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STUDENT VOICE

March 9, 2012

www.uwrfvoice.com

Volume 98, Issue 18



Chancellor Dean Van Galen has asked the Student Senate to explain their reasoning for their denial to three organizations looking for an increase from segregated fees.

Chancellor requests reasoning behind three failed segregated fee proposals

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Chancellor Dean Van Galen has requested a list of reasons as to why three motions for proposed segregated (seg) fee increases were rejected by Student Senate.

After a meeting with Student Senate President Tyler

Halverson and Facilities and Fees Board Chair Beth DeLong the chancellor decided that in order to better understand why the motions failed, he would like to know the specific reasons the senators voted the way they did.

Halverson and DeLong explained to the Senate that

they were both embarrassed to meet with the chancellor and tell him that they really did not know why the motions failed even after the lengthy discussions that came with two of them.

"There was so much nit-picking involved in the dis-

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Students encouraged to look into 2012 national election

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When it comes to knowledge of the presidential primaries and election, some students at UW-River Falls know what it is going on and some do not.

There is a group of students that are following the debates and primary results, but a lot of them do not know the hard-hitting issues the Republican candidates talk about or even President Barack Obama's plan of action if he is re-elected.

One student, Joseph Grinols, is a junior at UWRF and a political science major. Grinols participated in the Minnesota presidential caucus this year and follows almost all the debates and the candidates on C-SPAN.

One caution that Grinols wanted to let students know when they are trying to decide what candidate they want to vote for, is to watch which media outlet they get their information from.

He also pointed out that some media outlets, like CNN, are not being objective in their reporting and are directing who is going to win or lose.

"People need to realize that news sources are not scientifically correct and might not even use the information they collect," said Grinols.

Grinols said that he thinks students pay attention to what is going on, but he questions whether or not they actually go deeper to finding out information on their own.

Mitch McQueen, a senior at UWRF and a political science major knows who he wants to vote for but said he "could use more knowledge about the election and primaries."

McQueen's advice for the student body was to not base their decisions about the candidates on what they say in their campaign promises because they never follow through.

Instead, students should look at past voting records and legislation to gain a better understanding of what that candidate is all about.

Some students who are not political science majors are also doing their homework and figuring out what candidate best represents what they believe in.

An environmental science major says that he will actively go out and search for



Sally King/Student Voice
Professor Davida Alperin is one of the political science professors that strongly encourage students to follow the 2012 political elections.

information but he doesn't go to any rallies or meetings. Nathan Klaus is a senior at UWRF and he said that he is up to date with the election and primaries.

"I know some issues and candidate news but not all understandings of them," said Klaus.

After talking to students, they told the Student Voice that they are following what is going on but when the election gets closer, they will start to pay more attention to what

See 2012 page 3

Study abroad draws female participants

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A recent article published by The Chronicle of Higher Education has found that the ratio of male to female students participating in university study abroad programs has been at a steady low for more than two decades.

In the 2009-2010 academic year, women accounted for nearly two-thirds of the 270,600 American students going overseas to participate in study abroad programs, according to the article. Findings from the 2009-2010 Open Doors report show that out of the 353 UW-River Falls students who studied abroad, 249 were female, which was just over 70 percent.

"Our current notion of education abroad has evolved from cultural tours of Europe that were directed at female university students so, historically, there has always been a greater participation amongst female students.

Today, students studying in the humanities have higher participation rates in education abroad than, for example, students in the STEM fields," Wisconsin In Scotland Program Coordinator Kelsey McLean wrote in an email. "Across these disciplines, there tends to be more female students studying the humanities than STEM fields so, consequently, you have

higher numbers of females participating in education abroad."

STEM fields include science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Global Connections has been using previous research findings surrounding the imbalance of male and female involvement to help bring attention to the issue of low male participation in study abroad programs.

"Some of this research suggests that the way education abroad is talked about can have a strong impact on whether males or females are attracted to it. Global Connections has tried to use this research to ensure that our messages about education abroad are as inclusive as possible," McLean said.

UWRF had 260 female participate in study abroad programs in the 2010-2011 school year, compared to only 122 male participants.

When asked if this gap of male to female participants plays a role in the overall study abroad experience, Brent Greene, UWRF director of international education programs, said that the experience can slightly change the group dynamic.

"This is just anecdotal, no research to back this up. I think it's the same as an on campus course or other ex-

See Abroad page 3

Women's hockey moves on to NCAA Tournament



Jessie Behrman/Student Voice
The UW-River Falls Women's Hockey team is on to nationals after beating Adrian College at Hunt Arena. The next stop for this team is the NCAA first round at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 10 at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn, where the Falcons will take on the Gusties. The Falcons are currently ranked No. 7 in the nation.

River Falls to get its own ‘Field of Dreams’

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The River Falls Baseball Council (RFBC) wants to get a lighted baseball field for the city of River Falls.

The current and only baseball field in River Falls is the River Falls High School Field. It is located on a hill behind the school. The field lacks bathroom facilities, shade and parking. It hosts many groups: the high school varsity team, youth baseball teams and the summer leagues. As a result, the RFBC started looking for a more suitable place in which to build a baseball field.

The RFBC and the River Falls City Council conducted a study to appraise potential sites for the field. Afterwards, it was concluded that Hoffman Park, which is located by East Division Street and the River Falls Hospital, was the perfect location.

“There is existing infrastructure, such as parking, bathrooms, camping, playground, etcetera, all in that vicinity. It’s a high profile location close to downtown that can draw community residents to the facility. It’s accessible by kids on bicycles. It already contains lighted fields so adding another lighted field is a lot easier than putting it somewhere where there are no lighted fields and that affects the community,” said Vice President of the RFBC Ryan Bishop.

Before any construction starts on Hoffman Park, the RFBC has to work on an agreement with the River Falls City Council because it is public property.

“They’re [RFBC] a non-profit organization that represents the community for baseball events. And because it [Hoffman Park] is city owned property, that’s public property, we’re required to have an agreement of understanding that we’re not selling the property, they’re basically going to be leasing the property for one dollar a year, for up to 20 years. So we have to write an agreement on what they can do and can’t do on the property,” said River Falls City Planner Buddy Lucero.

Lucero said that the agreement is to make

sure that the RFBC is complying with the agreements over the upcoming years. He also said that the city itself would not pay for any of the project. The RFBC has to get donations, sponsorships and has to fundraise in order to build the field.

The RFBC have been working on several community fundraisers. The group has planned several events in order for the community to step in and help. On February 11, it had its annual RF Baseball Bash, where the group raised nearly \$7000. The group is also planning its annual “Ugly Pants Open” golf tournament for the fall.

In addition to events, the RFBC is selling engraved bricks for the field’s “Donor’s Plaza” patio. The bricks will be in front of the ballpark’s concession stand.

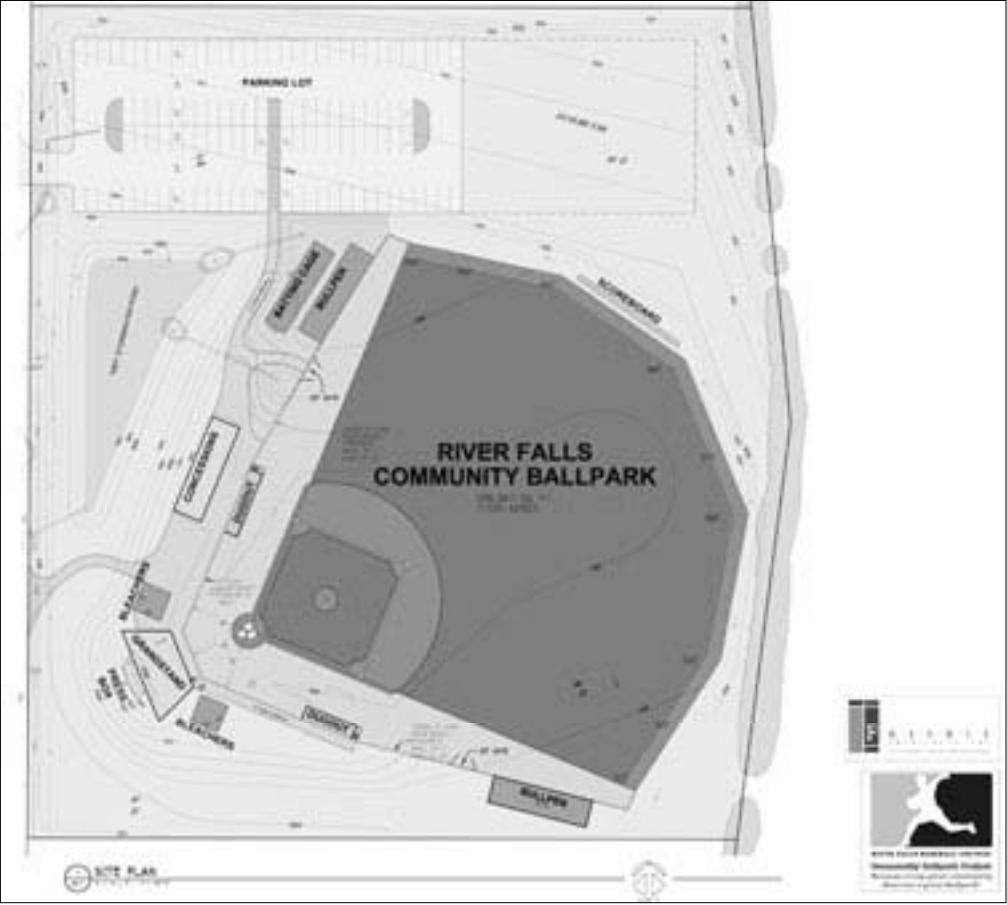
Another fundraising effort is selling nameplates for the seats in the grandstand. People can buy one to memorialize a loved one or to advertise a local business. In addition, the group will be selling advertising space on the outfield fence to raise revenue.

Another way of paying for the field is leasing it out to other groups. Bishop said that the field for the most part would be for the Legion leagues. However, he says groups are eligible to apply to use the field. This is great news for the UW-River Falls Baseball Club.

UWRF Baseball Club organizer Brian Huybrecht said that when the college built over the campus’ baseball field, it was hard to organize games and get players interested in the club. With the prospect of a community baseball field, he thinks it will help get more students involved.

“I think it would get people excited to play because we don’t have a baseball team here and I don’t think a lot of people think about playing or actually try out because of it,” said Huybrecht.

Huybrecht also said that he thinks the field would enhance the campus community. Moreover, Lucero and Bishop think this field will improve the River Falls community altogether.



River Falls Baseball Council

Plans for River Falls’ baseball field to be located in Hoffman Park. Construction is aimed to begin this spring.

When the field is finished, the summer leagues could host tournaments and the high school will be able to host sectional games. That will bring teams to River Falls and bring business to downtown.

“It will bring an actual event to the community that wasn’t previously there. It will bring people to our community when they come to our community to watch a game, and it will provide a better tax base because they will go downtown to eat or possibly spend the night at a local hotel,” said Bishop.

With all of these possibilities, Lucero said that he sees the field as a great addition to the community and that it will bring the commu-

nity closer together.

“It’s almost like that movie Field of Dreams and people really have to believe in it and want it and I believe it really will occur. I think it is a good gathering port for our community. I think it will be—it has been well accepted and I wish it the best and we will support it as much as we can and I hope the general public and community will also support it,” said Lucero.

Bishop said that the RFBC is hoping to start construction this spring after the snow melts and that the field is projected to be open to the public July 2013.

Graduates urged to begin job search

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Students’ career search should begin well before they graduate. Unemployment rates in Wisconsin are declining, but there is still a lot of competition for jobs right now and it is not enough to just have a degree anymore. Students looking to gain employment still need to be a step ahead of the competition and need to be able to be well prepared before they graduate.

“New college graduates need to be thinking about their job searches prior to walking across the stage at commencement,” said Melissa Wilson, director of Career Services at UW-River Falls. The peak hiring months for soon-to-be graduates are October and February. One of the ways that students can get prepared before hand is through internships and summer jobs.

There are numerous internships and summer jobs available depending on where students wish to work and what kind of work they are looking to obtain. There are also several resources to assist students who are looking to gain valuable experience this summer.

“I would encourage students to make an appointment with someone in the Career Services office so that they can gain valuable information on internship and summer job searching,” Wilson said. Students can also



Megan Rodriguez/Student Voice

Career Services director Melissa Wilson helps a student with career materials.

go to career services website at <http://www.uwrf.edu/CareerServices/MissionAndVision.cfm>.

Some of the other services that Career Services offers are interview preparation, how to succeed on the job, building a cover letter or resume and many other services that will help students get prepared.

“College graduates are finding jobs,” said Wilson, but some students tend to procrastinate. “Although this is not what we advise, seniors tend to wait till after spring break to start looking for a job.” Our office would like

to see many of those students graduating in the next few months in our office looking for job searching assistance. If students do procrastinate their job search until after they walk across the stage at commencement, alumni will still be able to utilize the help at Career Services at no charge to them.

“Many of the senior-level students that we are seeing in Career Services who are concerned about their future are those applying for graduate school and are requesting assistance with their graduate school applications and letters of intent and personal statements,” Wilson said.

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, Wisconsin unemployment rate has dropped to 7.1 percent from 7.3 percent in November 2011 and 7.5 percent in December 2010. The number of Wisconsinites working increased by 6,900 over the month and by 21,400 since December 2010.

Findings from a different report show that the unemployment rate for college graduates (those holding a Bachelor’s degree) was 4.3 percent in 2011. This figure is down from 2010 when it was 5 percent. Workers with an associate degree face an 8.2 percent unemployment rate; high school graduates with no college degree have a 9.6 percent unemployment rate, and high school dropouts have a 14.6 unemployment rate.

News briefs

Rush River Ramblers to play St. Patrick’s Day barn dance in River Falls

The locally-based old-time string band Rush River Ramblers will play for a barn dance from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Saturday, March 17 in the gym of the River Falls Academy (the former Meyer Middle School) on West Maple Street in River Falls.

For this special St. Patrick’s Day edition of the barn dance series, the Ramblers will appear as their alter ego, the Irish Wolf Hounds. Come celebrate the wearin’ o’ the green and dance the night away. The Irish Wolf Hounds, AKA the Rush River Ramblers, are, for the evening at least: Thomas O’Rauch on banjo, Airick O’Hatling on fiddle, and Suzie O’West on guitar, with Twin Cities caller Rina O’Rossi.

No prior experience is required. A skilled caller will teach steps to line, circle and square dance. Partners are optional and singles welcome. Children are especially encouraged to participate in the opening family dance segment from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The second half of the evening moves into somewhat more advanced dances.

The final dance in the 2011-12 season, on Saturday, April 21, features the Twin Cities group the Barn Cats.


The barn dance series is volunteer-operated and jointly sponsored by River Falls Community Arts Base and River Falls Parks and Recreation. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for 12 and under. Inexpensive refreshments are available. Information at <http://www.riverfallscab.org>.

River Falls Police/ UWRF Police Department


- March 3**
- Allison Nicole Bruns was cited \$389.50 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
- March 4**
- Samuel Craig Dugstad was cited \$263.50 for possession of marijuana in May Hall.

Editor’s note:
Information for this section is taken from River Falls Police and UW-River Falls Police Department incident reports.

Journalism student earns first place at Wisconsin Broadcasters Association conference



Michael Brun placed first in the public affairs/talk show category at the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association student excellence awards in Madison this past weekend. Besides hosting his own radio show, Brun also is a reviewer for the Student Voice.



Find Freddy’s Feather
Find the lost Freddy the Falcon Feather in this issue of the Voice!
Email the Voice at editor@uwrfvoice.com

Be the first person to report the find
AFTER 10 a.m., Friday, March 9
to win two free movie tickets to the Falls Theater.

Last week’s winner:
Isaac Milkey

Chancellor: Those refused funding hope decision will change

From page 1

cussions and the same questions were asked multiple times,” said DeLong. “The focus should be on the big picture when making these decisions not on little things like picture frames and furniture.”

The departments whose proposed seg fee increases failed at the Senate level are fairly disappointed in the decision made by the Senate.

“Of course one would hope that the seg fee increase would have received the support of Student Senate, but that is not the case,” said Cara Rubis, University Center director.

The UC and Residence Life Assistant Director of Dining Services Jerry Waller explained how he really doesn’t know why the motion for the proposed increases in meal plan rates failed.

“During the discussion, I received no negative comments and only one general question regarding the basis of the increase. The motion was under consideration for very few minutes prior to being called for a vote.”

When it was asked of the senators to explain their no votes, it was discovered that many of them were uninformed and perhaps would have voted differently with more information and understanding.

DeLong expressed that this is a big problem for the senate and the fault lies with the senators themselves. Every proposed increase was discussed at the small committee level and at the Facilities and Fees Board meetings. Those are the two places where all of the information could have been obtained, but very few senators get involved at these levels of the process. President Halverson echoed DeLong’s statements.

“There may need to be a change with the current budget process. If Student Senate does not trust the work of the committees under this governing body, then the process does not work,” said Rubis.

The decision made by the

Senate to fail the three motions definitely has some people confused because the motions all passed through the small committee level and Facilities and Fees Board without problems.

Dining Services, Residence Life, and the UC just hope that the chancellor will review their motions and make a final, unbiased decision.

Chancellor Van Galen ensures that he will do what he can to make an unbiased decision. In addition to asking the Senate for their list of reasons for no votes, he has also asked Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Greg Heinselman, for some background information on

the seg fee requests that were not supported by Senate.

“I take seriously the vote by Student Senate. However, along with the vote and rationale provided by Student Senate, I must also consider the recommendations of professional staff and the need to ensure a high-quality educational experience to current and future UWRF students. I am entering this phase of the process with an open mind,” said Van Galen in an email.

Senate Advisor Paul Shepherd, told the Senate that in the future they need to get involved and ask the important questions.

He encouraged the senators to invite some of the professionals within any depart-

ment to come in and speak to the Senate if they have questions or don’t understand something.

If the chancellor does not approve the seg fee increases he explained that it would vary by area, but would ultimately result in fewer or lower quality services for students.

He will make his final decisions and then forward his recommendations to the Board of Regents.

“I think that the list of reasons for the no votes given to the chancellor will help him understand the views of some of the senators. However, whether or not he will agree with them, I just don’t know,” said Halverson.

2012: Political science professors encourage students to research elections

From page 1

issues are being talked about and what the candidates’ campaign promises are.

Katie Wolfgram, an international studies major and sophomore, echoed the other students.

“I am waiting for primaries to be over because then they [Republicans] will have a candidate and will start putting out actual ideas,” said Wolfgram.

She thought that the primaries play for the popular vote before serious issues take place.

Wolfgram’s advice for students was to pay attention to the news and voting and

to also talk with friends and family about the candidates because they might know something that you do not.

One student, an undecided sophomore, Olivia LeTourneau, was the only student talked to that did not know anything about politics, who was running or the election process.

“I don’t know the issues the candidates are talking about,” said LeTourneau. “I pay more attention to homework, friends and social networking.”

The only information that LeTourneau talked about was what she gathered from Facebook and she referred to pictures of President Obama fist pumping and a picture of

Republican candidate Mitt Romney.

LeTourneau said that she does not actively go out and read the newspaper but it is her first year to vote in a presidential election.

“I am an adult now and more worried about how it will affect me,” said LeTourneau. “I feel like my one vote won’t change anything but I feel like I should have a say in who is running the country.”

Political science professors Davida Alperin and John Evans both said that they hope students are taking an active role in knowing who the presidential candidates are and are using that information to make a strong decision.

Evans said that college students are not very active in voting and members of Congress know who is actively participating in voting. Evans explained that if more students participate, the more government funding and programs would be available because of their participation.

“For me to be doing my job, I need to let students know what is at stake for them,” Evans said. “Politics can be cool and fun.”

Evans shows videos of the Simpsons or Monty Python to his classes and most students did not know the underlying political message that was in it until it was explained.

“It’s professors jobs to inform students and hope

students gather information about it or know about that information,” said Evans.

Professor Alperin shared the same view as Evans in it being important for students to inform themselves about politics and government and the presidential election.

“Decisions made by all levels of government will have a direct impact on them and their communities for years to come,” said Alperin.

All students vary depending on their own beliefs in what is important to them and what interests them in politics, was also another commonality between Evans and Alperin.

“One thing I like about teaching at River Falls is we

have a good mix of Republicans, Democrats and Independents,” said Alperin.

“Democracies work if citizens inform themselves and pay attention to elections so they can make sound decisions when it comes time to vote,” added Evans.

The students of UWRF are not aware of the big issues and more information gathering would help with deciding whom to vote for in November.

However, McQueen said, “The student body at large will vote for whoever is most popular.”

The Wis. presidential primary will be on April 3.

Abroad: Even with lower male participation, experience remains the same

From page 1

perience, if it’s a mono-gender program/experience it’s missing the ever important impact and contributions of the opposite gender which is always a highly valuable and instructive affect,” said Greene.

UWRF senior Zach Johnson participated in the International Traveling Classroom program in the spring of 2010, traveling with a group that had 15 male and 13 female student participants.

“I always knew I wanted to study abroad. My experience could have been different if there were less guys.

Every time we were in a different city with our group, we had room assignments. With fewer guys I wouldn’t have been able to room with as many different people. But besides that fact, I don’t think my experience would have changed,” said Johnson.

Senja Melin, a senior who was also in the same ITC

group as Johnson, credits the low male participation in study abroad programs to the lack of ambition and desire in males that can be seen in females.

“I think females have a better ability to see their goals and obtain them. Studying abroad will make them a better rounded person and give

them some sort of life changing experience that they can take with them so they decide to take the step forward and study abroad,” Melin wrote in an email. “I don’t think that males look at it that way, perhaps they are content with the person they are and don’t feel like a life changing experience is necessary to make

them a better person, even if they feel that need at all.”

More information about UWRF study abroad programs can be found at www.uwrf.edu/GlobalConnections/ or by contacting the Global Connections office at (715) 425-4891.

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EDITORIALS

Failure of proposed seg fee increases brings issue of personal bias to light among senators

Student Senate recently rejected three motions for proposed segregate fee (seg fee) increases. As a result of such, Chancellor Dean Van Galen has requested a list of reasoning behind the decisions. Van Galen met with Student Senate President Tyler Halverson and Facilities and Fees Board Chair Beth DeLong. Halverson and DeLong explained to Van Galen that they were both embarrassed to meet with the chancellor and tell him that they did not know why the motions failed. The decision made by the Senate to fail the three motions has more people than just the chancellor confused. All three motions passed through the small committee level and Facilities and Fees board without any problems. The departments whose proposed seg fee increases failed were disappointed with the Senate’s decisions. It was discovered that many of the senators didn’t even vote on several of the matters.

When the senators were asked to explain their no votes, it was discovered that many of them were uninformed and perhaps would have voted differently with more understanding. DeLong explained that this is a major issue for the Senate and is a fault that lies with the senators themselves. One of the proposed seg fee increases involved an increase in meal plan rates. As the cost of food increases, so should the dining meal plan rates. Another of the proposed seg fee increases involved heath services, as an attempt to provide contraceptives to more of the student population. It was suggested that some of the senators didn’t support the proposal for an increase in meal rates due to a personal distaste for Sodexo. It was also suggested that heath services were denied because of personal issues some of the Senators harbored regarding the use and availability of contraceptives.

We here at the Student Voice find it pertinent to express that personal bias is in no way, shape or form an acceptable way to determining something that would benefit the student population as a whole. As the cost of food increases, so should the cost of meal plans. Having contraceptives freely available to students is something that shouldn’t even be an issue, when looking to the bigger picture of health services. We hope that the Senate can resolve all of these issues, put aside their personal biases and make the right decisions for the student body.

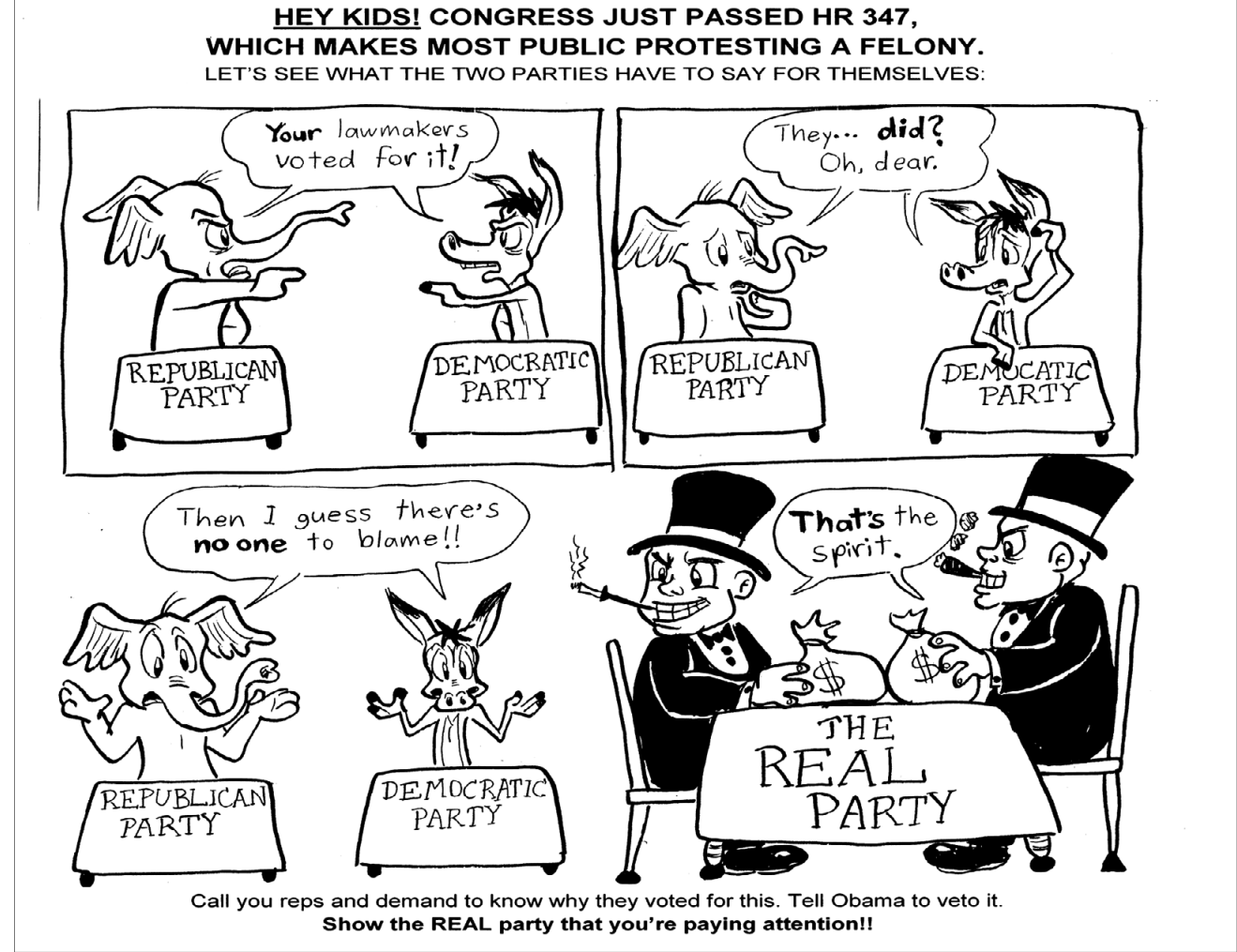
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David Recine/Student Voice

Lifestyle enthusiast on the town: Meeting different people in Nuknek



Christopher Pagels
Columnist

Do you remember Goofy the Walt Disney dog with the big two-buck teeth? Well, I knew a different Goofy who got his name ironically. At the Red

Salmon Cannery in Naknek, Alaska, I would meet all sorts of strange and bizarre creatures that technically are called humans. It took only 10 seconds for me to get the job. They gave me everything that I couldn’t turn down; round trip tickets from Minneapolis to Anchorage, free meals, crazy overtime, laundry and accommodations. The catch was that I had to work with these interesting people 16 hours a day for three weeks. Anecdotal demographic evidence goes as follows: half were Mexicans from Mexico or SoCal who couldn’t speak English, murderers, thieves, one quarter were college girls, bad work histories and the rest were no questions asked. Goofy was one of these. When he grew up in Mexico, he drank some water that disintegrated the top front five teeth in the middle. It looks like someone kirbied his teeth to a metal grinder. Instead of having two-buck teeth, he had ground up teeth. He was a regular employee of the month. He had several beds in between the palates where he would go to sleep during the long 16 hour shifts. We all thought this was a gas. He even said that he would smoke recreational drugs on break and his boss would see him do it and just call him a crazy

son-of-a-b—h and let him continue on working. My crew worked in the can shop. Our job consisted of putting green cans into a hopper that would be filled with fresh salmon. Twenty-four months later freshness would not be as it was then, but the food would still be edible. Goofy and his other Mexican nationalities worked as custodians. They always complained of picking up the slack, asking where Goofy was. We pointed at the palates. Goofy nicknamed me “Shock-Collar” for the summer. I don’t know why, he was Goofy. He had a way of distancing us so we didn’t get too comfortable with him. “Yeah, I’ve been to jail before. There was this guy I didn’t like at a party I was at. So, when he walked outside I got in my car and ran him over. Don’t worry he didn’t die, but I did go away for two years.” He and the other janitors informed us at one point that they were gangsters in SoCal. This always perplexed me. If they were in a gang, why were they here? Naknek is an island because there are no roads and only boats and airplanes could access. Things came to a head one day. Goofy knew I was a writer. He also hated snitches and feared the worst when he saw my black journal in my back pocket. Others gossiped about the journal too. That day when he was walking by he said, “I’m gonna take a s—t, why don’t you write that in your book.” The next day I “told” him I threw it away. The custodians were still complaining about his laziness, how sometimes he would leave work to take a shower. Angel, another custodian, told me that he was offered a substantial amount to kill Goofy. I left alive and a few thousand dollars richer and most of all got to see “A Goofy Movie” when I got back home.

College students announce spring break escapades



Cristin Dempsey
Columnist

“I’m looking forward to no classes for a week,” comments freshman Brittney Pfenning-Wendt on the annual week off. Indeed, most

of us are looking forward to a week without classes or homework. Spring break is anxiously awaited by everyone; that one week for traveling out of the winter climate and to somewhere warm or just relaxing and spending time with family and friends. Spending time with family is what freshman Kayla Edstrom looks forward to the most about her week off. Most college students certainly have many stories to share about their spring break plans. Be it their fondest memories of their free week in March or April, or what they hope to do in the future for their break. Spring break is a nice time off from the normal responsibilities and hectic schedules of everyday life, but it is also a time to create memories that will last a lifetime. My personal favorite memory was my spring break during my junior year of high school. I traveled with my band to the beautiful island, Puerto Rico. Leaving the 30 degree weather of the Midwest and arriving in 90 degree San Juan felt great; spending time sightseeing and just having fun with friends is something I’ll never forget. Edstrom and Pfenning-Wendt both share a similar memory. Edstrom’s favorite spring break memory was from her senior year of high school. “I went to Disney with my band,” Edstrom said about a fun vacation that she will always remember. Pfenning-Wendt states that her favorite memory was also a band trip during senior year. She traveled internationally, spending her break in the beautiful country of Italy.

Spring break is a nice time off from the normal responsibilities and hectic schedules of everyday life, but it is also a time to create memories that will last a lifetime.

Freshman Cara Szymanski’s favorite memory includes both her family and a fun vacation to Florida. “I went to a retirement village in Florida called The Villages to visit my favorite aunt and uncle. I absolutely loved it and wished I lived there.” Spending time with family that you don’t see very often, especially somewhere warm, has long been a favorite memory of many individuals. But that is not to say you have to travel somewhere in order to create new memories. New memories can be created right in the comforts of home. Szymanski doesn’t have major plans this year for spring break. She simply looks forward to cuddling with her kitty, Duncan. I am sure many college students who have a pet they miss while at school share in this same excitement. It is a great way to relax over break and not have to worry about classes or homework. As this next spring break comes and goes, many college students look forward to making plans for the coming years for their precious week off. Freshman Katie A. Wilson hopes to make it to Florida one year and spend the week in a warmer climate. Florida is a popular vacation spot among many students and families on spring break and continues to attract tourists from all over the country. Szymanski would like to do more than just go to a warmer climate. “Anywhere in Europe would be so wonderful and exotic,” Symanski said. I agree; Europe would be the ultimate spring break. I suggest taking advantage of a trip to Europe at some point when you can afford it. I am sure there is no one here on campus that is not counting down the days until they can go home for a week or hop on a plane to somewhere warm like Florida or even somewhere exotic like Europe. It will come fast, but it will also go fast so enjoy it while it lasts. As always, make good decisions and be safe. But most importantly, enjoy your spring break, River Falls!

Cristin is an English major and 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.

Dear Rachel: Students recount biggest regrets



Rachel Woodman
Columnist

Alexandra asks, “What are people’s biggest regrets in college? What do [seniors] wish they would have and would not have done?”

As a freshman coming to UW- River

Falls you may have a variety of thoughts flying through your head. You might be concerned about how you will perform in class, if you’ll like your professors, other students, or your dormmate. You might know what your career path is or have a clue about your future, but chances are your main concerns involve that day, that week and that semester.

After your first year, or even first day, you may already fantasize about graduating. I did. I wasn’t in any hurry to leave but I was already pining for a new location, new people and new memories.

It’s easy to think about now and the future, today. But what if you could take a look inside your mind that day you are in your cap and gown? What insights would you have? What changes would you make?

In an effort to answer Alexandra’s question I first scoured Centennial Science Hall for the physics department which would surely have someone on the brink of time travel discovery. However, I only found a flying helium-powered shark. The shark declined to comment.

So instead I sought out students with a few years too many under their belt and asked them what advice they would give freshman based on their regrets.

Britney Payne, a UWRf alumna, shared her regrets post-college. “My ultimate regret is I came to school with no direction or info, and my advisor didn’t give me a lot of direction. So I recommend being pro-active when asking questions,” said Payne.

Payne majored in geography with a minor in geology with the intention of traveling for National Geographic. Unfortunately, she didn’t know that pursuing a career in this field would require her to specialize in something within the program.

Unaware and without internship guidance, she now works for a hotel chain that is most certainly local. Aside from her academic regrets, Britney also said that she wished she had gone out more. She feels she missed out on some good memories.

Senior Janna Grassel shared regrets about her chosen major. “[I regret] jumping into a major without thinking about a career plan. Make sure you go to career fairs and talk to your advisor and make sure you’re choosing a major that fits you and what you want to do,” said Grassel. “[I also regret] not joining more organizations, so I’d suggest going to info tables and seeing what [organizations] have to offer.”

Senior Angela Kusilek had a different take on being involved in non-school related activities. Kusilek advised, “don’t go out every night of the week and get plastered. I’m still playing catch up.” Angela said a lot of people wish that they did more in college, but she did too much her freshman year. She expressed the importance of balance between personal and academic goals.

Junior Kirstie Langrehr said not to “go home every week-end.” Putting unnecessary miles on her car wasn’t worth missing out on memories in River Falls.

Senior Samantha Wickland said, “I regret not getting

involved with school sports clubs and orgs right away. I missed out on two years of dancing for the school. So I’d tell freshman to find something to get involved in. You will not only have a great time but also make a bunch of friends that you will keep forever!”

If any of these words of wisdom strike a chord or concern within you, listen to it. Your life is yours for the making. If you question your academic or personal direction, do not ignore it. If you’re uncertain that you’ve chosen the right major, talk to someone.

Talk to a friend, a family member, career services, a counselor and your advisor. This support group can guide your academic goals. Counselors are available for free through the campus health department and specialize in a variety of things from the I-can’t-get-out-of-bed-fluenza to the I-don’t-know-why-I-chose-this-major-itis. Use them.

Don’t fall into a rut this semester, the next, or your last. It’s never too late to get involved on campus and in your community. There are organizations on campus involving sports, art, creativity, dance, Greek life, competition or your major so don’t let any opportunity slip past you. If something looks exciting, try it. Visit uwrf.edu/studentlife and orgsync.com to find an organization for you.

When graduation day comes don’t feel unfinished in your cap and gown. Everyone will have moments of regrets and questions of “what if” at points in their life. Ensure that your college experience is free from those moments.

Thanks for the question, Alexandra. Anyone may submit questions, concerns or quandaries to questionsforrachel@live.com. Please send them right away if you’d like to see them in the next Student Voice. Don’t forget to like “Rachel Responds” on Facebook.com/rachelresponds and follow “RachelResponds” on Twitter.

Rachel is a senior majoring in marketing communications and minoring in journalism. She loves to work hard, play hard and use cliches!

New Orleans Saints burden NFL with bounty program



Benjamin Lamers
Columnist

Recently a new scandal emerged to keep the NFL in the top headlines of the sporting world. The NFL released a statement that it had found the New Orleans

Saints guilty of running a bounty program for the last three years. What exactly does this mean?

The report indicates that Greg Williams, former defensive coordinator for the Saints, would pay players on his defense if they knocked out a certain player on the opposing team. After the report emerged, Williams quickly admitted that he did in fact run a bounty program in New Orleans. Subsequent reports emerged that Williams did the same thing in Washington, Buffalo and Tennessee.

This issue definitely hits close to home for Vikings fans after the NFC Championship game in 2009. The way Brett

Favre was abused in that game certainly left some to wonder, at the time even, if the Saints had a bounty on Favre. According to ESPN, there is a moment in the game where a mic’d up Saints player shouts, “give me my money” when Favre sustains his ankle injury.

There has been a lot of speculation as to what the penalty for these allegations will be. Most experts agree that the NFL will issue harsher punishments on the Saints for this than they did on the Patriots in 2007 for SpyGate. It is also probable that Williams will be fired by his new team, the Rams, and may be banned from the league altogether.

The question for me is whether or not Head Coach Sean Payton and General Manager Mickey Loomis will receive harsh punishment. In my opinion, if Williams is fired, then Payton and Loomis should receive the same punishment. Why you ask? It was widely reported that the Saints owner, Tom Benson, found out about the bounties at some point in the three year span and told Payton and Loomis to put a stop to it. Obviously the bounties continued.

This should be a fireable offense. If your boss tells you to do something and you downright disobey, then you deserve

to be fired. Plain and simple. Of course, this won’t happen because Loomis and Payton are wildly successful with the Saints, and winning brings in money.

Regardless of what happens, bounties have no place in any sport which is the reason this is so serious. You will hear many players say that bounties occur all the time in the NFL, and maybe they do. However, the Saints were running an organized bounty program for three whole years which sets it apart from others. Some notable occurrences of the program include: knocking Kurt Warner out of the NFL, severely injuring Brett Favre and allegedly being the cause of Peyton Manning’s neck problems.

Bounties should not be tolerated at all which is why Roger Goodell needs to hand down harsh punishments towards the Saints and their coaches. Obviously, I have said that I think all involved parties should be fired for their role in what happened, but that simply isn’t realistic. It will be fun to see how it all plays out.

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

Expand your thinking: Students change negative emotions into positive thoughts for well-being



Jaime Haines
Columnist

As a society, we love to know that others are looking at us, envying us, and wondering how we balance our busy lives. But when it comes down to it, the life we try to portray is

rarely the life we actually live. We strive to portray an amazing life we think others will envy when in fact, there is no perfect life to be lived.

By accepting the fact that our current life is what it is, we can become more satisfied in our daily life. While it is always good to work on improving, sometimes it is more important to feel our true emotions, manage them with positive thoughts and actions, and deal with them appropriately.

One portion of the front we put up involves masking our emotions. We work so hard to not show our sadness, our worries, or our stress; many perceive those emotions as making us look weak or not put together. However, there is nothing wrong with experiencing emotions that every other person on this planet feels.

While there are less appropriate times to fully express

ourselves, there is rarely a wrong time to be genuine. Denying emotions creates a harmful cycle. Additionally, trying to maintain a façade of strength and togetherness is almost always more exhausting and detrimental than it is worth.

Instead of masking emotions, coping with them in healthy ways and working to lessen the intensity of such emotions is ideal. An easy way this can be done is by changing the thoughts that cause or intensify the emotions and altering the actions that create such thoughts.

Negative thoughts must be changed into positive ones (switch “I hate my body,” to “I’m grateful for my body.”) and if possible, follow the thoughts by positive actions (such as exercise or a healthy snack). If a negative thought is consistently replaced by a positive one, it will slowly lose its power and frequency of occurrence. Adding a positive action can help speed the process along because it helps prevent the negative thought in the first place.

In addition to proper thoughts and actions, emotions need to be dealt with in an appropriate manner. When something specific is upsetting, do not generalize that emotion to every

By learning to go easy on yourself through keeping negative thoughts and emotions in check, you can lead a much more enjoyable life.

aspect of your life. Instead, recognize why you feel that emotion, and deal with it in its specific context; do not allow it to spread and infest other thoughts and actions.

For example, if you are upset that you did not receive a scholarship, feel the sadness only for that particular instance, do not claim that you did not receive it because you are a worthless person or will never accomplish anything. These generalizations make you feel worse about the rest of your life and make it more difficult to move on.

The thought process change and emotion checks feel rather awkward. It is difficult to reframe your way of thinking, especially if those thoughts are strongly believed. It seems pointless, but in fact, changing smaller thoughts can

lead to changing the way you view your life and the world in general. By learning to go easy on yourself through keeping negative thoughts and emotions in check, you can lead a much more enjoyable life.

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

Florida trip to Walt Disney World promises for luxurious spring break



Amanda White
Columnist

While you are reading this I will most likely be standing in the humidity of Florida. That’s right. Florida.

For spring break this year, and only for the second time in my life, my family is

taking a vacation. And not just any vacation; we are going to Walt Disney World. Which, if you didn’t know, is the happiest place on Earth.

My parents, sister, and I have been planning for this vacation for over half a year, and I can hardly believe the time has arrived. The process of planning a vacation for four people is quite strenuous and someone may have been snapped at a few times in moments of frustration.

One of our biggest hurdles to overcome was the issue of transportation. It is no mystery why plane tickets are so expensive mid-March, with most of America’s children out of school. Since the flights were so expensive, my parents were considering driving down to Florida, an idea my sister and I

vehemently opposed.

We are tall people and the notion of sitting all folded up in a backseat for a whole day of driving is ludicrous. Since we were not the ones paying for this vacation, all we could do was cross our fingers that our parents found cheap enough flights. Luckily enough, they had a stroke of genius and consulted a travel agent.

Honestly, if anyone you know is planning a vacation, use a travel agent. My family uses AAA Roadside Assistance, so we used the travel agency under the same company, and it was the best decision made about this trip. The travel agent was able to actually call Disney World for us and scrounge up affordable tickets that were for flights at a reasonable time of the day.

It turns out that Disney World reserves sections of seats on each flight to Orlando, so even though everything else was either sold out, too expensive, or taking off at midnight, we were able to get a flight with a take-off time mid-morning.

Another awesome perk we received from planning our vacation with a travel agent was a free meal plan. Disney World has a special offer that ends this Thursday; anyone who arrived in Disney World before or on Thursday receives a free meal plan. Our meal plan includes one sit-down meal,

one quick-service meal, and one snack every day for each person in our party, and it was free.

The only requirement Disney had for us is that we had to fly down to Florida one day earlier than we were planning. Anyone could have received this deal, even without a travel agent, but my family knew nothing about it. So without our travel agent, we would have been shelling out big bucks for food.

Our travel agent also gave us an excellent viewing place for the Magic Kingdom fireworks, which are extremely popular. I can’t tell you where it is because it is super secret, but you don’t need to know where it is to understand that travel agents are truly the best resource out there for planning a vacation.

I hope you have a great spring break, even if you’re not going anywhere fun or exciting. At least we get a break from the monotony mid-semester brings and when we come back spring will be well on its way. Bon voyage!

Amanda is a sophomore majoring in journalism. She enjoys film, theatre, travel, music and reading anything and everything.

Track and field displays success

Trevor Jones
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The UW-River Falls men’s track and field team experienced a great deal of success in this year’s indoor season and hopes to maintain or exceed that success in the upcoming outdoor season.

The Falcon men placed eighth out of nine teams at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Indoor Championship in Menomonie, Wis., on Feb. 24-25. At first glance, that does not sound like a positive result. However, when you take a closer look at the team, you can see that an eighth place conference finish does not tell the whole story.

In its March 5 top 25, the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association currently have UWRF at number 23. Earlier in the season, the team achieved a ranking of 22, the highest in the indoor program history. That top 25 is dominated by the WIAC with eight of the conference’s nine teams among the top 25, including five of the top eight.

Head coach Aaron Decker recognizes just how strong the conference is right now.

“We have the most competitive program that River Falls has ever had, it is just that the WIAC is that tough, that competitive,” said Decker.

In addition to the overall success of the team, many individuals are doing well as evidenced by six school records being broken this indoor season.

One of those record-breakers is senior Jared Brandenburg who broke the UWRF record in the mile run in a meet held at the University of Minnesota. His time was 4 minutes, 11.48 seconds, breaking the previous school record by over three seconds according to UWRF Sports Information. Brandenburg earned the right to compete in the mile run in the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships held March 9-10 at Grinnell College in Iowa.

Brandenburg says it means a lot to him to make it this far.

“To me it’s kind of deserving accolade for a lot of hard work, I’ve been running for 9 years so it means a lot to get to that point,” said the Independence, Wis., native.

Brandenburg has been named an Academic All-American according to head coach Aaron Decker.

Another one of those six record-breakers is freshman Michael Sandle. Sandle broke the school record in the triple jump on Feb. 10 at the Brooks Classic. His mark of 50-5 is good enough for third in the nation and he will also compete in the NCAA Championships. Sandle is not satisfied with just being there though.

“It’s great to make nationals, but we want to take home the gold,” said Sandle.

Decker said that even if Sandle does not win a national championship, he still had a very positive season.

“It’s extremely rare for a freshman to win a national title. He is a high-

class athlete; he was someone you expected to see in Division I. He still had a great year and set a lifetime best mark,” said Decker.

The outdoor season begins for the Falcons on April 14 with the UW-River Falls Invitational. Decker expects outdoor success to be similar to the Falcons’ indoor season.

“We have set the bar high for ourselves; we have the ability to really be successful. I would like to see that we either surpass or come close to the most points our outdoor team can score. We have the group to do it. I think we’ll see a lot more school records fall,” said Decker.

Indoor and outdoor track and field events do have some differences between each other.

The meets are bigger and more competitive. It makes the sport a little bit tougher but it gives the kids something to improve on. I’d like to think that every track athlete loves the challenge,” said Decker.

The WIAC Outdoor Championships begin May 4 in Whitewater, Wis.

“We have the most competitive program that River Falls has ever had, it is just that the WIAC is that tough, that competitive.”

Aaron Decker
Head Coach

Hockey enters NCAA tourney



Ashley Goettl
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The Falcon women’s hockey team will play at Gustavus Adolphus College in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Saturday.

The game is scheduled for 2 p.m., at the Don Roberts Ice Rink in St. Peter, Minn.

This is UWRF’s fifth appearance in the NCAA Tourney and the third straight year the Falcons have qualified. The team’s best finish is fourth place in both 2003 and 2009.

The Gusties and Falcons are no strangers when it comes to post-season play. In each of the last three years the teams have met in first round games. In 2009 at Gustavus the Falcons won, 2-1. In 2010 at Gustavus the Gusties won, 2-0. Last year in River Falls the Gusties earned a 4-1 win at Hunt Arena.

Head coach Joe Cranston said that he expects this game, like the others played between these two schools in recent years, to be a hard fought battle.

“I know my team won’t let up,” said Cranston. “It’s going to be a great game.”

The two teams played once earlier this year and that game ended in a 1-1 overtime tie on Dec. 6 in St. Peter. “I think this game will be similar,” added Cranston. “Low scoring, but up and down the ice.”

UWRF enters the NCAA Tourney with a 23-4-2 overall record. The Falcons won the NCHA regular season title with a 17-2-1 record. Last weekend they won the NCHA O’Brien Cup title with a 4-2 win over Adrian on Saturday at Hunt Arena to earn an automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament. During the NCHA conference playoffs, UWRF outscored their opponents 16-2.

The Falcons have won four straight games and 10 of their last 11 contests.

Katie Batters leads the Falcons in scoring

Jessie Behrman
Student Voice

Judy Daleiden of the women’s hockey team gets ready to shoot during the NCHA semifinal game against Lake Forest College on Saturday, March 3. The women’s hockey team is now in the NCAA quarterfinals and will play their next game March 10 against Gustavus.

with a team-high of 18 goals and 31 points. Four other Falcons have scored more than 11 goals this year; Alice Cranston has 16, followed by Kait Mason with 15. Katie Flangan has 14 and Alyssa Black has 11. UWRF averages 4.23 goals per game. Emma Nordness and Brook Story each have 17 assists to lead the Falcons. Cranston said that he will be looking for all players to contribute in order for the team to be successful. “Every player is key when you’re playing in March,” said Cranston. “I think we are playing good defensively, and that starts with (Melissa) Deardorff, who has been playing great. But our defensemen and forwards are playing well, too.”

Goalie Deardorff has been nearly unstoppable lately. She went 342 minutes and 15 seconds without allowing a goal until Adrian scored in the first period of Saturday’s NCHA title game. The UWRF Sports Information office noted that she has recorded a school record six shutouts this year. She is 16-3 with a 1.52 goals against average and a .932 saves percentage

In this week’s USCHO.com poll, the Gusties are ranked No. 5 and the Falcons No. 7.

Junior Amanda Ryder says that the team’s past has helped get this team to where they are now. “What makes this team is so special is we have been through a lot this season and we have been able to stick together as a team on and off the ice. With some of the losses we have experienced this season we have learned from our mistakes and moved forward, which has helped us get this far,” said Ryder.

If the Falcons win, they will advance to the NCAA Frozen Four. The semifinals and finals will be played on March 16-17 at a site to be determined.

Track stars heading to Nationals



Alyssa Rasmussen

Rasmussen qualified in the 400 with a time of 57.29, which is the 15th best in the nation. She ran that time at the University of Minnesota on Feb. 18. The school record is 57.08 set by Natasha Arnold in 2010.

Four Falcons will be competing in this weekend’s NCAA National indoor track & field championships that will be held at Grinnell College in Iowa. Alyssa Rasmussen will represent the women’s team while Jared Brandenburg, Clai Catto and Mike Sandle will be going to the men’s meet. Rasmussen qualified in the 400. Brandenburg will compete in the mile. Catto will compete in the high jump. Sandle will be competing in the triple jump. He has the nation’s third best triple jump of 50-5.5.

Information taken from UWRF Athletics’ website



Jared Brandenburg

Brandenburg qualified for the mile. He has the nation’s 11th fastest time of 4:11.48. He ran that at the University of Minnesota on Feb. 17. His time is now the school record.

Great season for Falcon hoops



Ryan Tibbitts

The day started with a lot of hype, excitement and expectations Friday as both men’s and women’s basketball teams were playing in the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history. Unfortunately, Friday night ended with a women’s loss to Coe College by a score of 72-61. They fought back time after time but just could not close the gap. The ball seemed to refuse to go in as the Falcons only shot 29 percent from the field.

The women had a remarkable season, finishing with a 21-7 record. Later on Friday night it was the men hosting Edgewood in the first game and it got ugly at times for the Falcons. Down by 24 at one point the men came roaring back and had the game within five points, but it was just too late. The men lost the game 75-67. The men also had a season to remember finishing with a record of 20-8.

Falcon hoops fans were spoiled this year as both teams did so great. The women’s team seemed unstoppable at times especially early in the year when they started off with an 11-game winning streak. They were in the running for the conference title all year.

The men battled in out in conference all year as well and also had a chance to lock up the conference title against Whitewater in the last game of the year but lost down

the wire. They got their revenge later on beating Whitewater and winning the WIAC tournament title.

It is very rare to get a team that is as special as both these teams were. They worked hard, had wonderful chemistry that was purely magical to watch, and were charismatic individuals to be around on campus. Basketball season is long and tiring, but it just seemed to end so fast. It is now a week later and I cannot grasp that I will not get to experience watching games again until next year.

These teams together gave us nine All-WIAC team players. Five from the men: Shane Manor, Brian Kimble, Wade Guerin, Ollie White and Aaron Anderson and four from the women: Tiffany Gregorich, Alise Holst, Maranda Dohrn and Nikki Guhr. This alone shows how talented all the way from the guard position to the post position both these teams were.

There is no doubt about the effort both these teams showed all the way down to the final seconds of the season. They gave everything they had and should feel absolutely nothing but a sense of accomplishment. I am so proud to be a Falcon hoops fans and as the season has come to an end there is nothing left to do but give a big thank you to these two teams and a special thank you to the wonderful senior class: Tiffany Gregorich, Alise Holst, Maranda Dohrn, Lauren Pellowiski, Shane Manor, Aaron Anderson, Brian Kimble and Wade Guerin.

You seniors gave everything you have and gave us fun basketball to watch for four years. You all played the game the way it should be played and will forever be missed.

Upcoming Sporting Events

Friday, March 9

Men’s track and field at NCAA Indoor National Championships at 8:45 p.m.

Women’s track field at NCAA Indoor National Championships at 8:45 p.m.

Saturday, March 10

Men’s track and field at NCAA Indoor National Championships at 9 a.m.

Women’s track and field at NCAA Indoor National Championships at 9 a.m.

Women’s hockey at Gustavus Adolphus College (NCAA quarterfinals) at 2 p.m.

Sunday, March 11- March 16

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Analyzing Hollywood’s top movies from 2011



Dustyn
Dubuque

Reviewer

The top ten films from the 170 I watched from 2011: **“Hugo.”** From director Martin Scorsese comes the enchanting story of a boy, living in a train station that comes across a mystery involving his father and a robot. In 3D this movie takes your breath away with the amazing visuals and the silent film storyline. No movie from this year stuck with me more than “Hugo.” **“The Tree of Life.”** Brad Pitt stars in one of the most intriguing and bizarre films I have ever seen. It centers on a family in the 1950s follow-

ing its eldest son in his years of adolescence. Not only do we see his childhood but also the creation of mankind and how families interact. This film will not be for everyone, but its originality is second to none. **“The Help.”** A writer collects stories from struggling black women during the 1960s that sparks a boom in the popular culture world. I felt for everyone in this movie with a broadening range of emotions from laughter to sadness to anger. There are movies that you just do not think you will like, I was that way with “The Help”, but I ended up practically falling in love with this film. **“The Beaver.”** Mel Gibson has is comeback

performance as a struggling alcoholic who can only get through his mental state by talking through a beaver hand puppet. As odd as this film is, I really related to Gibson’s character as I felt it was his way of getting out his true state of mind through a different film. He captures the screen even with such ridiculous material to where you truly feel for him and his family. Another movie that may not be for everyone but Gibson should capture anyone’s heart with this role. **“The Artist.”** Who would have thought that a silent film that looks straight out of the 1920s (as it was shot in black and white, silent with only music with words put on the screen for dialogue) would tell one of the best stories and be one of the most entertaining movies of 2011?

Everything about this film is just great and I found myself smiling practically the whole time. It is what it is and if you think this even remotely sounds interesting to watch you will love “The Artist.” **“Tyrannosaur.”** Easily the most underrated film of 2011, “Tyrannosaur” follows an older man struggling with anger issues who has a second chance at life with a Christian store worker helping him along his path. Little do we know that she may be the one in need of saving. These two characters create such a strong bond that carries this movie. Watching their relationship grow stronger is where the heart really lies in this film. **“Senna.”** The one documentary to really capture my attention from the year follows Formula 1 driver

Aryton Senna who would win three championships before his death in a fatal crash at only the age of 34. With terrific footage you get to see Senna’s life as a driver with teammates, rivalries, car accidents and eventually his death. Everything moves quickly, keeping the attention of the viewer. **“13 Assassins.”** A foreign film following a group of assassins in Japan who are on a suicide mission to stop their ruthless emperor and his army. This film is strictly on my list for its spectacular hour long action sequence that is absolutely breathtaking. **“Source Code.”** Even for a film that has tons of plot holes and a ridiculous ending, “Source Code,” I felt, may have been the best love story of the year. Jake Gyllenhaal

and Michelle Monaghan create a natural chemistry even when on a train that will blow up every eight minutes. This may not be an ideal storyline for a love story to work but it does, which makes this thriller above average. **“Young Adult.”** Charlize Theron is terrific as a divorced author who returns home to Minnesota from the big city to try and rekindle the fire with her high school love. Too bad he is now married with children. But her alcohol induced state will not let her cope with these events. Patton Oswalt is great as the loser from high school who soon realizes the pretty girl is now just like him. “Young Adult” is funny, sad and uncomfortable all at the same time which makes it a great movie.

Girl Scout cookies sold for more than one good cause



Brittney
Pfenning-
Wendt

Columnist

Girl Scout cookies are a type of cookie just about everyone knows about and loves. They are about as anticipated as Sweet Martha’s to Minnesotans. Sold countrywide, these cookies come in a total of eight varieties. Time has brought many different varieties however three cookies remain mandatory: Thin Mint, Do-Si-Dos (peanut butter sandwich), and Trefoils (shortbread). According to the official Girl Scouts

website Thin Mints have always been the most popular, but check out below to see the favorites on campus. Cookie sales didn’t begin among the Girls Scouts until 1917, five years after Juliette Gordon Low started the organization. The girls would wrap their home baked cookies in wax paper bags, seal them with a sticker and sell them door to door for about a quarter per dozen. The first Girl Scout cookie recipe was developed by Florence E. Neil who published her recipe in The American Girl magazine, urging troops to sell them. These sales have come a long way since the door to

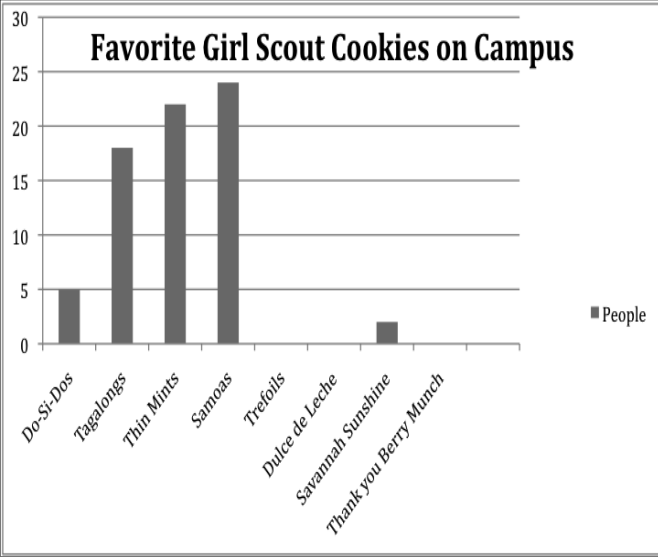
door selling. There are now only two licensed bakers to promote uniformity among the cookies, ABC Bakers and Little Brownie Bakers. Out of today’s cookie list, Trefoils were the original, with their cookie cutout patented in 1935. Girl Scout cookies can be found being sold door to door, at a booth set up in grocery stores, churches, schools and community gatherings. The official Girl Scouts of the United States America do not sell them online and urge the public not to buy them online as the main goal is to provide girls with basic selling and business skills, while earning revenue for their troops. The money that you pay for your Girl Scout cookies stays in the area where the troop who

sold them is located. So next time you purchase Girl Scout cookies from that booth of girls you just can’t let down, know that your money is going to a good cause. Try out Florence E. Neil’s recipe from The American Girl magazine: An Early Girl Scout Cookie® Recipe 1 cup butter 1 cup sugar plus additional amount for topping (optional) 2 eggs 2 tablespoons milk 1 teaspoon vanilla 2 cups flour 1 teaspoon salt 2 teaspoons baking powder Cream butter and the cup of sugar; add well-beaten eggs, then milk, vanilla, flour, salt, and baking powder.

Refrigerate for at least one hour. Roll dough, cut into trefoil shapes, and sprinkle sugar on top, if desired. Bake in a quick oven (375°) for approximately eight to 10

minutes or until the edges begin to brown. Makes six to seven dozen cookies.

Brittney is a business administration major with an emphasis in management. She also has a love of cooking and baking for people.



5

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Strange encounters in Berlin



Chris
Rohling
Columnist

We were warned multiple times when preparing for the International Traveling Classroom that we would all be put into situations that would make us uncomfortable during our travels. I was doing a good job of avoiding these until we got to Berlin, and then I experienced one of the most surreal things I can imagine. I hopped on the train with the rest of the group, grabbed a railing and sort of zoned out like I usually do. It took me a minute or two to really get a good look at the guy next to me. This guy was decked out head to toe in what can only be described as the latest in Neo-Nazi chic. He was rocking heavy combat boots with scarily clean white laces, black jeans, a black hoodie with the word “Skinhead” emblazoned on it with the shorn head to match. His hood was up and his face was covered by a black and red bandana. The look was

completed by a thousand yard stare and a slogan tattooed on his exposed arm which he had cocked at just the right angle to make sure that everyone could read it. This was a guy who wanted to be seen. This was a guy who wanted to scare people. The hair on the back of my neck stood up. I slowly edged my way to the other side of the train. I knew that we weren’t in any real danger. It was a crowded train in the middle of the day. I was just surprised that everyone else on the train just wasn’t paying this guy any mind. I guess there’s something to be said for not giving a psycho like this any attention, but you’d almost hope someone would do something, you know? Before I could spend too much time contemplating the ethics of action vs. inaction in the face of something like this, the doors opened and things got a whole lot weirder. The normal group of Berliners stepped onto the train, but what followed them was something literally out of this world. Someone dressed as Darth Vader, lightsaber and all, made his way onto the train and stood right next to the

Neo Nazi guy. They kind of eyed each other up and down and just started looking around the train. Measuring either of their reactions through their respective masks was pretty much impossible. We got off the train not too many stops later, and were all kind of flabbergasted at the bonkers scene that played out before us. Here was someone who represented the ideals and terror of one of the worst men to ever walk the earth; a bona-fide super villain standing next to one of the most infamous fictional bad guys of all time. How can you really process something like that? I still feel a bit odd when I tell the story to people. It’s a bit hard to believe that it actually happened. Over the next couple of days I’m spending a bit of time in Potsdam with my friend Lena, a German student who spent a year going to school in the U.S. After that, it’s off to Prague, where I have no idea what to expect.

Chris is a journalism major who is currently traveling through Europe. When not scrambling to get all of his schoolwork done, he can usually be found reading comics, drinking coffee and listening to a whole lot of music.

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‘The Artist’ conveys an old school movie style



Michael
Brun

Reviewer

A well-crafted movie will trick viewers into forgetting that they are looking at a screen by immersing them with a polished presentation and engrossing plot. The silent-era throwback “The Artist” does just the opposite. This charming and unique movie ditches modern flair in order to emphasize the artistry behind the filmmaking process. Set in the late 1920s, “The Artist” depicts Hollywood at a crossroads. Veteran silent film star George Valentin, played by French actor Jean Dujardin, is at the peak of his popularity. With a wink and smile he sets off a crowd of swooning women. One of them is the cheerful and appropriately named Peppy Miller, played by Bérénice Bejo. Miller

is the new face of Hollywood, an up-and-coming starlet in the emerging era of talkies--an era that has no need for an old, silent dog like Valentin. The most noteworthy and immediately noticeable aspect of “The Artist” is that it is presented as a silent film. Minus a brief dream sequence with a handful of sound effects, the only sound to be heard is the booming musical score. There is a small amount of dialogue, but it is relayed through title cards. Making a silent, black-and-white movie in the era of IMAX and 3D was certainly a risky choice, one that will likely alienate a large portion of the movie-going public. Indeed, the style presents a barrier to enjoying the movie. With audiences so accustomed to flashy, big-budget productions, the prospect of a silent film will seem boring to many. The reality is that “The Artist” is a boring movie, at

least in the sense that it does not assault the viewer with immediate gratification. The movie requires viewers to meet it half way. There is beauty in the craftsmanship, but much of it rests beneath the surface. If audiences can keep an open mind and just sit tight through the opening scenes, they will find a rewarding movie experience unlike anything else playing in theaters. Without much dialogue to drive the story, the plot is told primarily through visuals. Much of this rests on the actors delivering very physical performances. They convey emotion through facial expression and body language just as effectively as they could with spoken language. By forcing the actors to focus on the fundamentals of their craft, “The Artist” reveals the artistry behind acting. When watching a movie it is common to forget that the characters are being brought to life by the skills of an actor, but “The Artist” puts the role of the actor at

center stage. The exemplary cast, which also includes the likes of John Goodman and James Cromwell, has phenomenal screen presence. The title of the movie could be referring to any--or all--of these talented actors. On a similar note, the lack of dialogue and sound effects also brings the musical score to the forefront. With so much attention paid to the music, “The Artist” showcases the importance of sound in filmmaking. Be it setting mood or keeping tempo, the interplay between audio and visual is crucial to the success of this movie--and that connection is pulled off flawlessly. Although I feel sorry for any kids forced to sit through it, “The Artist” is a real treat for movie lovers. It is a celebration of the art form, everything from its history, to film technique and the people who make it all possible. An original gem like this does not come along often.



★★★★★
Michael is a journalism major with a minor in film studies. He is the host of Falcon 411, heard Thursdays from 5 to 6 p.m. on WRFW 88.7 FM.

‘The Lorax’ rekindles childhood memories for all movie-goers



Samantha
Harkness

Reviewer

I loved the Dr. Seuss books as a kid. This was probably one of the cutest kid’s movies I have ever seen. Everybody in the audience must have enjoyed it too, because as the credits rolled, people were applauding. The film had catchy musical numbers, colorful characters, and a good, strong message. Danny DeVito played the Lorax, and I thought that he did a wonderful job. Perhaps my favorite character though was Grammy Norma, played by the always talented, Betty White. The story takes place in the fictional town of Thneed-Ville, completely artificial, and completely closed off from the rest of the world. Ted, voiced by Zac Efron, a young 12-year-old boy, sets off to find a real tree for the girl of his dreams, Audrey, voiced by Taylor Swift. Once outside the city’s wall, he discovers that it is nothing but a dirty wasteland. Ted goes in search for the man named the Once-ler to tell him about the trees. However, there is a catch. In order to hear the whole story, Ted must return on several occasions. Ted leaving the city sparks the interest of Mr. O’Hare, the most powerful, greediest man, and mayor of Thneed-Ville.

This causes O’Hare to warn Ted about leaving again. Although, the warning does not scare Ted, and he continues to go visit the Once-ler. The Once-ler tells Ted the story of the Lorax. The Lorax is a grumpy, yet kind creature and guardian of the land. He speaks for the trees. He tells the young Once-ler to stop cutting down the Truffula trees. The Once-ler agrees but as his business grows, so does his greed. He resumes his harvesting of the trees, forcing the animals to leave. The story of the Lorax inspires Ted to plant the last Truffula seed in a spot where everyone can see it. Mr. O’Hare tries to stop Ted and his family, and tries to turn the whole town against them. After Ted shows the town what is outside of Thneed-Ville, they turn against O’Hare and allow Ted to plant the seed. During the course of the film, people break out into song, something I thoroughly enjoyed. One thing that did disappoint me was the fact that the characters didn’t use a lot of the rhyming from the book. It would pop in here and there but I feel that the rhyming added charm to Seuss’s books. Other than that, it was rather good. I felt like a kid again. I was mesmerized by the vibrant colors and the adorable characters. Maybe another reason I felt

like a kid again was because I was surrounded by little kids and their parents. “The Lorax” seemed to have two messages. One message was about corporate greed, and the other was about not taking the beauty of nature for granted. If you want to see a film with some quirky characters, and a good message, take a trip to visit “The Lorax.”



Sam
Mayberry

Reviewer

“The Lorax” was playing and my friends and I weren’t sure how we would like it, but we decided to give it a shot.

about a 12-year-old boy named Ted, whose voice was provided by Zac Efron. Ted went looking for information about trees and possibly even to find one for his crush, Audrey, whose voice was provided by Taylor Swift. Ted had to leave his treeless world known as Thneedville and set out to find the Once-ler who was said to have information about where all the trees went. Ed Helms provided the Once-ler’s voice. Thneedville is under the control of Mr. O’Hare, who is portrayed by Rob Riggle. He sells oxygen and has lied to the citizens by telling them that trees are bad so he can continue to make money. The Once-ler, who was at first very unfriendly decided to tell Ted the story about how he had destroyed all of the beautiful trees that once existed by cutting them down and using them for a product called a Thneed until all of the trees were gone. The Lorax came into the story, as he was the spokesperson for the trees and tried to convince the Once-ler not to cut them down and to save the lives of the many animals that surrounded them. Danny DeVito portrayed

the voice of the Lorax and brought humor into this PG-movie. Throughout the movie, you learn how the Once-ler regretfully destroyed the trees and how Ted was determined to find a tree for Audrey. With the help of Ted’s Grandma, who was portrayed by the humorous Betty White, Ted was finally given the last tree seed and was told by the Once-ler to plant it in the middle of town to convince the citizens of Thneedville that their city can get oxygen for free from the trees and that Mr. O’Hare is lying. The ending to this movie was rather hilarious due to the characters, especially Betty White. Overall this movie was unexpectedly funny and entertaining

The ending to this movie was rather hilarious due to the characters, especially Betty White.

to watch. I thought the actors and actresses who portrayed the voices of “The Lorax” characters gave the movie depth and made it better than what I had thought it was going to be. Although it had some slow moments, I found this 86- minute long movie a well worth my time experience. Not only is this movie kid friendly, but the humor that is added gives entertainment for adults as well.

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



★★★★★
Samantha Harkness is a journalism major. She loves reading, writing and watching movies.

★★★★★
The movie was released into theaters on March 2, which was also the 108th birthday of Dr. Seuss. “The Lorax” movie was based on the story written by Dr. Seuss and it was

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