



HOCKEY, PAGE 6
Falcons hold winning record since resuming play in January

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Reviewer highlights the best albums of 2009

HAITI, PAGE 8
UWRF plays part in earthquake relief with fundraisers



STUDENT VOICE

February 5, 2010 www.uwrfvoice.com Volume 98, Issue 13

Talent ‘breaks out’ at University



The dance group Break Sk8 showcases its talent at UWRF Jan. 30 after the men’s basketball game. The performers specialize in break dance on rollerskates. For additional pictures, see page three.

Sally King/Student Voice

Dean’s withdrawal requires replacement

Natalie Conrad
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The search for a new Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences is set to begin in late spring as soon as a search committee is put together, according to Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Fernando Delgado. The current Dean of CAS, Terry Brown, has accepted the position of Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UW-Parkside, and will be leaving UW-River Falls in mid-March. Associate Dean Brad Caskey will step in as the Interim Dean as soon as Brown leaves and for the 2010-2011 academic year.

“Brad Caskey will help with the transition,” Delgado said. “He offers good continuity with his experience as filling in for interim dean in the past.”

Caskey stepped in as interim Dean last year when Brown was filling in as Interim Provost. The search committee should be put together by the end of the spring semester, followed by a vacancy announcement posted this summer, according to Delgado. He hopes to start interviews for the position by the end of the fall 2010 semester. The process of filling a position like the Dean usually takes about three to four months, according to Delgado. This process gives the committee time to interview multiple candidates.

“We have a lot of momentum and plenty of time,” Physics department chair Earl Blodgett said. The search committee will consist of 10-12 faculty members from CAS. The College consists of 25 areas

“Brad Caskey will help with the transition. He offers good continuity with his experience...”
Fernando Delgado Provost

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Caskey

University’s mission aided by record numbers in donations

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UW-River Falls took in a record \$2.4 million in donations last year, adding to The Fund for UW-River Falls.

The Fund is an unrestricted fund used to support the mission of the University, which is to help students learn. According to the University Web site, the unrestricted fund allows the UW-River Falls Foundation the flexibility to apply funds immediately to areas of greatest need, including faculty and student research grants, curriculum and technology upgrades, and supporting the admissions program to recruit a diverse group of outstanding students to campus. The Fund also supports the University magazine, Falcon Features, which is sent to alumni and University friends to provide them with current information about the campus and alumni stories.

According to Dan McGinty, Interim President of UW-River Falls Foundation, last year’s donations were attained from a wide variety of sources including the telethon calling programs, direct mail solicitations, electronic solicitations, face-to-face solicitations, estate gifts, private foundations and matching fit companies. The donations primarily come from alumni, former students and friends of the University, faculty, staff, parents, corporations and organizations. With over 37,000 alumni living in the United States, the generous gifts come from far and wide. Despite being in a recession, the \$2.4 million was a record amount of donations.

“One of the main reasons that it was a record year was because we received a million dollar gift from the estate of Willis Miller,” McGinty said. “Sometimes an estate gift can skew your dollars raised in any given year.”

Chancellor Dean Van Galen said he is happy with last year’s gifts.

“It is wonderful that we enjoyed such a strong year in donations to UWRF. A large share of last year’s support was designated for student scholarships, and much of that from the estate gift from Mr. Willis Miller,” he said. “Charitable gifts to the UWRF Foundation from our alumni and friends are deeply appreciated and will play a more significant role in our University’s future.”

McGinty said the donations will be used for scholarships, facility projects, special projects, faculty, staff and student development, undergraduate research, teaching excellence, operational support and to fund where the need is greatest. The UW-River Falls Foundation has been offering students scholarships for over 60 years, according to the Foundation’s Web site. The University was able to offer 630 scholarships with the gifts received in 2008-2009.

The University offers many ways for alumni to stay connected to River Falls and fellow alumni, including a Web site which offers an option to find alumni in one’s area, a Facebook group, magazine, electronic newsletter and the Falcon Action Network (FAN), which is open to anyone committed to advocating for UWRF to Wisconsin’s decision-makers.

The University accepts gifts in the form of cash, credit, monthly electronic fund transfers, securities and stock gifts, memorial and tribute gifts and faculty and staff giving.

Each University in the UW System varies in the total gifts received, as the size of the staff, the number of alumni that are solicited, whether or not the University is in a comprehensive campaign and the timing of when planned gifts are received have an impact on the fundraising results for any given year, according to McGinty.

Departing CAS dean leaves legacy, improvements at UWRF

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After 21 years of service at UW-River Falls, Terry Brown is taking her experience and dedication to her work to the far side—of Wisconsin that is.

Brown, who has been Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences since 2005, will be leaving UWRF on March 5. She will be taking a position at UW-Parkside as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, beginning her work there on March 22.

UW-Parkside is located in Somers, Wisc., between Racine and Kenosha, a short distance south of Milwaukee. The school, founded in 1968 by combining two-year campuses in Racine and Kenosha, is one of the newest universities in the state.

When asked why she decided to make the move, Brown said, Parkside is a new challenge with a diverse student body, but also provides the familiarity of being in the UW

System.

Nearly 30 percent of Parkside’s students are minorities, according to the University’s Web site.

Brown said she is looking forward to working with students who are the first in their family to attend college.

“There are more first generation students at Parkside,” she said. “For many of them, their lives and their families’ lives will change if they succeed.”

Part of helping students complete their education is understanding why some do not complete college, Brown said.

“Something we’ll focus on is how to work with high schools to make sure [to UW-Parkside] prepared,” Brown said.

In a recent press release announcing Brown’s selection to her new post, UW-Parkside Chancellor Deborah Ford said Brown’s accomplishments fit well with UW-Parkside’s goals.

“Dr. Brown’s experience in academic leadership, her portfolio of scholarly accomplishments, and her student-focused approach to higher education make her ideally suited to our campus,” Ford said. “Terry brings a level of experience and success that will help move our campus forward.”

Though she is eager to begin work in her new position, Brown said leaving UWRF will not be easy.

“I will miss River Falls very much,” she said. “I’ll take away a sense of gratitude for all the support and opportunities I received here.”

Brown came to UWRF in 1989 as a graduate from the University of Florida with a fresh Ph.D. in English and little knowledge of the Upper Midwest.

“When I graduated, I didn’t know where I wanted to go,” she said. “All I knew about Minneapolis and



Sally King/Student Voice
Terry Brown has spent 21 years at UWRF and has served as the Dean of College of Arts and Sciences. She plans to take a position at UW-Parkside.

See Brown page 3

UWRF seeks supplemental funds

Kimberly Kuhens
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The UW-River Falls Foundation is launching a capital campaign this spring, the first ever capital campaign in the Foundation’s 59-year existence at UWRF.



McGinty

Dan McGinty, the interim executive director of the university advancement and interim president of the UW-River Falls Foundation, said “The purpose of this campaign is to raise a specific amount of money over a defined period of time that will support a wide array of initiatives that are aligned with the university’s strategic plan.” This campaign will help supplement traditional funding sources,

such as state tax dollars, tuition and grants.

According to McGinty, the Foundation believes now is the time for this campaign. “As state funding decreases and tuition continues to rise, we need to strengthen private support to remain financially secure and competitive with our peer institutions,” said McGinty.

This campaign will benefit the entire campus community, according to McGinty. The campaign will help provide much-needed funds for University priorities that may include scholarships, faculty, staff and student development, globalization, leadership and development. It will also strengthen UWRF and Foundation programs, attract new donors and will help build regional, national and international networks.

UWRF’s Growth Agenda Report states a two percent growth rate over the next ten years. By 2017, the University is expected to provide for a 22 percent increase in students. This means a colossal deficit of space affecting laboratories, classrooms,

offices, parking and residence halls. According to the UWRF Growth Agenda Report, in 2011 there will be 2,709 students needing a dorm room, but there will only be 2,536 rooms available. This leaves 171 students without a room. By 2017 that number will increase to 513 students without a room.

“The purpose of this campaign is to raise a specific amount of money over a defined period of time that will support a wide array of initiatives that are aligned with the university’s strategic plan.”

Dan McGinty,
Director of University Advancement

University of Hartford, Mississippi State University, Ducks Unlimited and Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics.

The first thing to do when launching a capital campaign is to conduct a readiness audit. A readiness audit is when a consultant comes in and looks at an institution’s fundraising programs and sees if they are ready to launch a major capital campaign. They will conduct interviews and evaluate how all the pieces like operations and staffing will work most efficiently together, according to Rachel Hurlbert, the Chief Operating Officer at Bentz Whaley Flessner.

The consultant will also review UWRF’s past and current fundraising, alumni relations and external communication programs, according to McGinty. The anticipated outcome of this audit is to produce recommendations that will improve UWRF’s fundraising program results and work with the advancement office to implement proven philanthropic strategies.

The Foundation has not yet set a fundraising goal amount and still has a few steps to complete before a final campaign goal is decided upon. But, according to McGinty, the works are in motion for a capital campaign that will help improve the campus community for the long run.

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.

January 28

-Paul H. Desmarais, 19, was arrested for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia in Crabtree Hall.

January 29

- Megan K. McNiff, 20, was cited for underage consumption in McMillan Hall.
- William A. Struntz, 19, was cited for underage consumption in McMillan Hall.
- Andrianna L. Dreher, 19, was cited for underage consumption in McMillan Hall.
- Daniel J. Chulla, 19, was cited for underage consumption in McMillan Hall.
- Jill A. DesCamps, 19, was cited for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
- Jennifer L. Pelot, 18, was cited for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
- Matthew J. Warren, 19, was cited for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
- Robert D. Klatt, 18, was cited for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
- Joseph L. Hamblin, 18, was cited for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
- Jack G. Kostreba, 19, was cited for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
- Lauren J. Ganter, 19, was cited for underage consumption - 2nd offense in Crabtree Hall.
- Irwin Sylvah, 18, was cited for underage consumption at 551 S. Spruce St.

January 30

- Joshua D. Skoglund, 19, was cited for underage consumption in Prucha Hall.
- Micah D. Harris, 20, was cited for underage consumption in Prucha Hall.
- Brittany P. Lanners, 20, was cited for underage consumption in Prucha Hall.
- Jacob L. Sandberg, 20, was cited for underage consumption in Prucha Hall.
- Kelsey L. Baldwin, 20, was cited for underage consumption in Prucha Hall.
- Alysson L. Golding, 19, was cited for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
- Chelsie S. Carroll, 20, was cited for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.

Texting ban soon to become law

Kyle Toutloff
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In late January a bill passed the Wisconsin legislature prohibiting motorists from typing on their cell phones or computers while they are behind the wheel of a car in the state of Wisconsin.

The vote was passed overwhelmingly on a bipartisan 89-6 vote, making Wisconsin the 20th state in the United States banning text messaging while driving. In 2008, nearly 6,000 people were killed and a half-million were injured in motor vehicle crashes connected to driver distraction, including texting, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Web site.

“It’s scary to think that so many people have died due to driver distraction,” said fourth-year student Hollie Wills.

There are two different versions of this bill: one which was passed by the Senate in October of 2009, and the more recent version which was passed by the Assembly. The Senate version varies from the Assembly version in a few notable ways in regards to the fine amount for offenses of the law as well as the state of the vehicle the motorist is in.

The original version passed by the Senate would have second offenses to the law maxed at a \$400 fine, as opposed to the Assembly version, which could have potential fines up to \$800. This can create a serious problem for students who often may not be able to afford to pay such high fines upon violation of the law.

“I do think the fines are fairly reasonable considering you can get your license taken away for drunk driving which is pretty similar,” said fourth-year student Jason Hinrichs.

The other notable difference relates to whether the vehicle is turned on or not. Under the Assembly version, motorists would be allowed to text on their phones if their car is stopped. The Senate version of the bill does not allow motorists to be texting on their phones whether the vehicle is stopped or moving.

The Assembly bill also provides an exception for drivers using global positioning devices and text-messaging in cars with new technology using voice recognition equipment.

The Senate bill originally applied to every motorist on the road and was then amended to be for drivers only 18 years old and under. Upon reaching the Senate, the bill was amended again, and the final bill now applies to all drivers regardless of age.

Neither version of the bill restricts motorists from making voice calls while driving.

The differences between the two houses will have to be resolved and must pass another vote on the bill before it can be sent to Gov. Jim Doyle, who supports the ban. If the bill is signed by the governor, it would take action seven months from the signing.

Texting while driving became a petty misdemeanor in the state of Minnesota on August 1, 2008, after Gov. Tim Pawlenty signed it into law. The terms of that law only ban text messaging, not use of phones for voice calls or the use of GPS.

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<div>WRFW's Spring 2010</div> <div></div> <div>Broadcasting Schedule</div>		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2-6 a.m.	BBC	BBC	BBC	BBC	BBC	BBC	BBC
	6 a.m.-1 p.m.	WPR	WPR	WPR	WPR	WPR	WPR	WPR
	1-3 p.m.	Ben Lee Jonathan Hedeem	Aaron Bergman	Jason Kenison	Pat Lynch	~empty~	~empty~	~empty~
	3-5 p.m.	Erik Altmann	Brian Wegner	Cory Heaton	Nick Niewinski James Scott	Steven Linzmeier Adam Vircks	Amanda Leeman	~empty~
	5-6 p.m.	Erik Altmann	Jaime Babb Music Show	Video Game Show	ACT on AG	Let's Talk	Amy Graham Kirby Tebeje	~empty~
	6-8 p.m.	Wes Campbell	Laura Krawczyk Katie Heaton	Music Show Jon Lyksett Pat Lynch Pat Bakker	Adam Lee	Chris Schad	Falcon Hockey (Starts at 7 p.m.)	Jon Stefonek
	8-10 p.m.	Ashley Goettl Nathan Riley	Matt Torkelson Kevin Duzynski	Natalie Conrad	Jon Lyksett Cory Heaton	Sara Helm	Falcon Hockey (Ends at 9 p.m.)	~empty~
	10 p.m.-Midnight	Natalie Conrad	Ken Weigend Grady Stehr	Joe Kelly Jared Fritz	Cyrus Kozub	Nathan King Will Larson	Ali Al-Hanooti	~empty~
	Midnight-2 a.m.	~empty~	Kyle McGinn	Andrew Hagemann Erik Gates	Kim Tri	~empty~	~empty~	~empty~

Break dance team performs on MTV, visits UWRF



Sally King/Student Voice
The dance group Break Sk8 performed after the UWRF basketball game Jan. 30. The group was featured on MTV's "America's Best Dance Crew," as well as NBC's "America's Got Talent."



Sally King/Student Voice
Break Sk8 was formed in Kokomo, Indiana in late 2000. It features six dancers on rollerskates. The group travels across the country to perform at high schools and NCAA, NBA and WNBA basketball games. Break Sk8 also has participated in a number of competitions throughout the country. It also went on a nationwide-tour with MTV.

Brown: CAS dean to take provost and vice chancellor position at UW-Parkside

from page 1

St. Paul was what I'd learned from watching 'Mary Tyler Moore' and listening to Garrison Keillor."

Prior to her time at the University of Florida, Brown had attended high school and college in Virginia.

During her tenure at UWRF, Brown said she has seen the campus come together and form a sense of pride.

"The biggest change I've seen on this campus is the feeling of pride in what we do that was not as predominant when I came," she said. "Some of it is the [University Center]. It's a pretty stupendous building. It's our

public square and that has helped form a sense of community."

Brown said UWRF has made itself a more prominent fixture in the area in recent years.

"We do a better job of sharing our accomplishments with the world," she said.

Brad Caskey, now Associate Dean of CAS, will take over as interim dean when Brown departs.

Caskey, a former psychology pro-

fessor, said Brown was the one who got him into administration.

"If you'd have asked me 10 years ago about entering administration, I would have never thought of it," he said. "[Brown] actually asked me about it when she became dean."

Since becoming dean, Brown has been instrumental in spreading UWRF's reach internationally.

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, or TESOL, is a new and very successful masters program that has relied heavily on Brown's work, Caskey said.

When talking of her leaving, Caskey said he will miss Brown's open-minded and honest approach to her work.

Physics Professor Jim Madsen has worked closely with Brown for five years and said he shares Caskey's sentiment.

"One way to gauge someone is how you feel when they tell you something you don't like," Madsen said. "She could listen to my viewpoints and tell me 'no' without me

feeling alienated."

Although she has had to veto some proposals, Brown helped establish a maintenance fund to pay for science equipment that otherwise would be paid for on a case-by-case basis and sometimes pushed aside altogether, Madsen said.

In all, Madsen said Brown has and will continue to succeed in her endeavors because of her hard work and honesty.

According to Madsen, "she brings a real genuine approach about what college is and about the opportunities it can provide."

"She brings a real genuine approach about what college is and about the opportunities it can provide..."
Jim Madsen
Physics professor

CAS: Committee will search for replacement to fill dean position

from page 1

of study from Art to Women's Studies, according to the UWRF Web site. It is important that the search committee consists of well-informed and conscientious faculty from a wide range of areas and backgrounds to decide who is qualified to take this position, according to Delgado. Once the search has begun, members of the committee are not allowed to discuss what is going on until the position is filled, according to Blodgett.

"We will work together to assure a deep, diverse and highly qualified pool of applicants to ensure that the college continues to have strong and visionary leadership," Delgado said.

There are several other searches underway for other positions on campus. The Dean of the College of Education and Profession-


al Studies, Faye Perkins, will be leaving after this spring semester, and a search committee has been working on finding her replacement. There are also searches going on to replace Associate Vice-Chancellor of Business and Finances Doug Johnson and Chief Diversity Officer Craig Morris.

There were at least six interim positions last year, and it is common

that people don't hold the same position for 25 years or so like they used to, according to Caskey.

"Dean Brown has been a vital member of this campus for two decades, and she has made significant contributions to our students, her home department, the College of Arts and Sciences and the University," Delgado said. "Succinctly put, she will be missed, and we wish her all the best."

"Dean Brown has been a vital member of this campus for two decades, and she has made significant contributions."
Fernando Delgado
Provost



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EDITORIAL

Charity should not be status symbol

After the tragedy in Haiti, America has been hurled into the most charitable state of mind it’s been in since September 11, 2001. However, this circumstance differentiates itself from that terrible day in 2001 and other national tragedies - like Hurricane Katrina - because it grounds itself beyond American borders.

UW-River Falls has proven itself generous with its numerous charitable efforts. There have been fundraisers, sales and drives put on by all ten residence halls, multiple organizations and the University in general. The funds and goods raised say a lot about how giving UWRF is when the nation is looking for help. Over the past week, the University raised over \$1,000 in just a single drive. The residence hall collection efforts will add several hundred more dollars. The efforts at UWRF are obviously commendable.

The Student Voice Editorial Board feels, however, as needs in Haiti lessen, it is important for students to remember to continue their charity hot-streak, and begin donating their time, goods and money to issues and organizations devoted to problems here, in the United States. The tragedy in Haiti should be the awakening US citizens need to realize all that needs help in this country. With the number of domestic issues that need various donations, there is hardly any excuse to avoid continuing charitable gestures.

The sad truth is that too many Americans are donating to the Haiti Relief Fund because it is the current philanthropic bandwagon - giving money and time not because they truly care but because it can be used as a false badge of humanitarianism to loudly brandish to neighbors. As the need for charity lessens in Haiti, students are going to be faced with the desire to donate out of the goodness of their hearts, not because a slew of celebrities convinced them to or because Michelle Obama told them it was their duty as American citizens.

The new year brings with it plenty of New Year’s Resolutions, most of which will never be kept. But perhaps this new decade is the time to make a clear and definitive resolve, one of selfless and independent charitable sacrifice.

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

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

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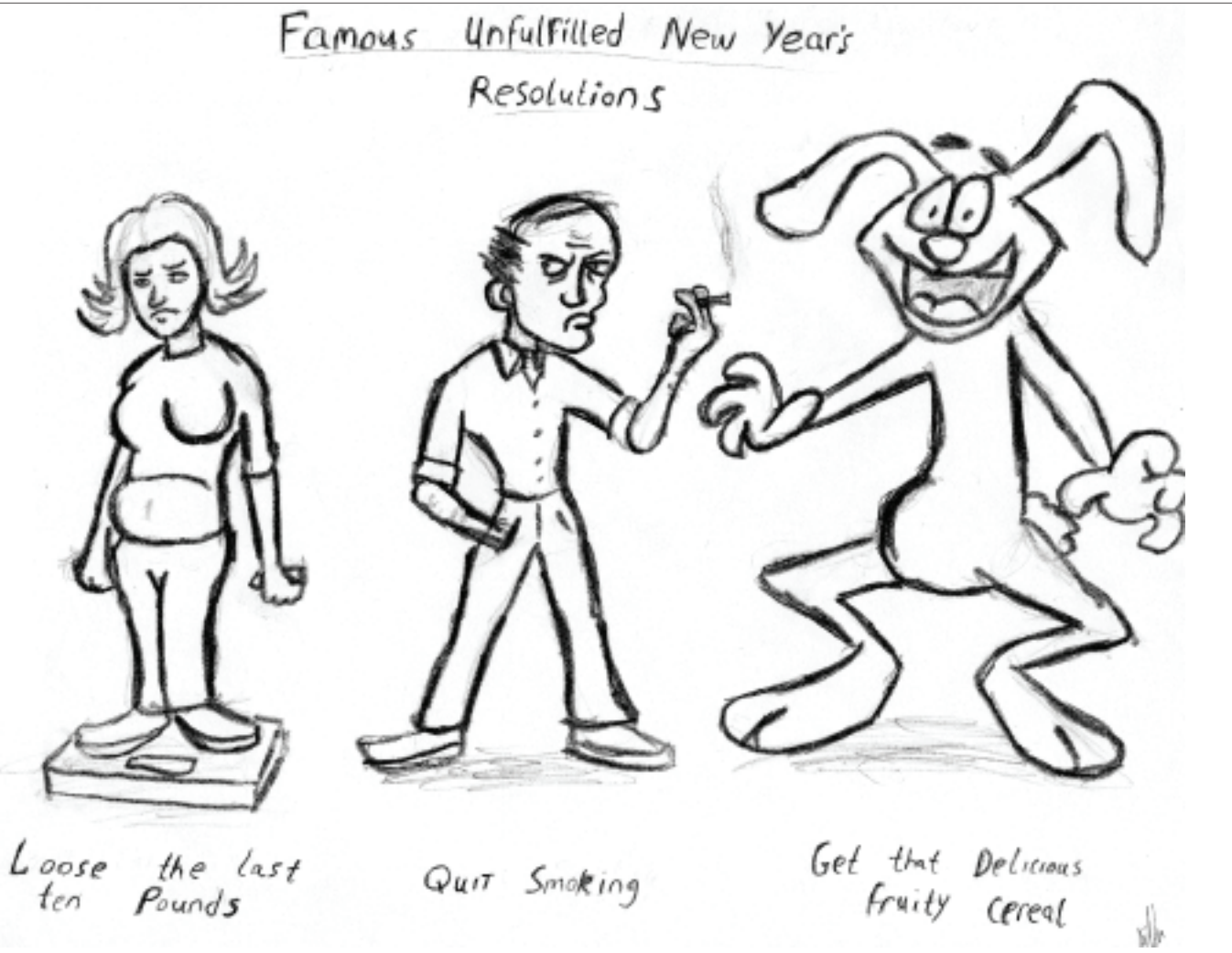
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All editorial content in the *Student Voice* is determined by the newspaper’s Editorial Board. The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of the newspaper’s advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.

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@uwrvoice.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.



As run in Central St. Croix News
By Jon Lyksett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students have ability to fight rising tuition costs

The number one issue students at UW Schools and across the nation have today is the inability to pay their own tuition. As the amount students pay for their education increases, the State of Wisconsin’s contributions to higher education continue to decrease. The systematic, historical, and on-going reasons for this change in our state and society cannot be explained quickly or easily.

Over recent decades, tuition has increased exponentially with no signs of changing. Between 1990 and 2009, tuition in the University of Wisconsin System has gone up about 400%. At this rate, in less than 20 years from now, each student at UW-Milwaukee will be paying about \$30,000 a year in tuition. And students at the smaller two-year UW Colleges will be paying roughly \$17,000 a year for their education.

Instead of admitting defeat and dropping out, the best way to stop exponential tuition increases is to act quickly and frequently. Two immediate lessons can be gathered from the reaction to the University of California System’s 30% tuition increase. First, state legislatures and university system boards can increase tuition to a remarkably high point in one session. And second, after thousands of students walked out and protested at their Universities and Regents’ meetings, it shows how unlikely protesting these actions after they happen will reverse them.

Would it be rational to do nothing in preventing such an increase in the University of Wisconsin’s tuition and then act in shock if or when it happens? The only way we can reverse the trend of exponential tuition increases in our state is for everyone to take action before it becomes an even larger issue.

There have been several individuals and groups who have been involved in freezing tuition in the past. United Council has addressed tuition increases for decades and can take credit for the somewhat low tuition increase this year (5.5%),

but cannot stop the growing rate by themselves. Various student government leaders have also addressed the issue of tuition with little success on their own.

The solution is simple. The Wisconsin State Legislature must fund the public higher education system of Wisconsin to bring tuition to a plateau and start lowering the amount students pay for their degrees in the State of Wisconsin. The State Legislature sets the budget for the UW System, which then goes to the Board of Regents to implement in all University of Wisconsin schools. After this process, students make up the lack of funding with increasing tuition dollars.

Student leaders across the state, and specifically at UW-Milwaukee, are leading a campaign with a simple goal: \$100 a class. The goal cannot be reached overnight or within a year or two. We will need not only new state funding, but also an increase in accessibility to the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant (WHEG) and more federal funding with the leadership of our local elected officials.

We are asking for all students in the University of Wisconsin System to join us in making each class \$100. Go to www.100aclass.org. Go to your student government heads and tell them to take action on this issue. Contact your local Assemblyperson or State Senator to bring the issue of rising tuition to their attention and ask them to begin lowering the financial burden students carry.

Finally, take action on your own. As an individual or in an organization, bring attention to this issue by any means. Ideas for actions, from protests to petitions and phone calls to emails, are on the website www.100aclass.org. The more action taken on this issue, the better. The more people that are involved, the better. We will be having a student lobbying day in Madison outside the capitol building on Thursday April 15. Join us in the statewide effort to lower tuition.

In order for tuition to begin to decrease, everyone needs to do something about it. What do you have to lose?

Jay Burseth,
President of UW-Milwaukee
Student Association

Columnist offers Valentine’s dating insight

River Falls, I hope it feels good to be back in school. Last semester I know there were many of you who were avid readers of the fashion column and I indeed loved the questions and positive feedback I received. This semester, however, this column will no longer be writing about fashion and fashion accessories. This semester’s focus will be on relationships (partner, parents, friends, relatives) and relationship advice. Each week I will be answering questions, which you can submit via email



Priya Kailash

to priyanka.kailash@uwr.edu or shoot me a text (952 334 4461) -- of course, you can stay anonymous if you wish.

Similar to last semester’s fashion column, I will address something male oriented one week and female oriented the next. This week, as Valentine’s Day is on the horizon, I am well aware of the men on this campus who are eagerly looking forward to ask their dream girl out on a date. However, the fear of rejection is what keeps most men at bay. Men at this school, it’s time to get over this fear! The following steps will highlight important information men can follow to guarantee a “yes” from their girl. Since there are diverse arrays of scenarios out there, I am only going to address a common scenario (if you would like help on your specific scenario, text or email).

If you’re a guy that has had a secret crush on a girl who you encountered in class or other group settings, the following information is for you! So you want to ask this beautiful, amazing girl out on a date, don’t you? Well, don’t! I recommend the “pre-date” first. To ask a girl out on a pre-date, just bring it up in casual conversation and ask her if she wants to hang out sometime, just very casually and confidently.

A pre-date is something I recommend to men before the

actual date because it can be very helpful in a number of ways.

First, it can be helpful in seeing whether this special person is actually someone you want to date. People can sometimes turn out to be quite different from what you might have observed in social gatherings. Second, a pre-date can allow for a more relaxed, chill atmosphere so a couple can actually get to know each other before the actual date.

Third, if a pre-date goes really well, you have many things you can talk about on your actual date referencing back to your pre-date which makes conversing with the person a lot easier. Fourth, you have a great opportunity to make a very good impression on the girl. So, make sure to clean and air out your room, put some effort into your look -- shower, hair, and wear a nice layered polo or a light colored button up with dark washed-jeans.

Women enjoy when men put in effort because it makes them feel special and important. So the pre-date goes really well, you guys talked the whole time, had a good time --now what?

Well don’t kiss her!

Keep the anticipation building. Instead, take her hand, kiss the back of her hand, look into her eyes, and ask her out on a date. This romantic gesture is one that women can not resist because you have just showed her that you put in effort into your room and onto yourself, you have not advanced on her physically, but instead have only been a gentleman in so many ways.

Men try this pre-date concept out and send me your questions and concerns. Make sure to also check out this and other articles on the website (uwrvoice.com). Good luck men.

Priya Kailash is double majoring in biology and psychology with a minor in business. She enjoys consuming large amounts of apple sauce, as well as wearing four-inch heels.

Start of classes brings the ‘silent bell effect’

There are five minutes left in class, and the instructor is trying to wrap up his final points of whatever topic is at hand. Suddenly, before the professor can even say anything or excuse anyone to go, half the class is already “stand-sitting” from their chairs. What the hell happened from point A to point B? Anyone who has ever sat in a classroom, from middle school all the way up until college level knows what the “silent bell effect” is.

If, however, for some reason, you’re a little out of the loop, let me help explain. Basically, it’s a chain reaction of students falling out of attention with their instructor. While professor monotone is giving his wrap up on his lecture, some inconsiderate gentleman or lady decides to call it quits and starts messing with papers on their desk, and shoving crap in their backpack. This then triggers the people all around to do the same, and within ten seconds it seems the whole classroom is packed up and half way out the door. I call it the “silent bell effect” because it’s amazing how it all happens simultaneously as if a bell goes off in the classroom telling students “get out, get out now!” Now, as a student who has had a professor or two that is rather hard to listen to, I can empathize with desiring to get up and out of the classroom. However, I empathize even more so with a professor feeling disrespected because people are so

Seriously, we pay how much to go to school here, and we can’t sit through the last few minutes of our classes? Worried you might miss SportsCenter?

damn inconsiderate, they can’t give you the full time to finish up the lecture you prepared for class. Hypothetically, if I ever ended up being a professor, I would kind of flip out about the “silent bell effect.” I’d be tempted to have an air horn in my bag and every time people start packing up...”BLAM!” That’s the air horn going off, not me throwing a book at the student. Seriously, we pay how much to go to school here, and we can’t sit through the last few minutes of our classes? Worries you might miss Sportscenter? I’m not up on my high horse though, because I was apart of the phenomenon all through middle and high school. It wasn’t until a certain profes-

sor pointed out how incredibly distracting students packing up was, and not to mention, a slap in the face while they’re trying to teach. Ever since, just being around people that have their whole upper body plunged inside their backpack and things while the professor is trying to finish up annoys the hell out of me. Now, as for almost anything, there are at least two sides to the issue. Take this example. If the president of the United States gave his State of the Union address off of Power Point, pretty much everyone that heard/saw the address would be like “what the hell was that?” Sometimes, I believe the professor is to blame for putting students into a comatose state. No offense to those few professors out there, but why go through so much schooling, money, and time in your own lives, and then come to class, and act absolutely miserable. Do you think that puts us, the students, into a state of mind in which we’re psyched to learn about some new ma-

To be honest, arrogant, careless, and miserable professors/teachers are the architects of the “silent bell effect.”

terial? Personally, I come to class in hopes that my teacher will elaborate on what he/she has in Power Point and provide relevant examples that make sense. To be honest, arrogant, careless, and miserable professors/teachers are the architects of the “silent bell effect.” On the other hand, students often times don’t do their part. There was a wonderful column written last semester by Ms. Kirsten Blake about how students are drones in some classes. It can be really pathetic sitting in class when a professor is asking a rather simple question, and though many people know the answer and even mutter it under their breath, everyone just sits quietly, staring at one spot on the ground or ceiling. These are often times the same students that are packing up in the middle of lecture, because God forbid, they should have to stay the whole class time. In the end, I guess, we’re all to blame for this spectacle known only as the “silent bell effect.” Next time you’re sitting in class, watch for it.

Matt is a marketing communications major in his senior year. He enjoys listening to The Beatles, and playing piano whenever he has some free time.

UW-River Falls needs an underground music scene

For as long as I’ve been here, I haven’t seen a single inch of an underground music scene. This surprises me a little. River Falls is a college town. Where is the college town spunk? The college town swagger? The college town music? I mean, we can’t strive to to match the workings of Dinkytown’s musically independent animal kingdom, but we should be able to fill the Corner every weekend! Instead we’re resorting to karaoke at every bar, every night to supplement the lack of truly unique music.

Why can’t we be an exporter of great indie bands! A diamond of modern creativity on the edge of the metropolitan grid.

We’re a creative bunch, aren’t we? Our art and music departments are alive and kicking; and yet the biggest thing to come out of River Falls is still that gymnast. For “Music in the Park” why should we have to import bands from the Cities? Why can’t we be more than a consumer of semi-local lyrics, a place visited on the edge of the map? Why can’t we be an exporter of great indie bands! A diamond of modern creativity on the edge of the metropolitan grid. I’m saying we can be! One may argue that we’re a commuter campus. Students come here for class and then leave. But as far as I can tell if you can drive, you are equally capable of starting music groups. Or, if not, being very enthusiastic fans. Make a real commitment to your college here, people! Start a band that others can respect, that represents what makes us tick, a harmonization of what we wish we could say in the words we can’t find. The older generation of River Falls has it more together artistically than we do! I mean, they hold art festivals during the summer, and play concerts in black jeans and tucked in long johns. We can beat these guys! Look, if Brickhouse Music is the pinnacle of our underground prowess, we have some

serious issues. Their studio is laughable, if you can even find it amidst the junk they pile in that basement. I mean, they sell Hello Kitty guitars for Christ sake. I can’t blame them, really. They’re operating in a town whose most musically active demographic is still struggling through the pains of puberty. We don’t have to start big, people. Let’s all just promise to put down the wafer thin guitars of the Hero and make an effort to learn a real instrument, start a real rock band. Get out of your dorm rooms and onto a stage! If you suck, I still want to hear you. It’ll at least give us something to build on. Give us a foundation in order to form a more perfect union of college life and local music. And if there are indie bands out there, hiding in the dark and damp basements of residence halls, or frat houses, I’m telling you it is safe to come out! You are the parents of the cultural renaissance this college town so badly needs. I’ve witnessed support for local music in this community! I saw it when Cloud Cult played on campus. I see it when Saving One comes to town. Now it’s time for us to have our own groups, our own sound.

Get out of your dorm rooms and onto a stage! If you suck I still want to hear you.

It’s time for our own revolution. I don’t even care what genre your music is. Play whatever you want, just make sure it’s yours. We want to hear you. There’s no competing with the behemoth of U of M’s indie scene, they’ve had a long, solid head start. I just want to hear the beating heart of River Falls on drums played by a kid I sit next to in class tomorrow. Let’s shake off the shadow of Uptown, slide from under the weight of Dinkytown and start something closer to home. Let’s tell the world that UW- River Falls is here, we have words, we have sound and it’s nobody else’s but our own. Kol Tuv.

“Chaia means life; and she tries to live it to the fullest. Writing is what she loves. Spanish, Hebrew, Portuguese and English are the word she uses. Tel Aviv is where she is inspired.”

Minnesota fans hope to see Brett Favre return in 2010

Less than one week after the Minnesota Vikings lost to the New Orleans Saints in the NFC Championship game, the talks have already resumed on whether the 40 year old legendary quarterback Brett Favre will return for one more shot at the Superbowl. As many of us have seen time and time again, Favre has a history of changing his mind, leading the media and the fans

I have to admit, as a life-long Vikings fan, I was a little uncertain on how we could change former Public Enemy Number 1 into a Purple Savior.

into a scurry that follows his every move. But this year, after being labeled a traitor by the green and gold and a tragic hero for the purple faithful, the fate of the Vikings 2010-2011 season may rest in his right arm. When Favre signed with the Vikings back in August, there was a realm of uncertainty- how would his 40

When Favre signed with the Vikings back in August, there was a realm of uncertainty...would he be the missing piece to the Viking’s playoff puzzle?

year old body hold up, was his shoulder completely healed, and most of all, would he be the missing piece to the Vikings playoffs puzzle?. I have to admit, as a life-long Vikings fan, I was a little uncertain on how we could change former Public Enemy Number 1 into a Purple Savior. But my doubt was soon erased as the Vikings started off 6-0 and eventually made it all the way to the NFC Championship game in large part due to number 4.



Ashley Goettl

Statistically Favre had the best season of his 19-year career, setting records for quarterback rating (107.2), completion percentage (68.4), and interception percentage (1.3). He also passed for 4,202 yards, 33 touchdowns, and a career low 7 interceptions. But with almost all of the Vikings starters returning next season, there could be little doubt that Favre could take them one step closer. His impact on the Vikings was nothing short of admirable. Watching him make passes that were thought to

Favre accomplished what most Packer fans feared and what all Viking fans dreamed, defying the odds and making history.

be impossible in games like against San Francisco, or the emotional impact of defeating the Packers at Lambeau will be tough to exceed if he should return. But watching the 40 year old play like a little kid brought back the true reason why we watch or play football: to have fun and to make memories. I sure won’t forget the magic of this season, even pushing aside the heart-wrenching loss to the Saints. Favre accomplished what most Packers fans feared and what all Viking fans dreamed, defying the odds and making history. Give a few weeks or so, and watch once again how the tragic hero and football’s iron man will forever change the football landscape. No matter what he decides, the journey has been worth the while, but don’t be surprised if Favre returns to the team and the game that he loves so dearly.

Ashley is a freshman double major in digital film and television and political science. She is also a member of the UWRF softball team, WRFW radio, Forensics, College Republicans and Student Senate

STUDENT VOICES

Do you intend to watch the Super Bowl, and why?

Veronica Sanchez, senior

“Yes, just because everybody’s going to the U.C. and there’s kind of a party there.”



Trevor Daly, junior

“No, I have a hockey game. If the Vikings were in it, then yes.”



Kylie Redd, sophomore

“Yes, just because of the commercials. I don’t care about the football part.”



Ge Vang, sophomore

“Yes, because it’s the biggest game of the year.”



Falcons fall to Oshkosh



Sally King/Student Voice
Jake Voeltz shoots a jumper over an Oshkosh defender in a losing effort. UW-Oshkosh edged the Falcons out 71-69 at the Karges Center Jan. 30.

Spring athletes prepare for upcoming seasons

Blaze Fugina
blaze.fugina@uwrf.edu

Even in the middle of winter, the spring season of varsity sports at UW-River Falls is only months away for outdoor track and softball teams.

Both teams are coming off seasons that held mixed results, with average finishes in the standings.

After winning the Div. III National Championship in outdoor track in the 2007-08 season, the women finished fifth in the WIAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships last year with 78 team points. This put them in the middle of the conference, with nine teams competing in the championship. The men finished eighth with a total of 38 team points, according to the WIAC Web site.

The interim coach, Keven Syverson said he does think the team women’s team could improve, but does not expect them to repeat as champions.

“While we are not ready to compete for a title this year, we do have some outstanding athletes on the women’s side,” he said. “I would think our women’s team can be in the top four at the conference meet.”

Syverson said he thinks that the sprinters, hurdlers and jumpers could be among the top performers in the spring, judging by their indoor performances.

The men’s team also looks toward improvement this year after a below-average finish in the WIAC Championships last season.

With the men’s team returning all of its athletes, Syverson looks for the team to better itself from

the previous year.

“Our men’s team returns everyone from last year, and I would like to see us crack into [the] top six at the conference meet in May,” he said. “Our men’s team has gotten better every year, and we will start to see it paying off at the conference meet very soon.”

The team has some very “solid” athletes in jumping, distance running and sprinting that will help the team, Syverson said.

Both of these teams will compete at the Knowles Center on Feb. 12 as part of the Brooks Classic, a meet hosted as part of the indoor track season.

“This will give students and faculty and staff an opportunity to see our team close up and also see some very good track and field athletes,” Syverson said.

The athletes agree that indoor track is like a warm-up for the outdoor season.

“The indoor season prepares athletes for outdoor by giving [us] a longer training period to prepare for outdoor events,” said senior distance runner Chad Ernst. “It also provides them with more competitions in which they can compete and critique their skills.”

Both men and women’s track will begin the outdoor season on April 9 at the Falcon Invite, which is held at Ramer Field.

The UWRF softball team had a season that included high points as well as low points. The

softball team finished 27-16 in the regular season despite only going 8-8 in conference play. This was all changed, however, when in the WIAC tournament the team defeated two nationally ranked teams, including the WIAC regular season champions, UW-Whitewater.

This season, the Falcons look to build on their successes in the postseason. Interim Head Coach Jody Gabriel is setting the standard high for her players.

“Our team goal is to win the WIAC regular season title and the WIAC tournament”

she said. “We have high expectations, and we see ourselves competing in the NCAA postseason tournament.”

The team is young, with only one senior on the roster, and nine of the team’s 17 players will be freshman who are new to collegiate softball. Gabriel does not see the team’s experience as a hindrance to the upcoming season.

“We lost three starters from last year’s team but we have added many talented athletes [who are] ready to fill those roles,” she said. “Most of these athletes are very versatile and have competed at top levels throughout their high school years.”

The softball team will start their season on March 14 in Kissimmee, Florida, as part of the Rebel Spring games.

Men’s basketball and hockey struggle while women feel right at home



Derek Johnson

Winter sports for the Falcons are heading into the home stretch of the regular season. The teams are starting to smell the postseason tournaments. It’s the fun time in the year for the fans as well for the athletes. Each game gets a little bit bigger as the season moves along and each win is critical for home-field advantage for the tournament. For two teams though, men’s basketball and men’s hockey, haven’t had that home sweet

home feeling all at this season.

The men’s basketball team is having a down year, but a part of that reason is struggling at home. The team has posted a 2-6 record at home overall and a 6-5 record on the road overall, along with a 0-1 record at a neutral site. The Falcons are currently sitting in last place in the WIAC Conference and part of that has to do with the 0-5 record in conference play at home.

The men’s hockey team is having an up and down year. The Falcons are a team that looks like an NCHA title contender one night and a bottom-feeder team the next night. Part of the reason has to do with the home struggles and the road dominance. The team is posting a 5-7-0 record at home overall and a 7-0-2 record on the road. The team currently holds the fourth seed in the NCHA tournament with four games left to play. The fourth seed would give them home-ice advantage in the first round in the NCHA Peter’s Cup Tournament. If the team doesn’t figure out away to embrace that home-ice advantage, this team could very well be looking at a first round exit in the tournament.

While the men’s basketball and hockey teams have struggled at home, the Falcon women’s teams have enjoyed the home-cooking. The women’s basketball team is posting an 8-2 record at home overall and 5-2 record on the road overall, along with a 2-0 record at a neutral site. This women’s team has struggled as of late, and will go on the road for four of their last five games. If this team wants any momentum heading into the WIAC tournament, the team with have to gain it through playing on the road. The team is currently third in the WIAC standings.

The women’s hockey team also has had a lot of success at home this season. The team has posted a 7-1-3 record at home overall and a 4-2-1 record on the road. The team is currently third in the NCHA standings with seven games remaining in the regular season. The team has been picking up momentum these last few weeks winning four out of their last five games; the game they didn’t win was a tie. The team will try to extend their five-game unbeaten streak at home this weekend while hosting Concordia, WI.

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

Weekly sports wrap

Men’s basketball

The Falcons lost to UW-Superior, 87-72, on Jan. 27. Wade Guerin had 23 points and four rebounds to lead UWRF. Jontae Koonkaew and Storm Harmon finished with 11 and 10, respectively. Koonkaew also grabbed the most boards, with eight total. On Jan. 30, the Falcons lost a close game to UW-Oshkosh, 71-69. Guerin had 21 points and 13 rebounds to lead all scorers and rebounders. Brady Hannigan chipped in 16 points before fouling out, and Spencer Shelman had 11 points on the night as well. Guerin was named the WIAC Player of the Week after leading the Falcons in both their WIAC games last week. In the two games, Guerin was 18-29 (.620) from the field and 4-10 (.400) from behind the arc. He scored a total of 44 points, ripped down 17 rebounds and had five assists in his 74 minutes played. On Feb. 2, the Falcons played host to UW-Eau Claire. The Bugolds managed to take the victory, 76-71. Guerin had 13 points and 10 rebounds. Koonkaew finished with 14 points, and Jake Voeltz chipped in 24 points, as well. The men will play host to UW-Whitewater on Saturday, tipping off at 7 p.m.

Women’s basketball

On Jan. 27, the Falcons lost in an upset to UW-Superior, 55-54 at the Karges Center. Tiffany Gregorich led the Falcons with 21 points and six rebounds. She also had three steals on the night. Taylor House contributed seven points and four rebounds, and Brittany Gregorich finished with nine rebounds, leading all players. Gregorich led the Falcons again with 18 points, two steals and seven rebounds when UWRF took on UW-Oshkosh on Jan. 30. Kelli Hilt added 11 points, and Brittany Gregorich finished the night with 10 points of her own. The women traveled to UW-Eau Claire on Feb. 2 to take on the Bugolds. After a career night from Tiffany Gregorich (30 points, six three pointers), the Falcons went on to beat UWEC, 83-62. The Warhawks of UW-Whitewater travel to the Karges Center on Saturday to take on the Falcons at 5 p.m.

Women’s hockey

The Falcons beat UW-Stevens Point, 3-1, on Jan. 29. Katie Flanagan scored twice and Goalie Cassi Campbell picked up the win, making 27 saves. On Jan. 30, the second day of the series, the Falcons and Pointers tied in overtime, 1-1. Flanagan scored a short-handed goal after the assist from Jessica Thompson. Goalie Melissa Deardorff stopped 18 shots. Flanagan was named NCHA Player of the Week after scoring three of the four NCHA points in the weekend series at UWSP. Flanagan has 10 points and eight goals so far this year, including one power-play goal, one short-handed goal and one game-winner in 17 total games. The Falcons have a series against Concordia, starting on Friday at 7:05 p.m. On Saturday, the game will begin at 2:05 p.m.

Men’s hockey

On Jan. 29, the Falcons lost to St. Scholastica, 6-0. Bo Storozuk started in goal and ended up taking the loss with 23 saves. Eric Babcock played the final period, making four saves. The next day, Jan. 30, the Falcons beat UW-Superior, 3-2. The goals were scored by Jason Yuel, Caleb Wolfram and Tyler Czuba. Storozuk recorded 32 saves. The Falcons travel to Menomonie, Wisc., to take on UW-Stout Friday at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, UWRF will play host to UW-Eau Claire at 7:05 p.m.

Track & field

Men and women’s teams participated in the St. Olaf Invitational on Jan. 29. Kyle Staff placed third in the 55-meter hurdles, and Greg Klingelutz and Wade Schlichting finished second and third, respectively, in the 55-meter dash. In the 200-meter dash, Falcon athletes finished in the top four spots, James Butler took first; he also finished first in the first 55-meter hurdles. Lucas Mueller took first in the 400, and Dan Rodewald placed second. Sophie Lasko finished second in the 55-meter dash and second in the 200. Carly Eggert placed third in the mile, and Natasha Arnold finished the 400 in under a minute, placing first. The men and women will head to Stevens Point on Saturday to participate in the Stevens Point Invitational, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Classifieds

Seasonal Tanning Consultants, Part-time. Must be 18 to apply and available on weekends. Shifts vary. Applications at: Touch of Sun Tanning Salon, 2123 Coulee Road, Hudson. 715-377-7737.

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FRIDAY

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Thriller leaves reviewer feeling hopeless

Considering its premise, director Martin Campbell’s revenge thriller “Edge of Darkness” should have been a satisfying experience. Revenge is a common cinematic theme, primarily because it is so fundamentally enjoyable to watch the bad guy get his bloody comeuppance at the hands of a wrathful hero. “Edge of Dark-ness,” has everything a great revenge flick needs - a slain daughter, a locked and loaded father and an army of goons that need to be taught a lesson - and yet the final product left me feeling strangely unsatisfied. Based off a BBC mini-series with the same title, “Edge of Darkness” follows Bostonian police detective Thomas Craven (Mel Gibson) as he hunts the men responsible for gunning down his only daughter. However, after a mysterious benefactor appears on his back lawn, Craven finds himself at the center of a massive government conspiracy. It quickly becomes apparent that “Edge of Darkness” is not the senseless “shoot ‘em up” that the previews led us to believe. Beneath the surface



Michael Brun

of Craven’s quest for revenge lies a sharp political thriller. Delving into the cloak-and-dagger world of the CIA, the challenging plot will keep you engaged until the very end. Penned in part by “The Departed” scribe William Monahan, “Dark-ness” shares much in common with that film’s penchant for twists and turns. At the core of the film is star Mel Gibson’s impassioned performance. In a lot of ways, “Edge of Darkness” was a safe choice for Gib-son. This is his first leading gig since his drunk driving arrest in 2006, has allowed him to once again play the part of the vengeful father - a role he nearly perfected in such films as “Ransom” and “The Patriot.” His performance is a return to classic Gibson form, serving as a reminder of why he became such an iconic star in the first place. Sharing the spotlight with Gibson is veteran British actor Ray Winstone. As a shadowy government agent, it’s his job to keep Craven from discover- ing the full truth behind his daughter’s murder. Winstone’s performance is

a balancing act between ruthlessness and compassion. He is an unpredict- able force, sure to keep you enthralled whenever he appears on the screen. With so many positive things going for it, you’re probably wondering why “Edge of Darkness” left me feeling so unsatisfied. It’s not because of any faults in the film’s plot; on the contrary, it is a testament to how effectively its message is conveyed. Although Craven’s grief serves as the film’s driving force, its plot speaks to a larger theme of government corruption. By including concepts like false flag operations and the military industrial complex, “Edge of Darkness” paints a depressing picture of a degraded world - one controlled from behind closed doors by a cabal of rich and rotten men. As Ray Winstone’s character puts it, America is a country of people who deserve better. Our system has failed us, and our leaders no longer work in our best inter- est. This is why the conclusion to “Edge of Darkness” is so unsatisfying. We are all victims in this cruel game - but, un- like Craven, we don’t get our revenge at the end.

Michael Brun is a journalism major with a minor in film studies. Although he is a self-professed gorehound, he can also be emotional - he cried like a child at the end of Terminator 2.



Ledger’s last film lacks coherent storyline

“The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnas- sus,” best known for featuring Heath Ledger’s last appearance on the big screen, is a visually-stunning, wacky, whimsical journey that can be fun, but ultimately has no point. The film follows the ancient Doctor Parnas- sus (Christopher Plummer) and his traveling troupe of carnival actors as they travel about entertaining - for a purpose that is not entirely known to most of the characters and viewers for much of the film. The visuals are as random as the plot. The first glimpse of Heath Ledger hanging by a rope underneath a bridge is perhaps the most chilling moment of the film. Ledger’s character Tony is quite possibly the most realistic and understandable character in this CGI nightmare. I can only hope the film would have been better, had Ledger been able to finish the film. Although with Jude Law, Colin Farrell, and Johnny Depp filling the gaps that

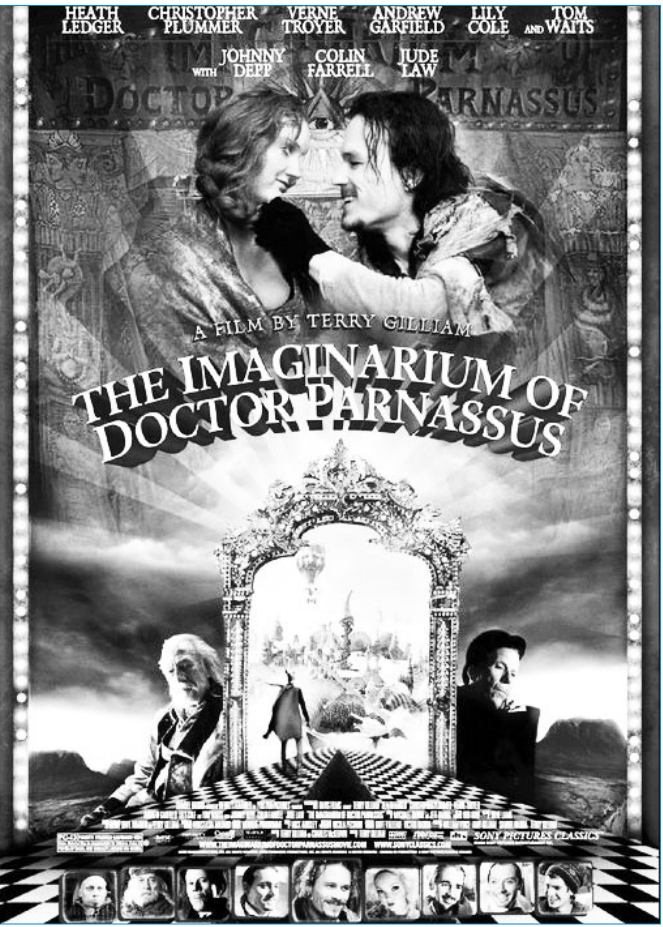


Natalie Conrad

Ledger could not, the film is not quite at a loss. The Imaginarium, a mir- ror that takes one to wherever their imagination desires, allows for four men to play the same character without it being completely ridiculous. Still, it seems wrong that the character’s last scene is performed by Colin Farrell and not Heath Ledger. The film which is clearly a fantasy film, tries to contrast with present-day reality, but fails miserably. The carnival troupe traveling in their double decker horse-drawn carriage and wearing clothing from a different century, too much to take in. It’s hard to get into a film that you can’t relate to at all. The strangeness of the film, its characters, and all its visuals are certainly more than enough to take in. This film requires a lot of imagina- tion from the viewer to take all of it in and process it in some way, while the plot does little to help with the visual madness that is “The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus.”

If the story had not been so jumbled, this film could’ve been a lot better. In expressing my dislike for this film, in no way do I discredit the acting. The acting was one of the few things that compelled me to not completely give up on the film. Ledger did well in his last role, not quite to the par of his role as The Joker, but still a decent effort. Plummer was the perfect old stubborn man character of Doctor Parnassus. Possibly the most interesting character was the devil, or Mr. Nick, played by Tom Waits. His scheming ways and cool exterior made for a compelling performance. The other actors filled their roles accordingly and with ease. “The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnas- sus” is certainly an interesting film and unlike anything I’ve ever seen before. It has outstanding visuals and allows the imagination to run free. The acting is superb. If only the plot had been more focused, it wouldn’t have been such a disaster. Disaster it may be, but at least it was an interesting and visually- stunning one.

Natalie Conrad is a junior journalism and marketing communications major and French minor. She enjoys running, reading, writing, playing guitar, and traveling.



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The best albums of 2009

As we find ourselves en- tering a new decade, it might serve us well to first take one last look back at the high- lights of 2009, as there are a number of wide- ranging musical highlights full of ge- nius and innova- tion worth both high critical praise and repeat listens:

“Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix”-Phoenix: Fast- paced and filled from start to finish with optimistic, wide-eyed lyrical melodies, the brilliantly-titled “Wol- gang Amadeus Phoenix” is a catchy triumph that finds the French rock trio convey- ing the best of The Strokes and The Killers to create this wonderful cocktail of instru- mentals, hooks and disco. Highlights such as “Lasso” and the brilliant “1901” show the Frenchmen effortlessly channeling a naturally cool swagger that should vault them to superstardom.

“xx”-The xx: These four London youths combine echoy guitars, soft vocals and deep bass to create an impressively unique and at- mospheric debut that is intro- verted and sometimes dark. Perhaps the best track on the album, “Crystallized,” is spa- cious, echoing and beautiful

warning to an overeager lover. “I’ll forgive and forget / Before I’m paralyzed / Do I have to keep up the pace / To keep you satisfied,” singer Romy Madley Croft wonders out loud. Using an ultra-min- imalistic formula, the Brit- ish goth kids have concocted a tense, beautiful album that is both attractive and haunt- ing.

“The Ecstatic”-Most Def: Contrary to what Grammy results might lead you to believe, the best rap album of 2009 was mos def not “Relapse,” Eminem’s comi- cal failure of an effort. In- stead, on “The Ecstatic,” the eternally respected Brooklyn MC Mos Def mixes his deft poetic ability with jazz beats, R&B hooks and a sprinkling of foreign influences. “You can’t stop my go / I’ve been born to be where I am / Bright light from a distant Star / Miracles don’t stop,” he announces triumphantly on “Casa Bey.” The penul- timate track “History,” Mos Def reunites with Black Star partner Talib Kweli and lays down a smart, nostalgic verse that shows he’s still at the top of his game.

“The Fame Monster”- Lady Gaga: Say what you

like about garish costumes and thumping dance-club ubiquity, but the bottom line is that (like it or not) Gaga, who has churned out chart-toppers with astonish- ing regularity over the past year, is a figure who has reinvented the figure of pop queen like no individual since Madonna. “The Fame Monster” will probably re- pulse any non-fan, but offers an interesting glimpse into the life of this flamboyant, otherworldly figure. The ex- plosive, attention grabbing, “Bad Romance,” (similar to “Poker Face,” except way more badass) is by far the best pop song of the year, and is clear indicator that the eccentric New Yorker is no Katy Perry. In other words, she’s here to stay.

Neko Case-“Middle Cy- clone”: The title says it all. The talented singer-songwrit- er channels a whirlwind of animalistic qualities-hunger, desire, anger-into a collec- tion of emotional revelations that range from hopeful to brooding. Whether Case is evoking naturalistic imag- ery on the track “Magpie in the Morning,” or imagin- ing herself as a killer whale with “People Got a Lotta Nerve,” every word drips with authentic emotion and self-awareness.

Andy Phelps

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

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UWRF students raise money for Haiti relief efforts

Lezli Weis
lezli.weis@uwrf.edu

“I woke up to bouncing on my bed and the walls shaking ... moving back and forth,” said UW-River Falls student Alicia Bartel about her experience living through the earthquake in Haiti on Jan. 12. Bartel and her friend Paige Paulson, another UWRF student, ran out of their hotel room and saw that the pool had “ocean-like waves.” Bartel was volunteering at an orphanage in Fedja [FAY’-dja], 35 miles from Port-au-Prince, when the earthquake struck.

UWRF is coordinating several fundraisers for the Haiti Relief Fund. Over the past week, residence halls and the University Center have been collecting new and gently used items such as clothing, household items, accessories and books which they resold on Wednesday in a 2nd Hand Store Sale held in the Falcon’s Nest in the University Center. All money raised will be donated to the Haiti Relief Effort and the remaining items will be donated to Treasures of the Heart and Second Chances in River Falls.

Falcon Programs Community Service Programmer Ali Funk explained that the idea for the 2nd Hand Store Sale came together very quickly.

“College students don’t have a lot of money to give,” Funk said. She explained that this sale is a way for students to give, but also get in return. The sale went from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday.

Throughout the day, the sale raised \$1,185.53. The dorms continued their coin wars through Thursday. Katie Quinn, student at UWRF, said she didn’t know about the sale until she saw the signs today and decided to stop in.

The UWRF Student Social Work Association (SSWA) has also been doing their part to raise money. Thursday, Jan. 28, members of SSWA worked at Bo’s ‘n Mine selling grilled cheese sandwiches for \$2 each. The group raised over \$90 over the course of the evening, and all of the money will be donated to the Haiti Relief Effort.

“Without the support of the River Falls community, we would have never been that successful,” Amy Anderson, a member of SSWA who helped cook and serve the sandwiches, said.

At the beginning of the night, SSWA member Anderson explained that a portion of the

money raised would be donated to Haiti. However, throughout the night, the group decided to donate all of the money raised to Haiti, as they said they felt the people of Haiti needed it more.

“We would have obviously loved to have more people there, but with the cold temperatures, we didn’t expect the usual crowd to come up,” Tara Fisher, another member of SSWA, said.

Residence Life Area Coordinator Rob Andrews said that they hope to have more events later on in the semester to raise more money to help rebuild Haiti. They are going to see how well this first fundraiser goes before making decisions to hold another one.

“If every student donated a dollar or two, it wouldn’t take much money to make a big difference,” said Andrews.

The latest death toll estimate in Haiti is at 150,000, according to CNN.com. The United States raised approximately \$317 million in the two weeks following the earthquake and has 17,000 military personnel in and around Haiti.

The earthquake in Haiti did not just affect the Haitian people, but also members of the River Falls community. Bartel created a lifetime goal from this experience; she said she wants to become trained in disaster relief.

“You go down there trying to make things better,” Bartel said, “and I left when it was worse.”



Jens Gunelson/Submitted Photo




Left & Above: Shoppers at the 2nd Hand Store Sale in the Falcon’s Nest raised \$1,185.53 for Haiti. Below: UWRF Student Social Work Association raised \$90 selling grilled cheese sandwiches at Bo’s ‘N Mine

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, Feb. 5, and win two free movie passes!

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Sign-Up for 2010-2011 HOUSING

2010-2011 Fall Housing Online Sign-Up Process
Go to: reslife.uwrf.edu
You will need your Falcon Account username (example: W2500000) and password.

The projected rates for 2010-2011:

- Double - \$3,400/year
- Suite - \$4,450/year

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DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENCE LIFE



SAME ROOM:
Beginning at 8 AM on February 4 thru February 5
A current UWRF hall resident may reserve a space in his/her present permanent room on line. (Exception: Where rooms are no longer available due to wing/floor use changes, i.e. FY wings). These students along with students in Extended Housing will need to sign up during Same Hall or Any Hall sign up dates.

REDIRECTED RESIDENTS:
February 9, 8:00 AM-11:00 PM
A current UWRF hall resident who falls into this category will receive an email to their UWRF email account identifying them of a special sign up time. You will have this one day to choose a room anywhere on campus. If you do not sign up during this time, the next available sign up time will be during Same Hall.

SAME HALL/DIFFERENT ROOM:
Beginning at 8AM on February 11 thru February 12
A current UWRF hall resident may reserve a different space in his/her present residence hall.

ANY RESIDENCE HALL:
Beginning at 8 AM on February 15 thru February 19
AA current UWRF hall resident may reserve a space in any residence hall.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS INTERESTED IN LIVING ON-CAMPUS:
Beginning on February 22
A current UWRF student living off-campus can fill out the housing contract and submit the housing deposit, but may not select a hall or room. Your contract will be placed in date order along with incoming students. If you are interested in South Fork Suites, please contact our department at housing@uwrf.edu

Residence Life will continue to enforce the Two-Year Residency Requirement at UW-River Falls.