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STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin River Falls

April 4, 2014 www.uwrfvoice.com Volume 100, Issue 20

Faculty Senate Athletics Committee suggests suspending swim, dive team

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The Faculty Senate Athletic Committee voted on March 28 to recommend suspending the UW-River Falls swimming and diving program to the chancellor.

"It was not a decision that was made lightly. We did not want to do this. It makes me angry that we are in this position of cutting \$1.7 million on this university when the state is in a surplus," said Jennifer Willis-Rivera, a member of the athletic committee.

As has been the case in every meeting leading up to this decision, the swimming and diving team was well represented with members of the team and Head Coach Mike Bollinger there to show the committee why they should keep the program.

"As an institute whose goal is to prepare its students for success in the workforce, it seems counterproductive to suspend a program which enables its participants to do such," said swimmer Lucas Hetzel. "I understand that this was a tough decision for those in power to make; but cutting the program because they do not have a facility on campus even though they refuse to build one in the Falcon Center is tough to swallow."

Not having its own facility on the UWRF campus has been a point brought up throughout the whole process of deciding the future of the swimming and diving program but was not the main point brought up at the past committee meeting when the actual vote was made. The main reason discussed by the committee was that not only



Members of the UWRF swimming and diving team cheers on a teammate at a meet. On March 28, the team was recommended to be suspended.

athletics but departments all over the UWRF campus do not want to do across the board cuts anymore.

Willis-Rivera, communications and theatre arts professor, said that while the swimming and diving program is the most visible program being affected by the \$1.7 million campus wide budget cut the whole campus is hurting from it.

There are positions all over the UWRF campus that will be eliminated. These positions will be in everything

from administrative to faculty and support staff. The other thing hurting the campus and a point that was brought up at the committee meeting was that with the tuition freeze there is no way to offset any of the budget cut with a tuition increase.

"The direction of this university has been we are not going to do across the board cuts anymore. Across the board cuts hurt everybody. The decision came down to do you suspend one program because everything has al-

ready been cut to bare bones and we do not want to cut those bare bones off of everyone," Willis-Rivera said.

One of the big questions that came up in the meeting was whether or not the swim team could form a club team if the program did get suspended. The problem is if the team was a club team they would have to pay for the pool fees at the River Falls High School along with travel fees to get to meets. They would not likely get enough funding to be able to do this

as there are already an abundance of club teams that get funded through AFAB.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met Wednesday, April 2, to discuss the athletic committee's recommendation to the chancellor and the whole Faculty Senate will meet at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, in Room 334 of the University Center. This will be the last chance to get any last thoughts or comments made toward the decision of suspending or keeping the swim and dive

program until Chancellor Dean Van Galen will make the final decision. In 2009, a vote was made to recommend suspending the program to the chancellor but he decided against it.

"I, along with the rest of the swimmers and divers on this campus, wish only the best to our fellow athletes and hope that UWRF athletics doesn't force them into the position that we have been in for this year, and the past few years," Hetzel said.

Horticulture department to offer fruit, vegetable focus

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For the last two and a half years the horticulture department at UW-River Falls has been working to get approval for a fruit and vegetable focus within the major; this spring the hard work has paid off.

With the increasing interest from students to grow their own fruits and vegetables and growing locally the new option was created. Brian Smith, professor of horticulture, said that there are a lot of small farms and a fair amount of large farms, but not a lot in between.

There has been a huge push locally, statewide, regionally and nationally to get people to grow their own food or buy locally.

"It's not just gardening, it's professional production, and all the factors that belong with that," Smith said. "The sustainability aspect, the social aspect and the food production aspect; it goes on and on and the jobs in those areas are in demand."

Horticulture is the technology, science and business that is involved in demanding plant cultivation for human use; it is not just about flowers, trees and shrubs but fruit, vegetables and herbs too.

Smith said that many of the crops we see at the grocery store are coming from overseas. There are many people today that like to see in-house production; if there is not as much control of the food coming in the states from places like Chile and Africa, there is more of a safety issue to chance.

With the 2014 Farm Bill that just came out, there is lots of incentive for small farmers to get involved to growing crops. According to the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, NSAC, the new five-year Farm Bill reflects shifting priorities over the past decade in which issues like local and organic food and healthy food access have become elevated in accord with growing consumer demand for agricultural products produced locally and strong growth in the development of local and regional food systems.

"The best return on investment is when you are growing crops locally because you can direct market, and charge a premium price," Smith said.

The final farm bill builds on the growing investment in local and regional food systems, organic agriculture and healthy food access, provid-



Desi Danforth/Student Voice
Senior horticulture major Emily Balder is conducting independent horticulture research. The major will soon offer a fruit and vegetable focus in addition to the current floral elements of the major.

ing greater opportunities for small and mid-sized farms, specialty crop farmers and farmers looking to diversify.

While the advances for rural economic development programs are not as great, the farm bill still makes minor improvements to certain programs that serve as starting points for further work in future farm bills.

Furthermore the NSAC website says that in total, the new farm bill will invest \$501 million over the next five years directly into the local food, rural development, organic agriculture and healthy food access initiatives that NSAC works on and supports, representing a nearly 50 percent increase over the previous farm bill from 2008.

The new fruit and vegetable sustainable systems option is targeting lots of different facets. The classes give lots of different options to student's careers. The classes for this focus have always been around and available, the professors of the horticulture department are now just putting them together in a way to advise students to get a formal recognition of the specific focus of fruit and vegetable studies. Smith said they might add more courses

in the future, they don't know just yet.

UWRF is the only UW school that offers this particular area of study. UWRF has enough faculty and core courses and facilities that are close by for the professors and students to take advantage of as well as good growers in the area to use their gardens as a field trip and hands on experience for students.

White Pine Berry Farm is an example of a student who has been through the courses at university and decided to start a local farm to grow and sell to people in the surrounding community.

"You get to know your customers and clientele as well as develop a trust that normally wouldn't be when you go to the grocery store; you don't know who grew it or where it came from," Smith said.

Students who are interested in pursuing the new option can contact the Plant and Earth Science department at 715-425-3345 or stop by room 324 in the Agriculture Science building and ask to talk to any of the horticulture professors for more information.

News briefs:

Center for Innovation, Business Center awaits ribbon cutting ceremony

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated east office addition of the River Falls Municipal Power Plant has been scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8. The updated space will house the newly created UW-River Falls Center for Innovation and Business Development (CIBD) and relocated Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The ceremony is co-sponsored by UWRF and the River Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau.

“We are excited to have the Center for Innovation and Business Development,” said Glenn Potts, dean of the UWRF College of Business and Economics. “It will make a difference for the St. Croix Valley businesses. The CIBD allows us to help start-ups with the SBDC and to use the skill and ability of MBA students to help the region’s business. Also, the CIBD will give our region’s economic development professionals better access to the resources of the university. Danielle Ailts Campeau, the newly hired director of the CIBD, is a skilled professional who will be able to direct the resources of the university to help the business community.”

The CIBD is one result of ongoing collaboration on economic development initiatives between UWRF and the city of River Falls. The city of River Falls is providing the space free of charge and has been a critical partner in completing the needed renovations of the east office addition.

“I am grateful to the city of River Falls for working with the university to establish the Center for Innovation and Business Development,” said UWRF Chancellor Dean Van Galen. “This is another example of the positive ways that UWRF and the River Falls community work together to make our region a great place to work and live.”

The ribbon cutting is open to the public and refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Blake Fry, UWRF special assistant to the chancellor, at 715-425-3711 or email blake.fry@uwrf.edu.

UWRF reaches worldwide

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has engaged internationally for decades, but in recent years, there has been a new level of excitement and growth. Dale Gallenberg, dean of the UWRF College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, believes there are many unique opportunities for faculty and students to be involved.

“There is great potential for students and faculty through partnerships with universities, government agencies and private industries,” Gallenberg said. “Like so many things domestically, the growth of our international work is built around relationships. By investing time and energy, we have been able to accomplish a lot through face-to-face discussions and use of technology.”

As part of the University’s five-year plan,

there was an emphasis on global connections. Carolyn Brady, the international partnerships coordinator, has traveled to China, Brazil, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia to build relationships by participating in the DATCP’s international activities.

“UW-River Falls prides itself on enhancing academic opportunities. By doing good work, we believe additional doors will continue to open,” Gallenberg said. “We are able to make strategic choices and offer programming that will be sustaining in the future.”

A partnership with the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program also provides great benefits at UWRF by welcoming visiting students.

“The Brazil program allows their students to come here to enrich our campus and share with us their international perspective,” Brady said. “Exchanges are a win-win. Wisconsin’s most valuable ambassadors are our visiting students and faculty to other countries.”

Brady first reached out to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) in 2011 to learn more about additional opportunities that may exist at World Dairy Expo. The International Trade Team’s Lisa Stout provided her contacts at the show and with visitors from other countries. The partnership between UWRF and DATCP has grown from that first phone call.

“UW-River Falls enrolls more dairy science students than any other university in Wisconsin and is recognized nationwide for its top-notch department,” Brady said. “The World Dairy Expo was a natural fit for us to share with international visitors about what our campus could offer to students and companies.”

Brady has focused her work on increasing UWRF’s presence outside the country to attract international students and create opportunities. UWRF and DATCP have traveled together to China, Mexico and Brazil to promote Wisconsin’s dairy industry. Recently Brady traveled to Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia with DATCP’s Jennifer Lu on a fact-finding mission.

UWRF faculty have taught at China Agricultural University. Dr. Sylvia Kehoe, an associate professor of dairy science at UWRF, has traveled to China twice to share her perspectives and knowledge. She taught a two-week course there in dairy nutrition and management.

These students will work in the dairy industry in the future. With China’s rapidly growing dairy industry, there are many opportunities for America’s Dairyland and UWRF students to work in the global business of agriculture.

“China has the purchased equipment, genetics and the feed, but what they need is the technical knowledge on how to use the equipment, the genetics and feed as well as manage the farm,” Kehoe said. “We continue to develop the next steps for our partnership with the China Agricultural University, including hosting faculty and students this fall at UW-River Falls and the World Dairy Expo.”


When planning for the future, Brady notes it is important to grow the international programming carefully to meet the University objectives and needs of the students while strengthening academic programs.

“Our goal is to grow Wisconsin’s agricultural presence globally. Through our work

abroad, we are able to help campuses connect to international opportunities and gain knowledge and understanding of global agricultural issues,” said Jennifer Lu, Economic Development Consultant at DATCP. “By sharing our network and making initial contacts, we hope more campuses will take advantage of these opportunities and boost the success of Wisconsin’s agricultural industry.”

For more information about services available from DATCP’s International Trade Team, contact 1-800-462-5237 or international@wisconsin.gov.

Agricultural leaders cope with new challenges



University Communications
Tom Lyons, former CEO of Cooperative Resources International, addressess challenges for Agriculture leaders.

UW-River Falls will host the third annual Rod Nilsestuen Legacy Event on Friday, April 4, featuring a keynote address by Tom Lyon, former CEO of Cooperative Resources International (CRI) and a former member of the UW-System Board of Regents. The address will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Kinnickinnic Theater in the University Center. The event is free and open to the public.

Lyon’s talk will focus on the changes faced by agricultural producers and companies in the food economy, and the skills and attributes that new leaders must develop to respond to these changes.

As agriculture and the food economy evolve and adapt to the new realities of the 21st century, the essential skills to lead agribusinesses must adapt as well. As the average size of U.S. farms increases, the challenges of managing larger businesses become more significant. As organic production and other specialized forms of agriculture become an increasingly important part of the food economy, agricultural producers must decide how to address them. Finally, as agriculture and food economies become more global in nature, the question of how to conduct business in other parts of the world adds to the complexity of managing what was once the family farm.

Nilsestuen, who earned his undergraduate degree at UWRF, was the Wisconsin Sec-

retary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection at the time of his death in July 2010. He is remembered as a proud steward of sustainable agriculture and a leader in the national cooperative movement who strove to balance the needs of sustainable land use with the maximization of agricultural production. Nilsestuen worked to find common ground on topics like the power of cooperatives, farmland conservation, the future of rural America and the increased pressure on agriculture to feed the world. The inaugural Rod Nilsestuen Legacy Event, “Feeding the World, Sustaining the Land, Inspiring Cooperative Action,” was held in March 2012.

The Rod Nilsestuen Fund was established by friends, family and colleagues, and several land conservation and cooperative organizations and is part of the Ralph K. Morris Foundation, an organization that shares Nilsestuen’s dedication to cooperatives and leadership development.

For more information, contact Jim White, assistant professor of Agricultural Economics, at james.white@uwrf.edu.

Dance Theatre to Present Annual Spring Concert

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Dance Theatre will present its annual spring concert at 7:30 p.m. on April 2, 3, 4 and 5 in the Blanche Davis Theatre in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building.

UWRF Dance Theatre has been around for more than 30 years and is a modern dance company that brings an artistic dance program to students who love to dance. It strives to provide rich dance experiences and performances for River Falls and surrounding communities.

The 2014 concert will feature the work of two professional guest artists from the Twin Cities.

Marciano Silva dos Santos is the director of Contempo Physical Dance, recognized for its dynamic fusion of Afro-Brazilian dance, capoeira and contemporary dance. The Dance Theatre dancers will perform his piece called Rush at the concert and at the American College Dance Festival in March.

Whitney McClusky is a director of Duniya Drum and Dance that features West African drum and dance. Her piece this year features dances called Yankadi and Yamama from Guinea West Africa. Yankadi is a playful dance of seduction by the soussou ethnic group in Guinea West Africa and is danced by both young girls and boys at various occasions. Yamama was originally a mask dance from the Samou village that would happen once a year as a moment to ask for help and turn over your problems. It is now played throughout Guinea at various occasions.

Admission to the concert is \$10/adults, \$8/seniors (60+), and \$5/students and children. Tickets can be purchased at the University Theatre Box Office Monday-Friday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in Kleinpell Fine Arts, or by phone at 715-425-3114. The Box Office is also open one hour prior to all performances.

For more information, email christopher.adam@my.uwrf.edu or call 651-734-8267.

River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

March 24

- Casey R. Rouse was fined \$263.50 for vandalism in O Lot.

March 25

- Alexandria E. Gounaikis was fined \$263.50 for striking an unattended vehicle in E Lot.

March 27

- Bradley Rostad was fined \$263.50 for underage drinking in Johnson Hall.

March 28

- Erik Dale Bachman was fined \$389.50 for a second underage consumption offense in 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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New York Times best-selling author to appear on campus

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alex.hilt@my.uwrf.edu

New York Times best-selling author, Tom Rath, will be speaking at UW-River Falls on April 16 about his latest book “Eat Move Sleep” and his latest research about how small choices can lead to big changes.

According to Rath’s website, Tomrath.org, Rath’s latest book, “Eat Move Sleep,” reveals his greatest passion and expertise about improving health and well-being.

It is geared towards helping people make good decisions in three interconnected areas, “With every bite you take, you will make better choices, you will move a lot more than you do today, and you will sleep better than you have in years.”

UWRF has been working hard since last year to invite Rath to come to campus and talk about his research and experiences. Anna Hunter, the student organization and leader-

ship coordinator, and the Student Life office have found that students often struggle with their well-being and were hopeful that Rath would be able to help with students demand-

ing lifestyles and help them find practical ways to alter their everyday choices.

“We found that Tom’s books are very practical and applicable to the student experience, as well as the experience of our faculty, staff, and community members,” Hunter said. “It was only appropriate to culminate our ‘Be Well’ Wyman Series with Tom addressing his latest book: Eat, Move, Sleep.”

Rath has dealt with hardships such as illness for more than 20 years. He will share his personal story about his battle with health is-

sues, and describe how his journey led him to accumulate a wealth of research about the impact of eating, moving, and sleeping when it comes to our present and long-term health, as well as everyday energy.

Paul Shepherd, the director of Student Life, encourages students and other members of the community to take this opportunity to hear one of the most influential authors of the last decade speak about everything from well-being to organizational leadership.

“Tom’s message is relevant to everyday life and can make a positive difference in the lives of those who attend,” Shepherd said. “Tom is a nationally recognized researcher, author and speaker and seeing him in person is a unique

opportunity. Normally, you would expect to pay a ticket price to see Tom speak, so being able to attend his event for free is a great opportunity you won’t find many other places.”

Rath will be speaking at UWRF on April 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom in the University Center about his latest book, research and how making simple changes in everyday life can change life for the better. There will be a book signing and question and answer session following the event. It is free and open to the public.

“Everyone who hears Tom speak will walk away with at least one new perspective or one idea for improving their physical wellbeing,” Hunter said. “It will be valuable to all. Just a simple evening with Tom Rath could have a substantial impact on one’s life.”

Kinnickinnic River flooding poses hazards to students on campus



Desi Danforth/Student Voice

The Kinnickinnic River that flows through campus rises every spring, flooding the nearby parking lots and making students unable to use the bridges across the river.

UWRF student receives nomination for national film festival award

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A UW-River Falls student was nominated for an award from a national film organization for a music video he produced.

Sam Azazu, a digital film and television student at UWRF, and Erik Johnson, assistant professor of digital film and television, were invited to attend the National Academy of Arts and Sciences College Student Production Awards. Featured at the event was a screening of award-winning student videos and a college and career fair, Johnson said.

The red-carpet event featured news and television media from across the Midwest. It was an opportunity for students to learn more about film and network with professionals.

“This event is really fun to be a part of. It’s like a mini version of Hollywood,” Johnson said.

Azazu’s music video, which was created for the song “Medicine” by Daughter, tells the story of a young woman who has potential for success, but is addicted to pills.

He originally made the music video for a film class. It received rave reviews from classmates and over 1,500 hits on YouTube. Then he

decided to submit the music video to the competition. After being reviewed by a panel of media professionals, he was nominated for the music video award.

“It was a huge success,” Azazu said.

Azazu decided to pursue a career in film because he particularly enjoys the craft, especially editing videos.

“That has been my passion lately,” Azazu said.

Besides being nominated for a national award, he is currently a film intern for Student Life and is active in several film opportunities on campus.

“He is really deserving and active in film production,” Johnson said.

Johnson has been involved with the Student Emmy Awards for the past three years as a judge and supporter of UWRF film students who have been nominated for awards. He attended the event this year to support Azazu and to represent UWRF at the career and job fair for high school and college students, which was a new addition to the event this year. The college fair was a way for the Digital Film and Television Department to recruit new students.

“This college fair will be precedent setting,” Johnson said.

The purpose of the National Academy of Arts and sciences is to promote the television industry and provide internships, scholarships and seminars for faculty. The organization is funded by donations from Hollywood filmmakers and producers.

Johnson himself participated in an all-expensive paid excursion to Hollywood, fully supported by the organization. He had the opportunity to network with famous Hollywood producers and learn more about his craft.

This year’s awards ceremony had to be moved to a larger venue at the Mall of America because of higher demand for tickets. Recipients of College Student Production Awards from UWRF have also gone on to obtain successful careers in film, Johnson said.

“Even to be considered for a final nomination is an honor,” Johnson said.

Azazu said he hopes to continue to become more involved in film and score an internship this coming summer in California. After graduation, he said he hopes to move to Hollywood and further pursue his career.

“Hopefully I make it big,” Azazu said.



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Applications are due Friday, April 13 outside North Hall 304.

Interviews will be held Wednesday, April 23.

Contact editor@uwrfvoice.com with any questions.

All are welcome to apply!

EDITORIAL

Recent Residence Life changes lead to lack of respect among residents

The Department of Residence Life has made big changes this year including new staff and a new director of Res Life. While the majority of these changes are positive, we feel that these changes also have created challenges for residents living on campus such as respect in the residence halls and having policies enforced more.

Those that live in the dorms should be aware of the quiet hours that are from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. Sundays through Thursdays and from 1 to 8 a.m. Fridays through Saturdays. According to the Residence Life website, during the hours previously listed noise levels “must be kept to a minimum to allow study and sleep.” Resident Assistants are supposed to enforce this quiet hour policy, however it has been noticed in some residence halls there is a lack of enforcement and students are left trying to sleep or study through the loud music or rowdy crowd that is congregating in the hallway.

Although this issue of quiet hours not being followed should be more enforced with the Res Life staff, it is also up to students living in the halls to be respectful. That means: be conscious of those around you and how loud you are being. If another resident asks politely for a person or group to lower their voices during quiet hours or a suggestion for assistance on other residence hall related issues, it is reasonable to say that their request should be respected.

There is no surprise that room switches occur frequently throughout the year in residence halls. Things happen such as roommates disagree and realize that they are better off living apart rather than sharing a compact room or someone’s significant other stays over too much and a compromise cannot be reached. However, roommate agreements could prevent certain conflicts from arising by allowing roommates to discuss their opinions and creating their own guidelines for the room. While roommate agreements have been given out in previous years, there are some floors in the residence halls that did not receive them this year.

Finding more engaging activities for residents and Res Life staff in the hall would also be a way to develop a solid community. While movie and craft nights can be fun, more interactive activities such as tie-dying or even team games or competitions would allow staff and residents to work together even more.

RAs have training before every semester to prepare themselves for their job. Receiving a more solid and developed training on how to enforce policies would improve the atmosphere in the residence halls and promote respect among residents and staff.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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‘Divergent’ inspires self reflection

Natalie Howell
Columnist

Over this past weekend a few of my buddies and I went to see the new movie “Divergent” in theatres. For those of you who have not heard the buzz about “Divergent” yet, it is a story that takes place in a post-American society. Not to give away any spoilers, or spoilers that really matter, it is a society that is broken up into five factions that work separately but together to make up a seemingly perfect society. These factions are Abnegation (the selfless), Candor (the honest), Amity (the peaceful), Erudite (the intelligent), and Dauntless (the brave). The main character, Beatrice “Tris” Prior, grows up in Abnegation. There was a lot I liked about this movie and it left me with a lot to think about, but one thing stood out in my mind. The thing about Abnegation was that because they did not tolerate vanity, each person only got a set amount of time to look in the mirror a day. It is strange that out of everything in that movie, that is the thing that stuck with me, but it got me thinking. Soon, I was imagining something that both interested and disturbed me: what our world would be like without mirrors.

Imagine waking up in the morning, putting on clothes, doing something with your hair, brushing your teeth and then just leaving your dorm without even catching a look at yourself in the mirror once. I do not know about you, but I would probably end up looking horrible without being able to examine myself in the mirror every morning. But another question you have to ask yourself is that if there really was a world without mirrors, would we even begin to wonder if we looked horrible or not? Would we be self-conscious about what other people thought of how we

looked if we ourselves had no idea what we looked like? I like to think that we would not be. I have always been a strong believer that we make ourselves self-conscious. Not the media, not our peers, us. I absolutely hate the idea that the models we see in magazines or even our beloved childhood Barbies make us feel bad about ourselves. We begin to feel self-conscious in our own minds and we allow it to continue and even sometimes grow throughout our lives. What was the famous quote from Eleanor Roosevelt? “No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.” We, at least females, stand in front of the mirror for long periods of time; looking at ourselves, picking out our flaws and contorting our bodies to make ourselves look skinnier. Not to say that we are vain and spend our days looking at mirrors, but we all do it. We all sometimes look in the mirror just a little too long, wishing that we were skinnier, more muscular, prettier or just different. It is human nature to look at ourselves occasionally and wish that we had the ability to change things. If we lived in a world without mirrors it is comforting to think that there would no longer be vanity or self-consciousness; where girls did not wear gobs of makeup and guys did not overdo it with working out and drinking protein shakes in order to “bulk up”. Where we did not compare ourselves to others as they walked pass or judge how someone else looks because of our own self-conscious. So in a way, it would be great to live in a world without mirrors. However, the great thing about mirrors is that if you look in it long enough you find the hidden beauty inside the person staring back at you. In that beauty, however vain you might think this is, you find strength.

Be the first person to find Freddy’s lost feather in this issue of the Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theater! (105 S. Main St.)

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

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“Captain America: The Winter Soldier”
7 p.m. & 9 p.m. daily (Sat. & Sun. 2 p.m.)
Congratulations to last week’s winner, Bailey Colbert!

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor: editor@uwrfvoice.com

Wistful traveler contemplates values of train use

Rachel Molitor
Columnist

This may be a large assumption on my part, but I believe that most people have seen or at least heard of the TV show “The Big Bang Theory.” If you are one of those people, the show is a comedy about the interactions between a group of smart but nerdy guys. One of these nerds is named Sheldon and, as any fan of the series knows, Sheldon loves trains.

I recently took a trip to Japan and discovered how convenient trains are. One thing I appreciated about the trains in Japan, which I heard is not true in other places such as Europe, is that the trains are almost always on time. On longer trips, you did not even need to pay attention to the stops, only to the time of arrival.

Now as fun as these railway trips were, they inspired a desire to have something similar here. Now do not think I am misinformed, we do have trains here but not even close to as many as there seemed to be in Japan, especially when you think in terms of density.

Imagine this before you argue about how awesome a train system would be: you have a relatively free weekend so you decide to go somewhere. You walk a few blocks to a nearby station and from there you only have an hour’s trip to the Twin Cities or to any number of other cities. All for one reasonably priced ticket.

Maybe those with cars would disagree about the usefulness of trains as a means of travel but frankly it sounds like a simple way to get around. With gas prices increasing and environmental concerns continuing, more public transportation is not a bad thing to invest in.

So here is what I propose: several train lines that loop around smaller towns and connect to the cities. There would be several trains per line so that a train would stop at a particular station at least once per hour, preferably at the same time each hour but that is probably hoping for too much.

Inside the Twin Cities there would be another loop that covers the main city areas. Tokyo had a train at each station at 2 minute intervals with a total city loop taking about an hour. We would not need that many trains because the Twin Cities does not have as many people to provide transportation to. A fairly regular train with a short interval would be useful for all the people who live and work in the area.

Now I realize this may not be the most practical plan, as I am not an engineer, but it would still be a useful system for those who wanted to ride the trains.

For example, if one weekend a group of friends wanted to go have fun in the city, they would not need to worry about

driving home safely. The train could get them from point A to B and back again with little trouble. Those with small children could have a relaxing day if they traveled by train.

Not only would the youngsters be entertained by the train but the caretakers would not have to deal with the frustrations of folding up a stroller or driving in inner-city traffic. The train could take them to a park or museum. Finding a convenient parking spot would no longer be an issue.

Maybe it is the wistful traveler talking, but I believe a series of trains throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin would be a positive investment for the economy, environment and our connection as people of the Midwest. Expand the vision to encompass the whole United States.

Japan has the Shinkansen, or the Bullet Train. Europe does too. So why don’t we? Frankly, since we are a larger country, we could use it more. Think of traveling from Minnesota to Chicago in under 3 hours, racing across the country side at over a hundred miles per hour. It would truly help unify the country if that type of fast and inexpensive transportation was readily available to the public. Think about it. Trains racing across the United States.

As Sheldon Cooper would say, “We’re not flying; we’re taking the train.”

As Sheldon Cooper would say, “We’re not flying; we’re taking the train.”

STUDENT *Voices*

What team do you think will win March Madness?

Compiled by Maggie Sanders



Al Waisley
Senior
Creative Writing
“Wisconsin, but secretly I hope they lose so I can hear a collective sigh go across the state.”



Ana Maria La Fontaine
Sophomore
Computer Science
“Florida.”



Monique Levash
Junior
Agriculture Business
“Wisconsin.”



Steph Anderson
Junior
Horticulture
“Wisconsin Badgers.”



Tristan Wiley
Sophomore
Social Work
“Florida.”



Donovan Nelson
Senior
Dairy Science
“Wisconsin.”

Check out the
Student Voice
online at uwrfvoice.com.

UWRF chief of police retires

Niki Hovatter
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Chief of University Police Dick Trende, who has worked in law enforcement for 42 years, retired from his position Friday March 28.

His presence at UW-River Falls has significantly impacted campus security and his absence will bring changes to University Police. Throughout his career at UWRF, Trende improved campus safety in a number of ways, including preventing crime and providing extensive training programs for officers on campus.

Before working at UWRF, Trende was Hudson police chief. In 2006, he was asked to serve as interim director of public safety at UWRF and his position eventually turned into a permanent career.

“I loved working at the university, but it simply was the right time to go,” Trende said.

He also played a large role in facilitating the transition from having security officers to having licensed police officers on campus in 2009. University Police officials now have more extensive training and can follow up on emergencies.

“We became a better resource for the campus and the city,” Trende said.

Officer Steven Nygaard was the first to be officially sworn into the role as officer. There are now six officers on campus, Nygaard said.

“I have seen a change in types of crime. UWRF has become a safer environment,” Nygaard said.

In addition to helping develop a highly-trained police force, Trende collaborated with other individuals to provide a behavioral intervention team for at-risk individuals. The team prevents crime by providing help and resources to those experiencing issues with

suicide or chemicals, for example.

“The service I provided was with integrity,” Trende said.

Throughout his career, he has also been an advocate for equal opportunity in the law enforcement field. He has made an effort to include an equal amount of males and females in his police force.

“The perception of some people is that women can’t do the job. They can,” Trende said.

A new police chief is expected to be hired at the end of the month, but until then Michael Stifter, director of facilities management, will oversee operations. The final three candidates were interviewed this week and include Scott McCullough, from the UW-La-Crosse Police Department, Karl Fluery, from the UW-Green Bay Police Department and Sharon Verges, Thorp Police Chief.

“All three candidates came with a lot of background in law enforcement,” Nygaard said.

Nygaard said he hopes the new police chief will support further improvements to the department, including expanding resources and technology available to officers. He also said he hopes a fresh perspective will provide insights to obtaining funding for specific projects, like an improved computer system for recording crime on campus.

Trende said he intends to maintain an active lifestyle, continue to serve his community and expand upon his faith after his retirement. He plans to go on a mission trip this summer to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Trende also offered advice to those just starting their careers: “Approach whatever you are doing with a positive attitude and make the best of it.”



Desi Danforth/Student Voice
Right is Dick Trende swearing in new officers with Chancellor Dean Van Galen Tuesday, Feb. 4. Trende retired Friday, March 28, after 42 years of service.

Student Senate passes inclement weather motion

Amanda White
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Student Senate pushed through a motion after continued debate in order to change the way the administration handles inclement weather.

Senator Chris Morgan, one of the senators heavily involved in the motion, said that making a change to the way the inclement weather policy is utilized was one of the promises he made to voters before getting elected.

“We heard a lot of feedback from students saying they weren’t happy at all with how things were being run and handled,” Morgan said.

The passed motion does not

have any specific language outlining exact temperatures or snowfall amounts that should occur for classes to be cancelled because there was not enough support from some senators to pass that language, according to Morgan.

“For instance, they felt in was unreasonable to say ‘if it’s -40 degrees we shouldn’t be in class,’” Morgan said. “They didn’t want to put a number out there.”

One specific request Senate has for the administration is to give 12 hours notice if classes will be delayed or cancelled due to winter storms or extreme temperatures. However, Special Assistant to the Chancellor

Blake Fry said that giving that amount of notice is often unrealistic because of how quickly forecasts can change, so making a decision that far ahead could result in classes being cancelled with a minimal amount of snow actually accumulating.

Fry said that there are many factors that go into making the decision on whether or not to cancel classes, including looking at the timing of the storm, how heavy and wet the snow will be, road conditions and how quickly snow can be removed from parking lots. He said that the chancellor also consults with maintenance staff, the National Weather Service chat room and the Department of

Transportation websites.

“We bring a lot of information into the process already,” Fry said.

Senate President Sam Tauchen will be meeting with Provost Fernando Delgado this semester to begin negotiations on how to begin making recommendations.

“Honestly, we get a lot of recommendations from people as a winter storm or as temperatures drop, we get input from a lot of people,” Fry said. “Believe it or not, it is one of the most complex decisions the chancellor has to make.”

Morgan said that one concern students continue to have is the safety of campus sidewalks, which he said

lack adequate salting, resulting in injury.

“We want them to allow us to give more opinions on whether we think it’s safe to have class that day,” Morgan said.

Fry said that school districts often have school cancelled or delayed more often than college campuses because of the busing system. Many school districts have children waiting for long periods of time at bus stops or there are rural bus routes that may prove difficult to navigate after a winter storm. College campuses, on the other hand, do not have to worry about busing and many students live on or near campus.

“It becomes a challenge because no matter what decision, you are not going to make someone happy,” Fry said. “It’s an unpopular decision no matter what you do.”

Morgan mentioned that next year there will be a new Senate that may be more susceptible to broader changes, so a phase two of the inclement weather motion may make an appearance in order to get more specific language passed. He said that students with concerns about the current inclement weather policy, which is available on uwrf.edu, should contact members of Senate or stop by the Senate office in the Involvement Center.

UW-River Falls Global Programming Society hosts talent show



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice
Denis Farrarin and Halan Tran singing a duet cover of “When I Was Your Man” by Bruno Mars. The annual International Bazaar was held Tuesday, April 1. There was entertainment, cultural demonstrations and various types of food from all over the world.

Regional equine virus affects Rodeo Club’s spring season

Jack Tuthill
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UW-River Falls’ Rodeo Club may have to postpone spring activities because of a rare virus that emerged in nearby Stillwater, Minn., in early March.

The virus is called Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1), which according to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (MNBAH) is highly contagious among horses and can cause a wide variety of symptoms, including abortion, respiratory disease or death. EHV-1 usually spreads through the air or direct contact, according to the United States Department of Agriculture.

Each member of the Rodeo Club will have an option to compete in various rodeos in the surrounding region or keep their horse quarantined. Individuals within the Rodeo Club are eligible to earn points at regional rodeo events that could go towards prestigious awards, possibly making the risk worth the reward.

“The students use their own horses,” said Nathan O’Connor, advisor of the Rodeo Club. “They will make the final decision.”

The Rodeo Club will be meeting this week to decide whether to cancel the season or keep riding. According to O’Connor, the club is leaning towards taking the reins.

“At this point we’re going ahead as planned,” O’Connor said. “We deal with these kinds of situations every year, it’s part of being a horse owner.”

According to the MNBAH, ten horses have tested positive for EHV-1 in the region since March 8. Eight of the ten horses were Minnesota-raised. Three horses have been euthanized, four are currently recovering and three more have only recently been diagnosed. The numbers are expected to rise over the following weeks, but O’Connor believes the virus will be contained in 30 days.

According to Jennifer Weinert, UWRF’s



Desi Danforth/Student Voice
Senior Katie Tholen takes her horse for a walk before she starts her morning chores at the campus Lab Farm. Tholen plans on participating in the spring rodeos.

horse herd manager at the campus farm, the EHV-1 virus has not been the only health concern this spring.

“Actually our main concern right now is a bacterial sickness,” Weinert said. “Some of the school’s herd has been hurt by this bacteria, but this year hasn’t been any worse than any other year.”

O’Connor is also wary of the UWRF colt sale on May 3, which showcases more than 40 colts that have been raised and trained by

animal science students.

“We’re really worried about not being able to sell the horses,” O’Connor said.

O’Connor expects the number of regional rodeo participants, which is usually very high, to be down this spring because of the EHV-1 threat. Those who do travel to other communities to ride are being asked to take extra caution.

“We are taking as many precautions as we can,” said Haley Dettmering, Rodeo

Club president. “And people on the team are weighing both options to go to the rodeo or keep their horse here in River Falls.”

MNBAH recommends that owners keep horses with fevers and clinical signs of respiratory infection at home. Owners are also advised to wash and disinfect their hands and change their clothes before coming into contact with healthy horses to prevent the potential spread of EHV-1.

“It would be best if the horses were isolated as good as possible to try and get rid of the virus,” Dettmering said. “It is affecting our season because a lot of the UWRF rodeo team is not able to travel to the rodeos because horse farms are on lockdown.”

The last known case came on March 29 when a Minnesota-raised horse was diagnosed with EHV-1; the horse is still alive but neurological test results are still pending, according to the Stillwater Equine Veterinary Clinic’s website.

“It remains to be seen if these outbreaks are just a blip,” Weinert said. “But the virus could intensify with more travel.”

Since the virus was made public, the campus farm has quarantined all horses. EHV-1 does not pose a threat for humans or other animals, but no outside horses are allowed on the farm. Horses that leave the campus farm will be isolated if Rodeo Club students decide to participate in events around the region.

“They will be isolated when they return,” Weinert said. “There’s an off-chance they could carry the virus and not necessarily show symptoms. The time between exposure and symptoms could be two weeks.”

It is too early to tell, but O’Connor believes this virus won’t affect the UWRF-hosted Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo in September. The Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo is the only university rodeo show east of the Mississippi River, according to UWRF’s website. 2014 will be the rodeo’s 50th anniversary.

Men’s basketball alumni to reunite, compete at national level

Ben Lamers
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The 2012 national tournament is the last time that the UW-River Falls men’s basketball has been on the national scene. This summer, some members of that year’s team will be reuniting to again try to make some noise on the national level.

Five members of that squad, along with 2004 UWRF alumnus Rich Melzer and UW-Superior alumnus Jake Smith, will be joining forces to play in The Basketball Tournament this summer in Philadelphia. The team will be competing under the name “Minneapolis Elite.”

“We came across this tournament through social media and it definitely caught a lot of interest from us. We’ve been wanting to get some of our championship team back together for a tournament or two and we thought this would be the perfect one,” said team general manager and UWRF alumnus Wade Guerin. “It is a winner-take-all tournament and take all being \$500,000. We just couldn’t pass that up so we decided to go ahead and enter the tournament.”

The opportunity to win \$500,000 at a basketball tournament has attracted plenty of attention from other players across the nation as well.

“Some of the competition consists of former Div. I and NBA players,” Guerin said. “The field is already full of stiff competition, but we think we have put together an elite group of guys to go out there and compete with the best of them.”

Some of the competition includes the entire Cornell University basketball squad, which reached the Sweet Sixteen in 2010, as well as an alumni team consisting of players from the University of Virginia.

Jonathan Mugar, the founder of The Basketball Tournament, said the idea to have a tournament like this was thought

up three years ago. He said that the winner-take-all format is in place to increase the level of intensity.

“The prize money was all about raising the stakes of the competition. March Madness games, and game sevens in the NBA are played at such a high level of intensity and the emphasis is placed squarely on winning,” Mugar said. “Those types of contests deliver a unique value to the fan because the stakes are so high. TBT wants to deliver high stakes games to fans, while delivering an unforgettable experience to players year in and year out.”

Thirty-two teams compete in the tournament, but an unlimited amount can enter to become eligible. To become eligible, a team must have over 100 fans and have seven to 10 players on the roster.

“The top 24 most popular teams on the website (in terms of how many fans they have) receive berths into The Basketball Tournament. The other eight teams will be The Basketball Tournament’s choice,” Mugar said.

Minneapolis Elite currently have seven players on the roster, and has 250 fans, which is good enough for 10th overall. To recruit fans for the team, Guerin came up with a unique incentive.

“[Guerin]’s also pledged to pay every Fan on Minneapolis Elite’s Fanwagon a proportionate share of \$55,500 if his team wins the tournament,” said Tournament Commissioner Dan Friel on The Basketball Tournament’s website.

When the 32-team field is selected, the teams will play a single elimination tournament from June 6-8, meaning that to claim the prize, a team must win four games in three days.

Guerin said that the Minneapolis Elite has just as good of a chance at winning as any of the other teams.

“We think we have a good shot at the grand prize and it will definitely be an interesting run.”



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Shane Manor scanning the floor. Manor was a member of 2012 team that made it to the NCAA tournament.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Captain Wade Guerin working his way to the hoop. The current roster includes alumni Brian Kimble, Rich Melzer, Jake Smith, Ollie White, Wade Guerin and Shane Manor.

‘Divergent’ brings action story to life

Amanda White
Editor

March 21, 2014, was a date I eagerly awaited. That was the day the movie adaption of “Divergent” was finally released. “Divergent” is the first book in a trilogy written by Veronica Roth and the series is often hailed as the next “Hunger Games.” “Divergent” and its two sequels, “Insurgent” and “Allegiant,” may be young adult novels centered around a young, exceptionally strong heroine living in a dystopian world, but the similarities peter out after that.

“Divergent” tells the story of Tris Prior, a teenager living in a futuristic Chicago where all residents are separated into five factions. Tris was born into Abnegation, the faction considered selfless.

When Tris takes the test to determine which faction she should choose, her results showed that she could fit into three factions: Abnegation, Dauntless, the brave faction, and Erudite, the intelligent faction.

These results mean Tris is divergent, a dangerous label to associated with. When divergents are discovered, they often killed, so Tris is instructed to tell no one about her results.

On Choosing Day, Tris chooses Dauntless, and must survive initiation while keeping her secret safe.



The movie, starring Shailene Woodley as Tris and Theo James as Four, was breath-takingly thrilling and quickly paced.

I like movie adaptations because I am grateful that movies are made from great books. I am able to see the story I illustrated in my head brought to life on a grand scale. “Divergent” was no exception.

Woodley as Tris is inspired. She is slowly gaining credibility as an actor after getting her big break on “The Secret Life of an American Teenager,” a soapy teen drama on ABC Family.

Her acting in “Divergent” was nuanced and strong. Unlike Katniss Everdeen of “Hunger Games” fame, Tris was much more sensitive and flawed. She acted with a quiet intensity with well-placed explosive displays of emotion. James is an enigma as Four, Tris’s Dauntless trainer. The two played off each other well and their fight scenes were exhilarating to watch.

I especially liked the scenes between Tris and her mother, played by Ashley Judd. It was refreshing to witness a mother-daughter relationship that was mostly positive and encouraging.

The differences between the book and movie were not significant or numerous. I devoured the books and will now sadly wait for “Insurgent,” which is set to film this summer.

‘Focus on U’ hosts filmmakers, musician

Matthew Ford
Columnist

The third episode of “Focus on U” came out over Spring Break so you might have already seen it.

If you have not, let me give you the low down. it started out with a sharp and witty diatribe between Host Rob Brecher and Announcer Michael Salazar. They covered everything from Facebook trends to the happenings in each other’s weeks. The sly humor between the two really started to come into its own in this episode and I look forward to more humorous dialogues.

The show also features some exciting student-made packages, from a Tom Shane parody commercial to a promotional spot for former student Joe Carlini’s new film, My Senior Year, which had a showing on campus last month. Carlini plans to hold another showing of the film this April in Minneapolis.

This episode also featured a new Studio 113, a returning staple of “Focus on U” which unfortunately remained absent last season. In the latest installment of Studio 113, “Focus on U” director Shane Donahue hires a motivational speaker to talk to the Focus crew in order to help boost morale after bad attitudes threatened to ruin the show. I won’t spoil it, but things do not go quite as planned. The studio 113 segments have quickly become one of the highlights of “Focus on U” this season.

The show had two guests this week, including Chris Morgan, who, at the time of filming, was a Student Senate vice presidential candidate. Morgan talked about his past and his reasons for running for the position. He cited the recruitment and retention of students as well as student programming as primary areas he wanted to deal with.

But most important of all, he said he

wanted to make sure that UW-River Falls tuition and segregated fees stay affordable for students.

Filmmaker and former Focus on U anchor Tina Heerdt also appeared on the show promoting her new film “{ u n t i t l e d }.” The film, based on true events, centers around bullying. Heerdt talked about how fulfilled she felt from making the film and showing it at high schools.

Heerdt said that after showings she has students come up to her afterward telling her how much the film meant to them and how they could relate to the subject. You can watch “{ u n t i t l e d }” now on <http://vimeo.com/85032427> or by searching “{ u n t i t l e d } Tina Heerdt” on Google.

Collin Kottke, who also works as a DJ at WRFW-FM, and Kevin Holmes returned for their on-going news anchor segment

in which they, humorously and sometimes not so humorously, cover the latest events from the previous week in news. During this episode, they covered everything from the pizza chain Sbarro’s bankruptcy filing to the latest Kardashian gossip. While the segment seemed to have some technical issues this week, the humor remained crisp and the news relevant. I look forward to see what Kottke and Holmes come up with for the next episode.

Topping off the show, musical guest and UWRF student Cassandra Grace took to the stage with her guitar and pounded out a mellow and haunting melody. She sang an original song titled Eyes Closed, which you can find on her YouTube page by searching “Eyes Closed - Cassandra Grace.”

You can watch “Focus on U” at 9 a.m., 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. daily on Channel 119 or you can catch it and the rest of the episodes online at FocusOnUTelevision, the show’s YouTube channel.

Students expand cultural diversity with International Bazaar

Cristin Dempsey
Columnist

It is that time of year again where students come together to celebrate the food, music and dancing of different cultures around the world.

This past Tuesday marked the annual International Bazaar that takes place in early April. Students, faculty and community members gathered in the Riverview Ballroom and were treated to different foods from Europe, Asia and even our neighbors to the north in Canada.

Following the dinner, the crowd moved to the Falcon’s Nest for an hour-long “variety show,” where various student organizations and individuals performed songs and dances from around the world. It is truly an event that draws a large crowd, mostly because people are exposed to entertainment different from what they are used to.

This was my third year going to the event, and I always find it very interesting. Every year, there is something new to try or learn.

Most, if not all, of the food served is quite unusual to me, since American food is in a group of its own. Just as I expected, some of the food was delicious and some of it tasted too different for my taste. I will admit that I was less reluctant to try the more familiar food, such as crepes or rice.

However, I wanted to take the opportunity

to branch out and try the new food, like breaded pork. It was definitely not something that I would normally think of eating, but I am glad I took the chance to at least try it. Who knows how many of these opportunities we get in our lifetime.

It was also great to see how excited the servers, performers and other international students were at this event. Many classmates probably know very little about international students’ culture, and this was their chance to teach everyone about life back home. If music came on the loudspeaker or was performed, you could tell if they loved the song or if they never listen to it.

Although they come from every corner of the world, they share at least one thing: pride for their country. People would cheer if someone of their same nationality walked on stage, which was really cool to see. Despite this, they were also curious about American culture and were eager to spend time with their American friends. This was definitely a place to exchange cultural ideas and interests.

These views of pride and curiosity were shown a lot in the variety show. A few times, international students would sing or dance to American music, exemplifying their curiosity.

Other performers featured music and

dance from Japan, South Korea, Brazil and the Hmong culture. They sang and danced to the popular music from these countries, and even people not from that specific culture performed as well. I loved seeing different talents that these students had and discovering new international, music.

The International Bazaar has consistently been one of my favorite events here at UWRF. There are so many new cultures to be exposed to, while people from these other cultures seek to explore our own culture.

I am glad we have to chance to try these new foods and hear these new musical styles, because we may not get another chance. If you missed out this year, there is always a chance to go in the coming years. The event is free and is great to attend with friends!

Cristin Dempsey 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.

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