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STUDENT VOICE

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Wheeler to assume postion at community college

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After devoting a total of 15 years to UW-River Falls, Lisa Wheeler, the interim vice chancellor of administration and finance, is embracing a new employment opportunity.

Wheeler has accepted the vice president of student affairs position at Normandale Community College located in Bloomington, Minn. Some of her responsibilities in this position will include being in charge of student life, counseling, academic support, multicultural programs, disability needs, admissions, marketing, financial aid and registrar. Normandale is an urban two year community college serving primarily the southwestern metropolitan region of the Twin Cities, according to the school's Web site.

Wheeler has filled the vice chancellor of administration and finance position since 2008. According to Wheeler, her favorite part of the job is fixing things in the organization and making them better. Wheeler is also very appreciative of the group of professional people she gets to work with.

Wheeler said there are several things she will miss about her job here.

"I will miss the three minute commute, the comfort of an organiza-

tion where I know a lot of people and have good contact with them. I will miss the spirit of the people who work here and the dedication this school has to providing a quality experience for the students."

Wheeler said she has decided to take the position at Normandale Community College because student affairs is where her professional heart is.

"Working in the student affairs department is really motivational. You get a chance to give people an opportunity to change the course of their lives for the better."

Wheeler said she will be able to

do just that because 25 percent of Normandale's students are of color and many are first generation college students.

Wheeler has had much success here at UWRP. As the interim vice chancellor she helped develop a strategy that avoided across-the-board cuts and retained focus on strategic initiatives. Wheeler also led a University-wide comprehensive review of all administrative departments. This involved identifying potential improvements through process redesign, better utilization of technology, improved business practices and reorganization of key departments.

From 2006 to 2008, Wheeler was asked by the Chancellor to come back from her position as vice president of learner services at Capella University to be the interim executive director of Information Technology Services. Through this position Wheeler created a comprehensive multi-year plan to respond to an external review of Information Technology Services and led the plan's initial implementation.

Wheeler also created a subunit within ITS to support faculty in their use of technology in teaching.

Wheeler was also the first director of the Academic

Success Center from 1997 to 2001. Wheeler's led the creation of the Academic Success Center and was its first director. Wheeler was also the primary author of the University's strategic plan, 'Plan 2008: Educational Quality through Racial and Ethnic Diversity.'

Wheeler's first position here at UWRP was assistant dean of students from 1989 to 1997. During this time she created an orientation program for new students to assure smooth transition into the University. Wheeler recruited, selected and trained volunteer student staff and created a funding mechanism to as-



Sally King/Student Voice

Lisa Wheeler is currently the interim vice chancellor of administration and finance. She has served UWRP for 15 years but will soon take over at Normandale Community College as the vice president of student affairs. She will begin her new position March 22.

sure adequate resources for the program. Wheeler also served on nine committees during her time her at UWRP.

Wheeler's colleagues can attest to her achievements.

"Lisa is very talented, organized, professional and driven. She works very hard. She is also an impecca-

ble person, very approachable and nice," said Heather Wittkopf, an office worker for the Administration and Finance department.

Wittkopf wants Wheeler to have continued success in her next position. "Normandale is lucky to have her and we appreciate all of her contributions to UWRP," Wittkopf said.

Wheeler's last day here is March 12. She will be starting her new position at Normandale Community College March 22.

UW-System looks to improve efficiency, graduation

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The Advantage Wisconsin initiative, started by the UW System in 2007, has begun to expose areas in the Systems operation that need improvement, UW-River Falls officials said.

Alan Tuchtenhagen, associate vice chancellor for enrollment services, and Lisa Wheeler, interim vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, took part in the think tank portion of the Advantage Wisconsin project.

"Every organization needs a strategic plan to stay successful," Tuchtenhagen said.

Seven individual think tanks were convened in Madison in December 2007 for two days to determine what steps the schools in the UW System needed to take save money, time, graduate more students and, ultimately, help grow Wisconsin's economy. The think tank groups comprised of individuals from every UW System university as well as individuals from the health care, journalism, financial and biotech industries, according to the UW System Web site.

Members of his think tank were assigned to find ways to increase graduation rates in the

System and investigate why the state lacks job opportunities for many of its graduates, Tuchtenhagen said.

"It's about helping more students who are currently enrolled to graduate, getting students to come back and finish their degrees, and then expanding job opportunities for them in-state," he said.

Though Wisconsin has a history of providing accessible higher education, Tuchtenhagen said current economic issues in the state are making it harder for today's students to not only graduate, but to find employment after graduation as well.

"The financial aid issue continues," he said. "We've got some students who are just hanging on by their fingernails. Students have to share a larger part of the cost of higher education than in the past."

Wisconsin was 30th in the nation in the percentage of its population over age 25 with a bachelor's degree in 2007, when Advantage Wisconsin was launched. At that time, UWRP graduated 55 percent of its students within six years, four percent below the UW System average, according to its Office of Policy Analy-

See UW-System page 3

Student Senate members to target white privilege issues

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The UW-River Falls student senate will be sending up to five students to the 11th annual White Privilege Conference (WPC) from April 7-10 in La Crosse, Wis. The conference serves as a yearly opportunity to examine and explore difficult issues related to white privilege, white supremacy and oppression, according to the event's Web site. There is expected to be approximately 1,500 people from 40 states who represent numerous sectors of our workforce, and include high school and college students, grass roots activists, educators, members of the spiritual community, musicians and artists, according to the Web site.

"White privilege is the concept that simply because one is Caucasian, there are inherent benefits within the framework of our society,"

Student Senate Representative Lee Monson said."The conference attempts to make its attendees aware of this privilege and attempts, through awareness, to heal this rift between peoples."

The conference's theme this year is "Health Inequities: Strategies. Action. Liberation." The WPC's mission is to provide a forum for critical discussions about diversity, multicultural education and leadership, social justice, race/racism, sexual orientation, gender relations, religion and other systems of privilege/oppression, according to the Web site.

This conference is about critically examining the society in which we live and working to dismantle systems of power, prejudice, privilege and oppression, according to the Web site.

"It is important to send students to the White Privilege Conference because it is not well known and is a

relatively new concept that the students at our university do not quite understand or even realize," Student Senate Representative Brittany Williams said.

UWRP students are eligible to apply to attend the conference. Students will be chosen based on the following criteria : campus involvement, leadership potential, diversity experience, enthusiasm/ambition, and individual character. The UWRP Student Senate will sponsor \$250 per person, up to five people, to attend the conference. The qualified applicant must agree to pay their own portion of the cost, which is estimated at \$100, in addition to travel costs. They must also prepare a presentation to be given to the Student Senate in open forum, explaining the messages and valuable lessons

See Student Senate page 3

UWRF faculty perform ‘The Soldier’s Tale’



Hannah Lenius/Student Voice
The UWRF Music Department presented “The Soldier’s Tale” on Feb. 16 in the William Abot Concert Hall at the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building. The orchestral performance was part of the University’s Faculty Chamber Music Series.

Greek life to stress academic success

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The UW-River Falls Greek community is making a push to place academics first in its organization. Student Organizations and Greek Life Coordinator Matt Levine says he feels that it is important that the Greeks show increased dedication to grades in the upcoming semesters. Each organization is now required to fill out an academic plan with goals of where its members would like to be by 2011. Levine hopes the Greeks can lead the way in the stressing the importance of academics and be an example for the other student organizations on campus. According to the UWRF Greek Web site, “Fraternity and Sorority Life at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls has been in existence since the 1960s. Today the University hosts four national organizations for men and five national organizations for women. There are over 250 active members of the Fraternity and Sorority Community.” Shelley Perkel, a Phi Mu member and the Panhellenic President for the women’s chapters on campus, believes it is extremely important to stress academics in the Greek community. “We are first and foremost students. It is important to have a solid academic plan, although I do feel it will take a few

semesters to fully implement it,” Perkel said. As part of the academic plans, the Greek organizations will be taking part in community library nights and study hours each week. According to Levine, Greek students want to lead the way with high grade point averages. Student life currently does not monitor GPAs in student organizations. The goal for the Greek students is to be above the average men’s and women’s GPA at UWRF. “I’d like to see them at about a 3.0. We want the Greek students to be fully aware of the market they’re headed into. It’s our job to prepare and ready them for that. A full resume isn’t just going to do it. Being able to manage academics and a co-curricular really shows something to employers,” Levine said. Joe Maslow, a UWRF alumni and former Theta Chi member, thinks the idea is great for the campus. “While it may not help recruitment in the short run, a good academic base is essential for the long term success of the Greek community. The academic base will also ensure parents’ support of their children joining the organizations. In the end, academic success will help build a more stable Greek community with more support from the leaders of our University,” Maslow said. “This effort is really being pushed by the students,” Levine said. “This is the student’s wanting to be better.”

VOICE SHORTS

UWRF presents ‘Our Country’s Good’ at KFA
“Our Country’s Good” opened at UWRF on Feb. 25. Subsequent shows will run at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 26 and 27 and March 4 through 6 in the Davis Theatre of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 students and seniors. Contact the University Box Office for ticket information at 425-3114. The box office is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and an hour prior to performances. Please note that the play contains strong language and adult content.

‘Fiddler’ premieres at RF High School
River Falls Community Theatre and River Falls High School presented “Fiddler on the Roof” on Feb. 25. The musical will continue to be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 26 and 27, 2 p.m. on Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. from March 4 through 6 and 2 p.m. on March 7 at the River Falls High School. Tickets are available for \$14 at the door or \$12 in advance at Dish and Spoon Cafe.

New ambassador position available to UWRF students
The admissions office is accepting applications from current students who would be interested in becoming ambassadors for UWRF. The position would require the ambassadors to lead two weekly tours, telephone call prospective students and upload blogs to UWRF’s Web site. Applications are available in the admissions office and are due on by 4 p.m. on March 5.

The UWRF Jazz Ensemble to perform a new act
The UWRF RADD Jazz Series will present the UWRF Jazz Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. on March 6 in the Abbot Concert Hall at the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building. The performance is directed by David Milne and will feature guest artist Michael Davis, an NYC-based jazz trombonist, composer/arranger, author and clinician. For more information, call 425-3183.

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.

Feb. 13
• Hali Rose Whitehurst, 18, was cited for ID violation and underage consumption on the 100 block of N Main St.

Interested in having your works published?

Prologue submissions are due by March 1

E-mail writings to kelly.bryant@uwrf.edu

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<div><div>WRFW's Spring 2010</div><div><div>Lowest Organization on Campus</div><div>88.7 WRFW 88.7</div><div>River Falls, WI</div></div><div>Broadcasting Schedule</div></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	Wes Campbell	Brian Wegner	~empty~
	3-5 p.m.	Erik Altmann	Brian Wegner	Cory Heaton	Nick Niewinski James Scott	Steven Linzmeier Adam Vireks	Amanda Leeman	Patrick Okan Jeff Schafer
	5-6 p.m.	Erik Altmann	Hip Hop Hourglass	Stay Alive	ACT on AG	Let's Talk	Finally Friday	~empty~
	6-8 p.m.	Rachel Erickson	Laura Krawczyk Katie Heaton	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 Katie Hudson	Falcon Hockey (Ends at 9 p.m.)	Jeff Knopps
	10 p.m.-Midnight	Greg Klimowicz	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~

Falcon hockey advances in NCHA tournament



Sally King/Student Voice
Sean Roadhouse and Jason Yuel bring the puck down the ice Sat. Feb. 20. The Falcon Men’s hockey team faced off with UW-Eau Claire. The team will now advance in the NCHA tournament.



Sally King/Student Voice
The Falcon hockey team won its game versus UW-Eau Claire with a score of 6-3. Overall, the Falcons are 17-8-2 this season. They will play St. Scholastica in Duluth Feb. 27 in the semi-finals.

Student Senate: Conference examines white privilege, supremacy

from page 1

from the trip within one month of returning, or pay for the Student Senate’s contribution for the trip. In addition, they must prepare or assist in preparing a presentation board of the trip and participants to be displayed in the Student Senate office

for publicity of the trip. They must also agree to represent the University and its students with dignity and professionalism, according to the Student Senate flyer advertising the conference.

“The five people that will be sent to this conference will be expected not only to further their own awareness, but to bring the knowledge they acquire from the conference back to campus,” Monson said. “How that knowledge is dispersed will depend largely on the campus involvement of the selected students, but a general presentation on what was learned will be given at a Student Senate meeting following the conference.”

The Student Senate is still working on putting together a search and screen committee. To supplement the committee and are currently asking certain members of the student leadership and faculty if they would like to take part in the screening process, according to Monson. Applications are due to Senator Brittany Williams at 11:59 p.m. on March 1, and the search and screen committee will meet on the following Wednesday, March 3, to decide on the participants for the conference.

UW-System: Advantage Wisconsin looks to develop economic strategy

from page 1

erage, according to its Office of Policy Analysis and Research.

In that same year, Wisconsin’s per capita income fell \$4,700 short of Minnesota’s and was \$2,300 below the national average, according to figures from the UW System Web site.

“Minnesota and the Twin Cities are a big importer of people with baccalaureate degrees,” Tuchenhagen said. “Many of those are from Wisconsin. We’d love them to stay here in Wisconsin and work.”

Tuchenhagen said Minnesota’s strong business foundation built on companies such as Best Buy, Medtronic and 3M gives the state a strong advantage when it comes to hiring graduates from Wisconsin’s colleges.

In 2007, Wisconsin ranked 34th in the nation in the number of jobs available in technology fields, according to the System Web site.

Though the problems have been made visible, Tuchenhagen said deciding where to start the solution problem could be difficult.

“It’s kind of a chicken and the egg scenario,” he said. “Does the legislature try to bring business here first, or do we concentrate on higher education and hope that attracts companies to relocate in Wisconsin?”

While Tuchenhagen’s think tank exposed some of the underlying issues the UW System hopes to address, Wheeler’s group was charged with improving operational excellence in the System by “becoming more flexible, nimble, responsive and cost efficient,” according to the report on the System Web site.

“It was about figuring out how to run a university more like a business,” Wheeler said. “Part of the reason I was asked to be a part of it was my background in different types of organizations.”

“When I worked in a business and I needed to hire a manager, I’d talk to human resources and we’d have somebody hired within three weeks,” Wheeler said. “Here, we have a very long and participatory process. Sometimes you lose good candidates because someone else makes them an offer first.”

Though the System may seem to have a flawed hiring system, Wheeler said these types of delayed processes are not uncommon.

“It’s just a feature of a public institution,” she said. She also emphasized that changes are being made.

“The whole UW System is in the process of implementing a new HR system,” Wheeler said.

Pam Rudesill, office manager in facilities management said drastic changes are being made in how work orders for maintenance are processed.

“Until Jan. 11 [2010], all our work orders were paper,” she said. “Now we have online work order systems.”

Facilities Management maintains all the buildings and infrastructure on campus and the university farms, Rudesill said.

The change was spurred by findings made during a two-day study of UWRF’s work order system this summer, Rudesill said.

“We estimated how long it took us to process the information,” she said. “Anytime the process had a delay, there was a loop in the system.”

Rudesill said officials at UW-Stevens Point, Milwaukee, Whitewater, and La Crosse also studied the work order processes on their respective campuses and combined their results to develop the new system which is now used all over the UW System.

“It was done as a time-saving measure and to standardize the process throughout the state,” she said. “Together we came out with a perfect work order process.”

Rudesill said that once the new electronic work order system was put into service, improvements over the old system were very apparent.

“The max time a work order may sit now is two hours,” she said. “You’re immediately saving that day it’s in the mail, at least.”

The money and time saved by the new system can now be used in other areas of the university, Rudesill said.

Susan Bischof, head of information systems in facilities management said problems with the new system have been few and far between.

“For the most part it’s been a smooth transition,” she said. “We were pretty well prepared to make the switch.”

Sunday, March 21, 2010
River Falls Area High School | 818 Cemetery Rd | River Falls, WI 54022
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EDITORIAL

Students apathetic after ‘08 presidential election

The Presidential elections in 2008 were unlike that has been seen before, in the sense that all the 20-something-year-olds of the nation made a huge difference. According to a study conducted by the Pew Research Center, 66 percent of the “Millennials,” how the survey referred to the people who will be making the passage into adulthood at the start of the new millennium, backed President Obama in his campaign. The Pew study now shows that the enthusiasm of the “Millennials” has gradually decreased since Obama was elected. According to the survey, about half of these twenty-odd-year-olds say that President Obama has failed to change the way Washington works, which was the main promise of his campaign. About 30-percent of these people blame the president himself; the others say the blame should be cast upon his political opponents and special interests, instead. The Student Voice Editorial Staff whole-heartedly agrees with these statistics and findings. The enthusiasm and passion felt by the so-called “Millennials” during the ‘08 elections was obvious. College-aged people were beginning to strongly identify themselves as either liberal or conservative, and these identifications were not even necessarily based on what their parents thought, like had been the early habit. To have made such a boom, nationally, it is disgraceful for the statistics that had previously spoken so highly of young adults’ political involvement, to now show that by early 2010, these same peoples’ support for Obama and the Democrats had dropped drastically. As an individual responsibility to the United States, citizens - regardless of age - should be active in their government. Having made such a powerful, loud voice for themselves, the voting youth has to continue to be boisterously involved in politics. The issues that the federal government deals with are, as it should go without saying, affecting every person in the country. It is of utter importance for the country to actively participate in its politics, in order to keep the foundation of democracy stable and alive. As UW-River Falls students, there are several ways to stay in the know when it comes to the nation’s politics. The New York Times is readily available on campus for students through the American Democracy Project. There are organizations for both student Republicans and student Democrats, and the Student Senate is a good place to learn the ways campus politics shadows and is affected by the national government. In addition, a simple Google search will dispense countless articles for your own interests. Staying involved in and knowledgeable about the national government is important, but after making such a splash in the ‘08 elections, 20-something-year-olds today have even heavier expectations weighing down on them. In order to shake the embarrassment the generation has cast upon themselves, they must take personal initiative in keeping up with President Obama and his administration.

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

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As run in Central St. Croix News
By Jon Lyksett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Western Wisconsin makes generous donations benefiting Haiti victims

On Jan. 12, a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Uponfirst hearing of the news, almost no one could imagine the devastation that had occurred or predicted the deaths of more than 200,000 people. However, what could be predicted was the immediate reaction of the American people to reach deep into their pockets to help those in such incredible need. I would like to give a heartfelt thank-you to all of the wonderful residents in Western Wisconsin who have donated to the American Red Cross for Haitian relief. A special thank-you to Altoona School District, Cadott Elementary, Cameron High School, Delong Middle School, Eleva Lutheran Church, Elk Mound Area Schools, Fall Creek Elementary, Flambeau School District, Gilman Middle/High

School, Globe University, Halmstad Elementary, Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire, Lake Holcombe High, Living Water Lutheran Church, Manz Elementary, Menomonie High School, Osseo/Fairchild Middle & High School, Rice Lake Middle School, River Falls School District, School District of Mondovi, Sitha Indian Kitchen, Stanfold Lutheran Church, Stillson Elementary, UWEC and UW-Stout. Because of the generosity of our donors, people in Haiti will receive more than immediate relief. They will receive resources and support from the Red Cross that will help them recover and rebuild in the years ahead.

Kyle Kriegl
Regional Executive Director
American Red Cross
of Western Wisconsin

Columnist compares 1980, 2010 US men’s Olympic hockey teams

This past week of Olympic competition has been nothing short of exciting. Thus far, the United States has turned in a dominating performance leading the medal count for several days running, and has brought intense moments that have captivated the American spirit. The world watched in awe as the U.S. hockey team stunned the host-nation and highly favored team from Canada, where hockey is not a sport but a way of life, scoring 22 seconds into the game. American goaltender Ryan Miller turned in an outstanding performance, turning away 42 of the powerful Canadian shots. Time will only tell if the Americans can complete the underdog story and come away with an Olympic medal after being shut out in Torino in 2006. It comes as no surprise to many that this current team has many of the same features and expectations as the 1960 hockey team that won the first U.S. gold. This was also the first time the Americans beat Canada in the Olympics, and others look to the 1980 miracle on ice team that defeated the heavily favored Soviet Union. Other moments that have taken our breath away include the awe-inspiring ice skating performance of American Evan Lysacek who skated his heart out and left everything on the ice to capture the gold. The Russians have complained that his program wasn’t as high of degree of difficulty Yergony Plushenko’s, but the Olympic judges concluded that Lysacek was more technical and had a higher degree of completion. Olympic history was



Ashley Goettl

made after speed skater Apolo Ohno captured a silver medal in the 1000m. This gave Ohno seven medals over the course of his career thus far, making him the most decorated athlete in U.S. winter Olympic history. The previous record of six was held by Bonnie Blair. But Ohno is not done yet (and depending on when you read this, he may well be on his way to eight or even nine medals) as he has two events left to skate. One field, where the Americans are completely dominating is in the many realms of skiing. The U.S. holds eight medals in the alpine skiing events and has taken a steady command in similar events such as moguls and the super-g. After much hype about her bruised shin, Minnesota native Lindsey Vonn took home the gold in alpine skiing and a bronze in the super-g and still has two more events to compete in. Julia Marcuso, under the shadow of Vonn’s media hype, has also turned in impressive performances, taking two silvers. On the men’s side, Bode Miller just keeps getting better as he has a bronze, silver, and a gold medal thus far. And who could forget Shaun White’s amazing run during snowboarding? So whether you’re a hockey fan or just interested in the variety of competition, these Vancouver Olympics have fulfilled the American experience and have been absolutely stunning. Time will only tell if more miracles are in the making.

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



© VANOC/COVAN
The US men’s hockey team remains unbeaten after defeating Norway 6-1, Canada 5-3, and Switzerland 2-1.

Weekend with friends yields awkward situations, stories

What happens when a small town man travels with some friends to their big city life? Lucky for you, I have a couple answers to that question my friends. This past week, I had the pleasure of travelling Milwaukee to see my roommates’ home turf.

Now, I’m by no means a newbie to hanging around in big cities, but there are still certain times I’ll be reminded “That’s right, we’re not in a small town.” For example, it’s probably not the best idea to drive down the busy streets of Milwaukee yelling “Party at the curling house! We’re going this way, come on!” Quite obviously there are major differences in nightlife, transportation, among many other things, but the best part about being in a different environment is the stories and/or mishaps that can and do happen. The drive down is one of the best parts. Three close friends, talking about stuff that you wouldn’t want to fall on virgin ears,

Though not totally unaware of my surroundings, I still managed to have a few awkward moments that were able to be laughed off later on.

among other things. Come on, who hasn’t had a good game of “would you rather” before? Overall, the part of Milwaukee I was in wasn’t very different from our River Falls setting. Nice neighborhood, friendly people, and the local favorite establishments were all over the place. Though not totally unaware of my surroundings, I still managed to have a few awkward moments that were able to be laughed off later on. The first is a situation that I think most of us have been in. Whether at a bar, grocery store, anywhere, we have all done this. We were on a nice part of North Avenue not too far from Lake Michigan at one of the local bars. We’re all standing in a circle reminiscing about who knows what, letting the girls around us let everyone know “I just...I just wanna dance!” People all around were smoking, and usually it doesn’t bother me too much, but I decided to take a very deep breath and exhale slowly. Now, this is the part most of you should be able to relate to. I was staring across the way at this “bro” looking gentleman who looked like he just wasn’t a fan of life at that moment. Now, for

all I can remember, I was probably pondering why I was shelling out two dollars for “Red Dog” in a can, but I happened to be staring at this man. He didn’t like that. In my defense I was looking right through him, but he probably thought I was appreciating his original style of the “Monster Energy” baseball cap, AE polo and ripped jeans. Back to the exhale,

There’s a good chance he might spray you with Axe Body Spray, or make you watch “Jersey Shore.”

I was getting all the second hand smoke out of my lungs, and at the tail end of the exhale, I looked as though I was puckering my lips. This gentleman shot me a look that said “Boy, I’m gon’ kill you.” I of course started laughing immediately. Lesson learned, don’t pucker your lips at a bro, because there’s a good chance that he might spray you with Axe body spray, or make you watch “Jersey Shore.” One thing I was really surprised with was with how insanely nice the downtown area of Milwaukee was. The downtown area, however, just reminded me of why I enjoy my small town bars, they don’t cost a fortune. Now, the first bar we went to didn’t have prices set too high or anything, but come on, nothing can compare to two for ones and liters of mixed drinks for the prices that we pay here in River Falls. One thing that is much more fun to do in a setting like Milwaukee as opposed to River Falls is people watching. Let me tell you, the creepy men come out of the woodwork in bars downtown. Some people may think it’s creepy to people watch, but come on now, it’s simply just watching (and greatly appreciating) life as it passes you by. Now, that’s my vague overview of a weekend in Milwaukee, and I understand it’s not overly exciting. However, since a large part of our student body grew up within the limits of a big city setting like Minneapolis/ St. Paul, everyone can appreciate the difference between a weekend in a “River Falls” as opposed to a night out on the big town.

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.

Self-help techniques can prevent heartbreak, tough relationships

Hello River Falls, Dr. Love is in, and let us get down to business! This week, I have been thinking a lot about the thing that ends relationships – breaking up. Even though Valentine’s Day was two weeks ago, I have noticed a definite peak in the number of breakups that occur either on that day or around that week. What is it about Valentine’s Day that evokes this need in some people to finally have the courage to call it quits? Is it too overwhelming to think of spending such a romantic day with someone you wouldn’t consider that great of a boyfriend or girlfriend? Maybe it is the disappointment one feels after a Valentine’s Day they had hoped for had not become a reality. Either way, it seems like February has unofficially also become the “month of breakups”.

So let’s address this heartbreaking event, shall we? Yes, breaking up is hell, especially if it was a one-way relationship, or if the person has cheated/ broken your heart. It may seem like the world is crashing before your eyes, and you might find yourself occasionally bursting out into painstakingly agonizing fits of emotional breakdown. It is normal, let it out all, men and women, just let it out! It does not matter who broke up with whom because at the end of the day, it does NOT feel good to go to bed alone. It does NOT feel good to lose that emotional connection. It is a huge lifestyle change. There is light at the end of the tunnel River Falls students! After one has traveled this difficult journey, you will realize how much you have grown and how much stronger you have become! So all this aside you’re thinking, so what can I do now to feel better because I am going crazy! Do NOT check their Facebook profile. Checking their profile will only bring you more heartache and throw you deeper into a deeper state of depression.



Priya Kailash

Overall, being single requires a strong heart because it might feel like it is just you against the world. Take this as an opportunity to reconnect with friends and family

in time, as you meet your next special someone, your heart is whole again and you can love.

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.

Holidays such as Mardi Gras celebrate life, people

Somewhere deep in the human nature struggling against the urge to be unique is a dark urge to be unknown. Once a year the human conscience needs release. This submerged drive is the root of masquerades, masked holidays, Mardi Gras, Carnival and Purim. To be masked is to be unrecognizable, and to be unrecognizable is to be blameless. Attribution for crime and indecency, for gluttony and drunkenness is near to impossible. Under this guise we can allow our dark wants to spread out from the corners to which they are so often banished. We can lust over those we shouldn’t lust for, we can eat what we shouldn’t eat and we can drink all that we thirst for. As we are hidden we remain unjudged. As we are all hidden we also cannot judge. Mardi Gras, Carnival and Purim, all days falling in February sanctified by religion to throw away our don’ts, take up guise and prowl the streets in extraordinary exuberance and freedom. As humans, do we need these days of guiltless celebration? Like erotic release do we yearn to revel in all that makes us unfit for every day niceties? Maybe. These holidays celebrate, not sin, but the beautiful dualism that is humanity. We are composed of darkness and light, faith and doubt, death and life. It’s no coincidence these holidays fall in the heart of deep winter, when the sunless cold makes us feel so far from G-d. For thousands of years, first in Rome and Jerusalem, humans celebrated the holidays of masked public revelry. Usually taking enjoyment to the next level right before a time of religious piety. Mardi Gras and Carnival are a climax before the next day’s serenity of Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season. A get-it-out-of-your-system celebration before a time of purity. Masks are donned, and scant clothing is permitted as well as excessive drinking and eating. Mardi Gras literally means “Fat Tuesday”, after all. The day to be gluttonous before being pious. The Jewish holiday, Purim, works in much the same way. A celebration of life after being persecuted by the Persians. Purim falls before the beginning of Passover fasting.



Chaia Lindberg

In Israel parades called “Adloyada” meaning “Until one didn’t know the other” are held. The name refers to the drinking feast described in the Book of Esther, after which the guests couldn’t tell their friends apart from other attendees. In these Parades all dress in masquerades and celebrate publicly. In a generation whose fear of religion has driven young adults and teenagers into the arms of agnosticism and atheism, maybe a holiday simply celebrating the beauty of the human condition is just what we need. Maybe celebrating the common factors that unite us, such as food, love and sex, would be the answer to the end of wars of ideology and pride. It’s possible these ancient rituals of celebrating before times of restriction could be adapted to form a more perfect union between all faiths. A universal holiday celebrated for the pleasure and happiness of everyone in the entire world, with no importance on creed, race or nationality. These days are beautiful now, but with the entire world in attendance it could be even more beautiful. Donning masks and beautiful attire, celebrating together over good wine and drink. Celebrating life, love, hope, and the few short years we have to spend on this beautiful planet. So this urge we feel, deep under our pride and prejudice, to feel unknown, obscured in the crowd, may be a desire to feel a part of a whole. One and the same as those next to us. To share a journey with fellows who understand our plights and joys. This is your month for that. So many holidays celebrating in masquerade. So happy Purim, Carnival or Mardi Gras, whatever it is you’ll take part in this year. If none of the above, steal a mask and sneak into a crowd, remember no one knows you, and be someone you never thought you would be. New experiences and true revelations are best had in disguise.

Maybe celebrating the common factors that unite us, such as food, love and sex, would be the answer to the end of wars of ideology and pride

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.

STUDENT VOICES

Are you watching the 2010 Winter Olympics, why or why not?

Dustyn Dueuque, junior

“Yeah, kind of. I watch the events I find interesting.”



Andy Herting, sophomore

“A little bit, supporting USA! But I can’t watch much because it conflicts with school.”



Anna Windle, sophomore

“No, but I did watch the USA and Canada hockey game! I don’t have much time otherwise.”



Aubrey Barnaby, sophomore

“Not really, because I have been really busy lately. I wish I could watch it more though!”



Women track runners have record-breaking indoor seasons

Christina Lindstrom
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Spring semester has proven to be record breaking for five young women on the UW-River Falls Falcon track and field team.

Leah Korf, Alyssa Rasmussen, Kali Meurer, Sophie Lasko and Samantha Nyre have collectively broken five school records this season in the 1000m run, 55m dash, 200m run, 4x200m relay and the 4x400m relay.

Korf, a senior elementary education major, has been running track since ninth grade, when she also ran cross country at Tartan High School in Oakdale, Minn. She set a new school record in the 1,000m run Jan. 29 with a time of 3:00.45, breaking Mel King's previous record of 3:04.26, which was set in 1995. Being in track has taught Korf a few things.

"Being involved in track helps me develop leadership skills, sportsmanship, develop friendships and helps keep me sane," she said.

As with any sport, track has its ups and downs. Korf said her best experiences would probably include placing individually in the conference meet for indoor and outdoor in the 800m race, breaking 2:20 in the 800m in outdoor, where she ran a 2:16.11, and recently breaking the school record for the 1000m run. In Korf's freshman year, she was also a part of the distance medley relay team that broke the school record and placed first at the conference meet.

"That was probably one of the coolest experiences to be a part of," she said.

Korf's worst experience, according to her, was suffering two stress fractures during her sophomore year, one that kept her from participating in outdoor track.

"It takes a lot mentally to stay focused when you can't run," she said.

Korf was also a part of the 4x400 meter relay with teammates Meurer, Arnold and Rasmussen that broke the school record for the event on Feb. 6. The team ran a 4:00.39. After graduation, Korf plans to teach middle school mathematics and coach high school cross country and track.

The Falcon 4x200m relay team of Lasko, Meurer, Rasmusen and Nyre broke the school record of 1:45.83 set in the 1999 season. On Feb. 6, the team set the new school record with a time of 1:45.48 at the UW-Stevens Point invitational meet.

Lasko, a freshman, began running in seventh grade. She broke the school record in the 200m dash Jan. 29, running a time of 26.27 seconds, and also holds the school record in the 55m dash, which she set Jan. 23 at UW-Stout. Lasko is a marketing communications major from Lakeville, Minn., who hopes to be a wedding planner in Saint Paul, Minn., post graduation. She said she's had some good experiences in track, and has learned a few things.

"The best experiences in track have been going to the state meet for three years in a row and breaking three school records so far during my freshman year of track at UWRF," she said. "Being in track has helped me become dedicated and hard working at whatever I do. It has taught me to never give up and to stay strong through the worst of times."

Despite having set those three records in her freshman year, Lasko had a bad experience during her senior year of high school.

"I fell flat on my face about 5 feet away from the finish line while running in the 55 meter dash," she said.

Meurer, a senior, has also been running since ninth grade,



Hannah Lenius/Student Voice
Women runners Kali Meurer, Samantha Nyre and Sophie Lasko have all broken school records during the winter indoor track season.

but said she's been watching and participating in youth track events since fourth grade. Double majoring in business administration and economics, Meurer comes from Waseca, Minn., and plans to simply find a job after graduation, or attend grad school if she cannot find the right job. She said she enjoys seeing others on the track team perform well, such as qualifying for nationals or breaking a school record. Meurer said she also likes trying new events for the first time; she tried pole vaulting during her sophomore year.

"I also have a lot of fun traveling with the team, especially when we go to the conference meet and have to spend the night," she said.

Last year, Meurer broke two bones in her foot at the outdoor conference meet in her first race.

"I could barely walk afterwards and was in a lot of pain, but it was much more painful to watch the rest of my team continue to perform and win medals," she said. "Especially the relay teams that I was supposed to compete on."

Meurer said that being involved in track has helped her in more ways than she can even describe. It has taught her about dedication, hard work, persistence, teamwork, leadership, following a leader and how to deal with both failure and success.

"It's amazing how much someone can get out of being in a sport," she said.

Rasmussen, a freshman, also started running in ninth grade in Delano, Minn. She is majoring in health and human performance, options one and three. After graduation, she hopes to be a health and physical education teacher. She was fortunate enough to compete at the state track meet her junior and senior years of high school, but had to compete with mono her junior year. She also said track has helped her become a better leader and taught her to work hard.

"I've learned that hard work does pay off," Rasmussen said.

Nyre, a senior from Mondovi, Wis., said she started running in seventh grade and never stopped. After graduation, she plans to work as an agronomist for a local co-op and work on the dairy farm at her home. She said the best experience in track is the friends that she has made.

"Our team is like one big family," she said.

Nyre said some of the workouts can get a little rough, but everyone pulls each other through and they become stronger both as individuals and as a team. Being in track has taught Nyre about time management.

"I have learned how to juggle classes, practice and meets," she said. "It has also helped my leadership skills by helping other teammates with drills and workouts."

Assistant track coach Steve Stocker said it has been very rewarding to coach these young women.

"I've been with the seniors three years now, so it's satisfying to see them leave their name on the record board in the Knowles Center," he said.

Stocker said the 4x200 relay team is a nice blend of youth and senior leadership, as it possesses two seniors (Meurer and Nyre) along with two freshman (Rasmussen and Lasko). He said the senior leadership, hard work and dedication to the program has been the key to their success.

According to Stocker, the four young women on the relay team have all had to overcome injuries in the past, including back problems and foot injuries. He said their participation in athletics and overcoming challenges on the track will help them when they leave UWRF.

He added that the team has made great strides so far this year, but they feel that they can go faster as a team. Stocker said the ladies possess an excellent balance of speed, strength and great ability to run efficiently at speed.

"The 200 is a difficult event, because it's not physiologically possible to sprint the entire distance all out," he said. "It's important to conserve energy so they can hold their position over the last 50 meters."

Interim Head Coach Kevin Syverson said the relay teams have run very well this year, and the women are working very well together, feeding off each others performances. According to Severson, a team can never have too many good 200 or 400 runners, as they can be utilized in several events in a meet.

"Sophie Lasko really sets the tone in the 4x200 as the leadoff leg and Alyssa runs a very strong leg as well," Severson said. "Sammi and Kali finish it off and as seniors, provide the leadership and experience to the team."

All five of the young women have enjoyed setting new school records. Korf said breaking the school record helped her accomplish one of her season goals.

"I'm not going to lie, it was awesome," she said.

Rasmussen said she is really glad to be a part of that team.

"It feels cool."

According to Meurer, breaking the records has given her a stronger sense of accomplishment and that is all that she could ask for.

"I think it will feel even better when I can look up on the board at the track and actually see my name."

Lasko said the girls on the team are awesome, and that she's proud of all of them.

"I am so glad to have run it with them."

Nyre said the feeling is amazing.

"It was the first time the four of us had run together, and I am really excited to see what else we can do."

NFL teams have tough decisions to make about veteran running backs

It doesn't come as a surprise that the running back position has a short shelf life, considering all the physical abuse they take in each season. A starting running back usually will carry the ball between 15-30 times a game, 200-400 times a season, and 2000-3000 carries in a career if they are in the league around ten years. Also, running backs typically will sit back and help block for the quarterback on passing plays.

Even the superstars in the league have a tough time once they hit the age of 30. Former Chicago Bears superstar Walter Payton played from 1975 to 1987, a 13-year career, and was done by age 33. However, towards the end of his career he was posting similar numbers from when he was in his prime. Another superstar was former Los Angeles Rams and Indianapolis Colts running back, Eric Dickerson. His career lasted 11 years and was done by the age of 33 as well. He played with two different teams in his last two years and had declining numbers in his last four years in the league. Earl Campbell, a former Houston Oilers superstar, had an 8 year career and was finished by age 30. His numbers declined in the last three years in the league.

Some running backs have been the exception to the rule. Well, kind of. Former Detroit Lion Barry Sanders lasted only

ten years in the NFL and retired at age 30. But he decided to leave the game on top instead of slowly declining. His numbers were just as good at the end of his career as they were at the beginning. Emmitt Smith is a former Dallas Cowboys running back who had a 15-year career. He was 35 when he left the league. However, he played for the Arizona Cardinals

his last two years and experienced declining numbers in his last three years in the league.

In recent years, it has been no different. Shaun Alexander, 2005 regular season MVP and former Seattle Seahawk, has struggled to find work lately. He has played nine seasons and is 32 years old. Marshall Faulk, 2000 regular season MVP and

former St. Louis Rams running back played 13 seasons and was done playing football by age 33. The list goes on: Edgerin James, who played for Indianapolis and has struggled to keep his job at Arizona, is now over 30. Duce Staley, who was known for playing with the Philadelphia Eagles, was done playing football by age 31. Deuce McAllister, who played for the New Orleans Saints from 2001 to 2009, will retire this year at the age of 31.

week. Jamal Lewis, 30, just finished up his tenth year in the league. His first seven were with the Baltimore Ravens and his last three with the Cleveland Browns. He was released February 17th. Brian Westbrook, 30, finished up his eighth year with the Philadelphia Eagles, but suffered two concussions this past season. He was also released earlier this week. Chester Taylor finished up his eighth year in the league and his fourth with the Minnesota Vikings. He played his first four seasons with the Baltimore Ravens, serving back-up duty to Lewis. He is now 30 years old, and the Vikings are unsure if they are going to sign him or not.

Taylor is an interesting running back because he hasn't had the full exposure to all the hits and abuse that normal running backs have faced. He has been used as backup duty in seven of his eight seasons in the league, the first four with the Baltimore Ravens and his last three behind Adrian Peterson in Minnesota. His only season he was the main running back was in 2006, his first year with the Minnesota Vikings, before they drafted Peterson. He has just over 1000 carries and has the skills to be a featured back with a team that doesn't have a talented running back. He could probably start for half the teams in the league right now at the age of 30. Pretty rare for the running back position in the NFL. He is an unrestricted free agent this year, so unless the Vikings sign him between now and March 4th when the free agency period opens up, he could sign with any other team that is looking for a running back. A running back who is 30 years old, an eight year veteran and a reliable run and catch type of back, the exception of the rule that you're supposed to be at the end of your career at age 30.

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

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we'll provide the stage!
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poetry or whatever you want

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KIDS EAT FREE
Texas Hold
Tournament
Every Wednesday
Starts at 8pm
cash prizes awarded

THURSDAY
All You Can Eat Crab
Legs! Ladies Night
Ladies Drink Free
from 9pm-2am

FRIDAY
All You Can Eat Fish Fry
Live Music every Friday
starting in November

SATURDAY
8am-Noon Brunch &
Bloody Mary Bar
Shrimp Bucket

SUNDAY
8am-Noon Brunch &
Bloody Mary Bar
1 Pound of wings and a
pitcher of beer \$8.00

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Psychological thriller impresses with acting, story

It takes a while to even collect my opinion of the new Scorsese film, “Shutter Island.” The movie is filled with so many pow-



erful and disturbing im-ages, and twists and turns, it’s hard to piece it all to-

gether. The movie was as interesting as it was unset-tling and confusing. The previews for the film made it out to be more of a horror film, but it really is more of a psychological thriller and detective mystery. I didn’t expect the story to be as complicated as it was from seeing the previews. It starts out with U.S. Marshal Teddy Daniels (Leonardo DiCaprio) and

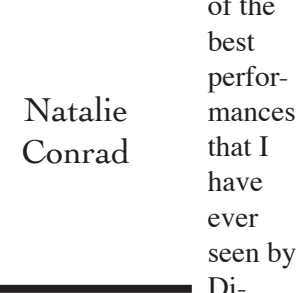
his new partner Chuck (Mark Ruffalo) embark-ing on a

journey to Shutter Island to investigate the disap-pearance of a patient at the highly guarded mental institution for the severely mentally disturbed lo-cated on the island. What starts out as a simple de-tective mystery twists into a great character piece by DiCaprio.

The movie has a great ensemble cast including Ben Kingsley, Michelle Williams, Emily Mor-timer, Jackie Earle Haley,



Max Von Sydow, and Patricia Clarkson, but the film almost completely rests on DiCaprio’s shoul-ders. This is possibly one



of the best perfor-mances that I have ever seen by Di-

Caprio. He made the character very compelling and believable, as well as making the audience really feel compassion for him. The other ac-tors complimented the main character with ease. Kingsley was a convinc-ing doctor who would stop at nothing to protect his institution. Michelle Williams was chilling as DiCaprio’s deceased wife. Patricia Clarkson took a

very small role in the film but made

it a very important and pivotal one.

This film was shot beautifully. The island has a creepy and omi-nous feel, and DiCaprio’s nightmares paint disturb-ingly intense and some-times beautiful imagery. The movie is filled with hauntingly gothic scenery. Ironically, some of the most disturbing scenes are the vibrantly colorful ones.

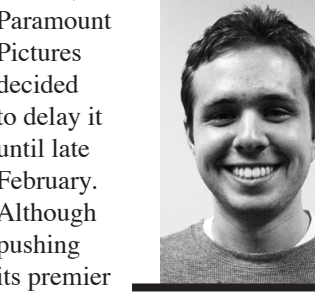
The only flaw that I

found in this film was that at times it seemed a little messy and hard to follow. The main character has many strange nightmares that mix with reality, leav-ing you wondering what is real and what is fantasy. It was a little confusing at times, but nothing too se-rious to detract from how great the film is.

Regardless of whether you like DiCaprio or Scorsese, you will enjoy this film. It’s entertaining, disturbing and frightening. It takes you on a journey through some of the dark-est places, but leaves you wondering about the value of life. It’s certainly a film to be discussed and a film worth seeing.

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

I was starting to get worried that I’d never get a chance to see Martin Scors-ese’s “Shutter Island.” Orig-inally slated for an October



release, Paramount Pictures decided to delay it until late February. Although pushing its premier out of the crowded Oscar-hopeful season may have been the

“...first-rate... would have been deserving of some Oscar love.”

finan-cially smart move, it’s go-ing to prevent the film from receiv-ing any award show consid-eration. Now that I’ve seen it, I can say with certainty that this is a real shame. “Shutter Island” is a first-rate

psychological thriller that would’ve been deserving of some Oscar love.

Scorsese’s first feature-length film since 2006’s,

“The De-parted,” “Shutter Island” departs from the domain of or-ganized crime and brings us into the world of the criminally insane. Deputy Marshals Teddy (Leon-ardo Di-Caprio)

and Chuck (Mark Ruffalo) are dispatched to the un-reasonably creepy Shutter Island, home to a unique mental hospital that special-izes in only the worst of the worst offenders. One of the patients has mysteriously escaped from her cell, and it’s up to the Marshals to find out how. With its moody sets and eerie lighting, “Shutter Island” oozes suspense. The hospital is atmospheric to the extreme, ensconced in a foreboding wilderness that isolates it from the outside world. It’s beautifully shot, forming the perfect backdrop for this nightmarish tale. Directors of photography (also called cinematograp-hers) are often overshad-owed when praising a film, but I feel it would be a disservice to not mention one here. Taking credit for “Shut-ter Island” is multiple-award-winning cinematographer Robert Richardson. Although you may not have heard of him before, you’ve prob-



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.

ably seen his work in such films as “Platoon,” “Casino” and “Kill Bill.” The man is a genius when it comes to lighting and scene composi-tion. Were “Shutter Island” released back in October, I can almost guarantee that he would be up for a cinematog-raphy Oscar.

It wouldn’t have surprised me if some of the actors received nods as well. Lead-ing the pack is DiCaprio, whose decent into madness is gripping and real. Some of DiCaprio’s best roles were under the direction of Scorsese, and “Shut-ter Island” is no exception. Rounding out the cast are the venerable Ben Kingsley and the ever-dependable Mark Ruffalo. Jackie Earle Haley (Rorschach from last year’s “Watchmen,” and soon to be Freddy in the upcoming “Nightmare on Elm Street” reboot) also makes a brief but memorable appearance as one of the island’s more damaged patients.

Because of its twisty-turny nature, I won’t spoil the plot of “Shutter Island” other than to say that it’s a real doozy. It’s filled with so many surreal dream and flashback sequences that it’s easy to lose track of reality. By film’s end, you’ll be so off balance that its surprise ending will hit you just as hard as it does DiCaprio. Expertly shot and acted, “Shutter Island” is a mind-bending trip that you won’t soon forget. This is classic horror, harkening to the Hitchcockian era of atmo-sphere and suspense. The wait may have been long, but it was well worth it for this must-see film.

Listeners also get a snapshot of Slug’s past flings in “Modern Man’s Hustle,” in which he remembers “The first time I met the Devil was at a Motel 6 / She left Hell to spend a weekend on Earth just for kicks.” The creative focal point of the record is the track “Godlovesugly,” which provides a frame of reference for several tracks to follow. This track finds the MC struggling to come to terms with personal angst: “Appears more clear in it’s simplest form / Nobody sees tears when you’re standin’ in the storm / Abandonin’ the norm, and handlin’ the harvest / Measur-ing the worth by the depth of the hard-ship.”

This release is painted head to toe with a thick layer of self-doubt and depression, and saturated with joyless gloom. Amidst the backdrop of Ant’s desolate beats, Slug throws down his emo monologues with such incredible cadence, he is able to rhyme about the harshest of life’s realities and make them sound as beautiful as a Shakespearean sonnet.



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Angst-ridden “God Loves Ugly” as good as hip-hop gets

This week, there is no new music re-view; instead, I’d like to revisit one of my favorite hip-hop albums of all-time—a record by Minneapolis duo Atmosphere that is loved by many, but still doesn’t get the wide-spread



acclaim or recog-nition it deserves. God Loves Ugly, which served as the pair’s spring-board from neighborhood heroes to na-tionally recognized artisans. If you missed it the first time around, then it is recom-mended that you become acquainted with Slug (Sean Daley) and Ant (Anthony Davis) at their creative zenith.

The fact that the best hip-hop record in recent memory is actually a re-release of an acclaimed seven-year-old album says a lot about the current state of the genre. In fact, can you even name a rap album released in the past six months? I didn’t think so.

Yes, I know that the demise of hip-hop has been cliché for some time now (Nas even dedicated an entire album to rail

against the death of his profession). But with Kanye wailing indecipherable mush into an Auto-Tune device and someone who goes by the name of “Ron Browz” currently occupying a top spot on the charts, can we safely assume that we as an audience have become desensitized to the absence of meaningful vocal content?

No matter whether the answer is yes or no, fans will always be able to find solace in the rawness and familiarity of homegrown independent artists. Slug, the introspective, lyrical half of the duo, displays an ever-present humility as well as worldly knowledge: “I’ll play a show in Australia and Europe, and there will be people who came to the show that don’t even know who the fuck I am,” he said in 2006. “What I’m saying is that I don’t think the kids in Australia take [hip-hop] for granted yet.”

God Loves Ugly is essentially a collec-tion of broken, urban love chronicles and personal reflections. It begins in tradi-tional Atmosphere fashion—with a stiff, steady beat. The first sounds to greet the ears of listeners are the chants of “you’re so ugly, you’re so ugly” by an assembly of young girls. The opening track, “One-mosphere” contains one of the most indel-

ible lyrical gems of their entire discogra-phy: “My life is as trite as your favorite rap record / And I’m possessed with that insight that enables me to laugh better.” Think about that one for a while.

Listeners also get a snapshot of Slug’s past flings in “Modern Man’s Hustle,” in which he remembers “The first time I met the Devil was at a Motel 6 / She left Hell to spend a weekend on Earth just for kicks.” The creative focal point of the record is the track “Godlovesugly,” which provides a frame of reference for several tracks to follow. This track finds the MC struggling to come to terms with personal angst: “Appears more clear in it’s simplest form / Nobody sees tears when you’re standin’ in the storm / Abandonin’ the norm, and handlin’ the harvest / Measur-ing the worth by the depth of the hard-ship.”

This release is painted head to toe with a thick layer of self-doubt and depression, and saturated with joyless gloom. Amidst the backdrop of Ant’s desolate beats, Slug throws down his emo monologues with such incredible cadence, he is able to rhyme about the harshest of life’s realities and make them sound as beautiful as a Shakespearean sonnet.

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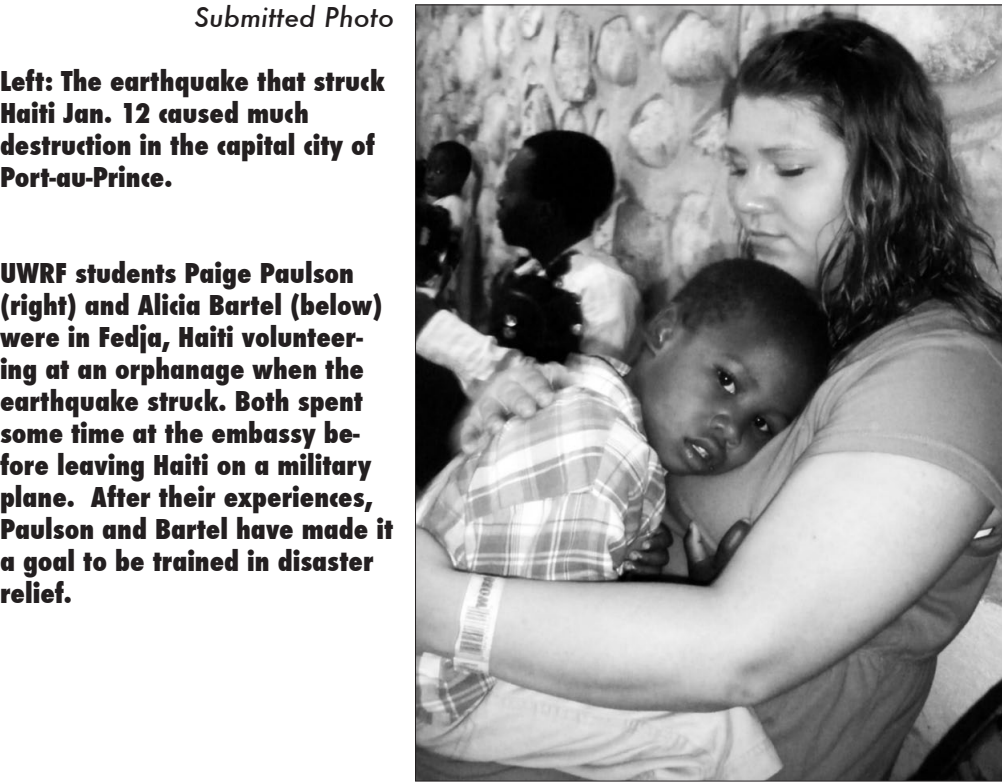
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UWRF students experience Haiti earthquake



Left: The earthquake that struck Haiti Jan. 12 caused much destruction in the capital city of Port-au-Prince.

UWRF students Paige Paulson (right) and Alicia Bartel (below) were in Fedja, Haiti volunteering at an orphanage when the earthquake struck. Both spent some time at the embassy before leaving Haiti on a military plane. After their experiences, Paulson and Bartel have made it a goal to be trained in disaster relief.



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Alicia Bartel and Paige Paulson, two UW-River Falls students, were volunteering at an orphanage in Haiti when the January 12 earthquake struck.

“When the earthquake hit, Alicia and I were in our hotel room about to lay down for a nap,” Paulson, a junior, said. “It felt like your body was moving in one direction and everything else was moving the opposite direction.”

Bartel, also a junior at UWRF, and Paulson ran out of their hotel room. They had never experienced an earthquake before, so they were not sure what was happening.

“The pool had ocean-like waves,” Bartel said. They realized that something serious was happening because there were other Haitians that had come out of the hotel.

They were volunteering at an orphanage in Fedja [FAY’-dja], 35 miles from Port-au-Prince, when the earthquake struck. Fedja did not experience much destruction because of the distance from Port-au-Prince. The two women traveled with Five Oaks Community Church in

Woodbury to Haiti on a mission trip to work in the All of God’s Children orphanage.

The main point of their trip to Haiti was to work with the children in the orphanage. Other members of the group that traveled with them also worked on painting the orphanage, but were not able to finish due to the earthquake.

The group was supposed to leave January 17, but due to the increase in gas prices, which had tripled, and not wanting to use up the Haitians resources, the group left Fedja to head to Port-au-Prince on January 14. The group met up with the Air Force at the embassy in Port-au-Prince and rode a military plane back to the United States.

“The night we decided to leave, we all stayed up late to get things at the orphanage back to order,” Paulson said. They had to close up electrical lines, make sure everything was working and put away all of the other tools they had been using.

“Clean up is usually an entire day of work, but somehow we completed it that night; everyone realized the urgency of our situation,” Paulson said.

Since it was unclear what

the situation in Port-au-Prince would be, they were given specific instructions as to what they could take home. They were forced to leave luggage behind in Fedja at the orphanage.

“I was only told to bring what I could carry,” Bartel said. She had to leave behind one of her suitcases that was mostly filled with educational supplies for the orphanage.

Twelve members of the group had to ride in one van on the way to Port-au-Prince. Bartel hadn’t eaten all day and was developing a headache after the two hour car ride to the embassy.

“As we got closer, my stomach started feeling sick with the anticipation of what I would be encountering,” Bartel said.

As the group was coming down the mountain that Fedja is located on, Bartel saw someone carrying a coffin on their bike.

“I assume they were bringing a loved one home to bury,” Bartel said.

Many people in Port-au-

Prince were walking around with handkerchiefs around their mouths.

“I am not sure if this was to prevent inhaling dust or to keep the stench of dead bodies away,” Bartel said. “Every once in a while you would see a Haitian carrying a little kid with a blanket over them; I prayed that child was sleeping and hadn’t passed away.”

While driving through Port-au-Prince there were many traffic jams so the van they were in took alleyways and had to stop and ask directions on how to get to the embassy.

“Getting into the embassy was a relief of a sense of safety, but one couldn’t help but feel sad to have to leave the Haitian people behind,” Bartel said.

Once they got to the embassy, they were told that they could only bring home one backpack, which forced them to leave even more luggage behind.

They had to spend some time in the embassy before

they left for home. While there they helped clean bathrooms, pass out paperwork, move luggage and serve meals.

“There was also a lot of praying involved in our time spent in the embassy,” Paulson said. “[We were] praying for all the people in Haiti and especially our friends from the orphanage and the hard tasks they had in front of them.”

This was not Paulson’s first trip to Haiti; she had been there last January as well.

“The first time being there affected me more than I could imagine,” Paulson said. “The love I feel for the kids and the people who run the orphanage is overwhelming. [They] are my brothers and sisters.”

Paulson intends to return to Haiti.

“If they would have let me stay, I would have,” Paulson said. “If I was called today and asked to go, I would be on the plane.”

Both Paulson and Bartel created a lifetime goal from this experience. They want to become trained in disaster relief.

“I want to be able to work internationally, especially with disaster relief,” Paulson said.

Shortly after arriving home, the women received good news that 12 children from the orphanage they worked at had been adopted. The 12 children were already in the adoption process and were granted visas so they could come to the US and finish the paperwork.

“It makes me so happy, but in a selfish way very sad,” Paulson said about the adopted children. “I am so happy for these kids and their new families, but it makes me sad that I will never be able to go back and see them.”

Both Paulson and Bartel explained how much help the Haitian people still need. They are both working with the Five Oaks Church at their Feed My Starving Children on March 6.

“The food we prepare is going to go to Haiti,” Bartel said. “Right now the orphanage is down to two meals a day, and soon will be one meal a day.”

Paulson explained that it was very difficult for her to leave Haiti, especially in the state that the country was in.

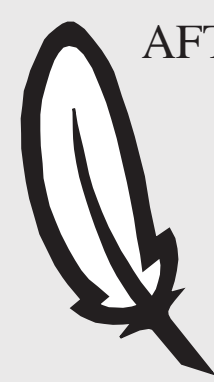
“Especially after this last trip,” Paulson said, “I feel like my heart was left in Haiti.”

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