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Softball is swept by UW-Whitewater in home opener.

**NEWS, PAGE 3**  
The city of River Falls will host its fifth annual four-day Roots and Bluegrass Festival.

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'Strange Trails' is an unforgettable indie folk album.



# STUDENT VOICE

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## Student Senate launches 'The Riv' newsletter

Carmella Everhart  
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On March 30, Student Senate President Anthony Sumnicht and other Senate members launched a weekly newsletter via email called "The Riv" to nearly 1,000 students at UW-River Falls.

The goal of the newsletter is to give students valuable news and information about the UWRF campus, the River Falls community, international events and other pertinent ideas and information for college students (like "15 homemade mac-and-cheese recipes you need in your life").

By opening the email, students can easily scroll through the linear, organized information on any device and see snippets of stories and click on or tap the articles to view the full content.

Content for the newsletter comes from articles from the Student Voice, the River Falls Journal and anyone who writes in to [uwrf-senate@gmail.com](mailto:uwrf-senate@gmail.com) to contribute information to the newsletter.

"The Riv delivers the information student[s] want in a clean and simple weekly newsletter. The Riv is operated by students for students," according to the first newsletter.

Sumnicht said he and other Senate members are trying to make consuming news as easy as possible for UWRF students in order to keep them informed about the things that are going on in their community and in the world.

"Senate has been discussing something we've been observing over the past few years, which is a disconnect between information on campus and the student body," Sumnicht said.

The Riv is in beta-testing this year and Senate is looking for feedback to be given in order to improve the quality and get an idea of whether or not students see a need for it.

The Riv is not the only newsletter that reaches UWRF students. The Falcon Daily and the Falcon



*Carmella Everhart/Student Voice*  
**From left to right: Kelsey Kuehnhold, Melissa Brandes, Anthony Sumnicht and Halan Tran with the new Senate newsletter "The Riv."**

Connection both carry news content about UWRF via email to students, faculty and staff each week, but Sumnicht said those newsletters are targeted more toward faculty and staff members and not the students.

There are also numerous other ways for students to consume news on campus. The Voice produces weekly news articles for both online and print media, and WRFW airs weekly newscasts as well.

So far, only 1,000 people at UWRF have been emailed the newsletter over the first two weeks because Senate is trying out the

software that allows them to create the newsletter for free for the first 60 days.

The Riv was launched near the end of the semester so it could be tested out on students for 60 days for free and receive feedback on it in order for Senate to decide if it should be something they should find funding for at the beginning of next year.

If Senate receives feedback suggesting the newsletter is not needed or wanted by students, then it will simply "go away," according to Sumnicht.

Last week, only about 25 percent of students even opened the email containing The Riv, according to Sumnicht, who can look at the analytics through the program used to create it.

While Sumnicht said those statistics are disappointing, he said The Riv is part of a bigger goal and he hopes to get the word out to more students before the end of the semester.

"Hopefully, a long-term solution is, we're looking at an app for campus, working with DoTS on developing an actual university app,"

Sumnicht said. However, the app could take a few years to develop and get funding for once the need for it is recognized.

For now, Sumnicht said he hopes The Riv will be easy for students to use and he said he wants those who do receive it during the next few weeks to share it among themselves and to give feedback after using it.

If all goes well and Senate gets funding for the newsletter for a full year, The Riv could be sent to an infinite number of people and keep the entire student body informed.

## Commuting can have negative impact on overall health

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For students, faculty and staff at UW-River Falls, commuting is almost inevitable in some way, shape or form.

According to a USA Today report, the average American's commute (to work) is 25.5 minutes each way. This averages to about 204 hours per year spent commuting.

Commuting can impact one's mental and physical health along with general well-being. Multiple studies have found that commuters are more likely to be anxious, dissatisfied and have the sense that their daily activities lack meaning.

Lengthy commutes, between 60 and 90 minutes long, have the most negative effect on personal well-being according to the Office for National Statistics.

The American Journal of Preventative Medicine reports, driving more than 10 miles each way is associated with higher blood sugar, which can lead to pre-diabetes and diabetes. This drive is also associated with higher cholesterol, which is a warning sign for heart disease.

The University School of Medicine in Saint Louis and the Cooper Institute in Dallas also reports that a commute of at least 10 miles can lead to a higher tendency towards depression, anxiety and social isolation.

A report from the United Kingdom's Office of National Statistics found that people with commutes of any length experience lower life satisfaction and happiness than people with no commutes at all. Each additional minute of commuting time can make you feel slightly worse up to a certain point; however, this same study found that once a commute hits three hours then the negative effects drop off.

Commuting can also cause one's blood pressure to temporarily spike, and high blood pressure over time is a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke.

When asked what the main cause of stress is associated with commuting to UWRF, the number one response from student commuters was parking.

Communication studies professor Steve Phalen, who commutes from downtown Hudson, Wisconsin, also said the amount of traffic can add to his stress.

"There are people shooting down the left-hand lane, cutting in front of everyone, and I don't appreciate that, but I combat that through loud music and taking a moment to breathe," Phalen said.

A longer commute also can contribute to lower sleep quality and more exhaustion in comparison to people with shorter commutes, according to the Regus Work-Life Balance Index for 2012.

Gaoee Xiong, a junior sociology

major who commutes from Hudson experiences this first hand.

"I have to get up a lot earlier than students who don't commute, because I have to make sure I save time to drive here, find parking, then walk to class," Xiong said.

With extra time spent in the car, one may also find they have less time for cardiovascular fitness and physical activity. Cardiovascular fitness is critical for heart health and maintaining a healthy weight.

"If you're commuting, that takes time which means you're sitting so that may take away time for you to get physical activity. You may also not eat as healthy," said Director of Counseling and Health Services Alice Reilly-Myklebust. "I don't know if it's commuting that causes the problem, or what goes along with commuting."

Another health risk associated with commuting is back pain. Spending time slouched in a car seat has negative impacts on one's posture and back.

"I keep active in other aspects of my life so I'm not worried about the duration of sitting," Phalen said.

Being in Wisconsin, commuters also have the added stress of unpredictable weather.

"In the winter months, it would be harder for me to get to class, so that added to my stress," Xiong said.

In contrast to the negative affects commuting can place on the body, Phalen also sees the positives.

"What I appreciate about the commute is that's 15 to 20 minutes where I have complete and utter space to think about absolutely nothing if I so choose. It allows for a mental reset between River Falls and Hudson," Phalen said. "And because this job doesn't have clear work-life boundaries, having that physical separation on that commute is actually a transit that helps me physically to get space."

For students who commute, they may also find their time to be limited on campus for activities such as meeting with professors, completing assignments or projects that require one to be on campus, or even participating in on-campus activities which can add to a strain on mental and physical health and well-being.

Luckily for students, though, there are a variety of resources available on campus to help combat the physical and mental effects they may feel from commuting.

"If they have the time to take advantage of resources on campus that can help, we do a lot of things on campus to help students get physical activity, reduce stress and stay healthy," Reilly-Myklebust said. "There are a lot of activities on campus that will help students to grow in a variety of ways."

A popular activity to combat stress is Pet Therapy. The first Friday of every month, therapy dogs visit the Career Resource Room

in 211 Hagestad Hall. The UWRF community is welcome to come get some canine comfort from 3-4 p.m. and to pet their stress away.

Also coming up is the Health Fair, which will be held on April 22 in the Riverview Ballroom in the University Center. The fair this year has a marathon theme and is open to the public. There will be fitness and yoga demonstrations along with free massages.

Students also have access to the Knowles Center, which offers hours worth of open recreation. Open recreation basketball, volleyball and tennis are all available for free with just a valid UWRF student ID. Check the calendar on the university's website for exact times for open recreation.

If commuting doesn't allow students to attend any of these events, there is a guide on the UWRF website that can help in any health situation. The "Healthy Living Resource Guide" can be found online and can help point students, faculty and staff in the right direction for any health needs with resources not just on campus, but throughout the community of River Falls and stretching into Hudson.

*The Student Voice will be running several commuting stories over the next month in an effort to discover how commuting affects the campus and community.*



# News briefs:

## UWRF student wins speaking award

When one thinks of the activities that an 18-year-old might pick up for “fun,” learning a new language is not the first thing that comes to mind, but in the case of UW-River Falls student Kevin Leor, that’s just what he did.

One country, four years, and six new languages later, Leor’s hobby has resulted in a prestigious award for his mastery of Japanese. Leor received the Japan Airlines Award at the 29th Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest held on March 21 at the Consulate General of Japan-Chicago.

Leor, a native Spanish speaker, then living in his hometown of Monterrey, Mexico, decided to learn English as a teenager out of his love for American movies. Since then he has mastered English, Japanese, French, German, Italian and Portuguese. Leor’s language skills have not only garnered him honors, but have led to him becoming a modern language major at UWRF.

Leor used the speech contest as an opportunity to raise awareness of recent violence in his native Mexico, specifically an incident on Sept. 26, 2014, when 43 male students from the Raúl Isidro Burgos Rural Teachers’ College of Ayotzinapa went missing in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico.

The students, on their way to hold a protest at a conference held by the mayor’s wife, were detained by local police and presumably killed by a local crime syndicate. The mayor and his wife are believed to have been behind the killings and have subsequently been arrested.



Photo courtesy of University Communications

**UW-River Falls student Kevin Leor competes in the 29th Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest held on March 21 at the Consulate General of Japan-Chicago.**

“I wanted to speak about the changes going on in Mexico,” Leor said. “It makes me sad to see all the tragedies and I worry about my family. What happened to those students could have happened to me.”

Leor hopes to have the opportunity to speak with others about the 2014 incident, including those in Spanish, political science and journalism classes at UWRF.

Magara Maeda, an instructor of Japanese at UWRF, is not only impressed by Leor’s language skills but by his ability to educate and inspire others.

“Kevin started studying Japanese at UWRF last fall and has enjoyed learning about Japanese language and culture,” Maeda said. “Being a Mexico native and a university student

himself, Kevin was urged to talk about this tragic incident in his own words to the Japanese audience. Participating in the speech contest was a great learning process and Kevin gained a lot. It also encouraged his classmates to study Japanese harder.”

The Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest is open to all individuals who reside in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Participants must not have lived in Japan for two or more years in total since 2005, come from homes where Japanese has been spoken regularly, or participated twice in the same category of the contest in the past.

Details regarding the contest are available at [www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/JIC/spchcont.html](http://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/JIC/spchcont.html).

For more information, contact Leor at [kevin.leor@my.uwrf.edu](mailto:kevin.leor@my.uwrf.edu).

## UWRF student meets congressmen on trip

UW-River Falls sophomore Bryce Krull, an agricultural marketing communications major from Lake Mills, Wisconsin, was one of 100 student representatives who brought agriculture’s story to Washington, D.C. on March 16-19 in honor of National Ag Day.

The student representatives from FFA, Agriculture Future of America (AFA), 4-H and



Photo courtesy of University Communications

**Congressman Mike Conoway and UWRF student Bryce Krull meet in Washington, D.C.**

Student National Agri-marketing Association (NAMA) are chosen and sponsored by Agriculture Council of America (ACA) in order to put a face on the future of agriculture and emphasize its importance in daily life.

Sponsored by AFA and ultimately selected by the ACA, Krull, along with other student representatives, attended sessions on agricultural policy, meetings with congressional members, tours of Washington D.C. and a mix-and-mingle luncheon attended by members of congress.

Krull met with Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin as well as the staff of Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson and Wisconsin Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner who represents Krull’s district.

His schedule also initially included a meeting with Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, but because of a plane delay, he was unable to make the appointment. Krull spoke with congressional leaders about issues such as the Keystone Pipeline, immigration reform, the Great Lakes Water Act, the Clean Air Clean Water Act and the Food Safety Modernization Act.

This opportunity was especially significant for Krull, who is on the pre-law track at UWRF.

“It is my ultimate goal to run for public office,” Krull said. “I am looking to do an internship in Washington D.C. at some point and then start out in public policy as a legislative correspondent or agricultural aide to a legislator.”

For more information, contact Laura Walsh at 715-425-3535 or [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu).

## Academic quadrathlon team places fourth

The UW-River Falls academic quadrathlon team took first place in the written component and fourth place overall in the Academic Quadrathlon held in conjunction with the Midwest Sectional Meeting of the American Society of Animal Science on March 16-18 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Fourteen schools from the Midwest region, which includes 12 states and Canada, competed in the event.

The competition is designed for teams consisting of four members and involves four individual components: a written exam, a laboratory practicum, an oral presentation and a quiz bowl. Each activity is performed by the team as a whole and covers content in all disciplines of animal science such as nutrition, genetics, breeding, physiology, animal welfare, animal management and animal product technology.

The UWRF team overcame a significant handicap, competing with only three team members because one of the members was ill. The team members, all seniors, were Jessica Gaska of Columbus, Wisconsin; Erin Sorge of Baraboo, Wisconsin; and Jessica Stuttgart of Colby, Wisconsin. Gaska has been accepted into the UW School of Veterinary Medicine located in Madison, Wisconsin, for the fall 2015 semester. Sorge is pursuing a graduate position in dairy nutrition at UW-Madison.

For more information, email [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-3535.

## Poor Benny returns to ‘Barn Dance’ April 18

The old-time string band Poor Benny returns to the River Falls “Barn Dance” series in the gymnasium of the River Falls Academy, located at 439 West Maple St., in River Falls at 7-10 p.m. on Saturday, April 18.

The group features UW-River Falls English professor David Furniss on guitar, and other players from the Wisconsin-Minnesota border area. Poor Benny brings lively musical accompaniment to line and circle dances, reels, waltzes and square dances.

A dance caller will teach steps to new and more seasoned dancers alike. All ages are welcome as well as singles, couples and families. Family dances suitable for children are featured during the first half, with more advanced dances in the second half.

The barn dances are a joint project of River Falls Community Arts Base and River Falls Parks and Recreation. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for 12 and under. Inexpensive refreshments are available.

This is the last dance of the 2014-2015 season. The hope is to continue holding dances at the River Falls Academy for the 2015-2016 season.

## Discounted tickets available for benefit

The UW-River Falls Foundation has a very limited number of “program only” tickets available for the Fourth Annual Scholarship Benefit featuring Daymond John, founder and CEO of the global lifestyle brand FUBU and star of ABC’s “Shark Tank.”

The program is at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 24, in Abbott Concert Hall, located inside the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. Proceeds benefit Falcon Scholar scholarships. The tickets are available on a first come, first serve basis to UWRF faculty, staff and students with a valid ID at the reduced rate of \$15 each.

If interested, tickets can be purchased in the Advancement Office in 310 South Hall. Cash or check is accepted.

## ‘Walk a Mile’ event scheduled for April 20

Each year UW-River Falls holds a “Walk a Mile” event to promote awareness of rape, sexual assault and gender violence, and on April 20, the UWRF “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” chapter will be challenging the community to come out and help the cause to make a difference for the community through Walk a Mile in Her Shoes.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes asks men to literally walk one mile in women’s high-heeled shoes.

It’s not easy walking in these shoes, but it’s fun and it gets the community to talk about something that’s really difficult to talk about: gender relations and sexual violence. Spread the word by inviting friends to the event and by liking the Facebook page.

Proceeds will go towards the St. Croix Sexual Assault Response Team and HOPE Coalition. Registration starts at 3:30 p.m., and the walk begins at 4 p.m. There will be a free drawing with prizes at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Contact Shane Russell at [shane.russell@my.uwrf.edu](mailto:shane.russell@my.uwrf.edu) to register. Shoes will be provided, but register ahead of time to secure your size. Anyone can create and customize their own heels.

Visit the Walk a Mile website at [www.walkamileinher shoes.org](http://www.walkamileinher shoes.org) for more information about the organization.

## New turkey permit plan receives approval

A plan intended to guide the management of wild turkeys in Wisconsin over the next 10 years received approval of the state Natural Resources Board at its April meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

“Ecology of Wild Turkeys in Wisconsin and a Plan for Their Management, 2015-2025,” will guide decisions regarding the allocation of turkey permits, the structure of spring and fall hunting seasons, and the use of wild turkey stamp funds and many other aspects of turkey management in the state.

The management plan’s initial draft was guided in part by input received at 12 meetings held statewide in April and May of 2012, as well as an online survey available during the same time period. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wild Turkey Advisory Committee developed the plan. This group consists of representatives from the DNR and many other organizations with an interest in turkeys and turkey hunting, including the National Wild Turkey Federation, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and Conservation Congress.

The updated plan will guide turkey management through 2025, and will reflect recent scientific research and changes in turkey distribution and hunting tradition. While providing clear goals for the next decade of turkey management.

The plan was also produced to allow hunters a transparent view of Wisconsin’s turkey management program. It includes significant background on wild turkey ecology and the species’ history in Wisconsin, and will be widely available both online and in hard-copy form.

The plan will be available on the department’s website and distributed in hard-copy form to DNR service centers. The plan is expected to be available by mid-summer.

Questions may be directed to Krista McGinley by email to [Krista.McGinley@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Krista.McGinley@wisconsin.gov).

## River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

### Thursday, April 2

- A bicycle was stolen from a rack on the south side of the University Center at some point between the evening of Wednesday, April 1 and the afternoon of Thursday, April 2.

### Friday, April 3

- Property damage of a toilet valve was reported to have occurred in Hathorn Hall.

### Saturday, April 4

- A property damage incident was reported involving vandalism and tampering with fire equipment in Hathorn Hall West.

### Sunday, April 5

- An attempted burglary, prompted by an open door to the Knowles Center garage, was reported at about 12:20 a.m.

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

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# Roots and Bluegrass Festival hits downtown River Falls

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The city of River Falls will host its fifth annual Roots and Bluegrass Festival on April 9-12.

The four-day music festival will take place throughout downtown River Falls, bringing to life local and regional roots and bluegrass music.

Attendees have the opportunity to partake in free jam sessions and workshops where they can learn and hone their skills in this genre of music.

The festival opens on Thursday, April 9, at Junior’s Bar & Restaurant with Walter Croll and Friends. Croll is a music student at UWRF and teaches at Brickhouse Music; he plays guitar, viola, bass, cello, mandolin and dobro.

“There’s something about the festival that is hard to explain; the music, atmosphere and people instantaneously puts a smile on your face,” said Chris Blasius, the chief

executive officer for the River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau.

Johnnie’s Bar will host King Wilkie’s Dream on April 10. King Wilkie’s Dream is a Minnesota-based bluegrass band.

According to its website, the band plays a variation of bluegrass, blues, swing, Americana country, tin-pan alley, old time and some pop.

The beer- and wine-tasting event will also be held on April 10, featuring Pushing Chain, which is the only event that costs money. This event costs \$20 in advance, available at the chamber office, DeVine Liquor, Dick’s Hometown Liquor and Junior’s Bar & Restaurant. This is the second year for this event with the opportunity to sample local craft beer and wine.

“It has always been our vision to expand the festival to include music on Thursday evening. We ultimately hope to include programming Thursday evening, all day Fri-

day and Saturday, and possibly add more Sunday morning,” said Jeff Wesley, a festival committee member.

Junior’s Bar & Restaurant will

**“There’s something about the festival that is hard to explain; the music, atmosphere and people instantaneously puts a smile on your face,” said Chris Blasius, the chief executive officer for the River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau.**

have its second year of beer and wine tasting on April 10 followed by live music from Pushing Chain and Barley Jacks with Brian Wicklund. Pushing Chain is a regional band formed in 2012 by Boyd Blomberg

and Adam Moe. Pushing Chain has its own original music but also does covers from artists like Bob Dylan, Tom Waits and Nina Simone.

The Barley Jacks are a local band with members Joe Cruz, Kevin Rowe, Joel Arpin and Brian Wicklund. The Barley Jacks play instruments like the fiddle, guitar, bass and drums with backgrounds in Celtic, blues, bluegrass, R&B and bebop.

Other venues include the South Forks Café with Rush River Ramblers, an old-time string band from Spring Valley, Wisconsin; Brickhouse Music with Snap, Tap and Clap; Family Fresh Market with a bluegrass group called the Fish Heads; and Funktion Junktion with Paint the Town, an activity for participants to paint on miniature canvases.

On April 11, there will be the Wisconsin State Flatpicking Guitar Championship where participants can compete for a prize by playing four instrumental numbers in tradi-

tional fiddle tune or bluegrass style. According to the Upper Midwest Flatpicking Competition website, contestants are encouraged to pre-register, although registrations will be accepted on site. The top five contestants will advance to a final round.

Brickhouse Music and the River Falls Chamber of Commerce sponsor the contest. First place wins a new Larrivee D-40 valued at \$1699, second place receives \$200 and third place wins \$100.

“Whether it’s your first or fifth time attending the River Falls bluegrass festival, it’s the perfect outing with family and friends to hear bluegrass music on every corner,” said Judy Berg, River Falls Chamber of Commerce tourism sales marketing manager.

Nearly every event is free and open for the public with the River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau hosting the festival thanks to volunteers from the community.

# DECA chapter to become student organization next fall

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UW-River Falls could see another new student organization on campus come next year; this new student organization will be DECA.

DECA, previously known as the Distributive Education Clubs of America, is an international organization aimed at preparing high school and college-level students for positions in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

DECA was founded over 70 years ago, and has helped more than 10 million students worldwide. The students in a DECA chapter participate in conferences worldwide, while also doing marketing and advertising campaigns in their own

chapter.

Some of these campaigns are real and some of them are “faux” campaigns designed to engage students and give them valuable experience in their field.

“What sets some of these schools even further apart is that they take extra steps to provide an environment in which students can become involved in activities that build leadership, communication and leadership skills,” said the Dean of the College of Business and Economics (CBE) Michael Fronmueller, in an email interview. “DECA is one of the best ways to accomplish this.”

According to the DECA website, the organization has over 200,000 members in high school, and over

15,000 students at the collegiate level. These numbers span 3,500 high schools and 275 colleges respectively.

“Many of the students I have worked with participated in DECA in high school and enjoyed the professional development opportunities that were available to them through teamwork in competitions and projects,” said CBE Senior Academic Advisor Ellen Schultz, in an email interview.

“Most high school students who have been DECA members in high school really like the experience, but then regret that they cannot continue once they enter college,” Fronmueller said. “Collegiate DECA is a rare breed, usually found at a few schools, UWRF is now of

those schools.”

In addition to the U.S., there are also several DECA chapters around the world. Some of these countries include: China, Germany, Guam, Mexico, Canada and Spain. The chapters in the U.S. are regulated by the Department of Education and Congress.

Collegiate chapters of DECA have very open enrollment policies; however, these can change based on how a chapter wishes to set membership requirements. The only other requirement is that each member must pay their proper membership fees.

The requirements for a chapter of DECA include: having a minimum of 10 student members and at least one advisor.

The advisor for the UWRF chapter of DECA is Stacy Vollmers, a CBE professor.

Vollmers says that the group has been in the planning stage for about a year now, and she hopes to see the chapter come to fruition. Vollmers also wants to see this chapter help students in their field, and to help them succeed in their future careers after college.

The DECA chapter coming to UWRF is still in the early stage of becoming a student organization. Currently the group of about 15 interested individuals is establishing bylaws and constitution. If everything goes according to plan, however, UWRF can expect to see a DECA chapter next fall.

# Parking shortage leads to tickets for commuters

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Commuting students, faculty and staff all have an impact on parking around the UW-River Falls campus as well as the plans and decisions involved with parking.

UWRF Chief of Police Karl Fleury said his staff tries to make accommodations for those who commute to campus in regards to parking and traffic.

UWRF is known for having a large amount of commuter students, as many students live off campus and travel to school every day.

According to the UW System student statistics, there were 6,184 total students at UWRF in the fall of 2014, and 2,863 of those students were reciprocity-eligible students. Reciprocity-eligible students from Minnesota are more likely to commute from their homes in or around the Twin Cities, but there are also Wisconsin residents who commute from the surrounding communities of Hudson, Roberts, Ellsworth, Spring Valley, Baldwin, Martell and Hammond.

When making decisions on parking and changes to parking on campus, Fleury said he tries to take things from a case-by-case basis. He looks at the layout of the UWRF campus; he takes into account

how the decision will impact the campus and how it flows with both vehicular and pedestrian traffic in River Falls and how it impacts parking overall.

“I look at the overall picture and the flow of traffic,” Fleury said.

Expanding and renovating parking on and around campus is difficult to do. Fleury said due to the limited area available on campus and how expensive it is, that making changes is hard to do. He mentioned that there have been discussions regarding a parking ramp and other changes in the past but nothing serious.

With over 400 students living off campus, many of which commute to school daily, parking on and around campus needs to be able to accommodate all of these commuters. Commuter students have their own parking lot located near the Knowles Center, where they can purchase a pass to be able to park there. Construction has limited the amount of space there recently but should be completed by the fall semester. Commuters also park in the pay lots around campus and public parking.

Students are not the only ones commuting to campus, as many faculty and staff travel from places as far as the Twin Cities or even fur-

ther. Parking on campus also needs to be able to accommodate them as well. Employees have their own parking lots and spaces located around campus.

With so many different ways and places to park, knowing the rules and regulations for campus parking is important. Fleury said he would like to see students educate themselves more on the rules and regulations for parking around campus. Compliance with the rules is important as Fleury would prefer to not give students citations for parking.

If someone does not follow or know the rules and parks in a fire lane, it can block fire trucks and become a risk to everyone, according to Fleury.

The city of River Falls has its own rules and regulations to follow that differ from the UWRF rules and regulations. Both students who live on and off campus need to be aware and comply with the rules. For more information on parking at UWRF, visit the police office in South Hall, or go to its website at [www.uwrf.edu/parking](http://www.uwrf.edu/parking).

*The Student Voice will be running several commuting stories over the next month in an effort to discover how commuting affects the campus and community.*

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# EDITORIAL

## Student Voice makes strides to reach digital audience

The spring 2015 semester has been a difficult one for student media, in particular the Student Voice, with the recent cuts to funding, but our spirits are high and we are dedicated to publishing a quality newspaper for not only the UW-River Falls community but the city of River Falls.

There has been a lot of talk regarding the possibility of creating an app for the Voice, and while we certainly would love to feature an app for our digital readers its not financially possible going forward. We realize the day may come that the Voice will no longer print a physical copy of the newspaper, but we feel that day is far off in the distant future.

However, because of emerging technology and the increasing popularity of online news, the Voice has recently created a new gadget for the website (uwrvoice.com). As of this week, anyone who accesses the Voice’s website with a mobile operating system, such as iOS, will be prompted with the possibility of adding a Voice icon to your smartphone’s homepage. This new feature acts like an app, and the Voice already has responsive web design (RWD).

RWD provides an optimal viewing experience: easy reading and navigation with a minimum amount of resizing, panning and scrolling. The Voice’s website was one of the first to be created in the UW System, and has significantly grown in the past five plus years. For those who don’t know, the Voice’s content is now online two days before the print edition hits shelves for the first time since the website’s creation. In this digital-first world, the Voice has adapted to the needs of the community.

The Voice has also become extremely active on Twitter as we near 4,300 tweets and 500 followers. People, now more than ever, are seemingly glued to digital devices and it’s important to appeal to the needs of the UWRF population. Twitter has also given us a chance to share important events and highlight outstanding students’ achievements. We at the Voice relish any opportunity to make further connections with our fellow students to keep them up-to-date on important campus events, and Twitter has allowed us to do this.

The times are changing, especially at UW System schools, and next semester the university will see a new crop of students, the loss of countless faculty and staff, a new Student Senate, and a new Voice staff, so it’s important now more than ever to stay informed on the UWRF campus. We encourage everyone to take a peak at the Voice’s updated, responsive website, and to follow us on Twitter. We still believe in the key role a student newspaper plays in heavily student-populated democracy.

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.uwrvoice.com](http://www.uwrvoice.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@uwrvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrvoice.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 WISCONSIN editorial staff by e-mail through [editor@uwrvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrvoice.com).

NEWSPAPER Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy ASSOCIATION rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## New officers impact UWRF fraternities

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) at UW-River Falls has received a face-lift in many ways, and we are pleased to be representing all fraternity life on campus.

With a new officer team being lead by President Will Larson from the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, the IFC has begun to take new initiative and direction. The IFC is looking to install new programs and awards from years past. One of our events that we have already held is our risk management workshop open to all Greek life students. This event was a huge success for us, as many of our Greeks work hard and are responsible for themselves as well as those around them. This workshop focused on the policies of the national IFC, in which all fraternities on campus are apart.

The team has been working hard on developing community and campus-wide events to not only benefit Greek life but everyone on campus. Nathan Elness, the Greek life advisor, is leaving after this year, and the position hasn’t been filled. But, IFC has been working hard to take things from Elness and move them into officer positions, who will have more direct contact with the university and the staff. Vice Chancellor Gregg Heinselman has been very helpful and supportive as we begin this transition for next fall.

The office team consists of members from Theta Chi and Al-

pha Gamma Rho fraternities on campus with representatives coming from all three fraternities on campus. Delta Theta Sigma has been communicating strongly with the executive team to regain strength on campus and we’re gladly helping them as they develop and strengthen their brotherhood.

Currently on the IFC are the following: Larson; Mark Martinez, vice president of programming; Patrick O’Connell, vice president of recruitment; Kris Nelson, vice president of risk management; Kyle Dahlquist, chairman of academics; and myself, chairman of community relations.

Currently serving as our chapter representatives are Sean Vanderheiden, Alpha Gamma Rho; Eric Mateske, Delta Theta Sigma; and Dominic Riel, Theta Chi. We are please to have all these brothers coming together to better our brotherhood throughout the Greek community.

We encourage you to reach out to any of us if your organization is looking for help or have any ideas or input for the IFC executive committee. We all wish you the best of luck as you finish your spring semester.

Bryce Krull  
IFC chairman of community relations

Do you have something to say?

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Be the first person to find Freddy’s lost feather in this issue of the Student Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theatre!

The first person to report the find to [editor@uwrvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrvoice.com) AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins!

The winner will be announced on the Voice’s Twitter account: @uwrvoice

Now Playing: “Furious 7”



# 49th Annual Commissioned Composer Concert to bring unique music to UW-River Falls campus

Cristin Dempsey  
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Saturday, April 11, is the 49th Annual Commissioned Composer Concert, a consistently busy yet rewarding experience for the UW-River Falls music department.

Every year, the big event is planned and funded by the Commissioned Composer Project, an organization within the department made up of mostly music majors and led by percussion instructor Patti Cudd. This year the department chose to bring in Mark Applebaum, a brilliant yet unconventional composer from Stanford University.

Saturday’s concert, like the Commissioned Composer Concerts in past years, will feature several of Applebaum’s pieces, including a world premiere of a piece commissioned for UWRF, titled “Clicktrack.” This concert will be a unique experience for the performers and audience alike, and you don’t want to miss it.

To the untrained ear, even to an ear who has been through all four semesters of music theory, Applebaum’s music does not sound like music at all; rather, it seems more like strange noises, gestures and yelling. However, according to the broad definition of music, organized sound, it is music, but it leaves interpretation up to the performer instead of laying down every note for them.

Applebaum doesn’t write much in regular notation (quarter notes, eighth notes, rests, fermatas, slurs, etc.). Instead, it appears more as abstract drawings and designs, intricately placed on the page and left to the performer to decide exactly what it means.

While I cannot personally speak for every piece, I will be playing on two pieces: “Metaphysics” and the commissioned piece “Clicktrack,” which will both feature the New Music Ensemble. “Metaphysics” follows this unconventional notation. Initially I was confused by the piece and didn’t like it, because I don’t have a lot of experience improvising on flute; however, as the piece got going, I started to notice patterns and music-like artwork, and I was able to play with more ease.

Once performers are able to get used to this notation, they begin to appreciate a new freedom that they don’t have with conventional notation in band or orchestra.

“Clicktrack,” on the other hand, does not follow any kind of notation; it’s much different from any piece I have ever performed. The piece consists of 12 players. Each player has a player number and reads from a booklet corresponding to their number. Everyone plays their own unique set of instruments, and this set of instruments includes conventional percussion instruments such as congas, vibraphones and triangles; yet, it also includes items such as pens, paper, bottles,

and even typewriters and hair dryers.

Instead of notation, the piece follows a poem, which is repeated several times in 30-, 45- and 60-second increments. Only the players can hear this poem (each player is wearing headphones). Over various words of the poem are circle or square symbols, which will indicate which instrument to play and how many times during that particular word. Some words also have pictures under them, and those indicate different gestures that the players must make.

In addition, towards the end, various words in the poems will be outlined, bold, or surrounded by treble clefs. These indicate that the player must whisper, speak, or sing that particular word. While the piece will no doubt seem sporadic to the audience, there is a very closely followed organization to it.


I have seen or been a part of the Commissioned Composer Concert every year since I was a freshman, and I can honestly say that this year sticks out to me. It has opened me to a whole new style of music, one where I’m allowed to play notes according to my own interpretation or make an instrument out of an old typewriter.

I think one of the biggest things to remember while playing or listening to music like this is just to have fun with it and make it your own. It’s not meant to be stressful or agonizing, it’s meant to open a new door and step out of the box.


# STUDENT VOICES

What do you think about the changes to the general education requirements?


Compiled by Carmella Everhart




*Left:*  
**Christine Marriott, junior,  
political science:**  
“I think the governor is wrong.  
Nothing should be changed, no cuts.”



*Right:*  
**Amy Wheeler, junior,  
marketing communications:**  
“I am glad it will save me time and I  
don’t have to do gym!”



*Left:*  
**Sadie Horton, junior,  
journalism:**  
“I wish it happened sooner,  
because then it would affect  
me more.”



*Right:*  
**Britany Bonney, senior,  
journalism:**  
“I feel a little cheated, but I am  
happy with the education I had.”

# Student Senate president now required to live on campus

Natalie Howell  
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Student Senate met Tuesday night with one important topic on the agenda to discuss: an amendment titled “Senate Bylaw Changes.”

Senate Vice President Shelby Hehr, who was absent on Tuesday, moved this amendment. She was seconded by At-Large Senator Brady Murphy. This amendment, as the name suggests, calls for some changes to be made to the current Senate bylaws. The changes that the amendment calls for includes requiring the Senate president to live on campus during the academic year; adding the position of a chief administrator to work over the summer to attend to Senate business; and having the Senate president be paid during the months of September through April, taking away the summer pay in order to pay the chief administrator. After much discussion on the main amendment, it passed and will be effective as of next year.

It was also mentioned in the meeting that

Senate discussed with administration about the possibility of the Senate president being compensated for housing costs if he or she is required to live on campus, but a decision on that will be decided at a later date.

There was a lot of discussion about this amendment, and there was even an amendment created to strike the requirement of the Senate president to live on campus. The reasoning for this was that the requirement to live on campus may discourage people from running for president, and that it is not set in stone that the president will be compensated for housing costs. However, that amendment was not passed.

Personally, I was glad that this amendment was passed without any changes being made to it. The Senate president is supposed to represent the study body, and for that person to live off campus puts up a wall between the president and the part of the student body who lives on campus.

The president should know the issues of the campus and what is going on, and the

best way to ensure that is if the president is required to live on campus. It’s clear that being Senate president can often be a full-time job, so I also think that requiring the president to live on campus would make it easier for them to really focus on working toward making the campus better, especially if they’re compensated for housing costs and therefore not worrying about having another job. I’m also glad that Senate is reevaluating their bylaws and making the appropriate changes.

Another thing that I learned Tuesday night at the Senate meeting is that there is currently only one person running for Senate president for next year. The polls for the Senate general election will be open April 15-17, and it’s likely that Chris Morgan, who is currently the Senate External Relations Chair, will run unopposed for the position of president.

While I think that everyone should get informed on the candidates and vote, I would also like to encourage all students to take

a good hard look at our campus and ask themselves if it could be a better place. The best way for change to happen is if people speak out and work toward that change, and the best way to do that is to work toward a better Senate.

So, I want to ask each student to think about the future of our campus in this critical time and think about their part in that, and then seriously consider becoming involved in Senate.

*All information in this column comes from the April 7 Student Senate meeting, and select documents from the OrgSync Student Senate page. It’s very important for all students to stay informed on what is going on with Senate. They meet at 7 p.m. every Tuesday in the Willow River Room of the University Center, and the meeting agenda can be found 24 hours prior on the Senate page. To see the details of what was discussed last Tuesday, go on the Senate page, and read through this week’s minutes document.*

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# UWRF physics professor spends her free time acting

Sadie Horton  
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While every student likely knows their professor’s name at UW-River Falls, that is about the extent of their knowledge about who the person teaching them truly is.

Eileen Korenic is a physics professor here at UWRF. She first attended Mount Mary University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she received her bachelor’s degree in biology, chemistry and secondary education. She then got a bachelor’s degree in physics at UW-Milwaukee, and her master’s in physics from the Institute of Optics at the University of Rochester in New York.

Aside from being a professor here at UWRF, she is also an actress and has been acting since she was young. Her favorite field is community theater.

“It started because I thought I was too scared to do it, and when I was in eighth grade we had to do a play. They were going to do a play based on ‘A Christmas Carol,’ and every student in the eighth grade had to be in this play and I was so scared,” Korenic said. “I only had one line to say and I was so scared that I couldn’t get it out, and I thought I can’t go through life like this—I have to take some classes or something to figure out how do I do this. So I took a summer class at the end of the eighth grade, a summer class of how to be an actor.”

She learned the skills of acting during that class and hasn’t been scared since. She realized it was fun and said that anyone who is afraid of something should just face it square-on and try it and realize you can be successful.

She has had multiple roles in shows at UWRF and in the city River Falls.

“When I first started out I was doing things, like, I always for some reason got cast as the old lady, even when I was really young. When I was a teenager that was my first role, to play a grandmother,” Korenic said. ” I did the mother in ‘The Music Man,’ and then I did some really fun things. I got to play Nellie Forbush in ‘South Pacific,’ and then more recently, when Gordon Hedahl was the dean here, College of Arts and Sciences, his specialty is directing and theater, and he decided he wanted to do the play ‘Shirley Valentine,’ which is a one women show. He asked me if I would consider doing it with him. That was so much fun to play like 35 different characters. You take on all their different personalities and their different characters and stances, voices.”

Some of the courses Korenic teaches are astronomy, general physics, optics, science of light and science teaching techniques.

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## Multicultural groups struggle to fit in on River Falls campus

Ju-Hsuan Lin  
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The struggles for multicultural organizations to fit into the mainstream culture and to keep self-identity have always been an issue around the UW-River Falls campus.

“We try to promote Asian awareness on campus and we try to make every individual feel welcome and embrace the culture,” said Ka Zoua Vang, the co-president of the Asian American Student Association (AASA). “We also welcome people who are interested in [learning our] culture with us.”

AASA members are mostly Hmong. As for people from other ethnicities, mainly one or two people represent each kind of background.

“Only two members are non-Asian, but they only come when they can,” Vang said.

Sisters and Brothers of Islam (SBI) currently has four members, and three out of the four are not Muslim.

“The other Muslims on campus come to the meeting when they can, but it is not their top priority,” said co-President of SBI Mohammad

Battah.

One of the reasons Muslims do not constantly go to the meetings is because they don’t feel there is a strong connection with the community. Some have the idea that their friends could be afraid of it. The other reason is because of the projection of media.

“They do not want to be associated with negative commentation,” Battah said.

The Islamic organization on campus recently had the idea to change the title from SBI to “Friends and Believers of Islam,” or FBI, in order to approach more people who are interested in Islamic.

“One of the challenges we are having here is, do we change our name, do we change the identity of who we are?” Battah said. “We asked a good 20 plus students what they think, the majority of them want it ‘Friends and Believers of Islam,’ but none of them showed up to our meetings.”

AASA has the same issue as SBI; the organization also wants to change its title.

“Because we hold the name Asian American, there’s not a lot of students [that] come,” Vang said.

Also, the situation doesn’t only happen on domestic students, but also international students, as they don’t consider joining because they keep the idea that they are Asian, instead of Asian American.

Sometimes peoples’ ideas and stereotypes about “multicultural” is limited by the mainstream media, which refers to non-white races. UW-Madison Professor Patty Loew suggested trying to use more collective words, which could attract more peoples’ attention, rather than keep out other races.

However, the titles are known around the world, they’re not specifically used within the campus. If those organizations want to change the names, what are the names going to change to?

To keep self-identity but at the same time worry about fitting in and to include more students to the organization is a great challenge to all multicultural organizations.

“The only way to balance it is to have people willing to come [with an open mind],” Vang said. “Don’t think about fitting in, think about willing to learn.”

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# Softball is swept by 13th-ranked Whitewater in WIAC home opener

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It was a tough weekend for the UW-River Falls softball team as the Falcons dropped two games to the UW-Whitewater Warhawks in the team's home and WIAC opener. The Falcons went into Friday's double-header with an 13-9 record, coming off a sweep against non-conference opponent Bethel University. Junior infielder Abby Veloske had a good feeling about her team going into the home opener. "We felt good going into Friday's games against Whitewater," Veloske said. "We were coming off of five wins, but we knew they were tough and we were going to have to be focused." The Warhawks went into Fri-

day's games with an 11-3 record and ranked 13th in the nation, according to NCAA.com. Two of the Warhawks' losses came against two ranked opponents, both ranked higher than Whitewater. Friday's games were a cold ones, with highs in the low 40s, but both teams had to deal with the weather as an issue during the game. In the first game, the Falcons got off to a hot start, holding the Warhawks to no runs on no hits in the first inning, which gave the Falcons a chance to get an early lead. Junior infielder Sarah Sorensen got the first hit of the game with one out, and that was followed by a double by senior pitcher Abbie Morris, advancing Sorensen to third. Sophomore pitcher Michelle LaCasse came up big with an RBI

single to score Sorensen and give the team a 1-0 lead. Whitewater would score a run of its own in the top half of the second inning making the game 1-1. The game would remain tied until the top half of the sixth inning when Whitewater hit a two-run home run to take a 3-1 lead. The Falcons would be unable to answer, and would lose game one by a score of 3-1. The momentum would continue for Whitewater in game number two. The game was scoreless through the first two innings until the Warhawks scored seven runs in two innings, giving the Warhawks a 7-0 lead after four innings of play. Whitewater would score four more in the sixth inning, as the game would end 11-0. "We just couldn't get anything

going," Morris said in a phone interview. The Falcons will play four road games this week. Over the weekend, the Falcons will play two WIAC doubleheaders. On Saturday, the team will travel to UW-Platteville, who are 8-10 on the season. On Sunday, the team will

travel to UW-Lacrosse to take on the Eagles who are 14-6 and have yet to play a WIAC game. Leading the charge for the Falcons will be Morris who leads the team with nine doubles, and sophomore outfielder Katie Thompson, who has four home runs on the season.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications

The four senior softball players from left to right: pitcher Abbie Morris, infielder Brooke Lauritzen, catcher Amber O'Connell and outfielder Kati Stodolka.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications

Senior Abbie Morris pitching against UW-Superior on Saturday, April 12, 2014, in River Falls.

# Men's rugby team finishes first at Nebraska tournament

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The UW-River Falls men's rugby club team recently got back from a tournament in Nebraska where the team won first place in the "7's bracket" and second place in the "15's bracket." Rugby can be played with a different number of players on the field at once. The rugby team participates in 7's, which is seven players playing on each team, and 15's, which is 15 players playing at once. According to UWRF senior and rugby player Joe Fletcher, the team has played in about 11 games with a lot of success throughout the whole year and have a important tournament on April 11. "This coming weekend we're going to Iowa for a national qualifier," Fletcher said. According to Fletcher, if the team wins a couple of games, it will qualify for the Div. III national's for 7's in Colorado later this year. Fletcher went on to say that it's a lot of fun to play and the team is really close, and he wouldn't be surprised if the team can make it to nationals in Colorado. "We have a lot of speed on our team," Fletcher said. "I think we are better than most teams." According to the Rugby team's website, the team was established in 1997, but Fletcher said it has been gaining popularity with the students in recent years. The team has a roster of about 45 players, but around 30 of them show up to play. Fletcher is one of the few players on the team that had previous experience playing rugby before he came to UWRF. "Most of the kids have no experience at all when they come to play. They usually show up as a freshman looking for something to do. They might not want to play football or track or something like that, so they come to us," Fletcher said. "Everyone is welcome to come and play; we don't really care if you're a big guy, small guy, athletic or not. You show up, you'll get playing time." The rugby team practices every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday on the intramural fields, so if you're interested in joining just go to practice or visit the team's website. With the team's recent success, Fletcher said that he would not be surprised if more people became interested in the sport with the popularity of rugby growing more and more every year. Rugby is not a official athletics team at UWRF, like softball of basketball. Rugby is one of 12 sports clubs that are currently listed on the UWRF website. The website describes sports clubs as recognized student organizations, so they're ran by students. The clubs also have a faculty advisor. Sports club are more competitive and organized than intramurals. It also says that if you're interested in making a new sports club then it may be possible. UWRF sports clubs include the dance team, Jiu Jitsu, men's and women's lacrosse, Nordic ski, paintball, rock climbing, men's and women's rugby, tennis, and men's and women's volleyball.



Photo courtesy of the men's rugby club team

Left to right: Joe Fletcher and Ethan Siem hold their first-place trophy won in a tournament held in Nebraska.



# Indie folk band Lord Huron impresses with second album

Jack Tuthill  
Reviewer

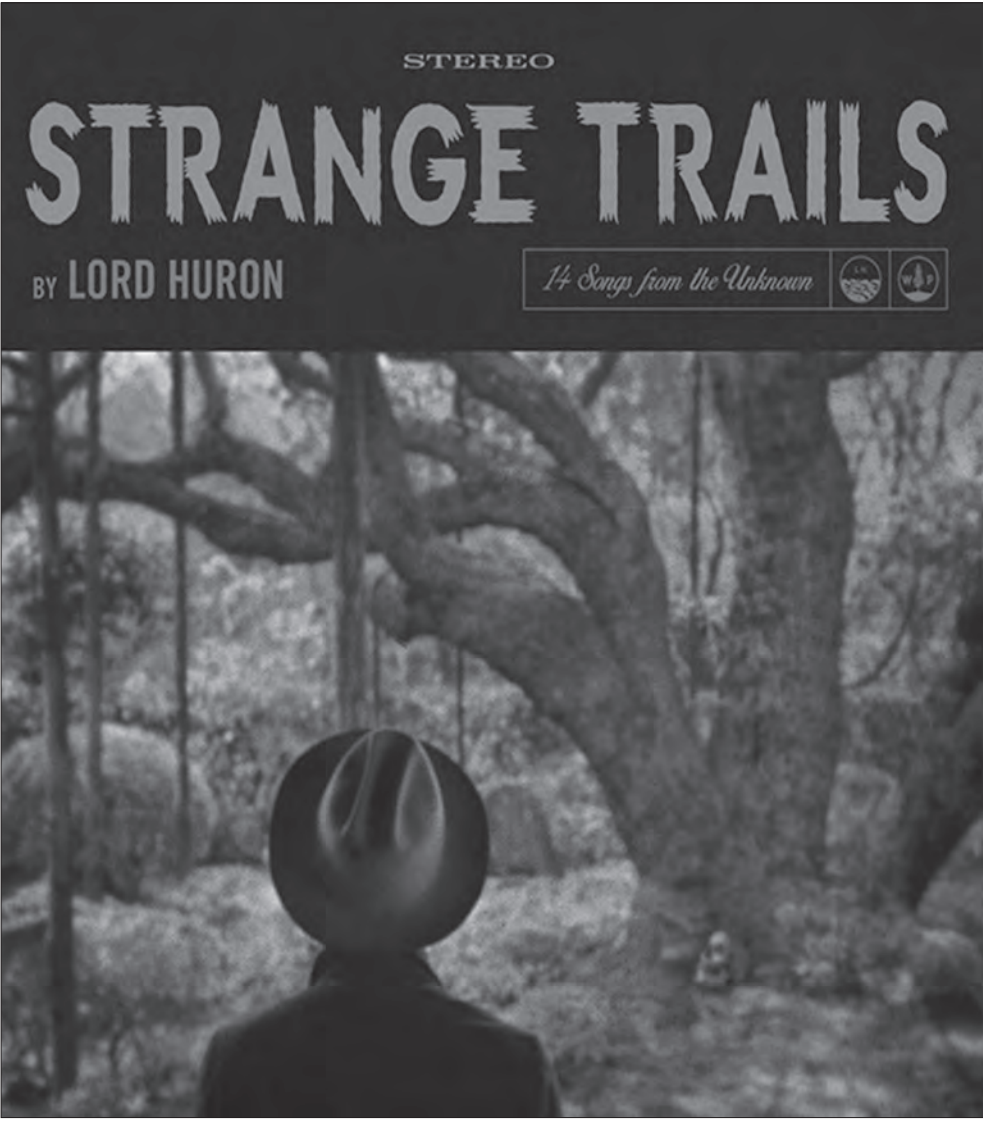
It has been five short years since Michigan native Ben Schneider, the lead singer of the rising indie folk band Lord Huron, started a solo musical project in Los Angeles, California.

Schneider created and released two short EPs in 2010 as a solo artist and eventually added three bandmates to help play live concerts. Lord Huron, named after the Great Lake Schneider often visited as a youth and suddenly a four-piece band, released “Lonesome Dreams” in 2012.

“Lonesome Dreams,” the band’s first studio album, was released in October of 2012 and featured 10 previously unreleased tracks. Most notably, the album featured “Ends of the Earth,” which is often heard on television commercials. “Lonesome Dreams” helped Lord Huron create a unique identity, a niche, in the indie folk music scene. Much of the album focuses on the American outdoors, giving “Lonesome Dreams” a concept album feel. Songs about rivers, mountains, pines, sunrises, shores and coasts match Lord Huron’s sound. Many find that listening to Lord Huron while camping, hiking, sailing or simply relaxing on a beach amplifies the experience.

Lord Huron has a danceable yet soothing sound, a sound comparable to The Head and the Heart with lyrics that successfully mimic and often eclipse Alex Brown Church of Sea Wolf.

On April 7, Lord Huron released its second studio



album in four years titled “Strange Trails.”

“Lonesome Dreams” mildly lagged in its final four tracks, but “Strange Trails” is a sprawling 14-track, 56-minute album with similar themes and an undeniably improved and diverse sound, while featuring one of the best songs of the last five years in “The Night We Met.”

“Strange Trails” has exactly what Lord Huron fans were looking for in a sophomore effort as half of the album sounds like “Lonesome Dreams,” with a dissimilar other half in both musical style and written lyrics.

For instance, there are real similarities to Elvis Presley in the goose bump-providing “The World Ender.” Schneider, who is mildly new to the profession, has certainly been experimenting with different vocal styles

because his voice is almost unrecognizable on a handful of tracks, especially in “The World Ender.”

“The Night We Met,” as mentioned earlier, is a superb downtempo track about the loss of a first lover. The track begins with soft female vocals, a Lord Huron rarity. The “ooooohhh, oooooohhh” is angelic and the soft strum of the guitar is Lord Huron trademarked. The lyrics are haunting and heartbreaking:

“I am not the only traveler who has not repaid his debt. I’ve been searching for a trail to follow, again. Take me back to the night we met.”

The chorus reveals the intimate details of the long, lost lover: “I had all and then most of you, some and now none of you, take me back to the night we met. I don’t know what I’m supposed to do, haunted by the ghost of you, take me back to the night we met.”

“The Night We Met” polishes off the album while “Frozen Pines” is the 10th track; however, “Frozen Pines” and “The Night We Met” are best played back-to-back as the tracks are similar thematically, but beautifully dissimilar rhythmically.

“Frozen Pines” picks up the tempo but Schneider’s vocals alleviate, as if he has lived through what he has written: “Deep into the night, with the moonlight as my guide, I go wonder through the pines and make my way to nature’s trails; and I look up to the sky, and I know you’re still alive; but I wonder where you are, and I call your name into the dark.”

There are also hints of the late, great Johnny Cash sprinkled throughout the album, as a handful of tracks have a 1960s country sound, especially on “La Belle Fleur Sauvage,” where the simple guitar-picking and thumping baseline is reminiscent of the Man in Black.

A harmonica makes its way onto several tracks, most notably the Wild West tribute “Dead Man’s Hand,” yet another five-star song. “Dead Man’s Hand” details the story of a young man who is shot and killed in the Wild West. The young man with slicked-back hair

doesn’t want to be buried in the desert where the coyotes will devour him. Schneider’s lyrical ability has improved tenfold in just three years: “Sure as hell he was dead as they come, and he was already starting to smell. Just a kid with his hair slicked back and a knife tucked in his belt. Was he unforgiven or just tired of living a life that never felt like his? Oh, I was waned and worried, I thought I’d bury him and lay his soul to rest out in the desert night.”

The first single on “Strange Trails,” titled “Fool for Love,” is the album’s single for a reason: it’s upbeat and catchy. The track is nowhere near the band’s best work, but it will appeal to those who are looking for a quality pop folk song worth purchasing.

“Fool for Love” is oddly humorous as Schneider sings about stealing a woman from a man named “Big Jim,” who eventually leaves Schneider gravely hurt in the midnight snow: “I lie in the drifting snow, bleeding out as it covers me up. If spring comes before I’m found, just throw my bones in a hole in the ground.”

Lord Huron is no longer simply an intriguing indie folk band worth a listen, they’ve become something much more. Lord Huron is now firmly one of the 20 best indie bands in the world, and “Strange Trails” may be one of the 10 best albums in the last three years. Lord Huron is so incredibly enticing because of what the band offers: haunting indie folk with quality lyrics that can appeal to a variety of music enthusiasts.

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# Smart horror breaks genre’s growing cliché scare tactics

Ryan Funes  
Reviewer

It does not stop, it does not reason, and it does not speak. “It Follows” is the rare horror film that proves good horror still exists.

Jay (Maika Monroe) found a man she can call her own. He’s real nice and can charm the pants off of you. However one instant of sex later and Jay is knocked out and tied to a chair in an old building. She is disoriented and she can hear the man who drugged her saying that she now has a curse on her. And she sees it.

It is your mother, it is your brother, it is your little sister, and it is your best friend. It walks slowly, patiently towards you to do the unspeakable to you. Jay sees this, fears this, and even the help of her friends may not be enough to stave off this horror. Jay is being followed,



and she may suffer things worse than what that haunting creature will do to her.

“It Follows” may not be

on the radar for some, but it certainly was for me when I heard the hype going on about it. My interest was

peaked and I decided to check it out knowing full well that I tend to brush off modern horror, since so many modern horror flicks tell me in each trailer that it’s nothing but jump-scares and body horror with no real terror to be had.

As I watched “It Follows,” I was revealed something else that made me think back to the classic times of John Carpenter horror and fear inspired by paranoia that a film could do to you. This film struck a chord with me and cemented in my head as a big change for horror films that I hadn’t seen before.

Though advertisements for this film may underplay it all, “It Follows” is actually pretty smart. Characters interact well with each other and the originality of a creature that follows those who pass a curse on through sex is utilized to a pretty good extent. Characters are fleshed out enough, and as a result one cares much more for them to try and get out of this terrible nightmare.

Speaking of nightmares, the cinematography and musical score of “It Follows” anything but, it’s outstanding, especially for the inexperienced director David Robert Mitchell (“The Myth of the American Sleepover”), who had only directed one film before “It Follows.”

Mitchell handles each scene in the film beautifully to illustrate the paranoia and sense of being followed that the characters feel (one 360 degree rotation shot simulates perfectly the feeling of watching one’s back). The film also gives just enough information in its editing and writing to give you the right idea and move on, which might frustrate some viewers trying to follow but sat just fine with me.

Musically “It Follows” may stick in peoples’ heads more than any horror film before. Its use of harsh synthesized riffs call back to the music of John Carpenter’s “Halloween” and so much of the time puts you on edge and feeds your anxiety

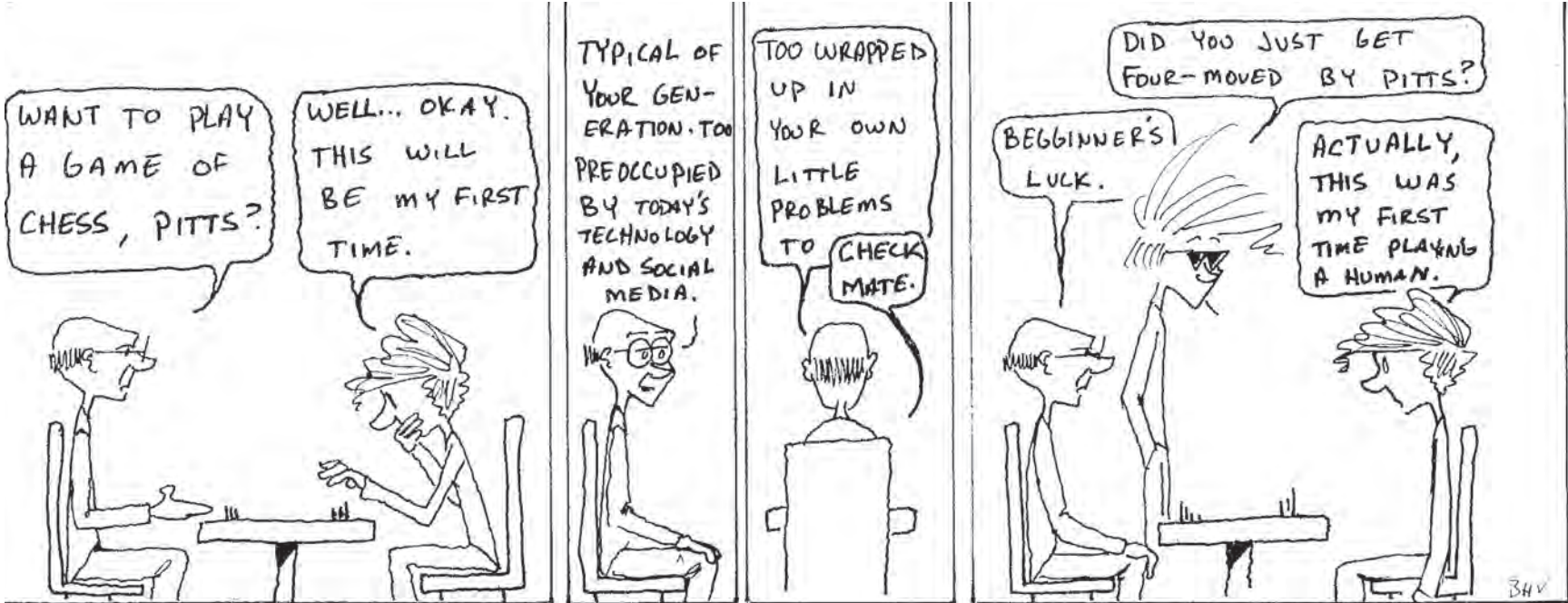
for what happens next. You won’t forget the score anytime soon, even if it can enhance the film so much and set such a dreaded tone for events to come.

Though there isn’t much that can be said of the actors (most are unknowns), they all deliver quite well here in the anachronistically-set film that seems half-way in the 1970s and half in the modern era. The actors, along with many of the other elements in this film, show a clear style from Mitchell that both honors its horror predecessors and creates its own thing.

If it cannot be repeated enough I would say to go see “It Follows” in whatever theater you can. It is a great step in the world of horror that brings a lot of new things to the well-bloodied table that is modern horror, and it will stay in your head like a nightmare you can’t forget.

Ryan Funes is a lover of all things movie, television, video games and stories and wants to become a television writer someday.

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Cartoon by Benjamin Heer