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STUDENT VOICE

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Cascade renovations scheduled for March 2012



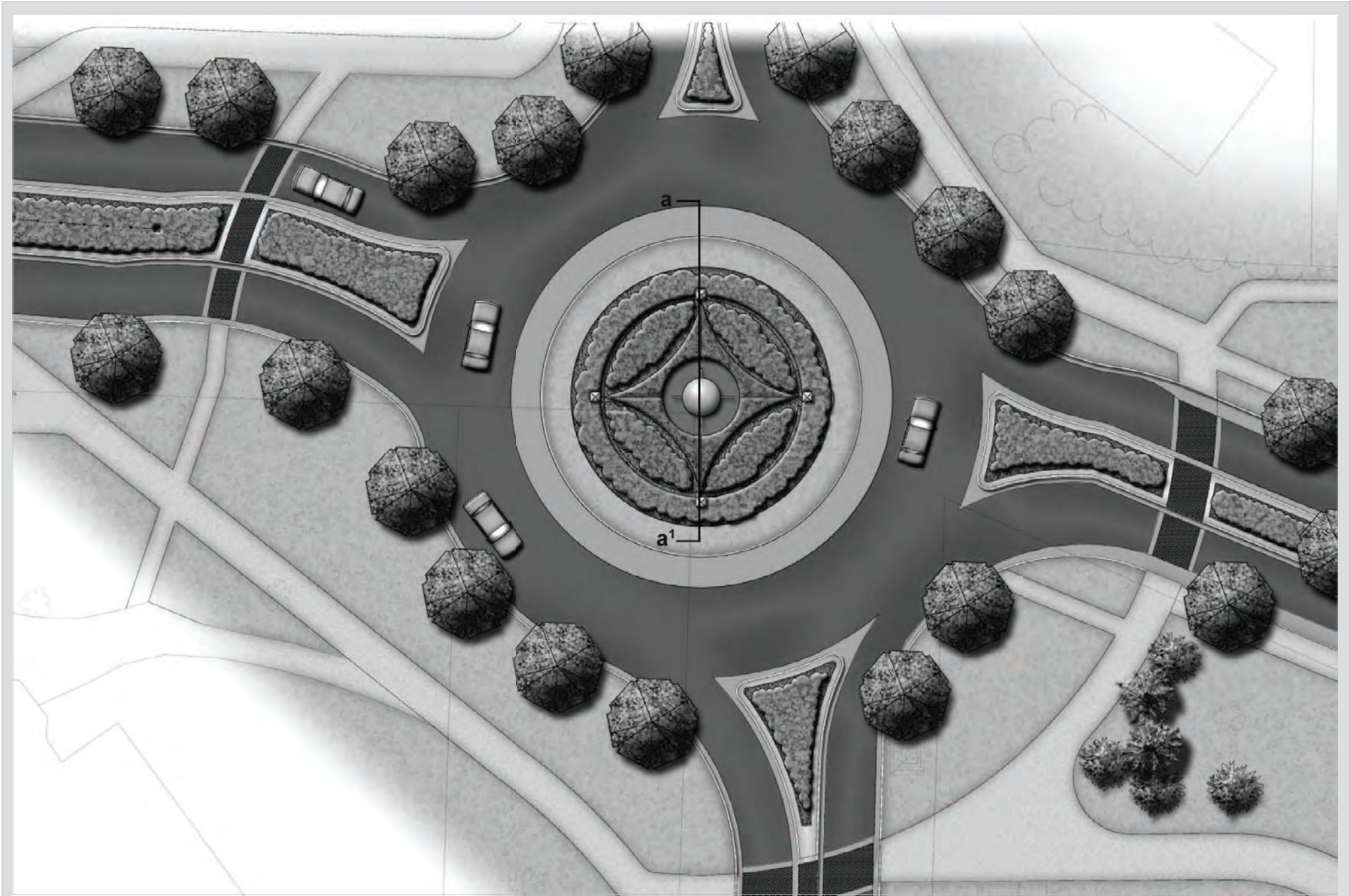
Charissa Squire/Student Voice
Cascade construction has been scheduled to begin next March and continue through November. Final work may continue into spring 2013.

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UW-River Falls is going to be affected greatly by the Cascade Avenue renovation come spring break next semester. Construction on Cascade Avenue is scheduled to begin in mid-March and continue to mid-November 2012. During this time, Cascade will be closed off from Spruce Street through 6th Street. In reference to campus this project will start at May Hall and end at Rodli Hall. No through traffic or parking will be allowed on Cascade through this time period. “We’re currently working through final design which will tighten up the proposed construction timeline and staging,” Michael Stifter, director of facilities said. “We also plan to provide a website for campus and community members with project updates. The plan is for the website to go live sometime in December.” Some final work may take place during the spring of 2013 which will include signs, crossing work and spring plantings. Reconstruction of the Q parking lot is also

scheduled to take place during part of this time. As of right now the parking lot construction will begin mid-May and continue to mid-August. “I’m very happy with our progress to date, especially in terms of the working relationship we’ve built with the City,” said Stifter. “This is, and has been, a project a couple of years in the making and the working relationships only continue to improve. Our goal at the end of all of this is for our pedestrian safety to be greatly enhanced as well as providing a welcoming identity for the campus along the Cascade corridor.” According to the River Falls Engineering specifications and descriptions page on the River Falls City Hall website, the estimated cost for this project is over \$8 million. The website also states that approximately 232 cars park in on street spots or on Cascade Avenue while 221 cars park in off-street spots, coming to a total of 453. An after the project estimation states the number of on-street spots will be reduced to 42 while off street spaces will be 451. Sections of Cascade plan on being expand-

ed, and parking places are to be included in outlets to keep cars from parking on the street. This way pedestrians will remain safe. A fence is planned on being placed in the median of the street to help prevent pedestrian accidents. Roundabouts are also planned on being placed in the intersection of Cascade and 6th Street, Cascade and 2nd Street, and Cascade and Wasson Lane. A few UWRF students react to this project in various ways. “Cascade is always clogged and there isn’t enough parking,” said Janessa Hintz, a junior. “The nearest student commuter parking is kind of far away at Ramer Field.” “It’s a little annoying because we have to use it since it is right by campus,” said Danielle Lagerstrom, a sophomore. “But if it’s for the best I guess its OK.” “I think it’s a very large inconvenience but needed to make it easier and safer for students to go from North Hall to the main campus,” said Benjamin Lee, a senior. “Also, I hope that in this project they fix the dent in the road by South Hall.”



Source: River Falls City Hall website
New rennovation plans for Cascade Avenue from Spruce Street through Wasson Lane. Roundabouts and widened road lanes will be placed along Cascade Avenue for easier transportation and safety to walking students. Parking for off-campus students and staff will also be improved. Rennovations will begin next March.

Job fields in Wis. being restored for college graduates

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Dylan Romanoski, an English education major at UW-River Falls, said that he hopes to teach in a junior high or high school after graduation. But numbers from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, or DWD, show that he might need to look outside of the state to find a job. Wisconsin ranks third to last in the U.S. in projected job growth for secondary school teachers, with employment in that field expected to drop two percent by 2018. In comparison, Texas is expected to see a 31 percent increase by 2018, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics and the DWD. University administrators criticized state-ordered budget lapse cuts last month, stating that the disproportionate burden placed on the UW-System will stymie economic growth in the state. But with graduates being forced to look outside of Wisconsin for work, stories like Romanoski’s question if UW schools are actually preparing students for the kinds of jobs that are available in Wisconsin. At UWRF, the answer is a mixed bag. UWRF conferred degrees to 1,141 graduates during the 2010-2011 academic year. However, fewer than 30 percent

of those degrees were related to occupations labeled “high growth” by the Wisconsin government. The website for the state-sponsored Wisconsin Workforce and Labor Market Information System, also known as WORKnet, lists 25 occupations projected to be the fastest growing in the state from 2008 to 2018. Only four of the listed occupations require a bachelor’s degree: network systems and data communications analyst, financial examiner, athletic trainer and personal finance advisor. The fastest growing occupation requiring a bachelor’s degree is network systems and data communication analyst. It is projected to reach 10,760 jobs in Wisconsin by 2018, up 36.9 percent from 2008, according to the WORKnet website. UWRF offers a bachelor’s degree in computer science and information systems, and conferred 25 such degrees during the 2010-2011 academic year, the most since 2005. However, they only account for approximately two percent of all degrees conferred last year, according to data provided by the UWRF Registrar’s Office. Despite the low correlation between conferred degrees and high-growth jobs, there are signs that the University is having a positive impact on the Wisconsin economy, according to UWRF and UW-System reports.

The UW-System aims to grow the Wisconsin economy by creating well paying jobs through university-level research, and by increasing conferred degrees in “high-need” fields, according to the Growth Agenda Accountability Report, an annual document compiled by the UW-System Office of Policy Analysis and Research that tracks the impact of the UW-System on the state. The results at UWRF appear to be promising. The University increased spending on research last year to a five-year high, as well as conferred more than 300 degrees in “high-need and leading-edge fields” like science, technology, engineering, mathematics and health, according to the 2010-2011 UWRF accountability report. UWRF student Daniel Van Dyke is studying to enter one of those leading-edge fields. Originally an accounting major, he switched focus to biochemistry in 2009. “Biochemistry is just more challenging and interesting to me,” Van Dyke said. “Finding a career wasn’t a factor because I knew there would be jobs out there.” The numbers seem to agree: the job outlook for biochemists is expected to grow 27 percent in Wisconsin by 2018, according to the DWD.

Deer mating season results in deer, car collisions

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Motorists need to be on the lookout for wandering deer this month, as the animals’ mating season will have them increasingly crossing rural highways and into the path of passing vehicles, according to a Wisconsin Department of Transportation, or WisDOT, press release. The warning extends to the thousands of UW-River Falls students, faculty and staff who commute to the University every week. “Each fall, deer become more prevalent and their movements even more unpredictable along highways and rural roads throughout Wisconsin,” according to the WisDOT press release. Driving to the University in the morning and returning home in the evening puts UWRF commuters at the greatest risk for collision with deer. Between October and January of 2010, the

most common times to hit a deer were from 5 p.m. to midnight, and 5 a.m. to 8 a.m., according to the WisDOT 2010 Deer Crash Fact Sheet. “You’re most likely to hit a deer in the early morning hours or at dusk when they’re on the move,” said Donald Lyden, a research analyst for the WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety. The route to River Falls from the Twin Cities by way of I-94 and Highway 35 passes through Pierce and St. Croix Counties. In 2009 there were 21 collisions with deer in Pierce County, and 589 in St. Croix County, according to the Wisconsin Traffic Crash Facts Book. If a motorist hits a deer, they need to first move their vehicle off the road, and then record the time and place the collision occurred for insurance purposes. Motorists should also call a local law enforcement agency and re-

port the location of the deer, according to the May 2010 WisDOT Motorists’ Handbook. UWRF biomedical sciences major Adam Boldt commutes through Pierce and St. Croix Counties four days a week on his way to the University. “I have felt nervous that something could jump in front of me, mostly in the morning when I’m on Highway 35 because it is not always completely light out and there are no fences to prevent deer from crossing the road from the surrounding wilderness,” Boldt said. Boldt said he laments the yearly tragedy of highways strewn with dead deer. “When I see deer carcasses, I feel bad because someone had a really bad day and a deer is dead, mostly due to the fragmentation of the deer’s habitat from human roads and housing,” Boldt said.

To help avoid collisions with deer, the Bureau of Transportation Safety has a few tips for motorists:

- “Be on the lookout for deer, eliminate distractions while driving, and slow down in early morning and evening hours—the most active time for deer.”
- “Always wear your safety belt—there are fewer and less severe injuries in vehicle-deer crashes when safety belts are worn.”
- “If you see a deer by the side of the road, slow down and blow your horn with one long blast to frighten the deer away.”
- “When you see one deer, look for another one—deer seldom run alone.”
- “If you see a deer looming in your headlights, don’t expect the deer to move away—headlights can confuse a deer and cause the animal to freeze.”
- “Brake firmly when you notice a deer in or near your path.”
- “Do not swerve—it can confuse the deer as to where to run—and cause you to lose control and hit a tree or another car.”

River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

- 11/1/11**
- A laptop was reported stolen at the University Center.
- 11/3/11**
- A student was reported pepper sprayed at Stratton Hall.
- 11/4/11**
- Spray paint was reported on a dumpster

- on the East side of the Hunt Arena.
- 11/5/11**
- Fouchee Moua was cited for underage consumption at Stratton Hall.
 - Coty Charles Reh was cited for underage consumption at Stratton Hall.
 - Logan Paul Hafstad was cited for underage consumption at Stratton Hall.
 - Meghan K. Lynn was cited for underage consumption at Grimm Hall (second offense).
- 11/6/11**
- Cody James Berends was cited for tampering with fire equip-

- ment and conducting an unauthorized fire at Johnson Hall.
- A couch was reported stolen and a ceiling tile was reported damaged at South Fork Suites.
- 11/7/11**
- Cash and clothing was reported stolen at Johnson Hall.
- 11/9/11**
- Reid Allen Clark was cited for the possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia at May Hall.
 - Hunter Beck Neitzel was cited for the possession of a dangerous weapon at Grimm Hall.

- 11/12/11**
- Katelyne E. Saraceno was cited for underage consumption at N Lot (second offense).

Editor’s note:

Information for this section is taken from River Falls Police and UW-River Falls Police Department incident reports.

Senate Shorts:

A motion passed 20-1 to fund compliant voter identification cards for UW-River Falls students

A motion passed 18-0-2 to promote measures to ensure student feedback in the retention process of professors.

The next regular meeting of the Student Association Student Senate will occur at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29 in the Willow River Room of the University Center.

Corrections:

In the 11/11/11 edition, the article ‘Sobering Consequences for Students’ stated that Residence Life staff submits Incident Reports to the University Police. Instead it should have been written that Residence Life Incident Reports are routed to and reviewed by Residence Life professional staff. All internal Incident Reports generated by Residence Life staff are FERPA protected and cannot be shared with anyone outside of the Department of Residence Life without the consent of the involved student or a subpoena.

News Briefs:

Tickets are on sale now at the Information Desk, UC, for the Jazz Nutcracker Suite and Holiday Swing Dance at the Landmark Center in St. Paul, Minn., on Friday, Dec. 9. A reception is set for 6 p.m. with a 7 p.m. performance featuring the UWRF Jazz Ensemble, directed by David Milne, in collaboration with the UWRF Dance Theatre. The Swing Dance is set at 8 p.m. General admission tickets are \$25 and free for all students. Transportation is available for free, with all tickets. Reserve your seat on the bus at the Information Desk, UC. Contact karyn.wells@uwrf.edu or call 4444.

- Friday, Nov. 18,
SubConnection is offering \$1 six-inch subs. Choose any sub from the classic menu for only \$1. Located in lower-level retail dining, UC.
- Saturday, Nov. 19
Beth DeLong Senior Recital (percussion) 7 p.m. at KFA 131, William Abbott Concert Hall
- Sunday, Nov. 20
Opera Techniques Class Scenes Program at 7:30 p.m. in KFA 131, William Abbott Concert Hall
- Wednesday, Nov. 23
Thanksgiving Recess (no classes)
- Thursday, Nov. 24
Thanksgiving Recess (no classes)
- Friday, Nov. 25
Thanksgiving Recess (no classes)

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Find Freddy’s Feather

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

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Be the first person to report the find AFTER 10 a.m., Friday, Nov. 18, and win two free movie passes

Barnett pleads not guilty to charges

Ashley Goettl
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Music Professor Thomas W. Barnett pleaded not guilty in the St. Croix County Circuit Court in Hudson on Nov. 10 to charges of second degree sexual assault of a minor and false imprisonment. The charges stem from an alleged incident at the Hudson Theatre on Aug. 16.

Barnett's attorney then asked Judge Eric Lundell for a speedy trial. Even though Assistant District Attorney Francis Collins, who is representing the state of Wisconsin in the case against Barnett, urged otherwise, Lundell granted the speedy trial request. This means a trial must take place within the next 90 days.

At the arraignment, there was also a dispute over a subpoena requesting Barnett's personnel records from UW-River Falls. Both sides concurred that the University had sent the records, but attorney Timothy O'Brien, who is representing Barnett, said that he had not received all of the records.

The University responded by saying that some parts of Barnett's records were withheld to comply with students' privacy rights under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The University noted that students' names may have been in the records that were withheld, and making them public would violate the law.

This led to a requested remedy by O'Brien, with Collins' approval, for the records to be sealed for the judge and the attorneys to review at a later date. During that meeting, both sides will determine if there is anything worth noting that could be brought forth as the hearing proceeds.

UWRF Human Resources Manager Tarra Davies-Fox and Andriel Dees from the Office of Equity and Affirmative Action were present at the arraignment, as requested by the subpoena, to present about 150 pages of personnel records to Lundell.

A status conference will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 2, to determine what the next course of action will be.

Nation challenges students to volunteer

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The 2011 campus "Champions of Change" challenge was recently announced in a press release from the White House. The program is being put on with collaboration from mtvU and MTV Act. "Champions of Change" is challenging college and university students all around the nation to submit an application that consists of three essay questions and an optional video or photo project to illustrate what they or their group has been doing for their community, according to the press release.

Fifteen finalists will be chosen by a panel of judges and the final five will be voted on by the public. The winners will be invited to the White House for an event and will be given the opportunity to work with mtvU and MTV act to film a segment for the mtvU's "The Dean's List."

In the press release, President Obama said that he recognizes that students from all over America are helping the country "out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world."

"I hope this challenge shines a light on their efforts and inspires Americans of all ages to get involved in their communities," said Obama.

Courtney Haas, the community service programmer working with Falcon Programs, responded to Obama's statement and said, "I think that specifically, for our campus, we are taking steps to do these things with community service."

Haas highlighted a new program called Rock the Cause which encourages students to take part in community service opportunities. After they have completed 15 hours of service, they can log

into OrgSync and reflect on the activity and what they've learned, according to Haas. There are roughly 125 students already signed up for Rock the Cause.

There are other groups on campus like the Actionist Network, alongside the Pay it Forward Committee, which creates "smaller, on-campus opportunities," according to Haas.

"We do certain things like writing letters to soldiers or veterans," said Haas. Last year, the program raised \$777 with their Second Hand Relay for Life Sale. This year, they are working with TOMS shoes which is a "one for one, where you buy a pair of shoes and they donate one to a kid in need," said Haas.

The Pay It Forward Committee will be participating in a "Day Without Shoes" walk where members will walk for one mile without footwear to create awareness for those without proper shoes for their daily life, a worldwide problem that TOMS has been addressing since 2006.

"A lot of opportunities that we offer do create more of the awareness pieces and help students to get more educated on it so they feel more comfortable being active in an organization like that," Haas said. "I definitely think that educating students on the social issues is a huge part of service, along with being able to take part in actually doing the service and being able to reflect on what you've done and being able to go out and do it again after doing it with a group."

Haas stressed that there are service opportunities for everyone. "Just tweaking it towards what you are really interested in makes it a lot more fun and just being able to know that you're giving back to your community and helping others."

One group that is most certainly

tweaking their service activities to fit their interests is one of the campus' newest service organizations, Muggles United, which is comprised of Harry Potter fans with an eye on promoting literacy and community service. Vice President of Muggles United Erin Hunter said that the name was chosen as a reference to the non-magical characters in the best selling book series. "We're students," Hunter said. "We're not rich people, we don't have all this influence, we're just regular people, but we're standing together to make a difference."

This is only the group's first semester of operation so Hunter made it clear that most things are in the planning stage at this point. While they don't have a date set for the event, Muggles United plans to rent out the amphitheater this spring for a screening of one of the Harry Potter films in a bid to raise money.

"In the future, we have some aspirations to do a tutoring program or working with the community to promote literacy and children reading," Hunter said. "All of us were huge Harry Potter nerds and we grew up reading. We all see the value of it and I feel that it has decreased in society."

Hunter said she agreed with Obama's statements about community service. "The thing that's going to help right now, other than jobs, are community things that will build hope, that will build a community, that will build a spirit. I think because we're poor college students we really see that."

Those interested in submitting their organization or community service actions to "Champions of Change" can find the application at www.WhiteHouse.gov/CampusChallenge.

Look at the Student Voice online!

www.uwrfvoice.com

Orientation event teaches alcohol safety, responsibility

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Starting this year, UW- River Falls had a new event during the Week Of Welcome (WOW), called "Choose Your Adventure." This event was designed to help new students learn about alcohol use and abuse and learn about personal responsibility.

Through a variety of "real-life" experiences and issues, students toured rooms that showed both the positive and negative consequences that are associated with drinking. The goal of the new program "Choose Your Adventure" is to let participants think about their choices and behaviors that will help them make positive choices.

Students spent about five minutes in each room, dealing with three different issues: accountability/integrity, inter-relationship violence, and balancing your choices.

Accountability and integrity deals with issues such as what students' expectations are both in and out of the classroom, and issues such as self-image and how you present yourself.

Inter-relationship violence dealt with

informing people about resources on where to go if you are in a violent relationship. Also discussed were red flags to look for, sexual assault, and how some of these issues can be tied to alcohol abuse.

The last issue, balancing your choices, dealt with giving students information on what choices they can make during their college years and helping students learn statistics about alcohol usage in correlation with success on a college campus.

One of the highlights of the program was "Happy Hour with Bernie McGrenahan," a nationally known comedian with a message that introduced many of the realities of alcohol to new students.

In September, the new student survey was given to all new students at the university, and 432 students completed the survey. Of those who participated, 86 percent agreed or strongly agreed that "Choose Your Adventure" helped them understand the impact their choices have on their college life.

"This program is a good outreach to new students on campus," said Keven Syverson, a health educator coordinator at the University. "It gives students new

resources." The program works because each lecture is only five minutes long so students stay engaged.

New Student and Family Programs provides new students with the information, resources and support that are needed during the transition to and through the college experience.

"Our programs introduce new students to the social responsibilities that are expected of campus community members; however, alcohol is not a topic that is relevant to only first-year students," said Maggie Clark, orientation and transition program coordinator at the University.

Therefore, the Division of Student Affairs brings awareness and education to all students so they are able to make responsible decisions regarding alcohol consumption.

"This next year our hope is to host 'Choose Your Adventure' again during WOW; however, we will be reconsidering some of the logistics, such as time of day/night to encourage greater participation," said Clark. "We also hope to continue building collaborations and support for WOW across campus."

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International Education Week





International Education Week is about bringing U.S. and foreign students together to collaborate with people from different cultures. Students will get educated about global exchange programs, foreign languages and international exchange options. Hitomi Maeda (left) and Marina Kamata (lower right) lead a discussion in the Talking Circles event for International Education Week. Both Hitoma and Marina are studying at UWRF and are originally from Japan. The week included activities and lectures which conclude on Friday, Nov. 18.

Maggie Sokoloski/Student Voice

EDITORIALS

Sexual harassment generates turmoil

Amid the furor regarding the Penn State child sex abuse allegations against retired defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky, we here at the Student Voice find it pertinent to discuss sexual harassment and what it means to the UW-River Falls campus.

Penn State reportedly handled the allegations poorly, and as a result football coach Joe Paterno and school president Graham Spanier have been fired. Students and community members belonging to Penn State are outraged and deeply saddened by the loss of Paterno.

Sandusky was charged with a total of 21 felony counts for allegedly abusing eight male minors over a period of 15 years. Sandusky has continually asserted his innocence. “I have horsed around with kids. I have showered after workouts. I have hugged them and I have touched their legs without intent of sexual contact,” said Sandusky, according to a Fox Sports interview.

Penn State coach Mike McQueary testified to witnessing Sandusky sexually assault a boy in a shower in 2002. Pennsylvania governor Tom Corbett said that McQueary failed to meet a “moral obligation” to intervene.

UWRF is currently facing a similar situation as music professor Thomas W. Barnett faces second degree sexual assault of a minor and false imprisonment charges, which he pleaded not guilty to on Nov. 10 at the St. Croix County Circuit Court in Hudson. The charges stem from an alleged incident at the Hudson Theatre on Aug. 16.

According to the UWRF website, sexual harassment is defined by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Coercive sexual contact and unwelcome comments of a sexual nature are offensive and undermine the safety, security, and dignity of all members of the university community. The University believes that the recognition of a problem is the first step toward responding to that problem.

As UWRF students and community members, we are forced to question whether or not we feel that this is a safe campus.

We here at the Voice urge those who have been victim to or have witnessed any form of sexual harassment to do the right thing, and to not be afraid of reporting it. If a victim pursues legal prosecution, he or she has legal rights under Chapter 950 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

You may report any incident to the University Police, 715-425-3133.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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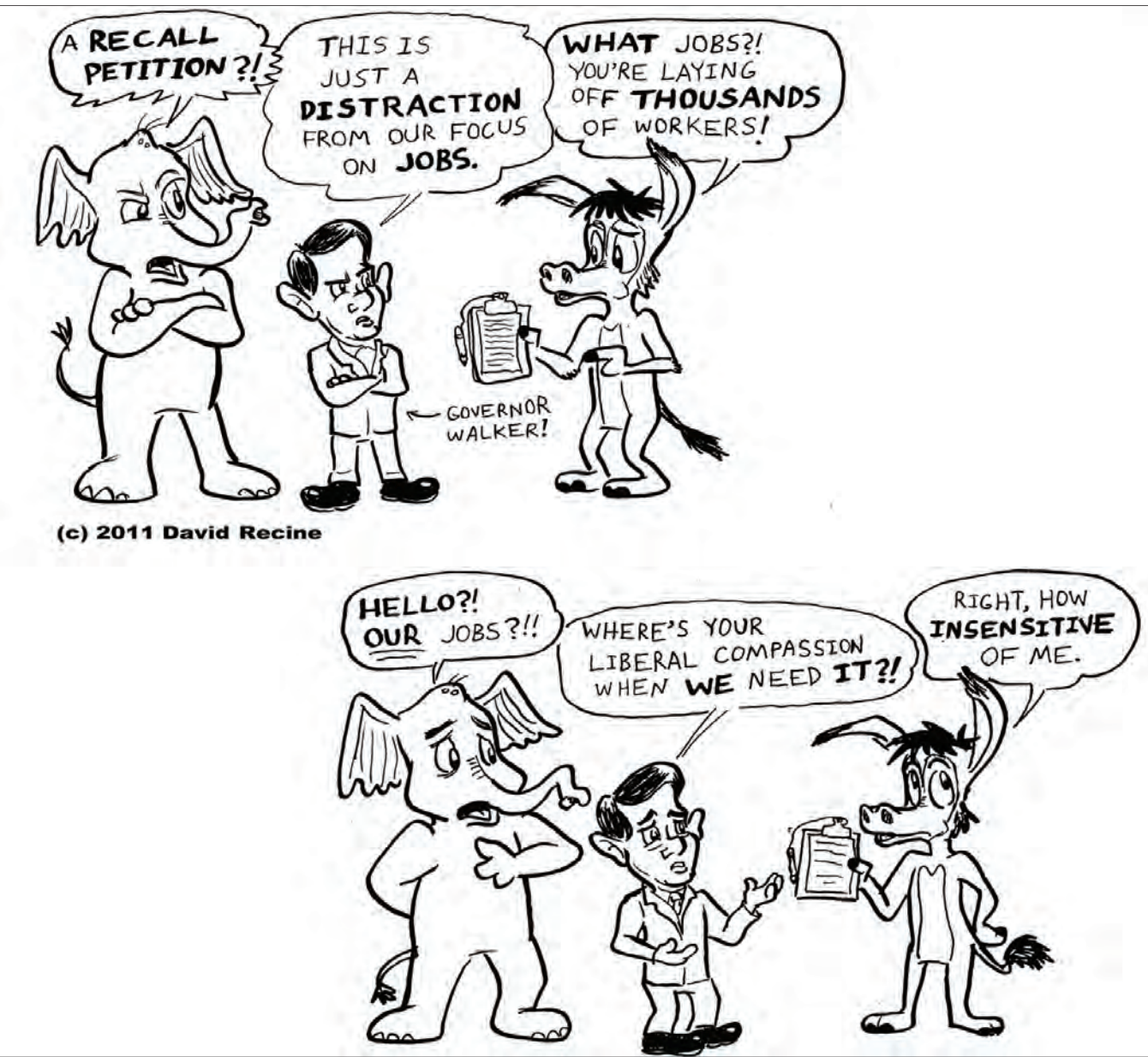
The *Student Voice* is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Fridays during the regular school year.

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

Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall, River Falls, WI 54022 or to editor@uwrfvoice.com.

The *Student Voice* reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters. All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon.

Because of high production costs, UW-River Falls community members are permitted to collect one copy of the *Student Voice* per issue. A single copy of the *Student Voice* is valued at \$1, and additional copies may be requested from the editorial staff by e-mail through editor@uwrfvoice.com. Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.



David Recine/Student Voice

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Halverson embodies needs of students

It appalls me to think that people may be forming an inaccurate picture of what Tyler Halverson is like as our Student Senate president. It needs to be pointed out that he is a great asset to the UW-River Falls campus and student body. As the president of my student organization, which includes bi-partisan membership, I have always felt comfortable asking him for help with anything on campus. Halverson has friends on both sides of the political fence. I do not think, in any way, that Halverson acts with anything in mind except the needs of the student body. This includes all of the student body. Everyone is entitled to their opinions, but leaders, like Halverson, should not be discredited when their private opinions play absolutely no role in their public accomplishments.

Linda Warner
Student

Student Senate has no partisan code

After reading Mr. Leonard's letter in the Nov. 4 issue of the Student Voice, I feel it is necessary to set the record straight regarding service on the Student Senate. If one reviewed the Senate Bylaws – the document which, among other things, governs the behavior of Student Senators – one would find no reference to any limit on a person's right to

express their own opinion. To be perfectly clear, there has never been a 'code' that limits a Senator's political affiliation, political opinion, or rights of expression. Mr. Halverson, as well as any other member of the Senate, are allowed to state their opinion in the manner of their choosing. Prohibiting this expression would be a gross violation of the member's First Amendment rights.

In an idyllic world, political issues would never intermix into student politics. However, given the impact that decisions made in Madison have on all students in our current era, the entry of partisan politics into student government is nearly inescapable. To dismiss the actions of a member of the Senate as being purely partisan surely disregards the core of the issues and the impact they have on all students. It is possible for a person's partisan interests and their desire to better the entire student body to coincide. To put it more clearly, Mr. Halverson does not act as a Democrat; he acts as a student representative to the student body, and advocates for those things that, in his personal ideology, offer the most benefit to all students.

Finally, I encourage Mr. Leonard, if he feels this issue is as dire as his letter seems to indicate, to pursue proper action through the Senate's ethics process, rather than waste everyone's time and the Voice's column inches, with unsubstantiated claims that have no merit.

Patrick Okan
AFAB Chair

Expand your thinking: Restoring the meaning of Thanksgiving



Jaime Haines
Columnist

Thanksgiving originated around the premise of giving thanks, but today it has evolved into a feeding frenzy. People travel hours to gather with their families,

catch up, and eat until they cannot move. This year, try a throwback day by remembering the holiday's original intent and make Thanksgiving about appreciating your life, thanking family, and helping others.

The first level of giving thanks is personal, private, and simple. Each day, write down at least three things for which you are thankful. This is an easy way to focus on the positive and reflect on and remember a great day. You will soon find that even bad days have their redeeming qualities, learning to focus on the good that occurred. Many studies analyzing people who make such lists show that those people have a higher overall satisfaction with their lives. By making lists, you can increase your positivity and always remember the good in life. You can further share this joy by thanking others who contributed to making the good in your life possible.

The next way to maximize your Thanksgiving experience is to take the time to thank your friends and family for all they have done. If you realize you forgot to thank someone, or meant to but did not know how, this is the perfect time to slip in a random, yet non-awkward thank you. You can do

this in any form, from a simple "thanks!" Post-It, to a heartfelt card, to an in-person talk. Thanking people is integral to the Thanksgiving holiday and to making those around you feel appreciated. Before digging in to eat, suggest to your family that everyone shares someone or something for which they are thankful. This is a simple gesture, and one that most will not object to (as long as your meal is not late with grumbling bellies impatiently waiting). By letting others know that you appreciate the help they provided, Thanksgiving regains its true meaning.

The final, more involved way to embody the meaning of Thanksgiving is to try volunteering or donating. During the holidays, places like food shelters, nursing homes, homeless shelters, and long-term wings of hospitals strive to bring joy to the people they assist. You could offer your time to places like these by helping to decorate, socialize, or serve food. If giving time is not a feasible option, you could offer to make a few cards or write some letters to deliver to patients that rarely receive visitors or mail. Often, they will graciously accept such offers. Finally, you can donate money or supplies to various locations that will help them facilitate the holiday festivities. No matter what your method of helping others, it provides an excellent outlet to provide something for which others can be thankful.

Thanks can be given at any level, be it with oneself, with another person, or with the community. At any level, thanks is incredibly important. While eating excessive amounts of delicious food while chatting with your family is always enjoyable, take time to consider how you could add a little meaning to this holiday feast.

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@uwrfvoice.com AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students show support for poli sci professor

Editor’s note: The political science department recommended that Professor John Evans not be retained. The recommendation has been forwarded to the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Evans is an assistant professor who joined the political science department in the fall of 2010.

It has come to my attention that the College of Arts and Sciences is in danger of losing a valuable asset. The potential loss of professor John Evans would be a blow to students as well as the University community. I fear it may also weaken an increasingly strong political science program. As a senior, I am happy to say I’ve had the privilege of taking a political science class with every faculty member currently in the department. All the professors are knowledgeable and work well with students.

In 2009, I was elated to be in classes reviewing potential hires for the department. I remember enjoying the lecture style of Evans and was delighted when he was hired. Despite having the required amount of political science classes, I signed up for his Constitutional Law course anyway. Upon meeting Evans, I knew I made a good decision. In Constitutional Law, I was introduced to in-depth discussions and lectures regarding frequently cited amendments. I remember being challenged to think critically via hypothetical cases. Not only was I being asked for an answer that was potentially a gray area, but I was also charged with using what I had learned to defend it. I am happy to say that what I learned in Constitutional Law has helped me in other courses and gain a better general understanding of the law.

I have realized the devastation losing Evans would create for the Students of CAS. That is why I authored a Student Senate motion requesting departments to seriously take into account student input. It passed 18-0-2 and will be forwarded to all College Deans, the Provost and the Chancellor. I am proud to say, “I stand with Evans.”

Jayne Dalton
Student
CAS Rep

When I first came to this school, one of the first activities that I and all the other new students of UW-River Falls attended was orientation. It was here that I found great excitement when the man at the front of the room stated, “If you leave here with the same outlook on life and without ever once changing your thinking, we have failed you.” This is to the best of my recollection, so clearly this is paraphrased, but regardless, the core meaning to the statement is what drew so much excitement. This man was telling us that the expansion of our minds, the growth of our knowledge is, above all else, the goal of this University. Yes, they are happy to see us leave with our degree, but if we leave here without an open-mind they could consider it a failure. The man at the front of the room made it very clear that day that he held this idea very dear to his heart, and promised his staff would reflect this. I, for one, am not simply here to earn a degree. I thoroughly enjoy learning and expanding my mind. When he said this, I knew I was “home.”

So why do I feel the need to stand here today and cry out against this statement? Well, I have learned from an undisclosed source that a certain professor, John Evans, is going to be let go by the University. This news is completely appalling to me. John Evans is a professor of political science. He teaches many classes that involve political theory and philosophy. He is in a position that epitomizes the core goal the man at the front of the room stated on day one. Evans’ position requires extreme un-biasness and open-mindedness to teach the material. In doing so, he greatly promotes these traits to his students. It is not only his position that epitomizes the University’s goal, but he himself is the epitome of this standard set forth. So why on earth would the staff want to remove someone who so passionately upholds these ideals?

Roderick Babilius
Student

My name is Austin Knott, a transfer student and political science major here at UW-River Falls. I’m writing to voice my support for professor John Evans of the political science department, who is currently up for retention. His teaching style, his knowledge of the materials and his efforts to engage the students in a meaningful way have made him one of the best professors I’ve ever had. I’m currently taking his Contemporary Ideologies course; a course very similar in content to one I took at the University of Minnesota. I can say with absolute certainty that professor Evans’ course is stronger. I believe that if he’s not retained it will be a serious loss to the department, the college and, above all, to the students. I stand with Evans.

Austin Knott
Student

Professor John Evans is one of the most energetic and engaging professors I’ve had. His classes may not be formally structured but they have taught me so much. He is a very unbiased professor and always presents both sides. Evans always explains things very thoroughly. If a student ever has a question or concern, he is willing to do whatever he can to help. For Evans this is more than a job; he really cares about his students and their well-being.

Jessica Schwinn
Student

To all those who loath signing up for classes, congratulations! If you’re a political science major or minor, or just have a random interest in political science/philosophy, a professor who we all have come to know and enjoy classes with is up for retention. This basically means that he’s up for review to see if the University wants to keep him around as a professor at UW-River Falls. In this particular scenario, his retention could likely end up with him not being retained because the political science department recommended this.

If you’ve ever had professor John Evans, you have probably noticed his zeal for teaching, his quirky personality that keeps us all engaged, and his sports metaphors staring the green and gold and the “brew crew.” It is so interesting that he, of all people, would be up for review since he has a large following of loyal students who enjoy his unbiased, detailed lectures, the ability to teach any numbskull—including myself—an oasis of knowledge about political philosophy, and is extremely dedicated to his students. So why is this professor who is so widely appreciated by students under suggested non-retention by the department? That’s a wonderful question that I would like to know the answer to.

For too long, the University has not been heeding the voice of the students, which is an issue. It is because of the students that the professors on campus, the department chairs and the dean even have careers. They are all here to be assets to our futures and mentors to learn from, but what kind of asset would they be if they stripped such a valuable professor from the department? What kind of mentor would purposely remove a positive influence that the masses value? Take this as you may, but if one professor those students have shown their appreciation towards is removed on thin evidence, what is stopping your favorite professor from being removed from the position they serve?

Rebecca Rudolph
Student

I was deeply saddened when I heard the news that there was the possibility that professor John Evans would not be retained. I am by no means a person that gets really excited by the prospect of going to class, specifically when the class is at 8 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. However, I look forward to going to Evans’ class three days a week at 8 a.m. because he is a great lecturer that explains political science in a way that is not only educational, but also engaging. Political theories can both be dry and confusing to the common college student, but Evans has a style of teaching that makes these political theories relevant to the student, and understandable. Furthermore, I also have great respect for Evans because he is not biased in his teaching. I have taken many political science courses at this University, and it normally takes me less than a handful of class periods to figure out the personal beliefs of the professor. However, Evans does such a wonderful job of maintaining political neutrality in the classroom that more than halfway through the semester I do not know what his personal political beliefs are. This type of academic neutrality deserves to be commended. If UW-River Falls was to let Evans go, he would be a great loss to the University. I would also like to mention in discussions on this topic that I find every person that has had an Evans class shares similar sentiments. I will end by issuing a challenge, Dean Caskey and Chancellor Van Galen you have a great opportunity presented to you to do the right thing, and overturn the decision not to retain Evans. Now go do the right thing.

Carlan Strand
Student
Student Senate Vice President

According to our UW-River Falls website, it is the mission of the University to, “Help students learn so that they are successful as productive, creative, ethical, engaged citizens and leaders with an informed global perspective.” How should UWRF attempt to accomplish this mission? By having classroom professors teach their personal opinions as if they were facts in an attempt to indoctrinate students? By rewarding those students who write papers and essays that align with a professor’s personal political view with better grades? Is that how students learn to become creative, ethical and engaged? Is that how students gain an informed global perspective?

We want professors who encourage open debate and alternative viewpoints. Too often, however, we’ve seen professors use classrooms as bully pulpits to preach the dogma of their own beliefs with prejudice to the beliefs of others.

However, one UWRF professor is different. He stands out when compared to those who treat UWRF as “Indoctrination U” and many UWRF students have noticed. He has quickly become one of the most well liked and well respected professors on campus. His unbiased approach to teaching and use of class discussion create an environment where students are forced to defend their opinions and viewpoints by using the very creative and engaged thinking that UWRF strives to develop. And, if keeping his own beliefs out of the classroom were not enough, he manages to take a sometimes boring and dry subject, political science/philosophy, and make it interesting and insightful to students, while creating a safe environment to share personal beliefs and opinions on everything from Marxism to Libertarianism. The perspective from his classroom is always global.

Who is this mystery professor? He’s professor John Evans and, sadly, the University is choosing not to renew his contract. It’s time UWRF puts its mission statement into practice and listens to the overwhelming number of students who are in uproar that this fair-minded professor isn’t having his contract renewed. Speak up and fight. Join the cause to keep Evans on campus. The students deserve it and UWRF is a better college with him here.

Timothy Thrush
Student

The example I give to people when explaining why I feel how great of a professor John Evans is would be this. I am about to graduate next month, which means I have taken over 120 credits at UW-River Falls. If someone were to give me a thousand-question, multiple choice exam about every main aspect I have learned in all of my classes, I can definitively say that I would answer all of Evans’ right. I took him a year and a half ago and can still tell everyone what the cave is, the life of Socrates, Aristotle’s politics, and Thucydides way of writing on the Peloponnesian War (which because of him I wrote my senior seminar paper on). I am a history major and geography minor, so knowing how much I have retained from a professor I have had twice outside of my field is quite different. I have had many great history and geography professors that have helped me on my path to get my education, but not a single professor outside of my specialization, besides Evans. I really hope the University learns the love all of his students have for him and his teaching abilities. I would just like to say thank you to him and I hope the University will take our words into consideration when figuring out his future. It would be a shame for so many students to miss out on such great classes.

Dustyn Dubuque
Student

I am writing this in regard to the recent decision not to retain professor John Evans. I find this to be disturbing, considering that I find Evans to be a highly qualified and knowledgeable professor. I had a class with Evans last spring and I can assure you that while his lectures where entertaining, they were also challenging. They would make you think about the topics at hand instead of simply taking mindless notes. This particular class, a political philosophy class, was at 8 a.m. I am not much of a morning person, but thanks to Evans and his lectures, I looked forward to class.

At the end of the semester I walked away from his class with a feeling of accomplishment and a greater knowledge. It is due to that class that I am now a political science minor. If it were not for Evans, this would not be the case.

I fear that the decision to let Evans go will be one that harms the entire UW-River Falls community, considering how all universities are characterized by the students and faculty that inhabit the university. I can assure you that Evans adds many good characteristics to our University. So even if you are not a political science major or minor, it is still in your best interest to keep Evans at UWRF. He makes our community that much stronger as well as that much more knowledgeable. As students we need to support any professor or lecturer who is committed to his or her students; and I can assure you that Evans is one of those professors who genuinely cares about his students. I urge anyone who reads this to show their support of Evans, and hopefully the decision to not retain him will be overturned.

Luke Affolter
Student

Recently, a decision was made within the Political Science Department here at UW-River Falls, a decision that greatly affects one of the professors I’ve come to respect most on this campus. That professor is John Evans, and the department has decided to remove him from his position after only three semesters. Personally, I am shocked and outraged by this decision.

As a political philosophy professor, it would be so easy for Evans to fall into the trap of advocating his own opinions, and not only does he keep any personal bias from penetrating the classroom, he presents the theories he teaches in such a way as to encourage critical thinking and class participation. It is rare to see Evans present his lesson in the form of a sterile outline, for he realizes that in order to promote understanding of abstract thought, he needs to push his students into an understanding of their own opinions in contrast to the theories he teaches, rather than in contrast to his own. These conversations are thought provoking, extremely informational, admittedly entertaining, and some of the most influential class periods of my undergraduate career.

Now, because I am graduating this semester, I would not have the opportunity to take any of Evans’s future courses. This isn’t about the fact that I would miss him if he leaves UWRF, because I’m leaving myself. This is about how valuable he is to the students he still teaches here and how valuable teaching here is to him. If you want to help keep Evans at UWRF, contact CAS Dean Brad Caskey, who has the power to veto the Political Science Department’s decision, at bradley.j.caskey@my.uwrf.edu, or contact leigh.monson@my.uwrf.edu for other ways to help out. Or just let Evans know you’ve got his back.

Leigh Monson
Student
Former Student Senate President

Basketball reloads for NCAA tourney run

Jessie Behrman
jessie.behrman@uwrf.edu

The Falcon men’s basketball team opened their season ranked No. 21 in the nation and is expected to finish third out of the nine conference teams, according to the WIAC 2011-12 Preseason Predictions.

UW-River Falls is predicted to finish third behind UW-Stevens Point in first, and UW-Whitewater in second.

Coach Jeff Berkoff says this prediction is practical and he is expecting to have a year like the 2010-11 season, which was one of the best in UWRF history.

“We think it is realistic to shoot for a top half of the conference finish or better. Our league is so tough from top to bottom.”

Head Coach Jeff Berkoff

that matters is how the team does.

Berkoff said there were four good seniors last year and they will need players to step up in those leadership roles. The team has four starters returning, and center Wade Guerin returning from an injury that caused him to miss the 2010-11 season. Guerin was honorable mention all-conference his last season in 2009-10.

“We think it is realistic to shoot for a top half of the conference finish or better. Our league is so tough from top to bottom.”

Head Coach Jeff Berkoff

The team finished the season last year with a 20-8 record and ended their season with a loss against Illinois Wesleyan in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, according to the UWRF Athletic website. This was the first time the Falcons made an appearance at the national 61-team tournament.

Kimble said this year will hopefully be like last year, but with a better ending.

“We lost a few big games towards the end of the season so this year we cannot let that happen again. It was nice to make it to the conference finals and to the nation-

al tournament but as a team we want to win it this year,” Kimble said.

Kimble and Manor said this year will be a reloading year for the team.

Kimble said with some starters coming back, and good transfers, as well as freshman, will make the team more complete and ready for the task at hand.

Berkoff said some new players to look out for to contribute are Chris Palmer, Ethan Thomforde, Taylor Peterson and Colin Utke.

Manor said as a team they want to enjoy the season as a whole, win the conference and do the best they can in the NCAA tournament.

“We have a lot of experience back and know what it will take to get back to that point and hopefully further, but with that we will need to put in a lot of hard work and dedication in order to achieve our new goals and surpass what we did last year,” Manor said.

The Falcons have their first home game at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 22 against the University of St. Thomas at the Karges Center.

“We are ready for another historic year, hopefully River Falls is ready,” Kimble said.



Jessie Behrman
Top: Ollie White works on his three-point shot for their upcoming game against Loras College. The tournament is at Bethel University starting Nov. 18 at 6 p.m.

Bottom: The men’s basketball team runs their shooting and passing drills to make sure they are ready for the upcoming tournament at Bethel. The men’s basketball team made their first appearance in the NCAA Tournament a year ago and is hoping to make another run at the NCAA postseason tournament.

NBA lockout drama unfolding

Ashley Hall
Columnist

Constant consumption of caffeine, gray hair appearing, stress levels rising, no hope for winter-what do all of these have in common? My mood for this basketball season, wait, there is no basketball season this year. The National Basketball Players Association turned down another proposal by the NBA to end the lockout on Monday, Nov. 13.

This is going to do nothing for my winter mood at all. Basketball is something that I look forward to watching during those long winter months of bitter cold.

According to ESPN’s website, the NBA formally notified teams Tuesday that it has canceled games through Dec. 15, erasing

a total of 324 games or 26 percent of the season, as the lockout lingers into its 138th day. What am I going to do until then?

These basketball players need to wake up and realize that the deal the NBA was proposing to them was a really fair deal. The terms were 50-50 for players and the association. Some players, like Kobe Bryant, were ready to take the deal. Come on guys, how more fair could you get?

Players such as Carmelo Anthony and Kevin Durant are now filing two antitrust suits against the NBA. May I add that these negotiations have been going on for two years according to Marc Stein, an ESPN NBA Insider. Why start these talks in July when it is so close to the beginning of the new season? I think I was the only one worrying about this aspect in July.

There is no expiration date for the court decision

of the antitrust suits filed. As you might recall the NFL settling their lockout with the players in court, was a quick process that lasted for a few weeks. However, Stein thinks that these court proceedings for the NBA could go on for a while.

I don’t know about you, but I watch basketball for the background noise while I do my homework and to feel less stressed. Of course multi-tasking is not achievable but it is nice to at least listen to the basketball game that I have on, whether it is the Boston Celtics or the Miami Heat.

So with the realization now that the court proceedings could last for an extended period of time, Christopher Broussard from ESPN says that basketball could not happen for more than two years. Looks like college basketball will see an increase of profits all across the board.

Mindset of a typical sports fan

Ben Lamers
Columnist

If you have not seen some videos of sports fans going completely bonkers after a loss, I implore you to go to Youtube and type in “Giants fan,” “Browns fan” or “Clemson fan.” You will be treated to three of the most epic fan meltdowns on the Internet.

Although, the Browns’ fan is more funny than a meltdown. Millions of people have these reactions, off camera, to sports every day. Why do we react this way? We, as regular people, had nothing to do with the team or the outcome of the game. And yet we see reaction of immense happiness and sorrow, depending on the outcome, after sports games.

Why is it when our teams lose a heartbreaker we feel like our heart has been ripped out? I remember back in 2005, when the Indianapolis Colts lost the divisional playoff game to the Pittsburgh Steelers. It was one of the worst feelings I ever had after watching a game. Of course, it was a little worse since I attended the game. I can only imagine that fans of the Minnesota Vikings felt the same way after losing to the New Orleans Saints

in 2009 (sorry to remind you of it Vikings’ fans). In both of these instances neither you nor I played a down in these games and had no impact on the decisions made either.

Yet we react with anger, disappointment and, in some cases, we go a little crazy.

Conversely, when our team wins, it feels as though we are on top of the world.

Let me say this right now, this is directed at you overreacting Packers’ fans, Aaron Rodgers is not the greatest thing since sliced bread!

That is the case with Green Bay Packers’ fans right now. When teams have success, like the Packers, some fans go a little overboard. Let me say this right now, this is directed at you overreacting Packers’ fans, Aaron Rodgers is not the greatest thing since sliced bread! He will struggle, and the Packers will lose eventually, but I digress. I would rather be watching my team win and have to listen to the crazy people say that this is the greatest team ever, rather than suffer through a 0-10 record through this point in the season.

The most baffling thing for the Colts, to me, is people referring to a professional

team as “we.” I know I do it sometimes, but I have been trying to stop. Unless you are actually on the payroll for said team then you should not say “we,” plain and simple.

So why do we invest so many emotions into a sports team? Honestly, I couldn’t tell you. Maybe it’s because we invest so much time into a team. For example, if you follow a football team religiously, like many fans do, you will give at least 48 hours of your time simply to watching games. Then there is the time we spend listening on the radio, reading blogs and buying overpriced merchandise and tickets. We invest a lot into these teams and expect the payoff to come in the form of wins on the field.

And, yes, I also get rather involved while watching my beloved Colts. There have been words said, things thrown and tears shed. OK, maybe not that last part, not yet anyways. There really haven’t been any positives for me this football season. Trust me, if the Colts win a game this year, a big if, I will probably run all the way across campus and back with joy. So if you see a Colts victory is imminent, look for me and my Peyton Manning jersey out your window and you will see an extremely happy fan.

So why is it that we react in such crazy ways because of sports? I honestly don’t know. My best answer is: because it’s football.

Huppert named WIAC Player of the Week



Forward Blake Huppert (Wasilla, Alaska) helped the Falcons win three of a possible four points in a NCHA series against St. Norbert on Nov. 11 and 12 at Hunt Arena and has been named the WIAC Player of the Week according to league Sports Information Director Matt Stanek. Huppert scored two goals in the team’s 5-5 overtime tie on Nov. 12th. This year the freshman has four goals and five points for the 5-0-1 Falcons. The Falcons are ranked No. 5 in this week’s USCHO.com poll. UWRF hosts UW-Stevens Point this weekend in a WIAC and NCHA series at Hunt Arena. Games start at 7:05 both nights.

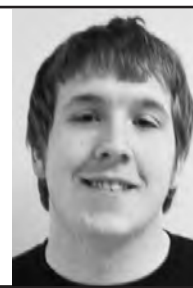
Information from then UWRF Athletics website

Calendar of upcoming sporting events

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|---|---|---|--|---|
| Friday, Nov. 18 Men’s Swimming and Diving vs UW-Eau Claire at 5:30 p.m. | Women’s Basketball vs Simpson College at Luther College Tournament at 7 p.m. | Saturday, Nov. 19 Men’s Swimming and Diving vs UW-Oshkosh at 1 p.m. | Women’s Basketball at Luther College at 3 p.m. | Tuesday, Nov. 22 Men’s Basketball vs University of St. Thomas at 7 p.m. |
| Women’s Swimming and Diving vs UW-Eau Claire, MSU- Moorhead at 5:30 p.m. | Women’s Hockey at UW-Stevens Point at 7 p.m. | Women’s Swimming and Diving vs UW-Oshkosh at 1 p.m. | Men’s Hockey vs UW-Stevens Point at 7:05 p.m. Live audio available on 88.7 FM WRFW | Women’s Basketball at Concordia University at 7 p.m. |
| Men’s Basketball vs Loras College at Bethel College Tournament at 6 p.m. | Men’s Hockey vs UW- Stevens Point at 7:05 p.m. Live audio available on 88.7 FM WRFW | Women’s Hockey at UW-Stevens Point at 2:30 p.m. | Men’s Basketball vs TBD at Bethel College Tournament at 6 or 8 p.m. | Women’s Hockey vs St. Olaf College at 7:05 p.m. |

‘Melancholia’ offers stunning performances, vivid visuals

Director Lars Von Trier is back with another artistic film, this one being about the relationship between two sisters as a mysterious new planet has the possibility of crashing into the earth. “Melancholia” is split into two separate parts with the first focusing on sister Justine, played by Kirsten Dunst, who is selfish, self-indulgent, and depressed. She is at her wedding reception with a husband who is madly in love yet Justine continuously disappears out of the reception to think and focus on other things. We soon learn her sister Claire, played by Charlotte Gainsbourg, and brother-in-law John, played by Kiefer Sutherland, were the ones who spent all the money on this lavish wedding. We see the difference in personality between Justine and Claire; Justine remains depressed, slowly learning her true feelings for her



Dustyn Dubuque

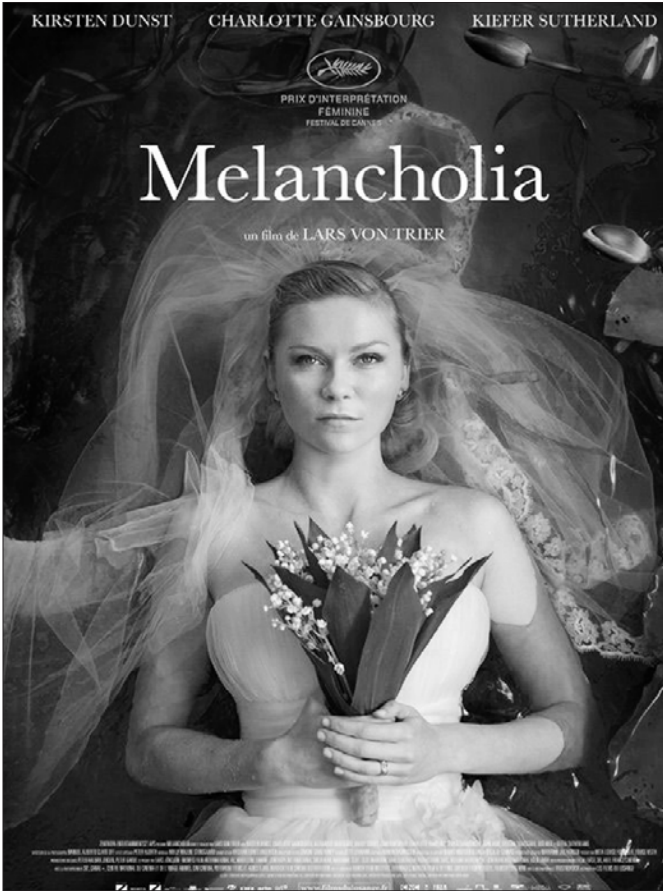
Reviewer

marriage as the night goes on. While all this is going on we see glimpses of the planet known as Melancholia getting closer to the Earth that is set to pass by in the coming days. After the disastrous wedding reception that involves an incident between Justine and her father, mother, sister and boss, we get part two of the film. Part two is titled “Claire” which follows Claire, John, and a very depressed Justine staying together as Melancholia is making its trek to pass by the Earth. John is an astronomer who is fascinated by the planet and everything that will happen while Claire is a mess, is afraid of what could happen if it crashes

through the Earth’s atmosphere. Along with this, Claire cares for her now really depressed sister that still gives little feedback and little reasons to really like her as a person. We follow this story right up until we figure out what will happen with the planet of Melancholia. Dunst has been getting tons of Oscar buzz for her work in this film and she is slowly becoming one of my favorite actresses. Her one-dimensional approach to this character works, as you can’t dislike her as she still has moments of kindness, that keep the viewer skeptical of how she is as a person. Gainsbourg is also great as the sister in a role that is also worthy of winning some awards, as she becomes the life of the second part of “Melancholia” that begins to drag. All the performances here are really great, but it’s the bulk of the film itself that really stands out.

Von Trier has directed other beautiful looking films such as the “Antichrist” and “Dogville” that really push the boundaries of how subtle a movie can be, but how shocking the images can be. The first few minutes of “Melancholia” have Claire narrating what she feels about life and depression and we see slow motion shots of scenes that will all play out later in the film. The most outstanding sequence shows Dunst in her wedding dress slowly floating in a river. “Melancholia” is close to being great but just can’t achieve this due to the slow story that sometimes goes nowhere, which will turn off some viewers. Still, “Melancholia” is one of the better films of 2011.


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.



★★★★☆

History of Thanksgiving explored

Thanksgiving break is upon us, less than a week away. Everyone is itching to get home and enjoy a wonderful feast with their family and friends. It’s a time of traditions, each lending a hand in what we envision when we hear talk about “turkey day”. Perhaps a golden turkey roast overflowing with stuffing, surrounded by favorite dishes including dressing, cranberries, sweet potatoes, rolls, and of course the dessert: pie. All of this delicious food and great company to share with are what we look forward to, but what about the meaning behind it? Many don’t know how the holiday came about, assuming it has been going on ever since the pilgrim and Native American feast of thanks. Thanksgiving has had an interesting history, evolving into what we view it as today, and most recently has been battling to maintain the true meaning behind the holiday, giving thanks. Many falsely believe that Thanksgiving started with the pilgrim feast in 1621. It wasn’t the first Thanksgiving, but it did play a major role in the declaration of the holiday as well as the idea of the feast. Their three-day feast of thanks didn’t include turkey or pumpkin pie, as flour was not in high availability at the time. Their feast was a one-time occasion, giving thanks for the survival of their greatly depleted company during the harsh winter. The pilgrims maintained the idea of thanks by including the Native Americans in gratitude for their aid and tips in surviving the winter weather, not an easy feat as we Minnesotans and Wisconsinites know all too well. What we can take from the pilgrims is their



Brittney Pfenning-Wendt

Columnist


ability to maintain the idea of thanks and gratitude amidst the giant feast. Nothing like the pilgrim feast of thanks occurred again until June 29, 1676 when the Community of Charlestown, Mass. declared a feast day to give thanks for securely establishing their community. The closest event to a national Thanksgiving came about in October 1777, when the 13 colonies celebrated thanksgiving and the victory at Saratoga. Again this was a one-time affair and did not lead to an annual Thanksgiving. The idea of an annual celebration was presented by George Washington who proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving and prayer on Nov. 26, 1789. This was short lived when Thomas Jefferson opposed it, to the liking of the people. Many did not feel that a day of Thanksgiving should celebrate the feat of a small company of pilgrims. A certain journalist, Sarah Josepha Hale, however, disagreed. Hale was a magazine editor who embarked on a 40-year campaign in efforts to resurrect the holiday. She wrote to Congress and the Presidents in hopes that they would listen. Eventually, in 1863, due to her efforts, President Abraham Lincoln established that the last Thursday of November would be a National day of Thanksgiving. Over the years the future presidents continued to recognize the last Thursday in November as a day of giving thanks. Families started traditions including the great turkey feast. This is where the charm of giving thanks

began to diminish. Families began to lose sight of the meaning as traditions shifted towards football and the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, which began in 1924. Black Friday is also a common commercialized Thanksgiving tradition seen today. The holiday has become a gateway into the Christmas season, almost like a carbo-load before a big game. President Roosevelt even moved the holiday earlier to allow for a longer Christmas shopping season. Luckily this was moved back after two years as people realized what was being lost. Congress then established Thanksgiving as a legal holiday in 1941, being the fourth Thursday of November to further appease the public, ending worry of the holiday moving again. Despite these efforts of keeping the season its rightful length, I feel that the message is lost once again. The Christmas season cannot be held at bay and Thanksgiving just becomes a stressful day filled with frantic cooking, cleaning, and travelling. These traditions of parades, football, and shopping, do not reflect the idea of giving thanks. Although, with a little thought the message can be found amidst them. I am not asking you to give up these traditions. As a die-hard Black Friday shopper myself I understand the bonding side it has as well. Football, parades, and shopping may represent a shared interest with members of your family; by spending time with them you are showing that you are thankful for one another.

I would like to challenge you all to find the thanks side of your traditions and really emphasize on those this year and in years to come. If you can’t find a meaning or message, then maybe it’s time you start some of your own traditions to show thanks. There are many unique traditions out there; I’d love to hear some of yours.

Thankfulness abounds this season

Thanksgiving is only a week away now, and it is time you know the true meaning and importance of the holiday. OK, maybe you already know about the pilgrims landing at Plymouth Rock. You should; you are in college. But among the turkey, stuffing and pumpkin pie, it can be easy to forget being thankful for what and who you have in your life. This is why you have me to tell you exactly what and who you should thank on Nov. 24 this year. First, you should thank me. Because if it were not for me, well, then you would quite frankly have no clue what to be thankful for. Second, you should be thankful for your roommate. They are like Santa Claus: they see you when you are sleeping, they know when you are awake, and always, they know when you are bad or good. But who else would you go to when you leave your keys in the commons or hanging on the hook inside the room? If they put up with you staying up until a ridiculous hour on a school night, giggling at a funny text, or talking to the computer, then they deserve a big pat on the back. And besides, you never really know when you are going to come back one night to them talking to themselves in Japanese. Trust me, it happens. Third, you should obviously



Cristin Dempsey

Columnist

ly be thankful for pumpkin pie. Forget the turkey and gravy; the pumpkin pie is obviously the best part of the Thanksgiving meal. Do not deny it. It is my favorite holiday dessert. Pumpkin pie is delicious and it warms the soul. Never go a Thanksgiving without having a soul-warming slice of pumpkin pie. You should also be thankful for your parents. They are the only two people that will be willing, at your request, to carry a heavy futon up three flights of stairs and spend close to two hours setting it up. They are the ones that know you best. You can always depend on your parents to give you food or a little extra cash, because they understand that you are broke. Sure, they can push your buttons, who doesn’t experience that? But you would have nothing without your parents. In fact, you would not even exist. Fifth, thank your Resident Assistant. Because, yes, it is quiet hours. Go to bed. You should also be thankful for the fact that the next major holiday after Thanks-

giving is Christmas. I don’t care what anyone says: it is never too early for Christmas spirit. It is one of the happiest times of the year. Be thankful for Black Friday. There is no better day in the entire year for sleeping in. Be thankful for music. Whether you are musically gifted or not, it makes life more interesting. Life would be very dull and horrible if music was not around, whether it’s band, choir, or Bruno Mars. Finally, be thankful for all of your family and friends. They are the ones who love you the most, the ones who will let you crash at their dorm to do homework or feed you Ramen when your keys and card are missing. You are able to be yourself and act crazy around them and not have them wonder whether you are insane. They are there to talk to when you need them most. You just cannot ask for more. That is just a few of the many things that you should be thankful for this holiday season. Don’t forget to thank the people, things and edible items that matter the most. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Cristin is an English major and a music minor from Eagan, Minn. She enjoys writing, playing the flute, and swimming. After college, she would like to pursue a career as an editor.

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Lifestyle Enthusiast on the Town:

Exploration of ‘haunted’ cemetary offers ironic feeling

Mike and I stopped our walk on Meridean Island, paused with baited breath, and listened for any howls from the “Hell Hounds.” Curious about ghost towns in the Spring of 2009, Caryville, an abandoned town in Eau Claire County, Wis., skipped across my desk. After a perusal of the dossier, a field trip to Wisconsin’s desert, also known as “the prairie,” was reckoned in my cards, but I would need company. A friend, but foremost a man of stoic representation, forged from the lake fire of dropout paradise we call “Tartan High School,” was up for the heady task. Days later, we slowed down like so many drive-bys, past the Caryville schoolhouse. Rumor was a child spirit haunted trespass-



Christopher
Pagels

Columnist

ers, passing through their body if they dared sit in an ancient desk he once inhabited. We continued down the dirt road past haggard farms and dilapidated shacks, one earthquake away from becoming a deck of cards. According to my Google hand-printed map, Sand Hill Cemetery was a few miles down the dirt road. Tracks in loose dirt unpacked from the Spring thaw, threatened to clog the axle as we

climbed up the hill, but the Buick Century passed the clearance. The Sand Hill cemetery housed a dozen or so tombstones. Another legend claimed that children can be heard playing in the golden fields adjacent to the plots at night. It must be noted we were visiting during the daytime when ghosts go to sleep. I have forgotten the names of the people whose graves they belong to, but I remember a fatigued white and graying obelisk guarded by a couple plastic American flags. When approaching this American landmark, I passed by a simple square headstone where I saw a doll hiding behind its shadow. It was a mil-dew color, eyes punched out, with overalls torn hanging by threads, slumped against

the tombstone. It felt like one of those courtroom dolls prosecutors ask children to point out incriminating body parts. Vandals inhabit these parts as well, perhaps pranksters were up to creepy tricks. Either way it touched a side of the macabre that had me and Mike’s curiosities further peaked. We turned down the hill and found a gravel parking lot with a Ford pick-up truck, the residents eyeing our motives up. Their out-board motor suggested they had bigger fish to fry, so we postured at the top of a Chippewa River bank fixing our stare at Meridean Island. The wind blew swiftly down the Chippewa, shaking the budding Quaking Aspen leaves. We listened for the fabled baying of the “Hell Hounds.”

We curtailed around a wooded hollow against the grain of the river, but trying to get under the cover of the bushes to avoid trespassing charges. Every so often, we would stop our leaf crunching and listened. At no point did we ever consider what we’d do if we did hear howling. As we probed the banks for a natural land bridge or fallen log for dry easement to the island, Mike entertained me with his adventure to Gray Cloud Island, a haunted cemetery in Minnesota. He seemed convinced of the ghostly vestiges from the ghost car chase, to the nails scratching the underneath of the bridge, to the Indian Chief bedecked in full headdress ceremony riding upon a horse. It is easier to hear these accounts and

reach skeptical conclusions until disproven. Though, I have heard many likewise accounts. We found a dry path across the drink and walked toward the heart of the island as we had supposed. We stopped every so often, but could only hear the trees creaking against the wind throwing down the occasional branch that made us flinch. From riverbank to riverbank, we scoured the island to no avail, reaching the conclusion that Meridean Island was devoid of “Hell Hounds.” Besides the doll, these myths seemed to hold no water, at least in daylight. Next time I look for “Hell Hounds,” I will be sure to pay Hades and the river Styx a house call.

Registering for classes causes stress

It’s that time again. The time where every student on campus is trying to plan out his or her schedule for next semester. Professors and advisors advise you to plan out your schedule plenty ahead of time so you don’t have as much to figure out right before you have to click that enroll button on eSIS. But there are always some complications when it comes to registering and planning out schedules. I had to register for classes on Nov. 15. For one of my classes it was an assignment to have a schedule planned out, though I still found the night before that half the classes I had picked out where already full. It can be unbelievably frustrating when you specifically want a certain class and it gets filled the night before you register or even more annoying, a half hour before. Everyone wants a schedule that fits their lifestyle, but how many other students on campus have the same wants or needs? There are many college students who prefer to start their day later than 8 a.m., so the later morning classes can be often a little difficult to get if you’re registering late. Those that go back to their hometown on weekends might prefer Friday classes to be earlier in the day so they don’t have to



Sam
Mayberry

Columnist

wait and leave campus late. There is nothing like those who are leaving school at 4 p.m. when they’ve got a four-hour plus drive ahead of them. There are a lot of classes that are available, but times for those classes are limited which can cause quite a problem when you need to take five to six classes and get all the times to work around each other. General classes, I find, are always the most difficult to get into because all students want to get them completed before starting the majority of their major classes. There are some upperclassmen however, that have procrastinated on getting certain Gen Ed. classes until a semester or two before they graduate, which can be problematic as well. Luckily for them, they usually have priority for enrolling before lowerclassmen so getting into certain classes might not be such a hassle. To avoid some of these registration problems, planning a tentative schedule and an alternative schedule in

case a class or two get filled before you can enroll could help tremendously. Making sure you have enough credits and trying to figure out what classes can double count for generals and majors or minors is always helpful too. Why take more classes than necessary, right? Students take 15 credits on average per semester and to be considered a full-time student you must be taking at least 12 credits. Be sure to use an updated Degree Progress Report so that you are taking the correct classes. Meeting with your advisor to get your pin number that is required for registration is also a time for you to ask questions you may have about your future schedule. Remember, if you didn’t get into a certain class, keep checking back to see if someone dropped it. You’ve got a few months before second semester classes start so there is time for students to change their schedules around. Registering for classes can be quite frustrating, but if you are prepared and have alternative solutions you can avoid scrambling to find a last minute replacement class.

Samantha Mayberry is a junior and is majoring in journalism. She is from Rochester, Minn., and loves to read, listen to music and take pictures.

Setting sail for Martinique adventure

Traveling is a lot of fun, but getting there can be a hassle. Waiting in lines at the airport, weather delays, and unfriendly service adds more headaches than relaxation. For example, while France is one of the most popular destinations, you can still enjoy French culture without needing to fly halfway across the world. The French overseas department, Martinique! Like many Caribbean islands, Martinique’s early history began with the Ar-awak and Carib Indians inhabiting the island. It also was visited by Columbus on his final voyage to the New World. However, the Spanish focused on other discoveries and turned their attention away from the island. This paved the way for the French, who first brought over settlers from neighboring St. Kitts in 1635. The settlers quickly reaped the natural resources on the island, exporting indigo, tobacco, cotton and cacao. The British attempted to claim the island, but were mostly unsuccessful. In an interesting twist, the British did occupy the island during the Seven Years War and during the French Revolution (until the French onarchy could be re-established). The island’s largest city, St. Pierre, was completely

Michael
Leonard

Columnist

destroyed in 1902 when the volcano Mont Pelée erupted. All but two people were killed—the survivors included a shoemaker and a prisoner. Their economy returned to form with help from the local rum distilleries. Since World War II, Martinique has enjoyed a high quality of living. In fact, many French citizens vacation here throughout the year. As a French department, Martinique is associated with the European Union and has representation in the French government. Also, the currency used is the Euro—so products will be relatively more expensive for Americans. As I stated, you can see some highlights of Paris without needing to fly there. One of the most popular landmarks is the Sacre-Coeur Cathedral. Located outside the capital, Fort-de-France, it is a replica of the Montmartre monument. Also a replica of the Mediterranean beaches is Les Salines Beach. Its white sand with calm, cool waters is the most frequented

hotspot on the island. For a history lesson, visit St. Pierre. Since being rebuilt from the volcano eruption, you can tour the museum dedicated to that catastrophe. There are many artifacts (some damaged, others intact) recovered from the disaster. If you’re up for some nightlife, the main attraction from the locals is the Boulevard Allegre. Dance the night away along this bustling street—a regular Champs-Elysees of the Caribbean! Lastly, no trip is complete without stopping at a local rum distillery. A pertinent island export, you can find as many distillery towns as France has vineyards. After visiting the Depaz distillery in 2007, I was unaware of how much care is needed to create the product. Plus, their manufacturing techniques are considerably different than here in the States. We didn’t need to wear safety equipment, and the vats were literally housed outside for the public to see. Mes amis, this concludes our visit to Martinique. Upon returning from break, we’ll explore a new South American port that has been reopened for tourism. Until then, Happy Thanksgiving!

Distracted drivers fail to live up to rules, standards taught back in driver’s education courses

Driving is such a dangerous thing. This is not only because of dangerous driving conditions, but because of dangerous drivers as well. Some people may cause their own accidents. A tire may go flat, someone may be tired or just not pay attention; things like that happen. However, when some drivers only care about themselves and where they need to go, they have no respect or consideration for any other driver on the road. Having my own car now, I realize just how rude so



Samantha
Harkness

Columnist

many drivers can be. This is not targeted to every driver, but to a good portion. I understand that people have places to go, and may get a late start, but wouldn’t we rather get there safely? I’d rather be a little late getting somewhere than getting into an accident, or causing an

accident just because I don’t care. I have seen this way too much in the past few months. Sometimes I even get nervous driving now because I never know what is going to happen. I don’t think that some people even acknowledge the fact that there are any other drivers on the road besides themselves. I mean, they may be aware, but they sure do not act like it. I was driving back from Eau Claire one weekend, and it was a windy night, so I was going 65 mph exactly. I was in the

slow lane, and I still had people on my tail trying to pass me. There was another time that this car was following me so closely that I could not see his headlights, or his license plate. That was a scary drive. I was so scared that he would ram right into me. We all learned in driver’s education classes that we need to leave a certain number of car lengths in between cars. It seems to me that a few drivers may need to learn that lesson again. There are even times on the road when I see cars almost getting hit because another car

doesn’t leave enough room to get in front of another car. I have people pass me honking and giving me dirty looks because I am not going fast enough. It is so irritating. I try to ignore it, but it just gets on my nerves the way that people do not care about anything when they are driving. When driving, people may be trying to change lanes and just glide across rather than looking to see if anyone is behind them. Those cars that are behind that driver could get run off the road, or get into a bad ac-

cident. I’m sure we have all seen this once or twice while driving. We as a society have to start watching out for others around us on the road. Leave enough space in between you and other cars, use your turn signals when changing lanes, and just be an overall courteous driver. If we don’t start becoming more careful drivers, even more people could get hurt.

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

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