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Falcons welcome back five returning starters

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Columnist warns against negative effects of indoor air pollution

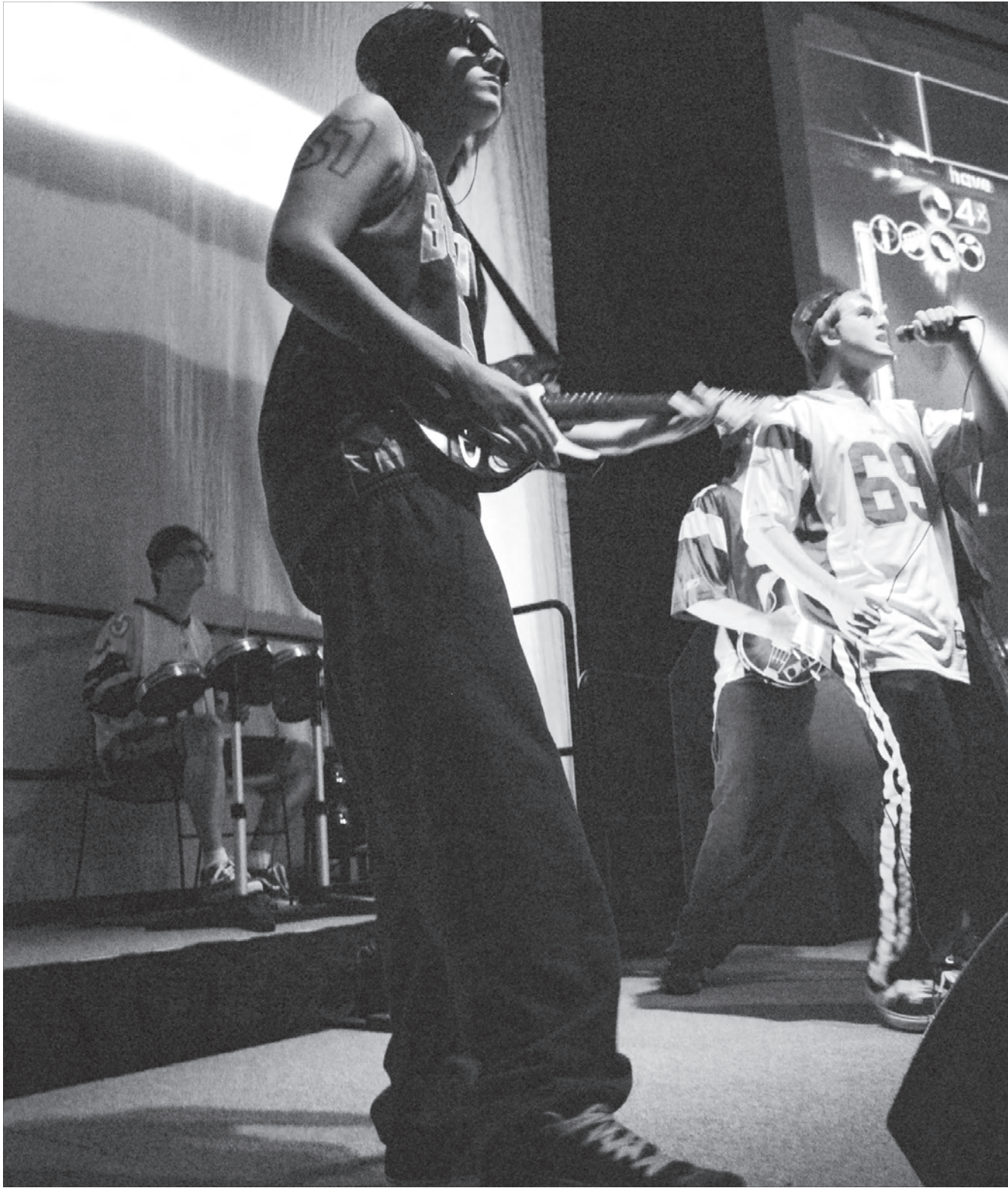
GRAFFITI, PAGE 8
Campus unites to raise awareness, fight against racism



STUDENT VOICE

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Beatles mania sweeps through University Center



UW-River Falls students Bill Liebhart, Bill Peake, Zach Bodenner and Jeff Schafer play in the Beatles Rock Band tournament Wednesday night in the University Center’s Falcons Nest.

Sally King/Student Voice

UWRF assesses staff, students’ perspectives

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UW-River Falls, along with three other UW System schools, is participating in a campus-wide survey to assess the attitudes of students and staff towards the University environment.

The Campus Climate Survey is available now until the end of this semester and focuses on questions that will provide information to help the University ensure that the environment is conducive to working, living and learning.

Campus climate is defined as the “current attitudes, behaviors, and standards of employees and students concerning the access for, inclusion of, and level of respect for individual and group needs, abilities and potential,” according to the UWRF web site.



Craig Morris

According to Craig Morris, chief diversity officer in the Office of Equity, Affirmative Action and Compliance, last month Susan Rankin, a nationally known expert in assessing and improving campus climate, visited campus to meet with staff, students and faculty to discuss UWRF’s participation in the Campus Climate Survey.

Brad Kerschner, a student on the Campus Climate Committee said that the survey is vital to the future and improvement of our campus.

“The results will tell us what areas we need to improve on at UWRF,” Kerschner said. “With this information, students, staff and faculty will be better equipped to make our campus a better, more friendly place to be.”

Morris said the purpose of the survey is to learn more about how people feel on this campus.

“We really want to understand the experiences of all and how those who work and study here perceive our campus,” Morris said.

Information gathered from the survey will guide our campus in the future for improving our campus climate, Morris said, along with assisting to make the campus inclusive and welcoming for all.

The UW System mission is “to ...serve and stimulate society by developing in students heightened intellectual, cultural and humane sensitivities.” In 2004, when the issue of bias incidents at several campuses was made aware, taskforce committees were formed to investigate consulting firms who conduct climate assessments. At this point, Rankin and Associates was identified as the leading expert for this.

According to notes from a Sept. 19 committee meeting, one reason the survey is being done is to ensure that the University is providing leadership for constructive participation in a diverse, multicultural world. With the results, it is the hope that the University will open its doors wider to underrepresented groups.

See Climate Survey page 3

UWRF campus, clinics continue to fight against H1N1

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Wednesday’s vaccine clinic was canceled due to H1N1 vaccine availability and distribution being slower than expected in the Wisconsin area.

Now that flu season is underway, students, faculty and staff are starting to see the effects that H1N1 is taking on the UW-River Falls campus. With students missing classes, professors are finding that their attendance policies have had to change.

With these concerns on faculty and students’ minds, Blake Fry, special assistant to the chancellor, said he has made it a priority

to keep students informed on updates about vaccine clinics as well as items of note about flu season.

“We have sent the campus community frequent updates regarding the availability of vaccination clinics and everyday preventative measures,” Fry said.

Although the Wednesday’s clinic was canceled, the Dec. 2 clinic will go along as planned. So far, Wisconsin has only received a small percentage of the vaccine needed for the five target groups of people, according to Fry.

There are other options available for those in the River Falls area at this time. The Econo Foods Pharmacy is carrying the intranasal

H1N1 vaccine, the only form that is currently available, for \$10 for healthy 18-24 years-olds. Econo Foods and Shopko pharmacies are also carrying the seasonal flu vaccine as well at this time. Walgreens’ supply of the seasonal flu vaccine currently is exhausted and they do not anticipate anymore coming in at this time, according to head manager of Walgreens pharmacy, Jeb Wilson.

The intranasal shot is inexpensive, making it the choice of many students on campus.

See H1N1 page 3



Sarah Schneider/Student Voice
Masks, hand sanitizer and health care guidelines can be found at the River Falls Clinic regarding H1N1.

Job hunting assistance available to students despite poor economy

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According to the National Association of College and Employers, the overall hiring for the class of 2010 graduates is expected to decrease by approximately 7 percent and the 2010 projected college hires specifically in the Midwest are expected to decrease by 3.2 percent.

Statistics such as these are leaving more students than ever fearing

the process of finding a job after graduation, but there are opportunities for students to get career advice at UW-River Falls.

McKenna Pfeiffer, a career counselor and marketing supervisor of UWRF Career Services, believes that “those students that are getting internships, networking and utilizing staff and campus resources are faring better in the job market.”

According to Pfeiffer, students should start early by coming into

career services to set up an appointment.

“We can help connect you to different employers, job shadowing opportunities and informational interviews,” she said.

Too often, the job search process becomes a challenge because students put it off until the day after graduation. Instead of making it an overwhelming process, students can take steps beforehand that will set them on their way come graduation.

One of these resources is the Hire-A-Falcon system that is specifically for UWRF students and alumni.

The service features a mentor network with 145 active mentors in a variety of different career areas. Seniors can upload a résumé to the network and the career services staff can do résumé referral, which means your résumé is sent to a company that has a job listing that fits the student’s criteria.

Other features include résumé

critique and a job and internship board for companies and students.

When asked about the time it may take students to find a job after graduation, Pfeiffer said it depends on a few factors.

“These factors include, how much time did they devote to finding a job while in school? What experiences did they obtain? How much time did they devote to the

See Career Services page 3

KFA receives emergency chairs

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Two emergency evacuation chairs were installed in Kleinpell Fine Arts earlier this semester as part of a broader effort to continually improve campus safety, UW-River Falls Risk Management Officer Connie Smith said.

The chairs are designed to help individuals with mobility difficulties get down stairs and out of buildings quicker in an emergency.

They were purchased in June from Stryker EMS Equipment at a total cost of \$5,000 for the pair, Smith said. The money came out of Risk Management’s annual budget.

One chair has been placed in each of the stairwells on top floor of KFA. The stairwells are located at both ends of the floor.

“The evacuation chairs were an initiative that came from the Safety committee,” Smith said. “We were encouraged to look at them by our community responders.”

The River Falls Fire Department has the same type of chair, she said, but it is easier to use those that are already in place.

Ben Fraser, chair of the UWRF Safety committee, said River Falls EMS and Fire were both notified as to the locations of the chairs, because in the event of an emergency, “they will most likely be the ones using them.”

Once the chair is deployed and the individual needing assistance is properly seated, it is designed to be rolled down the stairs with the aid of two other people, one behind and one at the foot end of the chair, according to Stryker’s Web site. The chair can be operated safely by one individual, providing the occupant weighs less than 200 pounds. The chair alone weighs 35 pounds and is rated to a 500 pound maximum.

Though it is not a requirement to use the chairs, custodial



Christie Lauer/Student Voice
Evacuation chairs have been placed in two of the stairwells on the top floor of KFA.

and maintenance staff will receive training in how to properly operate them in the event that responders are not available during an emergency, Fraser said.

“If there’s an emergency, you could figure out how to use them pretty easily,” he said.

KFA was chosen to receive the chairs because it was determined to be the building with the biggest need, Smith said.

Though KFA is currently the only building on campus with the evacuation chairs, there are plans to put units in other buildings.

“With the finances, we’d like to have them in all the buildings,” Fraser said. “I could see the dorms being a place to have them. We’re hoping the students respect them.”

Along with purchasing the evacuation chairs, Fraser said Smith initiated a campus-wide safety inspection this fall.

“We’ve been doing facility walk throughs to every building,” he said. “A lot of the things we find are easy fixes, but it really helps us keep campus safer.”

“I could see the dorms being a place to have them. We’re hoping the students respect them.”

Ben Fraser,
chair of Safety Committee

UWRF to purchase organization program

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On Oct. 20, the Student Senate at UW-River Falls introduced and voted to purchase a new program to be used by students for a one-time fee of \$25,000 that will cover the span of three years.

The new program is an organization management program called Orgsync, and will allow organizations and committees on campus to keep records easily online.

The money that the Student Senate allocated to purchase this software will come from the reserve account that currently has approximately \$150,000 in it that is not being used. The reserve account is supposed to be used in order to purchase or fund programs that are beneficial to all students attending UWRF, according to Student Senate President Josh Brock.

Orgsync is collaborative software to be used online by campus in order to better communicate and organize expenditures, history and rosters of organizations and committees on campus. It is offered by the company of the same name who “are a privately-held, self-funded, Austin, TX-based hosted service providing the tools and applications needed to organize and manage student organizations and their members,” according to orgsync.com.

When Brock introduced the software to the rest of the Student Senate during the Oct. 20 meeting, it was granted a demonstration of the software by one of its founders Cayce Stone. Stone began to explain that the company started by trying to implement the program on Facebook first and ran the social networking site for more than a year. Afterward, with the improvements made and feedback received by the founders of Orgsync, they were able to create their own software.

“We wanted to use Facebook as a base for the program so it would be user-friendly to whoever uses it,” said Stone via conference call during the demonstration. “We [Orgsync] wanted the program to be familiar to college students and whoever uses it so we wanted it to be as user-friendly as Facebook, if not more.”

During the demonstration, Stone showed the Student Senate how members of an organization filed under Orgsync will be able to easily upload financial information, membership and contact information, history of the organization, upcoming events and file sharing with other organizations and committees on campus.

“I think this program will greatly improve organization communication on campus and vastly improve knowledge of organizations and committees for students on campus as it will be part of [the UWRF] system,” said Allocable Fees and Ap-

propriation Board Chair Tyler Halverson.

The program also has great customer service and is very personable to the implementation of the program on the UWRF campus, according to Brock and Student Senate Advisor Paul Shepherd.

“Cacey Stone, the man who gave [the Student Senate] the demonstration, has been on Matt Levine’s voicemail everyday to check in and ask how things are going with the software,” said Shepherd.

UWRF will not be the first school in the UW system to implement Orgsync into their individual systems. UW-Oshkosh, UW-Stout and UW-Eau Claire have all purchased and started using the organizational management software with good reception from its students, said Shepherd.

“I was involved in the implementation of Orgsync into the Eau Claire system and it was the same as it is starting here,” said Shepherd. “I worked with Stone in Eau Claire also and he made it very personal, like he is here, that he wanted Orgsync to be successful and user-friendly to the students on their campus.”

Orgsync’s mission statement states that their “... goal is to provide the ultimate online networking and member management service. By offering dedicated customer attention, along with highly regarded, proven technology, we create an exceptional experience for our clients. We want our users to be able to centralize all aspects of student involvement in order to ultimately maximize their education,” according to the Orgsync Web site.

Reception of the program by the Student Senate was slightly split with a nine to four vote in favor of the program. During the Oct. 20 meeting, those in the Student Senate who spoke against the voting mainly spoke against voting on it the night it was introduced and that they wanted organizations on campus to try the program first before the Student Senate purchased it.

“We are a representative organization and some times we just have to make decisions that we feel [are] in the best interest of the students,” said Brock.

The current plan for the program is to hopefully implement it during the spring semester, hopefully during the middle to later part of February, as a trial run for organizations and committees on campus to become familiar with the program, said Brock.

The program will also allow UWRF alumni to keep track of their old organizations that they were part of when they attended the school. Unlike programs offered through UWRF, such as SquirrelMail, Orgsync will allow alumni to stay connected with all organizations UWRF has to offer.

“We [Orgsync] wanted the program to be familiar to college students and whoever uses it so we wanted it to be as user-friendly as Facebook, if not more.”

Cayce Stone,
Orgsync founder

VOICE SHORTS

International Education Week is approaching

International Education Week (IEW) will be held Nov. 16 to 19 at UWRF. It is designed to showcase international activities of the faculty, staff and students.

UWRF will be hosting various IEW events throughout campus during this week, including keynote speakers, a mini-faire, a photo contest, international themed meals and the award winning short film, “Ana’s Playground.”

IEW will present discussion on climate change

Two journalists from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis reporting will be discussing climate change beginning at 4 p.m. on Nov. 18 at the University Center Ballroom.

The Pulitzer Center on Crisis reporting nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. that funds independent reporting with the intent of raising the standard of media coverage on global affairs.

For more information on this free event, contact Brent Greene at brent.d.greene@uwrf.edu.

Forum on healthcare to be held in coming weeks

The Student Economic Society will be hosting a forum centered on health care and health care reform on Nov. 17 in the Falcon’s Nest of the University Center. The program will begin at 3:30 p.m. with a showing of the Frontline piece “Sick around the world,” followed immediately by a discussion of the feature.

Fall Formal promises a fairy tale experience

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This Fall, be prepared to enter the world of fairy tales.

In previous years, the annual formal has been held in during the spring semester. This year, however, the formal will take place during the fall semester. The Fall Formal is on Nov. 20 from 9 p.m. to midnight in the University Center Ballroom.

“I decided that it would be more feasible to hold the formal in the fall when there are fewer large programs,” McMillan Hall Manager Khrystal Condon, and co-advisor for the Fall Formal, said.

The other co-advisor for the event is Stratton Hall Manager Rachel Tobias. Their planning team includes both building’s resident assistants.

“A Fall Fairytale” is this year’s theme for the formal. The decorations include using photo backdrops, rich fall colors and room decorations. According to Condon, the hope is that students will take the opportunity to dress up and enjoy the magic.

“We wanted a theme that would be fun, classy and memorable. The decorations will be based on fairytale ideas,” Condon said.

There are five committees in charge of different areas of planning: the decorations committee, music committee, advertising committee, food committee and ticket committee. Each committee is made up of RAs and meet at separate times and places. Later, they report their ideas back to Tobias and Condon for approval.

“Rachel Tobias and I are in charge of keeping the committees on track,” Condon

said.

There has been a lack of advertising for the event on campus currently. Tobias said that after they finalize all the plans, the advertising campaign will begin.

“Currently, we are in the process of finishing advertisements. Look for advertisements soon,” Tobias said.

According to Tobias, about 320 people showed up to last years event. Heavy spring programming may explain the reason why few students know about the school’s formal.

According to the University’s online calendar, the change of semester puts the event in a month that is lighter in scheduling than any month in the spring semester. With this new schedule, Tobias and Condon said they have high hopes for a strong turn out.

“It seemed like a really good idea and continues to be popular. We hope that it will draw a lot of interest and attendance,” said Condon.

Her team chose the theme to bring about a new excitement for the formal.

“We hope to cater to those who would like to write their very own Fall Fairytale.”

Tickets sold in advance are two for \$15, or one for \$8. Tickets sold at the door are \$10 each. Sales began Oct. 23rd from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the University Center. The tickets will be sold every Friday until Nov. 20th.

The week before the formal, tickets will be on sale in the University Center everyday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets can also be purchased in McMillan and Stratton Halls during regular front desk hours starting the week before the ball.

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 30

-Tony J. Sternweis, 19, was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption.

Visit the new and improved Student Voice Web site at uwrfvoice.com

H1N1: Clinics focus vaccination distribution to five target groups

from page 1

“The intranasal shot was quick and painless; it gives me peace of mind to know that I am at least somewhat protect from the virus during this flu season,” junior Katie Berends said.

Because of the shortages of the H1N1 vaccine the target groups have changed to include pregnant women, those living with children under six months old, healthcare and EMS workers, children 5-18 years-old with medical conditions placing them at higher risk, and children six months through four years of age, according to the Student Health Services Web site.

“At this time clinics are only administering the H1N1 shot to those with the highest risk within the target groups, we are hoping that the target groups will expand in the future to provide more people on campus with the vaccine during our clinic,” Alice Reilly-Myklebust, director of Student Health Services, said.

Campus administration has made it a point to work with community officials in this matter to ensure that students, staff and faculty are receiving the best treatment.

“We are in constant communication with health officials at the city, county and state level about the current stats of the H1N1 virus and the availability of the vaccine,” Fry said.

Students seeking more information on H1N1 can use the Student Health Services Web site for more updates at this time.

“We have made a concerted effort to inform the campus about vaccination clinics, to promote preventative measures, and to encourage faculty to institute flexible attendance policies and delivery methods,” Chancellor Dean Van Galen said. “Thus far we have been fortunate because we have not been impacted to the same extent as many other campuses.”

Career Services: Students can find opportunities through networking

from page 1

right resources? Everyone is different. Often, graduates are not going to the right places or resources. Pick a resource that is right for you and devote the rest of the time to networking,” she said.

According to Pfeiffer, seven out of 10 jobs aren’t posted. It’s through networking that a student can find the hidden job market.

It was because of networking that UWRF graduate Helen Stoeckel said she found a job.

“I graduated in December of 2006 with a major in speech communication. I was able to find a job by February of 2007, but it was not in my field. The way I found my

job was a reference from a friend,” Stoeckel said.

Others find that using online resources, such as LinkedIn, are beneficial in the job search. LinkedIn is a pro networking site that connects people. It is similar to Facebook, except one can job search and show off past professional experiences and previous jobs.

Derrick Williams, a UWRF graduate in journalism, used online resources to find the job he continues to occupy today. Williams graduated in May and managed to find work within five months.

“It didn’t take me too long to find a job at all. I was lucky. I was hired as a community editor for Thisweek Newspapers, a weekly newspaper chain in the south metro of the Twin Cities by October. I used

a trade specific web site and database called journalism-jobs.com to locate the job I have now. That said, I scoured want-ads, web sites like Career Builder and even sent unsolicited resumes and cover letters to media organizations that weren’t necessarily looking for new hires,” Williams said.

Those looking to prepare themselves can contact Career Services to set up an appointment with a career counselor.

Other opportunities include a Minnesota Job and Internship Fair in February. In April there is a nonprofit career fair at the University of Minnesota and on Nov. 10 at UWRF there is an etiquette dinner that teaches students professional dinner etiquette.

Climate Survey: Results portray viewpoints, attitudes concerning diversity

from page 1

While the survey is not required, students and staff are strongly encouraged to participate. In order for UWRF to make changes on campus, those who are attending and working here need to be heard.

Nikki Shonoiki has taken the survey and said that she feels if enough people take the survey, the assessment will help the University shape the policies and programs to be implemented in the future.

“I feel that if enough people from all areas of campus and all walks of life take the campus climate survey it will offer the necessary information

to make positive changes at UWRF,” Shonoiki said.

Kuzie Nzara, a junior biology major, took the survey and said he thought the questions being asked were good because they were direct and personal.

“[The results] will show what the campus thinks about when it comes to diversity and other racial issues,” Nzara said.

Michelle Parkinson, assistant professor of English and Women’s Studies coordinator, said an online survey is the best way to gather this type of information because it allows for confidentiality.

“Students and staff can be

honest in their answers and not worry about recrimination because of the way the survey is designed,” Parkinson said. “I can’t think of a better way to gather this quantity and quality of data.”

UW-La Crosse, UW-Milwaukee, UW-OshKosh, UW-Stevens Point and University of Wisconsin Colleges completed this same type of survey last year. This year, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Parkside and UW-Whitewater will participate, along with UWRF.

The results from the survey will be publicly presented in spring 2010, according to the Campus Climate Web site.

Student Health Services strives toward a tobacco free campus



Sally King/Student Voice

UWRF student Tom Harm smokes outside the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. The results of the 2008 Tobacco Free Survey suggest that the majority of UWRF students feel that smoking should not be allowed anywhere on campus.

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Student Health Services is making plans to turn UW-River Falls into a tobacco free campus within two years, with the help of its students, staff and faculty.

The results of the 2008 Tobacco Free Survey suggest that students are now ready for a change of scenery on their campus by changing the rules on tobacco use.

95 percent of students at UWRF feel that secondhand smoke is a problem for the campus, while 74 percent of students feel that smoking should not be allowed anywhere on campus, according to the survey.

Currently, there are three issues regarding tobacco use on campus: where students and faculty are allowed to smoke, what the administration is doing about tobacco use on campus and what the health concerns are with creating a tobacco free campus.

The only rule that has been applied to the UWRF campus at this time is that students, staff and faculty must stay 25 feet from the building when they are smoking. Students have differing opinions about whether or not this has been a successful rule.

“I don’t think that the rule is effective because it is not followed by students or enforced by campus,” student Travis Spencer said. “25 feet is not enough space because people passing by will still be subjected to secondhand smoke.”

This can be a problem for people who do not smoke because they are subject to the secondhand smoke. Smoke from the burning end of a cigarette contains 4,000 chemicals and at least 60 carcinogens, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

“I don’t think that some people understand that the effects of secondhand smoke are just as serious outdoors as they are indoors at a bar or restaurant,” Health Education Coordinator, Corey Phelps, said.

The affects of secondhand smoke can be dangerous for those who are subjected to it. Over 50,000 people die every year from secondhand smoke exposure, according to the American Lung Association.

Students have a strong feeling that it is

the administration’s job on campus to help with enforcement of the 25 foot rule and to help with turning the campus tobacco free.

“When we consider the question of a smoke free campus at UWRF, we need to be aware of the research on secondhand smoke and gather information from other campuses that have gone smoke free to understand the best practices,” Chancellor Dean Van Galen said. “I do think it is an option we should consider.”

The Student Health Advisory Committee is active through Student Health Services to serve as an advisory group that promotes healthy students through a broad, integrated, contextual view of health, according to the Student Health Services Web site.

This committee arranges to have the signs telling students to stay 25 feet back from the buildings. Instead of using enforcement, the Student Health Advisory Committee likes to promote prevention and cessation. By promoting help lines and information, they are hoping that students are making their own decisions based on that information.

“If campus is to go tobacco free, it has to be a campus-wide effort by students, staff and faculty,” Director of Student Health Services, Alice Reilly-Myklebust said.

Student Health Services is working with other campuses that have gone tobacco free at this time to gather information about what works and does not work when making the switch, according to Phelps. Campuses such as University of Minnesota-Mankato, University of Minnesota-Duluth, UW-Platteville, Winona State University and Bethel University have all gone tobacco free.

88 percent of students feel that litter caused by smoking detracts from the appearance of campus, and when a committee of students took one hour to pick up cigarette butts around campus they collected over 5,000, according to the survey.


This image could detract from incoming students perception of what kind of campus UWRF is. Based on the results of the survey, students have a strong feeling that things need to change on UWRF’s campus—66 percent of students support an entirely tobacco free campus.

The Student Voice is now hiring. Pick up your application outside room 304 in North Hall. Applications are due Dec. 2.

Find Freddy’s Feather

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

E-mail the Voice at editor@uwrffvoice.com



Be the first person to report the find AFTER 10 a.m., Friday, Nov. 6, and win two free movie passes Last week’s winner: Sherry Reis

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EDITORIAL

Culture Fest to be hosted, bring perspective to UWRF

In light of recent events here at UW-River Falls, it is important that students make a conscience effort to take place in multi-cultural educational opportunities outside the classroom.

On Wednesday, UWRF will host Culture Fest, an annual Fall event that celebrates different facets of various ethnic groups. Sponsored by the Asian-American Student Association (ASA), the festival, held in the University Center Ballroom, will feature songs, dances, performances, a fashion show and much more from a variety of international cultures, the bulk of which Asian.

The Student Voice Editorial Board wants to encourage all UWRF students and faculty to attend the Culture Fest.

Each year, the Fest is relatively well attended, although it isn’t as popular as spring’s International Bazaar because Culture Fest doesn’t have ethnic food, according to one ASA member. But the lack of food is no reason to miss out.

Last week’s race-related graffiti proved that, although this University and the country have taken progressive steps forward, there is still bigotry born of ignorance in our society. At least part of that ignorance stems directly from cultural misunderstandings.

The Culture Fest represents a fun and welcoming opportunity for students to raise their cultural awareness and learn a little about ethnic groups outside their own. Events such as this help break down cultural barriers and eliminate that misunderstanding, thus making our student body more rounded and informed.

The world is shrinking as technology increasingly interconnects the globe. Because of that, it is becoming not a perk but a requirement that new recruits entering the job market bring with them an informed global perspective.

UWRF offers multi-cultural courses, even has a degree requirement to take one, but half of all learning that occurs in college happens outside the classroom. The Culture Fest is a perfect opportunity to learn and grow in an energetic atmosphere, one in which you may interact with and ask questions of fellow students that are performing.

This event is an extremely important one for a campus that claims to be diverse and inclusive. Those signs at the edge of town are meaningless if UWRF does nothing to promote and further multi-cultural education. A lot of students work very hard to put on the Culture Fest, and they do so in order to help make this campus a better place. But personal growth is impossible without participation.

So take even 30 minutes on Wednesday to walk around the Fest. Strike up a conversation or ask a few questions. Do something, and in so doing help UWRF fight against incidents such as the racist graffiti. It is only through education that we may learn tolerance.

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

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The *Student Voice* is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Thursdays during the regular school year.

All editorial content in the *Student Voice* is determined by the newspaper’s Editorial Board. The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of the newspaper’s advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.

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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

By Jon Lyksett

Non-Teaching Staff integral to UWRF

We support Gretchen Link’s October 30 letter concerning a proposed referendum to redefine faculty status and restructure the UWRF Faculty Senate. The proposed referendum is complex and confusing.

First, it removes faculty status for Non-Teaching Academic Staff. Second, it restructures Senate to appropriate two seats to Instructional Academic Staff, but removes the four seats currently allocated for Academic Staff in general.

Currently, those four seats are open to Non-Teaching or Instructional Academic Staff. Thus, the proposal appears to increase representation for Instructional Academic Staff but does not necessarily do so.

Instructional Academic Staff are currently eligible to serve on Senate. Furthermore, if Instructional Academic Staff want to increase their guaranteed representation by voting to have the two appropriated seats granted under the referendum, they also have to vote to exclude Non-Teaching Academic Staff from the Senate.

To be granted permanent status on “the island,” they have to kick others off. This is a structural flaw in the referendum.

Most people on this campus recognize that Instructional Academic Staff are increasingly shouldering the burden of the University teaching load and doing so under difficult working conditions. However, the best solution isn’t to disenfranchise the Non-Teaching Staff whose work is also integral to the UWRF Mission.

We are also frustrated by the process for this referendum. The petition was distributed with little public notice or information about its implications.

These are complex issues that require full disclosure. In light of this and the structural concerns, we feel the current referendum should be withdrawn. If this doesn’t happen, we encourage people to become fully informed about the referendum.

Exhausted and feeling the irritating pinch of hunger, I walked into my apartment. As I set my backpack down on the floor, a scent of burning mystery strangles my nose. One of my roommates gets off the couch and tells me that the stovetop smokes when on. Every coil. I sighed, not surprised. That oven has been messing with the four of us since we moved in. We have been nothing but nice to it, patting it on the door when it does well, whispering sweet nothings to its dials... and now it picks up smoking.

We called the landlord and haven’t touched the stove since. Once in a while we look at it, all cast with shadows, and we remember the good times. Memories aside, we realized how much we missed the oven and its services. I was home for a whole fifteen minutes. During this chaos, everyone emerged from their desks and stood on the linoleum.

Someone suggested we use the microwave. The kitchen fell silent with only the rustle of clothes as the rest of us slowly turned our faces to the culprit. The microwave? Yeah, if you want your noodles chewy, your eggs tasteless and your meat cold in the middle.

The microwave is a miracle, yes, but

Campus listening sessions with informed debate about alternative governance structures would be very useful. As Gretchen noted, this is an opportunity to truly “Work Together and Stand Apart.”

Travis Tubré, Associate Professor of Psychology, Faculty Senate Liaison to the Academic Staff Council, et al.

Substance-free dorm important option

We would like to take exception to the story written about substance free housing that appeared in last week’s Student Voice. We serve the residents of Johnson Hall, and feel that the difficulties being faced in filling the rooms has been blown way out of proportion. Currently, there are 2 open beds in Johnson Hall. We feel that two is not an unacceptable amount.

There are people around campus that are interested in a substance free lifestyle, but from various sources, have been told that there is no room.

If it was made known campus wide that openings exist, there would be people interested in filling the spots... this much we are confident in.

Reducing the number of available rooms would not be in the best interest of the University.

Currently, there are three floors—one for incoming students, and two for returners. If that were reduced to two floors, and current trends continue, it would be very hard for students in other buildings to get on a substance free floor, as a large number of the first year students choose to move to the floor designated for returners.

Substance free is a great community. It should be opened up to more students.

If more people were exposed to it, they would realize just how great it is, and any negative stigmas would disappear along with any open rooms.

Johnson Hall Staff

Campus response shows vulnerability

When fifteen were killed at Columbine, I agree. When Michael Hatch, for whom the Ten Commandments in my church is dedicated to, was beat to death with a tire iron because he was “special” and a “queer,” I agree. When we encounter a heartless message scribbled on a bathroom stall...

This is an extremely delicate situation and by no means could I ever encourage ignorance as a viable course of action. The message that hate is not tolerated at UWRF, as noble as it is, is not the only message being portrayed in our reaction to this threat. We are simultaneously reinforcing a reoccurring notion that our daily events and even our personal lives can be greatly disrupted by just about anything. We are telling all of those who would act simply to wreak havoc or relish in others’ fear that they will be heard and (although I regret to say) have a fairly good chance of succeeding.

There will always be these insensitive pigs who thrive on fear and hate. I believe that giving them our full attention is succumbing to half the battle. Instead, let your actions of your everyday lives let us know what you believe. Put your trust in the system designed to protect us from these threats, but also realize that they simply cannot be 100 percent preventative 100 percent of the time.

It would be completely horrible if I were to advise that we should react only after something tragic happens, but on the other side of the coin, reacting too quickly more often than not gets us in trouble in the long run. The middle road is to take this threat to heart and let it be one of the enumerable events that make you who you are and solidify what you believe. This, more than any activism and “opportunities to share,” will ensure that these people have no place at this institution, this community and even in this country.

Jordan Harshman

Failing oven causes re-grouping among roommates, dining out

not a substitute for an oven. Could you get a microwave to lovingly bake a warm apple pie, holding the crust like a mother holds her child? Could you fry bacon in a microwave so as to shower yourself in hot grease with every flip? What if you wanted to watch water boil, huh? You can’t hover over warming water in a microwave like you can with a dedicated stove.

And what would you do with all that extra time the microwave saves anyway? Hoard it? Well, you can’t. So get over yourself, microwave, and respect your elders.

Now with the microwave and the roommate fitfully weeping, our attention went back to the stove, which was getting jittery for its next smoke break. “Don’t touch it, it’s just not the same,” we warn each other as we back away. It will never be the same.

A small doubt has crawled into our minds and latched its barbed hooks in the squiggles. We gazed up at the fluorescent light above and wondered what our cooking adventures would entail after this.

The oven will be in a park on a summer’s day, playing catch with the blender. The ball rolls down a small hill, and the blender, cord trailing behind, will bounce after it.

The oven will quickly shift around, see that no one is looking, sit itself on the ground, close its door, and begin to pour smoke from its top, the coils orange with heat. Blender Jr. will trot back, see this debacle, and begin to cry, short-circuiting itself to an early end. Never again will the oven be trusted.

We are still waiting on the landlord to get back to us. It’s only been a few hours now since I walked through the door. All of us are shaking, confused and still hungry.

Someone gasps. “Let’s go to China Moon! I can’t take it anymore!” There is a cloud of agreement as we all, one by one, rise up off the kitchen floor, grab our coats, and exit.



Laura Krawczyk

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

Students overlook interesting places on campus without thought

Late one night sophomore year, I looked and said, “So, do you think you have to be a broadcast communications major to host a radio show here on campus?”

After a few e-mails and conversations with people around campus, I realized that indeed, any student can apply for and host their own radio show. Score! Thanks to a little research back then, I’m currently running a show this semester with a fine modern gentleman, Mr. Kevin Duzynski. Selfish plug, I know. The point is that there are so many awesome things on this campus that students have available to them, but many have no idea that these opportunities even exist. Let me fill you in on but a few little gems around campus that I’ve come to enjoy over my past years at UWRF.

Let me begin with a place that I tend to hang around at least once or twice a week. The music department here on campus is located in the basement of KFA, and has many great programs for the music major/minors to use. One thing that I think is fantastic is the availability of the practice rooms to use. Most of the rooms have one, sometimes two, pianos for people to practice on. Now if you, as I do, have any personal interest in music, or learning something like piano, this is obviously a fantastic perk. There are time slots on each door of the practice rooms for people to reserve. If there is no one signed up on the list, and the room is vacant, you have a beautiful instrument at your fingertips to

Matt Torkelson



sort of a lockdown with only access to people who are majors or minors. Personally, I think we’re pretty lucky to have something like that.

Now, playing the hypothetical game of course, if you’re a freshman on campus right now, what are the chances that you’ve looked into “Global Connections?” My guess is probably pretty slim. The Global Connections office is located in Hagestad Hall, and you’ve probably walked right on by it without even thinking twice on your way to grab textbooks. The Global Connections here on campus is absolutely amazing, and I can say that from experience. I’ve been so lucky as to do a semester at California State University-Monterey Bay all because my curiosity led me to go in and ask some questions. The staff is incredibly helpful, upbeat and willing to answer anything you can think of to ask. For the most part, people like to travel, and I imagine most everyone’s interest is sparked when it comes to talking about getting a chance to spend a semester in a totally different environment. Perhaps Scotland or maybe even New Zealand would be the place you’d want to go. I’m going to go ahead

toy around on. From other music majors that I’ve talked to on different campuses, it seems that the music area is on

and vouch for Global Connections, staff and programs wise, because I believe that every student should at least look into the opportunities to travel.

Lastly, out of all the other countless things I could be telling you about, I’ll discuss Career Services. I came into college “knowing” exactly what I wanted to do with my life, but when the day came that I realized I needed a change, I had no idea how to go about looking for my “right fit.” Luckily, I turned to Career Services.

It’s a very unsettling feeling not having any idea what you want to do, potentially, for the rest of your life. After discussing the issues I needed to discuss, as well as

The point is that there are so many awesome things on this campus that students have available to them, but many have know idea that these opportunities exist.

attend a few events sponsored by CS (for example, mock interviews and “portfolio building”), I felt like I had actually

landed my feet on the ground. Not to mention, unless you take a few different professional and/or business writing classes, you may have no idea how to properly build a resume, get references, or write a proper cover letter. Well, Career Services will help with all of that stuff too.

There are clearly so, so many things for students to figure out and discover in and around campus. I didn’t even scratch the surface with my three examples, but believe me when I say that UWRF has so many things that will fit almost anyone’s personality, desires and goals.

Until next time, I’ll be down in the piano rooms chilling with Mozart and Billy Joel.

Matt Torkelson is a senior majoring in marketing communications. He loves playing piano in his free time and often frequents area bed and breakfasts, playing tunes for customers.

STUDENT VOICES

What’s your favorite place to be on campus? Why?

Corinna Tessmer, senior



“The big red couch in the UC, because it’s comfy and a good place to study before classes.”

Amy Leach, freshman



“I kind of like it in the UC. There’s always going to be a quiet spot you can go to.”

Andrew Sisulak, sophomore



“The UC, because there’s always something to do.”

Garrett Anderson, sophomore



“The cafeteria, because it’s a good place to socialize and get re-fueled.”

Jordan Weeks, freshman



“The UC, because I see a lot of my friends there.”

Student Voices compiled by Christie Lauer

‘Little black dress’ flatters most ladies

Hello River Falls, with only half the semester left, it is time to rev up your style and attitude when it comes to fashion and fashion accessories.

I had several people approach me in regards to last week’s item of the week, cologne. The questions mostly circulated around where it should be applied. This answer applies for perfume as well, so women listen up. Cologne, as well as perfume, should be worn where the body produces the most body heat so the body’s natural scent can mix in with the fragrance to produce its own unique and stimulating scent. I recommended the wrists, necks, armpits, and behind the ears (to give your special someone that invigorating smell just as they lean in to whisper something). When applying behind the ear, spray it on the wrist and wipe behind the ear, to prevent the smell from being too overpowering.

Remember ladies, it is always good to stand out from a crowd that is ordinary, because that makes you extraordinary.

This week’s item is one of extreme importance. A first impression can leave a lasting impact, and first impressions really do matter when going on a date.

Item of the week: the little black dress

Ladies we have all heard about the little black dress ever since fashion designer Coco Chanel wore it in the 1920s. The dress was originally designed to be a ubiquitous dress made to flatter a woman’s body, highlighting one’s best features.

Thankfully, not much has changed. However, here are some things to look for in the modern “little black dress.”

Hem Line:

Make sure the dress isn’t too long or too short. It should be no shorter than four or five inches above knee-length, and no longer than two inches below knee length. A dress that is too long can give an impression of a prom dress, while too short of a dress looks more club appropriate than date appropriate.

Neckline: The next most important aspect of a dress is the neckline. Ladies, no matter how large or small your chest is, a slight cleavage can be very flattering, adding that right amount of feminine touch. After all, as the old saying goes, “If you got it, flaunt it”. However, maintain some conservatism. Most men agree that while some cleavage is exciting, too much can be a turn off.

Straps: This is an individual choice one has to make; there is no one right answer. If you are a woman with a large chest that requires a bra and support, and strap is definitely recommended over a strapless or a thin strap. However, if you are someone who is comfortable with a strapless or a thin strip, then more power to you girl!

Personally, I prefer the strap, as I feel it elongates my body. The strap also offers the convenience of wearing a push-up, or a padded bra, for a fuller cleavage and an hourglass figure. This week’s featured student is Peggy Wu, a transfer student from Taiwan who’s fashion and style crosses continents. Read up on her style, and check out her photoshoot on the Student Voice Web site, uwrfvoice.com. Next week’s feature is Robbie Huot, a guy with style and poise, separating him from the crowd.

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



Priya Kailash

Make sure the dress isn’t too long or too short. It should be no shorter than four or five inches above knee-length, and no longer than two inches below.

Research suggests exposure to household chemicals has harmful effects on people

I just bought a shower curtain. Good for me. I spent nearly 10 minutes at the store making this decision.

I had read about the horrors of PVC (number three plastics that are used in a lot of shower curtains) and their negative effects on the environment — how its production and disposal creates carcinogenic fumes and is nearly impossible to recycle. I considered buying a curtain labeled as “made out of environmentally friendly materials” — whatever that means. Still, I kept looking.

I found a much more expensive cotton shower curtain that claimed to be water resistant, as well as washable. I figured its production was less toxic and when it was ready for the trash it would decompose.

I justified that my kindness to the earth and protecting myself from possible carcinogens or toxic fumes was worth the money. Yay me!

As it turns out, it wasn’t really a “yay me” moment. My first shower with the new curtain had me feeling good about myself in the steamy hot air - which suddenly smelled like I was following a tar truck. It then occurred to me that my towels are cotton and they absorb water, so what makes my shower curtain repel it? Chemicals.

At that moment those chemicals used to make my curtain shed water were now off-gassing into my lungs - possibly making them water resistant too.

Don’t get me wrong, I appreciate the idea of mildew free air-sacs, but I also like the idea of them maintaining their ability to absorb oxygen and release carbon dioxide.

After a little research, it turns out that off-gassing and indoor air pollution is actually a seriously scary issue.

Asthma and cancer are real problems actually caused by the pollution in our homes. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

and what the Environmental Protection Agency labels as “probable carcinogens” are everywhere in our homes. Chemicals like formaldehyde are labeled as a “probable carcinogen” yet it is allowed to be used everywhere in consumer products because,

just like people, these chemicals are innocent until proven guilty.

Formaldehyde and other VOCs can be found in clothing, drapes, pressed wood furniture, cleaning products, adhesives, flame-retardants, mattresses, paint, plywood, resin,

upholstery, etc.

You know the “new car” smell? How about the smell of hair dye, nail polish, a freshly painted bedroom or new carpeting? That smell is all of the chemicals off-gassing and being released into the air and absorbed by your body.

If you think your exposure is too small to cause any effect, reconsider your exposure. How much of your life do you spend on your mattress, which is soaked in flame-retardants because of the highly flammable foams and padding used to make your mattress soft?

Consider that according to research published in the International Journal of Cancer, women who used permanent self-administered hair dye at least once a month for a year or longer were twice as likely as women who did not use permanent hair dye to develop bladder cancer.

So I ask you to research the effects of the chemicals present in your home on your health and how you can reduce your exposure (yes, it’s possible and better yet, easy). Be mindful in your research that the manufacturer will tell you its products are safe (they are paid to) so get a second, non-biased opinion.

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 tenth power.



Kirsten Blake

Falcons predict winning season

Steven Linzmeier
steven.linzmeier@uwrf.edu

Excitement and expectations surround the UW-River Falls men's basketball team coming into the new season. A year ago, the Falcons finished sixth in the WIAC and they return their entire starting lineup. They will open the 2009-10 season on Nov. 17 at Viterbo.

"In years past, we might have said we had a chance for a conference title, but that was just us trying to stay positive," junior Brady Hannigan said. "This year, we truly believe we have a shot."

Last year, the Falcons finished 11-15 overall and 5-11 in WIAC play. They finished sixth overall and were defeated by Whitewater in the opening round of the WIAC playoffs.

"Anything less than a top-four finish this year would be a major disappointment," Falcon junior Jake Voeltz said, "but our sights are set at number one."

Nine members from the 2008-09 WIAC All-Conference team have graduated. Everyone expects the conference's top teams to reload this season. Four WIAC teams are ranked in the preseason D3Hoops.com Poll: UW-Stevens Point at #10, UW-Whitewater at #13, UW-Platteville at #17, and UW-Oshkosh at #24.

Head Coach Jeff Berkhof said, "No one really knows what to expect; the conference's top seven teams could be on a collision course."

Berkhof will begin his fourth season as Falcons head coach. He is 30-47 overall in his career as head coach, but this marks his 18th year with River Falls. He played with the Falcons from 1992-94. Following that he was former Head Coach Rick Bowen's top assistant for 12 seasons. Berkhof spent one season as the school's interim head coach before getting the job for good in 2007.

"Anything less than a top-four finish this year would be a major dissapointment, but our sights are set at number one."

Jake Voeltz,
men's basketball player

"This year, we truly believe we have a shot."
Brady Hannigan,
men's basketball player

From last year's team, the Falcons lost Jesse Elling and Steve Farmer to graduation, and Colin Utke decided not to return for his sophomore year.

A season ago, the Falcons put three players on the WIAC Honorable Mention team: Jontae Koonkaew, Aaron

Anderson and Voeltz. All three will be back and will once again be relied on as the team's key contributors.

Koonkaew averaged 15 points and 4.8 assists per game last year, coming off a knee injury that cost him most of the 2007-08 season. He led the WIAC in assists and Berkhof believed that Koonkaew should have been on First Team All-Conference.

"He makes us go," Berkhof said. "When his play is better, our team is better."

Voeltz got his first real chance to play as a Falcon last year, and he made the most of it. He averaged 11.2 points and 5.5 rebounds per game, and led the team with 59 offensive rebounds. When asked about his personal expectations, Voeltz put the team ahead of his own accomplishments.

"[I am going to] do all the little things to help this team be successful," Voeltz said.

Anderson made an immediate impact as a freshman in 2008-09. He led the team in field goal percentage and three-point percentage. Anderson hit 44-88 from behind the arc, while averaging 8.8 points per game.

Other key returners for the Falcons include Wade Guerin, Spencer Shelman, Danny Johnson and Hannigan.

Guerin and Hannigan combined with Anderson, Koonkaew and Voeltz to make the majority of the starts last season. Guerin was third on the team in scoring with 9.3 points per game. He was also the team's leading rebounder, grabbing over six rebounds per game.

Hannigan will begin his third season as a Falcon. Last year, he averaged just over six points a game. A lot of what Hannigan does on the court doesn't show up in the box score. He



Sally King/Student Voice
Spencer Shelman, guard; Jontae Koonkaew, guard; fourth-year Head Coach Jeff Berkhof; Danny Johnson, guard and Aaron Anderson, guard have been working hard with the rest of the team on conditioning to prepare for their upcoming season. The team's first game is Nov. 17 at Viterbo. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

is the team's number one defender and saves multiple possessions a game on pure hustle. Under Hannigan's personal goals this season he lists: "to be a great defender."

"Brady has been our hardest worker in the offseason," Berkhof commented.

Shelman and Johnson will continue to be key role players for the Falcons. Shelman is the team's only senior coming into the season. Last year, his first with the Falcons, he averaged about four points a game. Shelman played in all 26 games and had the lowest amount of turnovers amongst the players that played in all the games.

Johnson also played in all 26 games. He shot 43% from the field and from the three-point line. Johnson said his goal this year is to shoot over 50% from behind the arc. He was also

second on the team in assists.

D.J. Reese will return this season after missing the last year and a half. Reese got off to a good start in 2007-08 before being ruled ineligible due to academics after the semester break. Reese will provide point guard depth, which will allow Johnson to play his more natural position of two-guard.

The Falcons also bring in a solid recruiting class that will need to provide depth on the front line.

Along with the season opener, the Falcons are looking forward to their first home game. They will take on the No. 4 team in the country Nov. 24th, the St. Thomas Tommies.

"It will be our toughest test of the season," Guerin said. "It will show us where we are at."

It will be a tough road for the Falcons, but they seem ready to take the challenges head on.

"Last year, we took one step up the ladder," Berkhof said. "Now, we must take that next step. It's going to be tougher, but it's a step we expect to take."

"Now, we must take that next step. It's going to be tougher, but it's a step we expect to take."

Jeff Berkhof,
men's basketball head coach

U of M basketball program talented, troubled



Derek Johnson

The Minnesota Golden Gopher men's basketball team has high expectations this upcoming year after a successful 2008-09 campaign. The Gophers made the NCAA Tournament last year for the first time since 2004-05 and the first time since Tubby Smith, the Gophers head coach, took over three years ago.

Smith is entering his third year as head coach for the Gophers after coaching ten seasons with the Kentucky Wildcats. In his first year with

the Gophers he took a team that was previously 3-13 in conference play and 9-22 overall to a record of 8-10 conference play and 20-13 overall, making it to the first round of the NIT Tournament. Last year, the Gophers went 9-9 in conference play and 22-11 overall, making it to the NCAA Tournament.

This upcoming season has created a lot of stir in "Gopher Nation" because the Gophers come into this season with the 22nd nationally ranked recruiting class, according to ESPN.com. The team showed a lot of promise last year and the new players coming in will add a lot of depth to an already talented team. Above all that, the team only lost two players from last year's team, which means there will be a lot of returning players.

The talented recruiting class coming in isn't all sunshine and butterflies, though. The biggest criticism this team is facing is the amount of baggage these new players are bringing in. Three players have already been suspended until further notice and two of the three are players from the talented recruiting class.

Trevor Mbakwe, a former Marquette player two years ago, played at a junior college in Miami last season. He was then recruited by Tubby Smith this year but has been suspended due to his legal issues down in Miami. There's a good chance Mbakwe could miss the entire

season. Royce White, a freshman recruit who played for Hopkins High School last year and was Minnesota's Mr. Basketball, is suspended for shoplifting. According to the police reports obtained Tuesday by the *Star Tribune*, White and three other males attempted to steal \$100 worth of merchandise at the Mall of America. The third player suspended on the Gophers basketball team is Devon Bostick, who has been suspended indefinitely for team rules violation.

The team starts out non-conference play on Friday, Nov. 13 against Tennessee Tech at The Barn in Minneapolis. The team's preseason ranking is currently 25th nationally in the AP Top 25 Poll, and 18th nationally in the ESPN/USA Today Poll. The team, the fans and the media all have high expectations for the Gophers this season.

The question now is will legal issues and lack of team discipline among the players hamper these high hopes, or will Tubby Smith rally his players around for another successful season in Gopher Nation's eyes and a possible deep playoff run?

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

For all your campus sports action, tune in to WRFW 88.7 or go to pureradio887.com

Hand-held horror film terrifies viewers

To say that “Paranormal Activity” is like no horror movie you’ve ever seen is an understatement.

The film, completed on an anemic \$15,000 budget, is decisive proof that sexy stars and overblown special effects budgets are not requisite in the recipe for terrifying audiences. What writer/director Oren Peli has done is craft an intensely psychological fright fest that, despite its near - derailing flaws, succeeds overall as one of the most uniquely spine-tingling events since “The Blair Witch Project.”

The plot is simple - there is none. The bulk of the story can be summed up in two sentences: In order to discover the source of some strange nocturnal happenings, Katie and Micah purchase a night-vision camera to record what happens while they sleep. We get to watch that footage.

Micah’s excitement over his new toy quickly escalates to obsession as he frustratingly attempts to document everything that happens in the house; after one violent scare Katie even yells, “Did you actually go back for your camera?” Micah slowly becomes oblivious to her fear, focusing more on his Ghost Hunters-like fantasy than his torment-

ed partner. The film goes through great lengths to feel like it’s footage found after the fact. The primary benefit of the setup is the illusion of reality. Unlike recent handheld films such as “Cloverfield” and “Quarantine,” which look real, PA feels real - on a dark and guttural level. What is happening on screen has no rational explanation, and the knowledge that Micah has left the camera alone on a tripod only adds to the claustrophobic sense of tension and dread. The film reeks of amateur photography, but that absence of professionalism only adds credence to the notion that Katie and Micah are totally alone, and that the occurrences are not just cheap parlor tricks.

Katie, who has been tortured by these strange happenings since she was eight, eventually calls in the advice of a ghost psychic (Mark Fredrichs) who informs her that the presence is demonic in nature. He does recommend a demonologist, who is conveniently “out of town” for a few days. It is this cliché plot device that rips us out of the film’s trance, nearly shattering the deception of documentary.

Beyond this obvious contrivance, the film gradually suffers from some minor pacing problems. The appeal here is what happens when the lights go out, but Peli spends too much time in the daylight. He tries exploring the evolving dynamic between Katie and

Micah and their increasingly hostile feelings towards each other - negativity that may actually be fueling the demon, but the abundance of tedious bickering begins to border on outright boredom.

Perhaps these cuts to characterization could have worked had they answered some lagging questions about the couple. Katie reveals that she has been plagued since she was eight, but why has she never sought help before now? And more interestingly, why is Micah so averse to seeking that assistance? It is his inexplicable fetish over provoking the presence and then waiting to document the results that will ultimately cause you to detach from any sense of caring whether or not the couple is going to survive the possession; you’ll just wait anxiously for them to shut up and go to bed.

Despite these flaws, however, “Paranormal Activity” works. It taps into our most basic and primal fears, and is a bold reminder that our imagination is scarier than amount of splashy CG or f/x Hollywood has to offer. Your time in the theater will be satisfactorily tense, but the real terror doesn’t begin until you go home and turn off your bedroom lights for the first time...



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.

‘Law Abiding Citizen’ fails with confusing plot

When looking at current society, it’s safe to say that, for the most part, the majority of the human population finds itself to be one that is evolved.

We have technologies that outstretch most imaginations, powerful and well-developed educational systems, and strong values or beliefs that can push good men and women into becoming even greater ones. Ideals like these are what many seem to consider the divider between human and animal nature.

They encourage and nurture our sense of justice - of what is right and wrong and what actions can lead to both. Now of course, we find ourselves in moments of doubt sometimes. Instances including uncertainty and pain can cloud our vision and make us lose sight of what we originally strove for. In times when this occurs, we look to others, or their institutions to yield what

we cannot: honesty and fairness. So how does one respond or act when even these systems of integrity fail? While some may try to protest or revive a dying cause, others will push and fight, nearly snapping an already broken system into even further fragmentation. In this week’s film, we see just how such a reaction can affect not only the foundation that was built, but also the people that live, work and sacrifice within it everyday.

“Law Abiding Citizen” takes place within the heart of Philadelphia where in one horrible evening, everyday family man Clyde Shelton (Gerard Butler) loses everything. After the brutal robbery of his home left his wife and daughter viciously raped and murdered, Clyde turns to the Pennsylvania justice system to seek vengeance for a loss more painful than any other. Attorney Nick Rice (played by Jamie Foxx) serves as Shelton’s lawyer who, after a very long and challenging legal battle, decides to cut a deal with one of the two men responsible for the Shelton murders. Outraged by Rice’s decision to focus on the money and politics involved in seeking the death penalty for both men, Shelton retreats into isolation, only resurfacing ten years later to prove to

Rice that injustice has a far greater consequence than a failed attempt at the righteous thing. The result is an hour and forty-eight minutes of violent vigilantism, in which there can only be one conclusion: lessons of integrity seem to come the hardest for those who are the most indifferent.

While the message built around the film is one of great importance I fear it lost a lot of its power and validity because of the confusing and inconsistent plot that followed. Fast to build, the story seemed long-winded and repetitive in who was next to be killed and why. Though Gerard Butler gives a powerful performance individually, there seems to be no genuine connection to Jamie Foxx’s Rice, making the dialogue between the two forced and disingenuous at best. This, along with the continuous and progressively more violent killings, lead to an initial shock and then an abrupt plateau of been there done that.

That being said, overall the movie was one that brought about an interesting question: how must one fight what is unrighteous? Though a topic of great controversy, the subject of justice is one that clearly should



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.

Julian Casablancas succeeds with first solo album ‘Phrazes for the Young’

It seems like a lifetime ago that the mega-hyped Strokes were reveling in their newly-proclaimed greatness, having rapidly skyrocketed up the buzz-lists of 2001 into stratospheric popularity and acclaim to match. Within a week of their first release, Is This It, The garage-rockers were proclaimed by critics as “the greatest rock band since the Rolling Stones, as well as “forefathers,” who were supposed to triumphantly usher in a brand new attitude to rock and roll and give birth to a 21st century musical golden age.

The hype-machine has long since lost most of it’s steam, and once the hysteria subdued, the New York quintet proved that they were simply an excellent band, not a revolutionary one. While they were once supersaturated with an aura of coolness, most of them have now heavily toned down their hard-partying, womanizing lifestyles. Even lead man Julian Casablancas,

who, in the past, often stumbled on stage at live concerts so drunk he was unable to see, has grown up.

“Creatively, drinking was becoming a hindrance. I’ve always promised myself, ‘If it starts affecting the music, I’ve got to chill out,’” he told GQ. “It was so nice to automatically feel happy. I miss it every day.” Now sober, the 31-year-old still looks almost exactly the same, and has lost little swagger. His debut solo album, ‘Phrazes for the Young’, marks his first foray into the recording studio alone.

The record’s name comes from a book of Oscar Wilde’s, and is a groovy, diverse undertaking that sees Casablancas evolve from a scratchy, off-kilter, Lou Reed-esque vocalist into more of a diverse, multi-talented musician. The first track, “Out of the Blue,” introduces jangly, Strokes-flavored guitar riffs that melt together perfectly with Casablancas’ hazy drawl. In addition, it features some

of the most delightfully deadpan lyrical offerings: “Yes, I know I’m going to hell in a leather jacket / At least I’ll be in another world / But you’ll be pissing on my casket.”

“11th Dimension,” features an immediately catchy 80s synth hook is filled with a detached charisma, as if Casablancas is trying to say that he is still cooler than all of us. “I’ll just nod, I’ve never been so good at shaking hands,” he confesses in the opening line.

The Strokes references essentially end here, as ‘Phrazes’ offers a plethora of new flavors as Casablancas

branches out toward new avenues in creative fashion. “Ludlow St.” begins with an oddly pitched, shrill output that morphs into a whimsical, country western trip through memory lane accentuated by a staccato bajo twang. “River of Breaklights,” in contrast, is a frantic, up-and-down number that includes a gritty, heavy bassline as well as seemingly random electronica interjections. At times, ‘Phrazes’ feels like it is at the cusp of something truly awesome, but ultimately feels like a collection of unrelated, scattershot sound bites that don’t quite know how to fit together. Still, JC has created something that can be admired on its own-a hip and able LP that, if nothing else, is a fascinating (if unsure) creative departure.

His debut solo album, ‘Phrazes’ for the Young, marks his first foray into the recording studio alone

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Katie Heaton



Andy Phelps

“Creatively, drinking was becoming a hindrance. I’ve always promised myself, ‘If it starts affecting the music, I’ve got to chill out,’”

Julian Casablancas, The Strokes

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Students rally against hate threat

Hailey Klein
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Students, faculty and staff at UW-River Falls spoke out about the threatening graffiti message found in the Chalmer Davee Library that targeted black and Asian students.

Students at the University found out about the threat through an e-mail message sent out by UWRF Chancellor Dean Van Galen on Oct. 27, who explained that the message claimed the threat was to take place on Nov. 2.

Student Bhao Nhang Thao, president of the Asian - American Student Association (AASA), heard about the threat through a phone call made to her by her AASA advisor on Oct. 26.

“All I was thinking was ‘OK, what’s going on?’ [My advisor] said there was an incident that was reported over the weekend and at first I thought this was just like any other graffiti, but then she told me that it was aimed towards blacks and Asians. She said that things need to be done around here,” Thao said. “I came back and met with some of the administrators, staff and chancellors and that’s when they told us all about it.”

Student Amanze Omega, peer advisor in Global Connections, said he heard about the incident before coming into work through an e-mail sent out by his boss.

“When I first read it I was very angry at the situation. I don’t like consistently being targeted just because of the color of my skin or my background,” he said. “I talked to a lot of my fellow Asian and African-American students and they were fearful of what might happen. Some were considering not being in town during the day.”

Student worker in the Davee Library, Pang Thao, was one of many students who was unsure of the events that may have taken place that day, and decided to stay home.

“At first I didn’t think much of it but as the week went on I started to think, ‘I don’t know if I should be in school that day,’” she said. “I stayed at home. I figured it might happen it might not. I made the decision based on my feelings. I thought if something does happen I don’t want to be there and regret it.”

However, Omega said he felt that it was important to go to his classes that day and spent most of his day on campus purposely.

“I felt like doing anything else was just turning a shoulder to the situation,” he said. “It’s like to me they said they wanted to get rid of this racial group and that racial group on this day, and by not going to class I feel like they accomplished their goal.”

On Monday, the day of the proposed threat, students were encouraged to wear red in order to show campus unity in support of the fact that hate is not tolerated at UWRF.

“I liked the red idea and I can appreciate what the campus and administration did to handle the situation,” Omega said. “It was good to see people from all racial groups come together to reiterate the message that hate will not be tolerated in River Falls.”

Library Director Valerie Malzacher expressed her feelings towards the situation, the red clothes and how the students reacted on that day.

“It’s sad to think about this happening in a place that you walk past every day. It’s sad



Hailey Klein / Student Voice

On Monday, UWRF students protested and rallied against a hate threat that was left in a bathroom stall in the basement of the Chalmer Davee Library on campus. Anti-hate speeches were given to students who gathered in front of the University Center. Students organized to wear red to show unity and support against the hate message that targeted the Asian and black communities on campus. Quote boards were also set up in the UC for students to leave messages of support for all to see.

that this happened in a library, a place where students are seeking so much good,” she said. “I felt so good about our student body. I walked around the library around 1:00 [p.m.] and it was busier than usual. Students were everywhere wearing their red. It was almost as if there was this collective

stance being taken saying, ‘this is my place and I’m not going to let anyone take that away from me.’”

That same day, students, faculty members and community members congregated in front of the University Center while students expressed their feelings towards the threat.

“Now, more than ever, I couldn’t be more proud to be a student here at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls,” said Thao during her speech to the campus. “The support system here has really given me the strength to continue doing what I can for my fellow students in need...we love it here even more, and after all this, what’s not to love?”

The support of the students and faculty meant a lot to those who felt threatened or hurt by the threat, according to Thao, who addressed this matter in her speech as well.

“Your support surpasses all the anger and fear we have, and allows for us to look forward to tomorrow, knowing that we are safe here at River Falls, and that our collective good will triumph over the evil coward who wrote that graffiti,” she said.

As of Tuesday, there was no new information regarding the person who wrote the threatening graffiti.

While Thao is proud of the University, she still had questions that will be left unanswered unless this person is caught.

“We all have experiences with different people of different races. There are a lot of stereotypes that go around and we live on those stereotypes. It’s the society we live in,” she said. “I guess I would just like to know, was this just a joke to you? Are you serious? What were you trying to do?”



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