



ALUMNI, PAGE 2
Distinguished award
has 50-year history
at UWRF

KAILASH, PAGE 5
Fashion columnist critiques,
provides tips for
men's sweaters

TENNIS, PAGE 6
Falkons win last home
match, move on to
tournament action



STUDENT VOICE

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UW System expanding benefits to domestic partners

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As a part of Wisconsin's 2009 state budget, UW System employees will be eligible to receive domestic partner benefits beginning Jan. 1, 2010.

Act 28 of the state budget bill states that, "employees of the University of Wisconsin System will be eligible to cover a same-sex or opposite-sex domestic partner and the domestic partner's children under the family health insurance policy."

To qualify as being a part of a domestic partnership, partners must share a common residence, consider themselves a part of each other's immediate family and be responsible for each other's basic living expenses. Additionally, the partnership cannot violate any state statutes that prohibit marriage based on kinship or divorce, according to the UW System Web site.

Once qualified, unregistered domestic partners will be able to receive not only health insurance, but life insurance, dental insurance, and Wisconsin Retirement System benefits. System employees will also be able to take a leave of absence to care for a partner or partner's children under the Wisconsin Family Medical Leave Act.

Unregistered domestic partnerships are available to same-sex and opposite-sex partners. Registered partnerships are obtainable by opposite-sex couples only under Wisconsin's domestic partner registry, according to the UW System Web site.

David Rainville, a chemistry professor at UW-River Falls and chair of the University's Faculty Senate, said he feels some of the benefits provided beyond health care will have the biggest impact.

"The fact that your domestic partner could get your retirement benefits is huge," he said. "That could be bigger than the health insur-

ance in many cases."

On March 9, then-UWRF Interim Chancellor Connie Foster approved a motion put forth by the Faculty Senate in support of domestic partnership benefits for UW System employees.

Though the UW System is taking action, many neighboring universities have long since had these policies in place.

The UW System is the last university system affiliated with the Big Ten Conference to implement a domestic partnership benefit plan, Rainville said.

"This has been something that's been on the burner for a long time," he said. "Whether it was outside pressure or internal decisions, it's finally getting done."

The new policy has received backlash from Wisconsin Family Action Inc. The group filed a lawsuit on July 23 against the state of Wisconsin claiming domestic partnership benefits are unconstitutional based on Article XIII,

Section 13 of the state constitution, which bans same-sex marriages.

Though the UW System's actions regarding domestic partnerships are not without controversy, Greta Gaard, professor of English at UWRF, said she sees them as a positive with work still to be done.

"It's something that has been fought for for a long time," she said. "It's certainly a step forward, but it's still not including everyone."

Gaard refers to a same-sex couple's inability to register with the state, along with the common dwelling requirements, as continued inequalities.

"It's striving to create equality, but it's not," she said. "The fact is not even heterosexual couples always conform to society's norms. Many married couples work in different cities and travel to meet each other. Why are they different?"

Family Day offers activities for UWRF students, families

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Every year, UW-River Falls invites families and friends of students to campus to participate in a variety of activities during Family Day weekend.

This year, Family Day is set for Oct. 17. The events begin on Friday evening when families can register early and get the chance to view the movie "Up!" and take part in open skate at Hunt Arena after.

There are many different events on Saturday for families to choose from. The day begins with a 5K Run for the Roses, which raises money for arthritis research, sponsored by the women of Alpha Omicron Pi.

Families also have the chance to dine with the chancellor at a continental breakfast in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center.

At two different times throughout the day, families will choose one hour-long session to attend. These include: campus tours, greenhouse interactive tours, "What Color is Your Personality?" sponsored by Career Services, a Dairy Learning Center tour, art demonstrations, physics rocks and a session about sustainability

on campus.

There are other events throughout the day that include a Greek Life open house, an egg roll sale sponsored by the Asian American Student Association, bingo, a magician, and kids fest, which consists of a bounce house, mini golf, and other fun activities for the younger family members.

Families also have the opportunity to cheer on the Falcon football and soccer teams on Saturday. The football game begins at 1 p.m. and the soccer game at 2 p.m.

New this year will be a performance by the musical group "The Dweebs." This band features Michael Blue, his son Benjamin and daughter Claire-all on lead vocals-and son Mike Jr. on the drums. T-Bone Coen is on keyboards and Trevor Radtke on the bass guitar.

Kaitlin Webb, orientation manager for Family Day, said The Dweebs are a welcomed addition to this year's event.

"We are super excited to have the Dweebs come this year," Webb said. "We think it will be a great, family friendly event for all to enjoy."

The First Year Experience

See Family Day page 3

Fair brings opportunity



Sally King/Student Voice

UWRF student Zach Smith obtains information from one of the booths at the Career Fair. The annual Career Fair was held Wednesday in the University Center Ballroom. The event is sponsored each year by Career Services and played host to 81 businesses from across the region.

UWRF participates in health survey to identify student needs

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In an effort to better understand what factors have negative effects on students' GPAs, the National College Health Survey was administered to 3,000 American students from across the United States.

Some of the negative issues affecting students' GPAs are health issues, non-school related computer use, video games, television and alcohol and drug use, according to the survey results.

"We try to track trends over time and in-between surveys," Alice Reilly-Myklebust, director of Student Health Services and Counseling Services, said. "We use the data and try to make a difference."

The National College Health Assessment is a 58-question survey that began in 1999. The survey relates risks and behaviors associated with general health; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; sexual behavior and contraception; mental and physical health; and body image, nutrition, and exercise, according to Student Health Behavior and Risk data.

"It's a nice survey because it asks a variety of questions," Reilly-Myklebust said.

This spring, the survey was sent to 3,000 students, with 517 responding for a response rate of 17.23 per-

cent. Once the survey is taken the participants are placed in a drawing to win a \$50 Amazon.com gift card. Last year, four gift cards were given, Reilly-Myklebust said.

"It is hard with online surveys," she said. "It is hard to get students to participate."

The 2009 National Assessment questions focused more on sleep and mental health issues that impact academics, according to Reilly-Myklebust.

"One thing we are definitely seeing with our data is that mental health issues are affecting student GPAs," she said. "It has been very concerning the number of students who reported mental health issues, and it has been generally going up."

The survey's results allow Student Health Services to see where the campus can improve and provide resources for the students. Currently, there is a psychologist and four counselors on campus for students to utilize. Student Health and Counseling Services also offers Weekly Wellness Events Monday through Thursday this semester free to students in order to promote better mental health.

"[The survey is used] to help a student who is struggling early on," Reilly-Myklebust said. "It's about helping the student and to keep our campus safe."

See GPA page 3



Christie Lauer/Student Voice

UWRF student Faith Pronschinske studies in the University Center. The National College Health Survey is conducted to determine what factors affect a student's GPA.

Senate to submit nominations for award

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This November, the External Relations Committee will nominate potential alumni to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award at spring commencement to honor their achievements since graduation.

The Distinguished Alumni Award was first established on April 14, 1959 when an alumni faculty committee was having problems with establishing an alumni chapter. This committee took their concerns to President Kleinpell asking for the establishment of an outstanding alumnus award to help further the committee.

The External Relations Committee conjured up four criteria that an alumnus would have to possess in order to be considered for the award. These criteria included personal accomplishments in their field, civic responsibility and contributions to their community, continuing interest in the university and the highest integrity in professional, public, and personal relations, according to Director of Development and Alumni Relations Dan McGinty.

The winner of the first Distinguished Alumni Award was Dean Smith, an otolaryngologist and eye specialist. Since then there have been 63 recipients of the award, ranging from teachers to financial advisors. From 1969 on, two alumni received the award each year until 1986 when the committee decided that only one alumnus/alumna would be honored each year.

The nominations for the award are made by members of UW-River Falls Faculty Senate External Relations Committee based on their recommendations. The information gathered about each nominee by the Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Dan McGinty, is given to the Alumni Committee. Each member ranks all of the nominees, then votes are totaled and information is passed on to Chancellor Dean Van Galen for consideration.

“River Falls has over 38,000 alumni and many have gone on to do impressive things in their lives”
Dean Van Galen,
chancellor

fourth Division; the Chancellor, the Director of the News Bureau, the Executive Director for University Advancement, the Director of Development and Alumni Relations as well as two representatives from Student Senate, according to the Faculty and Academic Staff Handbook.

“I am amazed by the unbelievable accomplishments of our alumni. Time after time, I hear comments from our distinguished alumni on how well their UW-River Falls education prepared them for their professional careers. This is a tribute to the many outstanding faculty and staff that are committed



Sally King/Student Voice
Chancellor Dean Van Galen will present an award to an outstanding alumnus for the first time this spring.

to teaching excellence and who are dedicated to our mission in helping students learn,” McGinty said.

Many of UWRF’s academic and athletic buildings are named after winners of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, such as the Wyman educational building and the Hunt Arena.

“I feel that most students are not aware of the awards that the University gives out and the Distinguished Alumnus Award is no different,” junior Katherine Rogge said. “The only people who are most likely made aware of this award are those participating in the commencement ceremony where the chosen speaker addresses.”

This will be Chancellor Dean Van Galen’s first year working with the Executive Relations Committee, and helping to choose the final recipient of the award. Although the committee is new to him he is excited to help bestow this honor on one of the alumni of UWRF and is hopeful that students will become more involved in the awards on campus.

“River Falls has over 38,000 alumni and many have gone on to do impressive things in their lives,” Van Galen said. “As a university, it is important to recognize these accomplishments and to show students the places you can go in the future.”

Symposium brings issues, experts

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UW-River Falls will host its 29th annual Food Microbiology Symposium Oct. 18-21, bringing academia, scientists and food safety specialists to campus.

Approximately 100 attendees are expected for the symposium, titled “Food Safety Trends and New Approaches to Risk Management.” The purpose of the event is for teachers, scientists and anyone interested in food microbiology to receive updates on research, discuss issues and learn about bioterrorism with a special emphasis on pathogens. It is mostly, however, for food industry professionals such as people who work for the state with the Food and Drug Administration or the Department of Agriculture.

In the past, speakers have come internationally from Europe, Asia, Australia, Germany and Mexico, as well as other countries, and this year is no exception. Speakers will be attending from Brazil, Germany, Canada and eight different states. Representatives from Cargill, General Mills, Kraft Foods, Oscar Meyer, the FDA and the USDA will also be in attendance.

The conference provides a venue for concepts in food safety to be examined. Program Director Purnendu Vasavada said issues covered in past conferences have included the Salmonella and E. Coli outbreaks dealt with in the United States, and they hope to expand the scope of food allergen issues covered.

Vasavada said it is a good opportunity for school nurses, cafeteria managers, science teachers and the general public to learn about what is or isn’t a food allergen, consumer issues and testing.

One of the speakers for the conference is Anna Lammerding, chief of the Microbial Food Safety Risk Assessment Unit at the Laboratory for Foodborne Zoonoses, Public Health Agency of Canada, in Guelph, Ontario. Lammerding is a graduate of UW-Madison, where she received her Ph.D. Her presentation is titled “More Data Faster- Now, What Do We Do with It?” The presentation will cover topics such as recent developments in laboratory technology, such as the level of detection of food hazards, turn around time for sample testing

and the challenges that remain in ensuring the safety of the food supply.

“As technological advances improve how we generate data in support of food safety from farm to fork, there must be similar advances in how we compile and use these data,” Lammerding said.

Lammerding’s presentation will discuss the data needs for risk analysis and the challenges that must be overcome to optimize data-collection, analysis and timely use of information.

The symposium is annual and usually held in October. The food allergen section is open for students to attend and is recommended by Vasavada.

“I think many students will find the Wednesday morning session on allergen issues interesting,” he said. That session is held from 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Oct. 21.

Vasavada also stated that it is important for people to know what they can about food safety, and the conference provides exposure to professionals that students would not normally get to see or hear from. The program is meant to reach out to students in the food science, agricultural science and animal science departments. Graduate students and faculty from other universities will be present this year, and there will be opportunities for students to talk with them.

Food Science and Technology Club President Andy Paulsen said most of the older food science students will be attending the many different seminars available, and the younger members will be helping at the information desk.

“As technological advances improve how we generate data in support of food safety from farm-to-fork, there must be similar advances in how we compile and use these data.”
Anna Lammerding,
chief of Microbial Food Safety

UWRF premieres human rights lecture

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On Oct. 21, the Edward N. Peterson Lecture series will take place in the Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building (KFA).

Currently in its third year, the lecture will be focused on “Human Rights: A Revisionist History from the French Revolution to the Present.”

The featured speaker will be Eric D. Weitz, a professor of history at the University of Minnesota.

Human rights, Weitz said, has historically been a field for lawyers, legal scholars, political scientists, sociologists, non-governmental organizations and activists. Weitz will present a critical history of human rights that is international in scope and that “dismantles the teleology of empires to nation-states and intertwines crimes and rights into a common narrative,” Weitz said in the press release.

Edward N. Peterson was a professor at UW-River Falls for 51 years, until his death in March 2005.

Betty Bergland, a professor of history at UWRF, has taken part in coordination of the series since it began.

“[Peterson] had been involved in the planning for the lecture series with the department,” Bergland said. “We had just agreed to set up this lecture... and I had always wanted it to be named after him.”

Bergland said she, among other professors, had wanted the series to be in his name even before his death.

“I spoke with the family and the family agreed as recognition of his work here at the University,” to name the series after him, Bergland said.

The series is to focus on topics that were part of Peterson’s life and lectures.

“The idea was to honor Peterson with a lecture series, [and] to also help stimulate the intellectual light of the campus,” Bergland said.

The series is sponsored by the Edward N. Peterson Lecture Series Endowment; created by the History department from accrued funds throughout the years, along with alumni and faculty gifts, Bergland said.

Past lecture series have included “Joseph McCarthy and His Times: Fifty Years Later” led by Richard Friend, a Professor of History at the University of Illinois Chicago in 2008, and “When ‘Never Again’ is a Cliché: The Complicated Role of Rescuers in Genocide” led by Stephen Feinstein in 2007.

Each year, there have been members of the community that have attended the series, along with members of the Twin Cities, Bergland said.

A mural of Peterson, composed of six stances portraying the professor, can be found in the west hallway of the Wyman Education Building (WEB). The mural was created by Garrett Bergemann, a senior fine arts major from Bloomington, Minn., in November 2006.

Peterson taught at UWRF from 1954 until March 18, 2005, and served as chair of the social science department from 1963 to 1991.

Refreshments will be served at 3:30 p.m. in the KFA Lobby, and the lecture and discussion will take place at 4:30 p.m. in the Abbott Concert Hall of KFA, and it is free and open to the public.

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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.

October 7

-Justin R. Amdahl, 19, was cited for vandalism, disorderly conduct and activating a false fire alarm at the Karges Center.
-Colin J. Utke, 20, was cited for vandalism, disorderly conduct and activating a false fire alarm at the Karges Center.
-Anthony S. Thomas, 21, was cited for vandalism, disorderly conduct and activating a false fire alarm at the Karges Center.

UWRF alumna addresses tough economy, business concerns

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Margaret Keating spoke on behalf of Hallmark Cards, Inc., in the Kinnickinnic Theater of the University Center on Thursday as a part of the Executive-in-Residence program.

The UW-River Falls College of Business and Economics chooses one speaker every year as a part of their Executive-in-Residence program that highlights UWRF graduates and their accomplishments. The lecture is open to the public as well as students, staff and faculty.

Margaret Keating is a UWRF graduate who received her MBA from the University of Missouri. She grew up in New Richmond, Wis., and still has close ties to the area. She now works as an executive at Hallmark Cards, Inc., out of their home office in Kansas City.

Keating’s speech was entitled, “When You Care Enough,” and it addressed some of the concerns that corporations are having during the tough economic times facing the country. Keating gave this speech to show that there is more to a business than just the financial side.

Instead of worrying about the short-term financial gains that a company can possess, Hallmark is worried about the long-term basis as well as the employee’s well-being.

Hallmark has a set of beliefs and values that they maintain when it comes to each employee and their connection to the company. They include such things as, “We value and are committed to: Excellence in all we do, high standards of ethics and integrity, caring responsible corporate citizenship for Kansas City and for each community in which we operate,” according to Hallmark’s Web site.

Hallmark believes that its products and services are available to enrich people’s lives and they try to give their employees as many options for maintaining as well as upholding these values.

Keating said many times that this company was made from its employees, many of whom have been working at the corporation since they were in high school or started upon graduation.

With the downturn in the economy, Keating says that now more than ever it is important for businesses to treat their employees well and to show that they care.

“When you can see how warm people are and how concerned they are that you like your job it makes a difference...that is why I took the job,” Keating said.

Although the company is growing, tough economic times have called on Hallmark to make some changes. In the company’s 100-year history it has never laid off an employee. Instead Hallmark offers voluntary retirement or separation programs, and depending on how many years the employee has worked for the company, they receive pay for leaving their position. Although this has cost the company money in the past, it has maintained its ideals of caring about its employees.

Dave and Don Hall, the owners of Hallmark, were worried that many people would not want to take this route, but when 450 people offered, the company decided to take them all. This allowed 30 percent of the department to voluntarily leave the company, which concluded this June.

“I feel great about the decision to take the volunteers; it helps us to make the greatest workforce possible,” Keating said.

The last thing that Keating wanted to note was the fact that Hallmark was completely union-free. Hallmark thrives on using seniority as a basis for all employee pay raises and who gets chosen to work in each city that the company has locations in.

“A union should not be necessary. A union means you need to talk to a third party and we like to talk to our employees face-to-face,” Keating said.

The overall message that Keating’s speech, “When You Care Enough,” was to show that Hallmark is able to keep their company message intact in tough economic times while caring for its employees. It was also meant to show that that as proven by Keating, UWRF students can be successful in large corporations, according to Glenn Potts, Dean of the College of Business and Economics.

Family Day: Event informs, entertains

from page 1

staff-which consists of Sarah Egerstrom, Maggie Funk, Jeremy McNamara, Abby Pomeroy, Amanda Kane and Kaitlin Webb-are the individuals who get Family Day off the ground, Webb said, but they rely on other volunteers and campus offices to make the event successful.

“We work with other offices such as Career Services, the Athletic Department, the Admissions Office, Student Affairs and other academic departments on campus,” Webb said. “Without the volunteers, the work and planning of only the FYE staff is almost useless.”

Funk, new student and family program coordinator, said Family Day is important because it brings families and students together on campus.

“It is an event where families have an opportunity to see the whats, whos, hows and whys about their student’s home away from home,” Funk said.

Funk said in the past four years the event has increased in number of attendees from 200 to 1,400. More than 1,000 students and families are already signed up for this year, and with reg-

istration available until the day of the event, that number is expected to increase.

Freshman Emily Neville is attending Family Day with her mom and dad. Neville said Family Day is a great event because it brings families to campus and focuses the entire day around them.

“I think Family Day is important because it is dedicated to family, which is very important during one’s college experience,” Neville said.

Jessica Zielinski is a third-year student at UWRF and is attending Family Day with her mom and aunt. She said she is excited to have her family visit again this year.

“Family Day is important because it is a time I can have my family come and visit me and I am able to show them around campus and tell them how much I enjoy being here,” Zielinski said.

Webb added that the day is to be shared, so show up with everyone you love and consider family.

“I feel we have such an important job in the FYE office to provide [this] opportunity to not only our first-year students,” Webb said, “but also our second, third, fourth, fifth, even sixth-year students.”

GPA: Survey attempts to understand negative effects on students performance

from page 1

Being employed in addition to going to school is also having an affect on student’s GPAs. Students with jobs generally do better than those who do not work at all, according to Reilly-Myklebust.

“It is a struggle. It is asking me to go full time all the time and there is no down time [and] it’s stressful, it’s hard to focus because you are on auto mode,” UWRF student and part time employee Rebecca Claflin said. “Trying to balance everything is stressful. It’s rewarding though; it is very rewarding to me because I feel like I am accomplishing something.”

The results also show that the overall rate of binge drinking and tobacco use is gradually go-

ing down among UWRF students.

“Students typically overestimate the percent of their peers [in regards to] drinking alcohol, drug use and sex,” Reilly-Myklebust said. “A couple things we have found-and this is common in the Midwest-[is that] our students drink and drive more and chew tobacco more often [compared to the rest of the nation].”

However, in the 2009 national survey the format for asking questions changed. In the 2009 survey, if the person taking the quiz answered “no” to drinking they would then skip the remaining questions pertaining to alcohol use, so the results make it appear overall percentages have gone up, according to Reilly-Myklebust.

“You have to really look closely at the data and put it into context,” Reilly-Myklebust said.

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EDITORIAL

Career Fair should have diversity, dress-code

UW-River Falls hosted the 18th annual Career Fair on Wednesday, showcasing 81 regional businesses in the ballroom.

The *Student Voice* Editorial Staff would like to commend Career Services for their exemplary job on coordinating, promoting and executing the Career Fair. The last several weeks have featured not only full color ads in this paper, but a campus-wide signage campaign, table tents, advertising on channel 10, classroom announcements, brochures, fliers, e-mails and repeated plugs on WRFW. The day of, campus was peppered with directional signs pointing to the UC highlighting the Career Fair, and every participant received a detailed booklet profiling every company present. This was the kind of marketing campaign all other events on campus need to emulate for the future.

But now for the bad news...

A quick glance over the 81 companies that did attend the career fair would reveal that the majority of them were agriculture-focused. The Student Voice realizes that UWRF has a heavy agriculture student population, but it also has a highly recognized education program and one of only three accredited journalism programs in the state, to just name a few. But these other majors were woefully underrepresented. There was less than half-a-dozen education opportunities (not counting colleges advertising their Masters programs), only one journalism opportunity, which was for unpaid internships for underclassmen and only one communications company not agro-focused.

In order for the Career Fair to be successful and inclusive, as this campus claims to be, the companies attending the fair should more accurately represent the distribution of majors across campus.

But perhaps the unbalanced nature of the fair, as well as the declining number of participating organizations, is not fully the fault of those organizing it. Several Editorial Board members who attended the fair noticed a large number of students dressed in casual or down-right scummy clothing. There were people in jeans, sweatshirts, sweatpants, athletic shorts and sneakers. This type of clothing has absolutely no place at a professional fair geared towards networking and creating job opportunities.

Students need to take some responsibility, show some respect and realize that they are in college now. Sweatpants are not socially acceptable in every situation.

This kind of blatant disregard for one’s own image conveys a lazy and ignorant attitude, one that poorly reflects on this University. Potential employers who come to this Career Fair expect to meet with committed young adults that are willing to act their age and present themselves in a manner consistent with the education they are receiving. Students who dress like slobs will present a negative image of UWRF, and that image could turn companies off, causing them to choose not to return to our fair in the future.

The UWRF Career Fair was expertly coordinated. With more diversity and a stricter, enforced dress code, it could prove to be a tremendous resource for all students.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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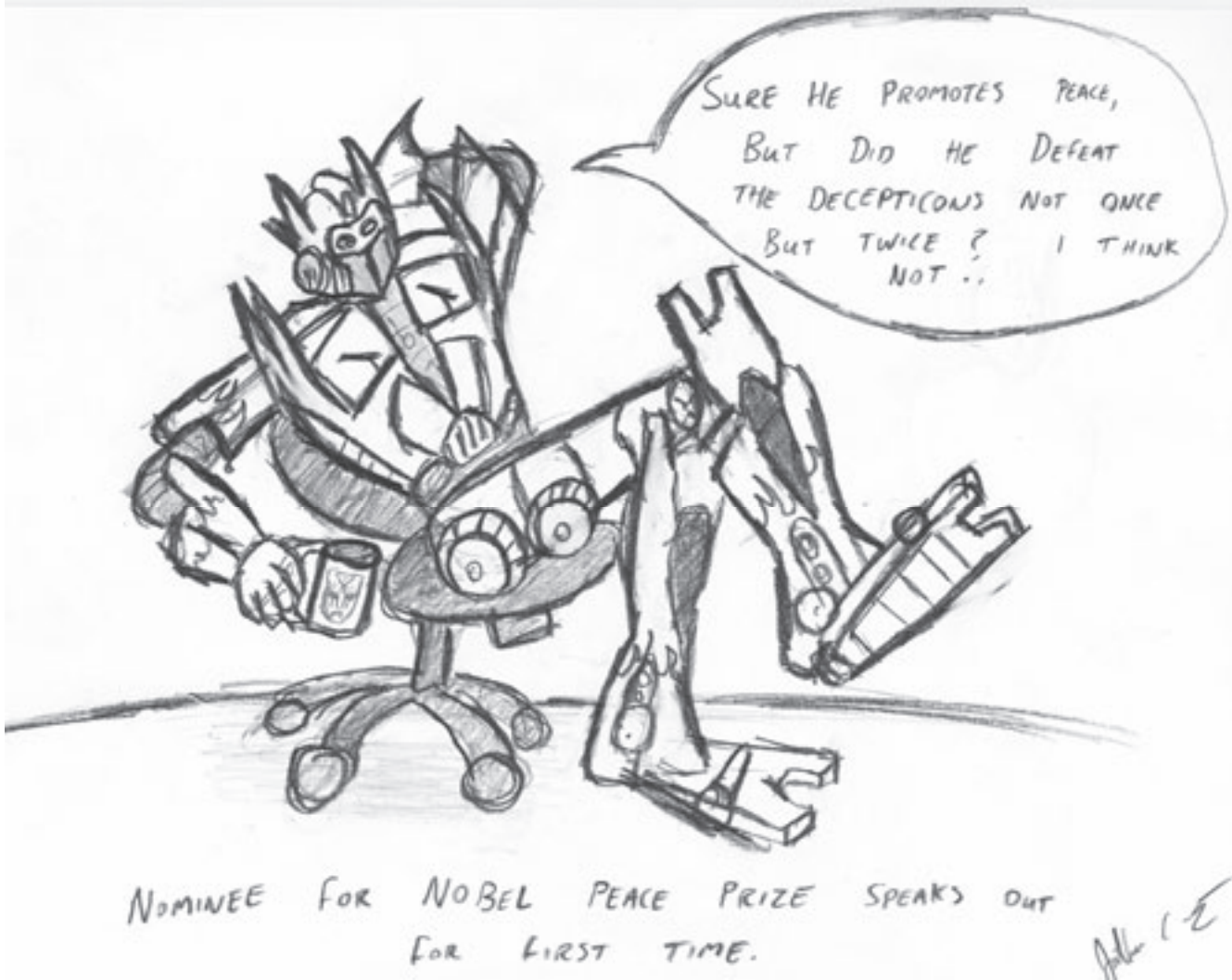
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Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall, River Falls, WI, 54022 or to editor@uwrfvoice.com.

The *Student Voice* reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters. All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon.

Single copies of the Student Voice are free. Printing is paid for through student fees.



Obama health care fails to fix national problem

I am not racist, and respect the commander-in-chief.

No one should favor the status quo on heath care. We do need change in this country, but with Mr. Obama we do not get change, we get Carter polices with a glossy finish. Nice words do not alter this republic’s slow drift towards government control of all things.

We should not disagree on the gravity of health care issues, but I disagree on the notion that a large bill crafted in Washington, D.C. read by very few in Congress can really provide the solutions Americans need. The increase of health care costs has risen, and to blame this on one group, say the insurance industry, is dishonest. Many reasons for cost inflation exist.

Real reform would be a combination of private health care cooperatives, actual medical tort reform, the modernization of health care records, and the creation of tax-free health care savings accounts—allowing real competition so folks can buy more plans across state and regional boundaries.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The government should not be the health police, but we should use good common sense behavior. If you don’t smoke, you should not pay the same as someone who does.

Medicare and Medicaid are entitlements which we created and our seniors paid into. If Democrats favor bending the cost curve by cuts to these programs, so be it, but then be honest about it and tell the American people your intentions.

Does any citizen think the middle class can have better coverage then the current, insure more citizens, not raise taxes, and not make cuts to seniors?

In the final analysis, this bill is \$1.3 trillion over ten years, and yet 25 million Americans will remain uninsured. It is an expensive exercise in public policy folly.

Nicholas Carow

University should not pay for swim team costs

I recently read the article on how the swim team / dive team may be canceled here at UW-River Falls. I am currently

in my third year here at UWRF and this article is the first I have ever even heard about us having a swim team. Many of my classmates were unaware that we had a swim team as well.

This lack of interest or awareness of our present team leads me to believe that their disappearance would not be missed by the majority of students here at UWRF.

Furthermore, although I do personally feel sorry for the team members as they may lose their activity due to lack of funding, I don’t understand why the university is considering paying for this. I have never seen a swim team bake sale or raffle to raise money for their events. Why should the school spend \$350.00 per year per person for these students to go swimming? We don’t supply the glassblowing students with free glass. We don’t supply the physics students with free lab software. We don’t supply math students with expensive graphical calculators.

In my opinion the school should take that money and reapply it to actual academic interests. School funding should be for its students, not athletes.

Nicholas Lane

Sales tax should apply to soda pop, unhealthy items



Brad Brookins

Who’s up in arms about taxing things that ought to be taxed, but aren’t? I’m up in arms about things that ought to be taxed, but aren’t.

The latest craze in government control is whether or not to tax our liquefied sugar drinks called “pop,” or for you Wisconsin folks, “soda.”

Border dialects aside, this is the potential for a useless and probably endless debate. I’d like to weigh the pros and cons to this idea.

First, it’s important that we keep things like health and the economy involved here. Concerning the idea of taxing pop - how would it be any different than taxing cigarettes? They’re both quite harmful to humans, they both cause heart disease, they both make stains on our white teeth, and they can both be quite addictive.

People continue to buy and get hooked on cigs, so how is adding a small extra fee to your 64-ounce death sentence going to make any difference? I hear a lot of complaints about it-usually first beginning in political office. “Why should the government

control what we eat?” Good question-no really, it is a fair question, and I’ll get back to it later, but the government enacts mounding control on what you put in your mouth.

Hell, there’s supposedly fluoride in our tap water, which is designed to strengthen our teeth. If the government can put chemicals in our water to strengthen our teeth, why can’t they tax pop to strengthen our bodies?

Suppose you find yourself needing

You’ve got some extra coinage, a few less calories in your system, and a few extra minutes of your life, all ‘cause you went with water and not pop.

Concerning the idea of taxing pop – how would it be any different than taxing cigarettes? They’re both quite harmful to humans.

back of that Goodwill you’ve been meaning to stop by rather than fork over a buck twenty at the neighboring McDonalds.

You’ve saved some cash and you don’t have to brush your teeth before bed. You’ve got some extra coinage, a few less calories in your system, and a few extra minutes of your life all ‘cause you went with water and not pop. The tax isn’t going to hurt us either, it’s just going to make you think.

Then you look at things like the “recession” and the “miserable economy.” Cigarettes have been ridiculously

taxed because not everyone smokes, and the massive taxes on these money suckers creates a profit. A small tax on all soda would be profitable because LOTS of people drink pop. There aren’t many people I know that don’t have a can of knockoff Mountain Dew taking up 12 ounces of space in the back of their fridge.

Back to a controlling government. Is it fair for these yokels to be dishing out rules on what we eat? Probably not, but look at Minnesota’s bar scene. Not a single smoker sits at any Minnesotan bar. They gotta head out back and freeze their ass off if they want their nicotine fix.

I don’t drink a lot of pop, but even if I did I don’t think I’d see a problem in this idea. I think if we just went ahead and did it, paid the extra buck for a twelve pack, then we’d get used to it and carry on as necessary.

If there’s one thing Americans are good at, it’s adapting their spending to individual needs.

If there’s once thing Americans are good at, it’s adapting their spending to individual needs. If you really want that can of Coke, you’ll find a way to get it, damnit. But until then, it’s all up for discussion.

Brad Brookins is double majoring in digital TV & film and creative writing. He enjoys challenging people to games of full-contact checkers.

UWRF students should root for Wisconsin sports teams

Without the label of being a University of Wisconsin school, you might forget what we are still in the “Dairy State.” The University has been buzzing with excitement over the Twins



Matt Torkelson

playoff run, Brett Favre and the Vikings, and even the start to the Wild season. I give Minnesota sports fans credit for being so passionate about their beloved teams because sadly, I rarely see Packer fans on campus getting jacked up for important games. On the other hand, some Minnesota fans, specifically, Viking fans, forget where they are, and hopefully this column will serve as a kind reminder that you’re still in Packer territory.

First off, I would like to thank Minnesota Vikings fans for justifying my hatred for the purple and gold. Often times I’ll think “I’m too hard on Vikings fans,” but then one of them will speak and I’ll think “actually, I’m probably being too soft.” Overall though, the rivalry is more fun because of the constant bickering and trash talking, as long as everyone remains civil, of course. For example, I was recently told after the Packers and Badgers losses this past week that “it must be suck to be a Wisconsin sports fan, huh?” I couldn’t help responding with “true, but not as much as being a Vikings’ fan for the past 49 years.” All in all, River Falls is seemingly the perfect place to be for the border battle between Minnesota and Wisconsin. Our University is pretty much evenly split between the two states, so when it comes time to talking sports, both sides of the argument get pretty heated.

Let’s quickly look at other major professional sports. Why the hell would Timberwolves and Bucks fans fight? Both franchises are

absolutely terrible. In regards to Brewers vs. Twins, the only reason either side should cheer against the other is when they happen to play each other, or if by some miracle,

they both make it to the World Series. So when all is said and done, it makes sense why so much emotion is put into the Packer/Viking rivalry.

There are many “pros” of our Green Bay Packers, specifically, Aaron Rodgers. For those of you “Packer fans” that chastise Rodgers, and still kiss Favre’s back end like no other, please stop calling yourself Packer fans. I’ve heard from so many people that Rodgers is terrible, and yet his stats say otherwise. He’s been sacked, as of right now, more than any quarterback in the NFL. If those who are so quick

For those of you that forget where you are, let me be the first to say....welcome to Wisconsin, purple isn’t welcome here.

to criticize actually understood how football works, they’d understand that believe it or not, most of those sacks are the offensive line’s fault. Rodgers has been forced to run for his life for the last 4 games. Luckily, we are getting Clifton back soon, as well as acquiring an old friend of the Packers organization, Mr. Mark Tauscher.

What else can Packer fans be happy about? Statistics wise, we are pretty much in the middle of the road. Making the move to the 3-4 defense is tough, and we can’t expect miracles right away. However, we have some of the best backs in the league, and great front men on the d-line like Jolly and Jenkins. I don’t even need to mention the names of Driver and Jennings, because even non-Packers fans recognize their status as incredible

receivers. I didn’t even touch on our rising stars such as Jordy Nelson. Regarding the Vikings, I’m not an idiot, and I recognize all the incredible talent Minnesota has. Minnesota fans for the most part, refuse to do the same.

Regardless of what evidence/opinions you have, the arguments still flare up in great number, and in an intense fashion. Looking back to the title of this column, just remember, Vikings fans, that you are technically on Packer “turf.” Vikings fans technically have the bragging rights for this season now with their win last Monday, but when it comes to comparing franchises, all the rights go directly to Packer fans. It doesn’t take the acquisition of big stars to put fans in the stands, because honestly, I laughed (condescendingly of course) when I heard how many single and season tickets were sold the day Brett Favre was signed.

You see Vikings fans, we understand the magic of Favre, because

he played for us for, oh I don’t know, 15 years. But hey, what would Packers fans know about loyalty and love of their team though, right? There is only an average wait of

30 years for Packers season tickets.

Get excited Packers fans, there is a lot of season left, and our two losses have come from two teams that have a combined record of 9-1. We have the firepower, and we have the fan base, which at this stage makes me all the more proud to be a Green Bay Packers fan.

For those of you that forget where you are, let me be the first to say....welcome to Wisconsin, purple isn’t welcome here.

Matt is a senior majoring in marketing communication. He loves playing piano in his free time and often frequents area Bed and Breakfasts, playing tunes for customers.

STUDENT Voices

Should there be a tax on soda pop? Why or why not?

Neil Folkert, Senior



“No, I just see it as a food item, not a luxury item.”

Linzi Hansen, Junior



“Don’t fix what’s not broken.”

Missy Budensiek, Junior



“Taxes are hot.”

Brad Quinlan, Junior



“No, because I actually drink a lot of pop.”

James Scott, Junior



“It’s a good way to put tax somewhere so it isn’t somewhere else.”

Student Voices compiled by Sarah Schneider

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

Student-created ‘Rise Up’ advocates women’s rights

There’s a repeating occurrence that always struck me as strictly college since freshman year: those lovely free condom tables in the University Center. The high school I graduated and fled from was not only very small, but very conservative. I frankly don’t recall ever having an official “sex ed.” class, although one good-hearted home economics teacher snuck in a few facts between the stitches. College was a breath of fresh air on many levels. Since my first encounter with the free condom tables, I’ve grown used to their frequent visits in the University Center and look upon them-as a much needed asset for a university campus. Yet there’s so much more to those beloved tables: the student organizations that help put them on. One organization in particular, Rise Up for Women’s Rights, is doing quite a lot more this year than merely provide condoms.



Laura Krawczyk

Rise Up for Women’s Rights is a rather new student organization at UWRF, getting its start in May 2008 by two proactive students, Tracey Pollock and Nikki Shonoiki. “Rise Up’s mission is to advocate for women’s rights while educating the campus about reproductive health, body image, and domestic and sexual violence,” states Shonoiki. Rise Up hosts several events throughout the year to carry out this mission, including Take Back the Night and The Clothes Line Project. The coming week of Oct. 19-23 will host the anticipated Week of Action. All five days are filled with activities including the cleverly-named Sextival on Monday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the University Center. Rise Up even has prizes and free stuff-FREE STUFF-in store for all Sextival goers. Peppered throughout the week are speakers, information tables, free t-shirt making with free snacks, a Green

Information Fair, and voter registration. On Friday, to finish off the Week of Action, is the 350 Demonstration from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the UC Falcon’s Nest. We can all agree that UWRF is an environmentally friendly campus, and the 350 Demonstration is right at home here.

Curious about the number? I’ll let Ms. Shonoiki explain. “350 parts per million is what many scientists, climate experts, and progressive national governments are now saying is the safe upper limit for CO2 in our atmosphere. Currently the world is at 390 ppm.” Math was never my strong point, but I have a feeling the world should tap the brake a bit. On Oct. 24 groups scattered around the globe will be demonstrating this valuable number in a variety of creative ways. Photos from these events (including the UWRF demonstration) will be broadcast live in Times Square and sent in as a massive photo petition to the White House and United Nations asking for action to be taken globally to reduce emissions in the atmosphere. This is a phenomenal opportunity to support a worthwhile

cause-get involved with it! Rise Up has a Facebook group, “Rise Up for Women’s Rights,” where they are always welcoming new members. The organization also meets in Room 334 in the UC every Thursday at 5 p.m. Next time you happen to pass a free condom table, don’t just snatch the little package and candy and scamper away. Chat with the student sitting there and learn more about organizations such as Rise Up and thank them for caring about not only your health, but the health of the world.

Laura Krawczyk is a junior majoring in marketing communications and communication studies. She enjoys the smell of gasoline.

Autumn fashion for guys

Let’s talk Fashion - Focus on Men Hello, River Falls. Week two of the fashion column is here. Has there been a notable enough change on campus, or are people still opting to wear their sweatpants and sweatshirts six days out of the week? Let’s work together to educate both men and women on how to dress properly and professionally. Let’s face it-outer appearance does make a difference.



Priya Kailash

Since last week’s column was predominantly focused on women and women’s boots and accessories, this week will be focused on men. However, ladies, read on, and help your boyfriends or guy friends add some style to their wardrobe. You never know when you might learn something new.

Men, you might feel as though your styling options are limited, and thus think

Men, you might feel as though your styling options are limited, and thus you think you can use that as an excuse to dress the way I see most guys dressed on campus.

you can use that as an excuse to dress the way I see most guys dressed on campus-like they had just woken up from bed! If you do enjoy waking up from bed and leaving for class, I suggest you dress up before headed off to bed. Come on guys, “bed hair” might be sexy on some guys, but ‘bed clothes’ isn’t sexy on any guy. It seems like attracting the ladies is the dominating factor for many men, but how are you going to accomplish that dressing like a slob?

Women like men who look and act like men, not boys. Remember, even though it’s personality that captures the heart, it’s the beauty that captures the eye. You will notice people treating you with more respect, as you are dressed like someone of importance, and most of all, you will give yourself that extra boost of confidence to talk to that dream girl you’ve had a crush on for what seems like forever. Do justice to yourself men, and dress well and confidently! Confidence after all, is the most attractive thing a man can have, and confidence comes from

looking and feeling good!

This week: Cardigan sweater

Men prefer comfort to style any day, so if we can find an item that could potentially combine both, we would get our item of the week. A sweater cardigan is perfect for any guy who likes comfort, durability, and style, and a definite must-have for the colder months.

Sweater cardigans come in a variety of styles and colors. There are long sleeves, no sleeves, front open, or vests. Visit the Student Voice Web site and click on the fashion link for an example of each.

No matter the type of sweater cardigan, you can never go wrong with layering a long-sleeved button-up collar shirt inside the sweater cardigan. This look automatically elongates a man, and adds more of a masculine charm.

This look is also really versatile as it can be easily dressed up or dressed down. Dress it up for a meeting or a class presentation with a tie, or dress it down by layering a casual undershirt with a long sleeve sweater

cardigan. For more style ideas or for any questions about fashion and style, please visit the Web site at uwrvoice.com or shoot me an e-mail at fashion@uwrvoice.com.

This week’s feature is Bleeker Ayers, the girl with a style of her own, complete with a scooter and a backwards hat. Check out uwrvoice.com to read up on her style and short biography, complete with a photoshoot shot by our Student Voice photographers.

Next week’s feature is Kamila Stafin, a girl with a classic and chic style and smile that can turn any eye.

If you think you are an ideal choice for a feature, or want to nominate someone you know, visit the Student Voice Web site to register.

Priya Kailash is a biology major and chemistry minor. She enjoys playing ultimate frisbee, as well as wearing four-inch heels.

Tennis team wins at home, prepares for upcoming tournament



Blaze Fugina
blaze.fugina@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls tennis team played their last match of the season, and for some, the last home match of their collegiate careers. Senior co-captains Cassie Wood and Katie Ostrowski played their last home matches as Falcon tennis players Oct. 29.

“It’s bittersweet,” Wood said. “We’ve been here for four years.”

Wood and Ostrowski both graduated from the same high school in southern Minnesota-United South Central High school- which is located in Wells, Minn.

The Falcons enjoyed a 6-3 match victory against the UW-Oshkosh Titans, a team which is similar in the WIAC standings.

“This is a pretty even match; the two records are similar,” tennis Head Coach Lee Lueck said.

Wood said that the tough matches against even opponents are the most fun for the team to play.

“Teams that are too easy or too tough are not as much fun,” Wood said.

The match began outdoors at the University tennis courts with the six singles matches. The Falcons enjoyed wins from matches 3-6.

Freshmen Jenny Paxton and Amy Goertzen and juniors Stacia Kozel and Brittany Bonine all recorded victories in singles for an early singles lead.

All of the Falcons’ victories came in two set matches, except for Paxton’s. She lost her first set 3-6, before coming back to win the next

Sally King/Student Voice
Katie Ostrowski is one of the senior captains on the tennis team. The Falcons finished 7-6 in regular season play to begin the WIAC tournament soon.

two sets 6-1, 6-3.

After the finish of the singles matches, the teams went inside to the Knowles Center for doubles play. The team made the decision to go inside after temperatures fell to the low 40’s.

Although the teams switched courts, the Falcons experienced more of the same success. The Falcons won two of the three doubles matches to finish the contest.

The first doubles team with Bonine and sophomore Naomi Wolff won the match 8-4.

The third doubles team also won 8-4, with Amy Johnson and Goertzen contributing for the match win.

The win puts the Falcons at 2-3 in conference play, placing them in a tie for fourth place with UW-Stevens Point. The win also separated the Falcons from the Titans, who are now 1-4 in conference play.

The Falcons tennis team is relatively young, with six of its 12 players being freshmen.

“We have a lot of new recruits, which deepened our lineup,” said Ostrowski.

Lueck is taking the youthfulness of his team into consideration when setting goals for the upcoming WIAC season ending tournament.

“Our goal is to better our position from last year,” he said. The team placed sixth in the tournament last year, which is last place.

Lueck said that being more successful than in the past is important for the team’s confidence for future seasons.

“Depth is good for the confidence in our young group,” Lueck said.

Before the season-ending tournament on Oct. 24 and 25 in Madison, the team still has one more conference match against Eau Claire. Eau Claire is 3-1 in conference play this season.

“It’s bittersweet. We’ve been here for four years.”
Cassie Wood, senior co-captain

Twins have many questions to address in upcoming off-season

After an early exit from the playoffs, the Minnesota Twins have many off-season moves to address. The biggest move and the one getting the most attention is giving the face of the franchise, Joe Mauer, a new contract. But there are many other needs besides that for the Twins to go from a one and done playoff team to a championship contender team.

I have compiled the five biggest headlines the franchise needs to address this upcoming offseason.

Re-signing Joe Mauer to a new contract.

He is the face of the Twins, should win his third batting title in four years and should be the 2009 AL MVP, and clearly puts fans in the seats. He has one more year left on his contract, but it will be a lot easier and cheaper to sign him to another contract this offseason than next year.

Re-sign Orlando Cabrera and Carl Pavano

Yes, Cabrera will turn 35 before the season starts next year. But he was a huge asset to the team at the trade deadline and does give the Twins an everyday shortstop and a consistent number two hitter in front of Mauer. Pavano pitched in some big games



Derek Johnson

for the Twins this year, like game three of the ALDS against the Yankees. He gave up two runs, five hits, striking out nine hitters over seven innings. Yes, the two runs were home runs and they did give the Yankees the lead, but the Twins struggled to find a pitcher that consistently pitched into the late innings of the game this year and he really only had struggled in two, maybe three games he pitched for the Twins this year.

Find an everyday second baseman

One of the Twins glaring holes this year was at second base. The Twins thought they had the answer with Alexi Casilla but he struggled in the beginning of the year and was sent down to the Triple-A minor league team. He was called back up in September when the MLB allows teams to expand their roster for the postseason. Nick Punto replaced Casilla when he was sent down to Triple-A. But for most of the year, Punto showed he is not an everyday type of baseball player, and both Punto and Casilla showed they are better in back-up duty than as starters.

Both Punto and Casilla showed they are better in back-up duty than as starters.

Find an everyday third baseman and re-sign Joe Crede

Along with the need for a second baseman, the Twins need to find an everyday third basemen as well. The Twins signed Joe Crede for this year but he was hampered by injuries for most of the season. One way the Twins can do this (and it is cheap) is to sign Crede again for a one-year deal and have him be a backup and help mentor Danny Valencia, the young third basemen that played in Triple-A all year.

Scouts have said he has all the tools to be an everyday third baseman in the majors and he looks to be about ready to take over the role. Having Crede there to help him out will be very beneficial for Valencia because Crede was an All-Star third basemen earlier in his career before all of his injuries. It will be beneficial for both Crede and the Twins because in the late months of the season Crede could be healthy and contribute if the Twins are in contention for the playoffs.

Do not trade closer Joe Nathan

The last few days after the Twins were eliminated from the playoffs, sports colum-

nists from the Star Tribune, Pioneer Press, and even ESPN thought the Twins should try to trade Joe Nathan for maybe a starting pitcher or top position player. They thought this because he will make roughly 22 million dollars over the next two years. It is part of a four-year contract he signed two years ago. Analysts believe this is way too much money for a closer on a small-market team. And also, because he has poor postseason numbers and blew game two of the ALDS this year they think he is on the decline of his career. I disagree with them on two points. The first is it is hard to find a top-notch closer in the MLB, and the Twins are fortunate enough to have one. Mauer said he would only sign with the Twins if he thought the Twins management was trying to make the team competitive and not just “building for the future” all the time, and that money wasn’t an issue for him. Trading Nathan will only show Mauer the Twins still won’t keep their superstars and will make Mauer less likely to sign another contract with the Twins.

Derek Johnson is a journalism major. His interests include: playing/watching sports and writing music. Derek also spends his time broadcasting sports for WRFW.



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John Keats biopic wins romantic hearts

After a week filled with rotten meat, cold weather and sniffles, it was clear that a new film review was in desperate need. Something that would lift not only me, but also perhaps my inadequate chemistry skills out of the Debbie Downer we were stuck in. Should I see a comedy? My skepticism after last week with the so-called ‘comedic’ world of the disgusting and unnatural told me to do otherwise. Maybe action? While usually I’m all for it, this week’s moody blues didn’t exactly put me in a smash and grab kind of mood. No, what I truly wanted for this week’s review was to simply enjoy myself and to forget about the week I had just had. Well Falcons, I got lucky. Better than that, I got just what I wanted.

Who knew Jane Campion was all I needed? Through her own writing and direction,

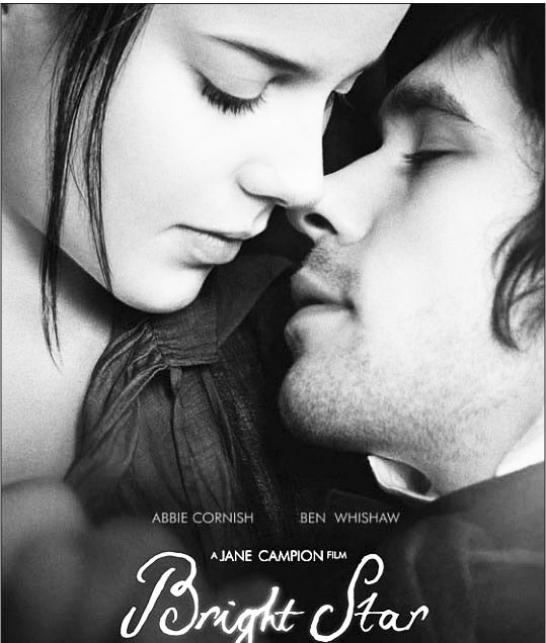


the film “Bright Star” examines the lives and tragic romance of poet John Keats (Ben Whishaw) and his love Fanny Brawn (Abbie Cornish). For all the men reading my review this week, I apologize. I know I’m setting you up for a chick flick that your girlfriend insists you see, but trust me, not only will you gain brownie points with her, but also with your respective English teachers. A period piece, its setting is the 19th-century English countryside where Miss Brawn and her family are introduced to the very young, very poor poet and his writing companion. As the Brawn family moves closer to the writers, love emerges between the eldest daughter Fanny and John Keats. Along with conflicts of social class, wealth, and friendship, the story follows the poet’s evolution as a writer through his work, his love, and the turmoil that both can bring to a young man of the time.

While certainly not fast-moving or dramatic to the degree we are used to by today’s standards, what sets this enjoyable and refreshing movie apart is its symbolism, which can be seen throughout in the context of its format. The film is reminiscent of Ke-

ats’s slow moving poetry (much like the era), which is inflected with the thoughts and emotions of a classical theme. The characters too, are much like his poems: slow to progress but eventually very charged, sparking connections to the audience. Scenes between Keats and Fanny are filled with a deep sense of sensuality instead of sexuality. Indeed, instead of the blatant ripping of bodices or tearing of shirts, passion is portrayed through the simple nature of touch, something that’s not often captured on film despite the act’s ease and elegance. Because of this beautiful way that Campion ties the lovers together, one could say that “Bright Star” is more of an artistic piece than a blockbuster, though don’t let that dissuade you. While those of a more artistic background might admire the film for these qualities, I believe anyone can appreciate it for the story behind it.

All in all, this film has been a perfect way to end a less than perfect week. While the sniffles still abound, the cold has actually brought the first snow, and I can’t help but smile, for something bright has warmed my heart.



Katie Heaton is a junior with a major in psychology and a minor in women’s studies. Dreams of Hollywood stardom fell to earth when Audrey Hepburn hit the scene, but still hopes for that second marriage to George Clooney.

‘Couples Retreat’ lacks depth

It is fitting that “Couple’s Retreat” begins with a toddler peeing in a store toilet, and ends with that same youth pooping in that same store toilet just before credits roll. On the surface, a film that revolves around emotionally bankrupt adults undergoing relationship therapy on a tropical island paradise seems like a good idea, or at least a passable one. But the unfortunate end result is nothing more than a juvenile bowel movement that deserves little more than to be flushed from cinematic memory.

It almost defies conventions that Vince Vaughn and Jon Favreau-the immortalized Swingers themselves-could have penned this mirthless mess, and director Peter Billingsley (Ralphie from “A Christmas Story”) seems far too distracted by the “screensaver” visuals to keep this sloppy soap opera from floundering.

The plot overblown to fit a very long two



hours centers around four married couples, three of whom believe themselves to be reasonably happy, until the fourth (Jason Bateman and Kristen Bell) convince them to all go on a week-long couples retreat (if four couples go, it’s half price).

Duped by the promise of R&R, each couple reluctantly accepts, only to discover that they all actually do have problems. Jason (Bateman) and Cynthia (Bell) are anguished because they can’t have a child; Dave (Vaughn) and Ronnie (Malin Akerman) have lost their lustful fire in the wake of parental responsibilities; Joey (Favreau) and Lucy (Kristin Davis) are drifting apart thanks to mutual infidelity; and Shane (Faizon Love), still reeling from a bitter divorce, brings his 20-year old fling Trudy (Kali Hawk), who wants nothing more than a meal ticket and good time.

The island, Eden West, promises to fix all of that thanks to mastermind Monsieur Marcel (Jean Reno), self-proclaimed couples whisperer.

The set-up is a familiar one, and could possibly have supported some distracting hilarity, but opts instead to walk the path of a trashy and washed-up sitcom. It is almost painful how obediently the third act of the

film marches through age-old conventions. The couples, stressed to the point of fracture, all reach a cathartic transitional point; the females resolve to get drunk and dance, while the guys, who must rally to fix the crisis, really just stand there and exchange stilted “bonding” dialogue. The ensuing confessions and artificial revelations act as an obligatory dénouement, perfectly gift-wrapping a contrived happy-feeling ending that betrays the film’s utter lack of character depth.

To say that the film is completely devoid of humor would be a misnomer, however. Among the few good things, I would count Vaughn’s often sharp and sardonic dialogue, delivered with irreverent alacrity. But these moments are lost among too many unsightly sight gags, such as Favreau’s boner during a massage or his reaching for lotion and tissues while his wife showers-jokes that are just too tired and worn out to carry the burden of the plot.

The movie was filmed on location in Bora Bora-which may be the only rationale why actors and actresses of this caliber are in the film-but this enchanted island is reduced



Ken Weigend is a senior marketing communications and journalism double major. His minor in film studies gives him the authority to arbitrarily assign star rankings to represent film quality, but statistical analysis has shown him to be 99.9 percent accurate.

‘iRock’ program provides new experiences for freshmen

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UW-River Falls Student Health and Counseling Services is offering the iRock program for first year students this year, a program that meets once a month and is limited to 30 students.

This program is free and works to answer questions for students, such as “Who Am i,” “What do i Want,” and “What the #@!\$* am i doing here?”

“The program addresses basic areas of wellness that

students struggle with and gives them the direction they need,” Jennifer Elsesser, personal counselor and creator of the iRock program, said. “We wanted the group to be small in order for students to develop relationships within their residence halls and it’s been wonderful.”

The iRock program started last fall as an “effort through grants,” Alice Reilly-Myklebust, director of student health services, said. “[The iRock program] is engaging, interactive and fun.”

Students of the iRock pro-

gram participate in a before and after survey concerning areas of wellness. According to the iRock 2009-2010 results, 91 percent of first year students have positive views of themselves, 91 percent were confident with choosing their majors and 77 percent were confident with managing stress, after completing the program.

There are seven different categories in the iRock program “that make up the many areas of wellness.

The first section, “iRelate,” gives students a chance to place themselves on a continuum of two extremes by asking them a series of questions in order to achieve self-awareness.

“[iRelate] is all about being comfortable with yourself and your relationships,” Elsesser said. “It gets students thinking about whether they are happy or not with their relationships.” The category

concerns the students’ sense of belonging or loneliness.

The “iLearn” category focuses on inquiring and complacent. This section concerns UWRF and how to interact with professors. This section also questions the students’ thoughts and feelings about attending UWRF, goals for college, family support and gives steps on how to communicate with professors.

The “iBelieve” category questions students’ active or inactive activity. In this section four “guiding principles” are given to change the way students think, including “Be Impeccable with Your World,” “Don’t Take Anything Personally,” “Don’t Make Assumptions” and “Always Do Your Best.”

The “iDo” category focuses on whether the student is satisfied or dissatisfied with some “panic inducing” questions such as, “What will you

do with your major?” This section explains that a student’s major does not equal their future career.

The “iBalance” category works to balance students’ positive or negative feelings while providing answers on how to deal with them. “Mood altering thoughts” are listed in this category such as, “Avoid making your decisions based on fear.”

According to the iRock 2009-2010 survey, first year students felt their two greatest sources of stress were “school work” and “other people.” iBalance works to inform students how to deal with everyday stress.

The “iMove” category concerns being fit or unfit and compares “fat traps” with “feeling fabulous.” The three fat traps listed in this section are alcohol, avoiding exercise and eating fast food.

The last category is “iCare.” This focuses on

whether the student is resourceful or wasteful, defines what it means to live green and gives information on ways to go green such as turning the lights off when leaving your room and using cold water when doing laundry.

According to the iRock 2009-2010 survey, first year students’ main reason for deciding to join the iRock program was because they wanted “to have a group that was just purely for fun that would teach [them] valuable skills to help [them] succeed in school.”

“The program is open to all first year students who are interested,” Elsesser said. “Students can visit the iRock Web site for a schedule of events or to register for the program.”

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