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Senate looking for students to join the parking committee

HALLOWEEN, PAGE 7
New and old ideas for pumpkin carving this Halloween

CROSS COUNTRY, PAGE 6
Cross Country team looks to finish fall season strong



STUDENT VOICE

October 14, 2011 www.uwrfvoice.com Volume 98, Issue 4

AFAB allows seg fee funding for dues-based student orgs

Michael Brun
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The Allocable Fees Appropriations Board, or AFAB, voted Oct. 6 to approve a motion that would give dues-charging organizations like fraternities and sororities access to student-provided funds next year, thus ending a debate that had persisted at UW-River Falls since 2008.

The motion, which was forwarded by Student Association President Tyler Halverson and Senator Jayne Dalton, eliminates two lines in the AFAB policy document that deny yearly budgets to student organizations that charge membership dues, or limit membership with auditions or performance standards.

Dues-charging organizations at UWRF include Greek fraternities and sororities, as well as groups like the Association of Women in Agriculture and Agricultural Mechanics Club. “We don’t want to force AFAB to give us money, we just want the equality of opportunity to apply and not get automatically denied,” said Ben Blanchard, a member of AFAB who voted to approve the motion. Blanchard was recently elected as an at-large senator in the Student Senate fall election, and is the president of the Zeta Sigma chapter of the Theta Chi fraternity at UWRF.

People opposed the idea of Greek organizations having access to student organization funding because they think the money will be used by members to pay for rent and exclusive events, Blanchard said. But he insisted the money would be used for inclusive events for the entire campus community.

Greek organizations hosted a number of



Desi Danforth/Student Voice
Student Senate members Grady Nelson, Jessica Bester and Kayla Edstrom participate in a discussion regarding changes to AFAB policy to dues-based organizations.

inclusive events in the past, including blood drives and mock crashes, Halverson said.

The changes to AFAB policy allow dues-charging organizations to apply for annual budgets, as well as receive funding for single events. AFAB will consider these requests with regard for the number of students who will be included in events, and other sources of revenue the organizations may have, wrote AFAB Chair Patrick Okan in an email statement.

The motion passed by a vote of 3-2, a dra-

matic reversal from the vote a week prior. Halverson and Dalton forwarded the motion previously on Sept. 29, but it was rejected by a vote of 3-1.

Halverson said he was disappointed by the initial rejection, but vowed to continue fighting to amend AFAB policy.

“It’s my job to change policies that harm students,” Halverson said. “And this policy harms students.”

Halverson said he attributes the shift in opinion to increased specificity in the revised

motion.

“My original motion left the policy changes open-ended and up to the discretion of the board. However, after speaking with a few members of AFAB, it turned out that some direction was desired,” said Halverson.

Senator Jessica Bester was the only AFAB member to vote in favor of the original motion at the Sept. 29 meeting.

“It does require a lot of money to run an organization,” said Bester, who is a former member of the Agricultural Education Society and Dairy Club, both dues-charging organizations. “My main focus is giving organizations the ability to ask for it.”

Student Michael Vanselow was among the three AFAB members who voted to reject the original motion.

“I was never against funding dues-charging organizations, they have equal rights to funding. The problem isn’t whether to fund them, but how to fund them fairly,” wrote Vanselow in an email statement following the first vote on Sept. 29.

The money at the core of the debate is provided by segregated fees charged to UWRF students each semester as part of tuition. There are two types of fees: allocable and non-allocable. The allocable fees are meant to fund student organizations and government, while non-allocable fees cover facilities and student services. Funding decisions for allocable fees are handled by the students on AFAB.

The fee to fund student organizations is \$17.75 for each student per semester for the 2011-2012 academic year, according to the

See AFAB Motion page 3

Career fair urges students to prepare

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Students at UW-River Falls are encouraged to do their homework before attending the career fair this year. “Preparation is very important,” said Whitney Peissig, a career fair coordinator. “First impressions leave a lasting memory.”

There are a couple of different events students can go to help prepare them. One is the career fair prep session which will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17 in the Falcon’s Nest at the University Center. There will be help stations available to help with things such as resume critiques, dressing for success, and researching attending employers.

There are also career fair help tables from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17 or Tuesday, Oct. 18 in Heritage Hall at the UC.

According to Career Service’s website, some general tips for maximizing success at the fair are to research the company, have a good idea of the industry and position that you are seeking, update your resume, dress professionally, and discuss

how and when to follow up.

This year’s career fair will also follow the same dress code as last year, so students need to come dressed accordingly. “In 2009 over half our employers were appalled by student’s appearances and threatened not to return,” said McKenna Pfeiffer, career counselor at the University. “We just could not lose that many employers.” Students are encouraged to wear neckties, khakis, dress pants, and a sweater or cardigan. Students will be turned away if they are not dressed in proper attire. “We received very good feedback from employers that attended the career fair in 2010 after enforcing a dress code,” said Peissig. “They said that our students looked very professional and that the caliber of applicants had increased dramatically from 2009.”

The career fair can be beneficial for everyone, regardless of what stage in the job search process they may be. It gives students a chance to interact, ask questions, find information about possible internship or job opportunities and learn about graduate school programs.

“I was not looking for an internship or full time employment when I went to the career fair last year,” said Rebecca

Lippert, a student at the University. “However, it was still a great opportunity for me to network with companies I may be interested in working for in the future. Having students that were currently enrolled in a graduate program I was interested in also gave me a peek into what that path might be like.”

In 2010, more than 800 students and alumni attended the career fair. The hope is that there will be just as many in 2011. Some of the employers coming to the fair are Wal-Mart, American Family Insurance, Target, and many more. “We have reached maximum capacity for the career fair this year with 86 total organizations representing a variety of industries” said Peissig. This is six more than last year. The hope is that this sparks student interest and that it will increase career fair attendance to 850 or more. The fair is being held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19 in the Riverview Ballroom at the UC. Additional information about the career fair and its attending organizations can be found at www.uwrf.edu/CareerFair.

See Career Fair Ad page 3

Professors show concern over budget repair bill changes

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Faculty and staff at UW-River Falls have begun to feel the first impacts of Governor Scott Walker’s budget repair bill.

Walker’s budget repair bill, which was introduced on Feb. 11, increases faculty and staff’s contribution into both their pension and health insurance. An estimated 5.8 percent of salary will be given to pensions. The health insurance provision now requires staff to pay an average of 12.6 percent of annual premiums which was increased from 6 percent.

The Office of the Wisconsin Governor’s website released a statement last spring stating, “these changes will help the state save \$30 million in the last three months of the current fiscal year.”

On that same statement Gov. Walker said, “It’s fair to ask public employees to make a pension payment of just over five percent, which is about the national average, and a pre-

mium payment of 12 percent, which is about half of the national average.” The budget repair bill will also save the state \$165 million by restructuring the debt and lowering the state’s interest rate.

The campus has already started to feel the effects. Last spring there were 58 resignations and retirements across campus from staff and faculty. Members of the faculty who have been here for 30 or more years may have left sooner than they would have.

“The short term affect is going to be a decrease in morale,” said Patricia Berg, a professor of journalism. “I fear the long term effect will be the University won’t be able to attract excellent teachers because they won’t be able to afford living here.” Berg was also one of the professors who attended a rally in Madison last spring to protest the bill.

Along with the effect on teachers, UWRF will receive an 11 percent base reduction in the state funding. This has increased tuition by a small amount with the majority affecting

other parts of the University’s budget.

The budget repair bill has also made a noticeable impact on newer teachers to the University. “It is a pretty significant impact,” said Erik Johnson, a digital film and television professor, who has been working for the University for four years. “I’m trying to stay positive and I’m thankful I still have health benefits,” said Johnson.

“I’m concerned about the UW-system not drawing in good teachers, as a parent and as a professor,” said Grace Coggio, a communication studies professor. Last year Coggio was a visiting professor but was offered a tenure track position in the spring. With the increased payment into retirement and health benefits, she didn’t notice a difference. “I got a raise, but I’m not seeing it yet,” said Coggio.

Morale is another big issue on campus right now with faculty members feeling discouraged because of the significant change. “The commitment to students is strong but I think faculty members just feel demoralized by this

change. We work hard, we’re grading papers at night and on weekends, and it’s almost a sense of punishment for us,” said Coggio.

For most professors, it’s not about the money, it’s the feeling of being singled out. “I didn’t come here for the money, I chose here because I believe this population of students deserves greater education,” said Berg.

The administration is staying positive about this situation. “We are fortunate for our administration and chancellor who have been so supportive,” said James Pratt, a professor of marketing communications. “They have stayed so positive and give us the feeling that we’re all in this together.”

Positive thinking doesn’t change the fact this repair bill has had a financial impact on all. “Our coverage is good but when your health care premium increases 10 percent a year and your income decreases 8.2 percent, things become difficult,” said Pratt.



Megan Rodriguez/Student Voice

Parking Committee seeks membership

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The parking committee that gives out thousands of tickets and views hundreds of appeals per year is currently looking for members to fill open positions.

The Student Senate is looking for members to fill the parking committee. The committee consists of seven members. Members include: one faculty member, one academic staff, one classified staff, one person from Student Senate, one student from a residence hall, one commuter student and one student at-large.

Jayne Dalton from Student Senate said that they are currently accepting applications for this committee, and forms can be found on the Student Senate Orgsync page which is located on the UW-River Falls website. Positions currently available are: one commuter student, one residential hall student and one student at-large.

The parking committee meets once a month during the academic school year, according to chair of the parking committee, Wendy Penny. The committee hears and rules on proposed appeals. Penny said around 8000 tickets are given out each year and an average of 50 appeals are heard a month.

Dalton and Penny both said one of the most surprising aspects of reading the appeals is the lack of good grammar. Penny said there are a few excuses that are often heard.

“The most common excuses are that they didn’t know the

rules, I was only there for a couple minutes, I saw somebody else do it,” Penny said.

Jesse Walters, a senior, said he received around 12 parking tickets his freshmen year. Walters said he was given tickets for parking in a fire lane while unloading things into his dorm, parking in a lot without a pass, and once parked at the W-lot where there was no sign saying where the parking ended, and his wheel was touching the grass. Walters didn’t appeal any of his tickets; he said that was too much work.

Penny gave a few examples of appeals that were denied, many having to do with parking in the fire lane.

“I parked my car for a few minutes to go into the residence life office to drop off a sheet and I put my blinks on, but honestly forget it was a fire lane. I really did put my blinks on but only for a few minutes and when I got out I saw them putting a ticket on my car,” is a customer appeal from the records of parking appeals.

Another appeal with parking in a fire lane has to do with someone who had a broken foot and parked in the fire lane outside his or her dorm. They said they thought it would be OK for them to park there since they had a broken foot.

“I was just walking up to my car that was parked at the meters when the parking enforcement personnel had just put the ticket on my windshield. I was just barely past the time on the meter,” is another customer appeal from the records.

Penny said the committee is currently behind on hearing appeals due to the lack of members.

River Falls Police/ UWRF Police Department

- Sept. 29**
- A lapel microphone was reported stolen from South Hall.
 - A tree limb fell on a vehicle in the T-lot.
 - Cody Lee Prokop, 18, was cited \$389.50 for possession of marijuana and \$326.50 for possession of drug paraphernalia at May hall.
- Sept. 30**
- Ryan M. Haviland, 19, was cited \$263.50 for underage consumption at May Hall.
 - A theft of a wallet with \$6.00 in it

- was reported stolen at the UC bathrooms.
- There was a small grass fire at the fruit research plot.
 - There was a fire in room 111 of KFA from a battery charger.
- Oct. 2**
- A bike tire and handlebars valued at \$50.00 was reported stolen by Crabtree Hall.
- Oct. 6**
- Jose Samuel Cruz Jr., 24, was cited \$326.50 for possession of drug paraphernalia and \$398.50 for possession of marijuana at Hathorn Hall.
- Oct. 7**
- A tree was reported on fire on the south side of Parker Hall.
- Jacob Edward Kramer, 18, was cited \$263.50 for underage consumption at Parker Hall.
- Oct. 8**
- Joshua John Hanka, 19, was cited \$263.50 for underage consumption and \$389.50 for possession of marijuana.
 - An I-pod was reported stolen at Hathorn Hall.
 - Anna Marie Miller, 17, was cited \$263.50 for underage consumption at Parker Hall.
 - Stacy Marie Warner, 18, was cited \$263.50 for underage consumption at Parker Hall.
 - A wallet with \$36.00 was reported stolen at McMillan Hall.
 - A room was ransacked in Crabtree Hall.

Weekly news briefs:

The Semester Abroad: Europe program will hold an informational meeting at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18 in room 141 of KFA. A repeat session will be held 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 14 in room 144 of AGS. Semester Abroad: Europe allows adventurous, self-motivated students to chart their own course in Europe by creating and carrying out study projects in a country of their choice. Students also have the opportunity to travel independently or in small groups throughout Europe during the final month of their stay. Contact Dennis Cooper, 2012 group leader, at dennis.p.cooper@uwrf.edu.

Sunday, Oct. 16, 3 p.m., Abbott Concert Hall, Trio St. Croix concert. Roger McVey, piano; Giselle Hillyer, violin; Sally Dorer, cello, perform music by Mendelssohn and Piazzolla. Free admission.

Monday, Oct. 17, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Heritage Hall, UC, Career Fair Help Table and Resume Critiques. Also offered Tuesday, Oct. 18. For more information, visit <http://www.uwrf.edu/CareerFair/PrepareForCareerFair.cfm>

Monday, Oct. 17, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Falcon’s Nest, Career Fair Prep Session. Help stations will be available for resume critiques, 30-second commercials, dressing for success and researching attending employers. For more information, visit <http://www.uwrf.edu/CareerFair/PrepareForCareerFair.cfm>.

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 8:15 p.m., 271 Centennial Science Hall, Astronomy talk: “Worlds Beyond the Solar System: Extra-Solar Planets,” presented by Matt Vonk. If the night is clear, telescope viewing will begin at 8:45 p.m. on the third floor deck of CSH. To learn whether a night is clear enough for viewing, visit <http://www.uwrf.edu/PHYS/> and click “Observatory” or call 3560 after 6 p.m. The talk and telescope viewing are free, open to the public and suitable for all ages. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

Student Senate Shorts

From the Oct. 11 meeting.

The Senate passed a motion that adopts “Our Chance to Fly” by Professor Goldin as the official Spirit Song of UW-River Falls. This motion will be forwarded to Chancellor Dean Van Galen, Faculty Senate Chair Wes Chapin, and Professor Goldin.

Anthony Meyer, Sarah Pronschinske and Margo Stern were appointed as student members of the Textbook Services Committee (pending Shared Governance approval).

Tyler Latz was appointed as a student member of the University Center’s Committee (pending Shared Governance approval).

The next regular meeting of the Student Association Student Senate will occur at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18 in the Willow River Room of the UC.

Music professor faces arraignment Nov. 10

Ashley Goettl
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Probable cause exists to pursue criminal charges against UW-River Falls music Professor Thomas William Barnett, a St. Croix County Circuit Court judge has ruled.

Judge Eric J. Lundell made the ruling at the conclusion of a preliminary hearing Oct. 11 in Hudson. Barnett is charged with second-degree sexual assault of a child and false imprisonment, according to the criminal complaint.

The preliminary hearing, the first part of which was held Oct. 4, saw three witnesses testify, including the victim and her former boyfriend. The other witness was an assistant manager at the Hudson Theatre, where the assault is alleged to have happened Aug. 16.

Barnett’s arraignment is scheduled for 2 p.m. Nov. 10 in the St. Croix County Circuit Court in Hudson. At the arraignment, Barnett will be formally charged and is expected to enter a plea.

Barnett is still on paid administrative leave from the University.

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EDITORIALS

Students urged to attend Career Fair

UW-River Falls will be holding its 20th annual Career Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19 in the Riverview Ballroom at the University Center. This year’s theme is “Where Preparation Meets Opportunity.” The career fair is open to all UWRF students and alumni.

According to the UWRF website, some benefits of attending the career fair include obtaining valuable information from both employers and graduate schools, being able to network directly with professionals in your field of interest, learning about the recruiting process, developing a business etiquette and professional attitude as well as getting your resume critiqued. Many students obtain job offers or internships as a result of attending the career fair.

UWRF Career Services puts a lot of time and effort behind planning the career fair. In an effort to prepare students, a prep session is being offered from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17 in the Falcon’s Nest at the UC.

The prep session will feature hands-on stations for students to learn exactly what it is they need to do prior to attending the fair. The session includes: practice networking, conversing with recruiters, creating appropriate application materials, learning about dressing professionally and researching organizations.

As of last year, Career Services implemented a dress code for attending the career fair. Employers were complaining that far too many students were showing up dressed in inappropriate clothing, including sweat pants, flip-flops, and t-shirts. If you are not dressed professionally, you will be turned away.

Career Services is also eager to accpet volunteers to help with displays, student registration, distributing refreshments, and other various tasks wherever needed during the fair. Volunteering is an excellent way to gain experience and build your resume.

A training session for all volunteers will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17 at Career Services, 211 Hagestad Hall.

If you are interested in volunteering for the 2011 career fair or have additional questions, please contact Whitney Peissig, Career Fair Coordinator at 715-425-3572 or cfcoordinator@uwrf.edu.

We here at the Student Voice encourage all students to attend the career fair. It is never too early (or late) to be thinking about your future. Even if you don’t have the slightest clue as to what you want to do later in life, attending the fair is a great way to get your feet wet.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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David Recine/Student Voice

Keeping second hand smoke away from students on campus



Samantha Harkness
Columnist

Let’s get real about smoking on campus. I know people “need” to have their cigarette, but why can’t they just abide by the campus rules? Currently, you can only smoke

25 feet away from a building. However, there are students and even faculty, that do not obey that rule. There are areas set up all around campus. They are set at the correct distance away from all of the University’s buildings. Why is it so hard to walk to one and smoke?

There are students smoking by doors at the residence halls. I’ve seen many people smoking by entrances at Kleinpell Fine Arts, as well as Centennial Science Hall. It is really frustrating to have to walk through a cloud of smoke in order to get to class. I understand that not every student disobeys the 25 foot rule, but come on folks, just smoke where you are supposed to smoke.

If you are not going to smoke at the designated areas, please stick to the sidewalks. It just seems that some smokers completely forget about common courtesy when they light up. I have no problem with people who smoke as long as they think about how where they smoke affects

everybody else. Perhaps the campus should do something about it. Maybe smokers should have to stick to sidewalks to smoke. It may seem extreme, but maybe that’s what this campus needs.

I know that there are many of you that feel the same way as I do. It’s time to change. We need to “light a fire,” so to speak, under the smokers on campus in order to actually smoke in the correct spots. It will be getting cold soon, and all of the smokers will huddle under entrances of KFA and CHS to smoke. During this time, I feel that I have to get to class even earlier, so I won’t have to walk through something resembling a 1960s office.

According to UW-River Falls website, smoking has only been banned in residence halls since 1999, and banned in all buildings since 2004. This is when the 25 foot rule came into play. When I lived in the residence halls, all I could smell, sometimes at night, were cigarettes. When I would look out my window, there were people smoking right by the doors. Second hand smoke is a pain. It’s horrible to smell and is so harmful. I’d say that UWRF has been pretty lenient when it comes to smoking regulations. It may be time to take lead from colleges and universities around the country and completely ban smoking.

According to www.no-smoke.org, universities such as UW-Stout and University of Minnesota Duluth do not allow smoking on campus. Hopefully this will not be necessary. Like I stated earlier, not everybody ignores the 25 foot radius rule, but it is starting to become a persistent problem.

Maybe smokers should have to stick to sidewalks to smoke. It may seem extreme, but maybe that’s what this campus needs.

Do you have something to say?
Send a letter to the editor at editor@uwrfvoice.com

Lifestyle Enthusiast on the town:

Midnight car racing in the forest similar to anxiety before exam



Christopher Pagels
Columnist

I slumber on curbside giveaway couches, to the early blue scattering of the atmosphere until my friends began to throw away their dreams and nightmares. I would fall asleep in my car two times before the end of that day, while driving. The floor was sticky with spilled drinks and the ashtrays held enough volcanic soot to make a coalminer envious. In a few hours, we would be driving up to Houghton, Michigan, the Upper Peninsula, in a two-car caravan to see a rally car race in the dark. The sport was foreign to me, knowing only what Mike conveyed to me as Ricers, they were imported cars encased in bulky roll cages with several million candles as light power, ripping up narrow dirt tracks at triple digit speeds into the dark Northwoods forest. I drove my 1998 forest green Acura Integra, or Acura-Honda as my mechanic calls it, and I noticed a glossy yellow Acura Integra was in the competition; I followed this brotherly car with particular interest. My co-workers/friends/friends of a friend, Doug and Alisha, two lovers who met each other in the company ink, folded their bulky frames into my compact car. Doug had pushed carts with me at Sam’s Club, while Alisha had worked in the deli. It was a seven hour car ride through the Northwood’s. In the first hour, my eyes shuttered a few times, until they nearly locked down. Doug manned up and took the wheel. I was asleep in moments. As the drive continued, our conversations depleted our stock of water cooler knowledge as the noise shifted to the radio speakers. Later that night in the stale 50 degree temperature, we, and dozens of other strangers, drove down a sloping cartilage

The starry night was lost in the haze of a small town lamp that perforated the plastic covering over the steaming window. I sat in a chair and glanced from this spectacle to my friends, of flaky ice deep into the forest. We parked near the stage, a fixed point along the track for spectators to view, and then we converged with the other enthusiasts jockeyed along the straightaway. I remember Mike repeated several times that we would see “glowing rotors;” the optimal force of a car turning so hard in the cold in tandem with the brakes rubbing against the rotors. The effect makes the rotors glow cherry red in the midnight darkness. A thin length of surveying tape twirled around the oak trees as a gesture of protection at an arm’s length away. Many people pressed flasks and cold beers against their red lips, the alcoholic liquid dribbled down their chins, as they pushed against this bright orange filament of protection that curved to its furthest elasticity of allowance. Everyone gossiped about the arrival time, when faint punctuated pitches of a Subaru engine erupted from the cloak of the deep forest. Like a bull turning a corner, all eight cylinders and a million candle powered bulbs rent the nighttime whispers and glowed red sparks in floating fountains of color. Flash after flash paraded through the darkness until only the murmur of the crowd remained. My friends and I walked back up the frozen path to my car. Along the path, I imitated the racers, shocking Mike and his girlfriend with the snaggle tooth, as I whipped my car around corners. Near midnight we made our way back to our hotel, my lids drooped and I slapped my face several times to keep composure. Mike copied Doug. Hip and neck jerked my hands to the steering wheel and I gripped with frenzy, I finally noticed the wheel was the drivers headrest. awoken out of sleep by instinct, Mike rolled in laughter at my puzzled expression. Snaggle-tooth frowned as she stared back at me in the rear-view mirror. Consciousness regained, I joined Mike in raucous laughter, glad that I could laugh.

Like a bull turning a corner, all eight cylinders and a million candle powered bulbs rent the nighttime whispers and glowed red sparks in floating fountains of color.

Hip and neck jerked my hands to the steering wheel and I gripped with frenzy, I finally noticed the wheel was the drivers headrest.



Photo courtesy of Christopher Pagels

STUDENT VOICES

Who is your idol?

Compiled by Desiri Danforth

Justin Arneson, Senior

“Jay Z, he went from having nothing to becoming very successful. He helped me believe anything is possible.”

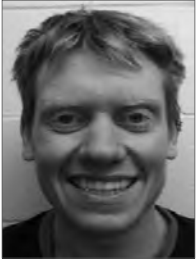


Nathan Bloechl, Sophomore

“Jesus, he’s the greatest man of all time.”

Andrew Treadway, Sophomore

“My uncle, because he got me into gaming and is always there for me.”



Angie Tholen, Senior

“My mom, because she’s the strongest person I know.”

Dave Slain, Senior

“My godfather David Slain, because he’s a great business man who makes a lot of money and likes to fish.”



Expand your thinking:

Advantages gained from taking risks



Jaime Haines
Columnist

“God sends each person into this world with a special message to deliver, with a special song to sing for others, with a special act of love to bestow. No one else can speak your message, or sing your song, or offer your act of love... These have been entrusted only to you” (Fr. John Powell, S.J.). My mom sent me this card last week, hoping to bring a bit of inspiration into my life. And now, no matter what your religious beliefs, I would like to share my resulting inspiration with you; to challenge you to take risks and live a more full life. So with this heartening quote in mind, I ask you to follow me on this journey. To grow as an individual, comfort zones must expand, experiences must test beliefs, and learning must occur. Accomplishing any of these feats involves taking a fair amount of risks. To feel comfortable with taking a risk, it must first be identified, then examined, and finally, executed. Initially, brainstorm a collection of risks. They may vary from non-threatening everyday risks like talking to a stranger, leaving your phone at home, or standing on your head, to somewhat more frightening and real risks like saying goodbye for good, asking for a raise, or telling the truth. Now title a piece of paper, “Risk ____.” Fill in any of the above suggestions or your own. Begin wherever you feel comfortable. Make list categories such as “risks” and “rewards.” For small risks and larger risks, add “worst scenario,” “what you are willing to do,” and “how it could help my life” lists. Use one minute or one hour to complete the corresponding lists. Once you feel satisfied, ask yourself why you have not taken the proposed risk yet and if it is viable to take such a risk. Assuming the risk is neither reckless nor illegal; toss aside your excuses and take it! If you challenge yourself to take risks often, your life will improve. After taking a risk, no matter what the result, you still earned entitlement to a sense of accomplishment—you did it! Some risks help you learn more about yourself by identifying values, goals, and core beliefs. They also teach you about your fears, insecurities, and misconceptions. Furthermore, your confidence builds and your anxieties lessen each time you expose yourself to a risk. And finally, taking risks expands your world. Soon, your dream life integrates into your reality, all because you were willing to take a risk. While the easiest part involves making the risk lists, the most important step consists of taking the risk. Remember, without risks, no remarkable events or movements would ever occur. Know that you hold responsibility for your life and can impact millions of others. After all, “No one else can speak your message, or sing your song, or offer your act of love.” So I challenge you: after you make your list, make the action of risk taking part of your routine. Offer your talents to the world, stand for your beliefs, learn, fall down, and stand back up. Cry, scream, and bounce with joy. Refuse to settle into a routine, boring existence.

So I challenge you: after you make your list, make the action of risk taking part of your routine. Offer your talents to the world, stand for your beliefs, learn, fall down, and stand back up. Cry, scream, and bounce with joy. Refuse to settle into a routine, boring existence. Grasp your life, love every minute, and never say no to a risk.

Jaime is an exuberant puppy-lover and “House” addict. She plans to use her psychology degree to encourage activism and well-being through counseling, workshops, speeches, and the written word.

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 to the Falls Theater!

The first person to report the find to editor@uwrvoice.com AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins.

Cross country continues to improve at all levels

Sarah Hellier
sarah.hellier@uwrf.edu

Returning to River Falls for his fifth year as the UW-River Falls’ men’s cross country head coach, Keven Syverson, has seen a “big improvement” from last year.

“The top four runners are much improved and developed from last year,” said Syverson.

Two years ago, Syverson said he has had the best year he’s ever had as a coach, last year was kind of a “rebuilding year” and this year he has seen great improvements.

The top four runners for the men’s team so far are: Jared Brandenburg, senior, Scott Bowman, senior, Mohamed Mohamed, freshman, and Jessop Keene, freshman.

At the Roy Griak Invitational at the University of Minnesota, the Falcons ended up in ninth place overall.

In their last race at the Blugold Invite in Eau Claire, all four top runners finished within three seconds of each other.

Brandenburg has been a “big impact on the team and has set the tone for the second, third and fourth runners,” said Syverson.

Brandenburg is from Independence, Wisc. and ran a 25:32 at the Blugold Invite, finishing seventh overall out of 372 runners. This time is also the eighth best in school history.

“I put in a lot of miles this summer,” said Brandenburg. “Probably double from last year (around 800).”

Brandenburg has very specific goals for the rest of his season. “I’d like to be at 25:15 at the next race and drop 15 seconds for every race after that,” said Brandenburg.

On the week of Sept. 13 Brandenburg was named the WIAC

Men’s Cross Country Runner of the Week. That week, the Falcons ran in the Luther Invitational held in Decorah, Iowa. Brandenburg ran a 20:43, as compared to his time two years ago on the same course which was 21:57.

Brandenburg ran two years at St. Mary’s University and then decided to join the Falcons for his junior year.

Brandenburg is a team captain along with fellow senior and No. 2 runner, Bowman.

“We’ve by far done much better this year,” said Bowman. “We’re a really tight group and this year we should have our four top runners running under 26 minutes.”

Syverson said he has high hopes for the remainder of the season. “We’re running well and we must continue to run well to finish the year strong.”

Not only is the men’s team performing this year, but also the women’s. According to the UWRF Sports Information website, the lady Falcons set four personal bests at the Blugold Invite in Eau Claire.

Katie Rydeen, junior, crossed the finish line at 23:09 (about 40 seconds faster than last year) leading the Falcons for the ninth straight race. Jackie Liebl, freshman, finished at 24:34 which was more than half a minute faster than her last race. Liebl was also named UWRF Runner of the Week for an outstanding performance at the Roy Griak Invite. Sophomore Kylie Dekkers crossed the finish line at 24:47, breaking the 25-minute barrier for the first time in her career along with sophomore Amanda Rothbauer.



Jessie Behrman/Student Voice
Center: Senior Jared Brandenburg is not only the cross country team’s captain, but the team’s top performer.



Jessie Behrman/Student Voice
Left: Junior Katie Rydeen has continued to put in top performances for the women’s cross country team. At the Blugold Invite in Eau Claire, she shaved off 40 seconds from her time from last year, crossing the finish line at 23:09.

Right: Members of the cross country team run as a pack at the Blugold Invite in Eau Claire. According to the UWRF Athletic website, the lady Falcons set four personal bests at this meet.

Professional ‘dream teams’ fail to live up to expectations



Ben
Lamers
Columnist

It all started in July of 2010 when LeBron James and Chris Bosh took their talents to South Beach to join Dwyane Wade to create a “dream team” in the National

Basketball Association. Then, it was the Boston Red Sox signing Carl Crawford to a seven year, \$142 million deal. The Philadelphia Phillies signed Cliff Lee to a six year, \$120 million deal to create possibly the greatest pitching rotation that baseball had ever seen. And of course, the New York Yankees were paying their players a few hundred million dollars as well.

Then this past July and August the Philadelphia Eagles signed nearly every big name free-agent in the National Football League as well as trading for another All-Pro in Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie. These acquisitions provoked new back-up quarterback Vince Young to declare that the Eagles were a “dream team.”

The Miami Heat entered the NBA season with three of the best players in basketball and nearly a \$65 million salary cap. Nearly \$10 million more than that of the Dallas Mavericks. The Heat were crowned the title, and many more, before the NBA season even started.

Championship or bust was a slogan that was tossed around by members of the Heat as well as the media.

The end result was a bust as the Heat were unable to capture the title that they felt had been handed to them when they signed the “big three.”

Roy Halladay, Cliff Lee, Cole Hamels and Roy Oswalt have a combined 16 All-Star game appearances and represent possibly the greatest starting rotation in the history of Major League Baseball.

The Phillies were crowned the National League pennant before the season had even started. The Boston Red Sox added another big bat and were supposed to finally have the team to topple the Yankees.

When it comes to the money the Yankees, \$202 million; the Phillies, \$172 million; and the Red Sox, \$161 million; have the three highest payrolls in baseball, and it isn’t even close. In fact, Alex Rodriguez, of the Yankees, makes around \$25 million a season. The Kansas City Royals have a team payroll of \$36 million.

Yet, here we are in the Championship Series for each league and the Yankees, Red Sox, and Phillies are nowhere to be found.

The Red Sox didn’t even make the playoffs! The Brewers and Cardinals, playing to go to the World Series, have a combined payroll that is less than that of the Yankees.

Despite having the best payroll and, theoretically, the best players these three teams were unable to deliver.

This past summer the Philadelphia Eagles went on a spending spree in an effort to get to the Super Bowl.

When the dust settled Vince Young stated that it was like playing with a dream team. Suddenly the Eagles found out what it was like to play in the shoes of the Miami Heat. There are many schools of thought in the NFL that say free-agency doesn’t buy championships.

Out of the 22 starters on the Eagles team only half have played exclusively for the Eagles. And only two of those 11 have been with the team for more than four years.

Conversely, the Green Bay Packers 22 starters feature 17 players who have only played for the Packers, and nine of those 17 have been with Green Bay for more than four years. Currently, the Packers are the defending champions and are undefeated, while the Eagles are below .500 and last place in the NFC East.

Sure, teams can assemble talent that seemingly only a teenager could put together in a video game.

Sure, it’s fun to see the highlights that these teams can put out night after night.

However, these “dream teams” have zero championships to show for spending all of this money.

In fact, the Heat are the only ones to advance past the first round of the playoffs. I guess it’s true; money can’t buy championships.

Ben is a sophomore majoring in journalism. He is also a huge Colts and Brewers fan.

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‘Supergods’ celebrates modern myths and classic heroes

Superheroes have been a hot commodity at movie theaters around the world ever since Christopher Reeve put on the familiar red and blue tights and made an entire generation believe a man could fly in 1978’s “Superman: The Movie.” Now, moviegoers are prepping for the release of two incredibly expensive superhero spectacles in the form of Marvel Studios’ “The Avengers” and Warner Brothers’ “The Dark Knight Rises.” Oftentimes, people tend to forget where these heroes come from: the great American art of the comic book.

Comics’ scribe Grant Morrison has taken it upon himself to chronicle the development of the superhero as a concept throughout the years while relating tales of his own life and times in the comics industry in “Supergods: What Masked Vigilantes, Miraculous Mutants, and a Sun God From Smallville Can Teach Us About Being Human.” Part history lecture, part autobiography and part philosophy text, Morrison’s book is a love letter to the modern myth of superheroes and the art of storytelling.

“Supergods” starts at the very beginning of the rise of



Chris Rohling
Reviewer

the American superhero with 1938’s Action Comics No. 1, the birth of Superman, and works its way to the summer of 2011. Readers won’t just find a dry history of superheroes. The level of analysis that Morrison puts into these pages is often times staggering. It’s never just about explaining the events that changed the comics. Morrison is constantly using comics and superheroes as a mirror to reality and the culture surrounding them. For Morrison, fiction and reality are rarely all that different, even if one of them has super powered men and women gallivanting around.

There’s just as much autobiography in “Supergods” as there is history. Morrison is one of the most famous writers of modern, mainstream superhero comics. He’s probably best known for his mind-bending work on the Batman graphic novel “Arkham Asylum: A Serious

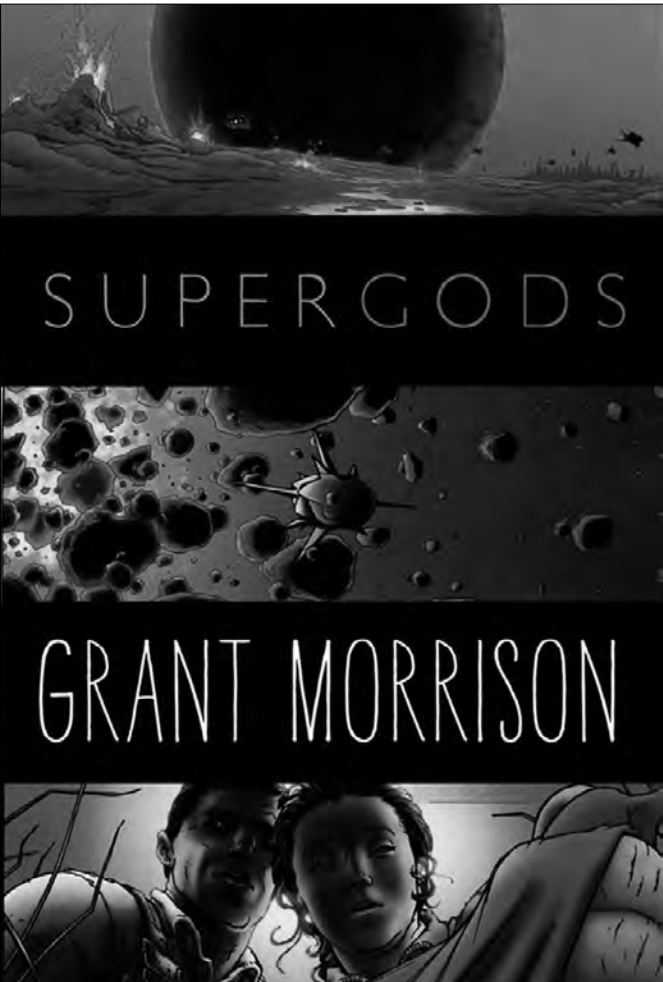
House on Serious Earth.” The story of his career, life and creative process are fascinating, although some of his philosophy can get a little bit out there. Once he starts claiming he performs magic rituals that actually work, things get a bit weird. When taken in stride, these eccentricities actually add a lot of depth and understanding to Morrison as a person.

Morrison is an insider and there are times where “Supergods” gets bogged down in the immense amount of information and ideas being shared, but for the most part it’s just as accessible to someone who is mildly interested in the subject matter as it will be for someone who has been reading comics for their entire life.

“Supergods” is a fascinating read for anyone in a creative field. The stark honesty that Morrison uses when talking about writing as an art is very refreshing. He admits to all the times he’s taken an easy way out or outright failed. He tells stories of being poor, living off of government assistance in Scotland and trying to cut it in a crappy rock band with his friends and experimenting with mind altering substances.

I guess that’s as good a phrase as any to describe this book. Mind altering. It’s difficult to walk away from “Supergods” without a renewed appreciation for the modern myths of superheroes and fiction itself. Morrison describes fiction as a living, breathing animal that gives and takes from reality. In his writing, he makes fiction seem as vital to life as food or water, as necessary as human contact and as precious as gold or diamonds. It gave me a reinvigorated need to write and tell stories. It’s actually a fairly inspiring book for something that could be just a simple history lesson.

“Supergods” is a book for anyone who loves superheroes, either on the page or the big screen. It’s a book for people who are interested in the craft of storytelling and why stories matter. It’s a book for anyone with a fascination of America’s pop culture, how society impacted it and vice versa. It’s for those who loved to play pretend and knock out super villains when they were little. It’s for the ones who never stopped believing a man could fly. “Supergods” is a love letter to so many things and deserves a place in any fiction aficionado’s bookcase.



Chris Rohling is a journalism major with a passion for storytelling of all styles. While he edits the etcetera page for the Student Voice, he also engineers the weekly Falcon 411 show on WRFW and writes for GuerrillaGeek.com.

Jack-o’-lanterns show festive spirit

Spark up your room with a pumpkin! It screams Halloween (especially if you carve it a mouth, jack-o’-lantern style). Pumpkins come in orange, yellow, dark green, pale-green, red, orange-yellow, white, and grey, though some colors may be harder to find than others. The size also varies from jack-be-little pumpkins to record-winning giant pumpkins weighing in at 1810 pounds. Don’t limit yourself to carving. Once you’ve picked your favorite color and size, there are many things you can do depending on your preferred style, how much time you have, and what tools are available.

A jack-o’-lantern doesn’t need to be carved. The goofy or spooky expressions can be easily achieved with a little artistry in the form of paint. So go ahead and paint the wackiest expression you’ve got, or try something different. Put a solid base coat of paint and use raised letter stickers to spell out some Halloween greetings or stick some other fun Halloween décor onto the surface such as bats, cats, ghosts, or candy. Keep in mind when painting a face or placing stickers it is often easier with a smooth, taller pumpkin that isn’t as ribbed. With a few other accessories you can even turn your pumpkin into a completely different Halloween character. Painting it

black and adding three pipe cleaners along the base on either side turns it into a spider, whereas some feathers on the top of a white jack-be-little along with some painted or sticker eyes and a sunflower seed beak will give you an owl.

Another neat touch is carving into the top layer of the pumpkin’s skin. You can choose a design and etch this out on the surface revealing an undertone beneath the flesh. Try a pattern that encompasses the whole pumpkin for a really cool effect you can appreciate from any angle. A potter’s ribboning tool, found at a most craft stores, will help clean out the shape. This etching style can be done with any size; so get creative and try it on a couple different sizes and colors. Match your design to your pumpkin so they complement each other.

If you’d prefer to incorporate your pumpkin into your other fall accessories with a more modern twist, then try these tips and tricks. Pumpkins make great table toppers, candle holders, flower pots, wreath highlights, centerpieces, or even floating in a small dish. For the candle holder remove the top half and hollow out the remaining



Brittney Pfenning-Wendt
Columnist

base to fit around your candle or plant. Arranging it with leaves, berries, or other gourds will result in a very welcoming wreath or even a beautiful centerpiece. To give it an extra boost, try spray-painting the pumpkin with metallic paint such as silver, bronze, or gold, whichever best matches your setting.

Remember the Halloween icon isn’t hard to find. The River Falls farmer’s market is a great place; they have a decent selection of pumpkins as well as decorative corn and gourds. Located on the corner of Locust and Second Street (across from First National Bank) they are open Tuesday evenings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Get out and enjoy the fresh air while perusing local goods. Can’t make it? No worries, pumpkins can be found at nearly every grocery store. Econofoods has them displayed right out front. You can’t miss them. Don’t let your tight schedule deny you the pleasures of pumpkin decorating. Turn that Jack-o-Lanterns frown upside down.

Cruising up towards Sitka, Alaska

If you’ve seen “The Proposal,” you might remember the movie plot takes place in a small, charming town in Alaska, rich in Native American and Russian influence. An uncommon stop on select Alaskan cruise itineraries, Sitka offers an array of activities for outdoorsmen, historians and shoppers alike! So get ready to go Alaska—go North, the rush is on!

The Native Tlingit originally settled Sitka when Russian explorer Alexander Baranov founded his own settlement next door in 1799. Known as New Archangel, it was destroyed in 1802 when the Tlingit attempted to reclaim their ancestral home. Baranov returned in 1804 and promptly got his revenge, retaking Sitka in the Battle of Alaska. Sitka was established as the capital of the Russian Territory. In fact, when the United States purchased Alaska in 1867, the transfer of power occurred right in Sitka. Sitka remained Alaska’s capital until 1906, when it moved to Juneau.

As Sitka is situated on an island, it is only accessible by air or sea. However, Sitka’s weather is usually gloomy, with rain falling nearly eight months out of the year. It doesn’t get warm, with only five days out of the year reaching 70 degrees,

a big difference from St. Thomas. However, don’t let the weather bring you down. My favorite attraction is nice from the outside, but gorgeous on the inside!

In the center of town sits St. Michael’s Russian Orthodox Cathedral. A symbol of Russian influence, the Cathedral is a National Historic Landmark. Originally built in 1848, the Cathedral was destroyed by fire in 1966. In an instant, the town came together to salvage all they could before the fire engulfed it completely. One local man’s adrenaline rush allowed him to remove the heavy crystal chandelier. Among the

Don’t forget your rain poncho, as the rainforest doesn’t get green by magic.

artifacts saved included the original blueprints, which created an exact replica of the damaged Cathedral. You can go in and see all the beautiful artwork and artifacts (including that same chandelier).

I know visiting a church might not seem interesting, but if you love history and art, this is a must-see, even if

Michael Leonard
Columnist

you aren’t religious.

If you like to explore nature, check out Tongass National Forest, the largest national forest in the United States. You wouldn’t think Alaska contains a rainforest, but there is a little bit of everything all in one place: salmon fishing, kayaking, hiking or just plain sightseeing. You can see tons of wildlife, particularly bears and eagles.

Don’t forget your rain poncho, as the rainforest doesn’t get green by magic.

If you are interested in Native American history, the Sheldon Jackson Museum houses nearly 5000 artifacts collected from various Alaskan Native groups, including Tlingit and Aleuts.

The Reverend Jackson traveled throughout Alaska in the 1800s, finding handmade crafts along the way.

Hope you enjoyed this visit to The Last Frontier! Next week, we’ll head back to a warmer climate and visit where a man had a plan.

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Find Freddy's Feather!

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UWRF volleyball team ‘Digs for the Cure’ of breast cancer



Megan Rodriguez/
Student Voice
Top Left: The UWRF volleyball team prepares to take the court against UW-Stout on Oct. 12 in their fourth annual “Dig For the Cure” event to raise money for breast cancer awareness. Before the game, the Falcons honored those in attendance who are affected by breast cancer. Fans in attendance were encouraged to wear pink.
Right: Volleyball player Makenzie Suda throws a pink t-shirt to the crowd. After losing the first set, the Falcons came back to beat the Blue Devils 3-1.



Megan Rodriguez/
Student Voice
Bottom Left: The Falcon volleyball team huddles and prepares to take the court in a match against the UW-Stout Blue Devils at the Karges Center on Oct. 12. At the match, the Falcons garnered their largest crowd of the season, 188, as fans came out to support breast cancer awareness for the fourth annual “Dig for the Cure” event. Money raised at the event goes in support of breast cancer research.
Center: Members of the UWRF softball team were a part of the largest crowd of the year at the Karges Center. They came to support fellow softball teammate and volleyball player Hayley Buchanan. The volleyball team sold t-shirts that said “Kills for Kahunas” to help raise money for breast cancer research for Susan G. Komen for the Cure.



Megan Rodriguez/
Student Voice
Bottom right: Volleyball setter Hayley Buchanan prepares for the upcoming match against UW-Stout. The Falcons used a strong team effort to earn a crucial WIAC home victory. The Falcons are now 10-12 overall and 2-3 in the WIAC.

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