineup on Jan. 23 has put UWRF back in front.

“I thought she was done for the season or maybe her career,” Cranston said. “She brings more of a presence to the net. She sees a lot more pucks and has been a big part of our success.”

After winter break, UWRF lost three of its first four games with Campbell out and allowed three goals a game. Since Campbell’s return, the Falcons are 4-1-1.

UWRF’s goalie duo is not alone when it come to defense.

A team motto of “Play defense before offense,” said by Schmitz, has been used put UWRF back in the national spotlight after the rough start after the winter break.

“We stress defense a lot in practice,” Schmitz said. “If you don’t play well in your zone, you are not going to win many games.”

The Falcons have clinched a NCHA playoff birth this season and have a two point lead in the conference standings with five regular season games remaining. Four are NCHA games.

Being the leaders of the conference has its perks, but Cranston said other teams will be out to get the Falcons.

“You realize that you have a big target on your back,” he said. “It’s good to know that you don’t have to worry about anybody else. Superior and Stevens Point, well, I don’t really care what happens with them anymore. It’s nice to have our team focused on what we need to do.”

The skill level and work ethic of this year’s team could give the Falcons home ice advantage in the NCHA playoffs, which begin on Feb. 27.

Schmitz said it will take hard work and consistency on their part to bring home a conference title, but this season’s team has what it takes.

“This is the most skilled and hardest working team I have ever been on,” she said. “If we win it, it will be awesome. The first championship of my career and we get to have the playoffs here, which has the best facility in Div. III.”



Sally King/Student Voice
Falcon sophomore Jamie Briski controls the puck in the Concordia University-Wisconsin zone in UWRF’s 6-0 win.

Cheating with no punishment will destroy America’s pastime

Gary Klaput

The sports world witnessed one of its greatest athletes fall from grace and into the ongoing saga of performance-enhancing drugs (PED). New York Yankees’ third baseman Alex Rodriguez admitted to using steroids during his career with the Texas Rangers. He tested positive for steroids during a period when Major League Baseball’s drug testing was being conducted early in the new millennium. It’s not

the fact that he tested positive that bothers me, it’s the lack of discipline that MLB and other sports have not implemented against athletes who make millions of dollars each year.

MLB has to make strict policies against players who choose to use PEDs.

It needs to implement a no-tolerance policy; players are making millions. With that in mind the league should not let players take what they have for granted.

Players should not be allowed to make these kinds of mistakes and then have the issue dismissed without a penalty. MLB has failed us all by not making a rule that brings justice to players for any kind of cheating even at the lightest degree.

MLB has established penalties for using PEDs, the league’s policy gives players several chances to get away with this before they are severely punished. Thus a tighter policy needs to be put into place.

In December 2007, MLB released what was called the Mitchell Report, which came from an in-depth investigation done by former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell. The report included almost 90 baseball players who had allegedly used PEDs.

What does this have to do with punishment in baseball? Well, following that report, the league did not punish many of the players who were allegedly involved. This was a detriment to what is known as our national pastime.

As players continue cheating and not being punished, it has affected more than just MLB. One can look back and see the evidence that PEDs made their mark on more than just professional sports.

Following their appearance in MLB, as well as other sports, they became much more common in high schools all across America.

In the end, MLB has failed to show it has leadership at the top and it can make their league a clean one.

With more allegations against different athletes everyday and no punishment to follow, what are we as viewers and fans to do?

We watch as our favorite sports become infected with corruption, greed for talent and at the same time crumble.

College hockey does not need shootouts

Since the National Hockey League (NHL) came back from its lockout season in 2005, it implemented shootouts in regular season games to eliminate ties and always have a winner.

This was supposed to get fans interested in a game that has suffered in popularity compared to the other major professional sports.

With an 82-game regular season schedule, the NHL can get away with it, but in college hockey,

shootouts must stay away.

Typically, college hockey teams play 25-30 regular season games prior to the postseason, so having shootouts will give teams an opportunity to gain more points and put more emphasis on individual play rather than team play.

Think of it this way: two teams play 60 minutes of regulation hockey, then five more minutes of overtime as a team.

After that, how about we slow the game down and make it a one-on-one game, between a shooter and a goalie to decide the outcome game?

Not the way to do it for the collegiate level.

Games and conference points are way too important to fool around with, considering how short the season is with winter and holiday breaks. The season is also three months shorter than the NHL.

In the NHL, there are 60 minutes of regulation hockey and teams are rewarded two points for winning a regulation game while the losing team gets zero. However, if the teams have to go into overtime, both teams get one point and the team that scores in overtime gets an additional point.

The same rules apply for shootouts, which happen when two teams do not score a goal in the overtime session, so they settle the tie with a best-of-three shootout.

The Central Collegiate Hockey Association (CCHA), a Div. I conference that have the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Ohio State University and the University of Notre Dame (Ind.), to name a few, are using the shootout for the first time this season.

What happens with this is some teams, such as Notre Dame this year, have won three games by shootouts, therefore have three more points than it would have if last year’s rules were in place.

As a result, the Fighting Irish have a four point lead in the CCHA, when it would have had only a one point lead last season, which would have made the remaining conference games on their schedule a little more meaningful.

This is not saying the rest of Notre Dame’s games are not important, but with only a one-point cushion, it might have a little bit more pressure the rest of the season, which calls for exciting hockey in one of the stronger Div. I conferences.

Steve Freeman, UW-River Falls’ men’s hockey head coach, said he disapproves having shootouts in college hockey.

“I’m not a fan at all,” he said. “It makes it into an individual game as opposed to a team game. There’s a lot of emphasis put on the goalie when it shouldn’t be. This is a great team sport and is supposed to be one of the fastest sports out there and the shootout would slow the game down.”

Prior to the season, former UWRF coach George Gwozdecky, who coached the Falcons from 1981-84 and currently is the head coach at the University of Denver with two national titles (2004, 2005), said in an interview with insidecollegehockey.com that he did not like the idea of having shootouts in college hockey. Agreeing with Freeman, he said you play 65 minutes as a team, than put two players against each other to decide who wins and loses.

As I said before, the NHL can do this because there are so many games that a shootout can be a breath of fresh air at times.

At the collegiate level, it would change the game completely. Teams might come in with a different mindset going into overtime. Perhaps UWRF goalie Melissa Deardorff would shine in the shootout, especially after she stopped three breakaways in a 5-1 win against Concordia University-Wisconsin last Saturday.

Would women’s hockey Head Coach Joe Cranston played the overtime period a little differently if the game was tied after regulation?

He might, especially with the skilled forwards he has on his team that would be in a shootout.

The game of college hockey is exciting enough as it is. I always tell my anti-hockey friends to watch a college game first before you judge hockey as a whole, because the NHL can be dull to watch at times, due to smaller rinks, bigger players and more defensive minded coaches.

College hockey is faster and more open than the professional game, which actually makes it more exciting, so it does not need to copy the NHL and slow the game down by going to shootouts to determine a winner for every game.

Ties happen in hockey and have been a part of the standings since the game started.

If shootouts become part of college hockey, there will have to be more adjustments, which will confuse non-hockey fans who have a hard time following the game in the first place.

In my opinion, I hope the CCHA rules do not make their way throughout the NCAA, because it would change a game that is entertaining as it is.

Justin is a senior journalism major and is the sports editor for the Student Voice. He enjoys fishing, golfing, working out and playing hockey. His personal enjoyment is watching golf and hockey on high definition when his wife takes breaks from watching “The Bachelor,” and “American Idol.”

Lily Allen thrusts herself back into the spotlight



Andy Phelps

Last fall, world renowned singer, drug addict and raging alcoholic Lily Allen swore off booze. This was not due to the many health risks that go along with it, but because, in her own words, “I got fucking sick of people saying I was drunk all the time.” She would resume drinking a month later.

Reading the above quote helps illuminate the way the precocious, 23-year-old Brit thinks about her media image. There’s certainly no

shortage of colorful life experiences for her to draw on, including attempted suicide, a miscarriage and an embarrassing topless exhibit at the Cannes Film Festival—one of the many incidents that has provided endless fuel for her paparazzi tormenters.

The most regretful aspect of Allen’s career is not her public meltdowns and drunken outbursts themselves, but the fact that she has allowed them to overshadow her wonderful musical contributions—a unique, eclectic cocktail of easy-flowing pop ingenuity.

Allen’s new release, “It’s Not Me, It’s You,” is a tremendous, audacious and uncompromising follow up to her multi-platinum debut album that transformed her from MySpace queen to a Grammy-nominated superstar in 2006.

“It’s Not Me” replaces the saccharine smiles of her first effort with real world problems as well as the tumultuous ups and downs straight

out of Allen’s own life. The shiny opening track, “Everyone’s At It,” directly tackles the painful realm of drug addiction that can affect everyone “from grown politicians to young adolescents / prescribing themselves anti-depressants.”

She addresses feelings of disconnect with both her parents on “Chinese,” baring all of her lonely feelings in the form of a young girl reaching out for the comfort of home. “I don’t want anything more / Than to see your face when you open the door,” she confesses with a slight hint of discomfort in her voice.

There is even a room for a thinly veiled (not really) ad hominem attack of George W. Bush, creatively titled “Fuck You,” which seems to come about four years too late, and easily shapes up as the most uninteresting spot of the 12-track album. Still, she digs deep to release a venomous attack on the ex-president (“You’re just some racist who can’t tie my

laces”) with a special disdain I thought was reserved for her talentless American counterpart and rival, Katy Perry.

Most of the record is coated with a subdued, bouncy electropop background, which is paired in a tenderly ironic fashion with the serious nature of Allen’s words. “It’s Not Me” is saturated with wry insults, social criticisms and apologies that manage to be both haunting and brutally direct. Although Allen has written that she sees herself as “fat, ugly and shitty,” the time she spent in the recording studio has resulted in something deeply personal and refreshingly genuine that mirrors the artist herself-self-made and beautiful in its imperfections.



‘Slumdog Millionaire’ gives viewers a realistic portrayal of Indian living



José Cruz, Jr.

The perception of India through the lens of American cinema is usually one of two things: the more developed and highly technological India or the devastating poverty of the slums.

Although we seem to encounter the image of the latter much more often, it’s the former that tends to bother us the least, and thus is the more popularly accepted. Director Danny Boyle bridges the gap between both worlds of Indian living in “Slumdog Millionaire,” and adds some much needed realism to portray the lives of its ‘slumdogs’.

After spending much of his life fighting to survive in the poverty-stricken parts of Mumbai, Jamal (Dev Patel) gets a chance to be a contestant on “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?”

He answers 10 million rupees worth of questions, until being tortured and interrogated under the suspicion that he is cheating. In order to justify his knowledge of the answers of each question, he tells stories of his childhood that include his brother, Salim (Madhur Mittal), the love of his life, Latika (Frieda Pinto), the exploitation of children (including himself) and local Muslim warfare, while each chapter of his childhood reveals how he knows the answers.

Jamal becomes a national hero of sorts (he is the first contestant to make it to a million rupee question) overnight, as the audience is made to wait until the next day for Jamal’s final question.

Hailed as one of the best films of 2008 by



critics, Boyle definitely delivers such a film. There is never a dull moment, as it moves at a swift pace with style and a thumping soundtrack.

But that does not mean that the lives of these poor children are romanticized. Basically living in their own waste (I mean litter, of course), Jamal and his brother have a daily struggle to survive after their mother is killed in a Muslim riot.

Their lives descend into begging, which quickly turns into crime, until the two brothers part ways. This is where the comparison of lifestyles kicks in, as Jamal enters the working-class, advanced world and Salim becomes a soldier for a crime boss.

Skeptics like myself will no doubt find the major flaw at work here. “Slumdog” depends greatly on the idea of destiny, in that somehow Jamal’s life seems to play out chronologically in relation to the questions on the aforementioned game show.

Throughout the course of his life, Jamal and Latika meet again on several occasions, and attribute this to destiny and fate. If you find no fault in this aspect, then this might turn out to be a nearly perfect film. But again, I am a cynic, and find some complications.

With all that said, this is still an enthralling film. Boyle managed to put together an effective blend of suspense, drama, violence, social and philosophical commentary and romance. Although at its core it is a formulaic rags-to-riches romance story, “Slumdog Millionaire” has enough style and heart to make a fresh and engaging flick.

José is an English/creative writing major at UWRF. He enjoys documentaries, horror and independent films.



‘Bride Wars’ follows ‘chick flick’ formula, lacks convincing characters



Nathan Piotrowski

Occasionally, there is a chick flick that has something to offer to not only the other gender, but to the culture in general. Rest assured folks, this review isn’t about one of those. The latest in poorly made chick flicks that have abandoned all semblance of good filmmaking is “Bride Wars.” “Bride Wars” has a plot that definitely plays only towards a girl’s heart, a slew of ridiculous and terribly acted guy characters and boundless errors in filmmaking to be found in general.

The plot of the movie is one of the factors that contributes to the sub-standard quality of the entire movie. Two girls who have grown up together both have their hearts set on a June wedding at The Plaza Hotel in New York City turn on each other after their weddings are scheduled on the same day. What proceeds from this point is one of the most predictable, unfunny and sometimes just downright sad-to-see films that I’ve ever watched.

I think there would have been something for the male audience to enjoy if there had been a single believable male character throughout the entire hour and a half sojourn into chick flick hell. Every single guy in the movie is a cliché, from the nice soon-to-be husband, to the sexy brother of the bride—and let’s not forget the gay sidekick.

And altogether these guys probably have a combined screen time of perhaps 15 minutes. It is a one-sided movie when it comes to the

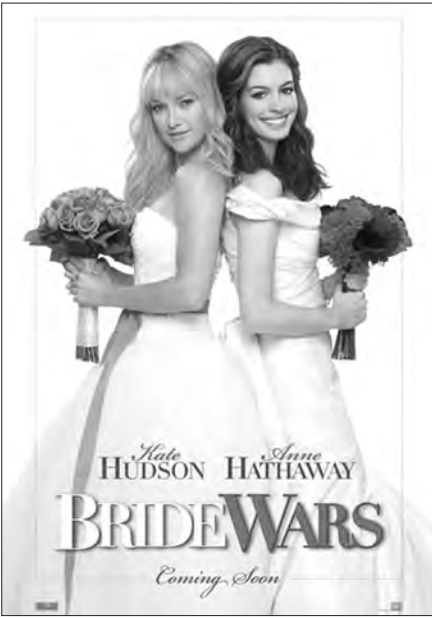
gender, but at least the filmmakers could have found some people who can act.

And aside from those two big ones, let’s not forget the countless continuity errors, issues with re-using the same shot and the useless voiceover that continues throughout the entire flick.

When you can watch a movie and notice without putting forth any effort that a character’s attire has completely changed positions from one shot to the next, there’s something wrong with the filmmakers. The same shot is used multiple times of the Plaza, and I’m not just talking about the photo from the character’s childhoods. Technically, this was one of the worst movies I have ever seen.

The one beam of light that shines through the clouds is the job that Anne Hathaway did in her part. She was good throughout the entire flick, and completely believable, unlike her counterpart Kate Hudson. Hudson was good throughout most of the movie, but the moment anything gets sentimental, there’s not a shred of believability in her performance. However, her acting overshadows that of every single supporting cast member.

With Valentine’s Day being this weekend, I’m sure there are throngs of girls who will be pushing to see this movie. Men, for the love of God, convince them to go see “He’s Just Not That Into You,” which at least seems to have something for men to watch as well as women. It also cannot possibly be worse than the exercise in terrible filmmaking that “Bride Wars” has proved to be.



Nathan is a digital film and television major with a film studies minor. In his spare time, he attempts to be a professional lottery winner.



WRFW Weekly Schedule

Sunday
1-3 p.m.: Lauren Evans
3-5 p.m.: Erik Altmann
5-6 p.m.: "WRFW Live" (Jerry Clark)
6-8 p.m.: "Just a Bit Outside" (Rob Silvers)
8-10 p.m.: "Kevlar's Lounge" (Kevin & Wes)
10-2 a.m.: Brad Ogbonna

Monday
1-3 p.m.: Tim Drallmeier
3-5 p.m.: Diana Vang & Katie Malott
5-6 p.m.: Jaime Babb
6-8 p.m.: Chris Solomon
8-10 p.m.: "The Spoonbridge & Cherry" (Ella Schwartz)
10-12 a.m.: "The Midnight Express" (Jon & Cory)
12-2 a.m.: Cyrus Kozub

Tuesday
3-5 p.m.: "The Acceleration of Sound" (DJ Lutefisk)
5-6 p.m.: "The Dead Air Zone" (Collin Pote)
6-8 p.m.: "Radio Free Wisconsin" (Tony Fox)
8-10 p.m.: "Chalk Talk Sports" (James & Nick)
10-12 a.m.: Livia Johnson
12-2 a.m.: Blaze Fugina

Wednesday
1-3 p.m.: Peter Odlaug
3-5 p.m.: "The Eclectic Advocates" (Laura & Katie)
5-6 p.m.: "ACT on Ag" (Jodi & Eric)
6-8 p.m.: "C-Rad Radio" (Natalie Conrad)
8-10 p.m.: "The Wednesday Alternative" (Pat Lynch)

Thursday
10-12 a.m.: "Keep Off the Grass" (Megan & Michelle)
1-3 p.m.: "Everything in Between" (Adam & Linzmo)
3-5 p.m.: Aaron Bergman
5-6 p.m.: "The Shuffle" (Adam Lee)
5:30 p.m.: "Falcon News"
6-8 p.m.: "The Chrishad Experience"
8-10 p.m.: "The River Falls Renegades"
10-12 a.m.: "Radio Sweetheart" (Sara Helm)

Friday
1-3 p.m.: "Pulp Fact" (Ken Weigend & Grady Stehr)
3-5 p.m.: "BVK: The Weekend Warrior"
5-6 p.m.: "Hipper Than Thou" (J. Clark)
6-8 p.m.: Kevin Duzynski
8-10 p.m.: UWRF Falcon Hockey
10-2 a.m.: "Bottle Up & Explode" (Jessica, Amanda & Matt)

Saturday
1-3 p.m.: "You Can't Be Serious" (Kyle Mills)
3-6 p.m.: Tracy Pollock
6-8 p.m.: Jakob Speich
8-10 p.m.: UWRF Falcon Hockey
10-12 a.m.: "After Hours" (Jacob Severson)
12-2 a.m.: "The Next Best Thing Since Sliced Bread" (Jelly & Jared)

Tune into to WRFW 88.7 or online at <http://www.uwrf.edu/wrfw/>

Mid-Winter thaw in River Falls

By Jon Lyksett
Words by Kristin Lyberg

Activated UWRF soldiers honored at send-off

Sara Pitcher
sara.pitcher@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls student soldiers who are being deployed later this month were honored Wednesday at a community sendoff in the University Center Ballroom.

The soldiers are members of the River Falls-based D Company, First Battalion, 128th Infantry.

Soldiers and their families came together to address the deployment of 20-40 UWRF students, as well as the 125 soldiers in the River Falls, Prescott and New Richmond area. This deployment is the biggest mobilization of the Wisconsin National Guard since World War II, affecting more students than ever before.

They are expected to be gone for one year, including two months spent at Fort Bliss, Texas, where they will be first deployed.

They will complete mission rehearsal exercises, including a mock up of what will be expected in Iraq and will be emulating possible situations and trained until they get the standards down.

The soldiers do not know the exact day they will be deployed but they will all be deployed sometime before March 1.

This is the second rotation for the Wisconsin National Guard, meaning that some of these soldiers are going back for their second time.

For student soldiers who are leaving, the veterans' task force has talked about how they can academically support those who are leaving and how they can welcome them back once they return.

"They're walking on one culture, being the academic culture here at school, and then going to something that's going to be diversely different and then they're going to have to come back," Maj. Tabb Benzinger, assistant professor of military science for the Falcon Company ROTC, said.

Communicating with advisors and mapping out what classes they plan on taking before leaving can help those students who are being deployed.

Benzinger said his advice for student soldiers is "take matters in your own hands, communicate with the faculty and staff at UW and they will work with you in sharing a smooth transition."

Some students have the option to take online classes while they are enlisted.

James Lauck, a veteran's service worker majoring in sociology who was not required to



Above and top right: Sara Pitcher/Student Voice
Bottom right: Renae Bergh/Student Voice
Interim Chancellor Connie Foster gives a speech for soldiers at the community send-off Wednesday Feb. 20.



but requested to be deployed, said that he is signed up for one online course in order to keep his UWRF account active while he is away.

Students are faced with questions about changes that may happen on campus while they are away. Questions include if their advisor will be the same when they return or if they will be able to sign up for classes that fill up quickly.

"It's not just like, well just go ahead and do your thing and when you come back come see us. No, it's let's help you leave on good standing and let's reintegrate you," Benzinger said.

Wisconsin Assembly Representative Kitty

Rhoades was one of the speakers at the community send-off. She is working to stay in contact with those students who are being deployed to allow them access to information that is happening on campus.

"I think what was happening is that a student would be deployed and they'd be gone for a year and no one would keep in touch with them," Rhoades said. "Then they'd come back and they were like any other student, but they weren't because of different needs. So I think that communication would go a long way."

Being aware of the current situation and tracking progress of those students through faculty vessels is something UWRF is work-

ing on to help prepare those student soldiers for their absence and their return.

Family support chains help those soldiers and their families while their loved ones are gone by providing care packages that include items such as "food, toiletries, magazines and anything that will make a soldiers life more bearable," Ryan McNamara, UWRF veterans service representative and veterans club president, said.

The support from the UWRF campus and community has been something that veterans are proud of.


"There's definitely a positive veteran's command climate around here," Benzinger said. "I'm thankful for that."

"There's definitely a positive veteran's command climate around here. I am thankful for that."
Maj. Tabb Benzinger,



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Part two of Abby Maliszewski's bar review can be found in the Feb. 20 edition of the Student Voice

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