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STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin River Falls

September 27, 2013 www.uwrfvoice.com Volume 100, Issue 2

Swim team finds coach, saves season

Ryan Tibbitts
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The UW-River Falls swimming and diving team unified together to save the program and find a head coach with their season set to start in less than a month.

The team is scheduled to have their first meet on Oct. 19, at home against UW-Oshkosh, but after former head coach Ryan Hawke left UWRF two months before the season, it was a scramble to find a new coach.

“We immediately put together a description locally and regionally looking for either an assistant coach on another team, or a grad assistant that would be qualified and interested in the position,” said UWRF Athletic Director Roger Ternes.

Ternes sent out an email to the team telling them their program would be suspended if a coach was not found by the start of the academic year, according to an article in swimmingworldmagazine.com.

The athletic department brought in two qualified candidates to interview for the job. One applicant withdrew his name before he interviewed, and the other candidate later withdrew his name after the interview.

Ternes said that the athletic department had been in constant communication with the team throughout the process and after the last applicant took his name out they set up a meeting to discuss the future.

“We had a meeting with Ternes, Crystal Lanning (Assistant Athletic Director) and Jim Thies (Sports Information Director) about the direction the team was going,” said junior swimmer Lucas Hetzel. “They told us we were in danger of being suspended if we did not find a coach so we convinced them to let us go out and search for one ourselves. They gave us one week.”

With one week to find a candidate, the whole swim team came together looking

for possible candidates.

“In other sports like basketball and hockey there is a big difference between the men’s and women’s team, with swimming we are one team and we all have come together in this,” Hetzel said.

Sophomore swimmer Michael Landorf said, “The athletic department for whatever reason had not posted the job on the WIAC or NCAA swim pages, so we went and did it ourselves. In three days we had eight applicants.”

Ternes said that the WIAC does not post vacancies, but every WIAC school which supports swimming and diving was notified by the athletic department.

Late last week the athletic department interviewed two qualified candidates out of the eight the swim team had received, and early this week ran background checks and references on both, according to Ternes.

Mike Bollinger was announced the new head coach late Wednesday afternoon,



Used with permission from Brian Gennow
Members of the swim team practice together at River Falls High School, where they use the pool. They worked together to find a new coach in one week.

according to uwrfsports.com. Bollinger was previously the head coach of the girl’s swimming and diving team at Simley High School in Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

When asked how the swimming and diving team was able to find so many can-

didates in such a short time on their own Ternes said, “I am not sure how so many new applicants found out, I think from re-posting it online and through connections with swim clubs around the whole region.”

There was talk that the

swim team would join the swim club on campus if the program was suspended, but that is an option that Hetzel said the team tried not to talk about.

“We were determined that

See Swim page 3

Higher prices at pump affect commuter students



Junior David Zaske fills up his tank after class at the local gas station. Commuter students feel the strain of rising gas prices. The average price for a gallon of gas in Wisconsin is currently \$3.43.

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According to a recent report from GasBuddy.com, U.S. drivers spent nearly \$3 billion more on gas this past summer than they did the previous summer.

With gas prices naturally fluctuating in price, it has caused students to be more creative with how and where they spend their money, and how they use their cars.

This year there are about 3,784 students who live off campus. The number of commuter students on campus is unknown due to a lengthy and detailed process the University registrar’s office would have to go through.

“In general, we have approximately the same amount of students living on and off campus from year to year. I would say this year, slightly less because we have a smaller student population, as does every UW university,” said Jen Pawelko, Director of Institutional Research at UW-River Falls.

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Students lack Faculty Senate knowledge, interest

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Faculty Senate is the legislative arm of faculty action. It most frequently listens to recommendations for policy changes involving student or faculty affairs, but most students have not known about their distinct presence on campus.

Students are not quite familiar with Faculty Senate, especially those new to UWRF.

“I would assume that the Faculty Senate is composed of teachers that help improve our college experience,” said freshman Alex Carr.

“In general, it is very rare for students to attend to our meetings,” said Faculty Senate Secretary John Heppen.

“It’s too bad because it is for their benefit to attend.”

Heppen has served on Faculty Senate for eight years. He has not noticed a strong student presence during his involvement in Faculty Senate.

“We need to know what the students want. It’s like driving in the dark with no lights on,” said Faculty Senate Chair David Rainville.

Faculty Senate Committees do have seats available for students to fill and make their voice heard.

“Most of those seats are left vacant,” Rainville said. “I can understand because most students have a very heavy load with school.”

Every spring, elections are held for Faculty Senate.

Nominations are accepted for each Faculty Senate term. The members take office during mid-summer, before the start of fall semester.

Faculty Senate has several divisions: the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education and Professional Studies, the Fourth Division, and the College of Business and Economics.

Each division has several seats that need to be filled each year. The seats that are up for election depend on the length of each individual term.

Faculty Senate makes recommendations and pursues actions concerning the general welfare of students attend-

ing the University.

“Our major focus this year is to compensate the staff,” Rainville said. “It creates a problem recruiting and maintaining faculty to create a quality education for students.”

UWRF faculty and staff have not received major wage increases in eight years.

Faculty Senate differs from the Student Senate.

Student Senate serves as the voice of the student body, advocating for problems affecting students on campus.

Faculty Senate is concerned with the University as a whole. It works closely with academic staff, Board

See Faculty page 3

Senate aims for high voter turnout for fall elections

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Student Senate officials hope a high number of UW-River Falls students vote in the fall election, which runs from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.

There are three different kinds of positions open and a total of seven positions up for election, according to Elections Commissioner Mohammad Battah. One at-large senator position, one College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) representative position, and four first year representative positions are the current vacant positions.

Battah urged students to vote in the fall election, since

the students elected will be directly responsible for many facets of campus.

“We encourage all students to vote,” Battah said. “Student Senate is a body formed for the students.”

Senate President Sam Tauchen agreed with Battah and said that Senate is “comprised of students, for the students.”

The vacant positions have different requirements for application. Any student can apply for the at-large senator position, but only students in CAFES can apply for the CAFES representative position. The first year representative

See Elections page 3

Frontage road construction begins

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As of Sept. 11, UW-River Falls’ students were made aware of the construction on the frontage road from Crabtree Hall to the entrance of O-Lot. UWRF Parking informed students via email of the project. It covered certain details, but there are still many intricacies to the project.

For instance, there has been a delay in the beginning of this project. The previously determined start date of Sept. 16, was postponed until between Sept. 25, and 26.

“The whole construction industry is behind the gun,” said Grounds Maintenance Supervisor Joe McIntosh.

With the entire industry having trouble getting caught up with prior projects due to the wet weather this area has had since May, contractors have been forced to postpone many jobs.

The construction is estimated to take approximately three weeks to complete due to the extent of the necessary repairs to the road. The frontage road itself was originally built in 1968, and has only received minor chip and seal repairs until this plan was requested.

“This 45-year-old road was due for repairs, and our staff didn’t want to go through another winter with the original road,” McIntosh said.

All concrete, asphalt and the majority of the base of the road from the entrance of Cascade Avenue near Crabtree Hall to O-Lot will be removed and replaced.

In addition, the general contractor assigned to this project, Pember Company out of Menominee, Wis., will be adding a parking pull-out on the east side of Crabtree Hall. The addition will increase the amount of available space for 20-minute parking.

Pember Company will also attempt to lessen the rise of the entrance to O-Lot which has been an issue for many cars entering and exiting the parking lot.

Grimm, McMillan and Parker Hall will still be accessible through the frontage road. Access to South Forks Suites, Ames Suites, Crabtree Hall and the CHILD Care Center will be restricted to entrance and exit via 6th Street.

The question on many students’ minds is why the construction is taking place this fall rather than this past summer. According to McIntosh, the project request for this construction process was turned in to the Division of Facilities Development (DFD) in November. DFD is a small funds project within the UW System that allocates funds to Facilities projects. Under normal circumstances the project would have advanced to other stages of approval, however funds from the DFD had been depleted. The request was then promptly denied.

The request remained denied until April of this year when funds became available for the project. Once the request had been approved, there were lengthy procedures and other approval processes that had to take place such as engineering design approval and contract bidding.

According to McIntosh, the project itself was a “typical paperwork process” at that point. Once the entire process was finished, the first estimated date for the construction to begin was set at the same time students would be moving into the residence halls. This would have been a large inconvenience to both construction employees and students alike, and the decision was then made to postpone the project until its current starting date.

While the process will be lengthy and frustrating for some, there are still many students who believe that the construction will be worth the end result.



Desi Danforth/Student Voice
Construction on the frontage road from Crabtree Hall to the entrance of O-Lot began this week.

“The construction is good because the road is very rough and a lot of cars bottom-out on it,” said Kelsey Gwidt, a sophomore and elementary education major, who spends much of her time on this span of road going to and from her off-campus job. “Although the timing is not the best, it definitely needs to be done.”

For more information contact Facilities at 715-425-3827.

News briefs

Fall observatory viewing sessions set at UW-River Falls

The UW-River Falls physics department begins its fall season of free, public observatory viewings and astronomy discussions on Oct. 8.

The first stargazing session at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 8, in 271 Centennial Science Hall, beings with a talk, “Solar Max 2013: Where Did It Go?” by physics Professor Eileen Korenic. If the night is clear, a telescope viewing session will follow at 8:30 p.m., on the third floor observation deck.

A faculty member and/or student will staff each telescope and be available to answer questions. Objects to be seen in the telescopes include planets, globular clusters, open clusters, nebulae, galaxies, moons and double stars.

Since the viewing dome is unheated and the observation deck is outside, visitors should dress appropriately for the weather. The viewings and talks are suitable for all ages.

To verify that the sky is clear enough for viewing, call 715-425-3560 after 6 p.m. or visit www.uwrf.edu/PHYS/Schedule.cfm. The talks, set for 8 p.m., will go on as scheduled regardless of the weather.

Other viewings this fall include:

At 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5, in 271 Centennial Science Hall, “Henges and Megaliths and Cairns, Oh My!: Astronomical Structures in Great Britain” presented by student Anthony

Tumbarello, followed by the 8:30 p.m. telescope viewing on the third floor observatory deck.

At 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 4, in 271 Centennial Science Hall, “The Star of Bethlehem” presented by Korenic, followed by the 8:30 p.m. telescope viewing on the third floor observatory deck.

For more information about the observatory, email glenn.spiczack@uwrf.edu or about pre-observatory talks, email eileen.korenic@uwrf.edu.

Veterans Book Project exhibition at UW-River Falls

UW-River Falls will host the Veterans Book Project exhibition Sept. 27- Oct. 25 in Gallery 101 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. The Veterans Book Project (VBP) (<http://www.veteransbookproject.com/>) is artwork created by Monica Haller.

A public presentation by Haller is set from 11 a.m. to noon on Oct. 9 in the Kinnickinnic Theater in the University Center, followed by a reception with Haller from 4-6 p.m. in Gallery 101.

In 2005, motivated by a desire to understand the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Haller began asking veterans and others with first-hand experience to help her understand war from their perspectives. After finishing her first collaborative artwork in book form devoted to this research, “Riley and His Story,”(<http://www.rileyandhisstory.com/>), Haller began facilitating book-making workshops around the country where veterans organize their personal archives of photographs and writing into manuscripts, which are published as print-on-de-

mand books and free downloads. These books comprise the VBP library.

A complete set of the books have been purchased for the exhibition through the generosity of The American Legion Fletcher-Pechacek Post 121, the UWRF Davee Library, UWRF Veteran Services, UWRF Veterans Club and individual donors. After the exhibition, the books will be available through the library.

Gallery hours are from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. on Monday-Friday and from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday.

For additional information, contact the UWRF Art Department at 715-425-3266.

Annual outdoor art installations are Oct. 2-3 at UW-River Falls

The UW-River Falls art department announces the 22nd Annual Outdoor Art Installations on Oct. 2-3. Faculty and students will be creating outdoor works of art designed to highlight a specific site on the UWRF campus grounds.

Visitors to the campus and UWRF student and staff are asked to please respect the artistic ideas and to not alter or damage the artwork.

Site maps identifying the individual installations can be picked up in the lobby of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building outside Gallery 101 beginning at 9 a.m., on Wednesday, Oct. 2.

The public is encouraged to walk around the campus to view the outdoor installations. For more information, contact the Art Department at 715-425-3266.

UW-River Falls’ Zlesak presents at international symposium on rose research, cultivation practices

David Zlesak, associate professor of horticulture at UW-River Falls gave two presentations at the Sixth International Symposium on Rose Research and Cultivation held Aug. 25-30, in Hannover, Germany.

The first presentation centered on the Earth-Kind model for rose trials, which are conducted under low-input conditions throughout a geographical region to identify cultivars with superior performance for that region.

The Earth-Kind model combines the best of traditional horticulture with organic gardening, with the goal of having low maintenance landscapes. Zlesak has early Earth-Kind observational plantings of roses on the UWRF campus. The presentation was co-authored by faculty at other universities across the U.S. engaged in the Earth-Kind Environmental Management System.

Zlesak’s second presentation focused on rose black spot disease and efforts to identify new genetic markers linked to a gene that confers resistance to the disease. Zlesak collaborated with colleagues at the University of Minnesota on this research.

The symposium is held under the auspices of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) every four years. It covers all areas of rose research and cultivation practices with updates on the most recent developments in the field. As in the previous symposia, the scientific presentations were combined with a mid-symposium professional tour.

The tour included visits to the two largest German rose breeders, Kordes’ Söhne in Sparrieshoop and Rosen Tantau in Uetersen. Kordes is the pre-eminent breeder in disease resistant landscape roses; Tantau focuses more heavily on cut roses. A third tour stop was to the German variety protection office involved in rose performance documentation of new varieties relative to established varieties in order to secure intellectual property rights throughout Europe. Attendees also toured the Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen. With 8,300 rose cultivars, it is the biggest rose collection in the world.



Photo by University Communications
Symposium participants toured the Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen which houses the biggest rose collection in the world. From left to right: David Zlesak from UW-River Falls; Thomas Debener, key organizer of the symposium; David Byrne, professor at Texas A&M working on rose breeding and genetics; and Jim Sproul, general director of the Rose Hybridizers Association and breeder of several new rose cultivars including the Eyeconic(R) series and Thrive! Roses.

River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

September 10

- Natalie Elizabeth Haugerud was fined \$716 for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia at Crabtree Hall.

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

Check out the
Student Voice
online
at
uwrfvoice.com

Swim: Team unifies Anderson takes on new position at UWRF

From page 1

we would have a season this year,” Hetzel said. “That is something that we did not want to face until we will tried every last thing we could.”

Ternes said he was very pleased with the passion he has seen in the swim team about their sport through this whole situation.

UWRF is one of six WIAC schools that have swimming and diving programs. Currently UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Stevens Point and UW-Whitewater are the other swimming and diving programs. Last season UWRF finished fifth in the WIAC men’s championships and sixth in the WIAC women’s championships, according to

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Kris Anderson has returned to UW-River Falls to take over a brand new position as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment and Student Success.

Anderson started her career at UWRF and went on to work at other schools in the UW System. She has spent the past 12 years at UW-Eau Claire as the Admissions Director and Executive Director of Enrollment.

“When this position opened up I wasn’t necessarily looking to leave Eau Claire, but I have always had a soft spot for River Falls, my first job, but I was ready to do something different, make a change and give back to the place that made me a professional,” Anderson said.

Anderson’s goal is to recruit students, as well as

retain them. “This is a new position. In a nutshell it’s recruiting students, retaining students, and graduating students.”

According to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, Wisconsin’s high school graduating rate peaked at about 71,000 in 2008-09, and is projected to be smaller in all subsequent projected years. It projects that high school graduates will decline about 10 percent through 2015-16, to about 64,100, and stay around this level through 2020-21.

Due to this drop in the amount of graduating high school seniors, UWRF is facing a decline in enrollment.

“In a tough economy, students might go to work, go to a two year college and live at home for a while and then transfer. There is just a lot going on that impacts some

of that up and down enrollment,” Anderson said.

Director of Admissions Mark Meydam is also concerned with the decreasing number of students and what the University has to do to recruit and retain students at UWRF after high school.

“There are less high school students graduating, and there are just as many colleges competing for those fewer number of students and are spending a lot more dollars on getting those students to enroll,” Meydam said.

It is Anderson’s goal to recruit and retain new students in the fastest and best way possible. One of the newer changes that Anderson and other colleagues are working on this year is the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan (SEMP), which combines recruitment, retention, marketing, finances and facil-

ities. Meydam is also working with Anderson on SEMP.

“My goal with the strategic management plan is to present it to campus next spring sometime. Not only will it address new students, but it will look at retention and getting students to complete degrees, and once getting students to enroll here, helping them finish their degrees,” Meydam said.

Anderson is focused on certain things including engaging students and connecting them to resources to help them be successful, making sure they find campus a good fit and supporting them financially by giving them an education at a reasonable price.

“Some folks just look at the problems, why students leave, but I think we also need to look at why they stay and how we can make that better,” said Anderson.

Elections: Senate getting word out on fall voting

From page 1

positions are open to students currently in their first year at UWRF, which does not necessarily mean only freshmen.

All representatives and senators must attend Senate meetings, belong to at least one committee and maintain Senate office hours. College representatives have an additional duty to maintain a relationship with their college deans and departments and bring any college concerns to Senate meetings.

Battah has been working around the clock to get students excited for the fall election, which is an online election that will be sent to all students’ email inboxes beginning Sunday morning. He has advertisements on the access televisions and tables located in the University Center, but admits that students may not know a lot about Senate and what it actually does for UWRF students.

“The one thing I ask of students is if they don’t know something about Senate, ask,” Battah said.

He added that he does not want students to pass on bad information if they don’t understand something Senate does. He also recommended that students attend Senate meetings if they want to have their voices heard.

“All opinions will be taken into consideration,” Battah



Desi Danforth/Student Voice
Kris Anderson returns to UW-River Falls as the first Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment and Student Success. Her goal is to recruit new students as well as retain current students.

Gas: Prices expected to drop after summer high

From page 1

Mike Rice, a sophomore biology major, lives in Stillwater Minn., and drives to school almost every day whether it is in his Buick Lesabre or on his motorcycle.

Rice said that the price at the pump make him more aware of his money.

“Cheap gas is hard to find, and if you spend all your time looking for it, it is not even worth the 10 cents you save in the end, so I’ll usually set aside a set amount of money and try not to buy anything else with my paycheck. It helps to be able to pack your own lunch when you can to help pinch pennies,” Rice said.

In order to help save himself money, Rice tries to spend Tuesday nights at a friend’s apartment in town to help save on gas money,

since he has an earlier class the next day.

According to an article from GasBuddy analysts, the highest price this summer occurred July 18, when the national average reached \$3.68 per gallon, and the low occurred July 4 when prices slipped to \$3.49, a difference of just 18.7 cents. In 2012, that gap was much greater; 42.7 cents per gallon between the summer’s highest and lowest average price.

“Even with prices remaining more stable this year than last, the average price of gas was almost 4 cents per gallon more for the duration of the summer. Having said that, for the 99 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day this year, Americans collectively spent approximately \$2.9 billion more on gasoline this year than they did last year,” said Patrick DeHaan, senior

petroleum analyst. “American households should recover many of the fuel dollars that we surrendered to summer prices.”

On average Rice sets aside \$60 a week for gas when driving 25 miles both ways to and from home.

“If I had the means I would definitely get an apartment on campus or near campus so I could walk or bike whenever,” Rice said.

On Sept. 19, a report was released by GasBuddy explaining how gas prices are expected to drop around Halloween by 20-25 cents. With the drop in gas prices just in time for the holiday season, consumers should be recovering many of the dollars they spent over the summer at the pump.

“When we looked at prices from Sept. 19, through Oct. 31, for a five-year period it

Fall Election Candidates:

Nicole Horwath

Joseph Schmit

Kara Stein

Kenny Anderson

Ryan Byrd

Shelby Hehr

Jennifer Andersen

Spencer Bemis

Nicole Manteuffel

Voting begins on Sunday, Sept. 29 and ends Tuesday, Oct. 1.

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Faculty: Senate wants students to be more aware of it’s role on UW-River Falls campus

From page 1

open because the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law governs them.

“Our decisions have an impact on each student’s academic careers,” Heppen answered, when asked why students should attend.

Faculty Senate meets in a

“I wish students would show up and make their presence known,” said Heppen.

central location for students to attend their meetings, such as the University Center.

“Sometimes the Student Senate members attend. We are really trying to communicate with students and it starts

Athletic department drops ball in swim team coaching search

The UW-River Falls swimming and diving team just hired a new head coach, saving their season and program.

When this story is looked at from the surface, it is one to be truly happy about and we want to congratulate the swimming and diving team, and athletic department on that fact.

For the past two months the team has been staring adversity right in the face. They were told by the athletic department that the program was likely to be suspended due to the fact a new coach had not been hired after their former coach left two months ago.

We believe that everything the team has gone through in the past two months could have been avoided if the athletic department had put proper attention into their situation.

Yes, they did bring in two applicants and yes, they could have never foreseen the two applicants they had brought in withdrawing their names from the position.

But how is it possible that the athletic department was so ready to give up on the program and throw in the towel on the head coach search?

After convincing the department to extend the coach search by one week, the team was able to get eight applicants. While the swim team should clearly be involved in the head coach search, what other team on campus would be put in full responsibility of finding their own coach, because the athletic department failed to do so?

Recall, for example, when the football team’s defensive coordinator left last December, a new one was hired one month later despite football season not starting until late summer.

There is no doubt that the athletic department is proud and supportive of all UWRF athletics, but when you compare how these two different situations were handled it is a head scratcher.

Even though the swim team now has a head coach, this situation has put them behind in pre-season work outs and practices. They will now have less than one month to prepare for their first meet of the season.

When looking at these details it would seem that the swim team has been ignored and forgotten. Every athlete on campus puts in a lot of work to be a Div. III athlete. None of them get any scholarships to do so. They do it for the love of the sport.

The swimming and diving team showed how much they love their sport by banding together to save their program, and that is something we hope the athletic department will take note of and give every sport on campus their equal support and attention in the future.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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Read the *Student Voice* online at www.uwrfvoice.com

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.



Billy Thao/Student Voice

Senate Corner: Student Senate proposes changes

Anthony Sumnicht	The Student Senate Executive Board passed a motion drastically changing the bylaws of Senate.	duties were removed to give the senate the ability to function with more flexibility.
Student Senate Vice President	Motion EX-13-14-02, simply titled “Bylaw Amendments” was proposed by Vice President Anthony Sumnicht and seconded by Ethics Chair Nicholas Vanden Heuvel. This motion will now move from the Executive Committee to the whole Senate, where it will require a week for introduction and then a majority vote to pass. The potential changes will be effective immediately.	The Public Relations Administrator position would be altered to open up the position to all students. The motion also creates a small stipend for this position. This Public Relations Administrator will help Senate engage more effectively with students.
	The proposed changes to the bylaws intend to address a number of issues. The first is repetition and discrepancies among the Senate’s other governing documents. The motion also creates a paid non-voting Public Relations Administrator position on Senate. Lastly, the motion helps to clarify who is part of the Senate, and how far the Senate’s power reaches.	Currently some sections of the Senate bylaws have jurisdiction over all students. The proposed motion pulls back the authority of the Senate, and clarifies who is a member of Senate. With the proposed changes, Senate will consist of the current 25 voting members, all student members of Senate, Advisory and University Committees.
	This motion will create much shorter bylaws, cutting the existing bylaws nearly in half. This is achieved by removing sections of the bylaws that appear in other governing documents. Detailed descriptions of committee and member	There are also a few other changes in the motion. One creates a new ethics and merit process. Another removes the power of discretionary spending by Senate leadership.
		The Student Senate Executive Committee would like to straighten our governing documents early in the year, so we can focus more on the issues that students care most about. These changes should help establish a better foundation for the Senate to achieve its goals.

Find Freddy Falcon’s Feather!

Be the first person to find the lost Freddy the Falcon Feather in this issue of the Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theatre! (105 South Main Street)

The first person to report the find to editor@uwrfvoice.com AFTER 10 a.m. Friday *wins*. The winner will be announced on the Voice’s account on Twitter [@uwrfvoice](https://twitter.com/uwrfvoice)

Playing Sept. 27 - Oct. 3:

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2
7:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. daily
(Sat. & Sun. 2:00 p.m.)

Last week’s winner:
Jacquelyn Cariveau

US must take lead in Syrian crisis

Morgan Stippel
Columnist

By now most of the world is aware of the ongoing conflict in Syria. President Bashar al-Assad launched a chemical attack on his people. Assad used sarin; a colorless, odorless chemical gas that disrupts nerve signals sent to vital organs. This disruption of the nervous system most often results in death. The attack killed at least 213 people adding to the many Assad has already killed off, according to the Washington Post.

In addition to this recent chemical attack, a Syrian civil war has been raging on for over two years.

Taking all of this information into account, it is safe to say that Syria is an extremely unstable state.

The recent deal that both the United States and Russia struck with Syria gives Assad one week to disclose all information regarding his stockpile of chemical weapons. In addition, he must turn these weapons over to UN weapons inspectors, sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and promise never to use these weapons again. If this deal falls through, President Barack Obama has asserted that the U.S. will launch a unilateral military strike on Syria.

Obama drew his “red line” long ago, stating that if Assad used chemical weapons, the U.S. would react. Although the U.S. is prepared to strike, Obama’s inconsistent foreign policy has the world wondering if this is simply another

empty threat.

Regardless of whether or not Obama’s threat is valid, it has raised numerous questions about just how much the U.S. should involve itself in Syria.

Americans commonly state that it is not the United States’ responsibility to police the world. However, upon closer inspection, it really is. The U.S. is virtually in charge of the United Nations, and furthermore, our country sets a precedent that the rest of the world has traditionally followed. If the U.S. turns a blind eye to Assad’s asinine attack, it will set a new global standard.

Ignoring global violence issues, such as the Syria issue, enables dictators to use weapons of mass destruction to murder their own people without fear of reproach. For these reasons, it is critical that the U.S. intervenes in a manner that eliminates Assad’s stockpile of chemical weapons and forces him to pay the price for his treacherous actions.

However, eliminating the stockpile of chemical weapons will still not prevent Assad from killing off his people, nor will it curb the Syrian civil war. The only way to solve the underlying problems of corruption and conflict in Syria is to forcefully oust Assad and democratize the state.

While democratization would get to the heart of the conflict, the U.S. experienced the difficulty, intensity and lengthiness of the democratization process in Iraq under the Bush administration.

On one hand, democratizing Syria would come at a heavy

cost. It is clear that fighting a war of this magnitude would cost a tremendous amount of money, and the government would have to spend billions of dollars to put up a solid fight. Furthermore, the U.S. would have to put troops on the ground, just as it did in Iraq, which would inevitably result in loss of life.

On the other hand, democratizing Syria would change the global stage tremendously. It would give the U.S. an opportunity to send the world a message: if you use chemical weapons, we will find you, and we will bring you to your knees.

This message would reach not only vicious, bloodthirsty dictators like Assad, but also terrorist networks such as al-Qaeda. In the post-Sept. 11 era, many Americans believe it is crucial for the U.S. to assert its dominance and refuse to stand down to any enemy.

It is undoubtedly important for the U.S. to hold Assad responsible for his chemical attack, whether it is through the newly proposed deal or through other means. However, if this fight ceases after the chemical weapons are removed, the root problems will still remain.

The only way Syria will regain any level of stability is if Assad is removed from power and the state is democratized. If the U.S. does move forward with any type of unilateral military strike, it must go all-in and make the decision to democratize Syria.

Morgan Stippel is a junior majoring in political science and minoring in professional writing. She enjoys playing sports, reading, writing, and being politically engaged.

Social networking encourages racism

Hannah Timm
Columnist

Following the recent victory of Nina Davuluri as Miss America, social networking sites erupted. Commenters posted bitter and racially derogatory remarks about Davuluri. Others defended her diverse, Hindu background. While negative comments were criticized and labeled prejudiced on news stations and Internet news sites, many reporters failed to dissect the deeper issue of social networking’s effect on racism.

According to a 2006 CNN article, “Most Americans see lingering racism – in others,” one in eight Americans considers himself/herself racist. Judging by progressive leanings since 2006, the number of self-acknowledging racist Americans has most likely decreased. Unfortunately, recent articles, including the news of Davuluri’s victory, suggest increasing racism.

Psychologists suggest that the majority of people do harbor subconscious racist opinions. However, with social networking sites, subconscious and implicit racism is not kept subconscious or implicit.

On Sept. 23, the Associated Press published an article titled, “Abercrombie settles California suits over head scarves.” The article covered the story of a Muslim woman fired from her Abercrombie & Fitch job. She was dismissed because she wore a hijab (headscarf). As a result, Abercrombie paid the woman \$48,000 and revised the company policy regarding religious accommodations. Overall, the article was impartial and informative, however the comments were not.

Among web commenters of the article, racism is not only permitted, but encouraged. Among the religious and cultural debates of the article, one reader states, “this is not a religious deal nor is it a racist deal. This is a American deal... Why is it a racist idea to want to keep America a English first, country? Why is it racist to want to keep America the way it is. If you wish to become an American you should want to become a American not a Mexican-, Arab- or Muslim-American.”

Upon scrolling below the comment, one will see numerous others with related messages. Some even stereotype and accuse all Muslims of being terrorists or trying to impose Islamic views on American society. Each racist comment is reinforced with multiple “thumbs ups” or “likes” and almost no dislikes. In contrast, any commenters who try to support America’s cultural diversity are either marked as spammers, “thumbed down”/“disliked” or ironically criticized as narrow-minded liberal bigots.

Many of these racist commenters fail to understand the concept of America. Built on diversity, the United States does not even have a national language.


Unless every single one of the commenters is of Native American descent, they come from similar backgrounds as many of the Americans now considered “culturally diverse.” The majority of Americans descend from immigrants. Why do so many “Americans” hypocritically demand that other immigrants return to their countries?

Additionally, the numerous stereotypical comments fail to account for an entire culture. Since Sept. 11, many are

STUDENT *Voices*


What is your favorite food in the UC?

Clayton Brady




“Cookies”

Nolan Hrastich




“Sandwiches”

Sullivan Mann




“Pizza”

Dallas Nicolai



“French fries”

Kayla Pierce



“Ice cream”

Compiled by Alex Gajdosik

quick to label any Arab as a terrorist. Yet, only 68 years ago, America attacked two cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Similar to the Sept. 11 events, the 1945 attacks murdered innocent civilians and left lasting physical and emotional damage on the country.

Americans had no voice in deciding whether or not to attack the Japanese just as Islamic people outside of al-Qaeda had no voice in the terrorist attacks.

Is it fair to consider every American a ruthless murderer because of a government decision? Should Americans consider every Islamic citizen a terrorist because of a small faction’s actions?

While most social networking commenters do not have the credibility to publish their racist opinions, their statements

still represent an American problem. Through the anonymity of social networking, Americans display their true narrow-minded and racist views on cultural, racial and religious diversity.

In a country where diversity is supposedly welcomed, I am disheartened and disgusted from reading Americans’ true opinions.

Patriotic songs boast of America’s accepting nature. Land of the pilgrims’ pride? Crown thy good with brotherhood? Land of the free? Not in today’s society. After reading my fellow citizen’s responses to diversity, I am not very proud to be an American.

Hannah is a sophomore majoring in English: Professional Writing and minoring in Creative Writing. When she graduates from UWRF, she intends to work as an editor.

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Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor:

editor@uwrfvoice.com

Women’s cross country ranked in region

Ben Lamers

benjamin.lamers@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls women’s cross country team is aiming for a goal which has never been accomplished in the team’s history.

“We have goals of making the National Championship this year,” said Co-Head Coach Matthew Cole.

The team is off to the best start it has ever had. It is ranked No. 6 in the Midwest Region, the highest the team has ever been ranked. It also finished fourth out of nine teams at the Falcon Invitational on Sept. 14.

The Falcons return seven of their eight top runners from last year’s squad, which finished fifth at the WIAC meet, the best in school history. However, the team does not return Katie Rydeen, fifth place at the WIAC meet a season ago, who graduated in May.

Co-Head Coach Scott Sekelsky noted that it is hard to fill the shoes of a front runner, but said he believes the team has already done so.

“I had a couple of people, I felt, coming in that I thought could fill those shoes. Because it is really important in this conference that you have a front runner,” Sekelsky said.

After the first race, junior Tia Harris has stepped into the role of the team’s lead runner.

“I’ve never been the lead runner. I just put a lot of training and time into it, and hopefully everything pays off at

the right time,” Harris said. So far it has, as Harris finished the six kilometer course in 22:56, which placed her in sixth place overall.

Cole mentioned how the women’s team has seen overall improvement in recent years. “You look at some times from the past four or five years, some of our middle of the pack girls are running faster than what our No. 1 runners did a few years ago.”

Because of this improvement, the team no longer has the ability to fly under the radar in the conference.

“We’re probably not as unnoticed as we used to be. Last year, no one thought about us. I think definitely the conference people will take notice of us,” Sekelsky said.

The team has their sights set on a higher finish in conference than their best-ever finish last year.

“I really think we can take fourth, or even third. It’s definitely reasonable that we can be in that range, and we should feel that way going in,” Sekelsky said. The conference meet will be run on the same course on which the team just ran the Falcon Invitational, the Kilkarney Golf Course in River Falls.

On Sept. 28, the team will head to the Roy Griak Invitational, hosted by the University of Minnesota. In a meet with

tough competition the team will get a chance to see where they stack up.

“It’s a tough race with a lot of competition,” Harris said.

“We’ll have all of our conference teams there except for Stout, so it will give us a chance to see where we stand in the conference.”

While the team is off to the best start in school history, Sekelsky said that there is plenty of room for improvement.

“We can get healthier, we had a few people who weren’t running. We also have some younger runners who need to learn how to run a 6k. So we definitely have a lot of work to do,” Sekelsky said. “It was a very good start, but we put it in the rear view mirror and

keep going forward. Our goal is way down the road in mid-November.”

Both Sekelsky and Harris mentioned that the team, as a whole, came in almost right where they left off last season. Something they both said is a testament to all the work the women put in over the summer.

“Right now, on paper, we’re better than we were last year,” said Sekelsky.

Left: Junior Tia Harris passing runners from UW-Eau Claire. Harris finished sixth at the Falcon Invitational with a time of 22 minutes and 56.5 seconds. She was the first UW-River Falls runner to cross the finish line. The women’s cross country team placed fourth at the invitational, scoring 100 points.

Alex Gajdosik/Student Voice

Falcon Spotlight: Tia Harris



Sports broadcasting provides career opportunities for undecided students

Brandon Jones

Columnist

Preparing for a broadcast can be as hard or as simple as you make it.

As a member of the sports broadcasting team for the campus radio station, WRFW, I am part of a team that does its best to broadcast as many sporting events each year as possible, while finding a steady balance between the number of men’s and women’s sports presented.

When I know that I’m broadcasting a game, an excitement level hardly describable comes upon me. I prepare my notes, find statistics, interview coaches and learn the proper pronunciation of names. These are just a few of the things that go into a successful sports broadcast. I once heard someone say that in order to succeed, you must first fail. This rings true when it comes to broadcasting sporting events.

Something I had to learn very quickly was that you have to operate under the assumption that everyone is depending upon you to tell them the ebb and flow of a game. Being as descriptive as possible in order to tell where a play on the field is happening or pinpoint where that 20 foot jump shot was taken from. I struggled to grasp these concepts as I was getting my broadcasting feet underneath me.

Now I can admit that these are still things that I struggle with. Not all of this comes easy to me, nor should it. This is a career and a profession which takes an incredible amount of work and passion to succeed. You get what you put you into it.

Take for example, Chris Liermann, the sports director for WRFW. A man who spends countless hours a week preparing broadcasts, organizing schedules, conducting interviews

and then broadcasting games. His broadcasts are exceptional because of the time and effort that he puts into it.

If sports broadcasting is something you are thinking about as a possible career, consider this: there are thousands of people out there all thinking the exact same thing. What do you have to do then to separate yourself from the heard? Well, for starters, you can take everything I have said from above and put it into a context that you see fit, then you can take the next step.

Find someone who you love to listen to. Your favorite local play-by-play of your favorite sports team. For some it may be Paul Allen of the Twin Cities radio station KFAN. His passion for the team that he announces is obvious when he airs a game. His preparation is superb and knowledge of the game is excellent.

So consider Allen, what do you like about him, what don’t you? Listen to other broadcasters and hear what they do right in your eyes. Things that make you want to listen to them call the game even when you could be watching it on TV.

This is a good, albeit brief, starting point for a sports broadcaster. However, this career path can lead you to a job where you will feel like you never have to “work” a day in your life. Use these tips to evaluate yourself, and your own career options should broadcasting not be in your future. Look at the work of others, and try not to only be as good as them, but better. Be an innovator, a game changer, someone that people will someday look at and say, “Now that guy is the example of perfection.”

Brandon is a senior journalism major minoring in political science. Sports means the world to him. The sound of a ball cracking against a bat, a ref blowing his whistle. It all means the same thing for him: happiness. We all have our thing, his is sports.

Ben Lamers

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In only her second season running for the UW-River Falls women’s cross country team, junior Tia Harris has already emerged as the team’s top runner.

Harris was the first Falcon across the finish line at the Falcon Invitational, and was the sixth runner to cross the line overall. Leading her team in a race is something new for Harris.

“I’ve never been the lead runner. In high school I was normally runner five or six, and last year I was runner eight until conference, when I was third,” Harris said.

At the WIAC Championship Meet last fall Harris finished the 6k race in a time of 23:27. At the Falcon Invitational, Harris finished a little more than 30 seconds fast than the time which she ended her season with last year.

She wasn’t the only runner on the team to see improvement from last year, something which Harris attributes to hard work over the summer.

“Multiple people saw themselves starting where they finished last season. Which is a huge step so you can drop so much more time by conference and regionals,” Harris said.

However, Harris, originally from River Falls, did not start out her athletic career by running cross country.

“I played volleyball for six years, and then decided I didn’t like it anymore,” Harris said. “So I quit and joined cross country” So far, that is a move which has turned out well for both Harris and the team.

Harris, a business management major, said that she would like to work in a field where she could lead more by example rather than managing every person, a trait which Co-Head Coach Matthew Cole said he already sees in Harris, and other members of the team.

“There are leaders on the team who lead by performance, work ethic and practice,” Cole said.

While the season is young, Harris already has her sights set on both the WIAC meet, hosted by UWRF, as well as the regional meet.

Keppers WIAC athlete of the week

Lisa Keppers is a sophomore middle hitter on the UW-River Falls volleyball team and was name a WIAC athlete of the week. She led the team with 15 kills and six block assists in the match against UW-Stevens Point, leading to a .333 hitting percentage.

Between the two matches the Falcons played this week, Keppers had a .353 hitting percentage, 22 kills, one solo block and 17 block assists.

Kusilek WIAC athlete of the week

Ryan Kusilek is a sophomore quarterback on the UW-River Falls football team and was named a WIAC athlete of the week. He set a UWRF single-game record against Simpson College, compiling 479 yards of total offense in the game.

Kusilek was the leading rusher in this game as well with 135 yards. One of these rushes was 34 yards and resulted in a touchdown. He completed 22 of his 43 passes for 344 yards and four touchdowns.

Recent results, upcoming events for UW-River Falls Falcon varsity, club athletics

<h3>Volleyball</h3> <p>On Sept. 25, the Falcons fell to UW-Eau Claire 3-0. The score of the first set was 25-16, the second set was 26-24 and the third set was 25-17. They will now have a week-long break before their next match.</p>	<h3>Football</h3> <p>On Sept. 17, the Falcons fell to Sipmsom College 34-35. The team now has a bye week before starting conference play.</p>	<h3>Men’s Rugby</h3> <p>On Sept. 21, the Falcons defeated St. Olaf 102-0. Their next game will be played at home against Viterbo on Sept. 27-28.</p>
<h3>Women’s Soccer</h3> <p>On Sept. 25, the Falcons fell to St. Olaf 2-0. Their next game will be the Alumni game at home on Sept. 28.</p>	<h3>Women’s Golf</h3> <p>The Falcons will be competing at the UW-Stevens Point Invitational on Sept. 28.</p>	<h3>Women’s Tennis</h3> <p>The Falcons will play on Sept. 27, at home against UW- Oshkosh.</p>

Men’s cross country undergoes transition

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Heading into the fall sports season, the UW-River Falls men’s cross country team has a different look to it. The team is now co-coached by both Scott Sekelsky, who was formerly only the women’s coach, and Matthew Cole, who will also be the University’s head coach in track and field. They will act as co-coaches for both the men’s and women’s teams.

This season, Sekelsky coaches the training for both teams, while Cole operates the administrative side.

“What I wanted to do was make Coach Sekelsky our distance coordinator across the board. I wanted to give him the full responsibility of training our men’s distance runners as well as our women’s distance runners,” Cole said. “But I wanted to take away his day to day obligations like budgeting, recruiting and traveling. A lot of the behind the scenes stuff that you don’t see that people don’t typically think a coach has to deal with.”

Coaching the men’s team in addition to the women’s team is something which Sekelsky said is different, but good.

“I haven’t coached both genders for about seven or eight years, but my philosophy is that I wouldn’t coach a female any different than a male,” Sekelsky said. “What I’ve liked is that we’re doing it as one big team. We’re all going to the same place to workout, where we used to go to separate

places.”

Sophomore Kody Guden, who was the No. 1 runner for the team, which finished fifth at the Falcon Invitational, also said that the coaching change was different, but that he likes the new direction.

“He’s [Sekelsky] pretty good and really knows what he’s doing. He’s really concentrated on our times and paces,” Guden said. “I’ve really enjoyed it, having a different coach.”

Another big difference on the men’s team is the large amount of underclassmen leading the way on the course so far this season. At the Falcon Invitational, UWRF was the only team to not have a senior runner in its top seven.

However, despite none of the senior runners being in the top seven, Cole said that he sees a positive relationship between the seniors and the underclassmen.

“We have great leadership in our seniors, which is very important, and our talent is in our youth. We have a strong

sophomore class and have a handful of young guys who are really our pure team, but our leadership up top with our seniors is fantastic,” Cole said. “It’s really what a good program is built on.”

The next meet for the men’s team will be at the Roy Griak Invitational, hosted by the University of Minnesota.

“It’s a hilly course that’s for sure. It really makes you show where your training is,” Guden said. “Either you die or you make it.”

With such a young team, the Falcons are not seen as a favorite in the WIAC conference.

“I think that seventh or eighth range is realistic for them. There are six teams in our conference that ranked in the top 10 in our region. It’s going to be difficult to pass any of those,” Sekelsky said.

However, with a strong group of underclassmen the future looks bright for the men’s team.

“I think in the next five years, we can be in that top five category. It’s going to take a lot of hard work and it’s really about where they want to be,” said Cole.

The men’s team will be running at the Roy Griak Invitational at 9 a.m., on Saturday, Sept. 28, at the University of Minnesota Bolstad Golf Course.

Right: Four UW-River Falls runners competing at the Falcon invitational. From left to right: junior Zach Ambrose finished in 27 minutes and 33.6 seconds, junior Christian Kressin finished in 27 minutes and 17.9 seconds, sophomore Victor Bowen finished in 26 minutes and 58.4 seconds, and sophomore Kody Guden finished in 26 minutes and 48.3 seconds. Guden was the team’s top finisher, Bowen was its third, Kressin fourth and Ambrose was eighth. The men’s cross country team placed fifth at the invitational with a score of 125 points.



Alex Gajdosik/Student Voice

Falcon Spotlight: Kody Guden



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At last season’s WIAC Cross Country Championship, then-freshman Kody Guden was UW-River Falls’ sixth runner.

At the Falcon Invitational, UWRF’s first meet of the year, Guden was the first Falcon to cross the finish line. According to Guden, this improvement didn’t just come out of the blue.

“I put in more mileage,” Guden said. “For this summer I doubled my mileage from last summer. I put in 400 miles this summer, compared to 200 last year, so a big change there.”

Guden, a native of Edgar, Wis., and a dairy science major on campus, currently leads a pack of talented sophomores, which account for five of the team’s top seven runners. However, Guden wasn’t always a cross country runner.

“In high school I basically ran a little bit of track, but I didn’t really do long distance until my junior year,” Guden said. “I actually played football at the beginning of my sophomore year. One of my friends told me, ‘Junior year you should take up cross country.’ I did, and ended up being the second runner on the team. Ever since I’ve just been running.”

Despite having recent success at the Falcon Invitational, Guden’s favorite part of the season happens before the team even hits their first race.

“We have cross country camp coming in. It was really fun my freshman year when I got to learn and know everybody,” Guden said.

Hockey team attends Walk to end Alzheimer’s, helps raise \$33,000



Photo used with permission by Mary Jo Sutton

The UW-River Falls men’s hockey team attended the Walk to End Alzheimer’s in New Richmond Walk on Sat. Sept. 21. The team helped raise awareness about Alzheimer’s disease. There is currently no cure or treatment for Alzheimer’s, and the disease touches over 5 million people. The hockey team gained information about the Alzheimer’s Association Greater Wisconsin Chapter’s clinical trials by signing up through TrialMatch. The organization needs both people who have Alzheimer’s and people who are healthy to get involved in research. If more people participate in research trials and studies, they can get answers more quickly and get closer to finding better treatments, and one day a cure, for Alzheimer’s, according to Julene Bowe, an Outreach Specialist.

See where UW-River Falls Falcons athletic teams rank in WIAC standings

Football			Volleyball			Women’s Soccer		
School	WIAC	Overall	School	WIAC	Overall	School	WIAC	Overall
UW- Platteville	0-0	3-0	UW- Oshkosh	2-0	11-4	UW- Whitewater	2-0	7-0-2
UW- Oshkosh	0-0	2-0	UW- Eau Claire	2-0	9-6	UW- La Crosse	1-0-1	2-5-1
UW- Stevens Point	0-0	2-0	UW- Stevens Point	2-1	13-4	UW- Platteville	1-0	5-5
UW- Whitewater	0-0	2-0	UW- River Falls	2-1	11-5	UW- Oshkosh	1-1	3-5-1
UW- Stout	0-0	2-1	UW- Whitewater	1-1	13-4	UW- Eau Claire	0-0-1	3-2-3
UW- Eau Claire	0-0	0-2	UW- La Crosse	1-1	5-7	UW- River Falls	0-1	3-6
UW- River Falls	0-0	0-3	UW- Stout	0-1	9-4	UW- Stevens Point	0-1	2-5-2
UW- La Crosse	0-0	0-3	UW- Platteville	0-2	5-9	UW- Superior	0-1	3-6
			UW- Superior	0-3	11-5	UW- Stout	0-1	2-7-1

Kings of Leon’s album falls short of expectations

Jack Tuthill

Reviewer

Take a deep breath alternative rock fans, Kings of Leon are back after three long years. It seems like ages since their fifth album, “Come Around Sundown,” landed in 2010. That album unsatisfactorily sold 710,000 copies, one third of what 2008’s “Only by the Night” bagged. Arguably the world’s most popular band at the time struggled in the face of adversity and did what many bands before them had done: got drunk, popped pills, cancelled tours and split up. The three brothers and their cousin welcomed the time off. The group that brought us “Use Somebody” and “Sex on Fire” now consider themselves underdogs heading into their sixth album “Mechanical Bull,” which hit stores Tuesday. “Come Around Sundown” was not a failure in my eyes. In fact, it is one of their finer albums. The band’s unrealistic expectations were too lofty; Kings of Leon will never be able to top “Only by the Night,” a fact they refused to comprehend. Lead singer Caleb Followill ambitiously wants to make music that his daughter will be proud of. He is seriously underestimating the band’s body of work. The Kings’ have serious range, a multiplicity of sounds and catchy, witty lyrics. With that being said, the overall tone of their music has changed and the days of selling out the O2 Arena in London

are likely over. “Mechanical Bull” could not get off to a better start as the album begins with its best track, “Supersoaker.” The album’s first single has a prototypical Kings of Leon buzz. The track features the best vocals and rhythm on the album. Tambourines, a slow jazzy guitar, and a terrific buildup to a guitar solo should grab listeners’ attention. Are the Kings able to keep this momentum throughout the entire album? Not quite, but despite a lull in the middle, “Mechanical Bull” works as a good compliment to 2010’s “Come Around Sundown.” One of the real treasures on the album is “Tonight.” Heavy vocals and an incendiary guitar resonance will have you craving for more. The track is reminiscent of “The Immortals” or “Be Somebody,” which is unquestionably a good thing. A screaming Followill proclaims, “Tonight, gonna leave my body!” I find myself going back to this track, time and time again. “Rock City” is one of the odder tracks on the album, but clearly one of the best. Kings of Leon have never been shy of reinventing their sound with previous songs such as “Charm-er” or “Mary.” Interestingly, “Rock City” has a real 70s rock feel. It is catchy, sexual, and way too short. Fans of their first two albums “Youth and Young Manhood” and “Aha Shake Heartbreak” will fall in love with “Don’t Matter.” It is regrettably brief, failing to reach three minutes, but is fast, foul, and fun. This type of track does

not exist on the previous two mainstream albums. There are some killer guitar licks that any rock and roll fan can appreciate here. “Mechanical Bull” does have its issues, as “Family Tree” and “Temple” are problematic, dull, and among their worst material to date. The songs are generic and offer unusually weak lyrics. “Family Tree” is a country song, plain and simple, and I take issue with that. “Back Down South,” a track off “Come Around Sundown,” is a good example of a country song can be created with rhythm, reason, and soul. Another major failure of the album is its conclusion. Kings of Leon enthusiasts have become accustomed to extraordinarily superior songs finalizing each album. Their previous five grand finales “Holy Roller Novocaine,” “Remember,” “Arizona,” “Cold Desert” and “Pickup Truck” are all lethal. Unfaithfully, Mechanical Bull ends with “On the Chin,” a slow, simple song unable to stack up its predecessors. The album is more hit than miss, but does not live up to the Kings’ lofty expectations. Followill claims he “pretty much checked out” while making this album, but is heard rejoicing “I can feel it coming back again” on the fittingly titled track “Coming Back Again.” After hearing some of the songs off of this album, I would have no issue if he were to “check out” of his next album.

Jack Ryan Tuthill is from Thief River Falls, Minn. He is a journalism major, with a Professional Writing minor. He his happily engaged to an Emotional and Behavioral Educational Assistant. He loves music, film, books, sports, travel, food and cat Charlie.

UW-River Falls students sport tattoos with diverse meanings

Kate Vruwink

Columnist

Tattoos come in many places, and in many designs. Such as on the wrist, ankle, back, side or foot. Lettering, phrases, flowers or skulls. With the earliest tattoos originating around 3300 B.C., the process of injecting various forms of ink permanently into skin has been around for quite a long time. Each person has their own opinions of tattoos, yet we only seem to hear the two extremes. There are those who consider them to be a destruction of the human body are considered “prudes” by their counterparts. Then there are those who believe they are an art form, who are thought to be “freaks.” We all know people from both of those categories, and maybe even consider ourselves to be in one. Regardless of the opinions behind tattoos, each tattoo has a story to tell. There is a reason that the person wearing the ink chose to have it there. With a little over 45 million Americans sporting at least one tattoo, you are bound to find someone who has a special meaning behind theirs. According to Greg Ellyson, tattoo artist and licensed piercer at The Vault tattoo shop in River Falls, “We see a lot of meaningless tattoos, but we also see a lot of meaningful tattoos. They balance each other out.” Ellyson went on to say, “We frequently get college students. Definitely a lot more girls than guys though.”

Here in River Falls you are just as likely to see a person with a tattoo then you are in any other town in America. With two different tattoo shops in town, 15,000 residents, and 6,447 students, there are bound to be some people with stories behind their ink. Take UW-River Falls freshman Abigail Dernovsek’s story for example. When her cousin, Shayla, who was only one year younger than Dernovsek, died this past July 4, in a car accident, Dernovsek decided that she wanted to honor Shayla’s memory with something that will stick with her for a lifetime. Because both Shayla and Dernovsek’s middle names are Rose, she chose to someday get a tattoo of a rose with Shayla’s initials and handwriting underneath. When faced with the devastation of a lost loved one, some people turn to tattoos to keep the legacy and memories alive. That is how UWRf freshman Allie Delacy kept the memory of her friend Lauren alive. She has the quote “All we have is now” tattooed on her collarbone as a reminder of what her friend lived by each day. Although not every tattoo signifies a memory of someone who has died, many people use tattoos to remind them of someone important. Dani Bents, a student at UWRf, got a tattoo in her father’s handwriting that says, “It will only hurt for a little while.” Bents had this placed on the left side

of body because she believes her dad has never “left” her “side.” There are also tattoos that are special to people because of what they meant at one point. Take Allie Schroyer’s tattoo, for example. A student at UWRf, she explained that she got a tattoo of her childhood dog’s exact paw print on her foot with the words “Always in my heart” below it. Other people get multiple tattoos that have a variety of meanings. In Amy Soucek’s case, she got a total of six tattoos with their meanings ranging from the memory of her father, who died because of cancer, to not worrying about the little things in life. Mike Jackson, a transfer student at UWRf, has three tattoos and plans on adding to his tattoo of a tree in the future, when his life and family expands. Regardless of your opinions on tattoos, there is no denying the raw emotions that a person could find within the designs, words and pictures. Maybe if we took time as a society to hear the stories behind the ink, instead of looking for another reason to separate ourselves and judge those who chose to allow the needle to permanently mark them, we would find that maybe we have more in common then we think. Maybe, just maybe, the “prudes” and “freaks” can find a common ground within the emotions. After all, we are a society that bases our standards on equality for all.

Kate Vruwink is from Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. She loves playing and watching sports and plans on majoring in Journalism with an ultimate goal to work for ESPN some day.

Week encourages reading of controversial material on banned books list



Cristin Dempsey

Columnist

Many students may not realize that numerous novels that they have read for class are on the Banned Books List. The last full week of September marks Banned Books Week in the United States. It is an annual awareness campaign to celebrate the freedom to read even books that are considered to have “unorthodox viewpoints.” While it may be hard to find a good time to read for fun during the school year, it is valuable to pick up a banned book and get caught in the world of literature. Judith King founded Banned Books Week in 1982. King was a prominent First Amend-

ment and library activist. She and others believed that books should not be restricted from the public just because they do not represent each and every person’s opinions. She wanted people to experience different types of literature, regardless of theme or plotline. Books with unpopular viewpoints can still be obtained by the public, giving readers the freedom to express their own conclusions and opinion on a certain book. Numerous groups support Banned Books Week, including the American Library Association, the American Booksellers Foundation and the Association of American Publishers. Banned Books Week has been held the last week of September since it was founded. Schools, libraries and bookstores do their part to make banned books available to everyone and support intellectual freedom in examining challenging literary works. This special week teaches people to protect their First Amendment rights and not let strenuous restraints keep them from experiencing the power of literature and what they can learn from it.

Many activists fear that the restraints imposed within literature go against the United States as a free society. Many schools around the country set out displays and programs pertaining to these banned books. Bookstores put up window displays and may even invite authors of banned books to come speak at their store, or hold essay contests about the freedom of expression. Another fun activity that bookstores hold is “read-outs,” where participants are encouraged to read a favorite passage from a banned book. Internationally, Amnesty International turns their focus to authors that have been killed, incarcerated, or harassed because of their “unpopular” contributions to literature. They encourage everyone to take action, in part with the Urgent Action Network, to help authors whose rights have been violated. Amnesty International also provides updates on previously mentioned authors who had been persecuted in the past. These countries include, but are not limited to, Russia, China, Cuba and Egypt.

You may be surprised to hear various famous works of literature that made their way to the Banned Books List. Some books include the “Harry Potter” series, John Steinbeck’s “Of Mice and Men,” Mark Twain’s “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” and Harper Lee’s “To Kill a Mockingbird,” all of which dealt with controversial topics. I was surprised to see these books on the list, since I have grown to love most of them. The reasons for being added to the banned books lists seem rather meaningless. There is no doubt that many people may be shocked that this Banned Books List exists, as it does indeed violate the reader’s rights. A book is what you make of it; literature should be examined, celebrated and not looked down upon. I challenge every student at UW-River Falls to pick up at least one banned book within the next few months. You never know, you could find your new favorite book.

Cridtin 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.

Bottling up emotions, struggles perceived as strong but hurts individuals more in long run

Natalie Howell

Columnist

Last weekend I went home for my town’s homecoming. It was great to see my family and friends and see the good old Stewartville Tigers put up another win. On the way back to River Falls, my mom and I were chatting during the hour-and-a-half trip, when she suddenly got serious. She told me that my cousin, who just graduated college, had a very serious drug problem and had intense Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). Originally an athletic young adult, he was slowly wasting away into nothing. I was shocked, because even though I do not know him well, he is my cousin and I always thought of him as normal. I had no idea what was going on in his mind or in his life. The hours after I heard about my cousin, I thought about how he could have gotten to the point where he was at to where he is now, with his mom retiring so she could take care of him. In the past couple of years I had only seen him

one or two times. If I saw him now I probably would not recognize him. I wondered what could have happened from the time that I had last seen him to now: his sad reality. During the few times I saw him I did not realize anything was wrong; judging by the way my mom described the situation, neither did my aunt. I think sometimes we all suffer in silence, although maybe not to the extreme that my cousin has found himself in. We let ourselves hurt, but never say anything, if only to spare the time and feelings of our loved ones and those around us. We hold in our emotions, hoping that they will go away on their own or that we will find a way to fix all of our problems ourselves. I still do not know what emotional trauma my cousin may have faced to force him into taking extremely harmful drugs that his brain would have to pay for later. Was it just him not handling his OCD very well, or was it something more? Either way, I think we all agree that he

should not have waited or tried to fix all of his problems all by himself. The roadblocks we face in life are hard enough without us trying to figure them all out for ourselves. Sometimes we need other people to see the problems that are weighing us down and say, “Do you need any help with that?” We need those people from time to time, if only to comfort us as we go through those hard times. Contrary to popular belief, there is nothing weak about asking for help or asking for someone to listen. We cannot be brave all the time and let the darkness inside of us continue to envelope who we are is one of the worst things we can do to ourselves. We all are sometimes dragged down by the problems of the world; whether the problems range from failing a class to dealing with a death in the family, we all need someone there to help fix us and make us well again. Maybe I will be that person for my cousin someday.

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