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STUDENT VOICE

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Comedic musical debuts



Sarah Schneider/Student Voice
The University Theatre department prepares for its opening show during a dress rehearsal Tuesday in the Blanche Davis Theatre. This fall's musical is "Urinetown," a show that presents the theme of sustainability in a satirical manner. The show opened Thursday and runs until Oct. 31. For additional color photos of the rehearsal, visit uwrfvoice.com.

UWRF police implement background check program

Lindsey Rykal
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The UW-River Falls University Police and Parking will begin using the eTIME program which allows officers to run background checks to monitor parking tickets, driver's authorization, and the ability to use state vehicles and get permits without having to go through Pierce County dispatch.

"Right now we are just going through the training process," Dick Trende, UWRF police chief, said. "Within the next month we will have an officer and an officer administrator going through the training."

The system known as eTIME is an Internet-based system used to access trans-

action information for the management of enforcement (TIME) by authorized users of law enforcement agencies, according to the Wisconsin Crime Information Bureau.


Dick Trende

record checks...this will create an environment where we are able to do it ourselves."

eTime collects and disseminates timely, accurate and critical criminal justice information to meet the needs of the Wisconsin law enforcement community. It provides statewide telecommunication services linking Wisconsin criminal justice agencies to each other and to the national networks, according to the Wisconsin Crime Information Bureau.

"With eTIME there are restrictions...you have to have a reason [to do a background check]," Trende said.

This program does not allow officers to run checks for any reason-there has to be a legitimate reason for concern. An example

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Dairy Judging team takes first place at contest

Christina Lindstrom
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The UW-River Falls senior dairy judging team took home the first place trophy at the 41st Annual All-American Invitational Youth Dairy Cattle Judging Contest held in Harrisburg, Penn. on Sept. 17.

Four UWRF students traveled to Harrisburg to compete, taking first place for the second time since UWRF has competed (the first was in 2007). The team consisted of Londa Johnson, Sandra Kirchner and Jessica Lundgren, all dairy science majors, and Cortney Kieffer, an agricultural business major. Kieffer placed as first individual overall, while Kirchner placed fifth, Johnson ninth and Lundgren twenty-fourth. They also did well at the World Dairy Expo, held Oct. 3, where Kirchner placed first, Johnson placed ninth, Kieffer fifteenth and Lundgren sixteenth.

The UWRF senior team competed against 14 other collegiate teams in Harrisburg, including the University of Minnesota, Penn State University, Virginia Tech and Cal-Polytech State University. Each team member competes individually to add to the team's overall score.

At the national contest, each person individually judges 10-12 classes of cattle. After placing the classes, the participants have the opportunity to explain why they placed the class like they did through oral reasons. At each contest they give oral reasons on five



Sally King/Student Voice
UWRF students Sandra Kirchner, Cortney Kieffer, Londa Johnson and Jessica Lundgren took first place at a cattle judging contest. It was the second time UWRF has taken first place.

to six classes. Oral reasons require that the participants memorize their placement choices, and they are judged on their reasoning.

"To prepare for this, we do numerous practice sets of reasons throughout the year. Because there are so many classes, judging at

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Students take their knowledge worldwide

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Two UW-River Falls students will soon be embarking on trips that will take them to both ends of the globe, all in the name of physics.

Junior Kyle Jero and senior Drew Anderson, both physics and math double majors, will be participating in an international research coalition dubbed IceCube. The coalition consists of more than 30 educational and research institutions, about half of which are based in the U.S. UWRF has been involved in the program since 1998.

Jero and UW-Rock County student Samantha Jakel depart for Sweden at the end of October to help prepare the Russian icebreaker Oden for its trip from Sweden to Uruguay, Jero said.

Anderson will then fly to Sweden and leave on the Oden Nov. 20. Anderson will be aboard the Oden for three to four weeks as the ship makes its way to Uruguay, he said.

Once the ship arrives in Uruguay, Jakel will take Anderson's place and travel to Argentina. The Oden will then make the journey to Antarctica and arrive in February.

"I have to go through Australia and New Zealand," Jero said. "If the weather's good, we make the flight over to Antarctica and get on the ship."

Jero's trip back to South America will end in Chile and take roughly a month, depending on weather and ice conditions, he said.

The purpose of IceCube is to collect information regarding extremely high energy bursts of particles called neutrinos, or cosmic rays. These energy bursts can come from the sun or major galactic events such as supernova explosions or black holes. Information gained from studying the cosmic rays is then applied to theories that help gain a better understanding of the makeup of the universe.

Earl Blodgett, chair of the UWRF physics department, said the students travel such distances to test the cosmic rays at different points of the earth's magnetic field. The vast majority of these rays are prevented from ever reaching the earth's surface because of its magnetic field. At the poles, however, many more rays are able to reach the earth, therefore providing optimum testing conditions.

Jim Madsen, a colleague of Blodgett's in the physics department, explained the reasoning behind the locations further. When the cosmic rays come in contact with the earth, they create a flash of light invisible to the naked eye, he said. In order to best record the light, sensors must be placed deep within a clear substance, up to two-thirds of a mile down. The ice in Antarctica provides such an environment.

Though these tests have been conducted in the open ocean, Madsen said Antarctica is the best place to do the work.

"It's actually most reasonable cost-wise to work in the ice," he said. "Ice presents fewer problems than water at that depth. While it's cold at the South Pole, it's kind of a uniform environment."

Aboard the Oden, the research team attempts to recreate the ice conditions with a 500 gallon tub of ice. This allows them to see different energy particles as they travel north to south, Madsen said.

"Our job is to take the data we collect and make sure it stays consistent and graph it," Anderson said.

Along with helping scientists become more knowledgeable about the universe, the work also has immediate practical applications, Madsen said.

"Studying these particles helps us learn more about Solar flares, which can give off large amounts of these particles and damage satellites," he said.

Jero has been to both Sweden and Antarctica on similar research trips during his time at UWRF, he said. Those trips helped prepare him for his upcoming venture.

"All the medical testing that's required to travel to Antarctica is unbelievable," Jero said. "I thought they'd just hand me an orange suit and tell me to stay away from the water, but it's a lot more intense."

The trip is funded primarily by the National Science Foundation, with private contributors from both Sweden and Germany, according to the program's Web site.

Madsen was instrumental in getting the students involved with the IceCube program.

"These are really unique opportunities," he said. "I think there's less than two dozen students that have done research [for IceCube] in Antarctica and two of them have been from River Falls."

"I like to refer to it as an extreme field trip," Blodgett said.

October 20
 Kyle R. Mitchell, 19, was fined for theft at 620 S. 3rd Street.

According to Peter Walbolt, captain and outside center, "This season was a success because we were able to learn from our experiences, both good and bad to become positive members individually for our team and create a cohesive group overall."

Boomers

106 N. Main • River Falls

Teen Night has MOVED to Wednesdays!

Starting with 18+ Halloween Bash
Wednesday, October 28th

Find Boomer's on Facebook - "Boomers RiverFalls"

National Campus Sustainability Week. UW-River Falls participated in the week-long event to educate students and faculty on sustainability topics.

Throughout the day, "green" activities were available for viewing in the Commons Center.

A few highlights of the day included a presentation by the Center for Strategies for Vibrant Campus, a performance by the River Falls Community Theater, a lecture with the River Falls Inn, a presentation by the River Falls campus-community and a concert by the River Falls band, in the Falcon's Nest.

Karyn Wells, student life event coordinator, said the day was to have students gain a better understanding of sustainability and is to incorporate more sustainable practices into the campus.

Falcon Programmer Amy Anderson said with the "RePlay, ReWear, and ReUse" project is RePlay, which is a store from downtown River Falls that sells and performs instruments using recycled materials. Students about their sustainability efforts focused on bottle tops. Falcon said the project brought up the fact that if waste is not recycled, they cannot be recycled.

Boomers

Halloween Party

Saturday, October 31st

Open Extra Hour for Daylight Savings!
Contestants must be signed up by midnight!

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All Taps & Rails

Police: Campus law enforcement undergoes training for new system

from page 1

of this would be if someone has been reported hanging around campus that is not a student, faculty member or staff.

“We can do criminal background checks if there is a campus concern or if we have contact with someone,” Trende said. “We will be able to find out if there is a risk more quickly.”

eTime is not a new program for law enforcement agencies, according to Trende.

“Mainly, it is just another tool that we will have to keep our campus safe now that we have changed over to a police force,” Trende

said.

eTIME, along with the hiring of two police officers and the purchase of a UWRf University Police vehicle, have been additions to University Police and Parking since the transition from public safety to a certified police force this spring.

“I think it’s a good thing because public safety was considered a joke; they really couldn’t do anything,” Cate Sering, a UWRf student, said. “Now that they have more power, people will take them more seriously.”

“I think it’s a good thing because public safety was considered a joke...”

Cate Sering
UWRf student

Dairy: UWRf team competes against 14 other teams for first place at Invitational

from page 1

a national contest takes pretty much all day,” Johnson said.

The team practices every Wednesday evening and some Saturdays. This year, the senior team met once in August. Steve Kelm, the team’s coach, takes them to different nearby farms so the team is able to see a variety of breeds, such as Holstein, Jersey, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Ayrshire and Milking Shorthorn. They usually judge two to three classes every practice, then come back to campus and give their reasons to Kelm. He then gives suggestions to improve the reasoning.

In Harrisburg, the team judged 10 classes and gave five sets of reasons. At the World Dairy Expo they judged 12 classes and gave six sets of reasons.

“We do everything individually. Then the top 3 scores are added together for the team’s score. The lowest score is a drop score,” Kieffer said.

The World Dairy Expo was the last com-

petition for the senior team, but the junior team is currently preparing for a competition in Louisville, Ky. Johnson said she believes the team’s success this year was due to the hard work that the team and Kelm put into preparations for judging. She also said it helps that herself, Kieffer, Lundgren and Kirchner have been judging together for more than two years.

“Judging has allowed me to not only do something that I love, but has also allowed me to travel, improve my communication skills and I have gained lifelong friendships,” Johnson said. “I know that I am going to continue to judge after graduation. Judging at college has been one of the best experiences I have had at school.”

Kieffer said she agreed that the experience has been worth the work.

“Dairy judging has been a wonderful experience for me,” she said. “We had a great year by winning [in] Harrisburg. It has taken some hard work and dedication, but it was definitely worth it.”

‘Clear Lake, WI’ movie producer visits UWRf to give career advice



Hailey Klein/Student Voice

UWRf student Keith Cremin gets his DVD of “Clear Lake, WI” signed by actor Dustin Booth on Friday, Oct. 16. Booth, along with fellow actor Carla Toutz and producer Brian Ide, spoke to students offering them advice about their futures.

Hailey Klein
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Director and producer Brian Ide came to UW-River Falls Oct. 16, with two lead roles in his newest movie, “Clear Lake, WI.”

“Clear Lake, WI” is a movie about a group of childhood friends that return to their abandoned hometown to revisit the horrors that happened there 15 years ago.

“I thought that the movie was put together in such a way that anyone, at any age, would be able to watch it and understand it,” Keith Cremin, a student at UWRf, said.

Ide was joined by actors Dustin Booth and Carla Toutz who spoke to UWRf students about their careers and gave advice.

“I didn’t want to be forty and wish that I would have done something,” Booth said. “I just didn’t want to do that and kick myself someday for not taking the chance.”

Toutz also gave an inspirational message to those pursuing an acting career.

“I used to picture an actress as a glamorous, perfectly put-together woman. I had to look at myself and say, ‘that’s not me.’ Once you’re happy with the person you are, that’s when you will be successful,” she said.

The chance to talk to the director and actors was very exciting for some students.

“I’m trying to take everything in and just learn,” Brian DeFord, a student at the University, said. “I want to be a director and it’s exciting to hear about it from someone firsthand. I know you have to start from the bottom and work your way up.”

UWRf professor Erik Johnson also said he found it exciting.

“It was so cool for them to call and say, ‘hey, we’re going to be in town would you like us to come speak at your school,’” he said. “I’ve tried to call in favors to get people to come out here, and I think this was a great experience for the students.”

Toutz said he got to experience true “Minnesota nice,” or Midwest nice, while shooting the movie.

“I’ve worked in Los Angeles, and it’s just a completely different lifestyle. Filming out here was amazing,” he said. “I was shooting one day and one of the women in the neighborhood came out and gave me hot chocolate just to be nice.”

Ide said he enjoyed working in this area as well.

“It’s definitely different than it is in L.A.,” Ide said. “You have to watch your back out there. It’s nice out here.”

Ide, Booth, and Toutz went to the Hudson 12 Theater later during the day, where they signed autographs and sold DVDs.

“It’s really exciting to be out here,” Ide said. “We’ve been here every night for the past week, and it’s so great to see all these people coming to support the movie.”

“Clear Lake, WI” has been playing at the Hudson 12 Theater, and it will soon make its way to Eau Claire and Minneapolis.

“We are hoping for it to eventually go international,” Ide said.

Many of the UWRf students that attended the speaking were at the movie that night.

“It was an amazing privilege and honor to meet a person that...has actually been out in the real world of directing and hearing firsthand what it’s like out in the real worlds of films,” Cremin said. “Whether you want to be a director, actor or [have a] different job position.”

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Find Freddy’s Feather

Find the lost Freddy the Falcon Feather in this issue of the Voice!

E-mail the Voice at editor@uwrvoice.com

Be the first person to report the find AFTER 10 a.m., Friday, Oct. 23, and win two free movie passes

Last week’s winner: Brad Hartwig

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EDITORIAL

Campus energy contest highlights important issue

As part of UW-River Falls’ push to go “off the grid” by 2012, the Department of Residence Life implemented a residence hall energy contest to increase “green” awareness and promote more sustainable, eco-friendly lifestyles for campus residents. The Student Voice Editorial Board strongly feels that residents need to become more aware of this contest, and should actively strive to participate.

The contest, which started several years ago, is a semester-long competition between each residence hall to decrease consumption in three categories: electricity, water and steam (steam is used as the primary heat source across campus). Each residence hall’s usage is tracked per month by Residence Life, and then compared against the hall’s usage numbers from that same month a year prior. The hall that shows the greatest percentage decrease in a particular category over the entire semester is awarded \$250, which can be used in any way the hall sees fit. With a total of three cash prizes per semester, it is conceivable that single hall could win up to \$750.

In a period of economic downturn and tighter campus budgets, these cash prizes could represent some fiscal breathing room for the winning halls to upgrade their desk equipment, fill out their recreational supplies or even just throw a party to relax during the stresses of finals.

But unfortunately, the energy contest is still under-supported. Too many residents are ignorant to the competition, its monetary benefits and how important reducing energy consumption is. Students need to take charge and join the global fight to “go green.”

And it can be so easy to reduce individual consumption by adopting a few simple techniques. Turn off the water while washing hands, brushing teeth and shaving. Take shorter showers, and turn off the water in the shower while lathering up.

Unplug appliances while not in use. Everything that is plugged in to a wall socket draws energy, even when powered down. Cell phone chargers, candle warmers, laptops, TVs and video game systems are all power drains that don’t need to be. Plug all electronics into power strips, and unplug the power strips when nothing is turned on. Turn off lights if they don’t need to be on, and utilize as much natural light as possible.

As the weather starts to cool, don’t open heater dampers all the way. Instead, wear more layers or wrap up in a blanket. Sweatshirts, shawls and wraps are a great alternative to upping the thermostat.

There is a plethora of ways students can save energy on campus. By actively competing in the energy contest, residents can both help UWRF go green and win their residence hall some much needed green.

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

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By Jon Lyksett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Taxing soda won’t work

This letter is in response to your recent column on beverage taxes (“Sales tax should apply to soda pop, unhealthy items,” Oct. 15). A tax on soda won’t work. A tax won’t make people healthier. There is strong scientific and real world evidence to show this. A study by Harvard researchers and published in the New England Journal of Medicine earlier this year concluded that all calories count—regardless of the food source—when it comes to losing weight. This is just the latest study in the compendium of science that shows balancing calories consumed from all sources with calories burned through exercise is the key equation to weight maintenance.

Further, people don’t want government using the tax code to tell them what to eat or drink. Look at Maine. Last year, the government imposed a tax on beverages to pay for the state health care program. In a November ballot initiative, Maine voters rejected the tax by a two-to-one margin. And earlier this year in New York, the governor proposed a major tax on sugar-sweetened beverages. New Yorkers revolted so strongly, the governor publicly scrapped the idea just months later. There is no doubt that obesity is a serious and complex problem; but it requires thoughtful and comprehensive solutions. We can’t tax our way to better health - and we’re not going to solve the complexities of the health care system with a tax on sodas.

Tracey Halliday, vice president
American Beverage Association

Swimming is a lifestyle

This isn’t just an activity-this is our lives. We don’t do this to get recognition. We aren’t even doing this for the shiny medals they give out.

We are out there giving 110 percent every day because it is what we love and we couldn’t live without it. Most of us would not be at this school if it didn’t have a swim team, and we have lost so many possible recruits because of that hole in the ground dungeon we call the Karges Pool. The closing of that pool could have been great if it didn’t mean we have to fight for the best thing in our lives right now. I wouldn’t be at a four-year college if it wasn’t for this swim program and the amazing people in it, and I feel sorry for you that you have yet to get the chance to know some of these swimmers who are the most amazing people I have ever known.

The fact that you don’t care about a program is not a valid reason to get rid of it. I don’t care for the football team; I have never bothered to go watch a tennis match. We have a golf team, and how many of you have been out to support them? Does that mean they don’t matter and should go away? Hell no! Just because they don’t get a lot of fans in the seats doesn’t mean they should not exist and I should get that money for my own interests.

You tell us we should have bake sales and a raffle. We are student athletes—not a club, I have never seen the football team having a bake sale and I have never seen the hockey team have a raffle. They are not asked

to fundraise for their sports funding. We have done fundraising at the Excel Energy Center the past years, because we just do not get enough money to run the swim team.

We are given the least for the size of our team. We don’t even get buses to go to our meets—we load into fifteen and seven passenger vans. We canceled a meet this year because we didn’t have enough to get there. We have two volunteer coaches because there just isn’t enough money to pay them. But they believe in what we are doing so much that they are willing to give up so much of their time for nothing but the love of the sport and to be there during our best of times and to comfort us in our worst of times.

We aren’t out there frolicking in the water, we are out there working as hard as we can, two hours a day, six times a week. Our average GPA is the highest of any other sport on campus.

We were the only sport to march in the homecoming parade this year. We participate in the SAAC, and we are out there working hard during Halloween to trick or treat for canned goods, because we are trying to make a difference. We try harder than any other student athletes on this campus to make a difference.

We love what we are doing and we love being at this school and it truly sickens me that you don’t see us for what we are, and you don’t bother to learn anything about us before you tell us we don’t matter.

Justin Anderson

Classroom silence reflects childish habits

When I was young I imagined college students as people like Anne of Green Gables. Inquisitive, motivated, confident, mature, poised intellectuals.

My image of college students were people who sought out philosophical discussions, or educated forums, talking about how the world is, how it could be, how it should be and the differences in between. These students are people who like learning, sharing what they already know and talking about their analysis of it. Key word: talk.

I have recently been in a number of classes where the students simply don’t talk. Not all classes, but a few. For example: A professor asks the class their opinion on a piece of artwork, particularly its use of line. None of the students respond.

The entire class knows what line is and everyone has an opinion of the piece-some kind of a response forming in their head, but no one says anything. The students aren’t stupid. They know the material. Now the professor won’t move on unless someone in the class says something. Still, no one talks so the class freezes. It’s paused, at a standstill for several minutes until the instructor gives up and moves on to his next point.

He asks another question. By now the students are just bored from the lack of stimulating discourse and have mentally checked out, staring catatonically at the wall, PowerPoint, or their

shoes—praying all the while for time to move faster.

This kind of classroom atmosphere is the most boring, please-shoot-me-in-the-throat, intellectually stifling kind of experience students could ever create for themselves.

What I find absolutely infuriating are the students who have an answer (the correct one as well) and then whisper it to

themselves. Not getting a response, the professor repeats the question, but this bone-headed student says the answer again, but under their breath so only they and their immediate neighbors can hear it. The student refuses to be louder and whispers as if to prove it to themselves and those around them that they do in fact have a brain and that it does work.

Here’s a little tip: if you are a student that happens to sit next to one of these “answer whisperers,” listen to what they say, then raise your hand and say their answer louder. Not only will the whisperer get mad and consider changing their ways, the teacher will think YOU are the smart one and maybe give you some “participation points.”

Participation points themselves are a total joke. They are a sign of a professor’s desperate search for student involvement in the class and the material being presented. The phenomenon of students feeling they shouldn’t speak during class (perhaps out of fear of social scrutiny) has been visibly frustrating instructors-driving them to include participation as part of the grade and increasing their need for quizzes. If

students won’t speak voluntarily about what they are learning, teachers have to test it out of them. Then someone invented “clickers”—little anonymous devices that allow students to answer multiple choice questions in class without having to raise their hand and be singled out as correct or incorrect.

There are profits being made out of “classroom response systems.” With these systems of clickers, graphics and software, shy people don’t have to step out of their comfort zone.

But part of growing up is growing out of childlike fears and timidity. Just like a three-year-old hides behind his mom’s legs when confronted by strangers, students are learning to hide behind these clickers. What’s worse is that teachers are encouraging their use, and I don’t blame them.

The answers and thoughts in our brains aren’t a secret. If we have them in our heads, we should say them and say them loud.

Yes, the professor will hear, but that’s the point isn’t it? I highly doubt answering a professor’s question labels a student as a “know-it-all.” Even so, isn’t remembering what you’re taught and sharing what you know and think a positive attribute?

Yes, speaking up in class can be uncomfortable, but if students are to be considered college educated adults, they need get over it.

UW-River Falls students need to embody what it means to be educated, growing out of childish habits into adulthood and help make sitting in class less of a bore by participating and taking on an active role.

Kirsten Blake is a marketing communications major with a journalism minor. She pronounces her name “Curse-ten,” as if you were to swear to the 10th power.

STUDENT
Voices

Do you volunteer? If so, why do you do it?

Chris Prementine,
junior

“I volunteer with my mom during Christmas time at Appalachian Christmas. People bring goods to the church and we help sort and send them out.”



Alex Wayne,
sophomore

“I volunteer with my church when I have time. I help on mission trips and do little things during the service.”



Kyleen Shields,
sophomore

“I volunteer with FFA, at the fairs, showing kids how to show their animals, and helping set up and clean afterward.”



Theresa Schnevels,
sophomore

“I volunteer at my church. I help with dinners, festivals, youth activities, etc.”



Jarod Feltz,
freshman

“I volunteer through school and church. I also help on Make a Difference Day and various community service activities”



Student Voices compiled by Christie Lauer

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.

Facebook posts require
maturity, self-awareness

About two to three months into my senior year of high school, 2005, a friend convinced me that I had to be a part of the “must have” online fad the world has come to know as Facebook. It seemed rather simple at the



Matt
Torkelson

my time talking with people that I saw pretty much every day in school. In recent months, numerous media outlets have given light to the fact that employers are increasingly searching social networking sites to check the activities and lifestyles of potential and current employees. This should be alarming to many people, considering the things that they are willing to post about themselves on the web for everyone to see. Let’s talk some Facebook etiquette.

Facebook is obviously useful for many reasons, from keeping in touch with friends that live hours away, or to send out information and updates for upcoming events and whatnot. There are so many things, however, that people will reveal about themselves, or to others, that make you ask “What the hell were they thinking?”

Since all these different forms of communication, from “wall posts” to instant messaging, lack tone, so many statements are taken in the most awkward way possible. Awkward isn’t always bad, but with some of the status updates and things people say to each other for everyone to see, it brings a whole new meaning to “no self-awareness.”

Let’s start with a few relevant examples that I think most people can agree on. Relationships probably yield the best examples of poor Facebook etiquette. Nothing is more uncomfortable when couples take their arguments to each other’s Facebook walls.

It’s bad enough that the News Feed on Facebook is telling me how drunk (insert name) got at that party last night, but it’s even more uncomfortable when couples choose to not use the “private message” option when exchanging certain words.

One blog said it best in that “if you need a lifeline, phone a friend rather than asking the audience.” My personal favorite (of uncomfortable Facebook-ing) is

when people will have many status updates, usually one right after the other, all basically saying the same thing, but each different status uses a different curse to describe their most recent ex. Apparently these people are so angry and/or heartbroken that they couldn’t even use the delete option for old statuses-how wonderful.

I also enjoy it when people think they are being subtle in their statuses pertaining to their “lost love,” but in all honesty, they couldn’t be any more obvious. Sure, sometimes you need a shoulder to cry on, but at the same time you’re telling me you need someone to slap you upside the head and say, “get over it.”

Facebook is obviously pegged as a social networking site, but it leads to some rather anti-social tendencies. I almost feel like a lot of friend requests stem from “Hey, I’ve seen you on campus before!” or “Yeah, you lent me a pen that one time in speech class.”

It annoys the hell out of me when people will be bold enough to add you on Facebook, and then refuse to make any sort of contact (like a simple “hello”) in real life. Most Facebook users have had these sorts of situations, as well as a story or two, I’m sure, about some persistent soul that won’t take a hint after attempting to add you 93 times that “hey, um, no thanks.”

Though I’m sure I could write a short novel on all the other things that are incredibly improper about certain actions on Facebook, I’m going to touch on one that personally makes me cringe every time I see someone “break” this rule.

Honestly, letting the world know how blitzed you got the other night does not make you sound like a badass, but instead, makes you sound like an absolute tool. Let’s clear the air in that I believe having a beer with friends is often necessary and encouraged, being that you’re of age of course. However, a photo of you becoming a canvas for “Sharpie” art probably isn’t the best way to impress employers, either.

There are so many things that make Facebook a great way to kill some time in between classes, as well as keep up on what your friends are doing.

There will always be, however, so many awkward situations that stem from extensive Facebook use, and quite honestly, most users will fall victim to a few embarrassing situations.

Hopefully people are able to get a few harmless laughs out their “missteps,” but at the same time keep their awareness up that everything you say, is indeed, for every and anybody to see.

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.

United Way brings good
to others, self-satisfaction

All the cool kids Live United-and they are not just wearing a cool t-shirt. When I initially heard of the Live United campaign, I thought the message was clear: it was a Beatles song I never heard of. I was quickly, and fortunately, corrected. Live United is a call to action initiated by United Way, a world-wide network stretching over 46 countries. This organization has made it its mission to improve people’s lives by creating opportunities for communities that create a caring network to improve the lives of all involved. Nearly 1,300 local organizations exist in the U.S., and even better, there is a Student United Way on our very own cozy campus.

I would have had no idea that Student United Way existed if I hadn’t had a class with the group’s president, Candis Sunderland, this semester. Her rocket-red hair is hard to miss and her passion for the cause is contagious. Donning a white “Live United” shirt, she explained the organization’s mission and what we could all do to take part. By becoming a member of Student United Way, a person suddenly has a connection to local volunteer opportunities that range from little time spent to dedicated service opportunities. If something on the list doesn’t catch your eager eye, just ask for something more: the organization would be happy to connect you with a place that would gladly accept your help.

On Sept. 18, I found myself and a roommate driving down the highway, radio loud, getting in the mindset to do some serious window washing. It was the Day of Caring and I had signed us up to volunteer-I am a caring person, after all. Once our mission was assigned, I was relieved. Washing windows is a specialty of mine, a secret I’ve been suc-

cessfully keeping from my parents for years. My time had come and I was to show the world a talent-through sparkling windows at that. When we arrived, the elderly woman we were to assist was quietly waiting, watching the next angry Judge Judy wannabe on a small television set. As I washed the windows and chatted with her, I discovered she was a relative of one of my closest friends from high school. She knew the community I grew up in and recognized names as I said them. Soon the windows and my talent became less of a priority and the conversation grew. My roommate and I cleaned windows and fled from enthusiastic wasps that day, yet something much more significant took place. We grew more as people and had a warm feeling from doing something good not for reward, but just because we can. As college students, our time is valuable and our wallets slim.

Volunteering is a great (and cheap) way to obtain that do-gooder feeling, and the Student United Way makes it that much easier to just put down the excuses and do it. The Live United campaign has a great slogan: “Think of We Before Me.” How simple a phrase and how big the impact could be. Student United Way meets every other Tuesday at 4 p.m. and at 7 p.m., so if you can’t make one, you can still attend the other (But you don’t have to show up for both). E-mail candis.sunderland@uwr.edu for more info. I rediscovered the reward of volunteering and recommend for everyone to try it. If it didn’t go well last time, try it again in a new way. Join and Live United.

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



Laura
Krawczyk

Volunteering is a great (and cheap) way to obtain that do-gooder feeling, and the Student United Way makes it that much easier to just put down the excuses and do it.

Fall fashion item: scarves

Hello again, River Falls. The Fall season seems to be in full swing-the season of cooler weather, scary pumpkins, and fancy costumes. Remember, Halloween is less than a week away-are you prepared?

When it comes to fashion, fall is my favorite season. The cooler weather allows one to have fun with multiple layers without feeling too warm underneath them. Layering can be a great way to incorporate the right amount of color into any outfit.

Love to accessorize? Fall is the season for you! Rocker-style/punk jewelry is perfect for this season as it complements the many neutral colors of fall while adding an edge to any outfit. Speaking of accessories, let’s take a look at the latest item of the week.

Item of the week: Scarves

Scarves are a luxurious item for any woman or man to possess, and are a necessity this fall and winter seasons. They are soft, warm, and come in a variety of price ranges to fit any budget. Let’s explore short, cashmere (long) and square scarf styles.

The short scarf can only be wrapped around once, or comes “pre-wrapped” and is made of synthetic materials. These scarves can add the right splash of color to any outfit, and is best worn with low cut, scoop neck shirts as it allows for a slight, feminine cleavage to be visible, which adds the right touch of class and style.

The longer scarf or cashmere scarves can be worn in a variety of ways. It can be left hanging down the neck, wrapped around once, or in a twist. The twist is when you bring the ends together, draping the folded scarf around the back of your neck and letting the loop end and the frill end hang on either sides. Find the loop end and pull the frill end through it. This style is the most professional and is very flattering when

worn inside a front open peacoat.

The long scarf is also very flattering worn alone with a low-cut, v-neck shirt or tank top, as it elongates the body, and makes one look slimmer. In addition, it makes one’s chest look fuller, giving off a flattering “hourglass” shape.

To wear the square scarf, fold the square in half to form a triangle, and stretch this triangle in front of your neck (with the triangle pointing down). Then wrap the ends (with the frill) around the back of your neck, bring it around

on either side and tuck it in underneath the triangle.

Ladies, nothing is sexier than a modest girl with sense of fashion. It’s very important to dress classy, as a little cleavage can be very flattering and sexy, while a lot of cleavage leaves little to the imagination and is anything but flattering.

This week’s featured student knows a lot about dressing classy and stylish. Sophomore Kamlia Stafin dresses with a classic and chic style, and smile that can turn any eye. Her love for neutrals in the fall, and colors

and patterns in the spring, shows her true eye for fashion. Check out this article online at uwrvoice.com, under the “Fashion” tab to read up on Stafin’s style, complete with a gallery of pictures shot by our Student Voice photographers.

Next week’s feature is Matt Rinnac, a senior with an eye for fashion-complete with Swiss watches and designer shirts.

For more style ideas or for any questions about fashion and style, send me an e-mail at fashion@uwrvoice.com. If you think you are an ideal choice for a feature or want to nominate someone you know, visit this column online under the “Fashion” tab and register in the “Fashion Tip” box.

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



Priya
Kailash

Scarves are a luxurious item for any woman or man... this fall and winter seasons. They are soft, warm and come in a variety of price ranges to fit any budget.

Senior captain leads team through last cross country season

Blaze Fugina
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The UW-River Falls cross country team is led this season by a senior captain who has been teaching runners how to lead on and off the field.

Senior runner Chad Ernst is preparing to become a marine, and also is leading the Falcons cross country runners through his last season.

Last summer, Ernst went through training to become a lieutenant in the marines.

“I am commissioning to become a second lieutenant in May,” he said.

Commissioning to become a lieutenant is basically training to be in the position. Ernst attributes some of his abilities to lead a young team to the training he was given to become a marine.

“It helped me be more of a leader, and to help communicate expectations to the team,” Ernst said. “I’m glad to be in the Marine Corps.”

Cross country coach Keven Syverson, in his third year with the team, also recognizes Ernst’s ability to lead.

“[Chad] does a good job helping students understand,” Syverson said. “Freshmen and sophomores need to learn consistency.”

Syverson said that a tough part of collegiate running

is learning how to balance running and academics, a balance that that all college athletes have to learn to be successful both on and off the field.

Ernst said he has found a good balance of this; he has made the Dean’s List in every semester he has attended UWRF. He is also a tutor at the Academic Success Center.

“He has been a US Track and Field Cross Country Coaches Association Academic All-American the past two years, and made the WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll in cross country, and both indoor and outdoor track,” Syverson said. “He is a very good student.”

Ernst has also experienced success in cross country running as well. According to the team’s web site, Ernst has the top all-time 8K running record, with a time of 24 minutes and 56 seconds. The time was recorded at the Oshkosh Brooks Invitational last October.

In the same season, the second highest 8K time was recorded by another runner, then-senior Jason Phillippi.

Ernst said that having another runner to push him through workouts really helped him blossom in the season.

“It is nice to have a teammate who can run with me and push me through workouts,” he said.

Syverson said that having two very quick runners “really helped” last season, though the team lacked depth in the other running slots. The current team, however, has the depth that the other team lacked, according to Syverson.

“Our three through six runners are closer together than last year,” he said. “We need consistency.”

With this in mind, the cross country men and women are gearing up for the upcoming WIAC meet on Oct. 31 at UW-Whitewater.

“We would like to be in fifth [place] or better,” Syverson said. “The top seven teams in the conference are very good.”

“The conference is tough, historically,” Ernst said. “Some of our runners are not yet running to their ability.”

The runners hope that by Halloween, they will be.



Sally King/Student Voice
Chad Ernst is a senior captain on the men’s cross country team. In 2008, Ernst was named to the WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll, received the Most Dedicated title and was a USTFCCA All-Academic Award winner.

Despite setbacks, swim team stays afloat

Renee Thony
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Bill Henderson is beginning his eighth season as the UWRF swimming and diving team head coach, and he says he is looking forward to a strong 2009 season.

“I’m looking forward to seeing the strongest men’s team we’ve had in quite a while compete,” he said. “We have a lot of new faces, men and women, on the team, and I’m also looking forward to seeing them race.”

Henderson said the biggest difference for the team this season is the loss of the swimming pool on campus. The team is now practicing at the River Falls High School every morning and evening.

“It’s a big change from the Karges pool, which is very small,” Henderson said. “This new situation is providing us with more space, so we can do a lot more things in training with that space.”

Graduation, end of eligibility and overwhelming academic loads were all reasons for the loss of swimmers this season. Three of the four

members on the last year’s women’s record-setting 400-free-relay team are gone: Danielle Mandich, Katie Zappa and Jill Lambach.

The men’s team lost Mike Brudzinski and Dave Johnson. Both swimmers with captains last year, and Henderson said it will be quite different without the two.

Although his teams lost quite a few key athletes, Henderson said he is anticipating good things from an “outstanding freshman class.”

Hannah Wiseman joins the team with some very fast distance freestyle times, and Henderson expects Anna Dragich to contribute in the sprint freestyle and backstroke.

“In addition, Sarah Koch is a very versatile swimmer,” Henderson said. “She’ll help in the individual medley.”

Henderson said Ray Carlos will be a big contributor

in the individual medley and mid-distance freestyles, and Kevin O’Brien is one of the strongest in butterfly the team has ever had.

“Mars Delgado, Dan Ehrenberg and Alex Matz will give us depth, too,” Henderson added. “Especially in the sprint freestyles and breaststroke.”

When previewing the season, Henderson said the team will face Eau Claire in the only dual meet of the season.

“Eau Claire is by far the strongest team we will face,” he said. “They always have a big team, and that means depth.”

The team will have its first home meet against Lawrence on Nov. 1, and Henderson said he’s excited about it.

“We always seem to have a good meet against the Vikings.”

Henderson said the Falcon Invite on Dec. 4 and 5 will be the big emphasis for the team throughout the first half of the season.



Bill Henderson

“We have a lot of new faces, men and women, on the team, and I’m also looking forward to seeing them race.”

Bill Henderson,
head coach

“Eau Claire is by far the strongest team we will face. They always have a big team, and that means depth.”

Bill Henderson,
head coach

For continuing coverage on the swim team, check out uwrfvoice.com

NBA losing fans due to international influence

Derek Johnson

For most of the 90s, the NBA was at the top of the charts in terms of popularity in America. It sat there along with the NFL competing for the top sport in America.

It did help that fans were being turned off of baseball because of the 1994-95 strike, and that hockey has never been the top sport in America, ever.

But even without the help of the other sports on the decline, the NBA held its own with their fan base. The NBA flourished in the 90s with the help of Michael Jordan, who won the finals three times in a row twice from 1990-93 and again from 1995-98.

The 1992 Olympic team, also known as the “Dream Team”—the first to use current NBA players—also helped put the stars in the international spotlight and gave the NBA exposure outside North America. Stars like Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Magic Johnson, Patrick Ewing, Larry Bird and Charles Barkley shined on the international stage.

In the late 90s and early 2000s the dynasties of the San Antonio Spurs and Los Angeles Lakers gave the NBA a new rivalry to watch. The Spurs and Lakers combined to win 8 of the next 11 championships after the ‘98 season.

So with the NBA having so many identifiable stars and new rivalries coming about, why does it seem like it has been on the decline for the past decade in terms of popularity? I have come up with a few ideas that could be reasons for the decline.

I believe the reason that makes the most sense to me is all the 1990 superstar players like Bird, Johnson, Jordan, Pippen and Ewing retired. There have been new faces like Kobe Bryant, Kevin Garnett, and LeBron James, but there are not as many big-name stars that are easily identifiable to fans.

Another reason I believe

the NBA has taken a hit in ratings is actually the same reason I believe the NHL is suffering with ratings: that is the international influence in the game. Americans identify easier with the players they got to see in high school and college that have made it to the NBA, so they know more about the player once they get to the big stage. When international players enter the draft and get into the NBA the average fan doesn’t know a whole lot about the player and therefore doesn’t relate to the player as easily.

Over the past decade the NBA “thug” type of image with the baggier uniforms, on the court actions like getting into fights with the crowd and getting into trouble with the law. These black marks turn away basketball fans from the game.

One last reason I have come up with is that the game has turned to all offense, and the balance of good offense vs. good defense is gone. Players can easily drive to the hoop and score. A lot of people I’ve

Can the NBA get back to its dominance in popularity like in the ‘90s? With a new decade approaching, we will have to wait and see.

talked to say they would rather watch college basketball over the NBA because it’s more balanced and teams actually play defense. And with that, games become more interesting and storylines between teams become more interesting.

Once again, baseball has taken a hit this decade with its fan base because of the steroids era that has developed and hockey is still taking a backseat to the rest of the major sports in America. Can the NBA get back to its dominance in popularity like in the ‘90s? With a new decade approaching us, we will have to wait and see.

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

Children’s book marvels as film

What kind of movie can a 10-sentence long children’s book make? Apparently, a damn good one.

Spike Jonze said he wanted “Where the Wild Things Are,” an adaptation of the 1963 Caldecott



Ken Weigend

Medal-winning classic, to, above all, capture what it is like to be a nine-year-old boy. He has succeeded, crafting a roughly-hewn exploration of a child’s imagination filled with love, anger, joy and sorrow - none of which youthful innocence can articulate, or even comprehend.

The boy is Max, played by 12-year-old Max Records in a performance that is surely a new benchmark for child actors. Max is having a bit of a rough go at things lately. His divorced mother is distracted by work and a new boyfriend, his sister by teenage hormones. The only thing Max has is his imagination, fueled out of necessity by his unrelenting loneliness. A tender first act allows us a glimpse into Max’s world entirely from his perspective. Handheld cameras and low-level shooting place us right there with Max as he builds an igloo in the yard, and as his sister’s friends destroy it; as he tries to win the attentions of his mother, and as he loses to her computer. The world is a cruel place, lessons that Max learns through tears and hurt. The emotions boil over at the dinner table as Max yells at his mother. She yells back, sending Max hurtling into the night to sail away, adrift

and all alone with nothing but his thoughts. Max stumbles upon a wild and overgrown island in-

habited by the name-sake wild things. Max meets them as they

are destroying their own homes, and quickly jumps in, realizing that here playtime replaces pain.

The wild things, brought to stunning realization through a seamless blend of puppetry and CGI, are softer than the original illustrations; there are still sharp claws and teeth, but they are offset by a cuddly and inquisitive nature. After an initial attempt to eat Max, the creatures discover the wildness in this boy near exceeds their own, and duly appoint him king.

The danger here for Jonze was to not reinvent a beloved classic, or attempt to dissect it for us. Instead he gently expands the story into a fully fleshed out world in which we are welcome to lose ourselves in. As events unfold in this land of make believe, there is a sense of newness and wonderment, but also an undercurrent of familiarity; Max’s life back home is redrawn out here as an overblown mockery of reality, allowing him to make sense of the world on his own terms. The wild things begin to take concrete form as shadows of the people Max left behind, maybe even as reflections of himself.

As Max slowly begins to lose control over the wild things, and his raw realm of

fantasy begins to crumble, the allure of home, and the stunning realization of what he has left behind, slowly pulls Max back.

“Where the Wild Things Are” is a rare and powerful film. It does the impossible and films fantasy as absolutely real, and its primitive nature masks a complicated and emotional depth that will escape younger audiences. But this haunting film isn’t really meant for them; it isn’t about childhood, but childhood’s ending, and what we gain and lose from that transition. The mirror it holds to the world exposes both beauty and terror, making it one of the year’s best. To paraphrase one of the wild things, I could eat it up, I love it so.

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.

Nostalgia. Generally, it’s a word I don’t use too much, unless of course I’m speaking about a girl’s weekend

that includes a midnight Disney marathon, a little celebrity gossip and some long overdue cookie

baking. Fortunately for you all, my Disney collection is still on VHS, Kanye managed to restrain himself from interrupting another awards speech, and the baking that did take place was done in a mere half hour by my roommate and fellow columnist Laura Krawczyk. No, the nostalgia that finished out another week here in good old River Falls, did not come from any of my trivial guilty pleasures, but instead from



Katie Heaton

a favorite childhood story of mine. While many of you will see this as the atypical weekend party life, I can

assure you that when it came to my wild side, nothing was forgotten. Of course, I

am referring to Spike Jonze’s new on screen rendition of Maurice Sendak’s 1963 children’s classic “Where the Wild Things Are.” A true literary work of art, “Where the Wild Things Are” is about a boy named Max who, after getting into trouble with his mother, sails away from his bedroom to a far, far away island where great monsters

live and play. Once introduced and then pronounced king of the wild things, Max joins the monsters

in a bit of the silly and wild life only to realize that it is at home with his mother where his heart has stayed. Though a slightly longer plot was installed to make the hour-and-a-half feature (the book itself is only ten sentences long after all), the main lessons behind the theme of childhood disobedience still render clear and true.

With a cast of prominent names including James Gandolfini, Chris Cooper, Forest Whitaker, Catherine Keener and Mark Ruffalo, Jonze sets up a world filled with the comical and bittersweet, acknowledging a tough lesson that every child

faces growing up: how to manage all our different feelings. The underlining of such a message is highlighted for the audience through newbie Max Records’ powerful performance as King Max, who not only displays Max as a curious and creative figure but also as a simple little boy who is trying to understand all the emotions that envelope him. This, along with exquisite scenery and creative costuming bring the island and its inhabitants to vivacious and artistic life, allowing for even the oldest of moviegoers to reenter their childhood dreams. While fifty percent of the credit for the film must go to such aspects, it is without a doubt that the other fifty must be given to the musicians and artists who compiled the soundtrack. Creating each

The main lessons behind the theme of childhood disobedience still render clear.

song to represent a different emotion Max faces, it is without lying that one can say the assistance

of artists such as Katherine O (of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs), The Liars, The Raconteurs, and Carter Burwell made the film what it was. Without such creative artistry, I’m certain our wild story would have been very drab indeed.

In short, this movie is one I would recommend not only for parents and children but also for anyone who has a heart for what the imagination can bring. What it brings back is truly invaluable: memories and a wild side you forgot you had.

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.



Raveonettes return impresses fan with icy pop record

“Bang, you’re so vicious baby!” are the first words that greet listeners on the latest LP from the Raveonettes, aptly titled “In and Out of Control.”

What follows is the distinct fuzzy feedback and sharp, piercing twang of electric guitar and echoing wails of that contribute to the trademark Fender-powered Raveonettes ambiance. Fans who have followed the twosome for any period of time will feel right at home.

The second track, “Gone



Andy Phelps

Forever,” is immediately jarring, featuring a heavy bassline and

upbeat rhythm, which combine for an overwhelming fluid wave of sound that perfectly compliments Wagner’s soft, understated vocals. Another

highlight is the sexy and slick “Breaking Into Cars” that is flush with hints immediate danger and adventure. “You take me for a spin / You take me for a spin / Until I crash into the stars / I’m crashing into cars,” is a potent sample of the words the seductive and carefree Foo rolls off her tongue.

The Danish Rock duo, which consists of the multi-talented Sune Rose Wagner and Sharin Foo, carry

along with them an immediately recognizable sound that they have used to craft and polish off of two excellent studio albums. The Raveonettes prove they’re armed with an endless arsenal of glossy, new edge creations sprinkled with a dash of catchy pop hooks in the unlikely case anyone loses interest. They’re a difficult

pair to deconstruct, as they are just as likely to invoke comparisons to Interpol as they are to Aqua (if that makes any sense at all).

There is not an abundance of material on “In and Out of Control” that really merits multiple listens, but “Last Dance” is a song that pleases on multiple levels. It’s seemingly jovial and melodic pace masks the tragic lyrical content: an affectionate revisiting of a lover’s

overdose. “Everytime you overdose / I rush to intensive care / Another sad eye stare / Before you disappear,” Wagner recounts, with the faintest hint of melancholy on the tip of his tongue.

Fans who have followed the twosome for any period of time will feel right at home.

The biggest enigma is clearly the track “Boys who Rape (Should All Be Destroyed).” Although it has all the individual elements of a great creation—a deft guitar solo, a sing-song electropop tempo and minimalist, painfully brutal lyrics (“They rip you to shreds / Make you feel useless / You’ll never forget / Those fuckers stay in your head”), but ultimately serves no immediately apparent purpose and feels awkward located in the middle of the album. Serving as the impactful center of the record, it doesn’t quite work, but it’s

extremely disconcerting to listen to Foo as she delivers her vengeful message in a decidedly calm and calculated manner.

The entire album has an edgy, dark pop feel to it—for the most part, Wagner and Foo seem to have cranked down the volume a few notches since their previous release, “Lust, Lust, Lust” (which would have been perfect if it wasn’t so damn loud) and settled with a comfy reverberating groove that is so free-flowing that it seems as if they’re navigating through their playlist on autopilot. An exception to the rule is “Break Up, Girls!” an ear-piercingly intense ride that is effectively a giant middle finger pointed towards abusive guys.

Although somewhat uneven, this return is more than good enough to impress.

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

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Eric Pringle/Student Voice

UW-River Falls sophomore Bayli Maliszewski and her sister, graduating senior Abby Maliszewski, lost their mother, Deb, to breast cancer last month. Deb battled the disease for nearly four years after going through numerous surgeries and chemotherapy and radiation treatments. In this photo, Bayli holds the last picture ever taken of their mother, which depicts them each posing with cows from their farm, while Abby holds a drawing she did of the photo.

Students increase cancer awareness

Angela Lutz
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UW-River Falls students are speaking out about how cancer has affected their lives for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Abby Maliszewski, a graduating senior majoring in marketing communications and journalism, dyes her hair pink in October for Breast Cancer Awareness month.

“I dye for those who’ve died,” she said, which includes recently losing her mom to breast cancer.

“After three-and-a-half years of chemo treatments, surgeries, radiation and bad news...she’s finally gone. And I say ‘finally’ because she wanted out so many times,” Maliszewski said.

“I couldn’t stand seeing her miserable, sick in her bed from the treatments, not able to sleep at night because her lungs hurt—the endless side effects of chemo,” Abby’s sister, Bayli Maliszewski, a sophomore majoring in marketing communications, said.

“I remember becoming afraid to call home after hearing discouraging results time and time again. I never really knew what to do, what to say, or who to talk to...I just didn’t think anyone could understand,” Bayli said.

“[Mom’s] cancer spread quickly, from breast to lungs to liver to brain...and shortly before 2 p.m. on Sept. 14, right after getting pampered by a nurse, her friend and parents, she took her last breaths. Dad, and my sister were in town doing some banking, and my brother and I were outside. Mom must have known that none of us were around; it was the first time in her last two or three weeks that all four of us were out of the room with her. And that’s when she died. She must have not wanted any of us to be there,” Abby said.

“There are times I flip open my phone to call home to tell mom about something funny that just happened...but I have to stop and remember that I don’t get that option anymore. I don’t get the convenience of asking her how long to cook a whole chicken. She can’t be my lifeline anymore. She’s not here. That’s the hardest,” Abby said.

“I do wonder why it had to be [mom] that was the victim of such a battle. But I also think that this reminds us just how important we are to each other. How life is fragile, how we shouldn’t take it for granted. It brought our family a lot closer...as down as this story may be, a little bit of good comes from every bad—it just might be hidden at first...but our family will get through it, even if we carry with us a hole in our hearts,” Bayli said.

UWRF has formed a new Conquer Cancer Club, where members know all too well the heartache the Maliszewski sisters are going through.

“We wanted a way to fight back against this disease,” Mary Virnig, a junior majoring in animal science and founder and president of the Conquer Cancer Club, said. “I decided to form the...club because, as a cancer survivor myself, I felt that there was no where for me to talk freely about my experiences, because let’s face it- cancer isn’t a huge talking point in the 18-26 age group.”

Virnig said the goals of the club are to “provide a place where it is okay to talk about cancer in your life and have people who have had similar life experiences there to provide support, raise awareness on campus that cancer can affect our age group, and that choices you make now can affect whether or not you get cancer and to help fight back against this disease in whatever way we can, through education, fundraising for cancer charities and volunteering at hospitals.”

In August 2006, Virnig was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma, “a form of cancer that starts in certain types of very primitive developing nerve cells found in an embryo or fetus” and “rarely found in children older than 10 years,” according to the American Cancer Society.

Virnig had plans to run cross country her freshman year for UWRF in fall 2006 when “her doctor felt a mass in her pelvis and sent her to get a CT scan. The scan showed what was thought to be a large ovarian cyst.” However, during surgery at the University of Minnesota the surgeons uncovered a ganglioneuroblastoma tumor. Various tests and scans were done and when she went back for the results they found that “the tumor had spread to her bone marrow in her left hip and femur. Also the tumor that was left was cancerous,” Virnig said.

In order to treat the cancer Virnig started chemotherapy where she would be an inpatient at the U of M for a week, then go home for two to three weeks, only to go back again for her next treatment.

“I did that for four months and then had another surgery to try to get the rest of the tumor...I had another month of the same chemo regimen then I had surgery to remove a mass in my lung before I could have an autologous stem cell transplant. The process of a transplant...is first to kill off all of the bone marrow in your body using the highest doses of chemo your body can handle without killing you for a week, then giving you about a four day rest. On day ten they reinfused my

stem cells back into me.”

After staying in the hospital for another month, Virnig was to live at the Ronald McDonald House in Minneapolis. She lived there for 100 days, where she dealt with multiple infections, surgery to remove her gallbladder and six weeks of daily radiation treatment.

“Possibly the happiest day of my life was when those 100 days were up and I got to go back home. I was placed on a high dose of accutane that summer and was strong enough to start my freshman year here at UWRF in the fall of 2007.”

“The first semester went well and I stayed on the accutane but the cancer was still present in my bone marrow. Over winter break...I went out to San Francisco to receive a treatment that was in clinical phase two study that involved a new type of radiation and I had to be in isolation because I was so radioactive. This caused me to lose my hair again...so if you saw a girl with a bandana on with no hair underneath-that was me.”

At the end of the year, “the scans showed that my tumor had grown again. I was put back on chemo...I started off my sophomore year again with very little hair. I worked my schedule so that I would go to classes in the morning, and then get chemo in the afternoons...in spring semester I was changed to 2 weeks on chemo and 2 weeks off at a stronger dose. I would need periodic blood transfusions, so I would do those at night so I wouldn’t have to miss class. I continued that treatment until the end of spring semester 2009. This summer, because my blood counts were not getting back to safe levels within an adequate amount of time, I was taken off chemo for the summer to try to let my body recover,” Virnig said.

“At the beginning of this semester, I was on another clinical phase two trial with a new type of drug that wasn’t supposed to drop my counts much but I had so few platelets to begin with that the drug dropped them below the required amount to get the drug so I was taken off the trial,” Virnig said.

“I am now still waiting to get my counts back up to a place where I can receive some kind of treatment...I still have cancer but I feel very lucky to have been able to go to school through most of it.”

Virnig’s positive attitude towards life seems to be a common thread throughout the club members who have battled with cancer.

Kristin Schamaun, a junior majoring in animal science and member of the club, was

diagnosed with bone cancer in March 2004. Her doctor found a tumor in her right knee roughly the “size of a lime,” Schamaun said. The cancer eventually spread to her lungs, causing her to have three lung surgeries.

After multiple tests, surgeries and chemo treatments, Schamaun said “Nothing was worse than being a freshman in high school,” because of her hair loss and the appearance of her several scars. Her scars don’t bother her as much as they once did, but what does still make her nervous is going back to her doctor for a check-up this December.

“It just goes to show that you’re not invincible and teaches you to stop taking everything for granted,” Schamaun said.

Caleb Peterson, a freshman majoring in broad field social studies, is also a member of the club. His doctor found a brain tumor in him before being cleared to attend college here at UWRF.

He was sent to the Mayo clinic where they performed several tests, and in August 2008, he had brain surgery. Following the surgery, he went through radiation and chemo treatments, causing him to lose his hair.

“[Having cancer] gives you a different perspective on life and shows you how trivial some things are from before,” Peterson said.

Kelly Van Haren, a sophomore majoring in elementary education, is also a member and Relay for Life chair of the club. She was diagnosed with papillary-thyroid cancer just days after her eighteenth birthday when her doctor found a lump on her thyroid. She had a needle biopsy done on her neck—what she describes as “the worst test ever”—in order to find out more about the lump.

She had surgery in July 2008, to remove the left side of her thyroid, where they had found cancer, which instigated surgeons to also remove the right side. She went through a radioactive iodine treatment, where she couldn’t be around anyone for three days, several series of tests, shots and blood work and will have to be on medication, because she no longer has a thyroid, for the rest of her life.

“[Having cancer] changes you altogether and shows you just how fragile life really is. I’m thankful for how lucky I’ve been,” Van Haren said.

The Conquer Cancer Club encourages UWRF students to support those affected by cancer by visiting the Caring Bridge Web site, where you can sign member’s guest-books and participate in the 2010 Relay for Life in River Falls on March 26-27.

Additional color photos accompanying this article can be found at uwrfvoice.com