



TALKING CIRCLE, PAGE 2
Event intends to trigger social justice action

KRAWCZYK, PAGE 6
Columnist encourages students to attend ‘Vagina Monologues’

SPORTS, PAGE 6
Find a weekly recap of Falcon hockey, basketball



STUDENT VOICE

December 4, 2009

www.uwrfvoice.com

Volume 97, Issue 11

UWRF student turns 4-H project into beef entrepreneurship

Christina Lindstrom
christina.lindstrom@uwrf.edu

For one UW-River Falls sophomore, what started as a 4-H project around seven years ago has grown into an extensive beef entrepreneurship, taking her to the 2009 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind.

Jayne Dalton, of Pardeeville, Wis., has been a member of her local FFA chapter for five years. Currently a student at UWRF, Dalton is still involved with FFA, though the base of the chapter is four hours away.

“Being far away [four hours, one way] from my operation makes it difficult for me to keep everything up to date, and it’s almost impossible to accomplish daily management,” Dalton said.

She said her Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), which is an application made up of financial records and detailed descriptions of the FFA member’s chosen category, only in-

cluded one semester of her being away from her operation because the reportable records ended last December. Dalton noticed that her knowledge of certain things about her operation like births, deaths and vaccines, was affected by her absence.

Pardeeville FFA advisor, Cal Bouwkamp, helped Dalton begin her SAE. She said he currently keeps her informed of any FFA opportunities that may arise, and helped her prepare for the national convention by informing her of preparatory sessions. Bouwkamp will be Dalton’s advisor until she has reached the end of her membership, which will be when she turns 21.

Previously a 4-H member, Dalton’s parents purchased a dozen cow-calf pairs when she was in seventh grade as part of a club project, which she referred to as a “4-H project on steroids,” a completely metaphorical statement, as Dalton’s operation is run completely steroid-free. The beef can’t be considered organic, ac-

cording to Dalton’s father, Cal, because they do not feed them 100 percent organically grown substances, but they do not use hormones or growth steroids.

The Dalton family farm was mainly a grain business, with cattle used simply to eat the extra hay. The business is called “3-D,” the “3” standing for the three members of the Dalton family. 3-D now includes over 200 head of cattle. Dalton bought her first registered Angus heifer in eighth grade with funds from her pigs earned at the county fair, and set about making most of her stock Angus. Angus are known for being easy to breed.

“They have this thing called ‘calving-ease,’” Dalton said. “I also like the quality of the meat, and customers seem to enjoy it.”

This year only 188 FFA members qualified to be finalists, 20 of them from Wisconsin.



Sally King/Student Voice
UWRF sophomore Jayne Dalton has worked her way up to the 2009 National FFA Convention.

See Dalton page 3

Greeks sponsor a more unified community

Leila Hirsch
leila.hirsch@uwrf.edu

The Collegiate Panhellenic Council (CPC) hosted its first All-Greek semi-formal on Thursday, November 19, in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center at UW-River Falls.

“Greek organizations provide community service, social and academic support as well as professional networking opportunities within their network of alumnae nationwide,” Matt Levine, Greek coordinator said.

There are currently five sororities on campus: Phi Mu, Alpha Sigma Alpha, Sigma Sigma Sigma, Alpha Omicron Pi and Sigma Alpha, as well as three fraternities: Theta Chi, Delta Theta Sigma and Alpha Gamma Rho.

Each of these organizations has a certain budget that they must keep their spending within each semester. Because money can be tight for some organizations, the CPC designed the semi-formal dance to take away some of the pressures of spending money.

“The CPC wanted to create a semi-formal that would save Greeks money, while promoting Greek unity and a positive environment free of alcohol,” Mandie Lombardo, CPC President said.

This is not the first time that financial troubles have hit Greek life in the past. Although all three male fraternities have chapter houses within the River Falls area, none of the female sororities have chapter houses for their members. It was agreed that if one sorority did not have the financial means to support housing for its members then none of the other sororities would have houses as well for their chapters. This is one of many things that Levine is hoping to change in his time here at UWRF.

“I think that it is important for all sororities to be on the same playing field when it comes to housing because it makes the recruitment experience fair for girls that are rushing in the fall,” Meghan Moynihan, member of Alpha Omicron Pi, said.

This is Levine’s first year as Greek coordinator at UWRF and he is hoping to take the individual organizations and create a more unified community that outsiders will want to become a part of in the future. By instilling these values in current members Levine is hoping to show campus what being Greek is all about.

“Providing an opportunity for students within our community to come together in a central location only serves to increase

See Greeks page 3

Broomball sweeps University



Sally King/Student Voice
Men’s broomball teams Zombie Patrol and Team America play an evening match-up Wednesday at Hunt Arena. Broomball is one of the many intramural sports offered at UW-River Falls. The game is similar to hockey, except it is played without skates and using a ball instead of a puck. Team America emerged victorious 6-0.

University Web site to become more efficient with navigation after redesign



Christie Lauer/Student Voice
The UWRF Web site is currently undergoing maintenance in order to create a better experience for those trying to navigate around the site.

Hailey Klein
hailey.klein@uwrf.edu

After undergoing surveys, research and content management studies, the University Web site is undergoing a redesign to make the site more efficient and the overall user experience better.

UW-River Falls decided to implement a new design in order to increase awareness, communication and involvement. It hopes to create a Web site that consists of marketing materials and improve administration, management, clarity, focus and professionalism, according to a presentation by DoTS Chief Information Officer Steve Reed.

According to the Division of Technology Services (DoTS) Web redesign information page, the new page will include easy to understand content and improved navigation.

“We are getting everyone’s input on how to design the new site,” Manager of Information System and Services Lana Hall said. “We want to get a feel of what our users want, whether that be future students, current students,

alumni or faculty and staff.”

According to a survey that took place in July, 40 percent of 531 respondents said that the current site reduced their first impression of the University. 18 percent of the respondents were first-time visitors to the University Web site.

“I had heard about UW-River Falls through my sister who goes there, and started looking into it for my son Trey who is looking at colleges right now,” Samantha Kavythll, mother to a future student, said. “I didn’t have a hard time getting through the site, but after looking at some of the other college sites, I didn’t think that [UWRF] left much of an impression on me.”

With new changes within the site, a future student would be able to have links specifically fit to their needs in order for them to navigate the site more effectively.

“Because this is my first son going to college, and my first time going through all of this, not being sure of what

See Web site page 3

Transfer students raise enrollment

Elwood Brehmer
elwood.brehmer@uwrf.edu

Two-year campuses and community colleges are becoming more popular as launching pads to four-year institutions, officials at area campuses said.

The UW System of colleges and universities now includes 13 two-year campuses to match the number of established four-year universities.

Alan Tuchtenhagen, associate vice chancellor for enrollment services at UW-River Falls, said roughly one-third of new students every year come as transfer students.

However, the majority of those students are not coming from in-state.

“The largest supplier of transfer students are the Minnesota community colleges, Century College and Inver Hills,” he said. “We don’t draw that many from the UW campuses primarily because of distance.”

The closest two-year campus to River Falls in the UW System is UW-Barron County, which is just over 70 miles away. UW-Stout and UW-Eau Claire are both closer to UW-Barron County than UWRF.

“When [two-year students] transfer to a four-year, they’re looking for a lot of the same things that the two-year offered, such as the ability to stay close to home,” Tuchtenhagen said. “Students are working more and live at home as a result.”

Being the director of community relations at Century College in White Bear Lake, Minn., Nancy Livingston said she is seeing changes in the way students are beginning their post-secondary education.

“Our fall enrollment is up 13 percent,” she said. “We only expected a two percent increase. Our facility people have analyzed our classroom usage and we’re absolutely full.”

The major jump in enrollment for fall semester is coupled with more moderate growth over the past four years, Livingston said.

Along with Century’s close proximity to many prospective students in the Twin Cities, the schools popularity has grown because of its price, Livingston said.

“We’re that affordable option,” she said. “We’re \$150 a credit, about half of the [University of Minnesota].”

A full-time student with 15 credits at UWRF spent \$217 per credit this fall, according to the University’s Web site.

Assistant campus dean for student services at UW-Barron County, Dale Fenton, said full-time students there are spending \$2,353 per semester this year, or \$156 apiece for 15 credits.

Former UWRF and UW-Barron County student Michael Keown is originally from the Spooner, Wis. area. He said the availability of a two-year school allowed him to continue his education when a four-year university wasn’t affordable.

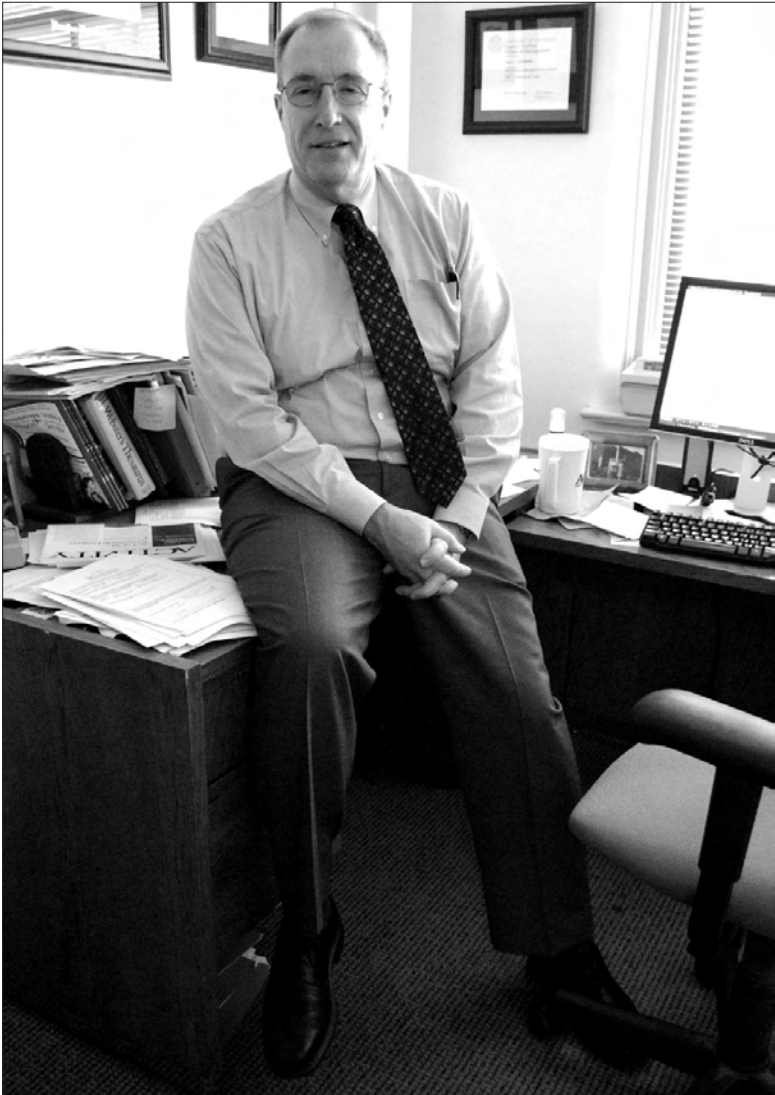
“I started at Eau Claire and after a while it was too expensive, but Barron was only 30 miles from home,” he said. “It was close enough to where I could stay at home and help at my parents’ resort, too.”

Total enrollment at UW-Barron County is up nine percent this year from the average of around 625 students, he said.

Aside from the location and cost benefits, admissions requirements are not typically as stringent at the UW colleges as they are at the four-year universities.

UW-Barron County looks for students whose grades were in the upper 75 percent of their graduating class, Fenton said. Though an ACT score is also required, a minimum standard score is not necessary.

As a part of UWRF’s admissions requirements, students admitted were usually in the top 40 percent of their class and earned a 22 or higher on the ACT, according to the Univer-



Sally King/Student Voice
Roughly one-third of new students are transfers, according to Alan Tuchtenhagen, associate vice chancellor for enrollment.

sity’s Web site. The elementary education or animal science programs often require an ACT score of 24 or higher.

“We’re not total open enrollment, but we do see ourselves as an option to students who may have difficulty going directly to a four-year institution,” Fenton said.

Century College has no admissions standards, Livingston said. All incoming students take a placement test and are allowed into classes based on the test score and any previous coursework.

“Our mission is to serve everyone with a high school diploma or GED,” she said.

UWRF accepts transfer students based on several criteria, Tuchtenhagen said. Often, it’s a matter of whether or not space is available in a major or program.

Determining whether or not to accept a transfer applicant requires a more “holistic approach,” he said.

“After about a year, we don’t require their high school transcripts,” he said. “We have transfer guides for every two-year campus in the area.”

Keown, who currently attends Chippewa Valley Technical College’s River Falls campus, said when he decided to transfer from Barron County to UWRF, the transition was very smooth.

“At CVTC I’ve had trouble getting my credits from River Falls to transfer, but all my credits from Barron transferred because it’s a UW school,” he said.

“When [two-year students] transfer to a four-year, they’re looking for a lot of the same things that the two-year offered, such as the ability to stay close to home.”
Alan Tuchtenhagen,
associate vice chancellor

District 6 members help UWRF

Natalie Conrad
natalie.conrad@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls students are being encouraged to run for County Board positions by students Nikki Shonoiki and Ben Plunkett, both current District 6 County Board members themselves.

“It’s very important for the District 6 seat to be occupied by a student because the University is located within this district and most of the students live in this district,” Shonoiki said.

Shonoiki, who first ran for County Board last fall, said that it is also very important to have students on County Board because the previous District 6 supervisor had a negative view of the University, which caused issues like the Pierce County Reproductive Health Services being taken away or relocated to another town.

“It’s important to have someone advocating for the students who need those services,” she said.

Shonoiki first learned about the County Board position from Plunkett, another student already on County Board. She was already politically active at the time as a Student Senate director and she said that she thought the County Board position seemed like it would be similar to positions that she had already held. She said that she anticipated that it would be more time consuming than her Senate position, but it wasn’t.

Plunkett, who has been on the District 6 County Board since April 2006, said that he first became interested in running for County Board after being involved with a group working on ending the waiting list the county had for home care for children. The waiting list was for care that allowed the kids to stay in their homes and was actually lower in overall cost than institutional care they otherwise needed, according

“There have been some challenges with being a County Board supervisor and a college student, and one is time management.”
Nikki Shonoiki,
County Board member

to Plunkett. He said that it was also what the parents and their kids wanted and allowed families to stay together.

Shonoiki said that she used many different strategies to win a County Board seat, such as leafleting, canvassing, phone banking, participating in voter registration drives, advertising on facebook, creating posters and just general word of mouth.

“I recall canvassing and accidentally knocking on my opponents door. He opened the door, looked me up and down, and told me I better get going and stop wasting time on his doorstep because I have a lot of work to do if I’m going to beat him,” Shonoiki said. “I was shocked at first and then I got even more determined to beat him.”

For other students that are interested in running for County Board, there are many benefits, but there are also many challenges with being a student and a board member, Shonoiki said.

“There have been some challenges with being a County Board supervisor and a college student, and one is time management,” she said. “Although County Board is a lot less time consuming than I thought since I probably only have three to four meetings in any given month, I still had to learn how to manage my classes, my other jobs and make sure that I knew what was going on in the county all at the same time.

What is next for her after County Board? Shonoiki said that her next step is helping whatever students that may be interested in running for County Board to take her position as she hopes to move on to work as an Electoral Action Trainer, and also plans to run for Student Senate president. Students that are interested in running for County Board must move fast, she said, because in order to run for County Board one has to file circulating papers which require them to collect 25 signatures of people who live in their district. The date to pick up an application and start collection signatures is December 1st and the date the papers are due, completed and filed is January 5th, according to the state elections Web site.

“Being a student, one can bring knowledge about our current needs and also what we can do for the county. In areas from economic development and jobs to reproductive health care student impact and are impacted by county government,” Plunkett said. “The University is a very important part of the county, and by working together we are able to make the most of what we have for everyone.”

VOICE SHORTS

‘The House of Yes’ opens

“The House of Yes” opened on Wednesday and will continue to run with performances at 7:30 p.m. through Dec. 5 and Dec. 10 through 12 in the Blanche Davis Theatre of the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building.

Members of Masquers, the UWRF student theatre organization, will produce, design and direct this next main stage show.

For more information contact the University Box Office at 425-3114 or visit www.uwrf.edu/csta/season.html. The box office is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and one hour before each performance.

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.

November 13

-Ryan W. Jorgenson, 19, was cited for underage consumption at 811 E. Cascade Ave.

-Ryan W. Jorgenson, 19, was cited for disorderly conduct at 811 E. Cascade Ave.

November 14

-Loyan B. Dennis, 18, was cited for underage consumption at 326 N. Third St.

-Loyan B. Dennis, 18, was cited for disorderly conduct at 326 N. Third St.

November 15

-John J. Marich, 21, was cited for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated at the intersection of Main and Park Streets.

-John J. Marich, 21, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with a prohibited alcohol concentration (.16-.24) at the intersection of Main and Park Streets.

-Matthew J. Gajewski, 19, was cited for underage drinking—possession at 124 E. Cascade Ave.

-Derek R. Weber, 19, was cited for underage drinking—possession at 124 E. Cascade Ave.

-Joseph S. Gangl, 20, was cited for underage drinking—possession at 124 E. Cascade Ave.

-Jennifer M. Reichert, 19, was cited for underage drinking—possession at 124 E. Cascade Ave.

-Jacob B. Mandoza, 19, was cited for underage drinking—possession at 124 E. Cascade Ave.

-Ahmad J. Palmer, 20, was cited for underage drinking—possession at 124 E. Cascade Ave.

November 21

-Jenna M. Hines, 19, was cited for underage consumption at 581 Spruce St.

November 25

-Benjamin W. Pirius, 20, was cited for littering at 600 S. Main St.

-Benjamin W. Pirius, 20, was cited for underage drinking—possession at 600 S. Main St.

-Benjamin W. Pirius, 20, was cited for ID card violation at 600 S. Main St.

-Amanda C. Rowles, 20, was cited for underage consumption at 600 S. Main St.

November 28

-Derek R. Weber, 19, was fined \$389.50 for possession of marijuana in Stratton Hall.

November 29

-Chelsie S. Carroll, 20, was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.

Check out the updated
Student Voice Web site

-Photo galleries

-User movie ratings

-Comment on the
articles you read

-Fashion columns

-and more.

Visit the new
and improved
uwrfvoice.com

Campus hosts H1N1 vaccine clinic



Sally King/Student Voice
UWRF student Tiffany Patterson receives the H1N1 vaccine during the vaccination clinic held in the Falcon’s Nest Wednesday. The clinic also offered seasonal influenza vaccinations.

Greeks: Semi-formal takes steps to unite organizations on campus

from page 1

ate a more united Greek community by the time fall recruitment comes around next year.

“Our community is in desperate need of finding the ability to come together as a community rather than an individual group of organizations,” Levine said.

The most important change that Levine would like to make as Greek co-ordinator is growth in numbers. Greeks will be striving for a community that is self-sufficient, inclusive and engaging to the campus community.

“Growth in programming, recruitment and diversity is essential for our future successes,” Levine said. “It is time that our community provides an environment that all students want to join.”

the value of the system that our students belong to,” Levine said.

Levine is also promoting leadership and networking skills within the Greek community saying that it is important for students to expand their learning outside of the classroom on campus.

“Greek life opens the doors to leadership, academic and social development that students cannot always find inside a classroom,” Levine said.

The CPC and Levine are working together to make changes to the council agreement this year that will change some of the rules on housing for Greeks as well as financial budgets. Their goal is to cre-

“Our community is in desperate need of finding the ability to come together...”
Matt Levine
Greek coordinator

Dalton: UWRF student develops Angus beef business

from page 1

“She’s the only girl,” her father said.

In order to even be considered, an FFA member must first win state. Dalton’s customers, or rather her approach to getting them, helped her win the Beef Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award at the 2009 State FFA Convention in Madison earlier this year and a spot in the national finals.

In order to prepare for convention, Dalton spent her summer and the first few weekends of the semester at home so she could keep her statistics updated. She also took some time to think about future goals and things she would like to see implemented within the next year to year-and-a-half. For example, Dalton hopes to create a Web site for her business during J-term.

“My ultimate goal is to become affiliated with a restaurant that will feature my 3-D Angus Naturally Fed Beef exclusively,” she said.

For the national finals, Dalton spent a stress-filled three days going through orientation, sponsor meetings, interviews and a presentation in front of thousands of FFA members. For the interview portion, the four finalists were taken into an interview room and had to give a two-minute speech about their respective operations in front of a panel of twelve judges, the maximum number of judges in any category. Dalton was asked questions pertaining to her operation based on what she had written in her SAE and the current state of her beef operation.

Since she is quite far from her operation, Dalton has only recently turned to her father and the hired men on the farm to run her operation while she’s at school. Dalton said she has learned many important things through the FFA program. She said she’s realized the importance of agriculture to modern society and networking between agriculturists. She said she feels that by attending UWRF she is able to continue to improve her consciousness on both points. Her recognition of the importance of agriculture led her to pursue a double major in meat animal science and political science.

“I hope to support the ag community by being either a lawyer practicing agricultural law or a lobbyist for an ag industry,” Dalton said.

She said that as people become further disconnected from their food, the need to bridge the gap between urban and rural is growing, as is the multi-level government policy affected by those with limited knowledge about agriculture production.

When her long FFA membership comes to an end, Dalton said she hopes to become more active in the block and bridle club at UWRF. After years of building an Angus beef business, Dalton was clear about her specific agricultural interests.

“I like animals better,” she said. “Plants don’t interest me at all.”

Her father pointed out that plants keep the animals fed.

“My checkbook reminds me of that every day,” he said.

Dalton also said she plans to continue to expand her beef operation after leaving her FFA chapter.

“I’ve spent over a third of my life working on this, so to sell out now would be devastating,” Dalton said. “I always joked with my father that if he sold all of my cattle while I was at school, I’d never speak to him again.”

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

River Falls Foundation

Campus-wide scholarship applications are now available and will be accepted until Jan. 8, 2010

CAFES scholarship applications are currently available and will be accepted until Dec. 18, 2009



For a complete listing of scholarships visit:
www.uwrf.edu/financial-assistance/scholarships/scholarships.htm

Web site: Team prepares to complete redesign by next summer

from page 1

simple.

The content management system is something the redesign task group is most excited for, according to Mike Woolsey, who is in charge of Web analytics.

“With the content management system, we will be able to go in and fix something easier and faster,” he said. “Overall, it will make things a lot easier for us.”

The DoTS Web redesign task group had a paper trial run available to all students, faculty and staff on Nov. 23. During this trial run, the individual was asked to locate a specific item that can be found on the University site, and then the task group graded themselves accordingly as to what needs to be improved, and how they can make the information easier to find and more efficient to the user.

“I like the idea of a new site design. If it really does make it more efficient for the students to find things than it will be a good thing,” student Sarah Nickerson said. “It will probably be a little frustrating to figure it out again, but the Web is always changing, so we need to roll with the punches.”

The Web redesign team plans to be finished with the site by next July. Currently everything is going according to schedule, Hall said.

“It is a whole campus effort. We would not be able to make the site as effective without all the feedback we are receiving,” she said. “With all the help we are getting from a variety of different sources and people affected by it, we will be able to make the site more effective for everyone.”

Lori's
MESSAGE & DAY SPA

715.425.9393

Online Appointment Booking
www.lorisdayspa.com

Lori's now offering
massages on
UWRF campus!


• \$10 OFF Manicure
or Pedicure
• Offering AVEDA

303 N. 2nd Street
River Falls, WI

Find Freddy's Feather

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

E-mail the Voice at editor@uwrfvoice.com



Be the first person to report the find
AFTER 10 a.m., Friday, Dec. 4,
and win two free movie passes
Last week's winner: Lacy Lukaszewicz

EDITORIAL

Students can make money by selling unwanted items

The common stereotype is that college students are poor. Between tuition fees, room and board costs and all the miscellaneous expenses that add up as students transition into adulthood, there isn’t much cash left to go around. And most students are quick to reveal how strapped for cash they are. It seems that college students themselves are the first to fall back on, “Well, I’m just a poor college student.” As if this simple sentence, bordering on slipping into a universal truth, is a blanket excuse that completely justifies hitting up mom and dad for more money or for choosing to not go out and have fun on the town. Students speak about their lack of cash almost in braggart terms, expecting sympathy from anyone within earshot.

But the Student Voice Editorial Board feels that there are several ways in which students can receive and/or save some extra money, such as selling and shopping online.

There are numerous Web sites that act as online flea markets, places in which people can put up for sale belongings they no longer have a need or desire for. The old adage says “one person’s trash is another’s treasure,” and never has that idea been more perfectly realized than on sites such as eBay and Amazon. Gather up old clothes, entertainment equipment, knick-knacks, etc... and post them online. With a global community able to shop online, the chances of finding a buyer is quite high, given the quality of said product is not sub-par. It’s win-win - offload some extra stuff laying around and get some much needed cash.

But the flipside works, as well. Knowing that there is a large-scale global online community selling every imaginable product, there are bound to be deals. Used products are almost always cheaper, even with shipping costs, so purchasing from online thrift stores and virtual flea markets is a great way to save money and stretch your dollar. Shopping for used products online is also a great sustainable effort in that it is contributing to the recycling off raw materials. If more people were to shop and sell online, thus exchanging products, manufacturing would reduce, therefore conserving natural resources and reducing need-less landfill waste.

The Internet offers the perfect place to practice thrifty practices. More students need to realize this and adopt online selling and shopping practices. With the leaps forward in online protection, personal information is secure in these transactions, and with internet connectivity available all over campus, there is no excuse anymore not to e-commerce.

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

STUDENT VOICE

Editor	Eric Pringle
Assistant Editor	Ken Weigend
Front Page Editor	Jenna Nelson
News Editor	Kevin Duzynski
Viewpoints Editor	Alayne Hockman
Sports Editor	Renee Thony
Etcetera Editor	Aaron Billingsley
Online Editor	Priya Kailash
Chief Photographer	Sally King
Staff Photographers	Sarah Schneider
	Christie Lauer
Cartoonists	Jon Lyksett
Chief Copy Editor	Andrew Phelps
Proofreader	Kirsten Blake
General Manager	Grady Stehr
Ad Manager	Danielle Boyum
Circulation Manager	Kyle Flanagan
Faculty Advisor	Andris Straumanis

Read the *Student Voice* online at www.uwrfvoice.com

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, 54222 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.



By Jon Lyksett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reproductive health important in reform

The Senate will soon begin debating their version of health care reform. This is our opportunity to ensure the needs of women and young people continue to be front and center in the reform debate.

In the House, the Stupak-Pitts Amendment passed last minute in the House version of health care reform. It bars not only federal insurance from covering abortion, but private insurers as well. If language like Stupak’s makes it into the Senate Bill, abortion will become an out-of-pocket expense, the only legal procedure to have this sort of restriction on it. Rent, utilities, tuition and basic insurance premiums are already too difficult for working people and students to juggle. Paying out of pocket for healthcare that was promised as part of reform is unfair. So what can we do about it?

Join students, community members, activists and everyday people from around the United States this week and make a call to congress! Call 1-888-423-5983 and ask to talk to Senator Feingold’s and Senator Kohl’s office. Step one, ask your senators to keep an anti-choice amendment like Stupak’s from ending up in their Bill. Step two? Remind your senator to strike down the Hatch Amendment. Our legislators need to know we’re still watching.

Health care reform promises to bring

better care to all Americans. Let’s let Congress know we will not sit idly by and let women and young people be sacrificed in the name of compromise, votes, deadlines and budgets. We need to stand up and make sure what we deserve, access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care and information, is included in the Senate bill!

Our senators say they want to hear from us, so let’s give them something to talk about!

Nikki Shonoiki, student and activist

Student-made trails should be sidewalks

While on the surface it may seem that students are the problem in that they trample the grass, this is not the case. The real problem is that we have a very poor sidewalk layout on campus, and in the areas where students make trails, we should make sidewalks. Why fix a problem every year when we could just fix it once and for all?

Nick Lane

Health care not a right

Dear fellow scholars,

It seems today that our concept of being “open-minded” is acceptance of all regardless of merit. The same goes with our concept of political change. We are expected to support change for no tangible or logical reason. Our as-

sumption is that change is infallible.

Ms. Blake’s point is weakened when she says that we must be wary of government, yet endorse this brand of health care reform simply under the assumption of change’s superiority. As soon as this contradiction was constructed her pragmatic facade became breached.

But I digress...

This concept that health care is a right represents a dangerous view of the state’s responsibilities. America’s founding documents suggest that rights are implied by virtue of existence, not from a state sanction or provision, but contemporary rhetoric and policies suggest that the state is the provider rather than the defender of these rights.

This difference may be nuanced, but these two philosophical origins have drastically different implications.

The state can perform either of these two options in relation to rights. It can safeguard them or it can remove them. Obviously the former is the preferable option. It is deceptive word choice to regard any other privilege provided by the state as a right, for if a state provides a right it can just as easily be revoked, much like a privilege. Anything the state provides is less of a right, and more of a burden, for anything the state provides must inherently infringe on a man’s right to property.

A rebuttal is neither requested nor necessary, for I am far too self-assured to consider another opinion.

Your less-than-humble lecturer,
Richard Simones

As holidays near, consumers buy junk

It’s the holiday season - the time for giving, receiving and buying stuff for yourself. My question to you is, how much more do you want?

The American consumer isn’t smart. We are a culture of disposables—paper plates because we are too lazy to wash real ones. We wipe excrement from our anuses with virgin paper because for those seconds that it takes to get the job done, we need to feel like we’re wiping our bums with the Cottonelle puppy himself.

Our consumption habits are sucking up our petroleum and energy resources, destroying forests in the Amazon, causing the largest mass extinction since the dinosaurs keeled over, and are contributing to the destruction of the polar ice caps.

Just because we can afford to buy disposables, sparkly pens from the dollar store, bottled water, an extra garage, platform flip-flops and a Snuggie doesn’t mean we should.

For example, the acrylic plastic dish sets at the ends of the isles in department stores decorated with holiday characters and cute little snowflakes have no purpose.

Let me tell you something: those acrylic Santa Clause/snowman dish sets are not cute. They aren’t adorable. They are not funny and just because they cost \$3.67 per set and come with a curly straw and hot cocoa mix does not mean you are justified in purchasing them.

They will last until you die but you will only like them for about a year. By next December you’ll be saying, “Look at these silly plates I got a long time ago. That was a stupid purchase,”

and instead of showing them off to your roommates as your latest impulse purchase, you’re going to put the cat’s food in the bowl that now has flecks of some food stuck on it from when you put it in the microwave. When you carve a pumpkin you’ll put its guts on the plate and you’ll clean out your paint brushes in the stained cup. Meanwhile, old Khris Kringle’s rosy cheeks are flecking off into your mac’n cheese ending up stuck in your bowels next to the piece of gum you swallowed

The piles of crap we buy at Target and Wally World lose value to us within a year because they’re no longer new. We aren’t in love with o ur possessions, we’re in love with the idea of buying stuff.

in the seventh grade.

The piles of crap we buy at Target and Wally World lose value to us within a year because they’re no longer new. We aren’t in love with our possessions, we’re in love with the idea of buying stuff. Getting stuff makes us feel good despite the quality of the product.

This applies to more than impulse buys. It goes to everything we buy. Clothes. Beauty products. Furniture. Are you buying it because it’s a good investment and something you need or just because you feel like you want to buy something? If you didn’t see it while you were shopping, or even know it existed, would you still seek it out?



Kirsten Blake

America is in debt, has the most crap out of any nation, rents storage spaces for the treadmills and downhill skis

we don’t use, owns the biggest houses with the emptiest rooms and yet people can be unhappy. It’s the moral

of every holiday story: more is not always better. You can’t buy happiness. Maybe instead of trying to buy happiness, we can reconnect this holiday season with the reason we are working so hard. Instead of buying a candy cane for everyone in your hall and calling it good, maybe you can actually be a good person and try reestablish a sense of community, learn something about your neighbor and help each other out.

Fair-weather friends give you candy canes, real friends give you time.

Remember the coupon books you made for your parents as a child? “Coupon good for washing dishes,” “one hug,” “breakfast in bed,” “raking the leaves.” Those were good ideas because as a kid you didn’t have any money, but you did have time and you had your services. Once again, we’re in a spot where we don’t have any money. So if you are down on cash like I am, feeling isolated, homesick or you haven’t seen your friends in awhile, instead of buying yet another lotion set to give them, try giving gifts like “movie night,” “two hours of you-and-me time, like it used to be,” “snowball fight,” “a walk,” or “a trip to PetCo just to look at the animals.”

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.

Arguments based on reason, facts better supported than on emotion



Matt Torkelson

We’re the land of the free and the home of the brave. It’s said all too often without much thought or meaning, but it’s damn true. Nothing angers me more than when Americans trash talk their own country. Overall, any man, woman or child should carry a strong sense of pride that they live in the United States. This country has gone through many changes in the past years, and plenty of different political bickering has gone about between differing parties, ideologies, etc. This column is going to basically be a giant rant of how I’m fed up and extremely annoyed with people basing arguments on emotion rather than facts and reason.

So, let me start off by saying that nothing makes me more livid than when people have no sense of individuality. Sure, we’re all influenced by something. Haven’t you ever heard that “you’re original, just like everyone else?” One thing that seems to ring true about the common “public” is that all too often they will read a headline, or hear someone’s “take” on an issue, and automatically hold it as truth. And if that’s not the case, they get livid and make a mountain out of a molehill because it doesn’t coincide with their exact beliefs. Hence if you’re leaning left, you probably feel Fox News is spewing ignorant propaganda, and if you’re leaning right, you feel the same way about MSNBC. Is it not fair to assume such things? I feel like so many people wrap their understandings of issues ranging from health care, immigration, “the war on terror,” into really lame, rhetorical and overall meaningless clichés. How many times have you heard “Make Love Not War.” Shut up. I can understand if you’re anti-war because you want our troops back home safe, or something along those lines, but these kinds of “sayings” are what lead to childish, empty and pointless arguments that end in calling each other stupid like a bunch of 8-year-olds on an elementary school playground.

Though some people are fully capable of having legitimate, intellectual political discussions, this is sadly not the case for a vast amount of people. I’m sorry, but if you’re going to over-generalize in an argument and call ideas, persons and policies “stupid,” then you should really reconsider opening your mouth.

By all means, speak out and be vocal about your passions and beliefs, but don’t do so until you can actually comprehend both sides of an argument. Ask yourself questions on why you believe certain things. Are your reasons for supporting a certain policy backed by facts,

or stubborn perspective held without legitimate reason?

So often people call Obama a socialist, but when asked “what is socialism?” Often times people will answer with something along the lines of “well, um.... yeah.” By definition, socialism is an economic system in which property is held in common, not individually, and relationships are governed by a political hierarchy. Though decisions are not made collectively, individuals in positions of power make decisions for an overall “collective all-important individual.”

I welcome the political science department to tear apart this definition, but my point is that not many people give an answer even remotely close to this generic definition. I’d be surprised if you personally weren’t able to come up with a few examples of others having strong convictions with nonsensical reasons. Hell, I have a few of my own.

We’re all human and act faultily at times, but don’t expect someone to understand where you’re coming from if you can’t do the same.

When it comes to being totally “in tune” with all of the current news stories and issues of concern, I like to think that I’m decently aware. However, when it comes to knowing the ins and outs of every policy, social issue, etc, I’ll gladly admit I am not even close to knowing all the answers.

Something that’s not said enough in discussions about politics, for example, is “I don’t know.” Too many people feel the need to give you an answer when they themselves don’t have an answer, or simply don’t even understand the question. Ask “why?” Make someone explain themselves, rather than just say “she’s/he’s probably right.” People are going to preach acceptance, tolerance, and even “change,” but all too often won’t do any themselves. I love (sarcastically) people who label themselves as “open-minded” and “tolerant,” but if you disagree with them, then in their eyes, you’re probably an idiot.

When people with common sense realize that “political discussions” today are usually taunting sessions, they often think “why should I even care?” Understandable, but with all the things going on in the world, the last thing that people need to be is apathetic. Don’t let people that think they are omniscient ruin things for you. We’re all human and act faultily at times, but don’t expect someone to understand where you’re coming from if you can’t do the same.

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.

Switching up footwear can help to define personal style

Hello River Falls, I hope Thanksgiving break was a relaxing and a comforting experience filled with memories made with family and friends.

When one thinks about Thanksgiving, it’s hard not to follow that thought up with Black Friday and the shopping spree associated with it. I hope the style tips and hints provided in these columns assisted you in making very fashionable and smart decisions in the clothing, shoes and accessories departments.

The skin care that becomes very essential as the cold air migrates towards us (last week’s article) is an important issue for both males and females on campus to read. I did receive questions concerning the stores at which to purchase last week’s item of the week, tea tree oil. This item is available primarily in drug stores, such as Walgreens, located in the vitamins aisle.

Hygiene is very important for both sexes. Trimming and maintaining one’s fingernails and toenails can make a big impact. I bring up toenails because of the location of the body this week’s item of the week occupies: the feet.



Priya Kailash

Item of the week: Shoes

Men might think they do not have a large variety of styles to choose from when it comes to footwear, but that does not mean one can opt to wearing running shoes everyday. It is important to own at least 4 different types of shoes -- one for running, two for everyday (walking and skate), and one for formal events. I trust people are more than well informed on the running shoes, so I am going to skip past that and address walking, skating, and formal shoes.

Walking Shoes:

Walking shoes are made with comfort and “wearability” in mind, without needing to sacrifice style. There are many different kinds of walking shoes out there, ranging from hush puppies, slip-ons, loafers, boots, and man Uggs. Uggs for men is the ultimate comfort any man can want, and if one does not want others to know they are wearing Uggs, but still crave that comfort, then let the jean flaps hang over the boots and wear the Uggs underneath.

Loafers and Hushpuppies can be found in a variety of shapes and comfort levels. They can be great for weekend footwear, or they can be paired with corduroys and an interesting t-shirt for the right mix of style and comfort.

Skate shoes

Skate shoes are by far my favorite. They are generally larger, have a flat sole, and allow for more movement compared to running shoes. Skate shoes are usually brightly colored or patterned.

Don’t let mixed colors and contrasting shoelaces turn you away. Embrace different styles and explore the different ways you can personalize your style by simply changing up your shoes.

Formal shoes

These are your average dress shoes. They are usually found in either blacks or dark browns, and it’s best to stick to these two colors. They can be worn with dress pants for a formal look, or it can be worn with a darker wash of jeans for a more relaxed look.

I would recommend people do some sort of research on the internet before heading to the store to purchase skate or walking shoes. An idea of what you’re looking for will make shopping for shoes an easier experience. Great places for men to shop for shoes are DSW, Famous Footwear, and Macy’s, as they carry a lot variety.

Don’t let mixed colors and contrasting shoelaces turn you away. Embrace different styles and explore the different ways you can personalize your style by simply changing up your shoes.

This week’s feature, Aly Meier, has fashion and personality that is all her own. She describes her clothing as “hand-me-downs” from musicians and artists which add interest and personality to a lot of her clothes. To read more on Aly Meier’s unique fashion and style, visit the “Student Voice” Web site (www.uwrfvoice.com) and click on the “Fashion” tab.

Next week’s feature is Joe McMahon, a junior with a sophisticated and preppy style. He has a personality that makes him stand out from the crowd.

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

V-Day returns to UWRF



Laura Krawczyk

Now that it’s almost Christmas, let’s discuss Valentine’s Day. It’s that wonderful time of year filled with chintzy paper hearts and Mutant Ninja Turtle valentines. Thanks to the mercy of one student organization, however, there’s an alternative to spending another Feb. 14 dodging all the true-love merchandise—you’re still going to be tired from doing that all December anyway. Rise Up for Women’s Rights is bringing back some controversy this year, hosting “V-Day University of Wisconsin, River Falls 2010 (The Vagina Monologues).” Three performances of The Vagina Monologues will be held respectively on Feb. 12, 13 and 14, directed by 22-year-old Chelsea Chase in her directorial debut. All profits from tickets sold will be donated to Turning Point in River Falls. Turning Point provides services to both men and women, including shelter for victims of violence, information referral, support groups, one-on-one support, a 24-hour crisis hotline, community education, and legal advocacy. Campus last had the opportunity to see the groundbreaking play in Spring 2007 by the Women’s Initiative Committee of the Student Senate. And here’s our new chance, back by popular demand.

The Vagina Monologues first entered the theatrical scene in 1996, showcasing monologues written by Eve Ensler (a playwright, performer, and activist) after she conducted over 200 interviews with women about their views on sex, relationships, and violence against women. In 1998, Ensler and her supporters, inspired from the experience of the production, launched V-Day, a non-profit of global proportions. In its ten-year span the organization has raised over \$70 million for women’s anti-violence groups worldwide. Funds are raised through profits from productions of The Vagina Monologues, festivals, and other large-scale benefits. Other works have been added to the V-Day production, including fresh monologues, another theatrical performance called, “Any One of Us: Words from Prison,” and a documentary.

As with any good production, there need be good actresses. Rise Up is hosting auditions Wednesday, Dec. 9 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Eau Galle River Room 332 and Thursday, Dec. 10 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Chippewa River Room 322, both in the University Center. There will be between five and 20 roles to fill, and women or anyone currently living as a woman of any age with acting experience are encouraged to attend. Even men get a chance to show their support by assisting with campaigning, directing, technical procedures and more—all with the precise title, “V-Men.”

One in three women worldwide will be a victim of violence. According to a 2004 National Crime Victimization Survey, one in six American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape, and 10 percent of sexual assault victims are men. 73 percent of family violence victims are female...that’s three in four victims, states the U.S. Bureau of Justice in June 2005. In the U.S., someone is sexually assaulted every two minutes. According to www.vday.org, the organization’s official Web site, “V-Day hopes that the devastating and true stories that are the foundation of “The Vagina Monologues” will inspire people who see productions of the play to help V-Day in its efforts to stop all violence against women and girls.” Thousands of V-Day benefits like the one Rise Up for Women’s Rights is hosting at UWRF this February happen every year on college campuses and communities throughout the world. It’s refreshing to have the opportunity to attend and even audition for such an important happening on campus.

For more information, seek out the Facebook group, “Call for Auditions: UWRF presenting The Vagina Monologues (1st Round)” and/or “Call for Auditions: UWRF presenting The Vagina Monologues (2nd Round).”

Laura Krawczyk is a junior majoring in marketing communications and communications studies.

STUDENT VOICES

What do you do to manage stress at the end of the semester?

Tyler Swanson, freshman

“I bury myself in homework. If I’m busy, I don’t focus on my stress.”

Jennisue Wesch, senior

“Go for a run.”

Jake Kooiman, freshman

“I don’t worry about it.”

Brenda Croes, sophomore

“Just relax, play video games, get extra sleep.”

Basketball loses in overtime to UWS



Sally King/Student Voice
Guard Jontae Koonkaew takes the ball to the hoop agaisnt UW-Superior Forward Jake Smith (25) in the Falcon’s overtime loss Wednesday night. The game was the first WIAC match-up of the season, putting UWRF at 0-1.

Falcons beat Superior, even up series

Blaze Fugina
blaze.fugina@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls women’s hockey team evened up its two game series against NCHA opponent UW-Superior at Hunt Arena with a 4-2 win on Nov. 21.

The game was played on a Saturday afternoon, with a 2 p.m. puck drop time and 200 people in attendance.

After losing the previous Friday game against the Yellowjackets, 3-2, the win on Saturday evened up the two-game series.

UW-Stout started the scoring in the game when Teagan Cassan put one past Falcon Goaltender Melissa Deardorff for her second goal of the season.

The Falcons tied the game up late in the first period, with a goal by Jamie Briski, her fourth goal on the season. The goal was assisted by Alyssa Jackson and Kayleigh Bell.

The Falcons took the lead in the second period, with a goal by Brittany Erickson, which was also her first on the season. The assists on the goal were given to Heather Horgen and Lauren Conrad.

A scary injury to Falcon Amanda Ryder also occurred late in the second period. Play was stopped with thirteen seconds left in the second period after Ryder was injured during a Superior shot on goal while in the Falcon’s zone

on the power play.

Ryder was carried off on a stretcher, and the third period was finished after the resurfacing of the ice.

Head Coach Joe Cranston said the injury was to the player’s back, but she was able to move her fingers and toes.

The Yellowjackets tied the game up in the middle of the third period, with a goal by Jessica Tyra, her second on the season.

The Falcons answered back less than two minutes later with a goal by Ashly Berner. Conrad and Bell also assisted the go-ahead goal.

The Falcons finished off the game with an empty net goal by Conrad, her third goal on the season. The goal was also Conrad’s third point in the game. The empty net was a result in the Yellowjackets pulling their goalie to have six skaters on the ice.

Despite winning the game 4-2, the Falcons only out-shot the Yellowjackets by two shots, 22-20.

Cranston said that although his team played well enough to win, he felt they performed better in the Friday game. Part of the reason, he said, was the loss of key players due to injury.

“We came out a little slow to start off and got scored on, but we never gave up and worked hard as a team to pull of a win.”

Lauren Conrad
women’s hockey player

“I think we probably played better in the first game and lost,” he said. “We played good enough to win, and it was tough without Katie Flanagan in the lineup, our leading scorer.”

Some players also said they felt that they had to work hard to get the win in the game.

“We came out a little slow to start off and got scored on,” Conrad said. “But we never gave up and worked hard as a team to pull off the win.”

The win was important to the team, with Superior being one of the better teams in the NCHA conference.

“If we would have lost we would have been behind points in our conference right off the bat,” Deardorff said.

“That isn’t how we wanted to start the season.”

Cranston said he agreed that the win for their place was important for the Falcons in the NCHA standings.

“It’s our first two points, and if Superior would have swept us, they would have been in the driver’s seat a lot more than we would,” he said.

The Falcons continue NCHA play Saturday and Sunday, at Adrian College.

Weekly sports wrap

Women’s basketball
-The Falcons improved their record to 4-0 on Nov. 24 after defeating Macalester College, 68-67, in a come-from-behind victory. Tiffany Gregorich had 19 points, two steals and three rebounds on the game, while Jenna Hanson and Maranda Dohrn accumulated nine points each. Dohrn also had nine rebounds, and Hanson had four rebounds and three steals. Brittany Gregorich and Taylor House had eight points during the game, and Tess Lardie led the Falcons with five assists. The team faced conference rival Superior Wednesday in the first WIAC match-up of the season. The Falcons won the game 73-52. Tiffany Gregorich finished with 27 points, and Lauren Pellowski had 18. The women take on No. 15 UW-Stevens Point in a double-header on Saturday, tipping off at 3 p.m., at the Kargest Center

Women’s hockey
-Falcons Judy Daleiden, Alyssa Jackson and Kayleigh Bell each scored a goal in the team’s 3-2 victory over St. Olaf on Nov. 24. Jamie Briski, Bailey Vikstrom and Emma Nordness were credited with assists in the game, and Goaltender Cassi Campbell made 20 saves. The win boosted the team’s record to 5-1-1 on the season, ranking them No. 6 in the nation. Saturday and Sunday they take on Adrian College for a two-game NCHA series.

Men’s basketball
-The men’s basketball team lost 77-74 on Nov. 28 in a non-conference away game at the University of Sioux Falls (South Dakota). Jacob Voeltz led the team with 20 points, seven rebounds, three assists, one block and one steal. Wade Guerin was the Falcons’ next leading scorer with 14 points, six rebounds and two steals. Brady Hannigan added 11 points and four rebounds, and teammate Jontae Koonkaew led

the team in assists with four, and also had nine points and seven rebounds. The men hosted Superior Wednesday in the Karges Center. The game went in to overtime, ending with a Superior victory, 83-81. Guerin, Koonkaew and Voeltz each ended with 18 points. Guerin also had the game-high 15 rebounds. The men will face No. 5 UW-Stevens Point in a double-header at the Karges Center on Saturday. Tip-off is at 5 p.m.

Men’s Hockey
-The Falcon men defeated Bethel University Tuesday, 5-2, in a non-conference match-up at Bethel. Tyler Czuba had one goal and two assists, Ben Beaudoin had two goals, and Andy Inderieden and Sean Roadhouse each had one goal. Grant Everett recorded two assists, and Bill Pinel and Justin Brossman had one each. Goaltender Bo Storozuk made 24 saves during the game. The victory gave the Falcons an overall record of 6-3-1, and they take on St. Mary’s Friday at 7:05 p.m.

Not so fast Viking fans; road to Miami has a few roadblocks



Derek Johnson

As we head into December, play-off talks start to heat up more and more each week. Not only have playoff talks been heating up in this area, but Super Bowl talks have been a hot topic as well, and rightfully so, as the Vikings head into week 13 of the season at 10-1. There are a lot of Viking fans on campus, including myself, but let’s take a step back for a second and really analyze the Vikings situation for a minute.

Monday night showed us who the top dog is in the NFC, and that is the New Orleans Saints. Before Monday night, the Vikings could have made a case for being the number one team in the NFC despite the Saints being undefeated, and the Vikings having one loss. All that went out the window, though, after the Saints defeated the New England Patriots pretty heavily, 38-17. In the national spotlight game, the Saints looked like a complete team offensively and defensively. Yes, we have to keep in mind this isn’t the 2007 Patriots team that was an offensive juggernaut, or the 2001, 2003, 2004 Super Bowl Patriot teams that have dominated this decade, but they still are a respectable team.

The road to Miami and Super Bowl XLIV goes through New Orleans in the NFC at the moment, and playing in the Superdome is one of the toughest places to play in the NFL, especially in a year when the Saints are firing on all cylinders and playing their best football.

Another key aspect to look at is how poor the Vikings have played once they reach the post-season. In the 49 years of existence, the Vikings have made the playoffs 25 times and only three times in the last decade in 2000, 2004 and 2008. Of the 25 playoff appearances, the Vikings post a mere 17-25 record (2-3 this decade). The Vikings have made it to four Super Bowls - quite an accomplishment, since there are twenty teams in the league that have three or less Super Bowl appearances. The Vikings lost all four Super Bowls they have played in, however, and are among 15 teams that have not won the Super Bowl.

Viking fans should all have the 2000 playoffs in the back of their minds. The team went 11-5 and had the number two seed in the playoffs only to lose the number one seed New York Giants, 41-0. Also, fans should remember the 1998 season when the Vikings had their best offensive team in franchise history and were projected to meet the Denver Broncos in the Super Bowl. The Vikings ended up being upset in the NFC Championship game against the Atlanta Falcons after a butchered 38-yard field goal by Gary Anderson, Vikings kicker at the time.

This year there is hope once again as the Silver Fox, Brett Favre, came out of retirement for the second consecutive year to lead the Vikings toward Super Bowl XLIV in Miami. On the offensive side of the ball, the quarterback position was the only question mark coming into this season before Favre signed on August 18th and gave the Vikings their first relevant quarterback since Culpepper’s last healthy year in 2004. All the pieces seem to be in place, as the Vikings rank fifth in total offense and eighth in total defense and have the projected NFC offensive rookie of the year in Percy Harvin.

So while Viking fans have something to hope for, for the first time since the 2004 season, there is a lot of football left to be played and a few roadblocks along the way. One could be facing the Packers, as they are surging up the ranks, trying to get into a wildcard spot and hoping for revenge against the Vikings for sweeping them in the regular season. The biggest roadblock at the moment could very well be in the NFC Championship game, where the Vikings are projected to match up against the Saints, which could once again leave the Vikings one game short of their fifth Super Bowl appearance.

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

River Falls Car Wash
ExpressLube

Havoline

Includes Free Car Wash! (\$8 Value)

EARLY BIRD SPECIALS
8am-9am - \$7 OFF
9am-11am - \$3 OFF
Full Service Base Price of \$29.^{99*}
*Up to 5 quarts

661 N. Main St. • River Falls • 715.426.0566

RT111908

River Falls spa
Full Service Dayspa & Salon

10% DISCOUNT Any Service, Anytime
for UWRF students & staff

SPECIAL UWRF MASSAGE PRICING
30 min massage - \$25
60 min massage - \$50
*Special price not valid with other offers.

Gift Certificates
Available at River Falls Spa make perfect Holiday Gifts for Students & Staff!
Stop in, call or order online & we will mail them to you!

Walking distance from Campus (lower level of Associated Dental Office)
650 South Main Street • River Falls • 425-7900
Schedule your appointment online **RFspa.com**

RT120309

Family film earns fantastic title

For the second time in as many months a young and gifted filmmaker has used

puppetry and rampant imagination to transport audiences to a tangible land of make believe

and palpable kids-pired wonderment. Just 40 days after Spike Jonze sailed us to “Where the Wild Things Are,” art-house auteur Wes Anderson tackles Roald Dahl’s “Fantastic Mr. Fox” with taciturn wit, tactile brevity and some of the downright most impressive stop-motion animation ever put to screen.

Dahl’s source material is the perfect fodder for Anderson (who co-wrote the

screenplay with Noah Baumbach) as it centers around Mr. Fox (voiced with nonchalant sophisti-

cation and charm by George Clooney), a dysfunctional father that rivals any of those present in Anderson’s past repertoire. Fox used to be the foul of the fowl world, but a close encounter with a fox trap leaves him promising Mrs. Fox (a delightfully sly Meryl Streep) that he’ll settle down, get a safe job and finally be a present parent to Ash (Jason Schwartzmen, who captures both humor and heartache through his vocal dexterity alone).

Twelve fox years later, tired of writing a newspaper no one reads and suffering from a sense of thwarted

ambition, Mr. Fox battles his veritable midlife crisis by buying real estate in a

tree hole across from three local farmers, Boggis, Bunce and Bean, immortal-

ized by local schoolchildren as “three horrible crooks, so different in looks, [who are] nonetheless equally mean.”

Mr. Fox learns this the hard way when he slips back into the habit of dining in on takeout chicken. And on vegetables. And on alcoholic cider. The farmers retaliate, charging the Fox’s tree intent on the kill. They even go so far as to shoot off Mr. Fox’s tail. The act causes the family to start tunneling

to escape the farmers escalating attempts at retribution. Anderson uses Dahl’s narrative as

a springboard, but he makes the story his own by shifting the focus from a simple story about personified foxes to a complex, comical investigation of social and familial relationships. As things unfold, it becomes clear that Anderson isn’t so much interested in finishing the manifest story, but in delving into the intense psychological motivations that drive this fractured fairytale.

The question parents will ask is whether “Fantastic Mr. Fox” is a children’s movie. The film has ominous undertones, a layer of darkness made up of ethical

and moral ambiguity. The subject matter will most certainly contain elements that will confuse kids, maybe even scare them, but that is what pushes Fox over into greatness. Perhaps the film’s most prolific message is for children, to remind them that they have an entire lifetime ahead of them.

Not everyone will like “Fantastic Mr. Fox,” which is part of the film’s charm. It will be debated for a long time to come. Whether or not the test of time proves this fox to top Anderson’s filmography is yet to be seen, but whatever the case may be, this visual and mental treat is like no other animated feature you’ve ever seen. Like it or hate it, it deserves to be seen.

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.

I have come to the conclusion that I love animals. Not all animals of course, but

enough of them where I can generally say I like them as a whole. I’m almost 100

percent confident that they can make some of the greatest friends we know. I mean seriously, think about all your friends right now. You love them, right? Of course you do! Do you always agree on everything? No. Do they sometimes talk incessantly? Yes. Do they sometimes not talk enough? Yes... c’mon Katie what’s your point!?

My point is that you don’t have to really worry about that with an animal. Hell no!

You can “talk” with an animal for hours on end, about ANYTHING, and they’ll

love, like, hate, or loathe with you on any subject you choose. When the time

comes to zip the lip, they magically close their mouths and all you see is your cute little furry friend scratching themselves or showing you affection. What’s not to like?

I’m saying all this because I’m pretty sure Wes Anderson had the same thing on his mind during the filming of “Fantastic Mr. Fox.” Replete with several of Hollywood’s big namers (including my George), the film is based on the Roald Dahl children’s classic from the 70’s, where a sly Mr. Fox decides to attack the delicious contents of three farms he lives near. When the farmers, three brutish men by the name of Boggis, Bunce, and Bean discover their prize-winning chickens, geese, and cider are missing, the epicness begins. What ensues next is a battle so monumental and so timeless only the imaginations of Roald Dahl and our dear director friend Wes can capture its full magnitude. With a whole scurry of rodent friends in tow, Mr. Fox has to try to outscheme and outwit:

“Boggis and Bunce and Bean

One fat, one short, one lean

These horrible crooks

So different in looks

Were nonetheless equally mean.”

Filmed through the craft of Claymation, the characters in this film are not only fun to listen to, but also to watch. Whoever designed the animals, my props go out to you, for the color, look and texture of each seemed to be nothing short of realistic (minus the clothes, of course). Like all of Wes’ films, each character’s personality matches their attire, which generally is all their own, filled with eccentricity, humor and quirkiness that you can’t help but smile at, especially when delivered in a dry and subtle way. The casting for these ostentatious animals includes, as I said before, some pretty big names. Meryl Streep, Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, Willem Dafoe and Jason Schwartzman all have a hand in bringing to life the setting and the story. The music too, even with its quirky, twangy, country style had charm and fit the scenes and the creatures just right. While I think very young children would be confused by the dialogue and the dry humor, I would recommend that parents see and maybe take their kids to it anyway, for the visuals alone could be enjoyable to a six or seven-year-old.

So there you have it, another week down, another movie found. With its wonderful humor, unique casting and creative imagery, I can’t see why you wouldn’t want to check out Wes’ new take on the animal kingdom. Filled with the fantastic, Mr. Fox and his friends surely are friends we would want to know.

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.



Talking Circle event inspires action

Katie Herr
katie.herr@uwrf.edu

Building a world of inclusion is the topic of a Dec. 8 “Talking Circle” event hosted by Kris Miner.

Talking circles are a method to educate and inspire students, staff and faculty to take social justice action.

Social Justice Programmer Kristin Canan said another goal of this event is to give students, faculty and staff an outlet to discuss various issues in an open setting.

“A talking circle has a setting where each person is entitled to their own opinions,” Canan said, “and allows every person the opportunity to express their opinion openly and completely without interruption”.

Each talking circle event has a different theme. The participants sit in a circle and the facilitator, Miner, asks a question or discussion topic. The participants then get a turn to voice their thoughts, but only when they are the one holding the “talking piece.”

Lisa Colburn has attended Talking Circles in the past, and said that at times it can be difficult because one might want to respond to what somebody has said or start arguing a different point but they have to wait until they have the talking piece.

“You learn to really listen to what each person is saying, which is actually very refreshing, even for somebody like me, who really likes to debate and argue” Colburn said.

Miner is the executive director of the St. Croix Valley Restorative Justice in River Falls. Along with being the facilitator for the talking circles, she is an instructor at UW-River Falls

and teaches an Introduction to Restorative Justice Class that also meets in the circle format.

Miner said she is interested in this event because it uses a restorative justice process to promote discussion and action related to social justice issues, which is a powerful combination.

“The goal of this circle is to involve participants in the discussion, to provide increased awareness and increase commitment to the community and future,” Miner said.

Past circle themes have focused on gender identity and sustainability. Colburn said she has attended all of the talking circles this year but knew nothing about them prior to this year.

“At first I was just curious and I attended to support the Social Justice Program,” she said.

Now Colburn said she goes for a chance to get together with other people who are concerned about problems in the world, and to hear other’s thoughts, opinions and ideas.

“It’s just a great chance to take time out of your day to think and listen,” she said. “They are actually very relaxing”.

Anyone interested can attend the event. Colburn said in the past there have been anywhere from six to 10 people and they would love to have more.

“I encourage everybody to try it out,” Colburn said. “It may seem a bit intimidating at first, but I think everybody walks away from the circle having gained something positive.”

Canan said it is being discussed to have Miner back in the spring for another session of monthly talking circles.

Warm Wishes. . . .

From all of us at First National!

Please join us on **Friday, December 11th from 10am to 3pm.** We want to thank you for your business and wish you well during semester break. Stop by for treats and some very “warm” coffee.
~ Angela, Marlys & Randy





Simple – Secure – Smart

104 East Locust St. • River Falls, WI (715)425-2401
UW River Falls • University Center (715) 426-1856
1656 Dorset Ln. • New Richmond, WI (715)246-5533
1151 N. Canton St. • Prescott, WI (715)262-5000

www.fnbrf.com



New...Check it out... www.rewardscheckingfnb.com

Want your voice heard?

Apply for air time with WRFW for your own radio show in Spring 2010!

Applications can be picked up outside the WRFW studio at room 306 in North Hall.

Any questions? Contact Program Director Adam Lee at adam.lee@uwrf.edu.

Campus safety walk postponed until spring

Angela Lutz
angela.nadeau@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls students, faculty and staff gather together once a year in order to assess issues on campus on the annual Campus Safety Walk. The safety walk was scheduled for Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evening, but has been postponed until spring semester because of “conflicts in available time,” according to Richard Trende, chief of police.

“Usually [the walk] has been held in the fall, but we’ve also held it in the spring,” Trende said. “I really don’t believe [the change in scheduling] will have an impact on campus safety. Many of the proposed projects have been completed.”

Connie Smith, risk manager, agrees with Trende about the time of year in which the safety walk is scheduled.

“I do not feel that the time of year that [the walk] is done matters. In my opinion, it would be good to do [the walk] in the daytime and at night to get a feel for the conditions under both scenarios,” Smith said.

Participants of the walk split into three groups to take a walking tour of the south, east and west side of campus, Smith said. She said some of the issues observed by participants are the condition of sidewalks, shrubbery close to buildings or walkways, overhead lighting, adequate lighting, blue light operation, trip hazards and accessibility issues.

There have been past concerns over the environment of the pathways, especially after a UWRF student was the victim of sexual battery in November 2006 on the path from the Ramer Field parking lot to the main campus.

According to UWRF Public Safety reports, the female student was walking to campus when an individual jumped out of a wooded area. The safety walk works to ensure adequate lighting in shaded areas and reduce the obstruction of overgrown vegetation along pathways.

... Issues observed by participants are the condition of sidewalks, shrubbery close to buildings or walkways, overhead lighting, adequate lighting, blue light operation, trip hazards and accessibility issues.

“The trail to [Ramer field] could be creepy at night,” Carey Field, a graduating student who grew up in the River Falls area, said. She said overall she’s always felt safe growing up in River Falls.

According to the UWRF Police and Parking Web site, there are safety programs for those who are interested like the Safe-walk Program, which attempts to provide a safe, comfortable atmosphere to the students, faculty and other staff of the University community who do not wish to walk alone on campus during the evening hours.

Another safety area voiced by Chelsea Kelly, a senior majoring in art, is the courtyard by the art area where she said bikes

had been stolen.

The November 2007 safety walk brought about concerns such as burned out street lights and overgrown vegetation, but the most problematic issue was the condition of the emergency call phones, where four out of five emergency phones tested on the East side of campus were malfunctioning, according to a past Student Voice article.

The campus currently has 20 emergency call phones located throughout the campus, often referred to as the “blue phone.” These phones have a direct link to Pierce County Sheriff’s dispatch center, according to the UWRF Public Safety Web site.

Some suggestions offered at the 2007 safety walk were improving crosswalks by repainting pedestrian crossings, trimming overgrown bushes and installing new technology alerting drivers of pedestrians when using the crosswalks.

Last year’s safety walk, held in November 2008, observed somewhat similar problems such as inadequate lighting, over-

grown vegetation, poor sidewalk conditions, crosswalk paint and “blue phone” response.

According to the 2008 safety walk report, when pressing the blue lights it takes three to four minutes for security to respond (depending on urgency) and sometimes, despite urgency, it will take a little while for security to arrive at the scene because of where they are, who answers the phone and who’s on duty.

Some current campus improvements include the clearing of foliage and overgrowth from the back path to Ramer field, the back bridge and the space around South Fork and fixing inadequate lighting such as the parking lot by Crabtree.

Trende said the purpose of the yearly walk is to address areas on campus that could be improved.

When pressing the blue lights it takes three to four minutes for security to respond (depending on urgency)

Listen to **WRFW 88.7** Talk Block
Everyday between 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Monday	Blaze Fugina
Tuesday	Diana Vang
Wednesday	“Falcon Sports Wrap”
Thursday	“ACT on AG”
Friday	“Let’s Talk” w/ Jaime Babb
Saturday	Amy Graham
Sunday	Open Air

Yep, it’s that time of the year again....

Time to buy some poinsettias!



The UWRF Horticulture Society is having a Poinsettia sale on December 9th from 9-3pm in the Agriculture Science building, and December 10th & 11th from 9-3pm in the University Center. Poinsettias make a wonderful gift and can brighten up any room so come check it out!

COLLEGE KIDS VS. VAMPIRES

TRANSYLMANIA

HILL & BRAND ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFEWORKS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT A FILM BY DAVID HILLENBRAND AND SCOTT HILLENBRAND "TRANSYLMANIA" PATRICK CAVANAUGH JAMES DeBELLO
TONY DENMAN PAUL HANSEN KIM JENNIFER LYONS OREN SKOOG DAVID J. STEINBERG MUSSETTA VANDER CASTING BY AARON GRIFFITH MUSIC BY DAVID BERREL SUPERVISOR JENN ROSS
COSTUME DESIGNER DAVE O'BRIEN PRODUCTION DESIGNER JACK CLOUD DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY VIOREL SERGOVICI PRODUCED BY SANFORD HAMPTON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ALBERT MINNACI BRIAN FARBER STORY BY PATRICK CASEY WRITTEN BY WORM MILLER & DAVE O'BRIEN
SCREENPLAY BY PATRICK CASEY WORM MILLER PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY DAVID HILLENBRAND AND SCOTT HILLENBRAND FULL CIRCLE
CRUDE AND SEXUAL CONTENT, NUDITY, DRUG USE, LANGUAGE AND SOME VIOLENCE

www.transylmaniamovie.com

STARTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4