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# STUDENT VOICE

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## Senate wants student IDs to help voters

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The UW-River Falls Student Senate is working to get student ID cards to comply with a new Wisconsin law requiring voters to show a photo ID before casting a ballot, a requirement Student Association President Tyler Halverson called “a transparent attempt” by Republican lawmakers to keep college students from voting.

“My big project this summer was to work with Gregg Heinselman, the vice chancellor of Student Affairs, to find a way to make our IDs compliant,” Halverson said. “We’ve arrived at what that’s going to look like, and they’ll begin to be produced early in the spring semester.”

The new IDs would tentatively cost students \$1, but Halverson said he is working on legislation that would have the Senate pay for them, potentially out of its reserve account.

Halverson, who said he affiliates with the Democratic Party, said the Wisconsin voter photo ID law restricts groups who largely vote Democrat, such as college students and the elderly.

“It’s lock-step with the Republican agenda to defeat Obama,” Halverson said. “It’s absolutely a partisan issue.”

The law requires voters in Wisconsin to show a photo ID at polling stations. The list of acceptable IDs includes Wisconsin-issued driver licenses, U.S. passports and military ID cards.

Student ID cards from UW-System schools can also be used to vote under the new law. However, Student IDs would need to show the date they were issued and the student’s signature—neither of which are present on UWRF cards.

Students living in Wisconsin who meet the minimum 28-day residence requirement needed to vote in the state would be denied a ballot if they do not have an approved photo ID.

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin has been a strong opponent to the law.

“The Republican voter suppression bill is an affront to democracy in Wisconsin. It is morally repugnant. Worse, including the changes in the absentee ballot rules, it is coldly calculated to make it so the state’s most vulnerable citizens and its young people are denied a voice in who will govern them,” in an April 27 statement by Democratic Party of Wisconsin Chair Mike Tate.

Support for the law comes largely from Republicans, who claim it will reduce fraud in Wisconsin elections.

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*Desi Danforth/Student Voice*  
**New Student Senate members work to complete Senate goals of 2011. From left to right: Benjamin Blanchard, Mike Walgrave, Grady Nelson, Kayla Edstrom, Hannah Klingfus, Carlan Strand, and Alycia Hall.**

## Senate works to finish goals

Sarah Hellier  
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After the Student Senate elections in early October, seven new members have taken positions in the Senate. Ranging from First Year Representatives to Military Representatives, some of the senators have already put their ideas and plans in to motion while others have yet to set any goals for the year.

Ben Blanchard, an eighth-year senior, said he’s already accomplished his main reason why he ran for Senate.

“In my first week I voted on a policy revision,” Blanchard said. “Now club sports and any dues-paying organizations will receive a budget starting next year.”

Blanchard said he voted on the revision and it passed three to two.

“I got the one thing I wanted to accomplish and I got it done fast,” said Blanchard.

Blanchard is a triple-major in music, history and political science and is a Senator At-Large.

Along with new first-year representatives, Military Representatives, College Representatives and Senators At-Large, Carlan Strand is the new Vice President of Senate. Strand has one particular interest in mind for his term.

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“The biggest thing right now is keeping student fees low,” said Strand. “Economic times are tough and it’s not just me that’s working to keep these fees.”

Second-time undergrad, Mike Walgrave, is sitting on the Senate as a Military Representative. Walgrave said there isn’t a specific goal he has in mind but a couple of ideas that could help students looking for job experience.

“UW-River Falls is a really good school with a lot to offer, but we need to go more global,” Walgrave said. “I think River Falls needs an entrepreneurship program or systems to help students get experience and internships.”

Although Blanchard and Walgrave have some specific goals in mind for their term on the Senate, some of the younger members don’t have a much of a direction yet.

First-year representative, Alycia Hall, said she thinks she would like to change the credit load for freshmen.

“There’s a cap on freshman so that they can only take 17 credits,” Hall said. “I know I could handle more right now.”

Hall said that in order to change this rule

## Texting: the preferred mode

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Kelsey Greening, a student at the University, admits that she can easily send about 200 texts a day. “I think it has just become a habit for me,” said Greening. “I get awkward talking on the phone, it’s weird, I admit that I don’t have the best communication skills because I text all of the time. Calling is quicker, but texting is easier.”

According to a study done by the Pew Research Center, one-third of Americans prefer texting to having an actual conversation.

The study found that 83 percent of American adults own cell phones and three-quarters of them (73 percent) send and receive text messages. The Pew Research Center Internet and American Life Project asked these texters in a survey how they prefer to be contacted on their cell phones and 31 percent said they prefer texts to talking on the phone, while 53 percent say that they prefer a voice call to a text message. Fourteen percent of those surveyed say that the method of contact that they would prefer would depend on the situation.

Young adults are the in the highest group of texters by a wide margin. Cell phone owners between the ages of 18 and 24 send an average of 109.5 messages on any given day; this figure works out to be more than 3,200 texts per month.

The survey also shows that heavy text users are much more likely to prefer texting to talking. Fifty-Five percent of people who exchange more than 50 messages a day say they would rather get a text than a voice call. Both text messaging and phone calling on cell

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*Charissa Squire/Student Voice*  
**UWRF student Sarah Solinger texting on campus.**

## Ag Sci to get tutoring center

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The No. 1 goal for the Academic Success Center is for students to have a positive experience in all of their tutoring centers. The Academic Success Center has provided different tutoring centers for students for study skills as well as help on difficult subjects. The centers are located all over campus. They cover math, writing, physics, chemistry, speech note taking, and more. Now, the Academic Success Center is slowly working with the Ag Science building to bring a satellite-tutoring center there as well.

The talks started last spring to bring a satellite tutoring center to the Ag Science building because students needed a center over there. The process of creating a center has many steps. “Basically, what we did was first identify a need and once we identified a need, we obviously have to look at the budget and make sure that we can afford one and once that happens, then we try to find space and we have to get equipment, depending on what the help center is, whether we need tutors or something else,” said Academic Success Center Director Jennifer Willis-Rivera. The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) is identifying which courses that they will need for the tutoring center to cover. Then, the Academic Success Center

and CAFES will be looking at potential student manager for the new center.

The new center will expand student employment. The staff for the new center will have a student manager by the end of this fall. The manager will oversee the hiring of tutors, who are students that have been recommended for these positions by professors. The student manager will also oversee the scheduling. “They are going have to be good at working with lots of different kinds of people because they not only have to work with their tutors that are going to be hired, but also they end up generally being one of the tutors as well,” said Willis-Rivera. The manager will also help with getting the word out about the center.

Advertising has been taking place to make sure students know about the center. Willis-Rivera said that they rely a lot on the professors to make sure students know about the center, among other things. “We do have office fairs for all of the incoming students registrations, we have office fairs for College Visit Days,” said Willis-Rivera. The Academic Success Center also provided flyers to display on campus and for the professors to hand out to their students.

“It’s going to be interesting,” said agriculture education major Mariah Ross. “To see how this center is going to work. I know that

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## New director helps students’ careers

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Career Services has appointed Melissa Wilson as the new director of Career Services. The announcement was made official in September. Wilson is a graduate of UW-River Falls, and was previously a career counselor and interim Alumni Relations coordinator on campus. She previously worked at UW-Oshkosh and UW-Platteville in the Administration Offices.

Her new position comes after the death of the former director of Career Services, Bridget Kenadjian. Kenadjian had received the position in Sept. 2010. She was informed that she had cancer, a return from years previous, in December of last year. She died March 20, 2011.

“It was very difficult for everybody here [at Career Services], first of all to have somebody that you were just starting to know and really like, and then have [Bridget] die,” said Alice Reilly-Mcklebus, the director of Student Health and Counseling Services. “But then to keep Career Services moving forward, and being able to serve students that we need to...that was hard on everybody.”

Reilly-Myklebus said that she was pleased of the professionalism that Career Services had in that time of mourning. “We all pulled together and did what we needed to do, and it worked out.”

McKenna Pfeiffer, a career counselor on campus, shared a larger workload with Wilson while Career Services was in its search to find their next director. Pfeiffer said that both Wilson and herself prefer to look towards potential goals and tasks. “For the future, we are focusing on having fun, and putting out a professional and strong product for our constituents,” said Pfeiffer. “We want to make sure that everything we do is intentional and current for the students.”

With the position now filled, Pfeiffer said she knows that Wilson will lead Career Services past its goals and will achieve above and beyond. “Melissa has a strong vision for where she wants to take the office,” said Pfeiffer. “We are in a healthy, positive place as a staff and everybody is willing to do their part in that ‘piece of the puzzle.’”

Pfeiffer said that she is thankful for having a hard-working and determined person like Wilson as the director. “To have somebody that is willing to take us to reach our potential and goals is awesome,” said Pfeiffer.

Even with the new position, Wilson said that she will still be able to work with UWRF students, helping them out with their career goals in whatever major they are in. “I enjoy working with students in all areas of where they are at as well as their educational journey. And this [job] is the perfect mix of all of

See Career Services page 3



# Health Services gives cold season advice



Desi Danforth/ Student Voice

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UW–River Falls Health Services is preparing for the upcoming flu season by promoting various ways to keep faculty and students healthy. With the cold winter months soon arriving, Health Services at UWRF have begun to encourage faculty and students to get flu shots and practice good hygiene. Some of these practices that are being promoted include washing your hands with soap and water, using alcohol-based cleaners and covering your mouth while you cough or sneeze. “We want to remind students that they should stay home if they are sick,” said Alice Reilly-Myklebust, director of Student Health Services. “A rule to follow is to wait 24 hours after you no longer have a fever to go back to class or work.” Free cold kits are available in Health Services, and have been handed out at events

they have attended. These kits include Kleenex, cough drops, Tylenol, thermometers and instructions of good hygiene practices. According to a Health Services email that was sent out to all students, faculty and staff, “Healthy individuals who develop influenza symptoms do not need to seek medical attention. Those with underlying medical conditions who develop influenza symptoms should contact their health care provider.” “If someone has asthma or some condition similar, they should see a doctor,” said Myklebust. “The nasal spray contains a live virus while the shot contains a dead virus; both are equally effective.” Some students have already begun to prepare for the flu season and are making preparations to get a flu shot or nasal spray. “I’ll probably get one,” said Marissa Holst, a psychology major at UWRF, “I don’t want to get sick.”

“My mom is a nurse and gives the whole family flu shots,” said Alexis D’Aquisto, an English education major at UWRF. Other students have chosen to not get a shot or nasal spray though. “I probably won’t get one,” said Molly Stafne, a pre-veterinarian major at UWRF. “I’d prefer the shot over the nasal spray if I did though.” This year’s flu shot is the same that was given last year and contains the H1N1 virus from 2009 as well as two other influenza strains. Those who get the shot are reminded that it takes about “two weeks for antibodies that provide protection against the influenza virus infection to develop in the body,” according to the Health Services email sent to students and faculty. Also, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website as of Oct. 15, “Influenza activity remained low in the United States.”

## News Briefs

From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8, the Morning With a Professor lecture series for the St. Croix Valley will meet in the Kinnickinnic Theater of the University Center. University professors and community leaders share expertise, knowledge and opinions on topics drawn from current news, historical events, contemporary issues and personal experiences. Meetings include presentation, light refreshments and a lively question and answer session. Visit the website for a list of presenters and topics for the fall 2011 series. Meets Tuesday mornings Oct. 4 through Nov.15, with no

meeting held on Oct. 25. Preregistration is required.

Starting Monday, Nov. 7 and running through Friday, Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Veteran’s Services will be hosting a care package drive for troops, in the UC. For more information, contact Nicole Lillis at nicole.lillis@uwrf.edu

At 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 1 there will be the UWRF Brass Choir and Trombone Choir Concert at KFA 131 William Abbott Concert Hall.

The Graduation Application deadline is Friday, Nov. 4 at 4:30 p.m. for all Bachelor and Master Degree students not participating in fall 2011-12 commencement ceremony. The Registrar’s Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Asian American Student Association (A.A.S.A.) presents their annual Culture Fest. It will be held from 6:00-9:00 p.m. on Nov. 9, 2011 in the North Hall Auditorium to celebrate and bring awareness of different cultures in our community with cultural acts and performances. A welcoming environment to show off your culture and different taste of talent.

On Nov. 9 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Hudson Cnter, there will be an open house to learn more about the online bachelor’s degree completion program in Health & Wellness Management. See class demos, find out about transfer credits and get ideas on careers in this growing field. Offered in honor of National Distance Learning Week at the UWRF Hudson Center. Free Registration.

Want to get the word out?

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## River Falls Police / UWRF Police Department

There were no reported citations for this week according to the 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.

## Theatre Briefs

UW-River Falls University Theatre presents “All Shook Up,” a musical comedy featuring the music of Elvis Presley Oct. 27-29 and Nov. 3-5. The play is based on a book by Joe DiPietro and on William Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night.” The story takes place in 1955, in a small Midwestern town. Chad, a leather-jacketed guitar playing stranger, rolls into town on a motorcycle and things are “All Shook Up.” A female mechanic with a dream is instantly smitten. The townspeople are out control, as they are taken in by Chad’s music and charisma. Emotions run wild, as the characters are motivated by songs like “Love Me Tender,” “Heartbreak Hotel,” “Don’t Be Cruel,” “C’mon Everybody,” “Follow That Dream,” “Let Yourself Go,” and “I Can’t Help Falling in Love.” “The Power of Love” has captured the whole town.

Directing the musical is James A. Zimmerman, professor of theatre. The music director is J. Michael Roy, professor of music; and the choreographer is Joe Keith, professional choreographer/actor and former UWRF student. Actors include Taylor Evans (Chad) of Buffalo, Minn.; Claudia Vazquez-Velez (Natalie) of St. Paul, Minn.; Alexander (A.J.) Swanson (Dennis) of North St. Paul/Oakdale, Minn.; Mark Yang (Dean) of North St. Paul/Oakdale, Minn.; Sara Fuller (Lorraine) of Vadnais Heights, Minn.; Ari Koehnen (Sandra) of Minnetonka, Minn.; John Richardson (Sheriff Earl) of Appleton; Brittany Oberstadt (Mayor Matilda) of Inver Grove Heights, Minn.; Daniel Tuchtenhagen (Jim) of River Falls; Kelsey Rients (Sylvia) of Monroe; Marianna Sallman (Henrietta) of Roseville, Minn.; and Olivia Main (Warden) of Webster. Thirteen additional UW-River Falls students (the chorus/ townspeople) are all from either Wisconsin or Minnesota.

Join the excitement by coming to a performance of “All Shook Up” Oct. 27-29 or Nov. 3-5. All shows begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Blanche Davis Theatre in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building at UWRF. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (60 plus) and \$5 for students. The University Theatre Box Office in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building will be open Monday-Friday beginning Oct.17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on performance nights. A mail-in order form found at <http://www.uwrf.edu/CSTA/UniversityTheatre.cfm>. For more information, contact the Box Office at 715-425-3114 or andrea.scharfbillig@uwrf.edu.

Remember to look for Freddy’s lost feather in this issue of the Student Voice.

## Student Senate Shorts

From the Oct. 25 Meeting

The Student Senate passed a resolution that condemns the proposed budgets lapses for the UW-System

Tyler Halverson was appointed to the Non-Academic Misconduct Hearing Committee.

Gary Prince was appointed to the Textbooks Services Advisory Committee.

Senate authorized a one-time reallocation of \$10,000.00 from the University Reserve Account to the Allocable Fee Appropriation Board account for the purpose of allocation through the Single Event Funding process.

**The next meeting of the Senate will occur at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 1 in the Willow River Room of the University Center.**

The Senate meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011 is canceled.

Do you have something to say?

Send your opinions to:

editor@uwrfvoice.com

## UW-River Falls grows rare flower

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In September 2010 UW-River Falls received attention for a rare blooming flower. The corpse flower, also known as a Titan Arum or Amorphophallus Titanum, which had been grown from a seed planted in the greenhouse by Daniel Waletzko bloomed. This species of flower has only bloomed a few more than a hundred times in controlled conditions. When blooming, the corpse flower released a pungent smell likened to rotting flesh or a dead rat. Plants like this have been known to grow to over 200 pounds. They are comprised of a tuber, much like a giant tulip bulb, that will sprout a stalk and then a leaf. That leaf will normally live between 12 and 18 months and then die and become the simple tuber for about six months.

The UWRF greenhouse’s corpse flower has recently grown its first new stalk since the flowering, and should grow another leaf soon. However it could be as long as eight years or more before the plant will produce another flower. The pollen from the flower was stored in a freezer in case another corpse flower should bloom, but it can not be used to pollinate itself.

The corpse flower is still an interesting site to behold even without the flower. The large wood-like green stem rises out of the big, square black pot the black ball sized bulb is kept in. It does not have the same fragrance that it had when it was flowering. It barely has any scent at all.

The pot that it is planted in has strong castors on the bottom of the base in order to move the flower safely even with its heavy weight.

When a corpse flower blooms it sends up a single inflorescence with only both male and female flowers. The inflorescence will develop for three to four weeks and can grow to be 10 feet tall and three or four feet wide. The fleshy column in the middle, called a spadix, has thousands of tiny flowers in its base. The large inflorescence usually opens in just a few hours and will only remain open for a day.

The reason for the smell is to attract pollinators. Flies and other insects, such as carrion beetles, are attracted by the smell and fooled into believing there is a dead animal rotting somewhere inside the flower. When the UWRF flower was blooming there were several flies swarming inside the greenhouse being tricked by the smell.

The corpse flower was discovered in 1878 by the Italian botanist Odoardo Beccari. The first recorded incidence of it flowering outside its native habitat of the tropical forests of Sumatra was in 1889 In the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in London. The first case of a corpse flower blooming in the United States of America was in 1935, where it was grown in the New York Botanical Gardens.

The corpse flower will live on for many more years, and with luck it will be able to be pollinated the next time it blooms.



# Voter ID: Supporters say law will reduce balloting fraud

From page 1

“Growing up in the Chicagoland area, where voter fraud has been well-noted, I saw the positive effects that voter ID had on elections there,” wrote Michael Leonard, the chair of the College Republicans at UWRF, in an email statement. “With respect to Wisconsin, I see the voter ID law as a step towards limiting voter fraud here.”

The voter ID bill was approved May 19 by a vote of 19-5 in the Republican-controlled Wisconsin State Senate. It was then signed into law May 25 by Republican Gov. Scott Walker.

“Requiring photo identification to vote will go a long way to eliminate the threat of voter fraud,” said Walker in a released statement. “If you need an ID to buy cold medicine, it’s reasonable to require it to vote.”

A similar photo ID law was vetoed in Minnesota last May by Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton.

Minnesota voters will only need to show a photo ID at polling stations if they are voting for the first time and registered to vote by mail without verifying their identity, according to a Pew Center website detailing state election rules.

Halverson said it is important to note that the law does not officially go into effect until the primary elections in February 2012. Voters participating in school referendums in November will be asked to show photo IDs, but will not be turned away if they do not have one.

“It’s more of an exercise at this point,” Halverson said.

People voting without a valid photo ID in 2011 will be given literature about the new requirements, according to the

website for the Government Accountability Board, the state agency tasked with implementing the new law.

Halverson said the Senate Legislative Affairs Committee would be handling marketing for the new IDs at UWRF.

Senator Asher Heer, the director of Legislative Affairs, said he is in the process of working with the University to put together posters and educational displays to inform students about the photo ID law and the steps they will need to take in order to vote in 2012.

“There are big elections coming up, and students need to participate,” Halverson said. “It’s very important that students get out to vote, otherwise they get ignored.”

# New Senators: Working on accomplishing new 2011 goals

From page 1

she would have to start by joining a committee that deals with that particular issue. After that she would have to talk with the committee director, but Hall wasn’t very sure what she would have to do next. Hall said she’s still learning how things work in the Senate.

“Being a first-year we just learn as the year goes on, we don’t know a whole lot right now,” said Hall.

Kayla Edstrom, also a first-year representative, said she

didn’t do a whole lot of campaigning.

“I just spread the word in some of my classrooms and told some people in my dorm to vote for me,” Edstrom said.

Grady Nelson, also a first-year representative, said he did very little campaigning.

“I did a little door knocking but it was more of a grassroots kind of campaigning,” said Nelson.

Although it is only the third week that the Senate has been active, senior Nick Entringer said he hasn’t been happy with the history of Senate.

“From what I’ve dealt with them in the past, I don’t feel like they do much of anything,” said Entringer. “It seems like they are very disconnected to the student body, we don’t see what they do and we don’t see any outcome.”

Entringer explained what he would like to see from the Senate this year.

“I want them to tell us what they are doing, write press releases, put it on the school’s website homepage or write a blog,” said Entringer. “Overall, I would just like to know what they are doing to better this campus.”

# Texting: Students prefer texting for communication mode

From page 1

phones have leveled off for the adult population.

“I only send a few texts a day,” said Jeremy Schultz, 25, a student at the University. “But I do like the fact that texting is more concrete when you are talking there is a bunch of interference all the time, with texting you can think more about

what your trying to say and it is easier to keep control of the conversation.”

According to a report on CBS news, over the last four years the major phone carriers have seen huge jumps in the number of text messages sent. In all, Americans sent more than two trillion text messages in 2010.

The report also found that the average length of a cell phone

call declined last year to 2.3 minutes. This is the shortest talk time since the 1990s, before mobile phones and cheap calling plans became widely available. The highest talk time came in 2004, when a caller on average talked for 3.05 minutes.

# Tutoring: Opens spring 2012 Career Services: New director

From page 1

many students are scared to go to their professors and ask them to explain things. I think it will be easier for students to relate to other students and it will be beneficial for those students in need.”

The Academic Success Center has been looking at other needs that students have and are discussing the potential of other satellite tutoring centers be installed as well. The new center is projected to open in the spring semester of 2012. It will be located in room 326 of the Ag Science building.

From page 1

that,” said Wilson.

Wilson said that she likes to offer advice to students who are about to start or who are planning on starting their new careers in the near future. “What is most important on when

you are embarking on your career journey is to be open to new opportunities and to take advantage of a multitude of experiences, because you never know what you might fall in love with,” Wilson said.

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# Halloween 2011



Megan Rodriguez/Student Voice

**Halloween comes on Monday, Oct. 31. There are many haunting activities to take part in on campus. On Oct. 25, students were asked to vote in a pumpkin carving contest at the University Center. Students were able to vote for their choice of scariest, most creative and funniest. Grimm Haunted Hall is another activity taking place in Grimm Hall on Friday, Oct. 28 with the first haunted experience starting at 6 p.m.**





EDITORIALS

Students should demonstrate exemplary leadership skills

What does being a leader mean to you? Are leaders born or made? The term may seem foreign to some students, whereas others have seemed to naturally embody leadership skills for the majority of their lives.

We wish to thwart the leadership myth, which ascertains that leaders can only be found at the highest levels of a given organization. We do not believe that leadership is about acquiring a certain position, title or rank. Leadership is an attitude: it’s about caring, forming relationships, and being proactive.

Ordinary people can do extraordinary things. According the UW-River Falls website, the Office of Student Life offers a wide variety of opportunities for all students to build leadership skills.

The development of these skills can be achieved through involvement in student organizations, attending leadership development workshops, and participating in campus wide programming. Making the most of opportunities to gain leadership skills is an important part of the overall educational experience at UWRF.

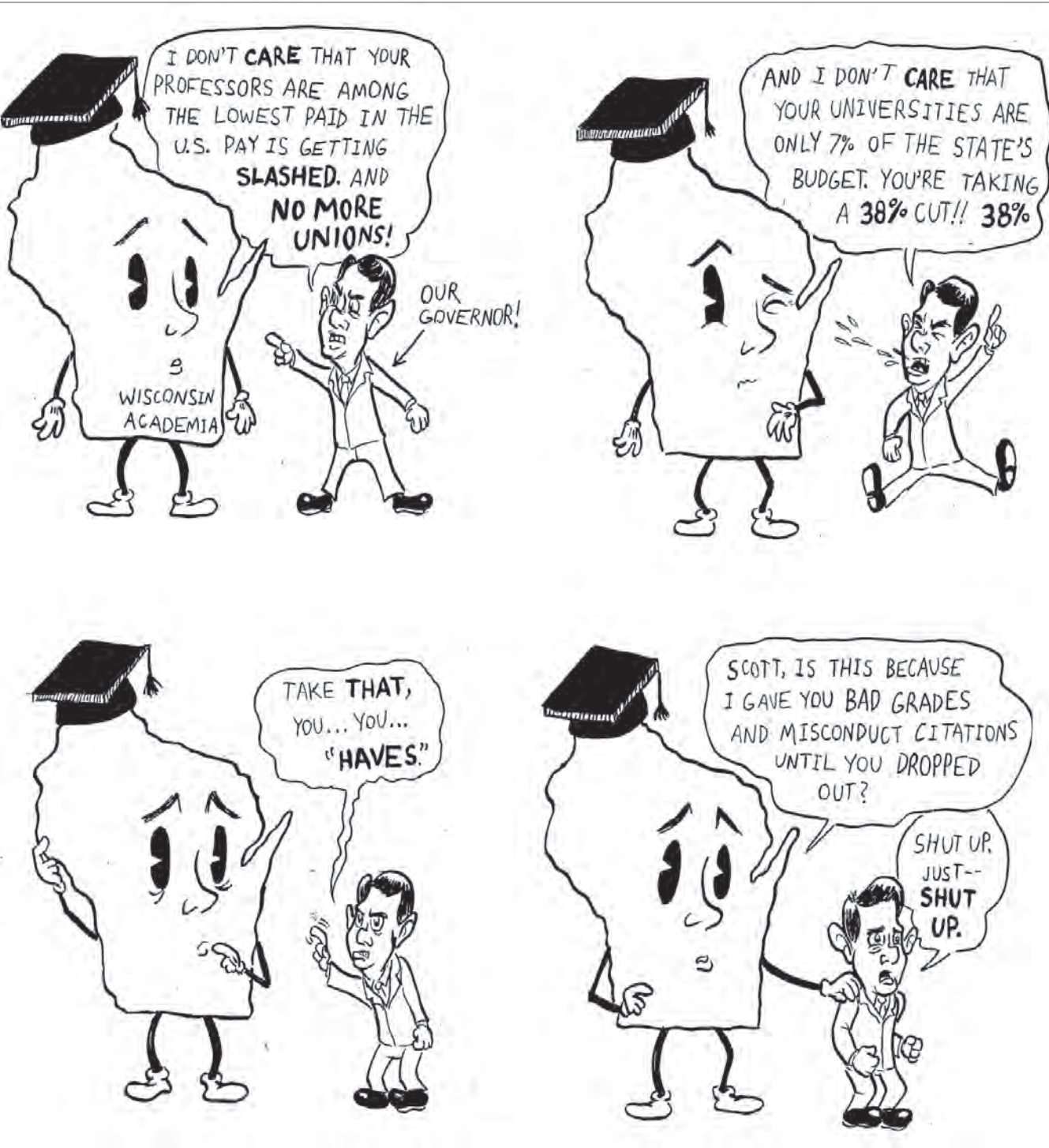
Leaders should be honest, competent and inspiring, but you must first be able to inspire yourself before you can inspire others. As students, we are responsible, both individually and collectively, for the fate of this world.

The UWRF website also contends that as a campus, community, state, nation, and planet, we face unprecedented challenges; ecologically, socially, and economically. Depending on one’s interpretation of the collective data and trend analysis across those many challenges, we have no time to waste. The future calls out for bold and decisive action with a sense of urgency.

That being said, we here at the Student Voice encourage students to develop a better sense of awareness, in regards to yourself and the world around you. By bringing people together and getting personally involved, leaders reinforce in others the courage necessary to accomplish extraordinary things.

Leadership is a skill that can be learned, and any skill can be strengthened and enhanced. It’s time to show others how truly wonderful you can be, and it’s time for you to exercise the limits of your potential.

The only way to truly show people you care and that you appreciate their efforts is to be out there with them. So get involved, become a leader, and change the world!



David Recine/Student Voice

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Insulted student calls out Student Senate president

This past Monday on Oct. 24, in our very own University Center, I was called a name. Now, I’ve been insulted and called names more than I can remember, and usually they really don’t bother me, as I learned in elementary school to just ignore, or not pay any attention to bullies. But this one time really bothered me because of the name, and the individual who uttered it. I was referred to as a “tea bagger.” Yes. A “tea bagger.” A pejorative term used for members of the Tea Party, and some individuals rather fond of sexual assault against an unsuspecting mark. I find it incredible that such a term implying such a deplorable act in a University that prides itself on its diversity and tolerance. But the most jarring thing about the entire incident is who said it. An individual I thought was a respected member of our University. Our Student Senate president, Tyler Halverson.

I was under the impression that as Senate president, one must possess a certain amount of respect for all of his constituents and fellow students, and maintain a level of civility and perhaps some type of discretion or filter in what you say. Apparently this is no longer in vogue as our president seems

to enjoy running his rather large mouth, and doing whatever he likes, regardless of his actions. Tyler Halverson is not the person we want for this job, as he has demonstrated that he is indeed an arrogant, obnoxious bully. I call on Halverson, if he has any class at all, to resign as president of the Senate. His actions and words are incredibly disrespectful and in complete defiance of our University’s values. If he refuses, I call on the Senate and the student body to impeach him.

Wes OBrien  
Student

*Editor’s note: Tyler Halverson confirmed an incident at the University Center in which he told two acquaintances at the College Republican vendor table to “take the tea bagging elsewhere.” Halverson stated the comment was recieved with laughter.*

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

STUDENT VOICE

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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.

Expand your thinking:

Off-campus living: tips, advice for finding your own starter bungalow



Jaime Haines  
Columnist

Moving off campus is a huge decision that requires a lot of preparation to be successfully done. You must meet the University’s eligibility requirements, begin your search early,

consider basic factors like location and expense, choose your roommates, and create a list of questions for your potential landlord. With the completion of these steps, moving from the dorms to an apartment should go smoothly.

First, make sure you meet the eligibility requirements set by the University. You must hold a junior standing (60 plus credits) or receive special approval from the Dean. Once you know if you qualify, begin your research immediately. Many places allow students to sign leases several months before the contract begins, so you want to browse through the options before they have all been filled.

Next, reflect on the basic factors and make a pros versus cons list to ensure that living off-campus is the right decision for you. When looking at apartments or houses, consider the full financial cost of your decision. For example, any financial aid you receive may decline in amount because you no longer pay housing and meal fees to the campus.

Once you know whether living off campus is a viable and suitable decision, choose your roommates. Use a similar selection process as you did when choosing a roommate on campus. Even though you may not share a bedroom, you still share common areas; your roommates’ decisions affect your living situation. Have a discussion about what you expect from each other in terms of property sharing, chores, study versus fun time, and guest policies. If you are on the same page for the bigger issues, exact details can be worked out closer to move in time.

Upon choosing potential roommates, begin the search for your new home. While locations further from campus often have lower price tags, think of your willingness to walk a

mile or more to class each day or the additional expense of driving. Also take note of rent, food, and any extra service costs. Next, consider the type of environment in which the apartment or house is located by looking at the surrounding neighborhood. If the apartments you choose to look at house primarily senior citizens, expect plenty of quiet time for homework, but know there will probably be a low tolerance for loud noise. On the other hand, apartments full of college students provide great chances to meet new people and be social, but may be less conducive to quiet time for studying. Once you determine the type of environment you would like to live in, find appropriate apartments or houses and call to set up meetings with the landlords.

Before meeting with a landlord, come up with an extensive list of questions. Some considerations to learn about include: rent (amount, due date, penalties for late payments, the situation if someone moves out, which utilities are included, the average cost of utilities not included, any needed installation fees, whether laundry is free or coin-operated and whether parking is included), lease (length, dates, penalty for breaking lease, and whether all the roommates need to sign), deposit (amount and when it is refunded), miscellaneous policies (partying, fines, pets), the maximum number of roommates, alterations like painting and hanging pictures, and how maintenance concerns are handled. Do not be afraid to ask too many questions; you are the one signing a legal document agreeing that you know all the conditions. Finally, request a copy of the contract to bring home to read thoroughly before signing.

Remember, if you are considering taking the next step in your life by living off-campus, consider all the factors involved. This includes checking with the University, searching proactively, choosing good roommates, and knowing all the details of your contract. By following these steps, you ensure yourself the smoothest and most enjoyable transition possible.

*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.*



Lifestyle Enthusiast on the town:

# Alaskan mountain dominates its climber



Christopher  
Pagels  
  
Columnist

In my glossy brochure of the trails for Kachemak Bay State Park, it said the Poot Peak trail leads to the top of the mountain, but there is a snag, or lack thereof, “climbing the 2600 foot peak is hazardous due to shifting scree and rock.” Pish posh I thought to myself. If I could survive the Lagoon Trail, which was nothing more than a suggestion, then walking up this should be a delight.

A couple days prior I had hired a water taxi to get me across the Kachemak Bay from Homer to the park. The bay was relatively calm that day while the inboard motors and the keel broke the cerulean glass. The female captain slowed the boat to no-wake around Gull Island where thousands of seagulls and white and gray maritime birds squawked in a din of competing voices. This jagged rock resembled a sea stack that had an arch near the eastern tip. The captain sped away, once again drowning out the sanctuary. They dropped us off; a Dutch couple, a German woman, and me, on the Glacier Sandbar. The Europeans were only there for half a day while I would venture on for another three, well that was until I encountered the suggestion that is the Lagoon Trail. The brochure said that the trail was “primitive.” Like a safari, the adventurer slashes the vegetation ahead of himself, bushwhacking his own path; this was not unlike the task I endured. Maple-like leaves with five lobes and a circumfer-

ence of a Frisbee was spiked with thorns on the underside, limbs, and stalk having left hundreds of red scratches along my hairy arms. After four miles of the trail, I slept in a white sandy area just before the rain kicked in and slept for 14 hours.

When I reached the Ranger’s station the next day, I planned to call the water taxi at the top of Poot Mountain for a change in itinerary. My body admitted what my ego could not; I was not in prime shape as I had been last summer while hiking the Appalachian Trail. In my defense though, I felt confident in my skills, all of which I would need when I came up to the scree. The Poot Peak Trail is overgrown but as one of the Ranger’s said, “When the superintendant hiked this trail a couple of years ago with his grandson, he said the hike was so terrible that our first priority was to clear the brush on the trail.” As I walked, the peak would flash under or over the bingo wing sagginess of the tree limbs of the thick forest. My Trekking poles kept me propped up like an inept spider.

The trail only led up to an arm of the mountain, not the true summit, my constitution would not allow such a fake summit. It was as if I needed to keep my honor, as if a white glove challenging me to a duel the white snow above the arm stood as one last stronghold beckoning me not to be a wimp. The angle of the mountain, cast in front of a spotless blue background, radically turns into a 50-60 degree slide, with the scree as a slippery foothold. Veins of these auburn/grey rocks were separated by a minefield of light green mossy tussocks, good for handholds. Mini avalanches sent me to slide several feet down, I quickly lay my body closer to the Earth. Bushy trees in the distance offer one more toehold of stability before I boulder up giant slabs of table rock. Several times

in my life, I have put myself in the same position of life and death where I treat risk as a luxury. This was a tightrope; one wrong move would send me down a few hundred feet buried underneath the rubble I had unlensed. Death and burial would be solved at a moment’s notice. This is one of those things a mother does not need to know.

The top was the trickiest because the accomplished feat clouds the mind’s judgment. I was doing something I called “bouldering at its finest” as I tried to hoist myself through a deep cut that attributed to the vein of rocks that came down to the arm’s fake summit. A fine meal of gravel laid in wait for my impending fall that never came. On top of Poot Peak, my mind became a dried out sponge dunked into a bucket of water. I saw the Homer spit jut out like a thin whip in the Kachemak Bay as the focus behind of a volcanic mountain range drop back. My eyes made up the gap of the Cook Inlet by the continuation of the mountain range on my side. Clouds were marching from the northeast to the brown mountains, some tipped in white still holding glaciers from the Ice Age.

The only way to escape the southerly wind was to duck into a crevice, but this eliminated the bars of coverage on my 2007 Nokia cell phone. That’s right, mountains are perfect for cell phone coverage. So it was that I was able to call the taxi for the new arrangements. The peak was an island compassed about by a brown mountain range a crescent to the northeast to the southwest, the Cook Inlet surrounded the rest with a volcano that taxed the end of my sight due south-west from Homer. In this rocky perch, several small flowers bravely sprouted from the cracks in yellows, deep purples, and turquoise. The climb down would be hardest; jumping would be easier.

# Exploring the historical wonders of Halifax, Alaska

There is more to Canada than just hockey and snow—and one great example is Halifax, Nova Scotia. Rich in maritime history, the city’s harbor originally served as

Michael  
Leonard  
  
Columnist

a main hub for the Royal Navy. It has since evolved into a popular tourist destination, incorporating Scottish, French and English cultures to create a baby “New York” in Eastern Canada. So get ready to explore one of the newer, but most fascinating ports I’ve visited!

The Mikmaq Indians originally settled Halifax. The French came and established an alliance with the Indians. After the British arrived and defeated the French, the Mikmaq signed a peace treaty in 1749. Needless to say, the British took their land without payment. In 1759, the British founded the Naval Yard, which continues to be used to this day. However, the city’s shining moment came in 1912, following the Titanic disaster. Four ships left the harbor to retrieve bodies. They

recovered 333 bodies, returning many of them to port. They could have recovered more had they not consumed all their embalming supplies (as a result, many more bodies were buried at sea). Devastation struck Halifax in 1917 when two war ships accidentally collided, igniting a massive explosion, killing 2,000 people and nearly destroying the city in the world’s largest man-made accidental explosion.

Since the explosion, Halifax has been built up nicely. If you’re a fan of maritime history, like me, check out the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, housing nearly 30,000 artifacts, including 70 boats and one ship, the CSS Arcadia. You can step aboard the now retired ship and sample life at sea. The museum also has exhibits dedicated to both the Titanic disaster and the Halifax explosion. There are some artifacts salvaged from the shipwreck most notably clothing, dishes, a piece of the Grand Staircase and a cabinet.

There are also tours to Fairview Lawn Cemetery, the final resting place of the recovered Titanic victims. In fact, director James Cameron paid a visit during the filming. Three rows of graves, which curve to resemble a ship’s bow, and detailed information of each victim are at the grave site. Some graves include the name (as some bodies were not identified), but all graves include the date of death (April 15, 1912) and a number, which represents the order pulled—for

example, musician John Law Hume was victim 193 to be recovered. One of the names was “J. Dawson,” which gave Cameron the inspiration for Leonardo DiCaprio’s character. Between two graves is a large space representing the hole created by the fatal iceberg. All the headstones were paid for by the White Star Line, who operated Titanic.

Another popular attraction is Peggy’s Cove, located 25 miles southwest of Halifax. Known for its lobster fishing, the community is home to scenic bluffs and has a famous lighthouse that is still operated by the Canadian Coast Guard. Lastly, make sure you tour Citadel Hill/Fort George. It was used for four different conflicts, including the American Revolution. It’s never been attacked, but had been placed on high alert during World War II. Within the walls, you can see animator’s re-enact 19 century life. There are even Scottish guards who keep watch in traditional attire. There is a changing of the guard, as well as a ceremonial gun shot at noon. You can browse the old weapons, medals and uniforms in the Army Museum. In the center of the Citadel is the famous Town Clock. Commissioned by the Duke of Kent in 1800, it has kept accurate time since 1803.

I hope you have enjoyed the first few destinations so far! I will be taking a bye week for the following issue, but when we return, we are going south of the border!

## STUDENT VOICES

What is the scariest costume you have ever seen or been?

Brittany Van  
Grinsuem,  
Junior

“The masks with black around them.”



Melissa Van  
Grinsuem,  
Freshman

“The costumes that pump the fake blood.”

Stephen Melson,  
Freshman

“Barney. It was ridiculous.”



Ryan Anderson,  
Freshman

“I was a girl one year. Blonde hair, red dress, even heels!”

Austin Haag,  
Freshman

“Freddy Kruger.”



Compiled by Megan Rodriguez

## Minn. holds unpredictable ride in politics, sports



Ashley  
Goettl  
  
Columnist

There are two things that can drive a person in the Midwest, or anywhere, to the point of insanity: sports and politics. While each region or territory will have distinguishable traits about their political culture and cheering mantra; when taken to a more decentralized local level, one can’t help but notice the qualms and quirks that surround the Minnesota sports and political arena.

It is only fitting that Minnesota would be the state to have its Metrodome roof collapse along with our hope of a major sporting title. It is only more fitting that the only Minnesota championship I can remember is the WNBA Championship that the Lynx brought to Minnesota this year. (I was not even age one when the Twins won the World Series in 1991.) And it is the sharpest dagger that our greatest hope for victory in Joe Mauer and Justin Morneau cannot avoid the injury bug for more than a week. Due to limited playing time stemming from injuries, Mauer and Morneau combined for seven home runs in 2011. Between Mauer making \$23 million and Morneau \$13 million, it comes out to over \$5 million per home run.

Only in Minnesota will you have a professional sports team that leads the NFL in arrests since 2000.

According to an article in the Pioneer Press from Oct. 25, with the arrest of cornerback Chris Cook, the Vikings have passed the Cincinnati Bengals for the most arrests in the NFL since 2000 with 36. The Bengals have 35. Cook was arrested for choking his girlfriend and sat in a Hennepin County jail while his team was taking on division foe Green Bay on Oct. 23. To top it off, Cook’s arrest was not even the biggest story stemming from the Packers game; that title belongs to Brian Robison whose kick to the groin of Packer TJ Lang was caught on national television.

But the rivalry and bitter divide is not limited to the playing field and sporting events. Minnesota’s politicians have had their fair share of national attention as well.

Only in Minnesota will you have the most polarizing of politicians. Where else can you boast that you have someone like Al Franken as your Senator, and Michele Bachmann as

not only your congresswoman, but a presidential candidate as well? My only wish is that Bachmann will hold off her bid to run for Senate in 2012 so she can run when Franken is up for reelection in 2014. Can’t you already see the jokes on SNL? Even though we are in Wisconsin, I would be willing to bet that more students know who Franken is than those who know who Ron Johnson is. (Johnson is the freshman Senator from Wisconsin who defeated Russ Feingold in the 2010 election.) To make it even more locally, I would be willing to bet that more people know who Bachmann is than Ron Kind, who is our congressman in Wisconsin’s third district. That may be an unfair question though, as Bachmann is running for president and has received a substantial amount of press. But it is more of the mentality that the “squeaky wheel gets the grease,” or the politician with the loudest mouth will get the spotlight on national TV.

It is only fitting that Minnesota would be the state to have its Metrodome roof collapse along with our hope of a major sporting title.

However, what makes these quirks in Minnesota politics so strange, is that if you look at Minnesota politics over the years, you will find that the average Minnesotan’s political values are not as extreme or as polarizing as Franken and Bachmann make us out to be. In fact, Minnesota is one of the few states where an independent or third party candidate would actually stand a chance, or where a presidential candidate will come to campaign because our culture is not set in stone or as predictable as say Alabama or New York. Remember when everywhere you looked you could see a bumper sticker that said, “my governor can beat up yours,” during the Jesse Ventura days?

Take it as you may, but I believe that it is the cold winters, the brash and outlandish candidates and the unpredictable sporting world that makes us Minnesotans thick-skinned. We don’t buy ourselves championships like New York, and we don’t flee to neighboring states when the going gets tough like Wisconsin. We grind it out and vote for presidential candidates even when the entire rest of the country votes for the other like in 1984, and we attract older quarterbacks and home run hitters who give us a flicker of hope, and a moment to be a part of history. We may not have a Lombardi Trophy, but we did have a governor who could challenge Clay Mathews to a boxing match.

Things have not always been pretty or gone according to plan, but if you asked me if I had to do it all over again, would I still want to call Minnesota home? I would proudly answer, “ya, sure, you betcha!”



# Men’s hockey eager for upcoming season



Jessie Behrman/Student Voice  
**The men’s hockey team has started practice at Hunt Arena. With a core group of 17 re- turners and 11 new players, the Falcons are hoping to take the NCHA and WIAC titles.**



Jessie Behrman/Student Voice  
**The men’s hockey team runs drills to get in gear for the upcoming sea- son. UWRF opens their season at home on Oct. 28 against Finlandia.**

Jessie Behrman  
jessie.behrman@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls men’s hockey coach, Steve Freeman, said the large group of returners and a faster team will get them through playoffs this year.

The team lost in the semifinals of the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) Peter’s Cup playoffs last year against St. Norbert College, according to the NCHA website.

The NCHA is recognized as one of the top small-college hockey leagues in country, with an 18-game schedule, accord- ing to the NCHA website. The Peter’s Cup playoffs is the tour- nament for the NCHA and what the Falcons are shooting to win this year, which takes place towards the end of February and the finals are March 3.

It will take the Falcons speed, discipline and fan support to win the playoffs. Freeman said adding speed to the offense and defense would get them higher in the standings. “A lot faster team, skate faster and to help us offensively by adding speed to the line up. We have a great group of seniors back, a lot of returners who have played in a lot of big games, and we finished second last year behind St. Norbert in defense,”

Freeman said.

The team lost two seniors this year and has 17 returners and 11 newcomers. Senior and captain, Sean Roadhouse said the team’s biggest obstacle this year is themselves, like it is every year.

“We have one of the most talented and skilled squads in the league, but it’s a matter of putting it all together and execut- ing while staying disciplined. We expect to win the league,” Roadhouse said. Freeman said he wanted to emphasize all the championships for the Falcons because it’s a history of great tradition. They have three NCHA Championships, three National Championships, and 14 WIAC Championships, the most recent one being in 2010.

The WIAC consists of five teams: UW-Eau Claire, UWRF, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Stout and UW-Superior. The team with the most points at the end of the season is the confer- ence champions. All these team are also included in the NCHA league. Roadhouse said the team is focusing on not beating themselves by being undisciplined and taking penalties.

“During a game I’m usually singing a song or something. In practice we do so many reps of situations in a game and our responsibilities that it becomes second nature. So during

a game it is all reaction,” Roadhouse said. Men’s hockey at UWRF is known for their super-fans. Junior Lyle Rocker said the fans are the best in the league and are what keeps the team grounded throughout the whole season. Freeman said the fans always have a great time.

“The fan support is tremendous, it makes the whole atmo- sphere for the game. It’s like an extra player on the team,” Freeman said. Roadhouse said that they have the best and loudest fans in the league. It’s a great feeling and it fires the boys up.

The Falcons start the season at home at 7:05 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28 against Finlandia University.

Freeman said the freshman are adding to the fast and phys- ical team the Falcons have. Rocker said this will help contrib- ute to the team improving in every aspect this year compared to last year.

“As a team we have to be better in every area, we have a strong group of guys coming in that are going to step right in and help our team win hockey games,” Rocker said. The team also plays against St. Norbert at home Friday at 7:05 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 11th and 12th.

# UWRF rugby team reaching new heights

Ashley Goettl  
ashley.goettl@my.uwrf.edu

For the first time since 2006, the UW-River Falls men’s rug- by team reached the elusive final four in the Minnesota State Championships. However, UWRF took it one-step further by beating Bethel University to reach the semifinals before fall- ing to St. Thomas in the finals.

UWRF competes in a league called the Minnesota Union. The Union is composed of 13 teams from Wisconsin, Min- nesota, Iowa and North Dakota. According to senior Crague Cook, UWRF competes in Minnesota because it is closer than traveling to places such as Green Bay or Madison.

UWRF earned a spot in the final four by winning their pool, which consisted of St. Thomas, Carleton, Macalester and St. Olaf. There are three pools in the Union, two of which have four teams, and the other, five. UWRF won their pool to earn a spot in the final four. All pool winners received a birth. The final spot was given to a wild card team.

In the semi-finals, UWRF beat Bethel University. This matched them up against St. Thomas, the wild card team, but also a team they had beaten just a week before. However, sev- eral severe injuries to key players in the first half of the finals

allowed St. Thomas to sneak by and beat UWRF.

Jesse Engen, a senior and captain of the team, suffered a dislocated ankle, which will require surgery later on. Other in- juries included concussions, which forced UWRF to play with less experience. Cook added that he “has never seen a game where so many people dropped like flies.”

“It is hard to maintain the game flow when so many injuries are happening,” said team President Mark Ineichen.

Ineichen is one of six seniors on this year’s rugby team, which had a great core of experience and plenty of new faces. The new players have stepped up to the plate, even during the tough conditions, added Cook.

Cook has been playing rugby since high school, but the state championships were his final competition. Travis Spencer, Eric Gates and Jason Anderson round out the seniors who put the UWRF jersey on for their final season. For some players, like Engen, competing for UWRF was the first time they have ever played rugby. Nevertheless, four years later, Engen was voted team captain and was instrumental to this year’s team success.

Teammates Cook, Ineichen and Sam Gartmann had nothing but praise for Engen, who helped run the practices and get the players in condition for the grueling rugby season. UWRF is

one of few teams that have a player-coach.

The rugby team at UWRF has 38 players. Cook described rugby as a mixture of soccer and football. “Rugby came from soccer, and from rugby came football,” said Cook. The game is played with 15 players on the field with continuous time consisting of two 40-minute halves. The main difference, or unique rule said Cook, is that in rugby you have to pass back- wards.

Ineichen added that even though rugby is played without pads, the rules are designed to protect the players. Cook ex- plained a main difference when it comes to tackling. “In foot- ball you can just full-out go and tackle someone. But in rugby, you have to completely wrap around the person before you can tackle them,” said Cook.

Gartmann described the experience of playing rugby as a “full-body workout in which you have to be in top condition.” This top condition has led UWRF to be one of the best pro- grams throughout the Midwest. Even though they will lose several seniors heading into next season, Gartmann says there is “a lot of promise for the future.”

UWRF is now waiting to hear if they received a birth to the Midwest Playoffs. If they make it, it would be a first in UWRF history.

## Volleyball hosts Whitewater in Halloween themed game

The UWRF women’s volleyball team is hosting a Halloween themed game at their home game at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28. It will be held in Karges Center gym. There will be contests, prizes and give-aways for the fans that show up for support.

The theme is Halloween and if you wear black, you can go to Juniors and get half price appetizers before the game. People can also wear their costumes to the game, in which there will be a prize given away to the person who wore the best costume.

There will also be raffles for free Dairy Queen and Dominoes. The first 50 students that show up to the game will receive a free volleyball t-shirt.

## Green achieves 1,000 kill milestone



**Erin Green, a junior from Fridley, Minn. reached 1,006 kills, becoming the 11th player in UWRF volleyball history to reach the prestigious 1,000 kill milestone on the final day of the Elmhurst Invite on Oct. 22. In the match against Wheaton, Green had 23 kills, leaving her five shy of 1,000. But in the second match of the day against Law- rence, Green pounded out 11 kills to bring her career total thus far to 1,006.**

*Information taken from the UWRF Athletic’s website*

## Calendar of upcoming sporting events

### Fri, Oct. 28, 2011

Women’s Volleyball vs UW- Whitewater at 7 p.m.

Men’s Hockey vs Finlandia Uni- versity at 7:05 p.m.

### Sat. Oct. 29, 2011

Football vs UW-Stout at 1 p.m.

Women’s LaCross at WIAC Cham- pionships at 1 p.m.

Men’s Swimming at Luther Col- lege at 1p.m.

Women’s Swimming at Luther College at 1 p.m.

Men’s Hockey vs Finlandia Uni- versity at 7:05 p.m.

Women’s Volleyball vs UW-Osh- kosh at noon

### Tue, Nov. 1, 2011

Women’s Volleyball vs TBD  
WIAC Championship First Round

Women’s Soccer vs TBD  
WIAC Championship First Round



Robots deliver sucker punch

“Real Steel” takes the time-tested formula of the underdog story perfected by past films like “Rocky” and throws in fighting robots and estranged fathers. After seeing the trailers, it’s hard to have high hopes for a movie like “Real Steel.” I’m more than glad to say my expectations were exceeded. “Real Steel” is a fun movie, with a lot of heart, even if it does meander into some rather heavy-handed territory at times.

The story is simple enough and borders on the ge-neric, but there are enough wrinkles in the narrative to keep things interesting, for the most part. Hugh Jack-man plays Charlie Kenton, a washed up boxer who travels the country trying to rustle up cash by putting barely functional fighting robots into any fight he can. He’s down on his luck, can’t even keep who he owes what straight, and isn’t a very nice guy. He gets word that his ex-girlfriend has died and left a son behind.

It’s no surprise that Charlie gets saddled with his long lost son or that they don’t get along at first. It’s even less of a surprise that they get closer and form a bond as the two rise through the ranks of the robot boxing league. Yes, it’s a fairly rote story, but their arc feels as organic as it possibly can in a feel-good family movie sort of way.

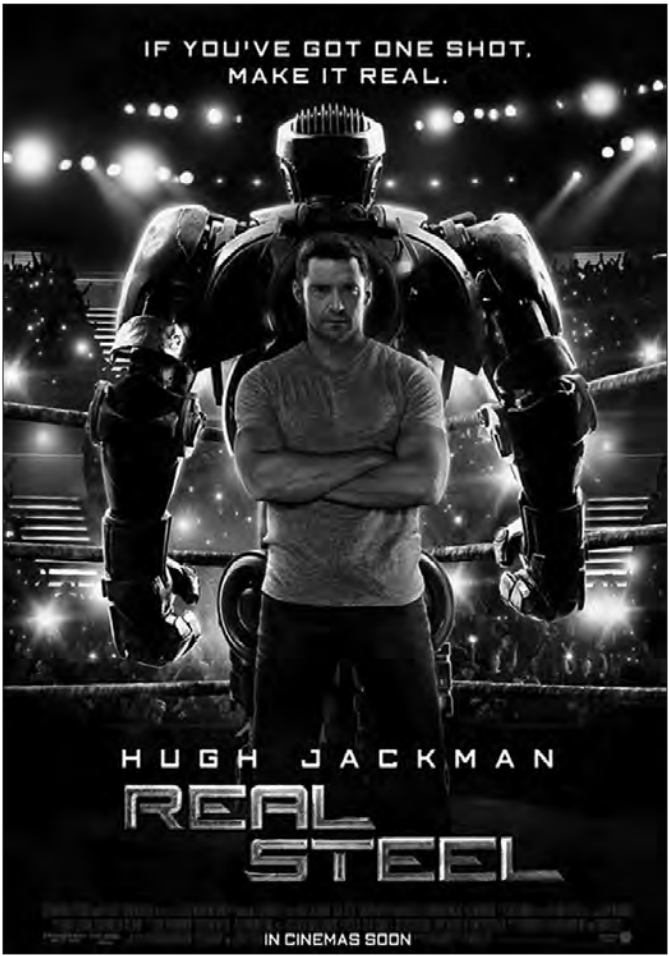
It helps that Charlie’s son Max is played with a great amount of enthusiasm and charm by Dakota Goyo. Max is clever, excitable and has a mouth on him. The best parts of the movie are when Jackman and Goyo get to take shots at, and be snarky with, each other. It’s hard not to crack a smile when they really start going at it.

Let’s be honest, though. People aren’t coming to this movie looking for much more than robots beating the holy hell out of each other and there’s plenty of that to go around.

Charlie and Max find an old sparring robot named Atom while scavenging parts in a junkyard and decide to run him in a few fights to make some quick cash. This short-term plan quickly turns into a shot at the title fight in front of thousands, if not millions, of viewers.

Like I said earlier, there’s not much original going on here. It’s “Rocky” with a fresh coat of paint. I think it actually works in service of the story that “Real Steel” is trying to tell. Viewers know what’s coming next, so every little derivation from the predetermined structure feels surprisingly fresh and inventive, even when it isn’t.

The actual robot fights are all superbly choreographed, thanks in large part to some-one having the inspired idea of bringing in boxing legend



Sugar Ray Leonard as a consultant. Every punch feels like it matters, and every bob and weave feels vital to the contin-ued operation of the robots in the ring.

Director Shawn Levy wisely took the opposite ap-proach of the “Transform-ers” series when filming the action. There are no quick cuts or non-sensical edit-ing. There is a clear narra-tive to each fight. The fun, retro-futuristic designs of the combatants go a long way in making them each distinctive, avoiding another problem of the “Transform-ers” series where each action sequence is just a mess of flashes of gray metal where you can barely tell who you’re supposed to be rooting for or who’s got the upper hand.

It’s surprising how much fun “Real Steel” turned out to be when it should have been nothing more than “Rock-em-Sock-em Robots: The Movie.”

Atom is imbued with enough personality that you actually want to see him succeed, part E.T. with his wide-eyes and simple mannerisms and part Little Mac from the “Punch Out!” games with his opponents towering over him. Atom has the ability to perfectly mirror a human, so viewers get to see him learning boxing moves from Charlie and dance moves from Max. And yes, the robot dances. It’s sort of his thing. Before you ask, he does do the robot. Quite a few variations of it, actually.

“Real Steel” is a fun watch, but things do get a bit rushed in the third act as our protagonists catapult them-selves towards the title fight. Evangaline Lily’s Bailey functions as nothing more than the studio required love interest and her story gets re-solved all too quickly as the

final scenes start coming.

Speaking of resolutions, some of the main plot points kind of get shuffled away once the metallic fists re-ally start flying. I usually don’t have a problem with open ended stories, but it’s a bit odd when the rest of the story of “Real Steel” is so straightforward. I’d be remiss not to mention that it takes the movie quite a while to actually find its plot. There’s a whole mess of set up to get out of the way before Charlie and Max actu-ally find Atom and start on their quest to take down the

current champion.

It’s surprising how much fun “Real Steel” turned out to be when it should have been noth-ing more than “Rock-em-Sock-em Robots: The Movie.” Jackman’s charisma and Goyo’s

enthusiasm really helped sell the reality of metallic titans battling it out for a title belt. Sadly, the emotional stakes get a bit blurred as the action heats up, making the ending feel a bit hollow.

“Real Steel” is not a per-fect film by any means, but it’s a bright spot in a particu-larly dull time for movies. It sports great choreography and an energetic cast and will make you want to dig back in your movie collec-tion and re-watch flicks like “Rocky” and “Raging Bull.”

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



Chris Rohling  
Reviewer

‘Paranormal’ series fizzles out

Finally, a Halloween has passed without me seeing a trailer for another “Saw” film, and boy was I glad for that. Now we have the “Paranormal” franchise that has run the show the past three years around this time. The original “Paranormal Activity” was a little gem that made my top 10 best films of the year list in 2009. Then in 2010 we got the pre-quel to that in “Paranormal Activity 2” which was pretty much the same film with the shock value of a dog and a young child. Now we go even deeper into the past to hopefully get all the answers of why exactly all this is happening in the hopefully final installment in “Paranormal Activity 3.”

We begin by watching a home video of the two sisters, Katie and Kristi, in 1988 as they first encounter the entity that intrudes on their life. In the first two films we hear them men-tion their parents and how they will not talk about what happened. In “Paranormal Activity 3” we get to figure out why that is. Maybe the reason could be is that no one would believe them because it is so ridiculous! Or wait maybe they will because the tapes have not been destroyed, but I digress. Their mother’s boyfriend seems to be thinking there is something going wrong in the house so he positions cameras up to try and catch the paranormal action.

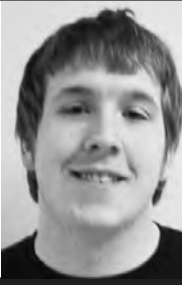
We get the same format as the previous two where we follow the cameras at night and see what happens. Most of the things the spirit does are even the same type of things we have already seen. In the first half of the movie we get one thing that all horror movies do that I did not think the paranormal franchise would stoop to, cheap scares. Things jump-ing out of the shadows and



into camera frame just to get a rise out of the audience. What makes the films worth watching is the heightened sense of fear, not quick jumps.

“Paranormal Activity 3” picks up towards the end when the mother finally believes her boyfriend about what has been going on during the best scene that involves everything in the kitchen disappearing and reappearing suddenly. The scares now begin to get intense follow-ing the boyfriend with his handheld camera, but the last couple minutes get a little too extreme and hard to believe.

Where this movie works is that you learn that the spirit named “Toby” is mentor to one of the girls and terrorizes



Dustyn Dubuque  
Reviewer

those who try to harm her. There are just too many holes in this film to believe nobody knew what happened to these people. What about the babysitter, the best friend, and the tapes that are still floating around out there? Even with that said, I got sucked into the third act which was good enough to make me not hate this film, it was better than the second but doesn’t hold a candle to the first.

Dustyn is a history major and geography minor that has a love and passion for film. He watches over 100 films each year and loves Academy Awards season.

Halloween fan shares holiday plans

Haunted houses, pump-kin carving, costumes and tons of candy; all of these are signs that Halloween is right around the corner. For college students who are now classified as “too old” to trick-or-treat, Hal-loween is mainly about scary activities and having a good time.

There are many ways for students to get that heart stop-ping fright they enjoy during the few weeks leading up to Halloween. For example, the Trail of Terror that is in Hud-son, Wis. is a trail you follow through woods by just holding a rope.

Last weekend, I had the opportunity to go to ValleyS-CARE, which is in Shakopee, Minn. Basically, ValleySCARE is the popular amusement park Valleyfair decorated for Halloween. For someone who isn’t too keen on being scared for enjoyment, I thought this was a good medium. The park contains six haunted houses ranging from all different themes such as the home of vampires to an asylum. If you



Sam Mayberry  
Columnist

need a break from being scared like I did, you can always go ride a few of the rides such as Steel Venom, my personal favorite, or the Power Tower. I will admit, the Wild Thing rollercoaster isn’t exactly my cup of tea, but riding it in the dark gave me a whole new perspective.

If you are unable to make it to off-campus events, there are many things you can do on campus as well. On Oct. 28, you can attend Grimm Hall Haunted Hall. It costs \$2 to get in or two canned goods. The nice thing about this event is there are two differ-ent times you can go. In the early evening you can go for a low level of scare and later in the evening, you can go for a higher level scare. The Zombie Apocalypse event is also taking place on campus on the 28 as well.

Another event you could participate in is the Trick-or-Treating in the Halls. This fun event will take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Oct. 28. It is a unique and fun way for fami-lies with children in the River Falls community to go trick or treating and communicate with the college residents. Be sure to check with your floor in the dorms to see if you are participating. All you need is a bag of candy and you could even dress up.

Besides participating in the activities around campus and outside of River Falls, there will probably be quite a few Halloween parties. Grow-ing up, I opted out of having a Halloween party, as my birthday is only two days after the spooky holiday. I thought it would be silly to have two different parties so close together. It is always fun to have costume contests between friends and seeing how creative you can be. You could even create your own haunted house and have a good time.

There isn’t really anything people can do to stop those who are of legal age from drinking but there are also many ways to have a good time without incorporating alcohol. Along with having fun dressing up in costumes, going to haunted houses and going on hay rides, you can also get in touch with your childish side and carve pumpkins.

Halloween is easily one of my favorite holidays and there are many ways to have a good time. Halloween is meant to be sort of spooky so get a group of friends together and hit up some of these events going on around Minnesota and Wiscon-sin. You don’t need to travel several hours to have a good time either, so there are plenty of activities going on around campus as well. Have a safe, and of course, fun Halloween!

Sam is a junior and is majoring in journal-ism. She is from Rochester, Minn. and loves to read, listen to music and take pictures.

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# Students choose their favorite Halloween candy in survey

“My favorite thing about Halloween is the smell of all the candy mixed together when I open my bag” Caroline Szymanski divulges. And boy does Halloween draw in a huge market for candy. Stores stock up at the end of

September in anticipation of the eager customers. To give you an idea of the average amount of candy a store orders for Halloween I took a trip to Econofoods. The Store Director, John Wild, was very helpful and explained the meaning behind the figures. Their store orders 9 mods of candy and 25 cases. Each mod has 144 to 864 units and each case holds 12-20 units. A unit would be a bar of candy or if we were

talking about M&M’s, a bag. Putting this into perspective that would be at least 1,596 candy bars! Can you imagine 1,000 Reese’s, 1,000 M&M’s or 1,000 Snickers? That would be enough to keep you satisfied between your dentist checkups where I’m sure all that sugar would really start to kick in. Now that you know the stores have stocked up, how is your personal supply looking? (After that midnight sugar craving perhaps not so great.) So now you’re left with the task of getting out there before the trick-or-treaters come. Wait! Before you

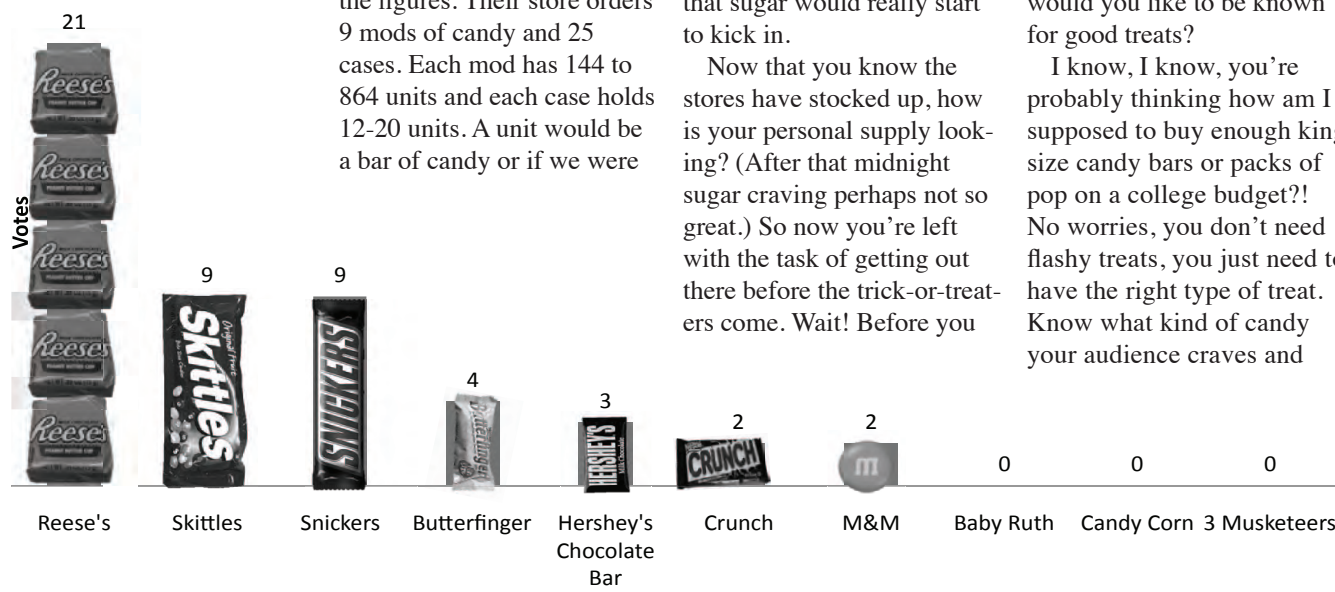
go, find out just what type of candy people are craving. Maybe you have experienced the anticipation of the “good house,” the one you are sure will have the good treats. Almost every neighborhood has one, be it for king-size candy bars or cans of pop. How would you like to be known for good treats? I know, I know, you’re probably thinking how am I supposed to buy enough king size candy bars or packs of pop on a college budget?! No worries, you don’t need flashy treats, you just need to have the right type of treat. Know what kind of candy your audience craves and



Brittney Pfenning-Wendt

Columnist

Reese’s claimed. The campus opinion doesn’t fall far from BusinessWeek’s latest report on “America’s 25 Favorite Candies” from October 2009. They ranked Reese’s as the second favorite candy pull-



stock up on it. After conducting a short survey on 50 students the results clearly showed the favorite on campus: Reese’s. When asked why Reese’s was the top spot on first year Katie Wilson’s list she stated “Reese’s is a combination of peanut butter and chocolate, my two favorite things.” Snickers and Skittles tied for second, but nowhere near the 21 percent of votes

Data and graph designed by Brittney Pfenning-Wendt

# Campus gets spooky, haunted thanks to History Club and Grimm Hall Staff

Chris Rohling

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While the rest of the world is gearing up for Halloween, UW-River Falls students will have some unique options when it comes to their pre-Halloween festivities. Grimm Hall is putting on a haunted hall Friday, Oct. 28 with the aim to “scare you as much as possible,” according to Grimm Resident Assistant Matthew Stewart. Haunted Hall transforms the basement of Grimm Hall into a haunted house. The labyrinth of the Haunted Hall will consist of seven rooms and a series of hallways that connects them according to Michelle Sailor, Grimm

Hall Manager. Those willing to brave the hall will be taken through it by a tour guide. “There’s no theme this year so every single room is different,” Sailor said. “There’s hopefully going to be a surprise in one of the kitchen rooms.” Stewart is running the Sauna Room. “I wanted this room specifically. It’s small,” said Stewart. “Nobody gets to see it on a regular basis and it’s creepy within itself and now we just need to add something.” The scares will change throughout the night to accommodate two dif-

ferent audiences, according to Stewart and Sailor. The 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. time slot is planned to be less scary so that the children taking part in Trick-or-Treating in the Halls can enjoy the Haunted Hall as well. At 8 p.m. the scares will ramp up and target the older, more thrill-seeking crowds. Stewart said he isn’t too worried about managing the different levels of terror. “For our scare we don’t have to change anything, we just have to add a little extra effort.” Those who might not be fond of haunted houses shouldn’t be too worried, according to Sailor. “If someone does get too scared in it, like I would,

the tour guides will be able to get them out early so that they don’t have to go through the entire thing,” said Sailor. The charge for Haunted Hall is \$2, which will go to Grimm Hall’s activity fund or two canned goods, which will be donated to the River Falls Food Shelf. “All of the money that is being paid is being paid from [Grimm’s activity fund],” Sailor said. “We’re hoping to make a profit and give the residents of Grimm great programs because of the money.” “I went last year and I was really surprised,” Max Dalton, RA of Hawthorn Hall said. “It was definitely a good scare

and totally worth it.” The UWRF History Club also hosts an event around Halloween time. The Haunted UWRF tour takes participants on a trek around campus and explores local legends and myths, according to assistant professor of history and History Club Faculty Advisor Victoria Houseman. “Every campus has ghost stories that circulate,” Houseman said. “The haunted tour just points out which areas are associated with which ghost story or which piece of folklore.” Some stories, like the supposed haunting of the Ames building, which was replaced by the University Center, are more

recent, while others, like the now infamous story of the alleged deaths in South Hall go back quite some time according to Houseman. One of Houseman’s favorite spooky stories involves a tree by Centennial Science Hall. “Every time it was going to be cut down, the chainsaws that the workers were going to use would freeze up or wouldn’t work,” said Houseman. “Or there’d be a terrific storm and there wouldn’t be a chance for the workmen to take the tree down because they couldn’t be outside and so the tree still stands.” These stories, as well as many more, were ex-

plored in greater depth on the Haunted UWRF Tour Thursday, Oct. 27, and have also been covered in Mike Norman’s “Haunted Wisconsin” in vivid detail. “I have to go find a costume first and just go out with friends,” freshman Kayla Christopher-son said. “I really want to go trick-or-treating and actually go get candy like little kids do.” Even though she plans to do things a bit more traditionally, Christopher-son said that the UWRF Haunted Tour and Grimm Haunted Hall sound fun and exciting.

# Scary alternatives for Halloween adventures Advice, tips for fun, safe Halloween weekend

Well, it’s that time of year again; it’s almost time for Halloween! This is the time of year when people dress up and party the night away. At least, that’s what most college kids everywhere are doing. Halloween is a time for tricks and a time for treats. It is also a time where young adults get rather drunk, which leads to accidents and arrests. Come on people, we all get the same lecture every year, and yet there are some of us that still go hog wild. Can we find a balance between having fun while staying safe at the same time? When we were little, we went out trick- or-treating with our parents. It was a blast! Those were the good old days filled with tons of candy and fun costumes. Middle school and high school came along, and we started going out with friends to PG-13 parties. There was lots of food, fun kissing games, and boy girl sleepovers. Now, we’re all in college. We dress in “grown up” costumes and see how much we can drink. OK, not all college students do this, but more than half do. And then, there is the huge Halloween



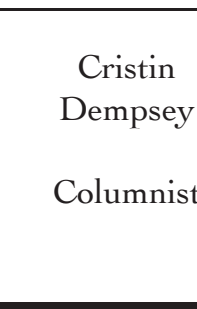
Samantha Harkness

Columnist

There is a great alternative to going out though; a way to avoid all of the hoopla. Instead of going to a party, watch scary movies with friends! Personally, it is my favorite thing to do on Halloween. Go to the video store, or hit up Netflix, if you have it. The best movies to watch are the old horror movies from the 1960s and the 1970s. A great movie is “Psycho.” It’s a classic. Next, go buy junk food or order pizza, and let the fun begin! Turn off all the lights, and start with the scariest movie of the bunch. I’d much rather have a night in on Halloween, getting scared to death, than go to a crowded party where I most likely don’t know anyone. Staying safe on Halloween is very important. If you’re going out, be smart, and be safe. If you don’t feel like going out, have a fun night in. What will it be? Getting your pants scared off by an old movie, or getting your pants scared off by some random creep on the street? Happy Halloween!

Samantha Harkness is a journalism major at UW-River Falls. She loves reading, writing and watching movies.

It’s that time of year again: the leaves are falling, the air is getting colder every day, college students are studying for their midterms, and you start noticing those pumpkins staring at you with their triangle eyes and peculiar grins. That’s right, it’s almost Halloween! Where does the word “Halloween” come from? The word first appeared in 1556, referring to “All-Hallows-Eve,” which is the night before “All-Hallows-Day,” also referred to as “All Saints’ Day.” This day was principally reserved for the Catholic Church, in which the deceased are commemorated. As a child, all of us went trick-or-treating, but we were perhaps uneducated on where exactly this activity came from. In fact, it dates all the way back to the Middle Ages. It resembles the medieval practice of “souling,” which is when people would go door to door on All Saints’ Day to receive food in return for prayers of the dead. This tradition originated in Ireland and Britain, though similar traditions could be found as far south as Italy. In Scotland, instead of



Cristin Dempsey

Columnist

trick-or-treating, the act of “guising” is still practiced. Instead of saying “trick-or-treat” (“trick” meaning that the child performs some sort of threat to the homeowner if no treat is given), the child performs a trick, like a song or a ghost story, to earn their treat. Whether the child is trick-or-treating or guising, it is a tradition to dress up in a costume. Dressing up and going “guising” became popular in Scotland starting in the 19th century. The tradition of wearing costumes on Halloween reached the United States by the 20th century, and mass produced costumes that you find today appeared in stores in the 1930s. According with All Saints’ Day, these costumes typically modeled supernatural figures such as monsters, ghosts, skeletons, witches or devils. Halloween may be on a Monday this year, but that is no reason to not get into the Halloween spirit! At a

loss of how to celebrate this spooky holiday? That is why I have compiled a list of fun Halloween activities that everyone can enjoy, even in college. •Have a scary movie marathon with your friends. •Go trick-or-treating! You are never too old for candy. •Decorate your house, dorm room, etc. •Play the “Monster Mash” over and over again. •Dress up! •Hand out candy to little kids... and your friends down the hall. •Visit a haunted house. •Eat traditional Halloween food (caramel apples, pumpkin pie, candy corn, etc.) •Decorate a pumpkin. •Go on a scavenger hunt. I encourage you to take a break from studying and get into the Halloween spirit! There is so much to do on this holiday and what fun would it be if you did not celebrate it? Even if you are like me and you are not big into the scary haunted houses and being chased by creepy zombies, there are still plenty of activities to keep you entertained. You are never too old to get away from all the stresses of life on this one day and have some fun.

Check out the Student Voice Online at [uwrfvoice.com](http://uwrfvoice.com)

Find Freddy’s Feather

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

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