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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN STUDENT VOICE

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UW-River Falls to increase tuition next semester

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Next fall, students at UW-River Falls will experience a guaranteed increase in tuition. The specific increase each student will face is still unknown and will not be released until the school year is complete.

“The Board of Regents will set and release the tuition amount in June,” Kristen Hendrickson, budget director of the vice chancellor of administration and finance, said.

According to Lisa Wheeler, interim vice chancellor for administration and finance, the reason behind the increase is necessary for the experience of students and faculty.

“We want to make sure we provide a quality education and for students to be able to afford that,” Wheeler said.

One student said she feels education is worth a few more dollars.

“It’s unfortunate, but if it’s needed to maintain our strong educational needs, then it’s necessary,” UWRF sophomore

Jaclyn Rehmke said. Before the specific amount can be decided, there are a few factors that will determine the outcome.

According to Hendrickson, there are two basic factors that mold the final tuition amount. The costs to maintain the quality of the University and the financial support UWRF will receive from the state.

The support from the state and the annual costs of the University continue to change. Therefore, the tuition needs to be altered.

“The state will not be able to support us in the future like they have in the past,” Hendrickson said. “But unfortunately, the costs [of the University] continue to go up each year as well, and we need to cover those costs.”

According to Wheeler, until the tuition increase is announced, students should trust and know the Board or Regents have their interest in mind.

“Board of Regents is concerned for the students and want to protect them,” Wheeler said. “It is a balancing act.”

The definite increase is not only affecting UWRF, but all UW schools.

According to Wheeler, the Board of Regents will set the same rate for all of the Universities. Out of the total UW System budget cuts, UWRF will only experience 2.83 percent of the total deduction.

Through this tough economic phase, UWRF students will be

See **Tuition** page 3



Sally King/Student Voice

Sen. Matthew Dale addresses members of the UWRF Student Senate Tuesday night in the University Center. Dale said that he does not agree with the changes to Chapters 17 and 18 the Board of Regents has proposed.

Senate previews changes to Chapters 17, 18

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The UW System Board of Regents is in the process of reviewing Chapters 17 and 18. The chapters are part of the UW System administrative code; Chapter 17 outlines the student nonacademic disciplinary procedures and Chapter 18 details conduct violations and sanctions on University lands.

The Board of Regents has proposed updating the code, allowing provisions for UW System universities to issue sanctions to students for nonacademic violations that occur off campus. According to the Regents, the geographic boundaries for University sanctionable violations is limitless, meaning that an infraction anywhere on the globe could conceivably result in University action.

The UW-River Falls Student Senate dedicated the first hour of their Feb. 24

meeting to a preliminary discussion previewing the proposed changes to the two chapters. Sen. Matthew Dale led the discussion, stating forthright that he did not agree with the proposed changes. He went on to say that his personal beliefs would not influence his report of the situation, nor would it lead him to ignore the conversation from those in agreement with the changes.

Dale began his presentation by explaining the history of the proposal. UW-Milwaukee has had a large number of community complaints involving municipal violations towards UWM students who live off campus. The bulk of these complaints were noise related. UWM began to feel pressure from community members to punish the students somehow.

The Board, who Dale described as the “supreme power of academic decisions,” was not able to offer any support. Chapters 17 and 18 allow for no explicit

powers off campus.

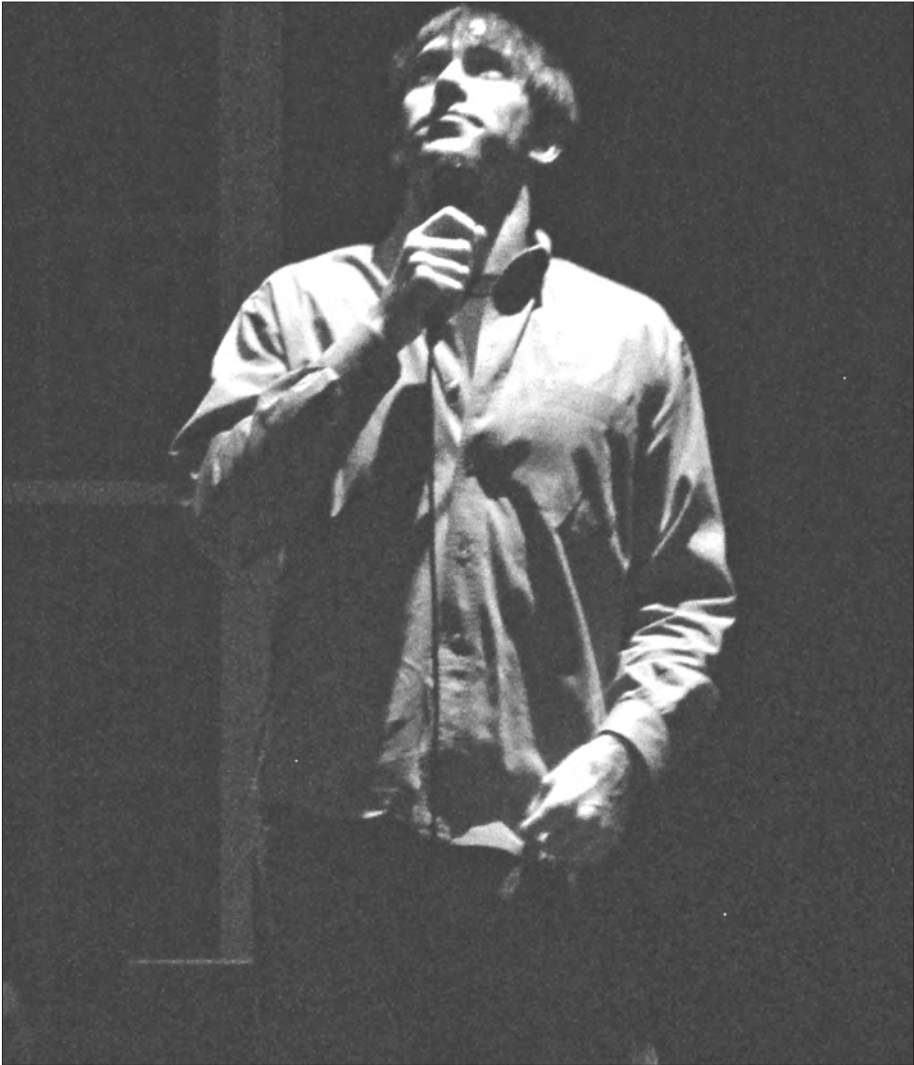
“These rules shall regulate conduct on all lands subject to the control of the board of regents of the university of Wisconsin system,” according to the policy statement of Chapter 18.

Chapter 17 follows the same principle, stating that all students and faculty of a university are subject to that university’s disciplinary procedures for violations only on university property.

According to Dale, there is a lot of student concern that the University has no business punishing off-campus violations. Proponents of the changes claim that they are needed to regulate student to student interactions and bring sentencing against those interactions that involve harassment. Opponents say that off campus sanctions should be handled by the police, not school administrators. Guest Benjamin Plunkett expressed

See **Senate changes** page 3

Palascak provides comic relief to students Wednesday night



Sally King/Student Voice

Comedian Michael Palascak entertains UW-River Falls students in the North Hall auditorium Wednesday night. He was originally planned to perform as part of the “Chillin on the Kinni” Winter Carnival week activities.

Struggling economy affects River Falls, area businesses

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Like a wounded beast, the U.S. economy is struggling to survive, and local businesses are feeling its death pains.

Game Quest, a local video game store and Hotspot Coffee both reported a drop in sales.

“It’s definitely hurt. Video games aren’t high on the priority list when you can’t buy food,” Game Quest store manager Bryan Wallace said.

Though some local businesses are struggling, McDonald’s sales are up. Elizabeth VanSomeren, general manager of the River Falls McDonald’s, said her family can be used as an example for a steady increase in sales.

“As a family of five it’s harder for us to go to a Perkins or a nicer restaurant. People want to go out that can’t afford it and McDonald’s offers a more reasonable option,” VanSomeren said.

Sales have increased at McDonald’s but the fast food giant does have its own share of problems.

“Corporate has put us on a hiring freeze because of the economy. Food costs change month to month. I noticed the price of cheese and lettuce increased 17 percent from January to February,” VanSomeren said.

U.S. total business sales in November were

down 5.1 percent and 3.2 percent in December, according to the United States Census Bureau Web site.

“In January, job losses were large and widespread across nearly all major industry sectors,” according to data reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Measures are being taken by local businesses to survive the economic recession.

Latashia West, owner of Hotspot Coffee on Main Street, said she promotes events and gives discounts on coffee. UW-River Falls students receive a 15 percent discount on anything in the shop when they present their University identification card.

McDonald’s began a big push on specialty coffee with its McCafe and VanSomeren said that every McDonald’s should have a McCafe by summer.

Wallace was not so optimistic.

“It’s tough to do advertising. It’s expensive for a small town business,” he said.

Wallace said the store’s location near ShopKo on the outskirts of town makes it even more difficult to do business because local people don’t know about the store.

West said when she opened Hot Spot Coffee

See **Local businesses** page 3

Professor receives high honor

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In just eight years of teaching at UW-River Falls, psychology professor Travis Tubré has already won one of the University’s biggest honors.

Tubré is the recipient of the Distinguished Teacher Award for 2008, which gives alumni a chance to recognize the University’s most outstanding and influential educator.

“Winning the award is very meaningful because it originates with student nominations,” Tubré said. “It’s also nice to be recognized for something that I truly love doing.”

The award is voted on by recent UWRF alumni who look for teachers that had an impact on their educational careers, according to College of Arts and Sciences Interim Dean Brad Caskey.

“To me, the Distinguished Teacher Award represents a lot because this campus is known for teaching,” he said. “To be selected by former students is really a great honor.”

Caskey, who has known Tubré since he was hired in 2001, spoke highly of him.

“Travis is a dynamic person in the classroom,” he said. “He is edgy and willing to talk about controversial issues with his students, and he does it well.”

UWRF Psychology Department Chair Michael Reich said he agrees.

“Travis has a lot of enthusiasm and carries

that over into his classes,” he said. “He has a natural ability to relate to his students...I can’t quite explain it, but he’s just very natural in a teaching role.”

Tubré, who received his Master’s and Ph.D. from Texas A&M University, said his “energetic enthusiasm” is part of why he is such a popular professor with students and faculty alike.

“I like what I teach and it shows,” he said. “I try to incorporate real-life examples into my lectures so students are able to relate to the information better.”

UWRF student Alyssa Petrangelo, whom Tubré advised on a paper that recently won a regional psychology award, said that what sets him apart from other professors is the way he challenges students to get them to think in different ways.

“I think his greatest quality as a professor/advisor is that he genuinely wants each student to succeed and he tries his hardest to make that happen,” she said in an e-mail interview. “His teaching style focuses on the students and he relates concepts to real life experiences.”

According to the Web site for the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), Tubré is one of 10 University award winners from the college since 2002, and the only one to win the Distinguished Teacher Award in the past seven years.

“The level of involvement, commitment and rapport that he is able to build with his students is amazing,” Reich said. “He’s approachable yet still a demanding professor at the same time.”

Petrangelo said she can attest to the level of involvement Tubré displays.

“I believe that Travis has a hands-on approach when it comes to doing research with the students,” she said. “Not only does he want us to get involved, he himself takes the time to walk us through each step of the way so we have an idea [of] how the research process works.”

In addition to his teaching duties at UWRF, Tubré, a self described “active person,” is also involved in numerous campus and community-wide events.

“I participate in research, am involved with three organizations on campus...I have also done community programming type events at the library and given presentations in the residence halls,” he said. “I’m also teaching at the Wisconsin in Scotland program this summer.”

Tubré’s area of expertise lies within the field of industrial and organizational psychol-



Sally King / Student Voice
Tubré sits in his office in Centennial Science Hall.

ogy, which includes the psychology of the workplace and conflict between employees, among other things.

Aside from the awards and recognition, however, Tubré said he appreciates the “faculty-student collaboration” he so often takes part in.

“Winning awards and being recognized is nice and I feel honored,” he said, “but I still love teaching and interacting with students. I believe that good teachers draw from their students.”

Ag engineering professor Robert Butler retires

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Robert Butler, a professor of agricultural engineering at UW-River Falls, retired in December, ending his 25-year career teaching at the University.

“It was just a matter of time,” Butler said. “Age was catching up to me.”

Butler’s class load will be juggled between several different adjunct professors, Dean Olson, the chair of the agricultural engineering department, said.

“Dr. Butler expressed an interest in retiring a couple years ago, but continued to work an additional year due to the death of Kamal Adam in our department,” Olson said. “Dr. Butler will be greatly missed in the department, but we completely understand his desire to spend time with family and pursue other interests. We have extended a standing invitation to attend department meetings and to stay in touch with the program.”

Butler graduated with a bachelor’s degree in agricultural

engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1967. The following year, from the University of Nebraska, Butler received his master’s in the same field. Butler finished his formal education at Pennsylvania State University, receiving his doctorate in 1972. Both the master’s and doctorate carry an emphasis in soil and water engineering.

“The degree is relatively the same thing as majoring in civil engineering, but it focuses a lot more on agricultural issues such as pollution, manure usage and tillage,” Butler said.

During his time working towards his doctorate at Penn State, Butler was employed as a full-time assistant professor there.

“Penn was a fantastic environment,” Butler said. “But I strongly feel that in order to teach, you must have real-world experience.”

In 1974, Butler left Penn State, and academia altogether, to join his brothers in assuming control of their father’s confinement hog farm.

In 1983, after nearly a decade running the family business, Butler took a chance in responding to an opening at UWRF in the ag engineering department.

as the department chair for agricultural engineering for nearly a decade, from 1993-2002. During that time, the department went through a process of self-justification against UW-Platteville and UW-Madison. All three schools had ag engineering programs, but the UW System wanted to eliminate two of them. Butler submitted his analysis of the UWRF program and presented it to the UW Board of Regents, successfully convincing them to choose his program as the only agricultural technology program to remain intact in the state.

“In terms of majors, our program is fairly large,” Butler said. “But for some reason we were viewed as relatively small. We actually had to self-justify several times while I was chair, each time convincing the Board we were a strong and valid program.”

Butler believes that his former program is in a very strong position going into the future.

“Ag engineering is at the center of so many hot-button issues today,” Butler said. “We work in renewable fuel sources and alternative energies, and we make sure that our grads enter the work force ready to implement real-world skill sets and theories.”

Butler said he prided himself on bringing out the best in every student.

Olson agreed, saying that Butler was a rigorous, yet fair , teacher.

“Dr. Butler challenges students in the classroom to ensure they understand the material,” Olson said. “Frequently I hear students say they are studying for ‘a Bob test.’ Several alumni have commented on how well Dr. Butler prepared them for engineering careers.”

One of Butler’s major achievements came when he developed a senior level capstone course called experiential learning. Butler got a grant for the class in 2002, and he spent three years piloting the course, working out the kinks.

“The course is an opportunity for students to get some real world experience,” Butler said.

In the class, students from across disciplines are bunched into small groups of roughly four to five, and the teams work on real projects from local businesses.“If the program is successful,” Butler said, “then we’ve helped students in three areas: teamwork, written and verbal communication and the ability to solve open-ended problems.”

Butler said the class is also a great tool in assessing how the department is doing in teaching the skill sets. Ideally, any four random students could be picked for a project. If the team cannot complete any area of the course, then that is a good indication that the area in question is not being properly addressed in the curriculum.

Although Butler said he loved the classroom, there were other things he wanted to dedicate his time to, such as sending time at his cabin in Ladysmith, Wis., on the Flambeau River. There, Butler enjoys relaxing with his wife, hiking and boating. Butler also said he looks forward to spending more time with his 11 grandchildren, three of whom live in China, giving him a great opportunity to travel abroad.

Butler is currently working in his wife’s certified public accountant firm, Butler CPA’s, in North Hudson. There, Butler helps mostly in the background, but does get the opportunity to work with budding entrepreneurs on developing business plans and organizing investor portfolios.

“My job is to lay out the info in ways that bankers and investors can easily understand,” Butler said. “There are a lot of parallels to working at UWRF, in sitting down and talking with an eager mind, drawing out of them exactly what they know and need to know.”

Butler said he will miss most the camaraderie with his fellow faculty at UWRF, as well as the personal interaction with students.

“I was really good at playfully teasing students,” Butler said. “I will really miss that, and I will miss seeing them grow into successful individuals.”

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“I called the department chair in early August of ‘83,” Butler said. “I decided that I wanted to try for, at least a year or two, the academic side as opposed to the business side.”

Butler began teaching that fall, bringing with him more of an emphasis on engineering. Up until then, the ag engineering curriculum at UWRF was focused on more mechanical aspects.

Butler said he takes great pride in knowing he helped lead UWRF towards new and exciting agricultural technologies.

Butler said he felt comfortable almost immediately teaching ag technology, something he referred to as a mix between mechanics and engineering, bringing together more practical and applied theories than comparable majors in design engineering. His overall focus in the program, according to Butler, was to teach students the same theories as traditional engineering, but to supplement that with the ability to troubleshoot existing products, provide customer support and knowledge on how to sell new, more innovative ideas.

Butler’s time at UWRF was spent almost exclusively in the classroom.

“I was involved in my early years in the typical faculty committees,” Butler said. “But I never had an interest in faculty governance. I just wanted to teach.”

Butler did, however, serve

RIVER FALLS POLICE/UWRF POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

February 20

Ryan T. Christensen, 21, was arrested and cited for retail theft at the Holiday Station store at 302 S. Main St.

Tuition: Average tuition at UWRF has increased between 6-7 percent over past 10 years

from page 1

financially impacted by an increase of any amount.

“Students are living through the same economic times everyone else is, as well as their families. So I think it will be hard to pay, but on the other hand, with a slight higher cost, students will be getting a value with the money,” Wheeler said.

Alternative methods of payment and financial support are available for students who are worried about every additional dollar.

“The good news is that the stimulus was just passed that increased financial aid, which will help students,” Hendrickson said. “Scholarships are also available.”

New programs are also being introduced that will protect students in lower-income families from the increase in tuition.

Students around campus are hearing the news and have developed an opinion towards their future with UWRF.

“Unless it was a drastic increase in price, it would not affect my decision to go here,” elementary education major Stacia Kozel said.

Feelings vary with each student, yet the

decision to raise tuition does occur almost every school year.

According to Hendrickson, within the last 10 years, on average tuition has increased between 6 to 7 percent each year. Some years have seen as low as 3 percent, while other years have seen 10 percent.

This annual decision may put students in an uncomfortable financial situation, but the outcome is necessary and until June, the specific amount is still up in the air.

“I know you hear many things, but we just don’t know,” Hendrickson said. “Don’t get worried if you hear a big number—they are simply rumors.”

Senate changes: Board of Regents to hold Chapters 17, 18 listening session March 5

from page 1

his concern at the meeting over school administrators becoming police.

“I’m no expert on the subject, but isn’t there a governmental body in charge of dealing with the disciplinary actions involving crimes in this country?” Pluenkett asked.

“I believe that would be the criminal court system, Ben,” Dale said.

Plunkett went on to express his belief that the court system is fair and it works, and that he would only

trust those violations investigated by trained police and ruled on by professional lawyers and judges, not school administrators.

Dale is forming an ad hoc committee to address the proposed changes. The committee is planning on hosting an open listening session in which any members of UWRF can come and voice their opinions, either for or against. The meeting is slated for sometime in March, but an exact date has yet to be determined.

Dale also said that the Board of Regents is hosting a listening ses-

sion revolving around the Chapters on March 5. He urged his fellow senators to spread the word and try and convince as many people as possible to journey to Madison to speak at that open forum.

“It is extremely important that students from UWRF be heard in front of the Board of Regents,” Dale said.

Fielding several Senators’ questions regarding the impact of this power being given to the University, Dale said he wanted to stress that he did not feel that UWRF wanted to abuse this power if it were to pass.

“There has been no major movement at UWRF to implement an extreme form of 17 and 18 and punish all municipal violations. No one in administration has even remotely hinted at this,” Dale said. “The relationship between students and faculty on this campus is quite good.”

A reoccurring concern brought up by the Senate was how vague the proposed revisions to the code are. According to Dale, the changes have been left purposely vague so each UW campus can mold the rules to fit their individual campus.

Local businesses: River Falls McDonald’s, Hot Spot noticed shift in sales beginning in November

from page 1

almost two years ago she decided not to serve alcohol in the shop.

“I want to provide a family friendly atmosphere,” West said.

But with a coffee shop moving in two doors down, serving beer and alcohol, and the economy the way it is, the original business plan may change in the future, she said.

McDonald’s and Hot Spot reported they noticed a shift in sales beginning in November or December. Wallace said that Game Quest sales began to slip as they normally do in the summer when college students leave, but stayed abnormally low when students returned in the fall.

Wallace offered his opinion on how local businesses can improve sales.

“Find a niche,” he said. “If you’re the only one selling something it’s easier to do business.”

2008 Gallup Poll suggests Wisconsin a less religious state compared to national average

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A national Gallup Poll conducted throughout 2008 suggests Wisconsin is a less religious state than those around it, with 61 percent of interviewees saying religion is an important part of their daily life.

Wisconsin’s religiosity is just four points below the national average of 65 percent. In contrast, the four surrounding states all had scores of 64 percent.

Campus organizations relating to the subject of religion were asked to offer input on this statistic. The UWRF Free Thought Society noted factors which may explain Wisconsin’s lower score in the poll.

A large factor could be the fairly liberal environment in cities such as Milwaukee and Madison. Madison was of particular note because as Free Thought member Trevor Tomesh said, the capitol is where the Freedom From Religion Foundation is headquartered.

The FFRF is a freethought organization formed to promote separation of church and state and the removal of religion from public life. It is the only organization in the country to produce a national freethought radio broadcast.

Like the Free Thought Society, members of the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship were also asked for input. Rather than stating why Wisconsin was lower, however, it was said why the surrounding states were likely higher.

“Something about the surrounding states, I think there are states that are really churchied,” Fellowship member Tim Prince said.

According to Prince, there is a slightly stronger presence of Christianity in Wisconsin’s neighbor states. The Willow Creek Association, an organization with over 1,200 member churches, is headquartered in Chicago. Also, Michigan houses a large Christian publisher, and according to Prince, the Twin Cities area in Minnesota has more mega-churches per capita than anywhere else in the country.

Regardless of why Wisconsin scored less in the poll, both groups interviewed said they believe that UWRF is at least marginally more openly religious than



Renae Bergh/Student Voice

UW-River Falls freshmen Paul Linzmeier, David Rozman and Justin Luther pray with other members of campus religious organizations. The Free Thought Society and Intervarsity Christian Fellowship are non-religious and religious groups that UWRF students can take part in.

CORRECTIONS:

In the review ‘River Falls bars defy expectations, serve surprises’ that appeared in the Feb. 20 issue of the Student Voice, some incorrect information was reported about The Library. It should be noted that ladies get free cover before 10:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Also, ladies drink for free from 11 p.m. to midnight on Saturdays.

In the article ‘Fantastic Sams sponsors hair donation event at University’ that appeared in the Feb. 20 issue of the Student Voice, Rachael Hilbrand’s name was incorrectly reported as Rachael Hilb.

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EDITORIAL

Laziness sabotages Winter Carnival

Winter Carnival, an annual event put on by the Traditions Committee, was cancelled this year due to a lack of participation and interest.

The Student Voice feels that an annual part of UW-River Falls history, one grounded in tradition, has been sullied and cheapened by the procrastination and laziness of a few, unnamed people. Looking around campus the last few weeks, advertisement promoting the event was scarce, if visible at all. The poor marketing campaign implemented to spread the word about Winter Carnival was the leading factor to the event’s untimely demise.

Such a poor job of promoting the event is especially inexcusable with all the different ways something *could* be advertised. Multiple bulletin boards in every building on campus, sandwich boards in front of the University Center and an e-mail system capable of sending out a mass of letters to the entire student body. Posters and fliers in the residence halls did not show up until a week before the event, and by then everybody had to be signed up already.

The only way to sign up was to e-mail the Traditions Committee directly, but the e-mail address wasn’t widely publicized; directions on how and where to sign up were missing. The system was not user friendly, and it is hard to believe that busy students would take the time out of cluttered schedules to hunt down information that should have been provided and easily accessible in the first place.

But the planning committee responsible for Winter Carnival is not completely to blame. A frequent and reoccurring complaint heard from students across campus is that there is a lack of activities geared towards students, designed to keep them on campus over the week and weekend. But when an event does come up, such as Winter Carnival, there is such apathy that it forces the coordinators to alter their plans, even cancel the activities. It is downright shameful that any event should ever need to be cancelled due to a lack of interest.

Students on this campus cannot complain about a lack of events if they refuse to participate in those scheduled. If scheduled events don’t appeal to you, than speak up and get involved. Join a planning committee, appeal to a coordinator, write a letter, just do something. There is no excuse for the apathetic to sit high on their clouds of judgment, coming down from on high to chastise those who dare to take action.

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

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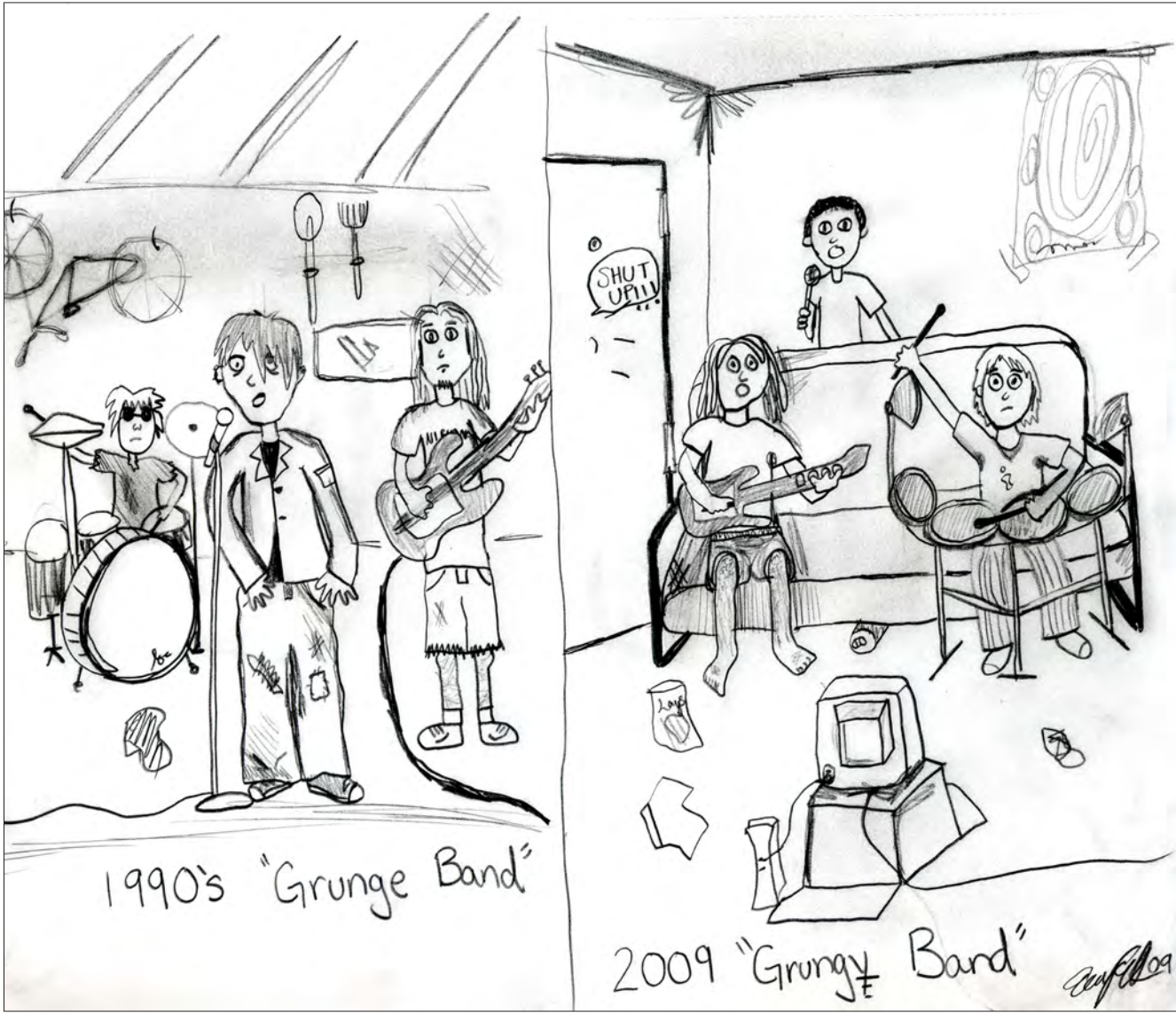


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By Emily Eck

Oscars add little substance to society

Maybe this won’t be a surprise to anyone, but I didn’t watch the Oscars this year.

Actually, I don’t think I’ve ever watched the full presentation of those awards...or the Grammys, the Emmys, the Tonys or the Golden Globes either.

But it seems you can’t get away from them. For at least a week before and after these events, every news site is guaranteed to have a few headlines about them.

The hot topics this time (they may already be cold by the time you read this) included weird female celebrity outfits, Heath Ledger’s posthumous award and George Clooney meeting President Obama.

Not only am I indifferent to Jessica Biel’s drooping corpse-colored gown or Whoopi Goldberg’s leopard-print muumuu, I don’t understand why anyone else cares either. They had to wear something, and at least they’re making some attempt at originality. I say that if they want to throw their money at goofy overpriced clothes in a spiraling economy, that’s all their business.

As far as Ledger goes...we all knew he was getting an Oscar. Even I knew, and I hardly paid attention. He was in the most popular (though maybe not the best) flick of 2008, and he’s dead. He was a shoo-in. Now let’s all let him rest in peace.

As for George Clooney meeting Obama, good for him. For his visits to Darfur and efforts as a United Nations representative, he should be commended. But for the life of me, I cannot stand to look at that man’s face. He looks like a wax dummy, with dead eyes forever frozen in a creepy squint and a perpetual maddening smirk...and millions of women go nuts for this guy. I don’t claim to understand things like that. I just ignore the evening gossip shows, and when I see a picture of Clooney, I look away as soon as possible. It’s working well for me.

Believe it or not, these aren’t just random complaints on my part. They add up to a matter of personal preference.

If I could choose any occupation I wanted and succeed in it, “celebrity” would be one of my last choices. It would rob me of something I hold very dear: my privacy.

Unless I wore a disguise, I couldn’t go anywhere without being surrounded by fans begging me to autograph their boxers. I couldn’t relax at home for long before the paparazzi came sniffing around, staring vacantly through the windows and clawing at the doors like a horde of zombies.

Sure, it might be fun to rev up a chainsaw and run them all off the yard, but they’d come crawling back in five minutes anyway.

That’s another reason why I usually avoid entertainment news at all costs. Not just because I find it depressing, tacky and artificial, a distraction from what’s truly important and valuable in life.

I also pass on the celebrity dirt to make sure that somewhere in the neon void that is pop culture, there’s at least one guy willing to leave those people alone. And that’s Nathan Sparks, the perpetual miscreant.

[The celebrities] had to wear something, and at least they’re making some attempt at originality.

Nathan is a perpetual miscreant. He enjoys death metal and the color blue.

Obama’s speech covers array of issues

President Barack Obama gave his first address to a joint session of Congress on Tuesday night. The speech was of the same annoying format that all presidential speeches are, where there is an interruption, due to clapping, nearly every five minutes.

Obama’s speech began with discussion of our struggling economy. However, the tone quickly turned positive with the mention of job creation from the stimulus package. He also promised a tax cut for 95 percent of American families (families that make under \$250,000 a year).

Obama then turned his discussion to the credit crisis, and the necessity to get credit and lending back to normal. He was very sly in approaching the issue of needing to give more money to the banks, making clear that he understood the dissatisfaction of Congress and the American people of the last large bailout.

“This time, CEOs won’t be able to use taxpayer money to pad their paychecks or buy fancy drapes or disappear on a private jet. Those days are over,” Obama said.

He stated that we will not be giving money to the banks, but to the people. Obama made clear the necessity for renewable energy, calling on Congress to pass legislation on their end for a federal cap on carbon emissions, which he hopes will promote renewable energy.

He said he plans to invest \$15 billion a year into renewable energy technology and research. The auto industry is also included in this plan (though no real specific goal mentioned) with Obama stating, “I believe the nation that invented the automobile cannot walk away from it.”

Obama then moved on to his commitment to a better healthcare system. The plan is to get affordable comprehensive healthcare for every American, invest in preventative care and “seeking a cure for cancer in our time.”

Obama stated that he will work across party lines to achieve this goal.

The last element of Obama’s speech was education. There has been a great investment in education with the recent stimulus package, with more plans of investment and reform to come in the future.

Obama also called upon citizens to do their part and take one year or more of higher education or career training, and for young people to not drop out of high school, which he says is no longer an option.

Obama briefly mentioned the closing of Guantanamo Bay (YAY!) and leaving Iraq in a responsible manner (YAY!), but sending more troops to Pakistan and Afghanistan to fight Al-Queda (BOO!) and increasing benefits for veterans (YAY!).

Obama ended his speech with the promise of hope for our country, asking the American people to remain optimistic in shitty times.

Though I disagree with some of the points of the speech, I am cautiously optimistic of the efforts of this new administration in dealing with energy, health care and education.

Obama is talking big and making very nice sounding commitments. I hope that our Congress and Obama can follow through with these promises, though I’m not holding my breath.

(To read the transcript of this speech, visit the New York Times page.)

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.

Father Time prolongs boredom, kidnaps fun

So I recently had the opportunity to meet someone very important, controversial and effective.

I say he’s important, because without him we wouldn’t exist. I say controversial because he’s never in enough abundance for or all of us to appreciate. And I say he’s effective because he’s extremely gifted in the art of pissing me off.

My watch has a watch, and that watch has a mediating, judgmental and very stiff upper lippled team manager standing over its shoulder with a stop-watch.

I grew up in a family of four, including myself, and my parents are my original parents, still married and raising my younger brother. I’ve never dealt with stepparents, but I conclude that Father Time is the unwanted, mumbling stepfather who gets drunk every Tuesday night and never shuts up.

He’s not abusive, no-he’s just obnoxious and in a constant hover. Whenever he offers to take you out to dinner you end up going to Denny’s and the only thing he ever orders is the ultimate omelet. He

asks the waitress to hold the peppers while scarfing-directly from the spout-an entire bucket of black coffee. When his entrée arrives, he complains that there are no green peppers.

This is Father Time—total turd. Nobody likes you. Go away.

I want Father Time to take a vacation, like a month. Imagine what you could do with yourself if time just held the hell still for 30 days. You could catch up on everything that you needed to get done within the month.

You could even sit around and do NOTHING for the whole month, and when time resumed you’d be still be in the state of procrastination you were in before it stopped, but you’d have a month’s relaxation under your belt.

I (B) took the time to sit down with Father Time (T), both for my own personal benefit, and for your own clarification purposes.

I feel it should also be brought to

your attention that Father Time was 13 minutes late to our interview, which I held last Thursday afternoon. The conversation went something like this:

B: Thanks for taking the time to sit down with me today (mild chuckle).

T: Not a problem, Bradley. (no chuckle, he appeared lost in the humor).

B: I just have a few questions for you regarding your occupation.

T: All right.

B: Why do you make fun things go so fast, and not-fun things go slow?

T: It’s my alter-ego, really: Father Douchebag. I’m really an OK guy.

I stopped the interview because he both answered all my other questions, and I was running late for work. I was happy with my findings, though.

B: 1, T: Zero.

Time’s a thief. If time is money, then money is time, and I’m always strapped for cash, and it’s because Father Time is pickpocketing me.

It’s a no wonder people drink, and I mean that ambiguously: booze and coffee. The booze internally slows things down for us at night, and the coffee speeds things up the next morning.

Interesting. I will be perfectly honest and say that if I met Father Time on the street, no matter the time of day, I’d deliver a concise punch to his wrinkled chin. It’d be the kind of thud-punch that would knock the guy out before he hit the floor.

I would immediately feel bad after slugging him, so I’d get him a pack of ice, call his wife (Mother Nature), and prop his feet up on the curb so as to keep him alive in the cold. Old Man Winter’s got it out for Father Time and

I’m just doing my part to keep myself as far away from a third degree murder charge as possible.

That’s all for now. I will see you all in exactly 168 hours.

Time’s a thief. If time is money, then money is time. and I’m always strapped for cash, and it’s because Father Time is pick pocketing me.



Brad Brookins

It’s a no wonder people drink—and I mean that ambiguously: booze and coffee. The booze internally slows things down for us at night, and the coffee speeds things up the next morning.



Cristy Brusoe

Energy bills raise cost of comfort

I used to argue that living off-campus was cheaper than getting a dorm. For all intents and purposes, it should be cheaper. But what I didn’t take into account was something called the energy bill—have any of you ever heard of this before? I hadn’t.

Apparently an “energy bill” is this piece of paper—quite like the check at a restaurant—that they mail out to you if you use electricity and you’re living off-campus. And I guess it makes sense—you use energy and then you have to pay for how much you use. New concept to me.

Last year, in South Fork Suites, I never got energy bills like this. And I used electricity like mad. I guess it was all included in the cost somehow, or something.

I’d leave my window jacked open in the heart of January, but I’d stay nice and warm in my bed thanks to the industrial space heater I bought and mounted above my bunk. Eventually I even bought my space heater a space heater, so it wouldn’t get cold at night either. A month later, my space heater complained that it was TOO hot, so I bought it its

own air conditioning unit. It’s all about balance, people. Everything in moderation.

Halfway through last year I stopped using towels in my apartment. I bought a cheap leather holster and began carrying a salon-grade hairdryer (1000-watt, as I recall) around. I used my holstered hairdryer to dry everything—my body after a shower, the dishes after a load in the wash and other people’s

eyeballs if I felt like watching them cry.

The hairdryer had the unfortunate effect of sparking in me, for a short while at least, an interest in fashion and salons in general. I also was spending my time secreted away in the dark, away from the sun.

So I got a tanning bed and one of those special sunlights that beams endorphins into your retinas to make you feel better. Now this year I’m looking back mercifully-with no energy bills I had no idea how much it actually costs to run a tanning bed and a sunlight 24/7.

I felt guilty turning off my Xbox 360 at night—I mean, what did it do to deserve being shut



Joe Hager

Sentimental ink justifies permanence

This past weekend while on my way to work, I was wondering what the day would bring. Would the day just drag on? Would the time fly by? What needs to be done? I walked in, only to find

my co-worker excited to show me yet another new tattoo she had gotten, added to the two she already had.

“Doesn’t it look awesome? It didn’t even hurt that much!” she said, taking pride in it. To top it all off, she recently had gotten her tongue and lip pierced also.

While I feigned some of the enthusiasm in my voice, I wondered what all the hype was about getting multiple tattoos

and piercings.

Since I have two piercings in each ear and one in my belly button, I can’t exactly contest to them, but I can’t exactly see why anyone would want piercings in their tongue, lip, eyebrow or

any other place that seems like it shouldn’t be pierced. But piercings don’t bother me as much as tattoos, much less multiple ones—that is something I really don’t understand.

Honestly, I just don’t see the hype. I don’t see why you would want something like that on your body permanently—big or small. Not to mention all the pain that comes along with it and possible infections.

Yes, it did take a little mental coaching from myself to get my belly button pierced, but it’s not permanent—it can be taken out anytime. But with a tattoo, there’s no turning back, unless you want to endure even more pain to get it removed.

Getting something put on your body permanently may seem cool now, but how are you going to explain to your (possible) kid one day why they shouldn’t get one, because we all know that all, if not most, adults try to persuade otherwise. I know a lot of adults now that have tattoos who say, “I don’t know what I was thinking” or “I was just a stupid kid back then who didn’t know any better”.

After asking my co-worker why she got another one and what prompted her to start getting them in the first place, she told me what

each one represented.

The first one represented her first place win in a pageant in her hometown, the second one was to honor her older sister who unfortunately lost her life two years ago and the third was another symbol that represented her sister.

After hearing each description of her tattoos, I could now somewhat see the reasons why she chose to get them.

They were the things that meant the most in her life, things that she wanted to define herself by.

Those reasons kind of made sense to me as to why you would want something that permanent put on your body for the rest of your life.

But despite all of that, another part of me thinks that there are better ways to show who you are and what you yourself represent to the world.



Christie Lauer

Century College students given time-out

After one of my classes was canceled late after registration began, I decided that I’d quick pick up a class at Century College.

Small Group Communication was the course, mainly because it fit into one of the requirements of my minor. This class is rather interesting and provides some unique opportunities.

The main goal of the class is to complete 10 hours of service learning. The 30 students were divided into groups of five. We then, as a group, are responsible for contacting a nonprofit organization and completing our volunteer work within a certain time period.

I must admit that the concept of the class is fascinating. In fact, this class was my prediction for favorite this semester.

As it turns out, a professor’s poor execution of a class can ruin even the greatest idea.

At this point I will note that everything I’m about to explain is not exaggerated or taken out of context. It’s the truth, and it happens. I “tattle” not to complain, but rather to inform.

Twice in class, we’ve been “sent home early” for “bad behavior.”

If it sounds ridiculous, it is. I’ve found these past occurrences comical.

Most community colleges do have the reputation as being an extension of high school. When we’re not being sent home,

we’re taking quizzes. But no, not ordinary quizzes. Each chapter in our textbook is at most 20 pages long.

We are allowed to write one page of notes (front and back) on the chapter and use it on the quiz. I can’t fill the page. The quizzes are composed of 10 questions that basically give a definition to a term which, of course, is written on our sheet of paper.

It sounds easy, wonderful, but it’s not. I have no idea what these terms mean; I don’t read the chapters.

I have never felt this way about any topic before and it’s scary. I literally know ... nothing. Anyway, back to class this past Tuesday. A few

had questions concerning a grade on an assignment we had gotten back. The more the students questioned the professor, the more defensive she became. As if to say, “How dare you question my assignment’s guidelines!”

After a few minutes of back and forth arguing, she became very hostile and told

us to go take a 10 minute timeout.

Our eyes darted back and forth... a time-out? What grade are we in? To make a long

story short, after our “timeout,” she came back to class and told us that ganging up on a teacher was a bad idea.

Then, pulled out the textbook and instructed us to write a paper on the term “groupthink” and what mistakes we had just made in questioning her.

I was frustrated, upset and wanted to do something about this. I felt helpless and unable to make a difference.

I know professors and teachers deserve to be respected. That wasn’t my issue. The problem is college students should not be put in a time out, feel threatened, punished or insignificant.

Every educator I’ve had has told me to ask questions, speak up and express my opinion. In fact, every professor I’ve had at UW-River Falls has followed this philosophy.

I don’t know what needs to be or will be done about this particular professor. I hope others don’t experience this because I can personally say it’s disheartening.

Cristy is a journalism major. This is her second semester working for the Student Voice.

STUDENT voices

What is the most ridiculous thing a professor ever made you do?

Jodi Kauth, senior

“Our grade was based on if we could sell a product to him by the end of the term”



Jason Klapmeier, freshman

“To write a ridiculous paper that had nothing to do with the class”



Sara Chavie, freshman

“I’m new, nothing ridiculous...yet!”



Rufino Rodriguez, freshman

“To get him a cup of coffee.”



Renee Kaufhold, junior

“To save our sneezes and yawns for before or after class. We were not allowed to do either in the classroom.”



Student Voices compiled by Tennae Maki.

Falcon women host O’Brien Cup

Renae Bergh
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For the first time since 2003, the UW-River Falls women’s hockey team won the NCHA regular season title and secured the opportunity to host the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association O’Brien Cup tournament Feb. 27 through March 1. Even though the Falcons still had two road games against UW-Eau Claire in their regular season schedule, they knew that they had taken the regular season conference title with their 6-1 victory over Finlandia University Feb. 15. Every year the NCHA tournament is held on the home ice of the team that wins the regular season conference title, with this year going to UWRF. The Hunt Arena will play host to six teams competing in the tournament including UW-Stevens Point, UW-Superior, Eau Claire,

Concordia University and Lake Forest College (Ill.). To prepare for the tournament Head Coach Joe Cranston said that the team will be doing business as normal. “There is nothing special we really doing to prepare,” Cranston said. “We just try to stay consistent, be focused and play every shift.” With all the teams coming into town, the Director of Hunt Arena and Knowles Center Steve Stocker said the arena staff are also preparing for the tournament. “We have all the logistical stuff already done like scheduling officials, goal judges, camera people, locker room assignments and making sure the arena is up to par,” Stocker said. The Falcons finished out their regular season with a record of 13-2-1 in the NCHA and a 15-5-3 overall. They come into the tournament hav-

ing lost only two conference games to Stevens Point and Superior. With their season going as well as it has, Cranston said he is confident his team will perform well. “With only two conference losses we are definitely the team to beat,” Cranston said. “We always play well at tournament time, so I expect we will play hard and fast hockey.” Falcon captain Stefanie Schmitz said she agrees that team will do well in the tournament. “Our team has been playing really well this year,” Schmitz said. “I think we really have a shot at taking the title.” The Falcons have not participated in the national tournament since 2003. Assistant Coach Mandy Stokes was a member of the women’s hockey team when it last went to nationals in 2003. She said she believes that the team this year has what it takes to make it to the

national tournament again this year. “This team has the best chemistry and skill than any other year,” Stokes said. “They all have the same goal and same hope and know that they can do it.” Having the opportunity to host the tournament is a definite advantage because of the atmosphere it creates, sophomore Lauren Conrad said. “I’m pretty excited because we always have pretty good attendance and a decent student section so it’s nice that we’ll have them to help bring more energy to the rink,” Conrad said. Last year, the Falcons were on the verge of taking the title in the championship game against Superior. With a minute left, the Falcons were up by one goal. Tragedy struck with only 25 seconds left when the Yellowjackets tied it up forcing a sudden death overtime. The Yellowjackets scored again shortly

into the overtime and took the play-off title, dashing the Falcons’ dreams of competing in nationals. Falcon forward Abby Sunderman said she remembers how hard it was to come so close and lose it in overtime. “With seven seniors on the team people were just devastated,” Sunderman said. “I think those players who returned are looking for revenge and even more determined to win this year.” If the Falcons win the playoff tournament this year they receive an automatic bid to compete in the NCAA National Tournament, of which the location is yet to be decided. The Falcons play their first game 3:05 p.m. Feb. 28 against the lowest remaining seed. The championship game will be held 3:30 p.m. March 1. The NCAA tournament is scheduled to start on March 13.

What to watch for at the NCHA playoffs



Justin Magill

No. 1 UW-River Falls Falcons 15-2-1 (17-5-3 overall)
The NCHA regular season champions come into the O’Brien Cup as winners of its last four games and are 8-1-2 in its last 11. The Falcons are the conference’s best scoring team this season averaging 4.04 goals a game, which means they have balance this season. Six players have eight goals or more. Abby Sunderman leads the team with 15 goals. Jamie Briski is right behind her with 13 and Stefanie Schmitz finished the regular season with 12. Also, Jessica Thompson tied for the NCHA lead in points with 28 (eight goals, 20 assists) to form the most potent offense in the conference. UWRF coach Joe Cranston said freshmen have been important for the Falcons offense this season. Chelsey Calder, Katie Flannagan and Emma Nordness all reached double-digit points in their first year, with many of them coming in big games. Cranston can throw any line on the ice and

not have to worry about the Falcon offense not producing. Defensively, UWRF is just as good. The Falcons have a solid goalie tandem in sophomore Cassi Campbell and Melissa Deardorff, both from Anchorage, Alaska. The duo has combined for all of the teams 17 wins, 6 shutouts and a stingy 1.76 goals against, second best in the conference.

No. 2 UW-Superior Yellowjackets 12-4-2 (16-7-2)
The 2008 O’Brien Cup champions won its first and only championship on home ice last season. Superior has won the regular season title four times, so it knows how to win in the regular season, but now has the experience to win when it counts. The Yellowjackets come into the postseason on a similar streak to UWRF. They have won their last four games and are 7-1-0 in their last eight. Superior has the conferences deadliest goal scorer in Jodi Holland, who scored 19 regular season goals in her junior year. Seven of her goals came on the power play, so she will be the one Superior will go to with the man-advantage. A two goalie system is also used in Superior and has worked equally as well as UWRF’s. With a 1.76 goals against per game, tied for second with the Falcons, sen-

ior Rikki Nespor and Melissa Kunzelman have done it all in net for the Yellowjackets. Both finished the regular season with eight wins to help Superior to another solid year.

No. 3 UW-Stevens Point Pointers 11-4-3 (14-5-6)
There is no team that has been more successful in the O’Brien Cup than Stevens Point. Champions in 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, the Pointers know how to win this thing. Do not let the three-seed fool you. They have only one non-conference loss, that being to Adrian College (Mich.), which swept UWRF in River Falls in January. Stevens Point has also played No. 1 Gustavus Adolphus College and tied the Gusties twice. If it comes out to be a low scoring game, chances are Stevens Point will win it. The Pointers’ 5-foot tall goalie d’Andra Phillips is small in stature but huge in net. Her 1.31 goals against is tops in the NCHA and 11 wins is the best as well. Phillips finished with five shutouts this season, which has guided the Pointers to the best defensive team in the conference allowing 1.32 goals a game and an NCHA best 88.9 penalty kill percentage. Senior Nicole Grossman tied for the conference lead in

points with 28 points (16 goals, 12 assists) and has been a major asset to the NCHA’s best power play, 19.1 percent, which compliments the conference best penalty kill, stopping opponents at 88.9 percent.

No. 4 UW-Eau Claire Bluegolds 7-9-2 (12-10-3 overall)
The Bluegolds are coming into the O’Brien Cup a little blue. Losers of four in a row and seven of its last nine, Eau Claire is not coming into the postseason in the best shape. The Bluegolds were right in the thick of the conference race a month ago, but a tough schedule to close out the season hurt them. UWRF, which had the regular season title already wrapped up, swept the Bluegolds last week to. Kristen Faber leads Eau Claire with 13 goals and 25 points. Lauren Havard compliments her well with 21 points. Those two are the big offensive threats for the Bluegolds, who have not scored more than one goal in their last four games. Defensively, Eau Claire is pretty solid. It allows less than 25 shots on goal a game. Morgan Pieper has been the leader in net for the Bluegolds. The freshman compiled an 8-7-2 and had a 2.33 goals against, which was sixth best in the NCHA.

No. 5 Lake Forest College (Ill.) Foresters 7-10-1 (11-13-1)
Lake Forest feels Eau Claire’s pain during the last month of the season. It did get a nice 3-2 win against Superior on Jan. 17, but that is its only marquee win. Melissa Kravich has been the offensive sparkplug all season for the Foresters, finishing third in the NCHA with 26 points (seven goals, 19 assists). Junior Courtney Bean has been bringing it offensively from the point all season with 20 points, the best of all defensemen. Kim Herring leads the team with 11 goals, six on the power play, making her one of the scariest players with the extra man..

No. 6 Concordia University-Wisconsin Falcons 4-11-3 (6-16-3)
The sixth seeded team gets rewarded by playing the conference’s best postseason team. Concordia allows 4.44 goals a game, worst among teams in this weekend’s O’Brien Cup. When it gets in penalty trouble, the Falcons have a hard time killing them off. Their 79.8 penalty kill percentage is near the bottom of the conference. Sarah Luberda leads in goals, 13, assist, 12 and points with 25.

Track and field finishes indoor, preps for outdoor

Joe Engelhardt
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The UW-River Falls track and field teams are nearing the end of the indoor season, with only three meets left before the outdoor season begins. The most recent event was the Coca Cola Classic held here on Feb. 13-14. “The event went well,” Head Coach Martha Brennan said. “With 12 teams participating, it was the largest event held here.” The men and the women now look towards their final three meets of the indoor season, the WIAC meet, the Last Chance Meet and then the NCAA Nationals in the middle of March. Junior Kali Meurer said that she would rather have meets indoors, because of the environmental factors that come into play. “During the indoor season,

there are only a few things that can affect your performance, but outdoors it’s very unpredictable because of the weather. You have to take wind, temperature and precipitation into consideration when looking at times/distances/heights,” Meurer said in an e-mail interview. The environmental factors also seem to put UWRF at a slight disadvantage in certain events. Runners seem to prefer the outdoor events more because they tend to run better, Brennan said. Junior Tony Hart, who runs sprints, said he agreed. “The turns are not as sharp, the tracks are softer, it’s easier on the legs,” Hart said. Brennan added that it is easier to keep athletes healthy during the outdoor season. Even though the season is long, Brennan said she has the same excitement as she did earlier in the year.

“Every week, there are good things happening; someone is always improving,” Brennan said. “I look forward to every practice and every meet.” Brennan also added the level of play differs between the men and the women. “The women are better, because they have had a team longer,” Brennan said. “The men’s team is fairly new, but always improving.” Meurer and Hart both found different things they said they would like to improve on. While Meurer looked at the team aspect, Hart set his sights on personal goals. “I would like set my own personal best time at the 400 meter dash,” Hart said. “I just like to know that I am getting faster each year.” Meurer said she wants the team to improve in the conference, saying that improving in the conference is the key to improving at nationals.

“Though we are in Div. III, we are guaranteed a lot of good competitors from the WIAC; each year there are multiple athletes from this conference that qualify and compete at nationals. If we can improve in our conference, it’s a good indicator that we are also improving on the national level,” Meurer said. For fans, Brennan said she would like to see more at the meets. “This is an exciting team to watch,” Brennan said. “More students should come out to a meet, even if they don’t understand everything about track and field.” The WIAC meet begins Feb. 27 at UW-Stout. The NCAA meet for the indoor season begins on March 13. The Falcons outdoor season is scheduled for March 28 at the Alabama Relays prior to the Falcon Invitational, which begins on April 3.



Sally King/Student Voice

Men’s basketball team falls to Whitewater
The UWRF men’s basketball teams lost to UW-Whitewater on Tuesday 86-81 in the WIAC playoffs.

Angst-ridden ‘God Loves Ugly’ transforms harsh realities into poetry



Andy Phelps

Earlier this year, Twin Cities natives, Atmosphere recently re-released their out of print 2002 album “God Loves Ugly,” which served as the duo’s spring-board from neighborhood heroes to nationally recognized artisans. If you missed it the first time around, then it is recommended that you become acquainted with Slug (Sean Daley) and Ant (Anthony Davis) at their creative zenith.

The fact that the best hip-hop record in recent memory is actually a re-release of an acclaimed seven-year-old album says a lot about the current state of the genre. In fact, can you even name a rap album released in the past six months? I didn’t think so.

Yes, I know that the demise of hip-hop has been cliché for some time now (Nas even dedicated an entire album to rail against the death of his profession). But with Kanye wailing indecipherable mush into an Auto-Tune device and someone who goes by the name of “Ron Browz” currently occupying a top spot on the charts, can we safely assume that we as an audience have become desensitized to the absence of meaningful vocal content?

No matter whether the answer is yes or no, fans will always be able to find solace in the rawness and familiarity of homegrown independent artists. Slug, the introspective, lyrical half of the duo, displays an ever-present humility as well as worldly knowledge: “I’ll play a show in Australia and

Europe, and there will be people who came to the show that don’t even know who the fuck I am,” he said in 2006. “What I’m saying is that I don’t think the kids in Australia take [hip-hop] for granted yet.”

“God Loves Ugly” is essentially a collection of broken, urban love chronicles and personal reflections. It begins in traditional Atmosphere fashion—with a stiff, steady beat. The first sounds to greet the ears of listeners are the chants of “you’re so ugly, you’re so ugly” by an assembly of young girls. The opening track, “Onemosphere” contains one of the most indelible lyrical gems of their entire discography: “My life is as trite as

your favorite rap record / And I’m possessed with that insight that enables me to laugh better.” Think about that one for a while.

Listeners also get a snapshot of Slug’s past flings in “Modern Man’s Hustle,” in which he remembers “The first time I met the Devil was at a Motel 6 / She left Hell to spend a weekend on Earth just for kicks.” The creative focal point of the record is the track “Godlovesugly,” which provides a frame of reference for several of the songs to follow. This track finds the MC struggling to come to terms with personal angst: “Appears more clear in its simplest form / Nobody sees tears when you’re standin’ in the storm / Abandonin’ the norm, and handlin’ the har-

vest / Measuring the worth by the depth of the hardship.” This release is painted head to toe with a thick layer of self-doubt and depression, and saturated with joyless gloom. Amidst the backdrop of Ant’s desolate beats, Slug throws down his emo monologues with such incredible cadence, he is able to rhyme about the harshest of life’s realities and make them sound as beautiful as a Shakespearean sonnet.

...fans will always be able to find solace in the rawness and familiarity of homegrown independent artists .”

Andy is an English major with a journalism minor. He enjoys gambling and Korean soap operas. He possesses a deeply-rooted dislike for Nickelback.



Student Voice cartoon



Cartoon by Jon Lyksett

Horror genre steadily weakens, reaches new low with ‘My Bloody Valentine 3-D’



José Cruz, Jr.

I am convinced that the horror genre is in a terrible slump. What looked like a promising resurgence in the early to mid-2000s that took elements from old-school horror (from “Shaun of the Dead” to “Grindhouse”), may have died shortly after. Any enjoyment or fright we used to feel while watching is no longer present. Cookie cutter horror like “My Bloody Valentine 3-D” is a prime example of what the genre has now become.

A remake of a 1981 Canadian slasher film, it begins 11 years prior to present day, when a mineshaft collapsed and trapped six miners. As help finally comes, five of the miners are found dead, having been killed with a pick ax. The remaining miner, Tom Harry Warden, went into a coma. A year later, he wakes from coma, and returns to the mine where a party is going on (why party in such a dangerous location?), and kills everyone, except Tom (Jensen Ackles), Axel (Kerr Smith) and Sarah (Jaime King). Fast forward 11 years, and Tom has returned to town at the same time murders are occurring. He is now under suspicion for the killings by Axel, who is now the

sheriff and married to Sarah. The rest of the movie is spent trying to find out who the killer is and creating tension with a love triangle between the three leads.

Some of the elements that make horror movies stand out from the rest are gore, suspense, scares and brutality. But “MBV” has none of these qualities. Like many horror flicks these days, you know when the kill is coming, because camera shots and music tell you.

The structure mainly works from kill to kill, with uninteresting melodramatic gaps in between. Kill, break for plot, repeat. You can pretty much anticipate each character’s demise, as their deaths depend almost entirely on their own stupid decisions. There is a significant amount of blood, but not much of the good stuff (organs, brains, etc.).

The 3-D aspect of “MBV” does not do much for the film. One would think it would bring about a whole new viewing experience, but there is no difference between the three-dimensional antics here and that of “Spy-Kids 3-D” (except the violence level, of course). The effect is all a gimmick to get asses in the seats. It only takes a killer one or two times to stick a pickax in your face before

the effect gets stale (the same goes for squirting blood as well). You also get treated to prolonged awkward shots of actors holding out objects to show how 3-D the movie is.

Speaking of the actors, performances range from atrocious to sub-par. Ackles has the emotional range of a carrot, while Smith tries to pull off the rebel act, but just makes the character come across as a loser and incompetent. Lead actress Jaime King is the only decent actor, who pulls off a believable character.

Maybe this would have been better if it actually gave a crap. “My Bloody Valentine 3-D” is a half-hearted slasher movie, neatly wrapped in 3-D digital package. Everyone involved

seems to take the whole thing so seriously, while the movie is pretty unintentionally laughable. Victims trip on God knows what while they’re being chased. People go to see what that strange noise is. Yeah, it’s that bad.



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.

‘Slumdog Millionaire’ earns Oscars, inspires audience



Nathan Piotrowski

With the awards season being over, the obvious movie that stands out from 2008 is Danny Boyle’s “Slumdog Millionaire.” The film takes a classic plotline of a boy going from rags to riches, but does it in a way that is not only new, but truly inspiring. The film’s structure, cast and incredible music all add to its greatness.

The film follows the story of Jamal Malik, a lowly tea carrier who had grown up in the slums of India, as he participates in the Indian version of “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?” Being a lowly person, it is highly expected that he will lose quickly. However, the audience sees through the course of his life, he has learned the answers to all the questions by persevering through the rotten hand he was dealt.

After his first night on the show, he is arrested and interrogated to find out how he cheated, but tells the officers his life story, in an effort to

prove his innocence, and also that he is not on the show to win money.

The film is presented in a non-linear fashion, jumping from one time to another very quickly throughout the film, and utilizes a great deal of editing techniques to make this work. Although the rapid progression of shots may at times seem confusing, the viewers should still be able to follow what is happening. Also, if this film were to be presented in a straight chronological order, the suspense and mystique of the film would be broken.

The cast of the film is filled mostly by people who are not big name actors in India, but they add to the effect of the film, making slum life seem completely believable.

Although there are no truly outstanding performances, all of the actors together make the film come to life.

Of note especially are the younger children who are featured for the first third of the movie that give realistic performances that don’t seem forced by the director.

The music of A.R. Rahman graces the aural sense of the audience

throughout the film. All of the music seems to be especially made to fit for the particular scene that it resides in, something that doesn’t seem to occur as much in Hollywood films. There is also a treat for American audiences as the song “Paper Planes” by M.I.A., who has recently grown in popularity in the states, is featured during one scene. Also, the catchy “Jai Ho” that is played during the end credits, which also has a traditional Bollywood dance sequence, will be stuck in the heads of most audience members.

It is no surprise to me that this film swept the Oscars. In a time where corporate backed features dominate the screens of the populace, it is good to see an independent film get the credit it deserves.

Altogether, it is not only a well put together film, but is also inspiring and uplifting, something that is rare when it comes to winning awards and a pleasant breath of fresh air for movie lovers. It can only be hoped that Hollywood takes notice and follows suit in the years to come.

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





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Voice Shorts

Theater department hosts new play

The UWRF Masquers Theater will put on the play “Twelve Dreams.” Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26-28 and March 5-7 in the Blanche Davis Theater in Kleinpell Fine Arts building. Tickets will be \$8 for adults and \$5 for students.

Student Reading Series presents writers

The Offices of the Provost, Grants and Research, and the Chalmer Davee Library is hosting a Celebration of Research, Scholarly and Creative Achievement. The event honors the intellectual and creative accomplishments of UW-River Falls faculty and staff. The celebration will take place at 3 p.m. March 12.

River Falls has rich history, promising future



John F. Kennedy visits River Falls in 1960 during his campaign to be elected president of the United States.



John F. Kennedy visits downtown River Falls in 1960.



Main Street in River Falls thrived during the 1870s.

Tim Stanislav
timothy.stanislav@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls students and citizens of River Falls reside, work and attend classes in a city with a vibrant history and progressive future.

River Falls was originally called Greenwood—the name was later changed due another town in Wisconsin that was also called Greenwood—and was a prosperous mill town. The city has transformed into a rapidly growing University center. Sustainable development has become a primary concern in River Falls and construction is currently underway on a new environmentally friendly city hall.

“The new town hall is L.E.E.D [leadership in energy and environmental design] certified. The building will eventually be run by solar panels,” River Falls Mayor Don Richards said.

History

Joel Foster was the first settler of River Falls. Foster was attracted by its beauty and commercial properties, according to an article written by Ursula Peterson, a local resident and historian.

“The town is interesting because it breaks a normal pattern of city design which arranges streets north to south,” River Falls Planning Director Mariano Lucero said. “Instead streets were arranged along the flow of the Kinni.”

Streets were arranged to follow the flow of the Kinnickinnic for economic efficiency, Lucero said.

The first flour mill was erected by C.B Cox in 1850.

Massive quantities of wheat were grown and milled into flour in River Falls. Between 1850 and 1880 the mills were modernized. River Falls was established as a nationally known milling center in the region, second only to Minneapolis.

In 1874 River Falls was established by the Wisconsin Board of Regents to house the University, called River Falls Normal School, because of heated lobbying by locals and area supporters.

Depletion of soil from excessive wheat production lead to the demise of flour production in River Falls. A combination of droughts and bug invasion from 1884-86 ultimately ended the industry in the city.

A volunteer fire service was established and made official by the city council in 1885. The establishment of the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 was timely, only 12 years after its inception the Normal School building was incinerated by a fire of unknown origin.

Again, the city was forced into defense of its school. Newspaper editors battled ferociously over where the school should be rebuilt.

The Normal student paper, called the Badger, wrote a compelling piece in defense of its school.

The denizens from that section look upon this region as a land of sand banks and pine stumps; a section whose inhabitants have not yet emerged from the semi civilized state and whose schools and other social endowments are in perfect keeping with the savage condition of the barbarians...we have more handsome girls to the square acre than these less fortunate southern aborigines have to the square mile (Normal Badger, 1897, p. 47-48.).

River Falls won the legislative battle in a hotly contested meeting of the Board of Regents and celebration ensued.

“Whistles blew. Bells rang. People shouted. The city band assembled on Main Street and began to play,” according to a UWRF Centennial History article written by James King and Walker Wyman.

The Normal School was rebuilt in the same location and classes began in September 1898.

In 1893, the Ringling Brothers circus came to town. The circus included a display of at least seven elephants, cages full of other wild animals and many horses, according to a historical article reprinted from the River Falls Journal.

After the afternoon performance, lightning struck the main tent pole twice and caused a gasoline reservoir to explode. Seven people were killed and at least 19 more were thought dead. The Ringling Brothers circus declined to release any information on its employees.

Years later, what were thought to be dinosaur bones were discovered in a field and brought to the University. The bones were found to be elephant bones from the Circus disaster, Alyson Jones, University archive manager, said.

River Falls continued to prosper throughout the 1900s but

its size remained relatively stagnant. The population boom began in the 1940s and took a major leap in the decade of 1950 to 1960. In 1940 the population was 2,806; in 1960 it was 4,857. The next major leap began in 1990 at which time the population was 10,610. The population as of 2007 is 13,930, according to a Pierce County Historical Association publication.

The current population boom is the largest in River Falls history.

Prohibition in the 1930s and 40s did not bring an end to

“A community with a past is a community with a future.”

Mariano Lucero,
River Falls
Planning Director

alcohol consumption. A local business called Tubs Medicine sold “medical cures” that contained high alcohol content to locals, Katie Chaffee, a previous mayor of River Falls and local historian said.

During prohibition, the Ku Klux Klan was active in the community.

“They held big rallies and targeted Catholics and Jews. The KKK chose from its individual members to go door-to-door and recruit from the community,” Chaffee said.

John F. Kennedy visited River Falls on his campaign tour of the Midwest before he was elected 35th president of the United States.

The 1960s and 70s were marked by student demonstrations. Students protested the Vietnam War on campus. There was a strong anti draft movement. People held coffee house discussions and in classes there was heated debate, Chaffee said.

There was an uproar in college campuses around America. “At UWRF a teacher burned a flag and it caused a big student demonstration. I went to check out what was going on. There was a huge crowd and I wasn’t sure if they were protesting for or against the burning of the flag,” Chaffee said.

In the 1980s and 90s, urban sprawl became a problem. There was an increase of people who bought fertile land on the outskirts of town but did not farm. As a result, the city tried various measures to curb this practice and encouraged conservation development by protecting fertile land.

“The measures were mostly unsuccessful and as a result widespread development has increased,” Chaffee said.

Progress

“The town of River Falls and UWRF are working together to encourage sustainable development,” Richards said. “The citizens of River Falls are above average.”

River Falls is the first Wisconsin city to receive an EPA green community award. The award was mostly attained through the efforts of the student community to encourage sustainable practices on campus and with the creation of the University Center, an icon of sustainability.

Lucero expressed his historical opinion of River Falls. “A community with a past is a community with a future.”

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