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STUDENT VOICE

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New biotechnology center opens at UW-River Falls

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UW-River Falls biology students, professors and doctors from across the region gathered in the University Center Ballroom on Monday for the symposium and opening event of the new Tissue and Cellular Innovation Center (TCIC).



Lyden

The idea for the center came about in 2001 when UWRF biology professor Timothy Lyden “set out to establish a robust research program involving undergraduate students,” according to the program for Monday’s events. Its mission is “to develop a nationally recognized and self-supporting Center of Excellence for research and training in tissue engineering, stem cell biology and biomedical technology” at the University.

In her speech, UWRF Interim Chancellor Connie Foster called the TCIC’s development and opening an “evolutionary step forward.” “The TCIC is a new paradigm that blends UWRF’s education missions with

the scholarship of research and science through internal and external collaborations,” she said. “This combination enhances the experiences of our students by seeking opportunities to experience laboratory work and other direct skills they will need in later educational and job placements.”

One of the unique features of the TCIC is the collaborative research efforts that it has formed with the Marshfield Clinic and other organizations. In addition, funding from the UWRF Foundation and WiSys has made these collaborative relationships with companies, labs and other UW campuses possible.

Dick Leinenkugel, Wisconsin secretary of commerce and the keynote speaker at the event, said that funding is important in the development of future research.

“Through collaboration, truly innovative economic solutions will be forthcoming to the state and also to the region,” he said. “If we work together, we can survive this economic downturn and come through stronger than ever.”

He stressed that the center is part of a movement to help combat economic troubles and bring more jobs to Wisconsin.

“[The TCIC] will help Wisconsin meet technological challenges...produce spin-off and start-up businesses...and support job growth in the area,” Leinenkugel said.

Leinenkugel also spoke of Wisconsin’s role as a both a national and international leader in the field of biotechnology.

“This center is just one of several emerging technology centers planned or already established in the UW System,” he said. “The TCIC is the second to open, following the UW-Platteville Nanotechnology Center for Collaborative Research and Development, which opened in December.”

He also noted that research centers are set to open at UW-Stout, UW-Stevens Point and UW-Whitewater this year. 1962 UWRF graduate Bob Nelson also spoke at the event, and said that the inception of the TCIC gives graduates from this University a large advantage over students who graduate from universities that do not have research centers.

“Students graduating from here now will get a jump start,” he said. “They are able to take part in the rediscovery of information and become discoverers themselves.”

This will, in turn, make UWRF



Renae Bergh/Student Voice
Wisconsin Secretary of Commerce Dick Leinenkugel speaks at the opening event of the new UWRF Tissue and Cellular Innovation Center Monday in the UC Ballroom.

graduates more competitive in the job market and more valuable to future employers, he said.

The final speaker at the event was Lyden, who, in addition to being a UWRF professor, is also the director of the TCIC. Like Leinenkugel and Foster, he also discussed the importance of collaboration, noting that it takes place in academic research, clinical research and research within the industry itself. Lyden also talked about the TCIC helping in both teaching and learning.

“Experimental teaching and learn-

ing is the best kind possible,” he said.

In addition to the speakers in the opening event, the symposium earlier in the morning featured presentations by TCIC collaborating fellows, future fellows and related partners, including Dr. Daniel Saltzman of the University of Minnesota, Dr. Ray Haselby of the Marshfield Clinic, Dr. Peter Dalhberg who introduced the new River Falls Cancer Center and Dr. Randy Lambrecht, the vice

See TCIC page 3

Falcons to play Gustavus in first round

The Falcons will play the nation’s hottest—and arguably the best—team in the first round of the NCAA tournament in St. Peter, Minn.

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After winning the NCHA O’Brien Cup, the UW-River Falls women’s hockey team was rewarded on Monday with a first round game against No. 1 ranked Gustavus Adolphus College in the NCAA tournament in St. Peter, Minn.

Gustavus won the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) playoff title for the sixth straight season against the University of St. Thomas (UST) 3-0 on March 4, in St. Peter, Minn. To go along with that, the Gusties have five consecutive regular season titles as well.

This season was also the sixth consecutive season UST lost to Gustavus in the MIAC finals.

The Gusties will bring a 26-game unbeaten streak to the NCAA tournament and a record of 22-1-4. Their only loss of the season was a 2-1 overtime defeat to Adrian College (Mich.) on Nov. 7, the first game of the season.

Adrian swept UWRF in a two game series at Hunt Arena on Jan. 17 and 18.

The Falcons lost to the Gusties 5-3 on Jan. 27, in what ended up being a close game after Gustavus dominated the first two periods.

“They took it to us for 75 percent of the game,” UWRF head coach Joe Cranston said. “We were able to come back in the third, but couldn’t get it done.”

Since then, Gustavus has locked it



Jens Gunelson/Submitted Photo
Members of the UWRF women’s hockey team celebrate March 1 after winning the O’Brien Cup and clinching a berth in the NCAA tournament.

down defensively and have not allowed more than one goal since. They have not allowed a single goal in its last seven games.

On March 4, UWRF went to watch the MIAC finals. Cranston said the Falcons can exploit Gustavus’ defense, despite them allowing .70 goals per game.

“They’re not that good defensively,” he said. “We have to get shots on net because they don’t allow too many, so we can get at them that way.”

This year, Gustavus does not have a goalie with collegiate experience, but its top two were the best in the MIAC in several major statistical categories.

Emily Klatt had an undefeated 12-0-0 record this season in her first year

between the pipes and Danielle Justice was 10-1-4. Both combined for a .70 goals against average.

Putting the puck in the net will not be the only problem the Falcons will face as Gustavus has a balanced, potent offense to compliment its defense.

In the MIAC final, the Gusties outshot UST 12-1 in the first period and have been notorious for strong starts all year, Cranston said.

“We have to weather the storm,” he said. “They will get a fore-check on you so it’s important that you match them and play well at the start.”

Sophomore Jessica Thompson said the first period will be important.

See Hockey page 3

Ride-share program now available for UWRF students

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Students may walk to class, to the University Center for a bite to eat and possibly to the Karges Center for an evening basketball game. Monday through Friday, students spend their hours slipping and sliding from point A to point B, but the weekend is here and it is time to go home. Students pack their car full with loads of books and laundry and hit the road, yet they are left with four empty seats and no one to sing background vocals to Beyonce. Times have changed, gas prices have increased and carpooling is in.

To help UWRF students, the Student Senate is currently promoting ZimRide, an application on Facebook that matches willing drivers with car-less students traveling to similar areas.

According to the ZimRide Web site, ZimRide is the leading provider of online social rideshare and carpool matching systems in North America. Over 300,000 people are currently using ZimRide from all areas in North America.

ZimRide was recently linked to the University Center Fan Page on Facebook to introduce the well-known program to UWRF students.

It’s a good way for students to save money and gas and it helps out those of us without cars,” Joe Hager, student, UC building manager and creator of the UC Facebook fan page, said.

According to Dustin Pfundheller, student and financial director of the Student Senate, ZimRide was also recently brought to the attention of UWRF students because of new concerns and issues.

“A lot of residents came to me complaining that they didn’t have rides,” Pfundheller said.

According to Pfundheller, ZimRide has been available for students on Facebook for approximately one year, but the idea to advertise and inform the student body was developed at the end of the fall semester.

“We will have table tents in the University Center since a lot of people eat there,” Pfundheller said. “We will also have posters in the residence halls.”

Students can also find information about ZimRide online. “We added a link onto the [University Center Facebook] fan page to try to kick start interest in it, making it safer and more legit,” Hager said.

Before ZimRide was introduced to UWRF, students resort-

See Ride-share page 3

VOICE SHORTS

Governor releases biennium budget

Governor Doyle has released the state budget for the 2009-11 biennium, calling for a \$174 million cut to the UW System. As part of that cut, UW-River Falls will be required to pay back to the state approximately \$5,740,486 over the course of the next two years. The Board of Regents said that an increase in tuition may marginally reduce that number.

UC hosts speech on Chinese novelist

Chinese language instructor Shannon Cannella at St. Olaf College will be giving a presentation on Chinese lyric novelist Shen Congwen. The presentation, “Aesthetic Autobiography: The Roots of Shen Congwen’s Lyrical Sensibility,” will explore how Congwen tried to capture rural life in southern China with his lyrical prose. It will take place 2 p.m. March 26 in the St. Croix Room in the University Center. Contact Zhiguo Yang atzhiguo.yang@uwrf.edu for more information.

Irish musician to visit UWRF

Irish musician Rodney Cordner will be visiting River Falls from March 21-25. Cordner has been a musician all of his life and has performed in person and on CD with Adrian Fox, a poet from Belfast, doing poetry and song to further the peace initiative in Northern Ireland. Rodney has worked with English professor Ken Olson and Olson’s students, who have been going to Ireland every J-Term for the last eight years. Cordner will perform 7 p.m. March 21 at Shooter’s Pub in River Falls, 5 p.m. March 22 at Paddy Ryan’s Pub in Hudson, 7:30 p.m. March 23 at the Kinni Lounge in River Falls and 8 p.m. March 24 at the Falcon’s Nest in the University Center. Contact Ken Olson at kenneth.o.olson@uwrf.edu for more information.

Student wins national scholarship

UW-River Falls psychology graduate student Brooke Fails has won one of only three National Minority Scholarships given by the National Association of School Psychologists for 2009. The scholarship recognizes student leadership, involvement and commitment to the field of school psychology.

Poor Benny plays for dance series

The local old-time string band, Poor Benny, returns to the River Falls’ Second Saturday dance series 7 p.m. March 21 in the gym of the River Falls Academy (the former Meyer Middle School) on West Maple Street in River Falls. A caller will lead participants in a variety of line and circle dances, reels, waltzes and square dances. No prior experience is necessary. Children can attend the opening family dance segment from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The barn dance is a joint project of River Falls Community Arts Base, River Falls Parks and Recreation and Whole Earth Grocery. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children 12 and under.

FEMA approves UWRF for additional emergency shelters and tornado sirens

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UW-River Falls has received approval to begin a natural disaster mitigation plan that will provide two storm shelters and a tornado siren on campus.

The plan was approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and will allow the University to apply for Federal grant money to cover future expenditures, Blake Fry, special assistant to the chancellor, said.

The cost for each storm shelter is \$125,000, but the cost of the tornado siren is currently unknown, Fry said.

The shelters will be placed at each of the two lab farms at UWRF. The siren will be constructed at the University’s dairy farm, the Mann Valley Farm.

“At this point, I do not anticipate students being required to cover any of these project related expenses,” Michael Stifter, director of facilities management, said.

FEMA’s approval was required to proceed with the application process, Fry said. A consultant from URS Corporation in Maryland was brought in to assess the risk of natural disasters on campus.

The plan was constructed and approved by the consultant, and the University plans to begin the grant application process around July 2009, Fry said.

“FEMA deemed the risk high enough to approve the plan based on a cost-benefit ratio,” Fry said. “Dollar amounts were assigned to human life and property. The information was analyzed before approval was made.”

The plan drafted by the consultant arranged risk based on highest priority. Tornadoes and windstorms were listed as most probable, while the lowest priority natural hazard was hail, according to the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan.

“The farms we have identified as areas that need attention, which is part of our hope with this FEMA grant,” Stifter said.

Wisconsin is ranked No. 32 out of 59 U.S. states and territories in natural disaster incidents reported. Of these incidents, the majority are tornadoes, floods and winter storms, according to a 2009 FEMA report.



Sally King / Student Voice

The emergency evacuation plans that are posted near the stairwells in most campus buildings. The sign shows where to go in case of fire or tornado emergencies.

The Federal grant will cover 75 percent of the expenses but 25 percent must come from the state of Wisconsin or the University, Fry said.

“Larger dollar amounts make it easier to request money from the state,” Fry said “it moves far more quickly.”

UWRF is the first University in the state to have a hazard mitigation plan approved.

“The money is there, we’re just the first to take advantage of it,” Fry said.

The approved plan not only addresses current issues but will allow the University to apply for future grants as needed, Fry said.

Indirectly, the plan will also help address other emergencies because the storm shelters may be used for other purposes and the siren can broadcast messages.

Stifter said he would like to see the University develop an Emergency Operations Center to help prevent future emergencies. He said much work has yet to be done.

Fry said he assumes that UWRF is of fairly low risk to natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina but he believes the plan is necessary.

Fry stated his opinion about UWRF’s susceptibility to natural disasters.

“What’s ironic is I would guess that we are less susceptible to natural disasters than other universities.”

Free event challenges students to healthier life

Naomi Vogel

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Every year, UW-River Falls Student Health Services holds the Wellness Challenge, an online program designed to help students on campus make healthy choices and receive prizes and points for their successes.

The Wellness Challenge is a free opportunity to gain a healthy lifestyle through activity, healthy hygiene, medical habits and nutrition. Students, faculty and staff are allowed to participate in the Wellness Challenge. It started Feb 6 and continued until March 7.

“It’s kind of fun because faculty and staff are in it too, and we have a lot of office teams at Student Health Services,” Student Health marketing intern Cortney Holum said.

Holum is participating in the Wellness Challenge by doing aerobic activity, playing basketball, drinking eight or more glasses of water a day, flossing daily, taking a multivitamin and eating a balanced amount of vegetables and fruits.

The Wellness Challenge is run through the University’s Web site. Participants submit points individually or in a team and receive points for physical activity, healthy nutrition and choices, and also attending cultural, spiritual or sporting events. Individual participants who earn more than 50 points, and teams with more than 200 points, are entered into a drawing for a prize.

The points are divided into three categories: daily, weekly and a onetime point. (for example, receiving a dental exam) The points run weekly, and at the start of each Monday the participant’s points are reset to zero. The points are tallied every Tuesday by Holum.

Holum said the most rewarding thing about the Wellness Challenge is not the prizes but “the feeling you get after you accomplish something.”

This year there were 170 participants, which is 50 more than last year, Holum said.

“We’re happy with the turnout,” Holum said.

Sisters Cayla and Lynsey Wencil both participated in the Wellness Challenge for the first time. Cayla participated by playing basketball, lifting weights and going to free yoga. Yoga is offered for free on Mondays in the University Center ballroom from 4 to 5 p. m. Cayla won an individual prize of a free rock climbing certificate, and her team won free smoothies at the University Center. Each participant can only win one of the weekly team prizes and one of the weekly individual prizes, but they are still eligible to win the grand prize at the end of the challenge.

“I think it’s going good,” Cayla said. “I have been more conscious about what I eat, and I have been taking vitamins and drinking water. I did work out before, but the Wellness Challenge has increased wanting a healthy lifestyle.”

Lynsey said she does the same things as her sister and also ice skates and walks.

“I was pretty healthy before,” Lynsey said. “But I would say it has increased; I am happier and healthier.”

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RIVER FALLS POLICE/UWRF POLICE DEPARTMENT

Editor's note: Information for this section is taken from River Falls Police and UW-River Falls Police Department incident reports.

February 27

- Mara M. Hausmann, 18, was arrested and cited for shoplifting at ShopKo at 1777 Paulson Rd.

March 5

- Devin D. Farlow, 18, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession with intent to deliver at Grimm Hall.

- John R. Drews, 19, was cited for underage possession of alcohol at Grimm Hall.



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TCIC: Following research center at UW-Platteville, tissue center at UWRF second of its kind to open among UW System schools

from page 1

president for research and academic relations at Aurora Health Care who also spoke of the importance of research collaboration.

Posters were on display in the Ballroom throughout the day's events for participants and visitors to view. The day wrapped up with a meeting of the TCIC collaborating fellows to focus on planning for future projects and interactions that the center will take part in.

All of the presenters at the event were quick to point out how prestigious the TCIC is to the UWRF campus community, the City of River Falls and the state of Wisconsin. The center will have significant economic and research-based impacts on the biomedical and biotechnology fields in the region, according to the program.

"The center is proof that Wisconsin is moving strongly ahead in biotechnology and it is a key component to our overall effort in this area," Leinenkugel said. "Here in Wisconsin we're also recognizing the potential to become an international stem cell center. We own the technology, we own the research capabilities and we own the brainpower."

Additional reporting for this article was done by Joy Stanton.



Renae Bergh/Student Voice

Above: Participants and guests view posters on display and await speeches at the opening event for the UW-River Falls Tissue and Cellular Innovation Center (TCIC) Monday in the University Center Ballroom. Right: UWRF Interim Chancellor Connie Foster addresses the crowd at the opening event. Foster called the development of the TCIC an "evolutionary step forward." In addition to Foster's speech, Wisconsin Secretary of Commerce Dick Leinenkugel gave the keynote address, and UWRF biology professor and TCIC Director Tim Lyden also spoke.



Ride-share: ZimRide, Ride Board help students find carpool options

from page 1

ed to alternative methods.

UWRF Ride Board is a current Facebook group open to UWRF students that allows students who find it difficult to find rides, as well as students who have open seats, to communicate through wall postings.

"I had created the group because I was having a hard time finding people to take me home on weekends," Holly Heffernon, student at UW-Green Bay and creator of UWRF Ride Board, said. "I decided to create a group on Facebook to hopefully help others that were facing the same situation."

ZimRide and UWRF Ride Board are both available for students, yet ZimRide offers students to communicate within other schools outside the River Falls area.

"One big difference is ZimRide does it for you, students will find. It is much more effective," Pfundheller said. "It is also really beneficial because it involves other people at other campuses."

A UWRF student also sees the great possibilities of ZimRide.

"I think that it would be very beneficial. I know even with the [UWRF Ride Board] group, I don't always find someone who needs a ride home," Danielle Detert, student and group member of UWRF Ride Board Facebook group, said. "But with an application for it, I think more people would know about it and it would help more people carpool."

In addition to UWRF, other Wisconsin Schools have solved the issue concerning students inability to get a ride home safe. According to UW-Stevens Point's newspaper, The Pointer, UWSP students have created a Facebook ride share group with over 800 members and it is still growing.

According to the UW-Eau Claire Web site, UWEC has incorporated the online ride board for their students as well. The online ride board was first open to students in 2002.

Other campuses within larger populated towns have chosen to use alternative methods.

According to the UW-La Crosse Web site, UWL has incorporated a busing program that allows students to ride local buses free of charge. The University of Minnesota and UW-Madison also have bus systems that allow students to travel home safely.

Whether riding a bus or carpooling with a student, the concern for students' safety is an issue. At the Feb. 17 Student Senate meeting, students riding with strangers was discussed and the opinions varied.

"Students are adults and if they feel safe, they may use it. It is there for them," Pfundheller said. "There is going to be a risk with anything you do; there is always a risk."

Hockey: Powerful Gustavus offense will prove challenging to Falcons in first round match-up

from page 1

"Have to be ready in the first [period]," she said. "St. Thomas was not ready and Gustavus got to them early."

The Gusties are led by Melissa Mackley, who has 27 points this season. Her teammate Allie Schwab was the team leader in goals with 14, followed by Jessica Doig with 13.

With the balanced offense, similar to what UWRF has, Thompson said the first round game will be interesting to watch as both coaches match lines.

"It should be a great game to see with the line matchups," she said. "Joe [Cranston] will be confident with anyone he puts on the ice and we all know that."

UWRF has prepared for Gustavus since the O'Brien Cup victory. Cranston said before the bracket came out that he thought a first round game against the Gusties was a lock.

"Something very weird out east would have to happen," he said. "The NCAA doesn't like to fly teams that often for the first round game."

The Falcons have been practicing on occupying as much ice as possible to shut down the powerful Gustavus offense.

"We've been working on closing the lanes on them," Cranston said. "Teams have to take away space from a team like that."

Since the loss to the Gusties on Jan. 27, the Falcons have a 10-game unbeaten streak of their own. During that stretch they have averaged 5.3 goals a game and have scored five or more goals in seven of the 10 games.

In 2003, the last season UWRF was in the NCAA tournament, it advanced to the Frozen Four in 2003 after a 5-1 win against UST in the first round. The Falcons lost to the eventual national champions



Sally King/Student Voice

The bracket for the 2009 NCAA Div. III women's hockey tournament.

that year in the semifinals to Elmira College (N.Y.) by a score of 2-1.

For the Gusties, conference success has not led to a lot of national glory. The best national finish they have had was third place in 2002.

In 2004 Gustavus lost to UW-Stevens Point, of the NCHA, in double-overtime in the first round. Stevens Point went to the championship game, but lost to Elmira, which won the first two national titles in Div. III women's hockey.

Plattsburgh State (N.Y.) is the two-time defending NCAA champions and are in the tournament again this year.

The tournament bracket is set, and the Falcons take on the Gustavus Adolphus College Gusties Saturday at 2 p.m.

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Saturday: Tracey Pollock

EDITORIAL

Columns reflective of writers, not the Voice

Last week, the Student Voice ran two controversial columns: Aaron Billingsley’s piece lambasting Student Senate and Ken Weigend’s column on improper crosswalk use both received angry letters to the editor. Credibility of the Voice has since been raised, both from students and Senators. The Student Voice Editorial Board would like to defend the use of these two pieces.

The content contained on the Viewpoints pages in the newspaper are opinion pieces that reflect purely the view of the writer. Columns have a picture accompanying them to make a visual statement that everything expressed in the writing is coming strictly from that author.

The text in the masthead found on page four clearly stated that “The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of the newspaper’s advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.”

This means that the Student Voice takes no stance on the issues raised. The Student Voice has a policy of not editing or censoring submitted material except for space issues or for libel concerns. The Student Voice also does not have the manpower or the resources to employ an extensive fact-checking team. Because of this, columnists are expected to submit material that is free of errors. When the Student Voice receives a column, it is assumed that the writer did their job.

In Billingsley’s Senate column, Billingsley consulted the official Senate minutes from previous meetings to gather his information. If there was an error in fact, then that error came from the Senate minutes and not from the columnist research. Billingsley said that his motivation behind writing the column was to mirror a growing dissonance he has heard from students regarding the Senate, and to elicit a reaction from Senate that would cause them to promote their meetings more.

According to Weigend, his crosswalk column was intended to be interpreted as dark humor aimed at a student populace gripped by apathy. He used harsh language in order to shock readers in an increasingly desensitized atmosphere. The column was aimed at those individuals who routinely cut off traffic and fail to even acknowledge the presence of cars on the road, not towards those who utilize the crosswalks in safe and legal ways.

Both columns ran in their unadulterated form as they reflected solely the views of the writers, not the Voice.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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Columnist falls short on facts

As a UWRF Student Senator, I would like to comment in regards to Aaron Billingsley’s column in the March 6 edition of the Student Voice.

Apparently, Billingsley doesn’t have his facts straight when it comes to the purpose [of the] Student Senate, also he needs to get his figures straight when it comes to finances.

The business cards only came to \$38, far short of the maximum \$200 allotted. Also, the \$890 iclicker motion has not, and most likely will not be passed. It was a mere suggestion, not intended to be put into effect anytime in any near future.

As for KFA? Student Senate has no real control over the way the buildings are managed. in fact, they are owned and managed by the state and UW System. Also, Rodli needs to continue to be heated so the pipes do not freeze and burst; the utility bill for the entire building last semester came out to less than an apartment would be—about \$50 total. It was the bare minimum necessary to keep the building in working condition for the future.

Billingsley seems to contradict himself by saying we don’t do anything for the students when the “\$30,000 surplus” we are trying to get rid of is a motion being looked into for student organizations in need of new capital purchases. They were specifically mentioned in one of our meetings (sorry the minutes have not been posted yet, but if you would like to come into the Senate office, we can provide you with a copy).

If Aaron Billingsley feels he is not included on any of these issues, he should attend any of these open meetings. In fact, anyone is allowed to attend any of the open meetings, in which many people have voiced their opinions. Another option would be to run for Student Senate himself.

Katie Rose,
Student Senator

Attacks on Senate uncalled for

I’ll agree that some of the claims made in the column “Student Senate lacks reliability, students’ voices still unheard” were warranted, but the blatant negativity and the downright malicious attacks on certain Senators was uncalled for. Some of the claims made were opinions that might be taken by some people as actual fact.

For instance, the claim that Student Senate isn’t trying to get anything done with David Rodli Hall is unfounded, we’ve been arguing with administration for months trying to put that building to use for the students. As a previous Student Senator for two-and-a-half years and a director for one-and-a-half years on Senate, I’ve become familiar with the work it takes to be a senator.

Currently I work fulltime in Madison for United Council of UW Students, Wisconsin’s Statewide Student Governing body. I have the opportunity to work with all UW System Student Governing Bodies and I can honestly say UWRF is no more ineffective or effective than most of the other campuses governing bodies!

Schools like Madison, Stevens Point or Parkside who do seem to be effective

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

at getting student and admin-istrations attention can only do so when students hold them accountable and vote! You can’t have an effective student governing body without accountability. So stop complaining to your friends, stop being apathetic, and start complaining directly to the Student Senate. They can’t help but listen to you if you get up in their faces and demand change!

Nikki “Snoop” Shonoiki,
former student

Senate situation explained in detail

As a member of Student Senate, I take great offense to the column written by Aaron Billingsley in the March 6, 2009, issue. However, the lack of updates to the Web site and untimely posting of minutes and agendas is unacceptable. This is something that we will work to rectify. However, Billingsley failed to write that both the motion for the iclickers and the proposed \$30,000 to be put forth to help orgs with costs are both INTRODUCTION ONLY at this point; we have only begun to discuss them.

What should also be noted is that part of the \$30,000 that Senate is trying to allocate to a committee for student org expenses was partially brought forth due to the outdated computers that this newspaper desperately needs replaced. Senate is not trying to find irrelevant things to spend money on.

I believe that spending has to be done wisely and any motion asking for large amounts of money should be dissected. However, personal attacks are unjustified. We as Senators DO NOT actively try to avoid receiving input as Billingsley implies. Things are not as black and white as he suggests.

Funding for the new HHP building is something that our campus desperately needs. It is not the only building that needs updating, but the funds have to be gathered before any work can be done. The new University Center wasn’t something that happened overnight because some student journalist wrote a column in the school paper demanding it. It took formation of committees, student and administrative input.

As a governing body, we take student input seriously and encourage everyone, especially Billingsley, to attend one of our meetings once in a while. If that would have been the case, he would have noticed that the motion for the \$30,000 was amended significantly, where the motion does not have a dollar amount attached to it any longer. He would have also seen that President Bendix pointed out that a major factor for this motion was to get student orgs such as the Voice the computers that they are in dire need of. He would have also learned that the Wisconsin legislature is considering an auxiliary of \$25 million to aid students with tuition. Of that \$25 million, approximately \$2.2 million would be taken from this campus, which is about \$300.00 per UWRF student. This is money that belongs to students and would otherwise be used for projects such as the new HHP building. This is the third raid of the fund that has happened in the last 12 years.

There are also proposed revisions to UW administrative code chapter 17 and 18 that deeply threaten students’ rights and gives the

UW System authority to essentially punish students for municipal offenses committed OFF CAMPUS such as noise violations and public urination. Where was all that is Billingsley’s column?

Lizeht De La Torre,
Student Senate

Students’ voices able to be heard

In response to the column regarding Student Senate, I wish to highlight all the good that Senate has done this year.

Senate has acted on many issues important to the students of this University, being behind the most successful voter registration drive in the history of this university. It is leading the fight against the UW System revision of Chapter 17. Members of Senate more recently have fought for student rights within the University, and recently guaranteed an ad hoc committee for the replacement of the Leadership Development and Programming Board.

Senate has been and always will be open to student input. As a student government body, it is our supreme purpose to hear all the students and work to protect their rights and their money. We hold public meetings every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Willow River Room in the University Center, where any public member can speak.

We hold regular subcommittee meetings, with their times and locations posted in advance, and like our senate meetings, all students are welcome. Our Senate office is almost always occupied by at least one Senator and can easily be found in the UC Involvement Center.

Finally, if a student has a complaint, they can e-mail me at sgasaas@uwrf.edu, or our new “Whine Line” at uwrfwhineline@gmail.com.

Patrick Okan,
Student Senate

Desperate need for new HHP building

In response to Aaron Billingsley’s column,I had a problem with his suggestion to cease construction of a new Health and Human Performances building to build a new KFA instead.

I am a health and human performance major, and we NEED a new building. Half the time you cannot even hear lectures because the heaters are so loud and it is always either too hot or too cold. The Emogene Nelson building is by far the worst for classes.

Regarding the gym, UW-River Falls has the highest rate of injury for sports using that gym floor. The ceilings are too low and the floor is rock hard. I think that the HHP building is way worse to have class in than KFA. Granted I am not in the KFA building all of the time, I know Karges is a horrible facility. It is vital for upcoming students to have a new building.

Rebecca Troop,
student

Personal laptop purchase beneficial

I read with great interest the article “Wireless system may be too small” and find it troubling that the Faculty Senate rejected the Technology Council's resolution to make the campus

more accommodating to the growing use of wireless devices and Wi-Fi. The Student Voice did not elaborate on the Faculty Senate's reasons for rejecting, so I will somewhat suspend judgment and hope that the Faculty Senate will be soon forthcoming with more information.

As Mary-Alice Muraski has correctly stated, it is not an efficient use of University resources to maintain computer labs with fixed workstations (desktop computers). The support costs are high, the usage benefit relatively low in proportion to those costs. I have personally studied the computer labs' usage data, and it supports Ms. Muraski's claim.

Computer lab equipment is not only expensive but also has the unfortunate characteristic of rapid depreciation of value. Even the most cutting-edge computer equipment rapidly becomes obsolete and worthless. Budgetary constraints require that the University retain such obsolete equipment until it is fully depreciated in value. Consequently, much of the lab equipment becomes significantly less useful well before it is replaced.

Compounding this problem is the cost for ITS to continue to support obsolete equipment. If you have ever personally considered paying to repair an old computer then you will understand this dilemma. If a repair is not covered under warranty, it's often preferable to just purchase a new unit. However, such may not be feasible within the regulatory structure of the available budget.

Many students already bring their own personal computer to class. This is in fact the most rational solution. Unfortunately, these students are currently paying twice over—both for the lab computers and for the personal computer that they actually use. Clearly, they find the benefit to exceed the extra cost. However, it does not follow that it is truly justifiable for the University to double-charge them for something they don't want or need.

The University has committed itself to sustainable practices. Obsolete computer equipment contains toxic waste which costs money to properly dispose. In contrast, students who use their own computer will take it with them when they leave. The student keeps her data, and the University doesn't incur disposal costs. The problem of depreciation is largely solved because the student, not the University, takes ownership of it. The incoming freshmen can purchase a state-of-the-art computer for themselves. Support costs are off-loaded to the computer manufacturer, where they belong.

It would be a far better use of the segregated Technology Fee to provide students with a fixed subsidy voucher toward the purchase of the computer of their choice. The University could perhaps negotiate with manufacturers a special price for a suggested model which would fit the needs of those students unsure about their preferences. The University could make available the requisite course software through Textbook Services or ITS. Students would benefit from greater flexibility and customization of their computing experience. Both the University and students would benefit from lower costs.

Brent Hopkins,
student



By Jon Lyksett

Center of the universe located on campus

So there I was, kicking ass like always when I started to feel the warmth of self-importance wash over my body.

Suddenly it hit me: I am the center of the universe. As I became aware of this I felt the weight of all objects in our solar system and beyond tugging away at my shoulders. I needed more concrete evidence, so I embarked on a three-minute journey to the physics department in Centennial Science Hall.

The moon, though hanging in the sky somewhere over China, shifted with me as I sprinted across the snow spattered lawns between the University Center, the Kleinpell Fine Arts building and CSH.

After booking like a bat out of hell, I made it to the physics department and promptly realized that no professors were drifting the halls because class was still in session. After a brief moment of hesitation I decided that it didn't matter because I was probably the most important person in all the history of the world.

I walked into a 100 level astronomy class, halted the lecture by merely waving one hand over my forehead, and thus commanding the 150+ class' attention. My pupils ripped through the professor of science as if an Air Force fighter jet. I whispered three words, but they seemed to scream:

"Is it true?"

The professor responded with "yes, Brad. You are the physical center of the universe."



Brad Brookins

The class erupted in a hail of applause as he then tried to explain the science behind it, but I didn't listen. It didn't matter. This is awesome. I am officially the coolest person I know, which is contradicting, because I thought that even before I became fully aware of it. I rule. I giggled to myself like a giddy schoolboy as I called my friends to tell them the good news.

My good friend and former fellow student Dustin Leslie agreed. "It's totally true, Brad—you are the best. I know because I'm the second best, and the second best knows almost as much as you," he told me. That is a BS-less story.

It all makes sense, too, because I never make mistakes and I know everything. I'm so good at arguing that my high school debate team turned me away because I kept on stealing all the wins—even when we went up against the Ghost of Einstein and the all knowing computer thing from "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy."

"Because I said so" was my winning statement every time.

I am a Jack-of-all-Trades by nature and choice. I choose to know more than everything and choose to invent things that are physically impossible to make, like a rubber-band that shoots pellets of air—non-lethal, but it'll knock ya down!

I counted to infinity four times in an hour once. Then I won the Nobel Peace Prize for attaining the highest number of Pulitzer Prizes for the "best screenplay" category—a category that hadn't even existed until I showed up to the ceremony without invitation. I wrote six future Academy Award winning scripts in an hour that were read, judged and green-lit at the Pulitzer Prize ceremony that day. This is how cool I am.

I understand that I am the greatest—the world's greatest, history's greatest and future's greatest. Nobody can beat me at anything unless I say so, and because of this I act normal most of the time because I don't want people to dislike me and my awesomeness. I choose not to live a lavish life in my eight story mansion, which is located on the rolling, peripheral hills of River Falls off Highway 35. No.

I have the best ideas in the world. Think about it: How many public safety reports have there been these past few weeks? It's because of my proactive involvement about the second offenders that turned this wet-campus into a rule following, intelligent institution. YES.

Anyway. I have so much ruling to do. People are going to be lined up outside my apartment wanting autographs soon, and I will have to tend to that. Until next time, have a super fantastic spring break, and I hope to see you all in two weeks!

Brad is majoring in digital film & television.

More to extremism than harsh labels

Extremism is a problem that exists all over the world. It can take many different forms, and in most of them it is illogical and dangerous.

There are pro-life extremists who attack doctors or bomb abortion clinics; other religious extremists who use God's name to justify violence, terrorism and their own ambitions to control society; military extremists who rehash imperialistic ideas and limit their people's freedom with the excuse of self-defense or national security. And of course we have political extremists, who try to convince the public to share in their exaggerated fantasy world by overstating (or simply making up) the latest controversy or crisis.

As easy as it would be to take up the rest of my space with random complaints and stories about this stuff, I wanted to go deeper. I've looked for a meaning behind it all, and whether you think I'm right or wrong, at least I can say I tried.

What do we think of when we hear the word "extremist?" Some of us might think of different groups we've opposed in the past and present—the Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan or religious fanatics like the ones responsible for 9/11.

Or on the other hand, maybe we think of a person—an irrational and closed-minded person, so insecure that he/she seems to have no life beyond an ideology. Maybe we think of people who try force their beliefs on us. And that's where the meaning is. Their character and their actions are what really make them extremists, not their particular philosophy or group.

What if there's nothing inherently awful about any system of values? Not Christianity, atheism, Scientology, socialism, anarchism or even Satanism? After all, those are just different sets of ideas. They're stationary mental constructs; you can take them or leave them. No matter how unappealing some of these systems might sound, you can edit, adjust and shape them to

fit yourself. You can live by them and still be a happy, healthy person.

I think the real problems arise when you get things backwards—completely editing and shaping yourself, to fit the philosophy. That can be a dangerous trap. Fall too far in, and you might take your system across the line of common sense and other people's rights. Your ideas can harden into beliefs, and then into rigid imperatives. You might start to believe that your ends justify your means. Your solutions can begin to sound even worse than the problems you're trying to solve.

That is what makes you an extremist, and it can happen to anyone.

So ultimately, what is the point of this column? Not that we should be afraid to have our own values or convictions—that in itself is fine. It's built into our nature. The real lesson is the old, corny adage: "be yourself," and don't let your beliefs overpower you. We all have to stand for something, but we don't have to bend over backwards for it.

Maybe it can help if we just redefine ourselves. You have an identity, and you deserve better than the labels



Nathan Sparks

we use in everyday life. There is a difference between your ideals and your true self. So don't be just a Christian—be a man who believes in God. Don't be a conservative—be a woman who values small government and states' rights. Be more than a feminist—be a person who believes in equal rights for women.

These distinctions may not seem important on the surface—but by the logic I used earlier, there can be a world of difference between them. Beliefs are important, but they are not a substitute for awareness. If we can appreciate the world outside ourselves and our own convictions, maybe we'll remember not to take those convictions too seriously.

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

Presidential life displayed by media

It's been a while since the U.S. has had a president who has received as much star attention as Barack Obama. America has seen an abundance of media coverage of the Obama family, as if they have become rock stars instead of the presidential family. We, the people, have failed to respond to what should be labeled as newsworthy. Instead, we have become too fixated on the privacy of our new president's life and all that it entails. Just get over it! He won, he's our black president!

We are forgetting what really matters: the facts, and what we as a nation are going to do to turn this country around! I'm not an Obama hater—I'm a concerned citizen. We all are at fault in this situation.

People are watching entertainment news programs that promote and advertise what kind of dog the president is interested in buying for his daughters—who by the way will have no affect on any of us—the brands of clothing that the Obama family is wearing and where they like to go shopping.

The problem is that we are watching those shows; we are feeding the monster that is the mega media conglomerates.

Night after night, entertainment news shows on all mega networks are covering what is fashionable. It used to be what the celebrities would wear and now it's what Obama wears ...? When was the last time you sincerely cared about what kind of dog our president



Gary Klaput

plans on buying or what kind of clothes he wears?

The solution is not escape! The people need to come together and focus on the problems America is facing: the economy, domestic issues such as new taxation policies, a national healthcare program, a failing automobile industry and a people who need to come together as a whole to solve these problems and put their differences aside.

I'm no socialist, but I think people can check their egos at the door and help solve what America faces today and what this country will face over the next four years.

The people must do their part and decide what is really important. While we may want to know what our president is doing all of the time, he has every right to his own privacy and thus should be given that.

While doing this we have to decide what really matters. What our elected officials are doing outside of their job, unless it is affecting their job, shouldn't be our concern.

Barack, as far as we know, isn't Bill Clinton. So the next time you watch an entertainment news show, think about what you really want to know: whether or not you have a chance of getting any kind of job when you graduate or what kind of cell phone that Barack Obama has in his suit coat pocket.

Gary is a political science major.

Conservatism rapidly increases

For far too long I have been hearing the statement "conservatism is dead." This premature ejaculation of rhetoric that would put a prepubescent boy to shame is in the papers, on the Internet and is paraded around by most ostentatious and intemperate left-wing puppeteers.

I've heard it regurgitated so frequently since the presidential election that when I rise in the morning I expect to see it posted in the obituary columns adjacent to Al Gore's career.

However, these eulogies will never come forth as they are both destined to live on; conservatism is indissoluble, and Al Gore will undoubtedly exploit some other issue in hopes to regain his mediocre-stardom status.

Case in point, two weekends ago, I had the great pleasure of attending the 2009 Conservative Public Action Conference in Washington D.C.

It is there where I saw first hand, that conservatism is far from dead and to my surprise, that the ironic, and mythical "conservative college student," does exist.

For three days, I watched as fellow conservatives, old and young, came together and discussed the plagues of our nation, our parties and from there, conversed on how to venture forward.

Also, while at CPAC, I was witness to



Spencer Gansluckner

fervid speeches by Niger Innis, Rush Limbaugh, Tucker Carlson and the directors of "Not Evil Just Wrong," that had crowds infinitely at attention, and could have paralleled the hysteria that would ensue if a lock of hair from Barack Obama was sold on eBay.

If CPAC 2009 taught me anything it is that there is a conservative tsunami in the works that is growing exponentially greater as government becomes vaster, deficits become larger and when the fundamental values our country was based on are being tossed to the wind and replaced with a welfare state.

I see it as a tsunami fueled by a generation of youth that is emboldened and optimistic for a brighter future, similar to the youth that helped catapult Barack Obama into the presidency.

Yet these youth will not be catapulting a mere man, but a way of life that will give everyone the opportunity at the American dream and through this dream they will live a life that cannot be purchased with any amount of "change" the Barack Obama administration could give you, or should I say, borrow from someone else and give you.

Spencer is majoring in business administration with an emphasis in finance. In his free time he enjoys politics, the outdoors and being involved in the Student Senate.

Falcons split against MIAC teams

Joe Engelhardt
joseph.engelhardt@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls softball team has a 2-2 record to begin the season, after it won two games against Augsburg College (Minn.), but then lost two games to the University of St. Thomas (Minn.), both of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. All the games were held at the Rosemount Dome last week.

Even though the record doesn't show it, Head Coach Jody Gabriel said she was enthused by what she saw.

"I was impressed with our hitting, especially our power," Gabriel said.

The Falcons hit six home runs during the four game span, three of them by senior shortstop Mindy Rudiger, which included two in the season opener against Augsburg.

The Falcons started their scoring early in their opener, putting three runs on the board in the second inning. Back-to-back singles by Patty Olson and Rose Tusa put the Falcons with runners at first and second with only one out. After a sacrifice, Rudiger hit her first home run of the game, putting the Falcons up 3-0. Augsburg tied up the score in the bottom of the third, with three runs of their own, thanks in part to two Falcon errors.

With the score tied 3-3, Rudiger put the Falcons up for good with her second home run of the game, a solo home run in the top of the fourth.

The Falcons scored two more runs in the fifth and sixth, which gave them an 8-3 win.

In game two of the doubleheader, Augsburg jumped out to a 4-0 lead, scoring one in the first and three in the third, two of those runs on a home run by Kylee Persing. The Falcons were able to cut the lead in half in the bottom of the fourth, thanks to a two-run home run by sophomore Dana Book. A five-run outburst in the bottom of the fifth gave the Falcons the lead for good. Olson started with a single, then Tusa reached on an error. After Rachel Mathias sacrificed them to second and third, Rudiger doubled to left center, scoring both runners. Lundgren kept the inning going with a single, followed by a three run home run by freshman Jamie Klein, her first of the year. The Falcons won game two 10-4.

On March 5, the Falcons played a doubleheader with St. Thomas.

In game one, a five-run third inning by St. Thomas helped lead it to victory. The Falcons pitchers ended up walking four batters in the inning, capped off by a three run double by catcher Steph Moores.

In game two, the Falcons were held scoreless until the sixth, when they tied the game up at one on an RBI double by Klein. With the score tied 1-1 heading into the bottom of the sixth, St. Thomas took the lead right back with a three-run home run by Moores. The Tommies won the game 4-1.

Before the games against St. Thomas, Gabriel talked about leadership this season.

"Lack of college experience may be a problem this year, so we are definitely looking for leadership from our seniors," Gabriel said.

Even though catcher Krista Friberg is not a senior she is showing leadership skills because of her position.

"We have eleven freshmen this year, so as a catcher, it is my job to control and settle down the defense," Friberg said.

One freshmen, Jamie Klein, splits time between pitching and third base. She said that fitting in was difficult to begin with, but because the team chemistry is so good, everyone gets along. She also said she was not worried about playing time.

"At most schools, freshmen don't play much," Klein said. "That won't be the case here though, because we have so many freshmen."

For that reason, Gabriel has to change up her practices a little bit.

"I spend a little bit more time teaching and directing the team how to play together well," Gabriel said.

Klein said that this early in the season, practices don't focus on any one specific area of the game.

"Every practice is different, we work on multiple aspects of the game at each practice, and then we try and put it all together for the games," Klein said.

The Falcons will be in Florida for spring break this year, playing 10 games against teams from around



Renae Bergh/Student Voice
Catcher Krista Friberg and Dana Book of the UWRF softball team prepare for their team's games in Florida next week.

the country.

Even though WIAC play doesn't begin for another month, the team is already looking for ways to improve on their 8-8 record in WIAC play from last year.

Klein said that improvement will not be easy, as the WIAC is one of the toughest conferences.

"Improvement is going to be tough, but we have a lot of talent on the team," Klein said.

"We just need to focus on the fundamentals, and play our game," Friberg added.

All the players' goals may be different, but they all share the same team goal, getting a banner, which signifies postseason play.

"Our team goal for this year is to get a banner hung from the rafters," Gabriel said.

The Falcons first game in Florida will be March 15 vs. Illinois Wesleyan. Their first home games of the season is on April 4 and 5 against UW-Whitewater and UW-Oshkosh.

'Super Fans' loyal to women's hockey team

The "Hunting Grounds" student section at Hunt Arena for the UW-River Falls women's hockey games did not draw as well as men's games this year, but it did not mean they were quiet.

Loud and boisterous, the "Super Fans," as one poster read, made for an entertaining season, which has ended up being a special one for the Falcons, who will play No. 1 Gustavus Adolphus College on March 14 in the first round of the NCAA tournament.



Justin Magill

The 20-30 students who showed up to the women's games came prepared with painted faces, dyed hair, sleeveless shirts, hockey jerseys and waving makeshift flags to make their presence known.

They are visually entertaining, but what makes one laugh are the chants they came up with this season.

It is hard not to give credit to the creativity of the "Super Fans," chants. They are not rude or terribly harassing, but funny, creative and entertaining.

When an opposing player gets a penalty,

the more energetic "Super Fans," will run across the bleachers near the opposition's penalty box and give the player some friendly harassment by chanting "You-can't-do-that," clap, clap, clap, clap, clap.

Or how about when the referee makes what the "Super Fans" determine is a bad call on the Falcons. They let the ref know by chanting "Nuts and bolts, nuts and bolts, we got screwed."

At first you might scratch your head, but then take into consideration how creative it really is and once again one cannot help but laugh.

Along with their chants, the "Super Fans," are free entertainment during intermissions.

They draw attention just by simply walking to the bathroom or concession stands by talking with the players' parents, giving one another piggy-back rides or dancing. The "Super Fans," are truly worth the price of admission.

What is more important though is that they are there. These students were at every home game this season from start to finish.

They did not leave early if the game was a blowout, nor did they walk out when it was almost certain the Falcons were going to lose.

The wild, loud maniacs that moderately filled the student section are what true fans are all about.

Most sports fans will most likely say that



Jens Gunelson/Submitted Photo
The "Super Fans" celebrate after UWRF won the O'Brien Cup final at Hunt Arena.

women's hockey is not nearly as exciting as the men's game. For the "Super Fans," it does not matter.

They were there every Friday, Saturday and Sunday doing what they did best and that was to support their favorite hockey team—the only UWRF athletic team that made something happen this year.

If it was not for the women's hockey team this season, this winter would have been a lot more miserable.

For these proud "Super Fans," it is not about the attention. It is about supporting

their team, their friends and the best team in the NCHA.

So for you "Super Fans," be proud of what you did this season.

You were an important part of the success of this year's Falcon hockey team.

Being able to go on the ice after the O'Brien Cup championship and celebrate with the team showed how much Falcons appreciated your support.

One of the biggest games in the school's history is on March 14. Hopefully the 'Super Fans,' will make their presence known.

Pro wrestling a soap opera for men

I'm going to make a bold declaration here. To understand where I'm at, you should know where I've been. When I was a little kid, I had a grandpa who taught me a lot of what I know today. One day, while he was watching me, he sat me down in front of a TV on a Sunday morning. I saw many people that I see as legends today. As I got older, I continued to rent these certain events when I went to the video store and continued to love them. I still watch many of these events today and am thoroughly entertained by them. So what am I talking about? I am a fan of professional wrestling and I don't care what you think about it.

Usually, when I drop that bomb on anyone, they immediately look at me in disgust and ask a series of questions. I like to think of it like an insanity test. Let me run you through it.



Chris Schad

Don't you know that wrestling is fake?

Of course. As a matter of fact, I once heard a great quote in a news report about wrestling. It's a soap opera for guys who don't admit to watching soap operas. It's supposed to be fake. It's just like your favorite TV show. There are good guys and bad guys, just like a soap opera. People anger people and whereas in soap operas they don't actually fight, wrestling takes that step that most soap operas won't. Physical violence.

Also, even though it's fake, some people can actually relate to some of the storylines, and I'm not just talking about beer-swilling rednecks. Take the case of Stone Cold Steve Austin in the late 1990s. Mr. Austin had a problem with his boss. So he took it out in a way that only professional wrestling would allow: by A), chugging beer on the job and B), beating the living hell out of him. I would probably assume that most of you have had a conflict with your boss and probably wanted to bash them with a steel chair afterwards, but in the real world, it's not smart to do that sort of thing. That's the escape from reality that wrestling provides the average person.

You do know they're just acting out there, right?

Let me tell you about my childhood hero. His name was The Rock. Maybe you've heard of The Rock. Actually, he changed his name to Dwayne Johnson and is now a B-list actor. This was because The Rock was really an actor from his work on the microphone. He was the man who could get millions of fans to scream his name at the drop of a hat. Wrestlers have to get people behind them and therefore they have to play a character, just like an actor. The Rock, for example, was "The People's Champ," and played his character so well he actually became a movie star.

That was just a sample of some of the questions I get asked. Then, the conversation turns into one big giant attack towards me. "How can you watch wrestling? It's so fake!" and "I used to like wrestling too, when I was in fifth grade!" are uttered in my direction, but then I relay the simple truth. It's a TV show. Just like your favorite show, I enjoy it. It's an escape from reality which is what most TV shows offer. After all, if you don't like it, simply pick up your remote and change the channel. And that's the bottom line, if you smell what Crishad is cookin'.

NCAA TOURNAMENT GAME

Women's Hockey



UWRF

vs



Gustavus

2 p.m. March 14
Don Roberts Arena
St. Peter, Minn.

STANDINGS

Softball

Overall Standings

	W	L
LaCrosse	6	0
Oshkosh	3	1
Stout	5	3
River Falls	2	2
Stevens Point	2	2
Eau Claire	0	0
Platteville	0	0
Superior	0	0
Whitewater	0	0



Musical prodigy blooms at young age on ‘YouTube’



Andy Phelps

“Pirates of the Caribbean” theme to “Billie Jean” by Michael Jackson. His rendition of the timeless “California Dreamin’” is something not to be forgotten.

He began posting videos of himself playing in 2006, and since then, the rest of the world has clearly taken notice. He is already a growing celebrity in his native Korea, appearing on TV shows alongside celebrities and movie stars, cheerfully signing autographs afterwards. His YouTube channel is No. 1 in South Korea, and currently has over 75,100 subscribers worldwide. **

Viewers and supporters have been able to follow his musical and personal development through the 165 videos he has shared over the past three years, and many have remarked that it is a somewhat strange and fascinating phenomenon to be fortunate enough to watch a prodigy develop and grow up through a series of online vignettes.

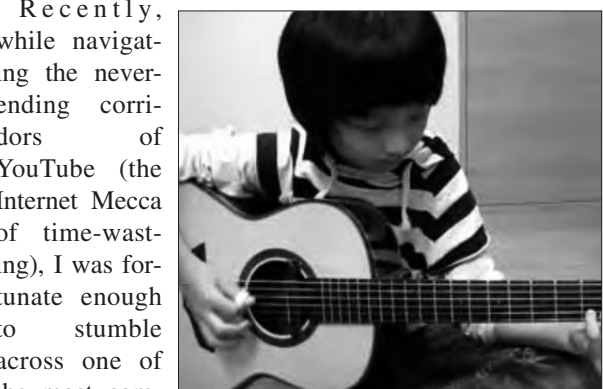
His music is pure and whimsical and wonderful. There is a certain artful and refreshing (not to

mention adorable) quality about watching a boy masterfully operate a guitar that is larger than he is. Sungha’s talent was not born out of the greedy desire to impress girls or get rich—he plays simply for the sake of playing. Watching him fingerpick his way through “Living on a Prayer” with Tomi Paldanius in a small café in Seoul is to understand the wondrous capability of music to cross geographic and cultural barriers.

When I see the occasional joyful smile cross Sungha’s face as he plays, I am reminded that there are few things more special than witnessing raw talent. You can fake being cool, but you can’t fake being good.

**<http://www.youtube.com/user/jwcfree>. Check it out.

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



Source: <http://www.youtube.com/user/jwcfree>
Sungha Jung is a 12-year-old musical prodigy with his guitar.

All has been relatively quiet in the music world over the past few weeks, and with the exception of U2’s new album, there has been a lack of interesting or noteworthy recent releases. Instead of the usual self-indulgent record reviews, I want to share something a little different this week.

Recently, while navigating the never-ending corridors of YouTube (the Internet Mecca of time-wasting), I was fortunate enough to stumble across one of the most compelling musicians I have ever heard—a precocious acoustic guitar virtuoso who displays a unique, enchanting, once-in-a-lifetime talent. But the most surprising and compelling fact about this young guitar hero? He’s a 12-year-old boy from South Korea.

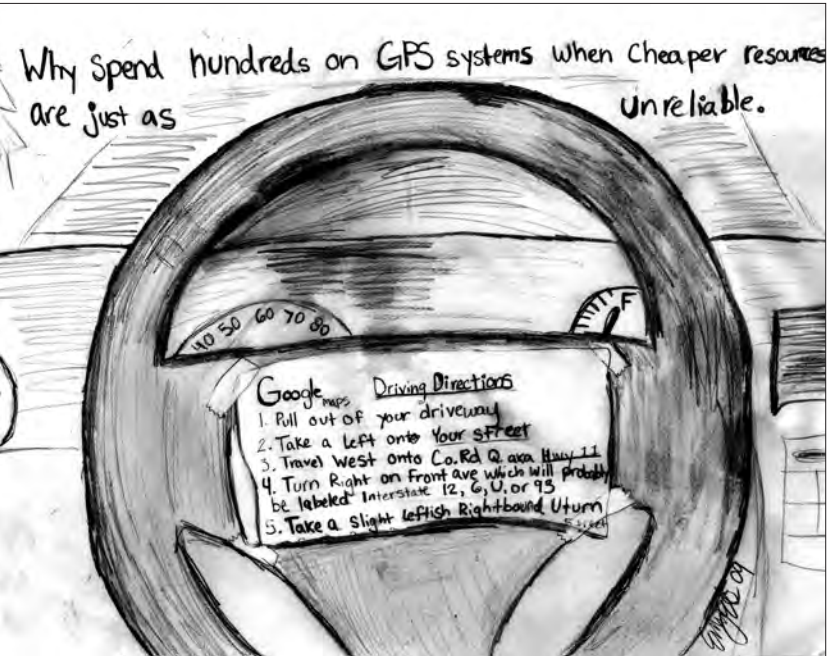
His name is Sungha Jung, and he has been playing only three years—a shocking fact, considering the skills he displays usually takes decades to master.

I have since found myself returning again and again to his homepage, listening to this little prodigy, who is stoic and wordless as he shares his Mozart-like brilliance with the world. Every pluck of his guitar resounds with precision, and every resulting note radiates with clean, perfect beauty. I readily admit that I will never do anything in my life nearly as well as he plays the guitar.

The songs Sungha plays are diverse array of genres and selections—classical pieces, modern hits and everything in between—ranging from the



Student Voice cartoon



By Emily Eck

Check out the Student Voice online at:
www.uwrfvoice.com

‘Hotel for Dogs’ relies on ‘cuteness,’ neglects to strive for originality



José Cruz, Jr.

Child-friendly movies are not always this bad. If a film has enough imagination and knowledge of children, it can definitely pull off a movie that entertains kids, as well as adults (i.e. “Wall-E”). But it is when producers sacrifice originality and heart for crap that will simply earn a quick buck. Such is usually the case with flicks that revolve around animals, particularly domestic animals (from “Air Bud” to “Marley & Me”). “Hotel for Dogs” is a prime example of cuteness-galore in a heartless movie.

After going through five families in three years, orphan siblings Andi (Emma Roberts) and Bruce (Jake Austin) are stuck in foster-care hell with two wannabe rock stars (the terrible glam rock kind at that). While bouncing around from family to family, the two have managed to keep their dog, Friday, right by their side without actually having the terrier stay in the house. All day long, Friday

roams the streets, presumably to find food. Meanwhile, the kids are scamming pawnshop cashiers in order to keep the furry bastard alive. One day, the duo follows Friday into an abandoned hotel, where they discover several other strays are taking up residence. As they make a few friends, they feel it is their mission to save every single stray dog by taking them to the vacant hotel.

This movie is so beyond ridiculous that I hope for

the sake of the human race that the kids see through the bullcrap. But then again, I may be overestimating the target audience. The idea of children being able to sneak 10+ dogs into a dilapidated hotel without being seen or noticed is stretching it enough, especially when their rescue vehicle of choice is a large truck altered to look like a canine (not nearly as funny as the one in “Dumb and Dumber”). But we are expected to believe that Bruce is an uber-genius, and not in the Rain Man sort of way. The kid has not hit puberty yet, and you would think that he has a degree in engineering because of how smart he is. He builds numerous contraptions in the hotel in a matter of hours, like a car ride simulator, a food dispenser that feeds the fifty plus dogs at specific times of the day and a dog treat vending machine.

The dogs are also insanely smart, and may deliver the best performances of the movie Friday can always find his owners from anywhere in the city and returns home safely. The other dogs were so well-trained while living in the streets that they immediately sit at their assigned seats at the dinner table and know how to defecate in specially designed toilets.

I might be judging a children’s movie a little too harshly, but I have seen enough of them in my lifetime to differentiate between the good and bad ones. The kids might get a kick out of it, because there are plenty of poop and pee jokes, which populate a lot of dog-centric films. But I have a feeling that parents will be rolling their eyes so much that they might get stuck like that.

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



Source: <http://www.imdb.com>

“Hotel for Dogs” centers around children rescuing stray dogs.

“Hotel for Dogs” is a prime example of cuteness galore in a heartless movie.



‘Watchmen’ contains faults, but reflects graphic novel adequately



Nathan Piotrowski

Comic book movies definitely seem to be on the rise when it comes to popularity, with Spider-Man and the X-Men taking over the silver screen every few years. These movies have a little sibling of sorts, and that would be the movies based off of graphic novels (And yes, there is a difference between a comic and a graphic novel), such as “Sin City,” “300” and now “Watchmen.” This film is gorgeous to look at, and the story is good, but there are a few drawbacks in the way the film is constructed.

The way that Zack Snyder makes movies by using mostly green screens lends itself perfectly to these types of movies. With an entire character that is computer animated for 90 percent of the film, but still looks believable, audiences need to take note and try to appreciate that. Also, another character that steals the attention of the audience just by the way he looks is the hard-boiled detective-like Rorschach, whose constantly changing mask adds to his mystique and deadly persona. Overall, aside from the characters, the film in general is just a visual treat for movie lovers of all kinds.

The story of “Watchmen” takes place in alternate timeline where Richard Nixon is president long after his second term, due to the fact that America won the Vietnam War with the help of superheroes, who have since been outlawed. The Comedian, a jaded anti-hero if there ever was one, is killed and the other remaining heroes start to realize that they won’t be able to escape their old lives entirely. With the world close to the threat of nuclear

war, the situation seems dire indeed. But some heroes still have hope, while others have seemingly given up entirely. The mystery of who is leading the attacks on these heroes is finally revealed, the audience has been thoroughly satisfied not only visually, but story-wise as well.

However, the film is not perfect by any means. The film is nearly three hours long, and it probably could have been done in two and a quarter. The pacing of the film is very slow, and although it definitely adds to the graphic novel feel, it can bore many audience members. One other note is that although nudity shouldn’t distract most American audiences too much these days, there are two things worth mentioning that just seem out of place in the movie.

In the same vein as Snyder’s “300,” the film is complete with a graphic sex scene that seems completely out of place, but as another nod to the graphic novel nature of the film, the full frontal male nudity featured in the book is also present throughout the film. And going back to the visual aspect of the film, if you want to know what \$50,000 will get you in this economy, look no further than the blue, fully functional, swinging penis of Doctor Manhattan that is featured on screen almost every time the character is.

So although the movie is quite good, there are still some faults that prevent it from being a great movie. The rampant nudity and pacing of the film do not take away from the plot and visuals within the film, and it is definitely worth seeing on the big screen, or if you can swing it, the bigger screen of an IMAX to get the full experience. So, just remember, if you are looking for a movie that truly tries to be exactly like a graphic novel with its deep story and characters, go to this. Or if you just want to see a movie for the pure comic book entertainment factor, wait for “Wolverine” to come out.



Source: <http://www.imdb.com>

“Watchmen” is a graphic novel that was recently turned into a movie.

“The pacing of the film is very slow, and although it definitely adds to the graphic novel, it can bore many audience members.”

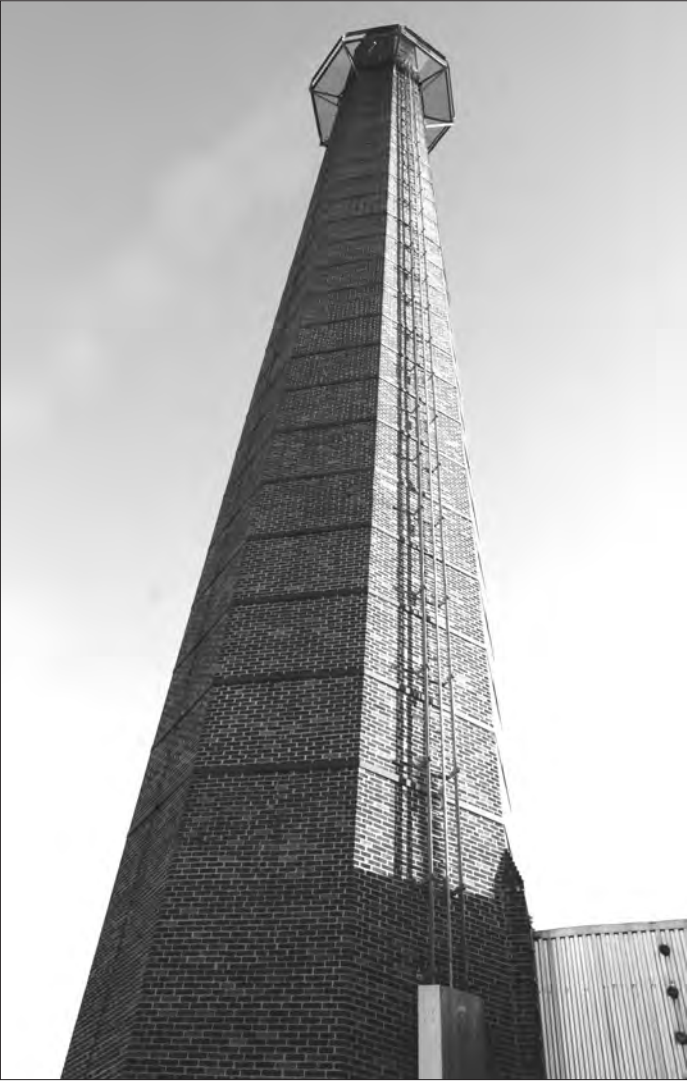
Nathan is a digital film and television major with a film studies minor. In his spare time, he attempts to be a professional lottery winner.



Heating plant continues testing biomass fuel



Sally King/Student Voice
The UW-River Falls central heating plant was built in 1964 at its current location, after being relocated from behind South Hall. The average cost of fuel per year at UWRF is around \$750,000. The heating bill in January alone was \$164,700.



Sally King/Student Voice
The smokestack for the central heating plant stands 163 feet tall. The plant is located on the east end of the UWRF campus across from Rodli Hall.

Joy Stanton
joy.stanton@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls’ central heating plant exceeded the highest January bill this year—the total coming to \$164,700. As fuel cost rises, the staff of the 45-year-old heating plant has made an effort to find a cheap, efficient, carbon neutral fuel.

Wisconsin’s mean temperature in January was about seven degrees—the year before was 15 degrees, according to the National Climatic Data Center Web site. Other factors for the high bill included high enrollment and more buildings on campus to heat—like the University Center and the South Fork Suites, UWRF Heating Plant Superintendent Bill Girnau said.

Fuel cost for coal and natural gas fluctuate from year to year, but the average cost of fuel at UWRF lands around \$750,000 per year. In 1987, total fuel cost in a year was \$263,062.

Biomass fuel—meaning it is renewable—is an agricultural byproduct capable of being burned for heat. The central heating plant is working with different vendors to test-fire extruded wood pellets, pucks or cubes.

Wood pellets are carbon neutral because burning wood has the same effect on the atmosphere as rotting wood.

“Carbon negative is where we really regain ecologic integrity, economic vitality and social equity,” Director of the St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development Kelly Cain said in an e-mail interview.

The UWRF heating plant houses a boiler identical to ones at UW-Superior, UW-Platteville, UW-Stevens Point and UW-Whitewater. If UWRF finds a biomass fuel that can compete with coal the other campuses could make the switch without fire-testing the product. Director of Facilities Management Michael Stifter said coal-fired heating plants are ground zero for campuses when it comes to carbon neutrality goals.

“If we can find a price competitive and reliable alternative, it makes a lot of sense for us to consider it,” Stifter said in an e-

mail interview. “Doing an analysis sooner, rather than later, only makes sense.”

Testing with wood pellets began about a year ago.

“We are right in the infancy of most of it,” Girnau, who began working as an operator at the heating plant in 1977 and took over in 1985 as plant chief, said.

February 2008 marked the first test-firing of wood pucks from RENEW Energy Systems. Girnau said there was limited success with the 24-ton truck load. Shaped like a hockey puck, with a 3-inch diameter, the biomass fuel did not flow well through the hopper and it broke a feeder chain. The pucks broke apart and caused burn back—combustion where it was not supposed to combust.

The next test-firing, in December, tested wood cubes from Renewafuel, LLC. The product might have worked, but something happened during the delivery.

“It was all sawdust,” Girnau said. “Twenty-three tons of this junk. They shot

“It’s an ongoing learning process, and we need to learn from our past mistakes in order to take the action that is required in the present and the future.”
Rebecca Alexander,
field biology major

ALCOHOL: KNOW YOUR LIMITS

1 Drink =

1.5 oz of liquor

5 oz glass of wine

12 oz of beer

To Avoid Binge Drinking

DRINKS PER DAY
4

DRINKS PER DAY
3

Count Your Drinks!

Counseling and Student Health Services
715-425-3293/3884

Student Affairs

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Created by: Cayla Wendt

December, the facility applied for, and received a construction permit to burn the pellets regularly, according to DNR Environmental Engineering Supervisor Jeff Johnson.

UWRF is not has not reached that point. The next load of wood pellets from Bioensertech in Menomonie, Wis., will come March 25.

“If the wood pellets worked, then we could offer the students an option of paying for carbon neutral fuel,” Girnau said in an e-mail interview. “I would guess this is a couple years away due to testing and contract language and obligations.”

Field biology major Rebecca Alexander said the fire-testing is a great thing to help lessen the impact on the environment.

“In my mind, it is our responsibility to do the best that we can to reduce our impacts, save what we can, and restore what we have destructed,” Alexander said in an e-mail interview. “It’s an on-going learning process, and we need to learn from our past mistakes in order to take the action that is required in the present and the future.”

Sally King/Student Voice
Coal is burned in this furnace at the central heating plant. Coal and natural gas are burned at the plant.

Simple ways to conserve heat

Residence Assistant Rebecca Alexander said she has done her best to educate student staff in Residence Life on how the heating works. She offered some tips to conserve heat:

- Open blinds during the day to let the sunlight naturally heat the room
- Close blinds at night to reduce heat loss
- Seal leaky windows with a plastic liner (contact Facilities first)
- Keep windows shut tight
- If possible, keep thermostat at 68-70 degrees