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UWRF student sees world as a 'Couch Surfer'



STUDENT VOICE

November 11, 2010

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Senate opposes United Council fees

Kimberly Kuhens
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Being forced to pay for politics is one of several reasons why Student Senate President Leigh Monson is not happy with the new UW Student Representatives Constitution and is taking steps to keep it from passing.

Every UW student will have to pay \$3 every semester and summer session to the United Council, according to the constitution under the Mandatory Refundable Fee clause. Students do have the option to ask for a refund, but their request must be submitted within 45 days of the first day of classes.

"I could understand a fee if a school is a member of United Council, but UWRF has voted against being a member of United Council for several years," Monson said.

United Council is a non-partisan, non-profit, student-directed organization committed to

enhancing the quality of student life and protecting access to higher education in Wisconsin. United Council's mission is to represent all students of the UW-System and advocate for them on issues of higher education pertaining to value, quality and student experience, according to the United Council of UW Students website.

The last time UW-River Falls students were given the opportunity to vote on joining United Council was in spring 2009. The students voted "no" just like they had in the two previous polls regarding United Council. UWRF students have voted "no" with an increasing margin of "no" votes every time, according to Senate Chair Tyler Halverson.

Halverson is not a fan of being forced to pay a fee and have UWRF become a member of United Council if this constitution passes.

"United Council is practically making us

join by requiring the MRF. United Council is ineffective and not worth the students' money," Halverson said.

The refundable part is also misleading, said Halverson.

"Yes there is the option for students to get their money back, but the website is a mess; the contact information is not there," Halverson said. "The time limit to inform all the students about how to get their money back is infeasible."

Monson is also not happy with the voting clause in the new constitution. The constitution states that voting can be handled in only two ways: weighted or institutional.

Weighted voting means that the votes are multiplied by the number of students enrolled at a school. Monson does not like this because it automatically gives the larger schools more power. Institutional voting means that four-

year institutions get two votes while two-year institutions only get one vote. Monson said that this system is not fair because there is no way the two-year institutions will get a shot at getting anything passed.

Lastly, Monson is not supportive of the Adoption and Amendment clause of the constitution. This clause says that the constitution will be adopted after two-thirds of all campus governments ratify it. This means that all schools will be absorbed into the new constitution, whether they like it or not, said Monson.

"This means that UWRF would have to become a member of United Council and pay its fee, even though UWRF has voted 'no' repeatedly," Monson said.

"This constitution assumes that United Council is equally beneficial to all schools,

See Council page 3

Report shows increase in underage drinking

Andy Moran
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Highlighted by drastic increases in drinking violations, the 2010 UW-River Falls Campus Security Report has been released by the Residence Life Student Rights and Responsibilities Department.

The report is designed to give students, staff and members of the River Falls community an understanding of what is going on in the area, specifically pertaining to crimes and violations.

According to the report, the intentions are to provide students with general information regarding campus safety and security.

The annual release of the report is in compliance with the federal law formally known as the Student Right to Know and Campus Security act of 1990, unofficially known as the Clery Act since its proposal in the 1980s.

Highlighted in the report are several crimes that occurred on campus in 2009. While no extensive details of the crimes are provided, several charts make up a visual representation of the events.

Officer Patricia Forsberg said that the report is a good way for students to learn about the laws and regulations that

apply to them everyday.

"It's very helpful for the students to have an understanding of what is going on around them," Forsberg said. "It's also a part of being a respectable member of the community."

Increased underage alcohol violations do not surprise Forsberg.

Forsberg said it is well known that college students are going to drink, and the real problem lies within the intent of the action, not in the student.

"We know that [underage consumption] is going to happen," Forsberg said. "We wish it wouldn't, but really what we are asking for is responsibility from the students."

With underage alcohol violations on campus spiking more than double from 85 in 2008, to 225 in 2009, Forsberg said that Residence Life and policies implemented in that department are a part of the explanation.

"We work very closely with the Residence Life staff to try to promote a safe campus environment," Forsberg said.

Assistant Director for Residence Life-Community Development and Education Kristie Feist said that newly implemented guidelines and procedures

See security page 3

Local author speaks at UWRF



Sally King/Student Voice
Author, humorist, singer and songwriter Michael Perry came to campus as a part of the Wyman Series Nov. 9. Perry's books are available for purchase in the Falcon Shop.

UWRF professor uses zebra fish to test human heart failure



Kirsten Blake/Student Voice
Chen-Cheng Huang's research on heart failure in zebra fish shows potential to discover drugs beneficial to human disease. Huang received a \$40,000 grant for his research in October from the WiSys Technology Foundation.

Kirsten Blake
kirsten.blake@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls Assistant Professor Cheng-Chen Huang was awarded a \$40,000 grant in early October from the WiSys Technology Foundation to continue his research on heart failure.

By applying aristolochic acid to zebra fish embryos, Huang said he has been able to induce heart failure in them similar to that in humans. Huang then tests 30-40 chemical compounds on fish that might eliminate or reduce their heart failure.

Huang said that he is excited because the research could discover drugs beneficial to human heart disease.

"In general, research is always exciting, because we are designing experiments to find answers to our questions," Huang said. "Any discovery is exciting to me."

Huang said that, while right now he does not know whether his compounds could be applied to humans or not, in the future he could begin to

test a more complex animal like a mouse. For now, the zebra fish offers a less expensive, faster way to test compounds. Since the zebra fish develop so quickly, the entire experiment from hatching the zebra fish, testing the compounds and collecting results can happen within one week.

Huang said the project has great potential because of the similarities they have found between the hearts of zebra fish and humans. Huang has gathered enough results to begin applying for extramural grants from the American Heart Association and the National Institutes of Health.

Huang earned his doctorate degree in 2001 from Rutgers University in New Jersey and began as assistant professor at UWRF in 2008. Huang decided to come to UWRF because he liked the ratio of research to teaching that UWRF required.

Originally from Taiwan, Huang is taking students there to study abroad over J-

See Fish page 3

VOICE SHORTS

Deadlines set for holiday mail to deployed troops

Family and friends have just under one month to get those holiday care packages mailed out to ensure they reach deployed service members before Christmas. According to the U.S. Postal Service, Nov. 12 is the recommended deadline for packages addressed to Army/Air Force Post Office and Fleet Post Office ZIP codes, if those packages are sent by regular mail, or parcel post. The deadline extends to Dec. 4 for packages sent by priority mail to APO addresses in contingency areas such as Iraq and Afghanistan, and Dec.11 for all other APO addresses. First-class mail cards and letters must be sent no later than Dec. 18 to be received by Dec. 25. For more information, contact Lt. Col. Jackie Guthrie at 608-242-3050 or 608-516-1777.

AASA to hold ninth annual Culture Fest

The Asian American Student Association will host Culture Fest from 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 16 in the North Hall Auditorium. This is a free event for UW-River Falls students and community to share and experience the rich cultural diversity of UWRF through music, theatre, dance, fashion and much more. The event will feature performances from the Black Student Union, International Student Association, Swing Dance Club, Break Dance Club and Dance Team. For more information contact Hleeda Her at aasa@uwrf.edu.

DNR official to give Furbearer Presentation

The Resource Management Club is having a Wisconsin DNR official give a presentation at 6 p.m. Nov. 17 in the Agricultural Science Building room 200. The presentation is called “Furbearers and Furbearer Management: The Tales of Those Furry Critters in Wisconsin.” It will cover furbearers in Wisconsin, furbearer management, trapping and trapping as a management impliment.

Integrated Planning Office holds workshop

Project Management 101 is an in-depth look into the project life-cycle and tips and templates to help projects go more smoothly. The project workshop will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Nov. 17 in the St. Croix River Room, 321 University Center.

UWRF Student writers to hold reading

Students will present their original works at 3 p.m. Nov. 19 in the Chalmer Davee Library Breezeway. All are welcome to attend. Students interested on reading should sign up in front of the English Department student lounge. Open mic will follow if time allows.

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.

- Nov. 5
- A sign was reported vandalized on South 6th Street.
 - A bike was reported stolen at the University Center.

Find Freddy’s Feather!
E-mail the Voice at editor@uwrfvoice.com.
Be the first person to report the find after 10 a.m. to win free movie passes.

Sodexo strives to reduce food waste



Sally King/Student Voice
Dining Services Director Jerry Waller and Executive Chef Jim Morris have been supervising the new program, Lean Path, to reduce food waste on campus. They have reduced food waste by 13.3 percent.

Sally King
Sally.King@uwrf.edu

Sodexo serves about 25,000 meals each week. They have been working on a new program called Lean Path to reduce waste at UW- River Falls.

“Waste management is a high priority for Dining Services. With Sodexo’s new program we are able to track and weigh all of the waste that we go through,” said Dining Services Director Jerry Waller. “So we are putting less wasted food into the trash. It’s just a way of being aware of how much food is being thrown away from a pre-production standpoint. It really minimizes Sodexo’s food costs.”

Overproduction costs started at about \$1,700 a week and is now down to about \$1,400 a week due to the new Lean Path program to cut down waste.

“The trend has been going down, it has been going the right way. When we started, our overproduction was about \$300 more a week than it is now,” said Residential Dining Manager Jim Falk. “And the trend that we want to see is to make sure that it’s decreasing instead of going up. This week it went down 13.3 percent since the beginning.”

Sodexo employees are to weigh everything on a scale before they throw it out. The food waste is recorded and posted on the wall of the kitchen so the staff can monitor their progress.

“I think it has opened a lot of people’s eyes as far as waste and what kind of waste that we have. And how we can control

the waste,” Falk said. “It is a good tool as long as everyone does their part. And the staff has really bought into it, so that is good.”

Dining Services first made the push to cut down on food waste two years ago when they stopped using trays.

“It’s really easy for anyone to go up to a buffet and take a whole tray worth of food and only eat half of it,” said Executive Chef Jim Morris. “Everybody is very conscientious on trying to minimize waste. What we can do better and how we can improve. The goal is to see continuous improvement week after week.”

Morris said, Sodexo goes through about one ton of broccoli per month and about 450 gallons of milk per week.

“Any time you highlight something and bring it to the forefront of somebody, you tend to focus on it more,” Morris said. “Any time you can show improvement, it’s a good thing. We want to be good stewards of our environment and take care of it. Whether it’s power or water or food waste.”

Future plans for Dining Services consist of a possible vegetable garden, as well as other waste management strategies. “We are trying to do the same thing with power and energy. So I’m not turning the oven on the first thing in the morning, so that I’m not wasting energy,” Morris said. “Also trying not to waste water, all of those things add up. We even use the tops of the pineapples as decorative flowers. We try to do everything we can to reduce waste, it’s always an improvement.”

SENATE SHORTS

- From the Nov. 2 Student Senate meeting:
- Student Senate allocated \$860.77 to Sports Clubs to purchase materials for first aid kits.

- Appointments:
- John Schimenz was appointed to the Head Football Coach / HHP Instructor Search and Screen Committee
 - Senator Ali Haifawi and Senator Michael Leonard were appointed to the Shared Governance committee.

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Turkey Trot fundraises for food shelf



Sally King/Student Voice
Top: Dean Van Galen and Ashley Van Galen run in the 12 Annual Turkey Trot November 12 through UWRF's campus, finishing on the Ramer Field Track.
Upper Left: The pack begins the Turkey Trot November 12 near Karges Center.
Left: Cary Cardinal and Jacob Cavanaugh run push to the finish of the 5K race.

Council: Students repeatedly reject alignment

from page 1

but there is no evidence to suggest that,” Halverson said.

The other Senate members were generally disapproving of this constitution. There was no debate against Monson at the Nov. 2 meeting, said Monson.

The new UW Student Representation Con-

stitution will not replace the UWRF Senate constitution.

“The purpose of the Student Reps Constitution is to act as an oversight committee to United Council's operations and funding, not replace the governmental structures of each school,” Monson said in an e-mail.

United Council Public Relations Spokesperson Michael Moscicke said this new con-

stitution is a positive thing.

“[This constitution] gives ability for student governments to review the work of United Council and be more involved in it. This will provide more stability from year to year and provide a closer connection to the UW System. It will also provide more stable funding for the organization,” Mossicke said in a phone interview.

Monson's strategy now is to team up with other schools like Fox Valley, Waukesha and UW-Whitewater to form a strategy and lobby against the Board of Regents before January so that the constitution does not pass. Monson has no intention of giving up.

“This is a tall order or a long shot, whatever you want to call it, but we are still going to try to fight it.”

Fish: Funding for research comes from WiSys foundation grant



Kirsten Blake/Student Voice
Assistant professor Cheng-Chen Huang came to UWRF in 2008 and says he enjoys involving undergraduates in his research, and encourages participation on any level.

from page 1

term. Johnathan Emahiser is one of the students that will be accompanying him.

A biology major and chemistry minor, Emahiser is one of the students doing undergraduate research with Huang. Emahiser said his duties have included feeding the fish, cleaning the tanks, conducting experiments and interpreting the data since he started working with Huang last December.

“What I've learned in some of my classes really pales in comparison to the hands-on experience I've had in the lab,” Emahiser said.

“I like being immersed in a problem, and I like actively searching for an answer,” he added. “I would love to see that my work becomes something that could help people against one of the leading causes of death in

the United States.”

Huang said he enjoys involving undergraduates in his research.

“Watching them learning and making discoveries is exciting and something I didn't know I enjoyed before I came to this job,” Huang said.

Huang encourages undergraduates to participate in research. If they are interested, they should not be afraid to get started even if they begin gaining experience by simply cleaning the lab.

“You have to put your heart into the project,” Huang said. “The critical part will be if you are ready or not mentally.”

When working with undergraduate researchers, Huang said he learned that faculty have to watch closely, be understanding and give detailed instructions. The students should be careful but not afraid of making mistakes.

“Everyone makes mistakes,” Huang said. “Including me.”

Security: Res. Life policy changes report more underage drinking violations

from page 1

concerning alcohol-related violations on campus are something that the department has been working to improve since her arrival on campus.

“I've been here for five years,” Feist said. “Our policy, when I first got here, was anytime the staff thought that there was drinking, specifically underage drinking, going on in the halls, their first step was to contact public safety at that time.”

Feist said that changes in the approach of

handling underage alcohol violations in the residence halls is something that took form in 2008 and was fully implemented in 2009.

“In 2008, we did a lot of research and looked into what other peer institutions were doing in regards to confronting underage drinking,” Feist said. “We found that what we were doing really wasn't a typical practice.”

Feist continued by saying that institutions similar to UWRF had a system in place where which a resident assistant would confront the situation before calling the police.

“Looking at how our peer institutions and

other institutions in Wisconsin were doing that, we thought, why don't we align more,” Feist said. “We felt like it was a better practice.”

Feist said that the increase in underage alcohol violations can also be attributed to the growth of the Residence Life staff.

“Before 2008, we were a staff of three,” Feist said. “After 2008, we were a staff of six.”

Students say that they have heard of the Campus Security Report, but do not know what it says or means.

“I got the e-mail but never really got the chance to open it and look at what it really is,” said junior Melissa Beres.

Students who wish to learn more can access the report on the UWRF website.

Further information regarding citations, laws, and residence life guidelines can be found in the Department of Residence Life Student Rights and Responsibility guide, which is available in the Involvement Center of the University Center.

Student Voice
announcement:

Expect the Voice to return to
publication on Fridays

Listen to WRFW News
on 88.7 FM

Monday 5:30 p.m., Tuesday 3:30 p.m., Wednesday 3:30
p.m. & 5:30 p.m., Thursday 5:30 p.m. and Friday 3:30 p.m.

EDITORIALS

All are responsible for good health on campus this winter

Wash your hands.
The season of illnesses is approaching and it is the responsibility of each individual to keep the toll of the sick and the suffering to a minimum.
Washing up is not just about avoiding a cold – it is about protecting your peers as well. You can choose to not protect yourself but being sick is like secondhand smoke. If you are ill, you risk exposing those around you.
So, if you do get sick, stay home and try not to infect the rest of us. Your professors and bosses will understand. They don’t want your disease either.
It is respectful to them for you to wash your hands and to do your best to prevent the spread of disease. It also shows great consideration to others if you would sanitize any public property you touch. For example, if you use one of the computer labs on campus, grab a disinfecting wipe and run it over the keyboard and mouse before you leave. If you work at an office desk and use a phone, wipe that down as well.
If you aren’t sick, conduct your life as if everyone around you is. In class, assume that the person who sat in your desk before you was ill. Keep your hands away from your face and wash them after class.

Staying healthy isn’t just about being clean or drowning yourself in disinfectant. Taking the time to get enough sleep, a little exercise and to eat well can go a long way. All those things boost your immune system. It just helps to know that if you are exposed to a virus, you have done all that you can to help your body fight it off.
In terms of eating healthy, just a Pop-Tart and some gummie bear vitamins aren’t going to cut it. Sodexo offers plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables at every meal to meet your healthy foods quota.
If you buy your own food, you might be surprised that a lot of the items in the produce section are cheaper than many of the processed foods in the aisles. Sure the asparagus and imported blueberries can be a little expensive, but a head of romaine lettuce and bag of carrots is cheaper than a box of Cheez-Its. Some of the less expensive fruits like bananas, and a bag of frozen strawberries mixed with orange juice can make a great smoothie.
Just remember, staying healthy isn’t just about you. It is also about your classmates, roommates, co-workers and everyone else that needs to make it through this season of illnesses.

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

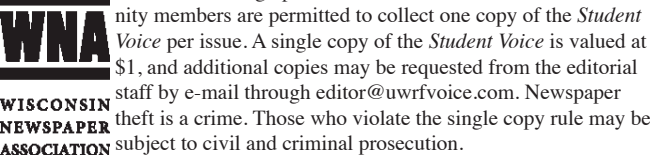
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The Student Voice is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Fridays during the regular school year.
All editorial content in the Student Voice is determined by the newspaper’s Editorial Board. The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of the newspaper’s advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.
Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall, River Falls, WI 54022 or to editor@uwrfvoice.com.
The Student Voice reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters. All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon.
Because of high production costs, UW-River Falls community members are permitted to collect one copy of the Student Voice per issue. A single copy of the Student Voice is valued at \$1, and additional copies may be requested from the editorial staff by e-mail through editor@uwrfvoice.com. Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.



Darielle Dahnke/Student Voice

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student expresses dissatisfaction with Student Voice sports coverage

Student professes dissapointment with Senator Johnson’s win over Feingold

In the Nov. 5 edition of the Student Voice, I was shocked to see how one of the columnists does not support the Falcon’s athletic program. In the article “Penalty kill, defense hinders men’s hockey” the author criticizes the men’s hockey team. I was at the Oct. 30 game and saw a completely different game from the one described in the article. The Falcons came out with a lot of energy. As an avid fan of Falcons hockey, I have seen both the ups and downs over the past three seasons. It is too early in the season to be having a negative outlook on the season. This was their first conference test in conference where every game—no matter what place the team is in—can have a different outcome.
As stated in the article, UW-Superior was the NCHA’s last place team, but if the author would have done his research and gone to tge NCHA’s website he would have found that Superior did not lose a conference game by more than four goals and half of their losses came by one goal. The article points out that UW-River Falls allowed three goals in 12 power play opportunities to Superior. If the author would have done his research he would have found that UWRF is 10th in the nation in penalty kills, which is better than No. 6 in the nation Manhattanville and better than NCHA foe and No. 3 in the nation St. Norbert. Yes, the Falcons take a lot of penalties but they are able to kill them off, according to ucsho.com.
This is not the first time this columnist has written negatively about Falcon sports. Even if the season is not going as planned, as a student newspaper we should be supporting our teams that provide enjoyment for out student and community. UWRF is a division III school. The athletes do not receive scholarships to play and don’t deserve to be torn apart by the newspaper. Tearing down teams shows complete unprofessionalism, especially by a fellow student.
Go Falcons.

John Hanley IV
student

In Russ Feingold we had a public servant who cared enough to visit every county in Wisconsin once a year to listen to our concerns. He co-authored one of the most significant pieces of campaign finance legislation and is the only senator to have actually read the so-called Patriot Act before voting on it. He vocally opposed the ruinous wars that are in large part the cause of the current deficit. What do we know about Senator-elect Johnson?
We know that he has articulated only with difficulty even his party’s talking points, and that he has refused to say beforehand what he plans to do in office. And we know that he has a personal fortune of nearly 18 million, which very comfortably insulates him from the struggles of ordinary working people. We know that Johnson has gone on record saying that he has the same health insurance that all of his employees do, while in fact several of them receive low-income coverage from the State of Wisconsin’s Badger Careprogram.
Johnson has also lied about Feingold’s voting record. Russ Feingold normally and almost always votes on party lines, said one Johnson ad, while actually Feingold has crossed party lines more frequently than all but a handful of senators. Feingold was also recently named number one enemy of lobbyists by Washington Magazine. Rejecting Feingold, Wisconsin has thrown out the baby with the bath water, cut off its nose to spite its face and sacrificed a devoted fighter for ordinary citizens against the power of big money and corporations.
How long, I wonder, before buyer’s remorse sets in when some of us realize what we’ve done?

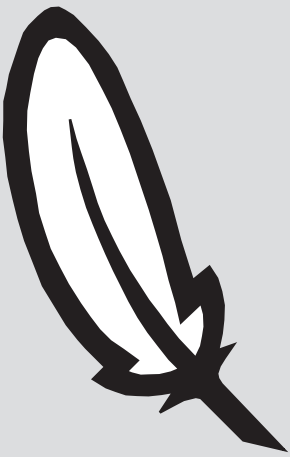
Thomas R. Smith
student

Find Freddy’s Feather!

Be the first person to find the lost Freddy the Falcon Feather in this issue of the Voice and win two free movie passes!

The first person to report the find to
editor@uwrfvoice.com AFTER 10 a.m.
Thursday, Nov. 11 wins.

Last week’s winner:
Kari Swanson



UWRF officer evaluates the repercussions of using foul language

Patricia Forsberg

According to UWS 18.11(2), “No person may engage in violent, abusive, indecent, profane, boisterous, unreasonably loud or otherwise disorderly conduct under circum-

stances in which the conduct tends to cause or provoke a disturbance, in university buildings or on university lands.” This offense is called disorderly conduct (DC).

Obviously, there are a lot of offenses that are sheltered under this offense. Disorderly conduct is the catch all of offenses. The reason I bring this up is because a big part of being a college student is going to athletic events on campus. The UW-River Falls Police Department works football, hockey and other events. I am amazed by the amount of obscene language used.

As a fan, you are a representative of the university. That being said, your actions reflect on all of us on campus. Please note that I say this not only as an officer, but also as a student. As adults, we are protected by freedom of speech; you have the freedom to say what you want, but if what you say is in violation with the above code, there could be repercussions. As educated adults, I feel that we can think of adjectives that are longer than four letters (the -ing does not count) to describe the game.

Typically, a warning is given first in the event of obscene language and gestures at a UWRF sanctioned event. The second step is immediate removal off of the premises. Finally, if a person decides to yell obscenities at us—the police—while being removed from the event, a citation for disorderly conduct will be issued. The fine amount for disorderly conduct

is \$295. If you think about it that is \$73.75 per letter for the word you decide to use. Rather than utilizing a three-step

process, we have the right to issue a citation without any previous warning. Because the majority of students refrain from using obscenities after the first warning, we try to implement

a warning when possible. There are some exceptions though. At the hockey game on Halloween, I escorted a man out of the game who chose to yell a number of obscene words at the referees and UW-Superior players and bang on the glass. These actions are not tolerated.

Fans are integral to all sporting events. By participating as a fan, you are supporting the team and the university. Along with that, we have some excellent leaders at

athletic events that encourage and lead cheers. Cheer for your team, have pride in your chosen university and have fun. If you cannot participate without the obscenities, be prepared for the repercussions that will come.

Patricia has been a law enforcement officer for three years and an officer with UW-River Falls for a little over a year. She is also a student at UWRF, majoring in sociology with a criminal justice minor.

As a fan, you are a representative of the university. That being said, your actions reflect on all of us on campus. Please note that I say this not only as an officer, but also as a student.

Fans are integral to all sporting events. By participating as a fan, you are supporting the team and the university. Cheer for your team, have pride in your chosen university and have fun.

STUDENT VOICES

What do you do to stay healthy while attending UW-River Falls?

Sean Vass, junior



“I bike everywhere around town, since I don’t own a car and do yoga.”



Laura Krawczyk, senior

“I go to classes provided by student health services like yoga, zumba, and tai chi. And I eat right.”



Jon Lyksett, senior

“Drink a lot of cranberry juice and I try to cut down on my soda drinking.”



Hannah Maertz, freshman

“I longboard around and make healthy choices.”



Auna Jensen, freshman

“I’m healthy by going to open skate during the week and I play hockey during the winter.”



Brandon Robinson, sophomore

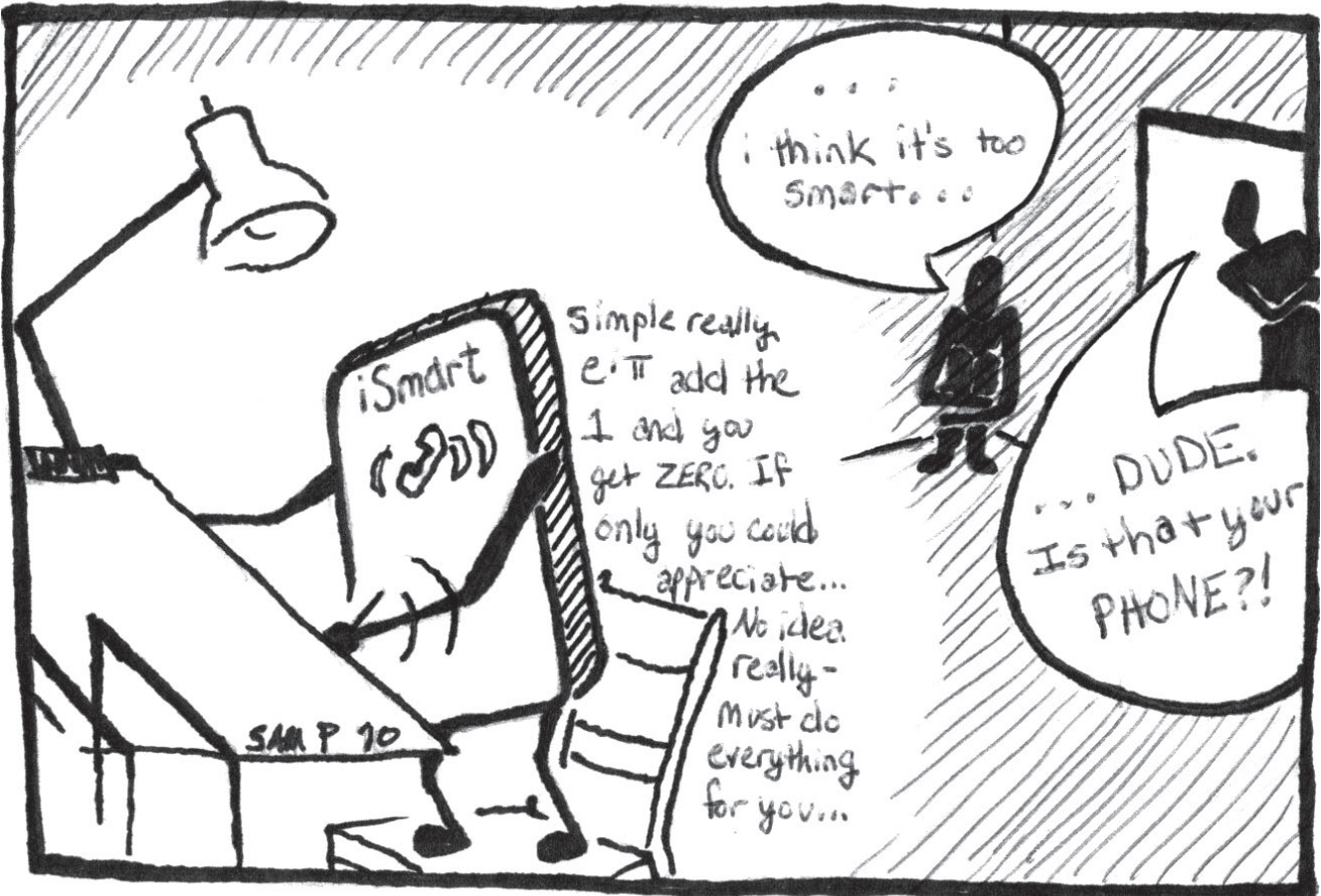
“I keep a good diet and work out.”



Skyler Harmon, sophomore

“I play basketball every day of the week.”

Student Voices compiled by Hannah Lenius



Sam Powell/Student Voice

Columnist’s patriotism persists despite dwindling values among fellow Americans



Ashley Goettl

I believe that America is the greatest country on Earth. No other place in the world compares to the blessing of liberty and freedoms that we have. However,

should have a gentle reminder of what they have done for us.

I firmly believe that if this country wants to move beyond this economic recession, we need to return to the values of old times. These values include working hard to live the American dream and fighting to make a better life for the next generation. They include being grateful to our family, friends and neighbors and taking pleasure in the simple things in life, such as watching a sunset or sitting down to read with your child.

These patriotic values of the everyday family in the United States will be the ones to pull us up by our bootstraps and to get America working again. I am only 19, but I still remember when it was considered shameful to live off the

government before retirement and when it was a good thing when your family went to church every Sunday. I know that we can turn this country around, but it starts in the home. We can change this country one household at a time by honoring our past and keeping a watchful eye on our future.

I am proud to be an American. That is why whenever I hear the National Anthem or have the privilege of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, I will do so eagerly and humbly state it while honoring

I am proud to be an American. That is why whenever I hear the National Anthem or have the privilege of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, I will do so eagerly and humbly state it while honoring the sacrifice of the past and the hope for the future.

the sacrifice of the past and the hope for the future. I hope that by my actions, others will continue to follow suit. We are and always will be “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Ashley is a sophomore double majoring in journalism and digital film and television with a political science minor. She enjoys watching the Twins and Vikings, and she is a member of UW-River Falls’ softball team.

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Victories, defense rank women’s basketball third

Jordan Langer
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The preseason predictions are in. The WIAC sports directors ranked the Falcons women’s basketball team third out of the nine teams in the WIAC, according to the conference website. UW-Stevens Point was favored to win the WIAC women’s basketball championship.

There are several reasons why the sports directors ranked the Falcons third.

Last season the team had the most victories in 21 years with 18 overall.

The Falcons defense was the best in the conference, and for a portion of the season, the team was ranked in the top 25 in the country, said Head Coach Cindy Holbrook.

Although the Falcons are up against a tough schedule every year, this year will pose particular challenges for the team, said Holbrook.

“Right now there are five teams in our league that are receiving votes for top 25 in the country in the pre-season polls, including us,” she said. “Our non-conference schedule this year will also be extremely tough as we are taking on the top

teams in three other conferences in the area.”

The other pre-season poll that Coach Holbrook is referring to is the USA Today ESPN Division III Top 25 Coaches’ Poll. Nine head coaches from Division III Institutions make up the USA Today ESPN board of coaches, according to the WIAC website.

The UW-Stevens Point Pointers tied for the sixth place ranking. Although the UW-River Falls, UW-Whitewater and UW-La Crosse women’s basketball teams did not make the top 25 list, all three re-

ceived votes.

The difficult schedule is not deflating the hopes and aspirations of Assistant Head Coach Michael Babler.

“Our hopes are to be conference champs and to get into the NCAA Division III tournament, and I would like to see us be the best defensive team in the league.”

The Falcons have a loyal fan base that has increased every year, said Holbrook.

Last year, the fan base tripled from the year before because the team was doing so well, but Hol-

brook would like to see more fan support from the students.

“It’s disheartening when they come for the men’s game and don’t even stay to see that we’re really good and exciting to watch,” she said. “With such a tough schedule this year our students could really help us by creating a home court advantage in Karges.”

The Falcons started practice Oct. 15, and their first game is away on Nov.17 against Gustavus Adolphus College.

Basketball coach envisions tough, successful season

Steven Linzmeier
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The 2009-10 season ended with more than a little disappointment for the men’s basketball team at UW-River Falls. A team that was expected to challenge for a top four spot in the WIAC failed to even make the playoffs. The new season has brought on even more expectations.

River Falls has the core of their team back from last season and are garnering expectations from around the country. The Falcons received four votes in the preseason D3Hoops’ Top 25 poll. It is River Falls’ first appearance in the poll since 2004.

Head Coach Jeff Berkhof down played the inclusion in the preseason poll. “It’s better than nothing, but all it takes is one person to believe in us,” Berkhof said. “But we do have a chance to be pretty good.”

Berkhof begins his fifth season as the Falcons head coach. He is 39-63 overall in his career at UWRF.This will be Berkhof’s 19th year in River Falls. He played with the Falcons from 1992-94. Following that, he was former Head Coach Rick Bowen’s top assistant for 12 seasons. Berkhof spent one season as the school’s interim head coach before getting the job for good in 2007.

Three key reserves from last year’s team have moved on due to graduation; Spencer Shelman, Dijon Reese and Storm Harmon. Shelman will spend this season on the bench helping to coach the Falcons.

The biggest loss will be leading scorer, leading rebounder and All-Conference member Wade Guerin, who will more than likely sit out the entire season after offseason back surgery. The loss of Guerin will leave the Fal-

cons a little shallow on the front line. It will be up to Jacob Voeltz and Zachary Peterson to stepup and fill the void.

The Falcons will return four out of five starters from last year’s squad. Two-time All-WIAC selection Jontae Koonkaew will begin his final season running the point for River Falls. Last season, Koonkaew averaged 13.9 points per game and nearly four assists a game. Berkhof said a change in philosophy could allow Koonkaew to make his game more complete and take it to the next level.

Aaron Anderson will begin his junior year after sitting out parts of 2009-10 with an injury. Anderson played in just 13 games a year ago but should be healthy to begin this year.

“He is looking great at practice and he is back,” Berkhof said.

Voeltz will be counted on to help fill the space left by Guerin. In 2009-10, Voeltz was third on the team in scoring with 13.2 points per game and second in rebounds with 4.8 rebounds per game.

Daniel Johnson and Brady Hannigan will also see significant playing time once again. Hannigan — one of the teams top defenders — played football this year, so he will be unable to join the team until the conclusion of the Falcon football season.

Johnson will be once again be counted on to add depth at the guard and big shot ability.

The biggest aquisition of the offseason was undoubtedly Shane Manor. Manor transferred to UWRF from UW-Superior and was forced to sit out 2009-10. He averaged 10.2 points per game for Superior two seasons ago. Manor is a dynamic player who can add another dimension to the Falcon offense.



Sally King/Student Voice

UWRF men’s basketball practice for their upcoming season. Head Coach Jeff Berkhof expects early struggles, especially with the disappointing end to the 2009-10 season.

“Obviously he can take the ball to the basket, but Shane brings so much to the table, he can play defense, board and is just a smart basketball player,” Berkhof said.

Three other newcomers should make a big splash for the Falcons this season: Utibe-Abasi Udo, Taylor Peterson and Brian Kimble. Kimble and Udo are junior college transfers.

The early season schedule will definitely have some challenges on it for the Falcons. They open their season Nov. 16 at the Karges Center versus Viterbo, but after that the sea-

son will only get tougher.

On Nov. 23, River Falls will travel to St. Paul to take on No. 13 University of St. Thomas to open up the brand new basketball facility there. They open WIAC play against Superior on Dec. 1. Looming on the other side of that matchup is a home date with the defending national champion Stevens Point Pointers on Dec. 4.

“A lot of these guys have been together through it all,” Berkhof said. “And there is a real sense of urgency to get it done this year.”

Solution to BCS mess available, teams would compete against best



Robert Silvers

walked all over unranked Hawaii 42-7.

How would the BCS respond? How about with a resounding yawn.

No.3 TCU trumped No.5 Utah 47-7 Saturday, sending a message to college football that they are a legit undefeated team. No.4 Boise State

Boise State has the longest winning streak in major college football at 22 games, yet they need a miracle to make the national championship. TCU has only lost one game in two years to Boise State in the Fiesta Bowl last season, and they are 10-0.

Unless Oregon or Auburn loses, they will not play for a national title. Even if one of those teams do lose, both teams have a chance to be leap-frogged by a one loss team such as LSU, Stanford and several others.

There is one easy solution to the mess called the BCS and that is to make a 16-team playoff system, with the eleven conference winners receiving automatic bids with the remaining five spots to be filled by teams receiving at-large

bids.

In this scenario, every conference still gets their money for playing the bowl game, and several other bowls could count towards a national title.

This will make the teams prove they can beat the best of the best to get to the title game. Boise State and TCU would have a shot to get to the national title and control their own destiny rather than wait and hope.

I know we need to wait until at least 2013 before a playoff is implemented but this is a scenario that needs to become reality.

Rob is a senior majoring in communication studies-digital film and television with a journalism minor. He is the assistant sports director at 88.7 FM WRFW and covers River Falls High School football, Falcon football and Falcon men's hockey and women's hockey. Rob also hosts a weekly sports talk show, "Just a Bit Outside," from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays on WRFW.

Weekly Sports Wrap

Men’s Hockey

The Falcons struggled last weekend in non-conference bouts against Augsburg and Gustavus Adolphus going 0-1-1. Friday night, the Falcons skated to a 2-2 tie with the Auggies before dropping Saturday’s game 2-0 to GAC. Freshman goalie Scott Lewan stopped 90 shots in two games between the pipes. The Falcons host UW-Eau Claire at 7:05 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Football

The Falcons are 0-9 after falling to UW-Stevens Point 58-13 Saturday. Head Coach John O’Grady, who retires Dec. 31, was honored during a pre-game ceremony. O’Grady has coached the Falcons for 22 seasons and won 104 games for the Falcons. The Falcons wrap up their season at 1 p.m. Saturday in Eau Claire.

Women’s Hockey

The Falcons blanked Bethel 5-0 Friday night behind a brilliant performance between the pipes by Cassi Campbell who stopped all 19 shots she faced. The Falcons doubled up the Royals in shots on goal 38-19. Freshmen Brook Story and Kait Mason both recorded their first career collegiate goals in the win. The Falcons travel to Milwaukee this weekend to take on NCHA foe Concordia-Wisconsin Friday and Saturday in their NCHA opener.

Women’s Volleyball

The Falcons finished the year with a 20-13 overall record, and they were 3-5 in WIAC. Outside hitter Sami Kaminski was named to the WIAC All-Sportsmanship. She ended the year with 229 kills and 329 digs.

WIAC Standings					
Football			Women’s Volleyball		
School	WIAC	Overall	School	WIAC	Overall
UW-Whitewater	5-0	8-0	UW-Oshkosh	7-1	24-11
UW-Stevens Point	3-2	5-3	UW-Eau Claire	7-1	23-8
UW-Oshkosh	3-2	4-4	UW-Whitewater	6-2	27-7
UW-Platteville	3-2	5-3	UW-Platteville	6-2	29-3
UW-Stout	2-2	4-3	UW-Stevens Point	3-5	21-13
UW-Eau Claire	2-3	4-4	UW-River Falls	3-5	20-13
UW-La Crosse	2-3	2-6	UW-La Crosse	3-5	11-18
UW-River Falls	0-5	0-8	UW-Stout	1-7	6-24
			UW-Superior	0-8	9-27
Women’s Soccer			Men’s Hockey		
School	WIAC	Overall	School	WIAC	Overall
UW-Stevens Point	7-1-0	14-2-1	UW-Eau Claire	0-0	1-0
UW-Whitewater	7-1	10-6	UW-Superior	1-1	1-1
UW-Eau Claire	6-1-1	13-6-1	UW-River Falls	1-1	2-1
UW-River Falls	4-4-0	10-8-2	UW-Stevens Point	0-0	2-1
UW-Platteville	3-4-1	11-8-2	UW-Stout	0-0	1-3
UW-La Crosse	2-4-2	8-7-2			
UW-Oshkosh	3-4-1	9-8-1			
UW-Stout	1-6-1	7-11-1			
UW-Superior	0-8	3-17			



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Film fails to find right balance between drama, tragedy



Michael Brun

With two stars on the top of their game and an accomplished comedy director behind it, one would think “Due Date” would be a guaranteed hit. And yet, despite its pedigree, this movie is tremendously unfunny.

I kept waiting for the comedy to kick in but realized, when the credits began to roll, that it wasn’t going to come.

The plot of “Due Date” is a classic odd couple matchup. Peter (Robert Downey Jr.) is an uptight architect with anger issues. Ethan (Zach Galifianakis) is a sloppy stoner who dreams of breaking into the acting biz. After a chance encounter at the airport, the pair butt heads and get placed on the No-Fly list.

With his wife only days away from delivering their first child, Peter must team up with Ethan for a cross-country road trip of mayhem and foolishness.

You would be hard pressed to find a pair of more in-demand actors than Downey Jr. and Galifianakis. While the former is straddling two simultaneous blockbuster roles as both Iron Man and Sherlock Holmes, the latter has transitioned an accomplished indie-comedy career into stardom with a supporting role in last year’s hugely popular “The Hangover.” Teaming them up seems like a no-brainer, but unfortunately their combo is wasted on a questionable script.

To be clear, the shortcomings of “Due Date” are not the fault of its cast. On the contrary, the cast is the only thing keeping it interesting. Galifianakis is so annoying in this movie that it’s easy to share in Downey Jr.’s rage.

When he threatens to choke Galifianakis out with a scarf, you’ll wish that you could step into the screen and join in.

Galifianakis is also given the opportunity to showcase his serious acting chops. He spends most of the movie playing a goof, but there are moments of real drama as his character opens up about his insecurities and fears.

I found myself torn between absolutely despising his character and feeling sorry for how pathetic he is.

Therein lies the problem with “Due Date.” The movie feels like it’s at war with itself, jumping between whimsical slapstick and deep character drama without sufficiently developing either element.

This results in comedy scenes that are spoiled by depressing revelations while serious scenes interrupted by gross-out humor.

There is not an abundance of jokes in “Due Date,” and what few there are feel mostly understated.

With the exception of a couple of big-budget action scenes, the humor relies on the deliberate timing of dialogue and the actors’ body language. If you’re expecting a mile-a-minute joyride of crazy situations and quotable lines, then you will probably leave disappointed.

Coming from Todd Phillips, the director of such immature romps as “Road Trip” and the previously mentioned “The Hangover,” “Due Date” is perhaps a sign of growth for the filmmaker.

Behind all of the raunchiness and debauchery is a keen storyteller with an eye for character drama. It’s just too bad that “Due Date” fails to find the right balance between tragedy and farce.



Michael Brun is a journalism major with a minor in film studies. When he grows up, Michael would like to be a film critic or RoboCop. Or both.

Supervillain movie conveys mild entertainment, predictability



Anthony Orlando

movie coming down the pipes, Emma Watson is legal now (I think) and a documentary about one of my newly favorite bands is debuting in Minneapolis in a couple weeks.

Unfortunately, all of this excitement is centered on movies that still have yet to be released.

Usually I’ll prepare for seeing what I think might be a bad movie by reminding myself that I’ll get to have some fun wiping my feet on it in my little review where, but the tumbleweeds were really blowing around the “Now Playing” lists this weekend.

With absolutely nothing that caught my interest I pretty much left the decision up to my friend, who elected “Megamind” as the film we’d see this week.

“Oh, you mean that big-name, computer-animated, 3-D, superhero movie that looks like the pitch was ‘why don’t we just combine everything that’s making money at the box office right now into one movie?’ Okay. Good choice buddy.”

Anyway, it looked like the opposite of the movies that I really enjoy.

“Megamind” is the superman-cliche soaked story of two super-beings from outer space that are sent to earth as infants and immediately form a legendary rivalry.

Megamind himself (Will Ferrell) is a blue-pigmented, nerdy space-genius who decides to become a super-villain

This is a fairly exciting time for me as a movie fan. There’s a new Coen Brothers movie on its way, a new Darren Aronofsky

Megamind is a mildly entertaining PG computer animated film with writing and a plot that seemed like it was thrown together willy-nilly.

after being picked last for dodgeball in grade school.

He has a trusty minion named Minion (David Cross), and a secret lair filled with levers and blinking lights and knobs and “exit” doors that lead to alligator pits.

He has built his entire life around the role-play between himself and his arch-rival, Metro Man (Brad Pitt), until one of his evil plans actually works and Metro Man gets fried to a crisp by a death ray (you read that right, Brad Pitt isn’t quite in the movie as much as advertised).

At first, Megamind can hardly contain his joy at finally coming out on top, but he soon realizes that he has annihilated the yin to his yang.

In most senses, it was pretty much as I was expecting: A lot of jokes you see coming at you from a mile away. But what was unexpected was, well, just how unexpected some things were.

Spliced in with the cookie-cutter humor are lots of subtle and quirky little jokes that seem like they were thrown in at the last minute just for fun and actually took a little bit of sharpness to catch on to (e.g: an odd little Donkey Kong NES reference).

The animation wasn’t the most incredible I’ve ever seen, but a few breathtaking scenes are pulled off. Plus it was the first new generation 3-D movie that I’ve seen (I know, I know) which was admittedly less tacky than I had anticipated.

So here’s the deal: “Megamind” is a mildly entertaining, PG, computer-animated film with writing and a plot that seemed like it was thrown together willy-nilly but will certainly do if all you need are some \$3 dumb laughs from a movie you’ll forget about the second the credits roll.

Tony is a math major and physics minor. He currently runs for the UW-River Falls cross country team. He once met Dan Auerbach and is a minor celebrity in Malaysia.



Midwestern band brings ingenuity to rock ‘n’ roll circuit



Ryen Klierer

Within the past several years, The Black Keys have made a name for themselves in the music industry as the go to guys for pure, uncut rock ‘n’ roll. Their albums “Magic Potion” and “Attack & Release” offer some of the best jams out there, and it seems just this fall they’ve added another album that can be placed on that list with the recent release of “Brothers.”

The Black Keys formed in Akron, Ohio in 2001 and began taking the Midwest circuit by storm shortly thereafter. Several years and albums later, they sit amongst the top of the rock ‘n’ roll circuit with no end in sight, producing hit after hit after hit.

The Black Keys’ musical ingenuity and brilliance come to full view from just one listen through the album.

The cover yields nothing more than the phrase “This is an album by The Black Keys. The name of the album is “Brothers.””

This is incredible to me. The band has a simple album cover: no crap, no gaudy pictures, just music. It seems nowadays artists stretch so far in an effort to appeal to the masses and to stick with the popular theme that they build these overly complex songs, album covers and albums just for appeal; they truly lose touch with what they’re in the industry for: the music. The Black Keys seem to have realized this, and it shows in every one of their albums.

In “Brothers,” a wide variety of influences are present, but their rock ‘n’ roll roots are most prominent.

Not only does the album contain epic jams, it also holds quite a bit of meaning lyrically, as well as the much desired catchiness factor.

track has been getting such a positive response in the media and over the airwaves.

Another highlight on the album must be “Too Afraid To Love You,” which mixes the classic

vibes of The Black Keys with a sweet background melody produced by what sounds like a harpsichord. This is a combination I hadn’t heard The Black Keys utilize yet.

“I’m Not The One” offers up a tasty bluesy tune with a very healthy bass line and a superior bit of guitar soloing from Daniel Auerbach.

In reading the song title “Never Gonna Give You Up,” one may think of an amazing Barry White song, yet The Black Keys take a rather different approach towards the track; the song itself offers up a very melodic jam capable of entrancing the strongest of minds and most stubborn of listeners to sitting down, listening to the track and giving it a chance.

It’s quite clear to see why The Black Keys are sitting atop the rock ‘n’ roll circuit in the music industry with no foreseeable end in sight. Classic rock, blues and even some hints of country are heard from “Brothers.” All genres are utilized in the best possible ways, making for a solid two-hour listening experience that no music enthusiast should pass up.

Ryen Kleiser is a laid back biology student at UW-River Falls. He is hoping to become a well known marine biologist and teacher.

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UWRF student explores world from couch

Tannae Maki
tannae.maki@uwrf.edu

Chelsea Kelly is fascinated by teeth. As a fine arts major at UW-River Falls, she often infuses these bones into her art. Kelly wants to get seven teeth tattooed onto her arm. The seven teeth will not be collected onto her arm, however, until she visits all seven continents; she has three more to go. Kelly said that she is determined to meet this goal by the time she is 25.

“When I was younger, I thought destinations like New Zealand were out of the question,” Kelly said.

She proved herself wrong in 2007, when she was searching for safety travel tips for single women. While searching, Kelly stumbled across CouchSurfing.org and the website presented itself as a way for her to travel cheaply.

At 19, Kelly and a few friends packed up their bags and traveled to Pittsburgh. When they arrived, they stayed with someone they had never met before.

They were surfing.

According to couch surfing’s website, there are currently 2.29 million people surfing and more than 79,000 cities are currently being represented across the globe.

“I really like to call it a networking system,” Kelly said.

She compared the website to Facebook, where people have profiles and can share messages. On the website, individuals sign up and have the opportunity to indicate whether or not they are looking for a place to stay during their travels. Options are available for those who cannot host a traveler.

A person can indicate that they are willing to have a cup of coffee with a surfer that is passing through the area or do nothing at all. There are ways to ensure that a person is legitimately interested in housing or visiting with travelers. As a member of the website, individuals have the option to become “verified surfers,” Kelly said. In order for a person

to become verified, they have to donate \$25 to the organization, she added. By donating this amount of money, CouchSurfing is able to verify an individual’s address, said CouchSurfing Media Representative Rocky Sanguedolce. Another way to assess someone’s certification is to check their references.

After someone has stayed with a host, they can write a review about them.

The feedback left is one of the main sources of security because it gives individuals an idea on what another person is like, Sanguedolce said.

“Hosts are generally very welcoming. I’ve had people drive me to the grocery store and give me keys to their houses,” Kelly said. “Most people are very devoted to the cause.”

Kelly expressed that she prefers surfing over hostels and hotels. She said that she feels safer staying with a surfer than at a hostel. Hotels serve little purpose for Kelly.

“I’m always off having my adventure,” she said. “All I really need is a place to sleep.”



Photos Submitted by Chelsea Kelly



Above: Chelsea Kelly in a cave in New Zealand. Kelly’s adventures began through her exploration of CouchSurfing’s website. She has been on 11 trips. Right: Kelly bungee jumping. Left: Kelly sheering a sheep on a farm in New Zealand.



During her adventures, Kelly has gone caving and bungee jumping.

Nevertheless, CouchSurfing hosts have provided Kelly with some of her most memorable experiences.

While staying at a sheep farm in Wanganui, New Zealand, Kelly learned how to shear sheep on a sheep farm. In Melbourne, she stayed with a musician and visited his recording studio where she was taught how to mix music tracks.

Many of Kelly’s hosts have introduced her to their friends and other surfers.

During her travels she was introduced to a woman who was celebrating her 60th birthday. The woman invited Kelly to her birthday party, which happened to be a 24-hour event in a deep cave on a beach. Kelly prefers to travel alone so she has a greater opportunity to meet new people.

“I’d rather just wing it and just go for it,” she said. “You become a tourist who does non-touristy things.”

Language barriers have never been an issue

for Kelly because CouchSurfing.org identifies individuals’ spoken languages. After having surfed 11 times, Kelly has kept in contact with every one of her acquaintances. Laid back about her experiences, she hasn’t told her parents about the organization.

Instead, she tells them that she is staying with friends. For her, friends are what the website offers. According to the website, 99.83 percent of surfing experiences have been positive ones. Kelly said that she has had no negative experiences and that all of her hosts have been abundantly generous.

“I feel spoiled on one hand,” said Kelly. “But on the other, it just shows how devoted people are to the cause.”

Over Thanksgiving break, Kelly is surfing again in New York City. Her next international trip is intended to be a bit farther.

Russia is next for Kelly, which would leave two more teeth: Asia and Antarctica, both of which have couches open for surfers.



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Jeff Zeleny is a national political correspondent for The New York Times. Zeleny started reporting for the Times after working as a White House correspondent, traveling with President Barack Obama across the United States and the world.