



**KINNI DAMS, PAGE 2**  
**Debate continues over Kinnickinnic River dams**

**SPARKS, PAGE 5**  
**Evolution-based facts should not be disregarded for religious beliefs**

**SOFTBALL, PAGE 6**  
**Falcons win 7 of 10 games at Rebel Spring Games**



# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN STUDENT VOICE

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## UW budget cut to affect students, UWRF classrooms

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“Reality is, we are getting hit hard,” UW-River Falls Interim Chancellor Connie Foster said.

Foster’s choice of a few strong words describes how she feels the recently announced UW budget cuts will affect UWRF students and their future educational experience on campus.

According to the March 11 Board of Regents press release, UWRF will experience a \$5.7 million cut of the total \$174 million budget cut from all UW schools. The significant cut will affect UWRF students in the future.

“UWRF will continue to try and provide the courses our students need to graduate on time with the skills that will allow them to achieve success after they graduate,” Blake Fry, special assistant to the chancellor, said. “But course sections will grow in size and fewer electives will be made available.”

UWRF will begin with changes that will affect the least amount of students and grow from there.

“We will increase classes that are appropriate and cut lower enrolled classes as well,” Foster said. “As students register, classes with 15 or less may be affected.”

With a decrease in students’ opportunities during the academic school year, changes will also be made during the summer and over J-Term.

According to Foster, students will be encouraged to take advantage of classes during the summer and the increase in J-Term class availability.

The specific departments and classes that will be affected are still to be determined, yet the concept of change is definite.

A closer look into the budget cut revealed that a large majority is due to the auxiliary transfer.

According to the UW Board of Regents Web site, an auxiliary transfer is the shift of surplus moneys from auxiliary enterprises for the purpose of funding to the one-time fixed duration cost of another.

According to Gov. Jim Doyle’s 2009-11 budget cut released by the UW Board of Regents, UWRF’s auxiliary transfer consists of 35 percent of the total budget cut.

In comparison to other UW campuses, UWRF has the fourth highest auxiliary transfer amount and that is due to the amount of money a campus saves for future repairs, construction and improvements.

“Unfortunately, the more you save, the more you pay,” Foster said.

Throughout the UW System, UWRF may have received a larger auxiliary transfer cut, yet the damage is minor compared to other campuses.

According to Madison’s newspaper, The Capital Times, UW-Madison has lost over 66 faculty positions in the last five

See Budget cut page 3



Renae Bergh/Student Voice

**The Limns perform at the Sigma Sorority’s “Rockin’ for Robbie” concert on March 26 in the Falcon’s Nest of the University Center. All proceeds from the event went for the development and support of play therapy.**

## Rockin’ for Robbie benefits play therapy

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The Gamma Phi chapter of the Sigma Sigma Sorority held their third annual Rockin’ for Robbie benefit concert on March 26 to raise funds for the development and support of play therapy.

The proceeds from the concert are sent to the Robbie Page Memorial Foundation, which aims to develop and support the use of play therapy in hospitals and other organizations with play therapy programs. Play therapy is the technique of using play, a child’s natural means of expression, as a therapeutic method of assisting him or her in coping with emotional stress or trauma.

The foundation was established in 1951 after the national president of the Sigma Sorority’s son, Robbie Page, died from polio. The Robbie Page Memorial Foundation was set up by his parents to fund research to find a cure for polio, which eventually led to the discovery of the Salk vaccine. Once the cure for polio was discovered, the Foundation’s philanthropy efforts were focused on the devel-

opment and support of play therapy.

The Sigmas hold the concert every year to fulfill their slogan of “Sigmas Serving Children.”

Play therapy is beneficial to children because it helps them heal faster and lets them get away from hospital life, UW-River Falls’ Sigma Advisor Sally Field said.

“It allows children to escape their situation and it speeds their healing,” Field said.

The Rockin’ for Robbie concert featured the bands The Limns, who sang reggae music, and The Full-Tilt Band, a cover band who sang songs like Van Morrison’s “Brown Eyed Girl” and Brian Adams’ “Summer of ’69.” The bands donated their time and musical talent to the fundraising event.

Both bands were arranged to play at the concert through personal connections to members of the sorority, sophomore Sigma Katie Bauer said.

“One of the guys in The Full-Tilt band is the father of Sigma Mandy Lombardo,” Bauer said. “Someone else in the sorority knows the members of The Limns.”

The first year the Rockin’ for Robbie concert was held, it raised about \$2,000 for the Robbie Page Memorial. Last year it raised about \$1,750, Field said.

The Sigmas not only focus on raising money for the Robbie Page Memorial—they also offer support by volunteering their time at the St. Paul Children’s Hospital in the Twin Cities. Some of the activities they do with the children are building sock puppets, having snacks and playing with games and toys.

Besides raising money through ticket sales, the Sigmas also provided popcorn to attendees for a free-will donation. Raffle tickets were sold for a chance to

**“It [play therapy] allows children to escape their situation and it speeds their healing.”**

Sally Field,  
River Falls Sigma Sigma  
Sigma advisor

See Concert page 3

## Safety in River Falls crosswalks still a concern for UWRF students

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Close calls on Cascade Avenue and a death on Main Street have left students questioning the safety of UW-River Falls crosswalks.

In 2000, a five-person committee came together to identify a clear policy on where to provide crosswalks on North Main Street, Union Street and Cascade Avenue.

River Falls City Engineer Reid Wronski was a member of the group.

When asked about UWRF crosswalk safety today, Wronski said, “Prohibiting cars from parking in close proximity to the crosswalks on Cascade in accordance with our Marked Crosswalk Policy has provided some safety by making pedestrians more visible to drivers as the pedestrians step off the curb and enter the crosswalk.”

The River Falls Accident Statistic Comparison Chart of 2001-07 shows that the num-

ber of pedestrian accidents throughout River Falls has remained relatively even. In 2001 there were six, 2002 had seven, 2003 had five, 2004 had six, 2005 and 2006 had two each, and 2007 had four.

The worst accident took place in 2005 when a driver hit and killed 89-year-old Claire Guise with his pickup while she was making her way across the crosswalk at Union and Main Streets. Pedestrians using the UWRF crosswalks have also caused car accidents.

In September 2006, Derek Dock’s vehicle rear-ended Laura Mallet’s car after fail-

ing to stop while Mallet waited behind a line of cars yielding to the Third and Fourth Street intersection crosswalk. Three people were sent to the hospital.

**“...Our Marked Crosswalk Policy has provided some safety by making pedestrians more visible to drivers as the pedestrians step off the curb and enter the crosswalk.”**

Reid Wronski,  
River Falls city engineer

Another accident occurred in October 2007 when Sarah Shields’ vehicle rear-ended a McCormack’s Furniture delivery truck that had stopped behind a pedestrian crosswalk outside of North Hall. One of the parties involved was transported to an area hospital.

These stories along with personal experience are leading some to believe that crosswalk safety needs to be more adequately addressed.

See Crosswalks page 3

## University’s federal, local grants affected by struggling economy

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In addition to the high local and national unemployment rates and national recession, the struggling economy is also affecting the number of grants that UW-River Falls and other universities are being awarded.

William Campbell, director of grants and research at UWRF, works with numerous external funding sources to help faculty and staff obtain this funding to support curriculum, programs and research. He said that the weak economy has affected both the process and the number of grants the University receives in many ways.

“Most of the grants we receive come from the federal government, with some from state and local sources,” he said. “In the past few months, the federal grant picture has gotten brighter, due in part to the [federal] stimulus package that was recently passed.”

Campbell also said that UWRF submits about 70 proposals each year, with more than half of those proposals actually resulting in grants.

“Generally speaking, this is on par with other colleges and universities across the region,” he said. “It’s hard at schools, like UWRF, where the faculty’s primary focus is

teaching and not research; they often just don’t have a lot of time to research.”

Campbell said approximately two-thirds of the grants that the University receives come from federal sources, simply because “with the terrible budget situation, the state of Wisconsin can’t borrow money like the federal [government] can.”

The Office of Grants and Research publishes reports every year, and according to the annual report for 2007-08, UWRF submitted 66 proposals, totaling over \$6 million in funding. Thirty-nine of those proposals were actually funded for a success rate of 61.9 percent. This is down slightly from 2006-07, where 44 proposals were funded for a total of \$3.774 million.

“The state budget is not good right now, and foundations are suffering grievously,” Campbell said. “For example, the McKnight Foundation endowment is down about 30 percent this year, which means that they are probably giving out fewer grants.”

The Minnesota-based McKnight Foundation “seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations. Through grantmaking, coalition-building and encouragement of strategic policy reform, we

See Grants page 3



VOICE SHORTS

Parking permits available for purchase

Parking Permits will be available for purchase online for the 2009-10 academic year. Purchase eligibility dates are: seniors (90+ completed credits) beginning April 20, juniors (60-89 completed credits) beginning April 27, sophomores (30-59 completed credits) beginning May 4 and freshmen (29 or less completed credits) May 11. The Parking Department will have a vendor table set up in the University Center on Wednesday, April 8, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday, April 9, from 9 .am. to 3 p.m. Detailed information regarding purchasing a permit will be available as well as the new online parking features.

Women's lacrosse to host tournament

The UWRF Women's lacrosse team invites students and family to the forth Annual Play Day Tournament on Saturday and Sunday, April 4 and 5. It is a weekend full of lacrosse with 15 college teams and four high school teams from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. Games start at 10 a.m. with the last games played at 4 p.m. at the intramural fields. There will be concessions, T-shirts for sale and the Minnesota Swarm will be there on Saturday and Sunday to sign autographs and to do some demonstrations.

UWRF program to organize breakfast

The UW-River Falls’ Destination Program is holding a Flapjack Pancake Breakfast at the Hudson Applebee’s on Saturday, April 4. Students are welcome to come out for all you can eat pancakes from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. Tickets are \$6. The Hudson Applebee's is located at 2201 Coulee Rd., Hudson, down the road from Target.

UWRF to honor retiring professor

Students are welcome to attend a retirement reception for Gorden Hedahl honoring him for his many contributions to the communication studies and theatre arts Department, the college of arts and sciences, and the university. The reception will be from 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, in the University Center Ballroom.

Photographs for contest due April 7

The deadline for the photography contest is 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7. Any person interested in submitting work can do so at 320 North Hall.

Rising Kinnickinnic temperature may negatively impact wildlife

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The upper and lower dams on the Kinnickinnic River have long been the subject of debate over whether they provide vital power to the city or damage the River’s water quality.

The Kinnickinnic, or Kinni, as it is locally known, is regarded nationwide as one of Wisconsin’s, and one of the nation’s premier trout waters.

Members of the local Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited question the ability of the city to keep the dams along with a healthy lower river.

“As the city grows, the impact on water temperature will continue to increase, on top of the temperature pressures the dam currently puts on the system,” Gary Horvath, secretary of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter, said.

The dams retain the flowing water, allowing it to warm in summer, and cool in winter. Brown trout, the dominant species in the Kinni, have a maximum sustained temperature tolerance of between 65 and 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

Kent Johnson, a Kiap-TU-Wish member, does extensive temperature monitoring on the River. Monitoring stations are set above the first dam at the Division Street Bridge, as well as just off of Quarry Road on the northern edge of town. On the lower River, below the dams, the stations are located near the mouth of Rocky Branch and underneath the County Road F Bridge, Johnson said.

“During the warmest months, there is

typically a five-degree increase from Quarry Road to the Rocky Branch site. The lower River trout usually begin to sweat for a little while,” Johnson said.

The winter water temperatures may also affect the reproduction of the trout below the city.

“They’re fall spawners. Once the eggs are in the redds, they’re completely vulnerable,” Johnson said. “In winter, the upper River is typically three to four degrees warmer.”

The first dam was installed on the Kinni in 1865. The upriver power plant was built in 1900. This plant currently produces up to 250 kilowatts per hour, while the lower plant produces 125 kilowatts per hour when operating at peak efficiency, according to the River Falls Municipal Utilities Web site.

That is enough energy to power nearly 260 households, according to U.S. Department of Energy data.

The amount of revenue generated by those who come to River Falls to use the Kinni is something often overlooked.

“The economics of keeping the dam running when compared with what the River provides the city is something I’d like to see,” Horvath said.

Data regarding the percentage of power the plants produce for River Falls is currently unavailable.

Representatives from RFMU were unavailable for comment.

Former UWRF student and avid trout angler Brian Swenson said he sees a difference in the upper and lower River trout populations.

“Upstream the fish are everywhere. Below the dams, there are definitely fish, but the numbers are noticeably fewer,” Swenson said.

The upstream portion of the Kinni harbors 8,000 to 9,000 trout per mile, whereas the lower River has a population of roughly 3,000 trout per mile, less than half that of the upper River.

The City of River Falls, along with Trout Unlimited, the Wisconsin DNR and UWRF began studying ways to improve the upper, Lake George impoundment several years ago.

According to the City, in 2002, a DNR grant was awarded to the City to fund studies determining what action should be taken regarding the lake and its dam.

Total removal of the dam would take three to six years, so other options were sought.

“A wetland improvement was decided upon where the channel would be separated from storm water ponds. It would’ve sped up the flow of water through the dam. But the City had a grant killed two years ago from the EPA,” Horvath said.

Though the Kinni currently boasts a healthy trout population in its lower portion, Horvath said it is a unique situation.

“River Falls is the only city in Wisconsin with a population of 10,000 or more where below the City the water is still trout water,” Horvath said. “Is [the dam] sustainable if you also want to sustain the lower River?”

One-time fund provides budgets otherwise unattainable by clubs, student organizations

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At UW-River Falls, campus organizations and clubs are given the opportunity every so often to request funds that the Leadership Development and Programming Board budget does not cover. On March 24, the fund was approved for organizations to use this year.

“The one-time fund is an opportunity for organizations and clubs to obtain things that LDPB doesn’t provide. They’re capital purchases that these organizations can use for more than one year,” Student Senate Finance Director Dusty Pfundheller said.

Pfundheller is also one of the members of the Student Senate One-Time Funding Request Committee. Student Senate President Cindy Bendix is also involved with the one-time fund.

“Every couple of years, Senate evaluates the reserve account, and if there is more than is felt is needed by the staff who help monitor the account and the Senate, they will look into one-time funding,” Bendix said.

Two years ago, the Rodeo Club was approved for a new speaker and lighting system from the Committee and the Abbott Concert Hall was approved for sound equipment. Also,

the Agricultural Ed. Society was granted parliamentary equipment through the one-time fund in addition to other organizations.

Each organization or club will be notified of the opportunity, and each of the presidents will receive forms. After a request has been filed, the Committee will review all the requests. If the request is not in violation of any policies or laws, the contact person will receive an e-mail, phone call, or both.

At least one member of the group will be asked to appear at a meeting with the Committee and explain the request and answer any questions. The Committee will then discuss the request in a closed session and make their recommendation to the Student Senate Finance Committee.

Only tangible items can be requested for purchase, and these items must be something the annual LDPB budget does not cover. No individual can own the items of request, and they must be available for the whole organization to use; the object cannot benefit one or a few people. Requests that violate University policy and/or Wisconsin/federal law will be immediately disregarded.

Pfundheller said one of the most important things to understand about the one-time fund is that it is not the Student Senate’s money being given away.

“This money is on reserve. It’s a collection of all the money on campus has left over after fees,”

every organization

“The one-time fund is an opportunity for organizations and clubs to obtain things that LDPB doesn’t provide”

Dusty Pfundheller,  
student senate finance director

rugby team and new computers for the Student Voice office.

“Earlier this year, a member of the Student Voice staff made a comment to me that the paper’s office was in need of new computers,” Bendix said, “so I brought the idea back to the Finance Committee for them to look into.”

The request forms will become available for each organization’s president or head at the Involvement Center’s front desk.

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.

March 26

- John Jensen, 18, was cited for disorderly conduct and underage consumption at Grimm Hall.

March 27

- Bradley J. Rhode, 22, was arrested and cited for shoplifting at the Holiday at 302 S. Main St.  
- Andrew W. Curtis, 18, was cited for underage consumption at Parker Hall.

March 28

- Rachel J. Bruhn, 19, was cited for underage consumption at the 800 block of South Main Street.  
- Paul C. Oligney, 20, was cited for underage consumption at the 800 block of South Main Street.  
- Candace K. Pellowski, 18, was cited for underage consumption at Parker Hall.

March 29

- Jesse L. Holzer, 19, Adam W. Becker, 22 and Tyler J. Smith, 20,

were arrested and cited for selling alcohol without a license and contributing alcohol to a minor at 701 S. Main St. According to the River Falls Police Department, Holzer, Becker and Smith were hosting a house party and charging \$5 for a cup without checking IDs. The party was entered by a plainclothes officer, and after breaking up the party officers determined that it would be too time consuming to give citations to all the underage people who were there.

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# Budget cuts: Residential housing, dining services, HHP all to increase prices

from page 1

years due to budget cuts, and they anticipate more losses due to the 2009-11 budget cut. Faculty losing their jobs is a solution at UW-Madison, but is not that case at UWRF.

“We have no plans and have not discussed any [teachers or faculty] losing their jobs,” Foster said. According to Foster, instead of

laying off working teachers, UWRF has been put on a hiring-freeze. Any teacher or faculty member who retires or leaves for personal reasons will not be replaced during the next school year.

Outside the classroom, students will also encounter slight changes in student fees due to the cut in budget. At the March 10 UWRF Student Senate meeting, it was decided stu-

dents will see a \$154 increase in double residential housing rooms from \$3,084 to \$3,238. Dining Services will also increase by \$70 and Health and Human Performance fees will increase by \$10.

A UWRF sophomore said the increases may affect her future decisions.

“I will probably try to find somewhere to live off campus because I

am sure there is a lot of other placed that are cheaper than the dorms,” Tara Straub said. “The dorms are not worth it if they cost more.”

Students and faculty who are a part of UWRF may feel the future budget cut and the increase in tuition and student fees, but the goal is still present.

“At UWRF, our priority is to strive to have students graduate on

time,” Foster said. “We really care.” Minimal changes will be made, but modifications will be noticed.

“The cuts are real, and they are very challenging,” UW System President Kevin Reilly said. “Cuts of this magnitude will certainly impact our plans to grow enrollments and may well hurt the education our current students receive.”

# Concert: Many door prizes donated by River Falls businesses

from page 1

win various prizes donated by the community and local companies. The tickets were \$1 for one or \$5 for six. Some of the prize donors included Pizza Hut, McDonald’s, Hudson Bowling, Luigi’s Pizza and Erbert and Gerbert’s Subs.

The community has been very cooperative in helping out the cause, Field said.

“They have been just wonderful at donating items to the girls for either the raffle or silent auction,” Field said. “They are just amazing.”



Sally King/Student Voice

The Full Tilt Band performs at Rockin’ for Robbie May 26 in the University Center.

# Grants: Newly opened TCIC to use national, regional funding to aid with major research projects

from page 1

use our resources to attend, unite and empower those we serve,” according to its Web site. The Web site also contains annual reports for the foundation that show a slow decrease in the number of grants it has given out over the past few years: 462 in 2005, 454 in 2006 and 437 in 2007.

According to Tim Lyden, UWRF biology professor, the recently opened Tissue and Cellular Innovation Center (TCIC) was funded through a series of grants and awards over the past several years, even though the TCIC itself does not currently have specific operating expenses aside from the ongoing research program.

“Teaching activities of the TCIC either overlap with normal departmental teaching or will be covered by new federal grants,” he said in an e-mail interview. “The ‘grants-related’ awards that I mentioned above have been smaller amounts of funds from the administration in the form of ‘matching’ funds that are required by a granting agency to show that an institution is supportive of the efforts.”

Lyden said that the grant-related awards can be considered investments “to bring in much bigger amounts of money from outside the campus,” and that the TCIC also received a pair of in-house laboratory modification grants since 2004, which “remodeled space for several purposes that included activities by the TCIC.”

The goal of the TCIC all along has been to utilize local funding sources first, and then build the program to state-level funding and federal funding, Lyden said.

Since 2001, local funding directly supporting the TCIC (and previously the “Lyden Lab”) has totaled between \$70,000 and \$100,000.

“This year, with the transition to the new TCIC concept of my Lab, we have also shifted our grant funding efforts to the federal level with two major grants applied for to date and several more planned over the coming year,” he said.

Lyden also noted that the funding for the TCIC is geared towards three major research projects, including one to develop artificial tissues from human cancerous tumors.

“This project is collaborative with UW-Stout, Marshfield Clinic, Aurora-Green Bay Medical Consortium and [the] River Falls Cancer Center, and seeks to explore the use of our tissue and engineering technology in a clinical context,” he said.

Even with a decreasing amount of funding and money for grants, Campbell reiterated the fact that the federal stimulus bill has improved the situation a bit.

“The national funding has really improved recently,” he said, “but the state and local picture is still dismal.”

Lyden said he agreed that the recently passed federal stimulus package has made more money available and increased the number of grants. However, he also said that, at the local level, University resources are tied to state funding issues which are going down fast.

“I expect that local campus funding will be nearly zero for the next few years,” he said. “Even in hard economic times, it takes investments to get returns, and so far the state’s investment in the comprehensive campuses has been very limited.”



Tim Lyden

# Crosswalks: Drivers required by law to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks

from page 1

Wronski noted that it is being and will continue to be addressed.

“The City has a policy regarding marked crosswalks which is used to evaluate requests for new marked crosswalks. If someone feels a particular unmarked crosswalk warrants being marked, they can request we do a study,” Wronski said.

Upon observing three Cascade Street crosswalks at 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. for 15 minutes each, it was found that 12 vehicles violated this statute.

The most heavily violated was the crosswalk near North and South Hall. Out of the 22 pedestrians who crossed

the street, seven were left waiting for a driver to stop. Three times throughout the observation, pedestrians came within feet of being hit by the vehicle.

UWRF Sophomore Jim Cipera was one of these rushed pedestrians.

“Cars don’t respect us. I have to be aggressive or they rarely stop,” Cipera said.

UWRF Director of Public Safety, Richard Trende offered his view on crosswalk safety.

“I do believe that legally marked crosswalks are generally safe, however pedestrians should be cautious, and not assume that a person driving a vehicle will yield,” Trende said. “Though most people have been yielding, there are those that either don’t see

the pedestrian, or don’t abide by the law.”

The scheduled Cascade Avenue redesign slated for 2012-15 will have an affect on pedestrian safety as well, Wronski said.

“Vehicle speeds will be reduced. Parking will be removed providing clear visibility. Center medians will provide a refuge area, allowing pedestrians to focus on safely crossing one lane at a time. Lighting will be improved. The design will encourage pedestrian crossings at crosswalks,” Wronski said.

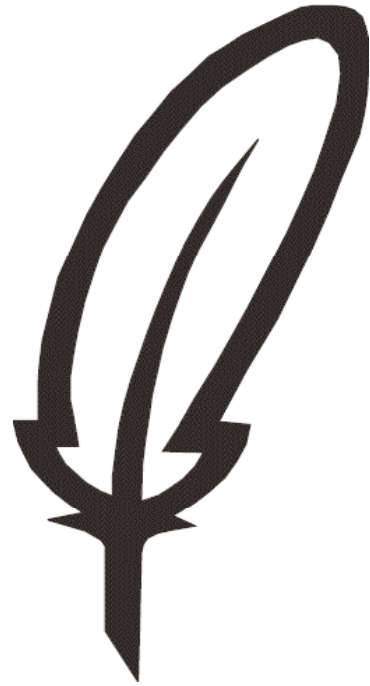
Out of 10 pedestrians surveyed, nine agreed that the UWRF crosswalks are unsafe for staff and students.

The strongest opinion came from former student Josh Airman, who explained his memory of the UWRF crosswalks.

“They’re in shambles,” he said. “Dangerous to traverse.”

“Cars don’t respect us. I have to be aggressive or they rarely stop.”

Jim Cipera, UWRF sophomore



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# WRFW “Talkblock”

## Programming

Every night from 5-6 p.m.

**Sunday:** “WRFW Live” w/ Jerry Clark

**Monday:** Jamie Babb

**Tuesday:** “The Dead Air Zone” w/ Collin Pote

**Wednesday:** “Act on Ag” w/ Jodi & Eric

**Thursday:** “The Shuffle” w/ Adam Lee

**Friday:** “Hipper Than Thou” w/ J Clark

**Saturday:** Tracey Pollock

[www.uwrf.edu/wrfw](http://www.uwrf.edu/wrfw)



EDITORIAL

Students need firm grasp of finances

April 15 looms large on the horizon. That singular date should be engrained in every Americans’ minds as the day taxes are due. But for too many people, taxes are simply that spring thing you do, hopefully to get some money back to blow on frivolous activities and/or material goods. The Student Voice wants to encourage the students of UW-River Falls to take an active understanding of finances, especially now in this harsh economic climate.

Even staying on campus, there are several resources that students can utilize to further explore positive financial planning and fiscal responsibility. Schedule time with an economics or accounting professor or talk to the Accounting Society. Both of these resources could help any student better grasp how to manage money and to plan for the future.

And money management is an essential tool for the future. Right now, the unemployment rate is 8.1 percent, meaning that there are over 24 million jobless Americans. It seems every week there is a new news story about downsizing and layoffs. Savings accounts have become the contingency plan for countless families, providing a rapidly drying well to live off of. Students should start their savings accounts now. The Student Voice realizes that this may be hard to do in the midst of unemployment, tuition fees and rising gas prices, but even a few dollars every week is better than nothing. Rather than visiting the C-Store every day for a snack or bottle of pop, put those few dollars aside and watch them add up.

Beyond creating and adhering to a strict savings plan, students should also be mindful and wary to the deceitfully tempting allure of credit cards. Unfortunately, there is a vein of ignorance running through college students—one that has led to credit card companies preying on students, expecting them to max out the limits before skyrocketing the interest rates to extremes, sometimes upwards of 30 percent. This monetary Venus flytrap catches many students unaware, leaving them crippled by debt upon graduation. Credit cards are not free money, and should be treated with caution.

Overall, students need to better understand finances in general. Call your bank, ask your parents, Google it! Do whatever it takes to familiarize yourself with your money, and your money options. And don’t forget to do your taxes but remember, there is more to it than your refund.

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

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

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By Jon Lyksett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Local elections in near future

It’s spring in Wisconsin, and that means it is time for elections. On Tuesday, April 7, citizens from across Wisconsin will head to the polls to vote for their choices for State Supreme Court, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, School Boards, City Councils, local judges and other choices depending on where they live.

Campus residents can vote in the University Center on Tuesday, April 7, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Students who live off-campus can find their polling location at vpa.wi.gov, as well as viewing a sample ballot for their location. If you are living at the same address as when you voted in the presidential election you should be registered already—check your registration at the vpa.wi.gov Web site to make sure. Registration can be accomplished at the polls if needed—check the City of River Falls Web site for more information. Just as the grass gets green

and new life grows in the spring, Wisconsin renews nonpartisan offices every year. UWRF students can play an important role in determining what direction our schools and cities take as they grow. Check your sample ballot at vpa.wi.gov to find the candidates and offices up in your area; I look forward to seeing you at the polls Tuesday, April 7.

Ben Plunkett

Former student to run in election

There is an election April 7, 2009. Several alderperson seats (City Council) will be up for election as well as a Wisconsin Supreme Court justice. I will be running for alderperson District 3 and my goals are to work with the University and local leaders to create a more sustainable economical future for River Falls. I hope to address many of the issues that trouble UWRF students, like parking, and find solutions that

work for both residents and students.

There are many prominent things that the City Council has done and will do that will greatly affect your temporary or permanent residency in River Falls. City offered internships to the Cascade redesign all fall under the City Council’s decision making process.

You may vote between now and April 6 at City Hall from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (City Hall is on the corner of Second and Elm Street). The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. For more information you may call City Hall at 715-425-0900, hit zero and ask for Lu Ann Hect, City Clerk. Exercise your right to vote!

Bob Hughes, former student

Well-known judge up for reelection

Don’t be squirrely, vote for Shirley! But seriously

Tom Friant, student

Role models marred by lies, cheating, scandals

I read recently that several “Idol” stars, while performing en masse on a special episode, sang over their own pre-recorded vocal tracks on prime time. Under the impression that “American Idol” was a show intended to discover musical talent, I gave an ironic chuckle as I read the article.

What a shame, that even the winners need some secret vocal help. But of course I shouldn’t expect much more—in fact, the more I thought about it, the more sense it made. American Idols may cheat a little with some harmless lip-synching, but it’s a trick they learned somewhere. And it turns out you don’t have to look very far to learn where. It’s a fact that’s becoming harder and harder to deny: people want to become better, faster, stronger, more popular, more talented and more famous, and they’re willing to throw credibility and legitimacy in the toilet to get there.

Even among those who have accomplished much, cutting corners is apparently an acceptable practice. We’re learning how to cheat from the top. Those who are supposed to be the most

competent, capable people around—political leaders, businessmen, athletes—could be inspirational in their roles. But instead a growing number of them lie and cheat to get where they’re going.

Usually it’s just about money. We’ve heard nothing but scandalous news

reports coming out of the banking and financial industries lately—dispensing multi-million dollar bonuses right after The Bailout is a classic example of cheating. I won’t pretend to understand the political and fiscal complexities of exact-but it’s that happened, but from what I’ve read along with everyone else, it certainly doesn’t sound fair.

Cheating is of course in sports too. I’ve been a baseball fan my whole life, but now I’m questioning myself. I love the sport, but does there come a point when enough is enough? Now even New York Yankee Alex Rodriguez, beloved baseball hero and media darling, has admitted to using steroids. And unrivaled pitcher Roger Clemens, the record-holding winner of seven Cy Young awards, has faced a lot of pub-

lic scrutiny for his anabolic steroid use. The list goes on—Bonds, Canseco, Pettitte, Giambi—and baseball isn’t the only sport with that kind of list. Has this gone far enough? Has the athletic competition of the sport lost its professional credibility? Steroid use certainly can’t help.

We’re learning from our professional athletes, our American Idols, and our senators, politicians, CEOs and bank executives that it’s okay to defraud and deceive in the pursuit of money or success. And television provides plenty of reminders—it asks us every day to cut corners by buying tonics, potions and pills to make our penises larger, our waists skinnier and our biceps even stronger and more glistening, now for less effort!

It doesn’t matter whether you’re an overpaid CEO with unbalanced books or an athlete bent over a bench press taking a needle in the ass-cheek, the rules of competition are there for a reason.

Perhaps abundance and happiness do not come with an unfair multi-million dollar executive bonus or another undeserved sports record.

Joe is a marketing communications major with a creative writing minor.

Something on your mind? Be heard. Write a letter to the editor. Submit your letter to editor@uwrfvoice.com or deliver it to the box outside 304 North Hall.



## Prospective students’ wallets supercede academic ability

While leafing through the New York Times looking for an article for an assignment, I came across one entitled “Paying in full as the ticket into colleges.” The article explained that instead of looking at applicants’ grades from high school, the activities they were involved in and their entrance essays, colleges are now looking at whether or not applicants have a fat wallet when deciding on who gets accepted and who gets rejected.

Since colleges are getting fewer endowments and getting more applicants who need more financial aid, they are beginning to look toward and accept those applicants who are wealthier. On top of that, the colleges that say they admit students regardless of financial need are continuing to find ways to increase the number of students who will be able to pay full tuition by taking more students from waiting lists or transfer lists, as well as admitting more foreign students who are able to pay full cost.

Even though colleges aren’t making cuts in the financial aid budgets, they are beginning to look at how many financially-needy students they can afford, now that more are applying for financial aid and will most likely need more down the road. While I do understand that funds are short and times are rough, this article made me angry, shocked, and made me question the morals and ethics of colleges and universities.

To replace talented, low-income applicants with less talented, richer applicants is extremely unjust and immoral to say the least. But sadly, it has been done with celebrities and others who belong to well-



Christie Lauer

known families. George W. Bush, to name one, is a perfect example. Going to Yale obviously did him absolutely no good; his spot could’ve been filled with a more mentally-equipped student.

Colleges and universities represent the future, possibilities and opportunities. To take that all away, in a sense, by rejecting those with a lower income, downgrades the reputation of colleges, universities and their administrations.

It also makes me wonder, if that’s going to be the case, why bother working so hard in high school to get the good grades? Why bother working so hard in AP classes to get extra credits in a college you may not even get into? Why go the extra mile and make extra efforts in extra-curricular activities that would look good on a college application? I know that colleges and universities aren’t going to look just at how much money an applicant has, as they do have reputations to uphold, but the questions are still there. AP classes, mentoring, tutoring, taking a few college classes on the side, working hard, getting good grades...at what point do they start to not matter to the administrations of colleges?

If that’s going to be the case, are high school students going to continue to have the work ethic in hopes of getting into the college of their dreams? The U.S. is known for freedom, possibilities, hopes and dreams for the future. If this keeps up, I don’t think it’s still going to look that way to young, hopeful high school graduates.

Christie is a sophomore journalism major.

## Obama’s presidency does not signal an end to racism, bigotry

Tim Wise spoke to a large crowd Tuesday night about white privilege, with an emphasis on how the recent election of Barack Obama does not mean we live in a post-racist society.

“Tim Wise is among the most respected antiracist writers and educators in the U.S., having spoken in 48 states and on over 400 college campuses. He has trained teachers, as well as corporate, government, media and law enforcement officials for uprooting institutional racism,” according to his Web site [www.timwise.org](http://www.timwise.org). He has written four books, including “White Like Me” and the most recent “Between Barack and a Hard Place: Racism and White Denial in the Age of Obama.”

Wise started his presentation by saying how he has been speaking for 15 years, but now that Barack Obama had been elected he doesn’t have anything to talk about. This facetious statement was followed by the reality that it is absurd for people to think that racism does not still exist on an individual and institutional level.

He then discussed how poverty still disproportionately affects people of color, especially in the black and Hispanic populations, among several other examples. He made clear that the election of Obama does show some progress, but should not be taken for granted. The results of this election still do not show white America what the average person of color has to go through on a daily basis. Wise said that claiming the election of Obama was the end of racism in the U.S. was the latest form of denial.



Tracey Pollock

Wise made the point that denial of racism among white people has been the norm for hundreds of years. He discussed how white people were surprised when their slaves left plantations after the Emancipation Proclamation, because the slave owners thought they treated their slaves like family.

Then, the results of a Gallup Poll in 1963 showed that white people thought that blacks were treated equally, and in 1962, 87 percent of white people thought that their children and black children were being treated equally in the public school system. Look it up. After five minutes of research, you should be able to understand how crazy this attitude of denial is.

Wise discussed how the problem is not white people, but the attitude of “whiteness.” White culture is the dominant culture in the U.S. and has been for a very long time, which has afforded white people the privilege of not having to understand what people of color go through. He defined privilege as having one less thing to worry about in your daily life.

This term is not exclusive to race, but also gender, sexual orientation and able-bodiedness among other identities that people have.

The point he very obviously made in this speech was that white people should understand that racism is still a very real problem, and that they can and should be allies in fighting it.

He ended the speech by saying “you can’t afford to have hope without truth.”

Tracey is a journalism major and a sociology minor.

## Internet dating a legitimate way to meet significant other, friends

Traditional meeting “singles” methods are being thrown out the window. Less often do you see or experience successful couples who have met in school, at work or at the bar.

There is a stereotype that meeting your significant other online is wrong. I’ve seen it in my family too many times before. My cousins have introduced several men they had met online to the family as their significant other. The fact that the couples met online was kept quiet and sometimes even lied about. Some people have a perception that looking for love online is dangerous and immoral.

We’ve all been warned about online predators. Anyone can go online and figuratively become a new person. You have to be careful who you talk to and who you choose to tell information too. These are all valid points of caution that I agree with.

However (you knew it was coming), I’m on the other side of the argument. Being safe online is important, just as being safe in the community is. I’ve met a group of close friends online. I was more protective with them than any of my other friends because that is what I had been taught to do.

Others have met their significant other online and had it actually work out. Web sites such as match.com and eHarmony have created programs that are safe and accurate in bringing singles together. These services are not something to look down upon. They work, and they can bring people together.

So often we are only exposed to those in our immediate area. The Internet offers the



Cristy Brusoe

opportunity to create connections. You can express yourself and open up to others, because of the unique situation that online features offer. Some of the most successful couples I know have started out or were brought together via the Internet.

I admire these couples because of their ability to make a sometimes long-distance relationship work. It requires patience and a whole lot of effort. They face challenges that other couples don’t.

I’m really tired of hearing and watching the looks when someone says “we met online.” It’s more common than ever before, and in my opinion, it’s as safe as meeting someone in person. The same risks exist. We need to stop getting stuck in our personal

bubbles and realize that there are other individuals, groups and communities out there.

I would most certainly say that picking up some men or ladies at the bar is more or just as risky as meeting someone online. With that said, this argument demonstrates two important points. Number one, don’t assume that because you’ve met someone in person, you can automatically trust them. They may have intentions that you are unaware of. Number two, don’t look down upon a couple who has met online.

Just because you’re not comfortable with it doesn’t mean others feel the same. Safety is a concern in both situations. The best option is to be protective and don’t be stupid in giving out personal information. There are a lot of genuine, real people out there. Not everyone is out to get ya.

Cristy is a sophomore journalism major.

## Existence due to religion or science uncertain

Just a few days ago, I was surfing the Web for some recent New York Times stories on education and I found one that really stood out. A guy named Charles McGrath was describing some recent books about the evolution/creationism conflict. He summarized the stance taken by one of the authors this way: “...If we understand the history of the debate better we might be able to depolarize it[.]” But, he added, “That may be too much to hope. Most of us are in the blissful position of having already made up our minds without bothering to think about it.”

Unfortunately, he was right. McGrath pointed out a very natural tendency, one that can be used to describe the entire human experience. What’s behind the faith vs. science dilemma? Why have some people made up our minds without bothering to think about it?

Maybe it stems directly from our instincts of self-preservation. In an unpredictable world, people hunger for certainty. We want to feel secure in where we stand. We want to be validated, to be told that we are right and those who disagree with us are wrong.

But science can’t tell us that, in spite of how much it has increased our understanding of the world. Science (when done properly) can only tell us what the truth seems to be, based on what facts we already know and whether our theories stand up to repeated tests and experiments. For those who are especially insecure and feel they can’t get by without being absolutely certain of things, science is not enough. And because few absolute



Nathan Sparks

certainties exist in the real world, we have to develop some of our own.

Enter religion. A set of beliefs that are said to be constant and reliable; just as true today as they were the day before, and always will be. A doctrine that (coincidentally) places humans above all the other species. Even better—it says your particular version of humanity is the best, because you have “the one truth faith.”

This does not fully describe all religions. There are minor differences between them, based on environment and local culture. But the similarities are clear: religion gives you a place to stand, and something to stand up for. That’s why it’s such an integral part of our lives.

In my view, the problem with religion is not that believers stand up, but that so many refuse to move forward. Instead they draw a line in the sand and say, “This is pretty much all we need to know. We don’t have to look for better answers.” No matter what new information surfaces on the other side of that line, they simply avert their gaze. They seem to oppose new ideas without even bothering to understand them.

Thankfully, science is not as vulnerable to this habit. While so many religious believers already have their minds made up, a good scientist is never totally convinced of anything. And that is what lies at the heart of their dispute. Both sides have chosen their course and are in no mood to

compromise. The ongoing debate about whether to teach evolution or allow intelligent design in school is just an extension of that conflict.

I am not a religious believer myself, nor am I a scientist. While nothing I’ve experienced in life has convinced me that a higher power exists...that doesn’t mean the existence of a higher power isn’t possible. Still, if there is some godlike entity out there that designed our world, I think he disguised himself extremely well. The world is not like a manufactured jigsaw puzzle, where every part fits perfectly and serves an important purpose.

Life is full of changes, flaws, subtle patterns and loose ends for which only evolution has provided a decent explanation. Plant and animal species constantly develop new abilities to survive while others go extinct. Ostriches have wings but can no longer fly; small (and useless) leg bones still grow in the bodies of whales; people are still born with wisdom teeth and appendixes, despite the fact that we no longer have to chew up raw plant tissue or digest it for sustenance. If life were the product of a flawless design, why would it alter itself and challenge its own limits so relentlessly?

We want to believe that the world is simple, that it can be defined by artificial categories and preconceptions. But the truth is not always what we want to believe. In some cases, it is the complete opposite. We may not want to face it. But that’s one of the cold, hard facts of existence.

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

## STUDENT VOICES

### Do you think science and religion can coexist?



Dustin VanDerBerg, sophomore

“They can but they won’t. Some religions are too close minded.”



April Damitz, freshman

“Yes I do. Science is a proven fact but people still believe in God.”



Caitlin Usset, sophomore

“Yes because if science exists then it is because of God.”



Alex Nelson, senior

“No. Science has proven religion wrong.”



Kelly Van Haren, freshman

“Yeah. They don’t go against each other on all aspects.”



Dave Linder, junior

“They have to because science is becoming more prominent. Religion can’t argue all of science’s facts”

Student Voices compiled by Tennae Maki



# Falcons end Rebel Games on high note

Justin Magill  
justin.magill@uwrf.edu

If there is one disadvantage of having a softball team in the Midwest it would be the weather, but the Falcons showed no signs of rust when they won seven of 10 games in Florida in a span of five days at the Rebel Spring Games.

“At the end we played a lot better,” UW-River Falls Head Coach Jody Gabriel said. “We came out 7-3, which I am happy about. It took us a few games to get going, but we did well.”

The Falcons had several games prior, but they were played at the Rosemount Dome in Rosemount, Minn.

“Obviously, it’s a different game playing in the dome,” Gabriel said. “So it was important for us to get down to Florida and play some games outside.”

For Mindy Rudiger, who is in her last season, it is about the natural elements that UWRF needs to get used to.

“It was good to see some sun and light down there,” she said. “For us being up here, it was important to get in a lot of games. Being able to see the ball in sunlight and just being outside is big for us. Now we come back and we see snow.”

UWRF struggled on its first day on March 15, losing to Illinois Wesleyan 5-0, followed by a 17-2 drubbing from William Patterson University (N.J.).

Rudiger said the Falcons learned a lot about themselves as the games went on.

“Started out pretty rough at the start,” she said. We weren’t playing our game, but as the week went on we started to learn how to play as a team. We built a lot of cohesion and played better down the stretch.”

The Falcons won seven of their final eight games after and the last six in Florida in a variety of different ways.

UWRF put together a blowout game of its own when it beat Rutgers-Newark (N.J.) 13-0 on March 17.

It also had to grind out a tough win against Massachusetts College 3-1.

“It did not matter what the situation was,” Gabriel said. “If we were ahead by a lot or if it was a close game, we wanted to make sure we got quality at-bats every time we were up.”

Spending a week with just teammates, Rudiger said the trip to Florida was more than just playing games.

“It was an important part of the season,” she said. “We spend a lot of time together and we learn a lot about each other.”

Being one of only three seniors on the team, Rudiger is one of the leaders and is showing so by example in the early stages of the season.

She leads the team in several batting statistics which include home runs (5), runs batted in (RBI) (19), and slugging percentage (.667).

“It’s important to show a lot of the younger players that you have to go out and play hard,” she said. “You have to show them by playing well on the field. Our team has a lot of young players so it’s important to show them what it takes to be a good team.”

In the final four games of the Rebel Spring Games, UWRF won 5-0 against Nichols College (Mass.), 5-3 over Millikin University (Ill.), 4-0 against Anderson University (Ind.) and a 4-1 against Fontbonne University (Miss.).

Last weekend, UWRF played in the Augustana Invitational Tournament on the Augustana College (Ill.) campus, in what was



Renae Bergh/Student Voice

**The Falcons played 10 games in five days at the Rebel Spring Games in Florida last week. They went 7-3, winning its last six games. The Falcons will have their first home game on April 4.**

supposed to be a four-game tournament.

Heavy snow blanketed the area and the final two games were cancelled and will not be made up.

The Falcons were able to get two games in and won both, extending their winning streak to eight.

In the first game on Saturday, UWRF beat Ripon College (Wis.) 7-

3, with the help of some power from Sarah Fern, who connected for her third home run of the season, a three run blast, and Rudiger hit her fifth of the season in the first inning to give the Falcons an early lead.

In the second game, UWRF beat Grinnel College (Iowa) in dominating fashion behind a five hit, one walk and one earned run pitching

performance by Rose Tusa.

She struck out five batters in what was her fourth win of the season.

The Falcons will began WIAC play against UW-Eau Claire on Thursday. They will have their first home game of the season against UW-Whitewater on Saturday and UW-Oshkosh in town the following day.

# Tiger thrills golf fans again at Bay Hill

Many people find watching a golf tournament on a Sunday afternoon rather boring. I won’t lie, as a kid I would have rather watched paint dry than watch a final round of the Masters. Not until the eighth grade did I enjoy the game of golf, and since then have only wanted to watch one player on the PGA tour: Tiger Woods.

At the age of 33, Tiger has almost accomplished what it took



Jack Nicklaus nearly 30 years to do. Currently, Tiger has won almost 30 percent of all of the PGA tour events he has entered. He has won a combined total of over 90 tournaments both on the PGA tour and other individual tournaments in his professional career, including 14 majors.

Tiger is sometimes called the greatest closer of all time. He has never lost a tournament when leading after 54 holes, and has the lowest career scoring average in the

history of the PGA. He has only the missed the cut in two major tournaments in the past 14 years, and has won the U.S. Open by 10 shots.

It is difficult to say that Tiger is the greatest athlete of all time in all sports, because of the sport he plays, but it is possible to say that he is the most dominant athlete in his sport. Tiger takes over tournaments. Just this past Sunday, he was five shots back starting his round, and managed to charge a comeback making a 15 foot putt on the 72nd hole to beat Sean O’Hair.

Tiger had done this before.

Last year at the U.S. Open, he came back and tied Rocco Mediate

with his final putt on the 72nd hole with a torn ACL, and won the tournament the following day in a play-off, grimacing through pain.

Not only does Tiger’s golf game make him the greatest of all time, but also what he does off the course makes a difference for the game.

He has started a foundation called The Tiger Woods Foundation, which was started by Tiger and his father Earl in 1996. Its purpose was originally to hold golf clinics for younger children, but since then has provided scholarships and partnerships with other organizations.

He also opened the Tiger Woods Learning Center, a large building

that houses seven classrooms, along with multimedia equipment and golf trainers.

Finally, Tiger’s greatest attribute is the ability he has to relate to other people. Not only is Tiger black, but is also Asian. He is able to reach out and teach and train so many different people that this fact could possibly be his greatest asset, not only to golf, but also to the world as a whole.

Tiger Woods may have bad rounds, bad tournaments or even bad years, but any other contender cannot match his presence on the golf course, which makes him the greatest golfer of all time.

• Saturday, April 4th •

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# No respect in U.S. for World Baseball Classic

As the subtle signs of spring quickly approach, baseball fans across America look forward to Opening Day of Major League Baseball—a time-honored national tradition that only gets better with age.

“There is no sports event like Opening Day of baseball, the sense of beating back the forces of darkness and the National Football League,” writer George Vecsey elegantly described it.

But this year feels slightly different. Even though it is only April, with the Fall Classic months away, audiences across the world have already been treated to one of the finest, most aesthetically beautiful games ever played—a contest filled with drama, passion and astonishing displays of skill—proving that even in its infancy, the World Baseball Classic successfully showcased everything that is great about the sport on a global level.

It’s too bad that so few in the U.S. cared enough to pay attention, much less actually going to the games to support their team.

On the evening of March 22, young Japanese pitching phenom Yu Darvish unleashed a wicked, biting slider that USA slugger Adam Dunn could only watch dart past him, eliminating the American team from the tournament and setting up an all-east final between



Andy Phelps

Japan and South Korea, who destroyed Venezuela the night before. For the second time in the brief history of the WBC, the U.S. can no longer claim that it ranks among the world’s best.

The championship game between South Korea and Japan featured defensive precision, situational hitting and a nerve-wrecking extra-inning finale topped off by Korean right-hander Chang-Yong Lim’s fateful decision to put one of the greatest hitters of the modern era to the ultimate test with two runners in scoring position. Ichiro, a surgeon with a bat, did not miss. It was one of the greatest games I have ever seen.

Because of all the tremendous talent that exists in the U.S., the only reason to point to for the general lack of interest in America is apathy. It’s disgusting and shameful. As long as there is a long list of superstars such as Grady Sizemore, Ryan Howard, C.C. Sabathia, Mark Teixeira and Jonathan Papelbon who cautiously chose not to participate, the event will not get the respect or attention it deserves from U.S. fans, which is tragic.

The players that did take part wore their team colors with pride and should be commended for their decision to fight for the honor of the National Pastime, but their carefree attitude when bounced from the tournament

sharply contrasts with Ichiro’s rare display of emotion in 2006. After losing a preliminary-round game against Korea, He screamed in rage and seethed to the media later, “I want to beat the teams in the Asia round so badly they’ll never think of beating Japan for the coming 30 years,” he said. “The fans can expect a lot from us.”

This is the kind of intensity that American fans should demand from Team USA, and in return, members of the team should expect full fan support rather than empty stadiums. Perhaps they could mirror the example set by the 55,000 boisterous Korean and Japanese fans plastered in face paint who packed Dodger Stadium to witness the historic final between the two teams.

The World Baseball Classic may have several flaws, and it does come at an awkward time in relation to spring training, but it will only reach its true potential when Team USA stops treating the event as an exhibition rather than an important competition with national pride at stake.

As we look forward to what guarantees to be another MLB season for the ages, I hope that in 2013, Team USA can conjure up enough heart and desire to help reach the rapidly-improving WBC reach its full potential.

Andy is an English major with a journalism minor. He enjoys gambling and Korea soap operas. He loves baseball like he loves air.



# UWRF upholds yearly tradition with International Bazaar

Collin Pote  
collin.pote@uwrf.edu

One of UW-River Falls’ most prominent yearly events, the International Bazaar, will once again be held in the University Center Ballroom on April 9. The event is said to offer things from years past and more.

“Nobody is really sure how long it’s been going on for,” Head Coordinator Alifa Momin said.

This is Momin’s second year involved with the Bazaar and her first coordinating it. The event, sponsored by the International Student Association, has been a yearly tradition for the University. Having been held every spring for an estimated 50 years, the International Bazaar is held with the purpose of exposing attendees to aspects of different cultures from all over the world.

Aspects of other cultures at the event include clothing, music and perhaps most importantly, food.

“It’s probably one of the biggest events on the campus. From my experience, most people come for the food,” Momin said.

The food offered at the Bazaar will be given in small sampler-sized amounts rather than full meals, allowing attendees to have enough room in their stomachs for cuisine from several cultures. People will be able to sample food from 10 separate countries as well as deserts from two. Food will be served from 5 to 6:30 p.m., after which guests will be treated to entertainment.

Entertainment will include things such as dances as well as songs. Dances can be both traditional and modern, as break dancing has been a part of the entertainment at past Bazaars.

There are also plans to have an international fashion show. Though it will not be done in a runway style, the fashion show

is intended to demonstrate different attire from the regions represented at the event.

Also, for the first time, the Bazaar plans to have a portion of the entertainment devoted to calligraphy. This portion of the event is expected to take roughly 20 minutes and will demonstrate the art. In addition, there are also plans to have a portion with audience participation in which volunteers will try their hand at calligraphy.

Cultures represented at the Bazaar will include, Swahili, Tibetan, German, Japanese, Chinese, Indian and others. This year’s Bazaar promises a large event with more to offer than past years.

Tickets can be purchased at the door of the UC Ballroom April 9, the prices being \$5 for students and \$10 for non-students.

## Big name actor fails to compensate for confusing plot, obvious ending



José Cruz, Jr.

Blending genres can be a unique and bold feat. The whole process of writing and directing such a film is so delicate, in that elements have to be carefully aligned in a way that makes sense, is intelligent and is entertaining.

“Knowing” is none of these things. Despite having a big-name actor in the starring role (screwball ‘thespian’ Nicolas Cage) and its obviously high CGI animation budget, “Knowing” turns out to be a forgettable and banal viewing experience.

The year is 1959, in Lexington, Mass. A mentally-disturbed girl, Lucinda (Lara Robinson), has won a contest for the idea to celebrate a school’s opening. The class buries a time capsule with pictures from the children to be opened in 50 years. Lucinda writes a bunch of numbers with no apparent sequence or pattern to be put into the time capsule.

Fifty years later, the capsule is opened, and MIT astrophysicist and professor John Koestler’s (Cage) son is the recipient of Lucinda’s page of numbers.

John dismisses it at first glance, but soon notices a pattern in the numbers after a ring of alcohol from his drinking glass soaked into the paper.

The sequence shows the dates of significant disasters, as well as the body count and the coordinates of where the disaster occurred. John goes insane trying to prevent the events from happening, while trying to figure out the mystery behind Lucinda’s writing of the

numbers.

Meanwhile, his son begins to hear voices in his head and encounters strange people trying to lure him away from his father.

“Knowing” is overall a disaster movie—a catastrophic event occurs that sends the population batshit crazy and we follow the story of a small group of people in their struggle to survive. But the film is not restricted to the disaster scenario. Other elements such as The Rapture, astrophysics, determinism and numerology come into play, and confuse viewers even further. It is basically “Number 23,” “Left Behind” and “Close Encounters of the Third Kind” rolled into one meandering movie.

Films that have a lot going on and do not make much sense superficially are not automatically bad (i.e. “Southland Tales” and “Pi: Faith in Chaos”). But had “Knowing” stuck with ideas and developed them more, it would have come off as less half-assed and more intelligently crafted.

Making clichéd allusions to Bible stories does not make a movie smart. A more developed background of the prophecy’s origins would have been nice. And anyone familiar with Friedrich Nietzsche’s “Übermensch” concept will only pick up on it in the very end, where it is only left partially explored with a redundant inclusion. A few subliminal themes are hinted at, but never fully hold through the film as a whole.



Source: www.knowing-themovie.com  
“Knowing” stars Nicolas Cage and Lara Robinson.

The biggest sin committed is the sheer predictability of the flick. Anyone paying attention in the first half can pretty much figure out the second, including the anti-climax and woefully executed denouement.

“Knowing” is a predictable thriller that could have been much better if it didn’t drone on mindlessly under the guise of pseudo-intelligent writing.

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



## ‘Monsters vs. Aliens’ supplies humor, interest for both children, adults



Nathan Piotrowski

2009 may very well be the year that the kids movie reigns supreme. With the latest installment of this genre “Monsters vs. Aliens,” we see yet another film that is not only a good mix of humor, but a decent plot, and memorable characters. But with all the good this film does, it also alienates (no pun intended) some members of the audience with its inside jokes, and the main group of people not in on the jokes will probably be our generation and younger, those who haven’t seen most of the classic horror and science fiction movies.

The movie has a simple enough plot for kids to follow, but it is also enough for adults to get into. Susan Murphy is hit by a meteor on the day of her wedding that causes her to grow several stories taller. She is captured by the government, and forced to reside in a prison with other monsters such as The Missing Link, Insectosaurus, Dr. Cockroach and B.O.B. When an alien robot starts wreaking havoc on the country, they are released to battle it. Obviously it’s a plot that didn’t require a lot of thought, but it is just enough to keep adults interested as well as kids.

The characters in the movie are almost all parodies of characters from early horror and science fiction movies, and they are well-played by their voice actors. Reese Witherspoon does a good job as a leading animated lady; however, she is generally overshadowed by the supporting cast consisting of Hugh Laurie, Rainn Wilson, Kiefer Sutherland and Stephen Colbert. Sutherland voices the overbearing and solely military minded general that came straight from the script of a Stanley Kubrick movie, while a bizarre twist of “Frankenstein” and Cronenberg’s “The Fly” come to life with Laurie’s help and Stephen Colbert plays a president that is, well, the character of Stephen Colbert.

As stated, however, some of the humor will fly over the heads of most audience members who have not seen a great deal of older horror movies. Anyone can laugh at the president trying to communicate with an alien vessel with a keyboard playing the theme to “Beverly Hills Cop,” but the first six notes from “Close Encounters of the Third Kind” will go unnoticed by most people in the audience. A lot of kids’ movies seem to be pigeon-holing their jokes to the adults present these days, but when half of the jokes don’t even get laughed at, perhaps it’s time to cut down on the references.

The movie as a whole will have most people laughing throughout its entire duration (aside from the movie references), and if you’re into the whole 3-D gimmick, I would suggest this one. This is truly a year where a lot of the best movies have been those made for children, but also targeted at adults. If something doesn’t change soon, we may very well see an animated character accepting an award for Best Actor in a Leading Role next year. Perhaps that will give Hollywood the heads up to finally start making some better movies targeted solely at adults, rather than making films such as “Bride Wars” or yet another horror movie remake.

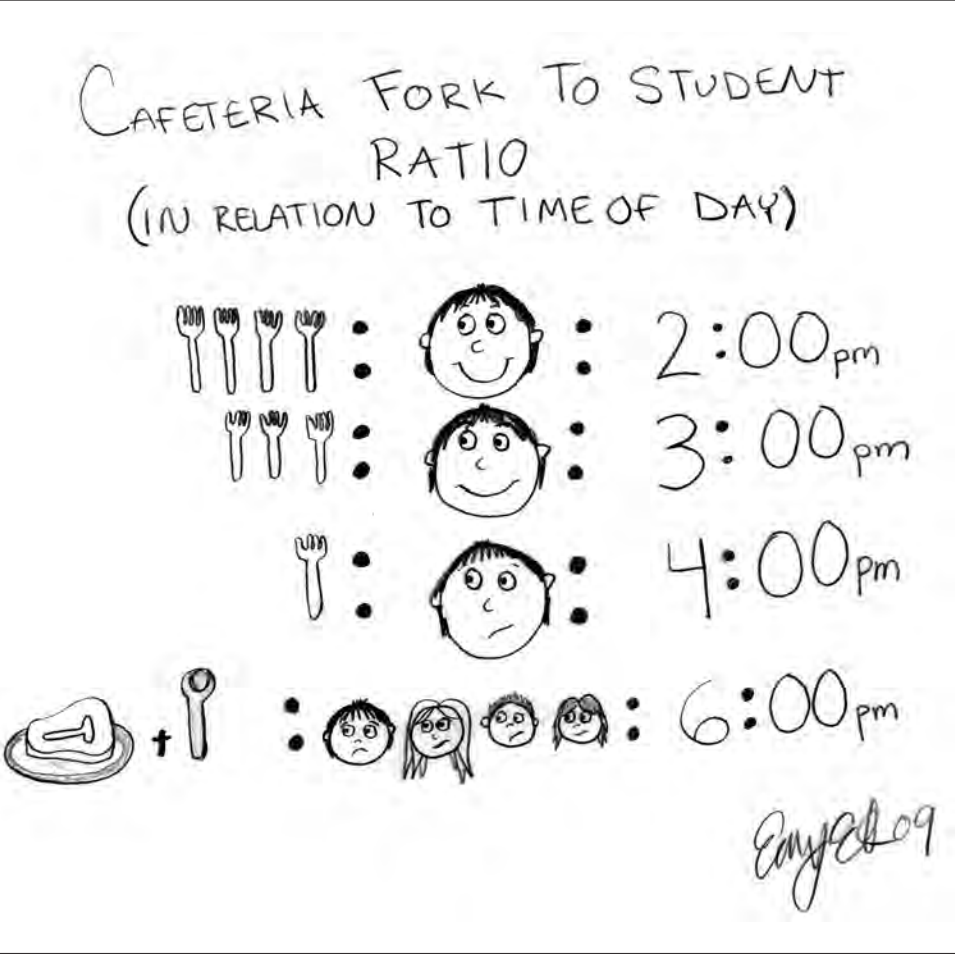


Source: Dreamworks Animations  
“Monsters vs. Aliens” stars Reese Witherspoon and Stephen Colbert.

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.



## Student Voice cartoon



Cartoon by Emily Eck



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# UWRF graduate receives national fellowship

Joy Stanton  
joy.stanton@uwrf.edu

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) awarded UW-River Falls graduate student Ian Johnson a fellowship in the Campus Ecology Program with a \$5,000 grant for his thesis study in sustainability, Dec. 14.

The 2009 NWF’s Campus Ecology fellows—17 total—met in Washington, D.C., for a training conference March 6-9.

The meetings and brainstorming sessions were long, but a good time, Johnson—who is in his second year in UWRF’s sustainable community development program (SCD)—said, because everyone was on the same ecological page, so to speak.

“It was really cool to see the energy coming out of these people,” Johnson said. “Our intent is all the same, our backgrounds are similar—in that what we are interested in—so there was kind of this cohesion right from the get-go.”

NWF has 4 million members and supporters and affiliated wildlife organizations in 47 states and territories, according to the NWF Web site.

Networking was a key component to the conference. Each of the fellows received a packet stocked with the 17 biographies and projects accompanied by a picture.

Within two days after the conference, Johnson said he begrudgingly signed up for Facebook and Twitter accounts, seeing it as a professional network.

“I didn’t want to be a slave to another corner of technology, but in the modern world if you are going to network, especially with a fellowship like this, trying to further an agenda it’s probably a necessary thing,” Johnson said.

Johnson’s NWF fellowship gives the sustainable community development program at UWRF access to resources that might be more difficult to obtain otherwise, Johnson’s advisor Kelly Cain said.

“[Johnson’s] project will get national attention and publicity, which spills over onto the campus and helps future students competing in the same program to potentially have a higher level of recognition,” Cain said in an e-mail interview.

About 25 graduate students, part-time and full-time, are enrolled in the SCD masters program. Cain, who is also the director of the St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development, said most SCD masters students are a joy to work with and Johnson is no exception.

“Ian is the kind of student who makes faculty work so rewarding, enjoyable and challenging, as his level of knowledge and ability keeps me scrambling to keep up with him in areas that are not my strong suit,” Cain said.

### Thesis will outline best management practices for land

Johnson will research other people’s unique data to create his study on the prairie management and carbon negative bio-fuels feedstock—raw material for biofuel—in Willow River State Park and the St. Croix River Watershed.

“It’s a literature review in a way, but it is combining all of these separate studies into one unique area and using Willow River just kind of as a footprint for that,” Johnson said.

In December 2006, the magazine “Science” published research led by David Tilman of the University of Minnesota. The Tilman group discovered, over a 10-year period, that native tall grass prairies were 238 percent more efficient for converting it into biofuel than monocultures like corn.

The perennial grasses grow on agriculturally degraded lands and store more carbon in their 30 to 40-foot deep root systems. Some carbon is released when the final product is burned as biofuel, but far less than is sequestered in the roots.

The growing carbon market is unregulated at the moment, but carbon sequestration—translated to a carbon negative out-

put—could become an extra source of revenue for farmers on top of the actual sale of the harvested goods, Johnson said. Part of the study will provide carbon sequestration data on a per-unit basis that can be implemented to a broad scale

“We are still trying to benefit from this, but do it in a responsible manner,” Johnson said. “It’s my hope that after that study people realize it’s more profitable to use native plantings as a cash crop essentially. But if they are going to do that there needs to be something out there that shows them how to properly manage that.”

Johnson’s thesis study will define best management practices to maximize biodiversity, carbon sequestration, public and watershed benefits and species protection, according to Johnson’s grant proposal submitted to NWF.

Best management practices include annual rotational harvest schedules, seasonal harvest dates and land size in the St. Croix region in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Willow River State Park has restored about 200 acres of native prairie.

“Understanding the whole big picture is not looking at one end product,” Johnson said. It’s the whole process and everything that goes into it.”

The mosaic of grasses is much better for ecology and species, and Johnson said the restoration of native prairies will support species that have declined or found other niches.

“The more native and properly managed your land is, the more biodiversity you have,” he said. “If you go in, plant this field and then come in and cut it down every year that isn’t helping out the species that are going to try and inhabit that now.”

According to Johnson’s NWF grant proposal, the study will produce a theoretical model for “use in private enterprise that will positively affect climate change, local agriculture, biodiversity and fuel production.”

### SCD masters students search for money for research

Virtually no existing funding is available to SCD graduate students for research purposes. Funding for holistic studies in the general field of sustainability is hard to come by, Johnson said.

Johnson received a \$5000 grant from NWF that will be paid over the 15-month fellowship period.

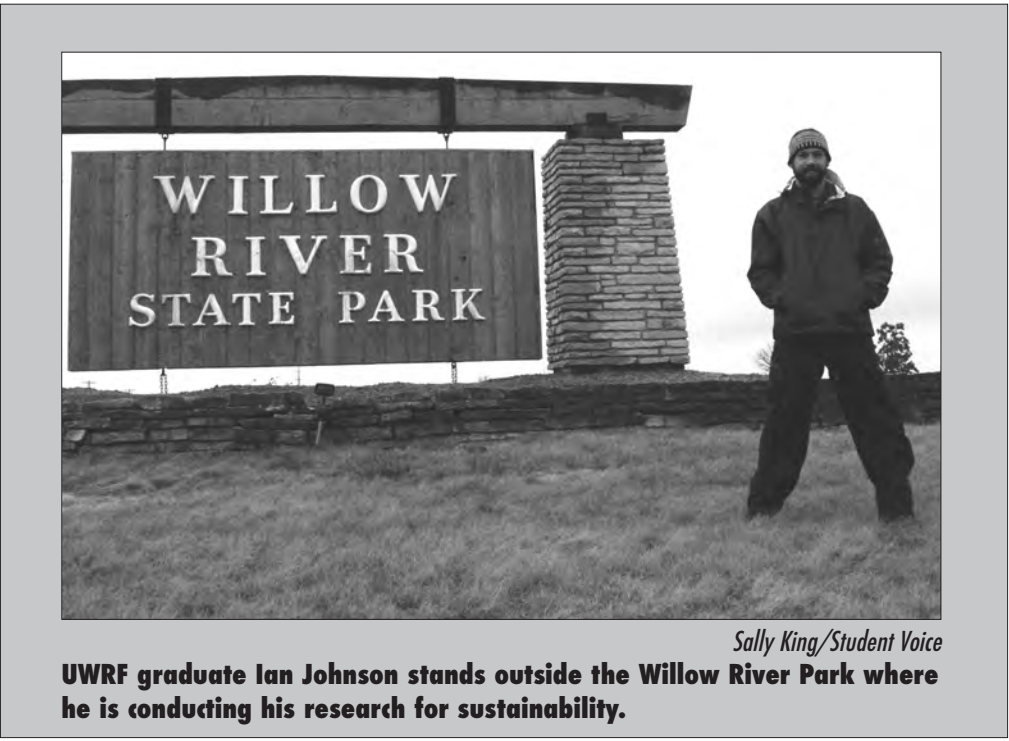
“People keep talking about how it is important,” Johnson said. “But the money has yet to be seen.”

Johnson, who wants to get his Ph.D. and become a professor, said he admits going out and getting money has been a pain, but helpful because now he knows how to write grant proposals.

“My end goal—I want to be a professor somewhere and probably end up in a Ph.D. program after this,” Johnson said. “And going out and searching for money and writing grant proposals in a necessary thing, at that point.

Johnson and his wife of four years, Kristen, live with their 2-year-old daughter Phoebe and terrier-Chihuahua mixed dog, Ole. Kristen works full-time as a stylist at A’la Mode Salon and Spa located in downtown Hudson, Wis.

Johnson works 20 hours a week at Casanova Liquor Store.



He compiles and edits a monthly e-newsletter that reaches nearly 200 unique subscribers. Entitled What We Need is Here, the e-newsletter highlights living sustainably through local avenues. Archives of featured articles can be found on under the heading “outreach projects” at [www.uwrf.edu/sustain](http://www.uwrf.edu/sustain).

### The path to a greener lifestyle takes a few detours

Johnson’s road to everything sustainable wound and looped around a few times. He graduated high school in 1996 and joined the United States Marine Corps the same November. During four years in the Marines, he was stationed in Mississippi and San Diego, Calif. The self-proclaimed fan of the outdoors said he learned discipline and gained a few good friends, but he knew the military was not for him.

“Just doing something just because somebody says so doesn’t work for me,” Johnson said. “If they say so and you realize they have a good motive or reason behind it that’s fine, but that’s not how the military works. It’s just kind of ‘do as I say and that’s final.’”

Out of the military by 2000, Johnson used the next three years working towards a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management at UW-Stout, according to Johnson’s résumé.

In February 2004, Johnson became a field manager for Centex Homes in Minnetonka, Minn. It was during this time that Johnson said he found himself working at odds with his values when applied to the large corporation’s lack of concern for the environment.

“Nothing sustainable about it, we were plowing down fields with no regard to how to control the growth or how the homes were built,” Johnson said.

It was not until he read the book “Ishmael” by Daniel Quinn that Johnson said “it all got very infectious and fell into clear view of the ‘big picture.’”

### Responsible living becomes part of the big picture

Last summer, Johnson reinsulated his 100-year-old farmhouse in Hudson and installed a new heating system.

Johnson sold his truck and bought a diesel Volkswagen Golf that gets 45 to 50 miles per gallon.

Fifty percent of his family’s food comes from a garden grown in the backyard. The produce is canned, frozen and dried for the winter. Trips to the grocery store can stretch out to about every six weeks, Johnson said.

Whole organic milk is delivered each Tuesday by Crystal Ball Farms out of Osceola, Wis. The Johnson family own 10 chickens. Johnson only hunts for deer for the meat. For another source of protein, Johnson found a place to buy grass-fed, free-range bison meat.

Living locally, or with the “big picture” in mind can be expensive up front, Johnson said.

“If you go and buy a pound of coffee it’s probably a few bucks more, but then my mindset is that’s the true cost of that coffee,” Johnson, who drinks fair trade coffee, said. “We are paying people a living wage for it.”

A lack of education stops the general public from opening their wallets for something they could buy cheaper elsewhere.

“They see it as an extra cost rather than paying their fair share,” Johnson said. “And especially in an economy like this, people are trying to pinch pennies anywhere they can. I would rather pay the extra cost and be responsible about it and cut back somewhere else.”

With a focus of ecology and climate change—keeping in mind the “big picture,” Johnson began researching different graduate programs. Colorado, Montana and the University of Minnesota were points of interests until Johnson found UWRF’s SCD masters program online.

“All of a sudden River Falls popped up on my Google search with this program,” Johnson said. “I thought: ‘what the heck is this? Well, this sounds exactly what I am looking for because it’s holistic, covers the whole spectrum.’ You focus on one area, but it looks at how everything connects to everything else.”

### Johnson: hopes green living is more than a trend

Johnson said the hype surrounding the interest in green living has created certain problems in the unregulated market.

Greenwashing is the term used to describe when companies tout products or policies as green without having to consider the big picture.

Johnson said an example of this is construction companies installing an efficient furnace.

“Oh, we are green because we have got a 93 percent efficient furnace now,” Johnson said. “Not realizing or not paying attention to the fact that they just built a 5,000 square foot home for two people—but it’s efficient.”

With NWF’s Campus Ecology fellowship, Johnson said the charge is to change habits on the UWRF campus and other campuses through his study.

“There is kind of a whole energy about the campus right now,” Johnson said. “If we can get it to spread into each individual department and become and underlying mantra almost or framework for what they teach and what they do, I think it’s going to go a long way.”

Find the full story online at: [www.uwrfvoice.com](http://www.uwrfvoice.com)

## Asian Studies Minor Concert Event

by Gao Hong

Gao Hong, a Chinese musical prodigy and master of the pear-shaped lute called pipa (琵琶), began her career as a professional musician at the age of 12. Having performed for three decades, she has received numerous top awards and honors in both China and the U.S.

Time: Wednesday, April 8 at 7:30 pm  
Location: William Abbott Concert Hall, Kleinpell Fine Arts Building  
Sponsored by  
U.S. Department of Education Asian Studies Grant  
Music Department, College of Arts and Sciences

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