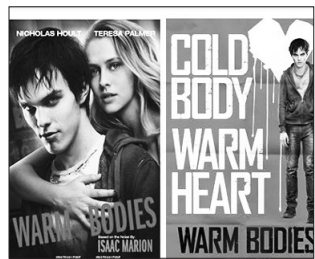




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STUDENT VOICE

February 15, 2013

www.uwrfvoice.com

Volume 99, Issue 14

Dance Team first at competition

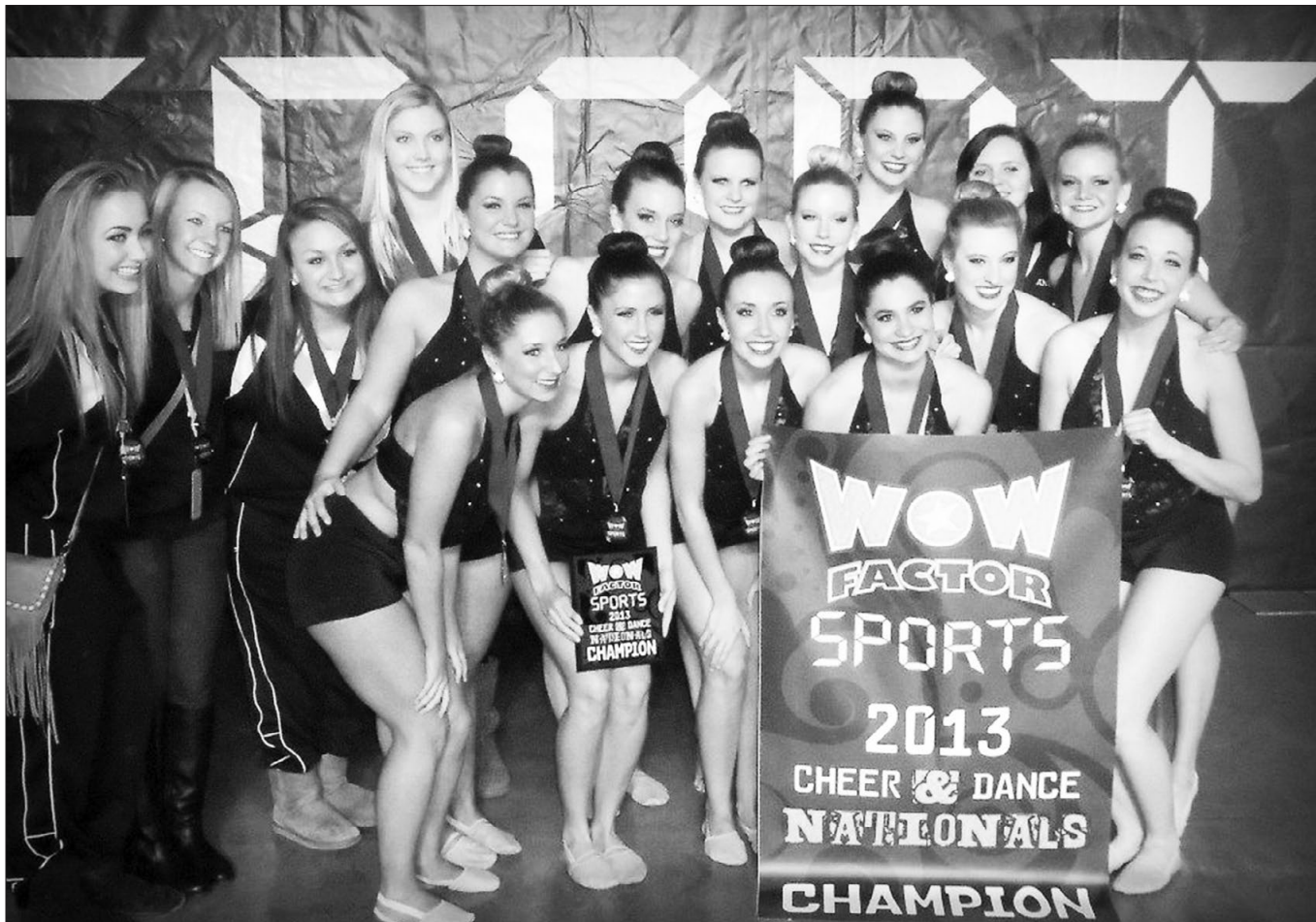


Photo submitted by the UW-River Falls Dance Team

The UWRF Dance Team took first place at the WOW Factor National Competition in Minneapolis, Minn., on Saturday, Feb. 9. Now, they will be headed to Daytona Beach, Fla., to compete for the national title April 10.

New position created to help with retention

Rebecca Rudolph
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A new administrative position is being put together to combat decreasing retention rates that have become a concern at UW-River Falls.

“The position is quite common in many private institutions and increasingly visible among public institutions,” said Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Fernando Delgado.

“For us, creating the position signals the University’s and the Chancellor’s seriousness about building and sustaining our enrollment at a time when we are ever more dependent upon tuition and associated revenues.”

The retention rate that has been concerning administration has been slowly falling over the past five years at UWRF; last year, 68 percent of students were retained in comparison to the 73 percent that were retained five years ago.

Although the percentages may seem unreal, they reso-

nate with other comparable universities in Wisconsin like nearby UW-Stout who experienced a 70 percent retention rate last year.

Reasons for this can vary, but Student Senate President Bobbi O’Brien, a transfer student herself, said that being involved was what helped her make a home at UWRF and that the “friendly atmosphere” only helped.

“I feel really attached to this school, so I feel involvement has plays a huge part,” she said.

O’Brien is a current member of a sorority and holds her presidency role with Senate.

She said one thing people could try to make UWRF their home as well is to get involved in something.

Delgado said other issues could be with the finance challenges of being enrolled in a four-year university and “academic preparation and adjustment.”

“We did observe that after tightening out academic pro-

See Retention page 3

Faculty Senate chair has long-time relationship with UWRF

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Professor and Political Science Department Chair Wes Chapin is no stranger to UW-River Falls.

Not only is Chapin the Department Chair for the International Studies and Political Science programs, he is the chair of the Faculty Senate and he also graduated from the University in the 1980s.

Chapin is one of several alumni to come back and work at UWRF.

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Brad Caskey and Director of Career Services Melissa Wilson are also UWRF graduates.

Chapin said that he never had a plan to come back here.

He did not think that it was even a possibility.

An assistant professor was hired, and when that professor took a job in Virginia, Chapin ended up coming back.

Associate Professor of Political Science Neil Kraus is a colleague of Chapin.

Kraus said that Chapin is an asset to the department and to the campus.

“I think he’s as knowledgeable as anyone.”

While he was a student at UWRF Chapin was Student Senate president for two years. He said that policies and many other things have changed since he was Senate president, but ultimately Senate still has a strong role to play.

He started out majoring in agriculture eco-

nomics, and then changed his major to economics.

Chapin also interned for Wisconsin senator William Proxmire in Washington, D.C. He then went on to participate in the Wisconsin in Scotland program.

There, he ended up with enough political science credits, that he was able to double major in political science, as well as in economics.

Continuing on with his experience in student government, Chapin said, “Student senators

have incredible opportunities to help strengthen the University.”

They can help financially, while interacting with the Board of Regents, interacting with politicians, the UW System and others.

He said this experience definitely gave him the opportunity to be involved politically.

As mentioned, Chapin is currently the chair of the Faculty Senate.

This governing body has been involved with strategic planning, program prioritization assessment, faculty compensation issues, etc.

He said overall there have been opportunities to help strengthen the learning environment and it has been very rewarding.

However, Chapin added that dealing with a political environment can be challenging.

Even though the Student Senate and the Faculty Senate are both campus government organizations, these organizations accomplish different things.

The Faculty Senate deals with academic programs, personnel issues, etc. While on the other hand, Student Senate deals primarily with student life issues.

Faculty Senate does not have any authority when it comes to fee funded buildings such as the residence halls, and they do help approve general education.

For this semester, the Faculty Senate is not only working on program prioritization, but it is also working on assessing the general education program and hoping to address a lecture/lab equivalency issue.



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice

Wes Chapin teaches a Model United Nations course. He is a UWRF alumnus who was the Student Senate president for two years while he was a student. Currently, he is a professor in the Political Science Department and the Faculty Senate chair.

Proposed budgets from 11 committees to go before Student Senate

Samantha Mayberry
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The Facilities and Fees Board (F & F) at UW-River Falls will be meeting to discuss and approve the budgets of 11 campus departments.

The F & F board oversees the student advisory committees on campus. It reviews and recommends policies and budgets proposed by the Student Advisory committees and once the F & F board passes them, they are sent to Student Senate.

After Senate discusses and votes on the proposed budgets, they are given to Chancellor Dean Van Galen for the final stamp of approval or denial.

However, the F & F board is somewhat in a bind right now as it waits to hear what the governor and state legislature’s decision is on passing a 2 percent pay increase that will affect essentially all university employees.

“The Facilities and Fees Board is taking steps to make sure students still have a voice in the budgets if a pay plan is introduced out of session,” said Dominic Riel, chair of the Facilities and Fees Board. “It’s very cloudy due to budgetary constrictions that we don’t have control over.”

Riel said that right now he is unsure of what kind of budgets will be proposed to the F & F board, but he expects that there

could be some organizations that will be prepared with two types of budgets as a precaution. One budget can include the 2 percent increase and one without.

One department that will be proposing a budget to the F and F board is Dining Services and they are hoping for an approved budget to make some important changes.

Anthony Sumnicht, chair of the Dining Services Advisory Committee, said that although there is a chance of a 2 percent pay increase, it would not have much of an impact on Dining Services as most employees are employed by Sodexo and not the University.

On Feb. 6, the Dining Services Advisory Committee approved a 5 percent increase in cost.

“We decided a 5 percent increase would be better for students,” Sumnicht said. “It will go into improving quality, flexibility, variety and better value of the meal plans overall.”

Sumnicht said that if the budget is passed, the 5 percent increase students will pay will go back into benefiting students for their meal plans.

Some of the possibilities that are being discussed are increasing the quantity of cold transfer meals and the options offered, transfer meals through retail dining and opening up the meal time sessions to fit more students’ schedules.

The budget also could cover new chairs for Riverside Commons, silverware and cups.

Even with the 5 percent increase in cost for students, UWRF would still be the cheapest compared to others in the UW System, according to Dining Services’ projections.

The 14 meals per week plan for the 2012-2013 year at UWRF, per semester costs \$1,104.50 and will cost about \$1,160 with the 5 percent increase.

UW-La Crosse is assumed to have a 3 percent increase in Dining Services cost for the 2013-2014 school year and will have an approximate cost of \$1,417.

Other campus departments looking for their budgets to be approved are Student Life and the Residence Hall Association (RHA) that can determine what the cost of housing will be for next year in Residence Halls.

Waiting for the outcome on the pay increase is a challenge because budgets have to be completely done by April so that the new Senate will be prepared for next year.

Although April is coming up quickly, Riel said the budget process is still in its early stages.

“There still may be change in adjustments as budgets go through this process,” Riel said.

See Budgets page 3

News briefs:

Stipends, grants offered through competition

Funded by the Falcon Promise, a differential tuition initiative invests student funds for full-time UW-River Falls undergraduates to participate in Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities (URSCA). Grants are available on a competitive basis. During the first competition (spring 2013) proposals are due Feb. 22 and March 15 (provided funding is available for a second round).

These funds are intended to cover expenses necessary to conduct research (supplies, travel to conduct research, books, software, posters, printing, etc.) and/or stipends to compensate for time allocated to project. Ideally, funds must be spent by June 30. Funding is not available for work already completed or for travel to present research findings at conferences. For more information, including the application, visit <http://www.uwrf.edu/URSCA/>. Deliver completed applications to the URSCA Office in 160 Hagestad Hall.

Libertarian Party organizer releases position video library for local caucus held Feb. 23

Libertarian Party organizer Robert Burke released a “Libertarian Library” of eight videos to help citizens in Pierce and St. Croix counties make an informed decision on whether to join the new party caucus Feb. 23 at UW-River Falls. The library is hosted at www.youtube.com/LibertyValleyWI, which also has information about the caucus.

“We don’t sound like the red and blue teams and there is a reason for that; we are neither,” said Burke, producer and presenter in the videos. “If Pierce and St. Croix residents give just five minutes to see for themselves if Libertarians offer something new to the conversation, things will start to change.”

The eight video topics, running two to four minutes, include discussions on Medicare, Social Security, U.S. spending deficit, Libertarian principles, an “Introduction to a Peaceful Movement,” the Federal Reserve and gold standard, and a pair of videos explaining the truth about taxes. “There was no shying from the major issues like Social Security and Medicare. We are in serious trouble and any real solution will require a new and simpler tax system, which we believe people will clamor for the second they really understand the nature of our current tax system.”

Burke, a former 3rd Congressional District Vice-Chair and 20-year member of the Republican Party had this advice for Tea Party supporters, “If it is becoming clear to you that your movement has been co-opted by Republicans only interested in getting you to bang your drum to their beat we are a whole new rhythm section.”

Asked why the library did not address military spending, Burke said, “That one is covered loudest in ‘A Movement Based on Peace.’ Our problem is not military spending, it’s our desire to dominate the world. Tell me that isn’t getting to the heart of the problem.”

The Libertarian Party of Pierce-St. Croix will be holding its first Caucus and is accepting new memberships Saturday, Feb. 23.

The event is to be held at the UWRF in the St. Croix River Room in the University Center with parking lots F and T the most convenient to the building. There are no parking meter fees on weekends.

Founded in 1971, the Libertarian Party fights for the individual freedoms of all people and a return to a constitutional government, and sound money. To begin your own local Libertarian Party contact the state party - <http://lpwi.org/> or contact the National Libertarian Party - <http://www.lp.org/>.

Governor Walker seeks applicants for student representative on the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents

Gov. Scott Walker announced he is seeking applicants for the student representative on the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents. The position is a student representative over the age of 18 to serve a two-year term. The representative must be enrolled at least half-time in a University of Wisconsin institution, be in good academic standing, be a Wisconsin resident and be enrolled for their entire term. Note that due to UW-Madison and UW-Parkside having been recently represented on the board, no applications will be accepted from these institutions.

The Board of Regents is responsible for establishing policies and rules for governing the System, planning to meet future state needs for collegiate education, setting admission standards and policies, as well as reviewing and approving university budgets. Regents are charged with establishing the regulatory framework within which the individual units are allowed to operate with as great a degree of autonomy as possible. Board members attend eight regular meetings per year, serve on special committees, serve as liaisons with at least two UW institutions, and perform related duties.

If you are interested in applying for the position, please submit the following: cover letter and resume.

UWRF hosts swing dance



Alicia Carlson/Student Voice
Senior Ryan Ingalls and junior Rachel Oaks dance at the Valentine’s Day Swing Dance

The application is found on Gov. Walker’s website: www.walker.wi.gov. (Click the blue “Apply to Serve” tab at the top of the page).

The deadline for submitting application materials is noon on Wednesday, Feb. 20. Potential applicants with questions about the appointments process may contact Eric Esser at 608-266-1212.

Student Life PEACE sponsors on-campus events

With the start of the second semester, the Talking Circles will also start. In a Talking Circle, participants explore a particular issue or topic from many different perspectives. Talking Circle participants do not attempt to reach consensus on the topic. Rather, all voices are respectfully heard in order to stimulate personal learning and growth through reflection. This semester we will be having one Circle per month starting in the month of February with the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA).

YWCA Let’s Talk About It: Race
From 9:30-11:00 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 21 in the St. Croix River Room at the University Center.

The YWCA of Minneapolis is a national leader in the field of racial justice, facilitating change and generating meaningful action in the workplace and the community. For the past decade YWCA has hosted an annual event called “It’s Time to Talk.” This event is a lunch devoted to breaking down stereotypes and promoting racial justice. Bringing hundreds of community members together for a lunch time discussion, the YWCA provides the atmosphere to foster positive change towards racial justice.

The circle will include a screening of the performance by the Mixed Blood Theater which was an original production specifically written to illuminate common racial stereotyping in the world today.

The Mixed Blood Theater is a theater company based in Minneapolis which uses “relevant and entertaining theater to spawn a ripple effect of social change.” Mixed Blood illuminates difference in a positive light and in doing so has won numerous awards for human rights and artistic accomplishments.

Future Talking Circles:
From 9:30-11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 14 in St. Croix River Room at the UC
“How do we define American” with Jose Vargas.

River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

Feb. 2

- Peter Michael Anderson was fined \$389.50 for a second offense of underage consumption at Hathorn Hall.

Feb. 6

- Mariah Caitlin Mooney was fined \$716 for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia at Parker Hall.
- Max Timothy Moses was fined \$326.50 for possession of drug paraphernalia at N Lot.

Feb. 7

- Joushua K. Lamarche was fined \$312 for possession of drug paraphernalia at McMillian Hall.
- Trevor J. Weis was fined \$375 for possession of marijuana at McMillian Hall.

Feb. 8

- Zackary J. Rivard was fined \$389.50 for a second offense of underage consumption at Hathorn Hall.

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

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Three candidates vie for state Supreme Court seat

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The primary election for one of the Wisconsin Supreme Court justice positions will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 19.

The candidates running for the open judge position are: incumbent Patricia Roggensack, Ed Fallon and Vince Megna. Fallon is a law professor at Marquette University and Megna is a lemon law lawyer from the Milwaukee area. While the justices are, by law, supposed to be nonpartisan, there is an underlying tone of a partisan race shaping up.

“The court is quite political, even though it is pitched as a nonpartisan office and this is a nonpartisan race, it’s anything but nonpartisan. It’s very partisan,” Megna said, “To call it a nonpartisan race is fiction. We have a partisan race, but we don’t call it that.”

Roggensack said in a joint forum on Feb. 7 that the race is nonpartisan by law. However, Roggensack is widely considered to be a part of what is called the “conservative bloc” on the court.

“I’m a process conservative,” Fallon said in the joint forum on Feb. 7. However, Fallon has been endorsed by many liberal

groups, including AFL-CIO. Megna has also stated that he considers himself a Democrat. Both Megna and Fallon signed the recall petition against Gov. Scott Walker.

The partisan nature of this race could impact the outcome.

The biggest impact of a partisan race could come down to people’s opinion on Act 10, Gov. Scott Walker’s signature legislation that struck down most collective bargaining rights. The controversial leg-

“To call it a nonpartisan race is fiction,” Megna said.

islation will most likely be brought before the Supreme Court again in 2013. Roggensack voted in favor of the bill when it was brought before the court in June of 2012.

Political Science Professor Neil Kraus said that if Act 10 is brought back to the court, this election could spur a new debate on the legislation.

The primary is predicted to have low turnout, under 10 percent according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

“Only the incredibly devout will turn up to vote,” Kraus said. “The incumbent always has the advantage in a low turnout race.”

A reason for the low turnout could be due to the fact that not many people know much about

the Wisconsin Supreme Court. “It is an organization that is not in front of the public very often, so it’s easy to not get a feel for them,” Megna said. “Regular people should pay attention and try to learn more about it.”

However, this race still has a tremendous impact on all citizens of Wisconsin, especially college students.

“College students should care for the same reason every citizen of the state should care. This is the Supreme Court,” Megna said. “It is the people’s court, the final place we can go for justice.”

The two candidates who receive the most votes in the primary will move on to the general election held on April 2.



Ed Fallon



Vince Megna



Pat Roggensack

Wisconsin receives poor rating for K-12 teacher preparation

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The National Council for Teacher Quality (NCTQ) gave the state of Wisconsin a D+ for K-12 teacher preparation. While this is an improvement from last year’s grade of D, Larry Solberg, the dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies at UW-River Falls said this study has many flaws and there shouldn’t be reason to worry.

He said that UWRF looks at the outcome of its teachers rather than generalizations and that a statewide measurement doesn’t apply to the individual approaches of UWRF as an institution.

“What they (the NCTQ) do is come up with criteria of teacher education and they come up with inputs and collect documentation on what we have or have not,” said Solberg. “They tend to focus on looking on input rather than outcome. They see things as black and white with nowhere in-between. We here at River Falls look at outcomes, such as abilities.”

The council urged Wisconsin to raise the admission requirements necessary to get into education schools. It also suggested the state look more closely at whether elementary school teachers have enough subject-matter knowledge.

Solberg, however, refuted that point by looking at UWRF’s 3.0 grade point average requirement. “Just because we have the minimum requirement, doesn’t mean that everyone in the program is at that GPA. In fact, many of them are much higher than the minimum,” Solberg said. “They need to look at what actual GPA is.”

“We are proud of the things we’re doing here in the teacher education program,” Solberg said.

The Council also said that Wisconsin should set minimum performance standards for education schools by holding them accountable for the performance of their graduates.

Teacher preparation experts, including Solberg, are dismissing the credibility of the NCTQ report, citing too many unanswered questions around its efficacy, methodology and accuracy.

In a press release, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), of which UWRF is a member, found the 2012 State Teacher Policy Yearbook: Improving Teacher Preparation National Summary by the NCTQ released Jan. 23, “to be vastly inconsistent with the gold-standard of student performance measures, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

Top-achieving states on the NAEP, such as Massachusetts,

Minnesota, New Jersey and Vermont, received grades of “C” or “D” from NCTQ. Yet, there is no known research base linking NCTQ’s criteria to improved teaching and learning outcomes, nor any cited in the report,” said the release.

Further, as the release stated, “the report lacks an explanation of how and from whom data was collected, offering only a general claim of having reviewed state policies.

“We are proud of the things we’re doing here in the teacher education program,” Solberg said.

He added that UWRF specifically has taken measures and will continue to take measures to ensure that every student leaves the teacher education program with the necessary tools to be effective and quality teachers.

He cited examples such as UWRF’s partnerships with the River Falls school district and clinical experiences that are required for each student. Solberg said this gives every student more experience as they prepare for the classroom.

Solberg said UWRF has adopted a co-teaching model that was first implemented by St. Cloud State.

This model pairs the teacher candidate with a cooperative teacher who works as more of a colleague, Solberg said, than as an observant.

These are things Solberg looks to for reasons that UWRF should not be concerned with their teacher education program.

Retention: Drop in returning students has been trend in last five years

From page 1

bation and suspension rules two years ago we saw a nearly 10 fold increase in the number of students affected by the change,” Delgado said.

O’Brien said that while this tightening may have resulted in dropping out of UWRF, it also pushes students to succeed and encourages them to work harder, so it was not necessarily a bad thing.

This new administrator would sit on Chancellor Dean Van Galen’s council and report directly to the chancellor about how to increase enrollment numbers and retain the students who do enroll to build the success of the University.

While the position’s boundaries are not firmly established, that is the basic idea, said Paul Shepherd, director of Student Life.

A search and screen committee will be put together after the position is defined and officially posted for candidates to apply.

Shepherd said that this will be a national search to find the best candidate.

For O’Brien, the fact that this position is being created shows her how big of a concern this is for the future of UWRF.

As a student, she said that the different programs on campus are possible because of the size of the student body and that the diversity seen at UWRF in the variety of organizations, membership opportunities and personalities are “important to

the student experience.”

With the number of students decreasing, so does the opportunities that are available now, said O’Brien.

Like any other search and screen committee put together on campus to bring in new professors or administration, it is required to have a student on the board to represent student interest in the search of a candidate.

O’Brien said that a good candidate to represent the student body in this decision would be someone who is dedicated to attending meetings and open-minded to the different candidates that may come before them.

Students interested in the position should contact Student Senate.

Budgets: Some committees will present requests to Senate at Feb. 19 meeting

From page 1

“Student review of budgets are expected to be complete by early March.” Riel said that this process is important and they want to keep students informed and make sure they have a voice in what budget plans are.

“Facilities and Fees and Student Senate are very aware of making sure that students have a loud voice in the budget and in their segregated fees,” Riel said.

Students can voice their opinions about the proposed budgets at the Senate meeting held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19 in the Willow River Room in the University Center.

At the meeting the first group of committees present their budgets. Representatives from all committees will be able to answer questions from the Senate and any students who may have concerns.

There will be three more meetings for the remaining committees to make their presentations. They will be held on Feb. 21, 26 and 28.

“Making sure students are able to stay informed is important,” said Riel. Students can find out when meetings are by checking the corkboard next to the C-Store in the UC, which is near the ride share board.

“All of the governing bodies are required to post their agenda at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to the public,” Riel said.

Students can also check the red binder at the Involvement Center Desk in the UC to stay up to date on meetings and agendas.

For other questions, Riel said he welcomes anyone to contact him if they are interested in knowing information about a certain budget and meeting time.

Do you have a favorite professor?

Nominate him/her for a professor profile!

Send your nomination to editor@uwrfvoice.com by 5:00 p.m. Tuesdays

EDITORIALS

Students should be aware of proposed fee increases

Next week at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19, Student Senate will be listening to budget proposals brought forth by the Facilities and Fees Board (F & F).

This past Thursday, Feb. 14, F & F voted on 11 budgets, and the ones which passed will be brought before Senate.

Dining Services has one of the proposed budgets that will go before F & F and then, if passed, Senate. Dining Services is proposing a 5 percent increase to both the 14/week meal plan as well as the 19/week meal plan. The 5 percent increase would raise the price of the meal plans by a little over \$100 per year. Even with these proposed increased fees, UW-River Falls would still have the lowest dining cost in the UW System, according to Dining Services’ projections.

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) also has a budget up for submission. RHA is hoping to increase the amount of money which Resident Assistants (RAs) are paid throughout the year.

Obviously the additional pay for RAs would be added into the housing cost for students next semester as well.

At the Senate meeting, students can come to have their voices be heard about the proposed budgets.

Students should go and have their voice heard at the meeting because the proposed budgets, if passed, will have an impact on them.

Both for what the budget is for, in the case of Dining Services it would mean better food options, longer operation hours and maintence of the dining areas (to name a few), and the additional cost which the students will have to pay.

Student opinion obviously has an impact on if the budgets will be passed or not. Frankly, if you disagree with an increase in segregated fees because of a specific budget request then you have no excuse to not go the Senate meeting.

The UW System is one of the few in which students have a say in the proposed segregated fees. With the economy in its current state, students should take advantage of being heard when it comes to their checkbook. It does no good telling your friends about how you either love or hate the proposed increased fees because unless they are on Senate, they can’t do anything about it anyway. Go to the Senate meeting and have your opinion heard.

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

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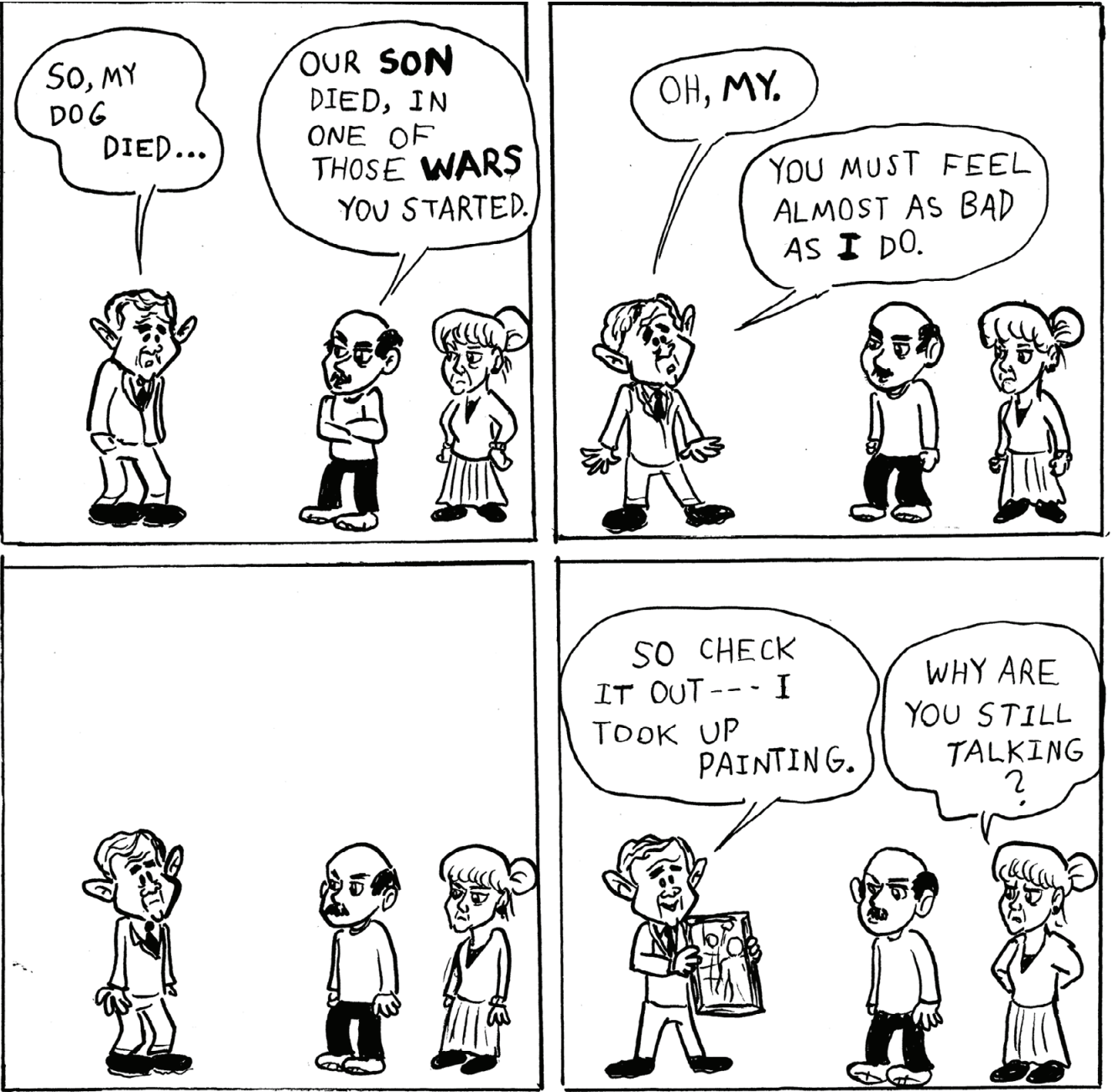
The *Student Voice* is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Fridays during the regular school year.

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

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

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

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



David Recine/ Student Voice

Letter to the editor

Afghanistan: A huge mistake that led to a bigger one

President Barack Obama has handed down an “out of country” date. No doubt the hawks in Congress will bark and bluster. Most Americans, including most politicians, have no sense of history.

Afghanistan is not really a geographic country. It is a territory overseen by a host of warlords who each claim an area, but also despise each other. That is until an outside force intrudes. In the past 1,100 years or so many outside armies have tried to conquer the territory called Afghanistan. All have failed. The British tried twice. It is said that when planning an offensive, they also planned their ultimate retreat after the eventual ambush.

The USSR, with all their military might and the ability to drive across the invisible border, finally gave up after years of humiliating defeats.

So, how and why did America decide to go to war in Afghanistan? American was in an uproar after 9-11. Some felt we had to strike out at someone. Even though none of the 19 terrorists were from Afghanistan, that is who we decided to attack. Fifteen of the 19 were from Saudi Arabia. Key point here: Afghanistan has no oil.

It is now almost 12 years later and we are still in Afghanistan. We could hold the entire territory, but it would require a million troops and the minute we cut back the Taliban would

reappear. Our tanks, artillery and aircraft are virtually useless against an enemy that does not wear a uniform. Today’s terrorists learned from history, especially the North Vietnamese methods of war in the 50s, 60s and 70s.

America, on the other hand, has not learned from history. After the French were routed at Dien Bien Phu, Vietnam, we decided we could save the world from Ho Chi Minh. Years later we left in a panic after suffering 50,000 dead soldiers.

Again in 2001, historians would have warned, and many probably did, about getting involved in Afghanistan. The Afghans did not attack us. They have no army, navy or air force. In fact, the entire Afghan economy is no larger than that of St. Croix County, especially if you exclude their heroin production.

People have asked me why I write to college students. You have yet to affect America in a major way. All of us who went before you have befoiled the economy, the environment and even the educational system. I’m hoping you, and those who follow you, will learn from our mistakes. Much of that learning comes from paying attention to history.

By the way, in my title “Afghanistan, a huge mistake which led to a bigger one,” the bigger mistake was the war in Iraq.

Marvin L. Nelson
River Falls



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Rape culture staple of American society

Morgan Stippel
Columnist

This past fall, in the thick of the presidential election season, there was major controversy surrounding the issue of rape. Richard Mourdock, a GOP Senate candidate, made a remark stating that any pregnancy resulting from rape is “a gift from God.” Clayton Williams, the Republican candidate in the 1990 Texas governor’s race, nonchalantly said that victims of rape should “relax and enjoy it.” These words coming directly from our country’s leaders clearly reflect the rape culture that plagues our nation today.

The most obvious characteristic of our rape culture is the sexual objectification, specifically of women, that exists in a multitude of forms. In the media, women are often portrayed as sexual objects, instead of human beings. For example, female characters in movies and television shows are often seen wearing revealing clothing that is designed to make them sexually appealing. In addition, thousands of companies use women in advertising campaigns as a source of sex appeal to increase their product sales. While the media clearly plays a significant role in this problem, the pornography industry is a catalyst for such sexual objectification. Pornographic outlets tend to depict women in compromising positions by showing men acting aggressively towards them for the sake of sexual pleasure. In addition, this content makes

it appear as if the woman’s purpose is to satisfy the sexual needs of the man. If our society believes the content that the pornography industry exposes it to, it is no mystery why the act of rape is so common: everything about the content we are exposed to tells us that this aggressive behavior is acceptable.

Another contributing factor to our nation’s rape culture is the victim-blaming attitude that many people take on when citizens admit to being rape victims. If a man or woman reports that he or she was raped, that person is immediately subjected to a plethora of questions from police officers, lawyers and advocates. These questions are not always centered on the incident itself. Victims can be asked what they were wearing at the time, how they were acting before the incident occurred or even if they are lying about the encounter altogether. This extensive questioning is not designed to help the victim. Instead, these questions cast blame upon the victim as if he or she could have stopped the rape from occurring by doing something differently.

According to the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network, 97 percent of rapists will never spend a day in jail. The main reason these criminals are not punished for their crimes is because many victims do not come forward to report the

attacks. Our rape culture has become so strongly engrained in our society that citizens are afraid to admit to being victims or rape because it is likely that they will be blamed for the incident. Victim-blaming occurs because it is far easier for our society and its institutions to cast blame outwardly instead of accepting responsibility for the roles they play in facilitating rape culture.

The final characteristic of our country’s rape culture is the fact that as a whole, we trivialize incidences of rape. The leaders of our nation have a high level of insensitivity towards this issue (as demonstrated by the quotes in the opening paragraph), and this insensitivity trickles down to our citizens. Our society makes it appear as if rape is not a significant issue when in reality, rape is becoming increasingly more common. Unless our nation chooses to view rape as a problem, it is likely that our rape culture will continue to grow until it is outside the realm of our control.

I fully realize that many people will read this article and label me as a raging feminist. These people are part of the problem. Recognizing the existence of a rape culture in our society makes me nothing more than a realist. Until Americans choose acknowledge the problem at hand, incidents of rape will become more prevalent in our society, and guilty criminals will continue to walk freely among us.

Morgan is a junior majoring in political science and minoring in professional writing. When she graduates from UW-River Falls, she wants to become a state prosecutor and specialize in domestic violence cases.


I fully realize that many people will read this article and label me as a raging feminist. These people are part of the problem.

STUDENT
Voices

Compiled by Alicia Carlson and Meg Rodriguez


What do you think a professor's salary should be?

"Anywhere between \$40-80,000."




Lindsey Sokol

"It depends on the professor."




Lexi Dusell

"I think it depends on the University. But somewhere between \$80-90,000 a year."



Jake Langeslay

"A bagillion."





Michael Czech

Vote in our online poll:

Should UW-River Falls allow co-ed dorm rooms?

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Find Freddy's Feather!

Last week's winner was Michael Peterson!

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 Theatre!

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

Falcon Center to be envy of Midwest

Ashley Goettl
ashley.goettl@my.uwrf.edu

After a decade of waiting, planning meetings and four open forums, the initial design and plans for the new Falcon Center have been proposed. UW-River Falls Athletic Director Roger Ternes said the center will have a “wow” factor and will be the envy of the Midwest.

The plan includes renovations to Hunt Arena, a brand-new gymnasium named after Falcon basketball legend Don Page, new athletic offices for coaches, health and human performance classrooms, and improved facilities for recreation and sporting activities, according to the Falcon Center project’s website (uwrf.edu/falconcenter). The building includes a human performance laboratory, dance studio, auxiliary gym, locker rooms, training rooms and other supporting spaces. The project also remodels approximately 14,670 square feet of space in the existing Hunt/Knowles complex to tie into and support the new addition.

Ternes added that some of the highlights that came out of the open forums include having the climbing wall to be “beacon of the fitness center” as you enter the building, and maybe even making a full-service lunch area to accommodate for students in that area and to compensate for the overcrowding in the University Center during the noon-hour.

One of the challenges will be the renovation to Hunt Arena, which may overlap with hockey season. Ternes said the plans are for the hockey teams to still be able to play at Hunt during construction, but if plans take longer than expected, they may have to temporarily move. However, he said if the plans take longer, it is because more upgrades are being made, and thus the arena will benefit in the long run.

Campus planner Dale Braun agreed and said that the construction can be like any other construction project, but that the buildings can still be accessible.

“Our design team has been looking at how the project can be phased. We have told the designers that the buildings need to remain open during construction, and that is being taken into consideration as they design the project. There may be some restricted parking at times, some spaces may be closed at times, but in general, Hunt and Knowles should operate pretty much normally,” Braun said.

The main challenge will be “interfacing” the existing buildings into the new construction, Braun added, and in particular, their mechanical systems like heating, lighting and plumbing. That will require periodic shut-downs of those systems. Another challenge will be the impact on users of the facility. “While spaces will remain open, occupants will have to contend with some noise, dust,

varying room temperatures and some inconvenience,” Braun said.

However, he said that the benefit of having athletics, health and human performance, and recreation and sport facilities all in one centralized location will be a huge benefit to the community.

All three involved departments: athletics, health and human performance, and recreation and sport facilities have collaborated on the project.

“I am thoroughly impressed with how the three departments worked together on this multi-purpose project,” Ternes said. “We are getting a lot of facility for our money.”

The project is estimated to cost \$63.5 million, but \$47.5 million of that comes from the state of Wisconsin. During a time when budgets cuts seem rampant, Ternes said that if the money were not used at UWRF, it would just be sent to Oshkosh or Stevens Point, for example.

“The time for upgrades is well past-due. We are woefully behind everyone in the UW System, so why not us?” Ternes said.

“We’re not going to apologize for having the nicest facilities.” The other funding for the project comes from student fees and the UWRF Foundation. On April 25, 2000, Student Senate approved a resolution to increase segregated fees to fund the program revenue contribution to this project. That increase was based on a program revenue contribution of \$3,846,150 to the then estimated total project budget of \$25,641,000. In spring 2005, the UWRF Foundation agreed to provide up to \$2,056,000 of gifts toward this project. Then, in March 2008, the Senate approved an additional increase of the segregated fee to an amount not to exceed \$6,173,000. This equates to an annual segregated fee impact of \$72.15 per student for this project, according to the project request proposal for the

Falcon Center design plan and schedule

- Design development- August 2013
- Construction bidding- July 2014
- Begin construction- September 2014
- Substantial completion- October 2016
- Occupancy- January 2017
- Total budget estimate: **\$63,512,000**

2011-2013 biennium budget.

The project got the go-ahead through advanced enumeration for the 2011-2013 biennium budget. The proposed Health and Human Performance (HHP) Building project (now the Falcon Center project) was also included in the University’s 2001-03, 2003-05, 2005-07, 2007-2009, and 2009-2011 biennial capital budget requests.

According to the Falcon Center website, “In 1994, a comprehensive analysis of existing facility conditions was conducted in anticipation of a major capital renewal project in the Karges Center, then 35-years-old. The analysis determined that both quality and quantity of the main instructional and indoor athletic facilities were substandard. To address these deficiencies, a concerted planning effort occurred in 1999 involving UWRF, UW System Administration, and the Division of State Facilities staff.”

As a result, a solution was developed to construct a replacement facility, which today has become the Falcon Center.

Upon completion of the new facility, the Karges Physical Education Center and the Emogene Nelson Building (now occupied by HHP) will be demolished. Demolition of those buildings will eliminate operating costs and maintenance needs in those facilities, according to the website.

According to the Falcon Center website, the HHP program, which was recently cited by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as an exemplary health education model, is the only National Association of Sport and Physical Education accredited K-12 teacher certification program in the State of Wisconsin and one of only a few in the Midwest. In 2012 there were over 250 HHP majors and over 300 minors and over 3,000 students taking a physical education class. The Falcon athletic website estimates that over 400 student-athletes participate in a varsity sport at UWRF.



Photo from www.uwrf.edu/FalconCenter

A proposal of what the basketball arena could look like inside the Falcon Center upon completion. For more photos of the project, see page eight.

Ryder: talented two-sport athlete

Amanda Ryder: Senior on the women’s hockey team

Amanda Ryder is a senior defensive player and captain of the women’s hockey team. She also played two years on the Falcons’ softball team as a center fielder in her career. She was named to the NCHA first team for hockey her freshman and sophomore year. She is putting together another strong season this year with seven goals and 10 assists.

High school: Menomonie High School

Favorite hobby: Hanging out with family and friends

Favorite color: Yellow

Favorite movie: “Sweet Home Alabama”

Favorite actress: Rebel Wilson (Fat Amy)

Favorite artist: Eric Church

Favorite thing about River Falls: The people I have met and the school’s atmosphere.

Quietest teammate: Nobody really is, but Leah Gefroh probably.

Favorite athlete: Jonathan Toews

Best softball memory: Back to back conference champs, and coming back to beat UW-Whitewater (twice) and UW-Eau Claire in the same day last season.

Best hockey memory: Beating Gustavus to go to the Frozen Four my freshman year, but hopefully more memories to come!

Amanda Ryder
Women’s hockey, softball



Lara breaks UWRF swim records

Victor Lara: Freshman on the men’s swimming and diving team

Victor Lara is a freshman swimmer who has had a strong season for the Falcons. He has broken into the top times for UW-River Falls swimming history. He his from Sao Paulo, Brazil and was named to the dean’s list in his first semester at UWRF.

Favorite food: Brazilian barbecue

How did you decide on River Falls: I decided based on the College of Business and Economics and the swim team. My goal was to find a university that could have a good program of business and also a competitive swim team.

Favorite thing about River Falls: It is easy to make friends and know everyone.

Least favorite thing about River Falls: River Falls does not have public transportation.

Interesting fact about yourself: I have never gone hunting or ice fishing before in my life, I like to play the guitar and I have seven out of the top 14 times for UWRF swimming.

Anything you are looking forward to trying here in Wisconsin that you have not yet: I really want to try ice fishing and learn how to ski and snowboard.

Craziest teammate: Justin Arneson

Best swimming memory: It was when our swim team almost beat one of our rivals, UW-Oshkosh. Everyone on the team is willing to beat them at the WIAC Championships on Feb. 14-16.

Victor Lara
Swimming



Two teams enter postseason play this weekend

Swimming and Diving

The men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams will be competing in the WIAC Championships Feb. 14-16 in Brown Deer, Wis.

The men’s swim team is 5-2 going into the meet and the women’s team is 4-4 overall on the season. This weekend will be the last meet of the season for both teams.

Top performers to watch at the meet will be Victor Lara, David Zaske and Lucas Hetzel for the men’s team and Hannah Wiseman, Candy Hoelzel and Becca Skelly for the women’s team.

The Championships will begin 10 a.m. Thursday and end on Saturday also with 10 a.m. set as the start time.

Men’s hockey

The men’s hockey team finished with a regular season record of 12-9-4 and received the sixth seed in the NCHA tournament. The team will be competing in the first round of the NCHA tournament Feb. 15-16 at UW-Stevens Point in a first team to three points series. This means if the teams both win one game or tie both the series will be decided in a 20 minute mini game following Saturday’s game.

Top performers to watch will be leading scorer, with 27 points, Adam Cardwell, and goalie Scott Lewan who finished the season with 106 more saves than the next goalie in the conference.

The puck is set to drop for the first game at 7:05 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15.

‘Warm Bodies’ lacking in gore



Ryan Funes

Reviewer

When thinking of “love” and “romance” in movies, zombies are usually the last thing to come to mind. However, after watching “Warm Bodies,” you will definitely think twice.

Not much can be said of the movie’s protagonist. In fact, even he cannot say much about himself. He does not remember his name, who he was, what life he lived, only that he is a zombie now, spending his life trudging aimlessly around an airport with many others who have fallen to a zombie infection. But this zombie, who names himself R (after the letter he remembers from his original name), is different, in that he can still feel and think for himself, and he knows that he wants to stay this way, to retain what is left of his humanity before it leaves him like it did for so many other zombies.

This humanity, though, is what leads R to find a human girl named Julie who is from the last uninfected city out there, and he falls deeply in love with her. Going as far to bring her to his home, he bonds with her, and she in turn warms up to him, finding him to

be one of the only decent zombies out there. Now R must protect and teach Julie, and her whole civilization as well, that even after death, love and humanity finds a way.

What struck me first when I heard about “Warm Bodies” was that it was a zombie film and romantic comedy, something that I had not heard of before. That said, I was actually pretty excited for this concept since I had not seen it before. And thankfully, this movie manages to get across that concept pretty well, but not without a few hiccups in some areas.

The unique thing about “Warm Bodies” is that it works in both ways as a zombie film and romance, but more so in the romance department. The relationship between R and Julie is very well fleshed out over the course of the movie, as we see R protect and care for Julie from the zombies in any way that he can and Julie in turn helps bring out the humanity in him by showing him fun and love. It is a really sweet relationship that by the end feels fully realized and natural.

In the zombie movie department, the film does something different in that it does not focus on the paranoia, deconstruction of society or horror of a zombie apocalypse that so many other zombie movies have done. Rather it focuses on the emotional and human side of the walking dead. The whole backstory of where this zombie apoca-

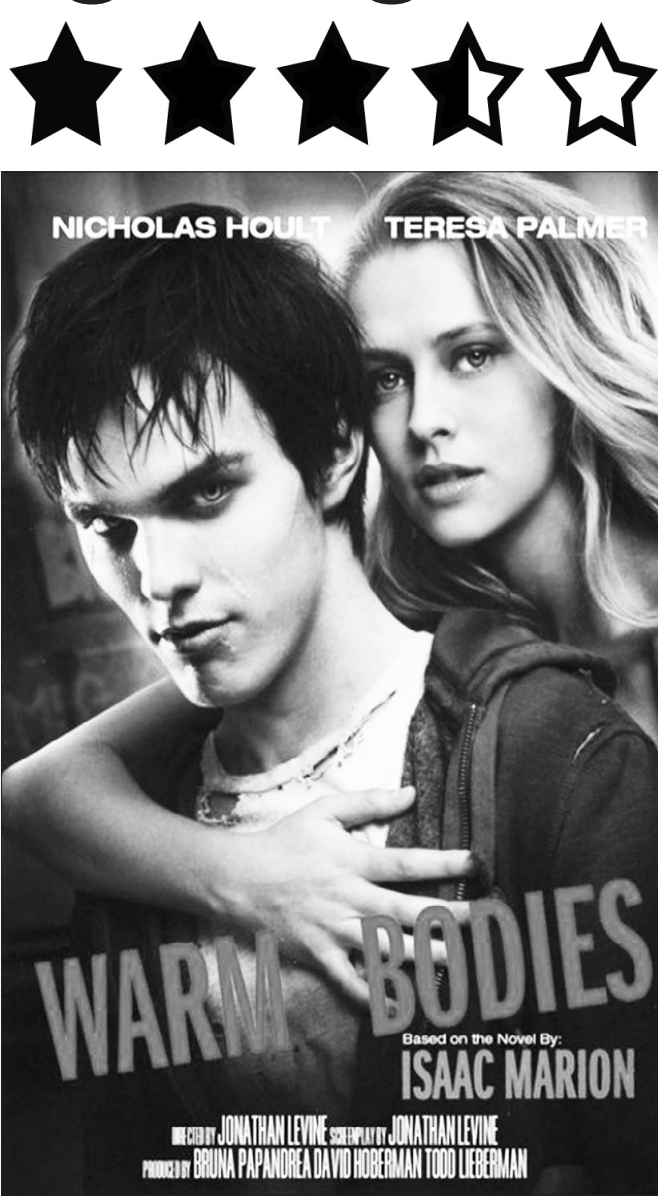
lypse came from, and what caused it is tossed aside in favor of exploring how our deeper emotions make us living or dead inside. It also shows that these feelings are not just what keep us living life to the fullest, but what make us truly human.

With that in mind, it should also be of note that this movie lacks a lot in the gore and violence department, so fans of that side of coin may want to look elsewhere.

While the movie handles the love and romance side of it well, it falters in other areas. Despite the movie being billed as a zombie-romance-comedy, I did not find the movie to have used the comedy to its fullest. The movie does not feel like it takes full advantage of all the comedy there can be in this kind of setting and story. There were a few moments where I chuckled, but not enough to satisfy my urge for humor.

By the end though, “Warm Bodies” does right what it set out to do while adding some creativity to boot and, in my book, that makes it a movie worth anyone’s time. It’s the kind of movie that will make you feel all kinds of warm inside despite its flaws and is a definite one to watch with that special someone, whether they be girlfriend or zombie film enthusiast.

Ryan is a lover of all things movie, TV, video games and stories and wants to become a television writer someday. In his spare time he enjoys hanging with friends, tapping into his imagination and watching cartoons of all kinds.



Embarrassing moments at Wal-Mart, restaurant

Tyler Smith

Columnist

Technically, I am classified as a junior at UW-River Falls and, being such, a certain level of maturity and competence is expected going into your third year of college.

I find this is not the case with myself.

Ofentimes I go out of the way to have fun, or to embarrass myself and the people that, on any given day, may or may not be my friends or family (depending on their tolerance toward my level of shenanigans).

Wheeling through the salt-dusted floors of a bleak looking Wal-Mart this past month with my grandmother, I did everything I could to try and embarrass her.

First I began by asking a sales associate where I might find the baby food, and the blue-clad associate pointed me in the right direction, and then asked how old my supposed little baby was.

I replied, “Oh it’s not for a baby, it’s for me. I just love those little sweet potatoes, you don’t even have to peel them. Good stuff.”

The associate, in true Wal-Mart fashion, gave me an

awkward smile and turned to run from the scene, the electric wheelchair beeping loudly as they sputtered in reverse.

After that incident my grandmother evaded me the rest of our shopping journey.

Who could blame her?

Gathering the few items that I needed from the store (rubber-bands, fly swatter, air horn, etc.) I went to self check-out. Self check-out is a fantastic option for the skeptical shopper because you can avoid the cashier who has neglected to wash their hands before exiting the restroom facilities.

While sitting in line waiting to be next, I saw my grandmother going through the express lane with her items.

Going over to her, I took the orange fly swatter and swung at her derrière with it.

Turns out, it wasn’t my grandma. It just looked like her.

How does one explain swatting another person in the buttocks with a fly swatter in Wal-Mart?

Thankfully no charges were filed from the woman. In fact, I did not even get a dirty look, just a strange twisted little smile like the Cookie-Monster gets when he sees a cookie.

Other than demoralizing myself in Wal-Mart, I also like to upset people when I travel to four-star restaurants.

I have this friend Julie who is apprehensive about enter-

ing four-star establishments because she feels bewildered by which fork to use for a particular course or entrée.

Personally, whichever fork looks the lightest is the one that I will use because I do not want to overexert my muscles. I do not possess much endurance or stamina as it is.

Julie and I are sitting down with our group at the table, and the bread comes to us in elaborate dishes. She gingerly removes a piece while maintaining perfect posture, not even slouching.

She begins biting into the bread when I determine to strike like a ferocious mongoose that is hopped up on excessive levels of caffeine, I throw my own bread at her from 7 feet away.

I get the look from Julie.

The look that says, “We are no longer officially friends. If you died, I would not attend your service.”

That type of look.

All I can do is raise my glass and wink.

Regardless if you’re a wee-lad or lass, or a growing adult, throw away the false bravado and let yourself be free in the way you approach your life.

Above all, do not ever, ever, take yourself too seriously. Ever.

Love changes, evolves over time

Miranda Hammel

Columnist

Now I know that most people say similar things to the statement above, but it’s true isn’t it? It’s the scariest thing when you realize how much someone means to you. When it really hits you, that’s when all the questions and scenarios rush through your mind.

Someone that was once a stranger, you know like your favorite book. Someone you once had no emotions for, has the power to break your heart.

Someone you never hung out with now consumes most of your time. Someone you never thought you’d love now owns your entire heart. Someone you once lived without knowing, you now wish to hold onto forever.

So as that spring weather approaches let us all who are single not be quick to judge, or get down about ourselves because your perfect person is out there.

My theory is, that if you haven’t met, “the one” yet, it’s OK because we are all still young and have our whole lives ahead of us. Enjoy being you, and when that person comes knocking on your door, hopefully you’ll be ready!

If you are in a relationship,

remember to keep that public display of affection (PDA) to a minimum, there is still a whole campus watching your every move and to some it could be unsettling to some while trying to sip down their coffee.

However, when you’re in love, it should bring out the crazy side in you and you should feel OK with being yourself. I’m not here to judge, but when you love, make sure you love with everything in you.

Valentine’s Day just ended, and somehow that “holiday” tends to lead people to trip over their feet for others. I guess though, that when you are attracted to someone, it’s because of the details. Their kindness, their eyes, their smile, even their scent.

So as we all trip over our crushes this spring, just remember something that F. Scott Fitzgerald once said, “There are all kinds of love in this world but never the same love twice.”

Lastly, if you get your heart broken from a relationship you thought could have been or was but only for a little while, don’t get too down because moving on is the best thing you can do for yourself, and mama did say there’d be days like this.

Presidents Day honors history

Cristin Dempsey

Columnist

Just one month after this year’s presidential inauguration brings another day to honor the numerous men that have led our country throughout history.

Every year on the third Monday in February, the United States takes the time to honor all of the U.S. presidents on the federal holiday known as Presidents Day. It is a day that was originally chosen to celebrate first president George Washington’s birthday, but it is now a day used to honor all our past leaders.

Instead of thinking of it just as another day, it is important to develop knowledge on the federal holiday and what it means to the United States.

The idea for this federal holiday was first implemented in 1879 as an act of the United States Congress for the government offices in the District of Columbia. The sole purpose for this day was to honor our first president on the anniversary of his birth. In 1885 the idea expanded to include all federal offices in the District of Columbia.

This was officially the first federal holiday to honor an American citizen, so Presidents Day was always celebrated on George Wash-

ington’s actual birthday, Feb. 22.

It was not until Jan. 1, 1971, when the Uniform Monday Holiday Act shifted the federal holiday to be the third Monday of February. It is said that this bill went into law in order to promote business.

This new implemented act placed Presidents Day anywhere between the dates of Feb. 15 and Feb. 21 annually. This change makes referring to it as Washington’s Birthday a bit preposterous, as it never lands on his actual birthday.

The first attempt to turn the federal holiday into a generic Presidents Day honoring every president was in 1951, when Harold Stonebridge Fischer formed the “Presidents Day National Committee.” His goal was to honor the office of the presidency rather than any particular president. It was originally believed that this holiday should be observed on March 4, the original date of the presidential inauguration. However, the Senate Judiciary Committee stalled the bill that would recognize March 4 as the date of the federal holiday. Since it was so close to both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln’s birthday, having the holiday be on March 4 would be a particularly burdensome idea.

Despite this decision, March 4 was still observed as a federal holiday in several states, observing their own version of Presidents Day.

The official name of “Presidents Day” was proposed in

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.

Phone lost, found in New York



Amanda White
Columnist

I both lost and found my iPhone the first weekend I was in New York. It’s a story worth telling because realistically, I should not have my iPhone right now. Realistically, my iPhone should be in between the seats in the back of a yellow taxi, carting businessmen and other Manhattanites around the city.

My iPhone was lost on a Saturday night. I was distraught because my parents have been warning me about the potential of losing my iPhone in New York for months now. They were convinced someone would steal it right out of my hands, or I would leave my purse unzipped and open, like I usually do, and someone with quick fingers would snatch it without me ever knowing better.

When my parents would start trying to convince me that I didn’t take good enough care of my iPhone and I was just asking for it to be stolen, I would scoff at them. I paid for my iPhone and I continue to pay my phone bill every month. Of course, I would take care of it. Don’t they realize I’m an adult who has never lost something as expensive as an iPhone?

Well, there is a first time for everything, and when I realized that I had been separated from my iPhone, I kicked myself. What would my parents think? I have been out here for a day and I have already lost the most important tool at my disposal. Without it, I could not route my way home, I could not call my parents to tell them I was without my iPhone and I couldn’t even call Sprint or Apple to ask them what I should do.

I was in no shape to start the hunt for my iPhone until Sunday afternoon. I woke up at 3 p.m. panicked. I logged

onto the “Find my iPhone” website with low hopes because my iPhone was almost dead, like always, when I lost it. Like I suspected, it couldn’t be found, so I Googled the closest Sprint store and hopped on a bus. I’m pretty sure it was the wrong bus, but miraculously I spotted a Sprint store and got off the bus.

I didn’t even know which part of Queens I was in. The rest of this story seems totally unbelievable, but I assure you, I am just as confused as you probably are. As soon as I approached the salesperson, I broke down. I hadn’t yet cried about my missing iPhone, but I also think I was letting out any anxiety from being in an entirely new city completely alone.

The salesperson made me sit down, she got me a bottle of water and she gave me her own iPhone to call my mom. Then she had me log onto “Find my iPhone.” I was kind of annoyed that she wanted to check it again because I just knew it wouldn’t show up. Lo and behold, my phone was 40 percent charged and hanging out somewhere around 24th Street in Manhattan. I think I went into shock.

What does one do in this situation? I could see the exact intersection where my beloved iPhone was sitting. I wanted to hop onto the train immediately and track down where it was. But that would be stupid.

So we called my number over and over, hoping that whomever had my iPhone didn’t have nefarious plans. My salesperson (I really should have gotten her name) asked me if I remembered what my taxi driver looked like. All I could remember was that he was wearing a turban. I thought that was an odd question, but I rolled with it. Since whomever had my iPhone wasn’t picking up, we decided to call the police. So the NYPD showed up. I felt like the dumbest person, crying about my lost iPhone to these two cops. I’m positive they rolled their eyes at me. I would have rolled my eyes at myself, too.

While the police were asking me questions about how I

lost it, someone called the store. The salesperson answered and immediately started speaking a foreign language. She was Indian, but I know that India has many official languages, so I can’t be sure which one she was using. It seemed like she was on the phone forever, but when she finally hung up, she told me that the guy who had my iPhone was the taxi driver and he would bring it to me.

The cops left, and I had a million questions for her. Was he coming tonight? No, she told me. He was working and couldn’t just drive all the way out to the eastern side of Queens. He was also charging me \$45 to bring it out to the Sprint store. This is the sketchiest thing I have ever gone along with, but at that point, \$45 seemed trivial.

I was told to come back Monday evening with cash and I was sent on my way. As my bus brought me back to my apartment, I began to question what just happened. How do I even know that the guy with my iPhone actually had it? What if it was a scam? I made myself sick thinking about all the possibilities.

The next day, as soon as my class was over, I dragged my roommate to the bus stop. I ran from the bus to the Sprint store, convinced the salesperson wouldn’t be there and I would still be phoneless. But it was there, leopard case and all. I cried, again. I am still convinced something fishy went down with the whole situation, but I try not to think about it. I was shooed from the store with a stern lecture to not lose my phone again because next time won’t be as easy.

Foreboding as that sounds, I am still eternally grateful to that salesperson who helped me when no one else could. And hey, mom and dad? I get it now. You were right. I’ll be more careful.

Amanda is a junior, majoring in journalism. She is currently studying in New York City. She enjoys entertainment, fashion and public transportation.

Designs emerge for Falcon Center

Entire project to be completed by 2017



Freshman Ashlyn Mader warms up for her weight lifting class on the elliptical in the Emogene Nelson Center. This building will be destroyed upon completion of the Falcon Center project.



Proposed ideas for new equipment for the Falcon Center include more open space.



A possible proposal to the new Falcon Center lobby entrance. The project is expected to be completed in 2017.

For complete project details and history of the project, see “Falcon Center to be envy of Midwest” on page six.



This design is a possible proposed exterior to the new Falcon Center. Other renovations include upgrading Hunt Arena and the Knowles Center, along with added a new gymnasium.