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University of Wisconsin

River Falls

STUDENT VOICE

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Francis Johnson affected his community one story at a time

Sophia Koch
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Francis Johnson in his blaze orange jacket was a well-known figure across River Falls as he biked to and from work. He was a tall, strong man, and his friendly nature and easy ability to strike up a conversation allowed him to touch the lives of people all across town.

Caryn Sande was in college when she met him 11 years ago. She was working at the Holiday gas station in River Falls at the time, and Johnson would come in, drink coffee and read the newspaper. Eventually, Sande’s assistant manager introduced her to him.

“And it just kind of snow-balled from there,” Sande said. “He would tell his silly stories and I would listen – and he took it as an audience and it just kind of grew from there.”

Over time, Sande came to know Johnson as someone who was funny, intelligent, philosophical and kind. He was a local who had been in whole life. He came from came to work for Chartwells deliveries. Everywhere he went around town, even in the winter, he bicycled.

He never planned on retiring, Sande said. “He loved what he did and he liked to keep moving.”

Francis Johnson died on Feb. 27 shortly after collapsing while riding his bike. It was early in the morning, and he was riding on Second Street near Locust Street. He was 70 years



Photo courtesy of UW-River Falls Student Involvement
Francis Johnson worked for Chartwells at UW-River Falls doing deliveries and was renowned across town for his stories and friendly nature.

River Falls essentially his a farming family, and later at UW-River Falls doing deliveries. Everywhere he went around town, even in the winter, he bicycled.

old. A memorial service was held on March 3, and ever since his death there has been an outpouring of sympathy from across the community. He was extraordinarily good at making connections, and many people have a story to tell about him.

Caryn Sande would often talk to him about books. Johnson loved history – particularly tales about Custer’s battles and the Wild West – and he liked to invent stories of his own from time to time.

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Once a cesspool and now a premier trout steam, Kinni Corridor set to become free-flowing

Nathan Lukasavitz
Falcon News Service

In the 1970s, the Kinnickinnic Corridor was a cesspool that people dumped raw sewage and oil into, according to lifelong city resident Alison Page.

Today, however, it is a premier fishing destination that is classified as a Class 1 trout stream by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Seeking to make the corridor an even healthier environment for trout to thrive, among other purposes, the River Falls City Council unanimously passed a resolution last week to remove the hydroelectric facilities and complete stream restoration with a target date between 2035 and 2040.

“We’re talking time frame here, and that’s flexible, and it’s going to depend on money,” said Page, who in addition to being a lifelong resident is also secretary of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, which is a nonprofit citizen organization that seeks to protect the river and its watershed. “The good news is that we have a collective vision for this community that involves that river, right there, being free of the impoundments.”

In addition to getting the river free, another objective of the land trust is to keep the river cold, an essential aspect for maintaining quality trout life in the stream.

The temperature is of particular concern now, with data showing that in recent summers the water level has

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Yasmine Ruetz/Student Voice
Artists and local restaurants contributed bowls and food to the annual Bowls for Hope event on Tuesday. The money from the event will go towards the Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley.

Bowls for Hope event raises money for Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley

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Before the doors opened, caterers and event coordinators were busily providing finishing touches to their contributions. As people crowded into the University Center’s ball-room, the sound of lively conversation filled the area.

Unlike most university-hosted events, this one consisted of more than just college students and faculty. Members from the River Falls community gathered for the ninth annual Bowls for Hope event this past Tuesday.

The nonprofit event raises money for a different charity every year. Proceeds are collected from both the cost of admission and the silent auction from which the event gets its name.

A wide variety of artists contribute different types of bowls to bid on. This year, 16 items were up for auction, which included wood, ceramic and fabric creations. Starting bids ranged from \$30 to \$210. Local elementary schools also contributed, selling creations by their students for \$5 apiece.

This year’s recipient was Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley, a nonprofit organization that benefits families from the area. Their goal is to provide education, resources and support to families and other communities. The event’s proceeds will help provide emergency level support to families enrolled in their program.

Along the perimeter of the room, the caterers served samples of soup, which the guests would later vote on to decide the best recipe. Contributors consisted of local restaurants, including Juniors Restaurant and Tap House, Kilkarney Hills and Mei Mei’s Cookies. Twelve restaurants participated in total.

The event was well received by people at every level of involvement. Guests, artists and caterers alike sat down together to share stories and expand their soup palates.

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News Briefs: Celtic flavored barn dance for St. Patrick’s Day

The Hudson-based string band Greenwood Tree will play on St. Patrick's Day in the River Falls Barn Dance series at the Academy Gym at the former Meyer Middle School at 439 West Maple Street in River Falls on Saturday, March 17, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

The dance will feature all the regular square and line dances and reels given an appropriately Irish flourish by the Celtic-flavored Greenwood Tree.

No prior experience is necessary. A skilled dance caller will teach participants the simple steps to all dances. All ages are welcome, and partners not required. First-timers are encouraged to attend. Family dances suitable for younger children are featured during the first segment.

The remaining dance in the 2017-18 Barn Dance season will be held on Saturday, April 14, featuring the Twin Cities band the Barn Cats. Dates for the 2018-19 season will be announced this summer.

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.

Meat processing school to be hosted by UW-River Falls on March 20-21

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls is hosting the Wisconsin-Minnesota Meat Processing School March 20-21. The school is jointly sponsored by UW-River Falls, the University of Wisconsin Extension, the Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors and the University of Minnesota Extension.

Participants will learn the practical science and art of sausage-making and meat curing from a team of university instructors, supplier specialists and award winning “wurstmeisters.” Information will be covered at a basic, applied level and is aimed at operators who have minimal meat curing and sausage-making experience, but processors of all levels can benefit from this program. There will be several processing demonstrations and product evaluations.

The registration fee is \$325/person and includes course materials, refreshment breaks, lunches and an “Old World” dinner on Tuesday evening. Participants will have opportunities to interact informally with the instructors.

Enrollment is limited, but a few seats are still available. The registration deadline has been extended by one week to Tuesday, March 13. For more information and to register, visit <https://marketplace.uwrf.edu/products/meat-processing-school>. For questions about the school, email gary.onan@uwrf.edu

Swinging Bridge added to state historic registry

By Gretta Stark/Rivertown Multimedia

The Swinging Bridge has been a part of River Falls since it was constructed in 1925 by the Minneapolis Bridge Company. At the time it cost about \$4,800, according to City Development Services Director Amy Peterson.

A news release from the Wisconsin Historical Society said the bridge is one of only about five pedestrian suspension bridges.

“So, it has a unique type of construction,” she said.

The bridge has become an iconic part of River Falls, Peterson added.

“When my friends and relatives come to River Falls and they want to see what River Falls is about,” Peterson said, “I take them to Glen Park and show them the bridge.”

Now, the bridge has been added to the State Registry of Historic Places, as of Feb. 16, according to a news release by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

The State Registry is an official list of properties that are significant to Wisconsin’s heritage, administered by the State Historic Preservation Office at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Getting the Swinging Bridge added to the state registry is a requirement to get the bridge listed on the national registry, Peterson said.

She said the city has applied to get the Swinging Bridge added to the national registry but there is no timeline for the process, and she doesn’t know when the national registry will respond.

Peterson said the Swinging Bridge’s addition to the registry is important from a historical perspective as well as tourist perspective.

She said people sometimes look at the registry and specifically visit places to see buildings or structures.

If the bridge is added to the national registry in the future, it could mean additional opportunities for federal and state grants, if and when the bride needs rehabilitation again.

The Swinging Bridge was rehabbed in 1985-86 with careful consideration of the original appearance.

“They worked hard back then to make sure that it stayed true to the original structure,” Peterson said.

The bridge was originally listed as potentially eligible for the national registry in 1990 when the city did an architectural history survey.

The City updated the survey in 2014-15, and the bridge was listed as potentially eligible for the registry again at that time.

8th annual River Falls Bluegrass Music Festival presents over 40 hours of bands

The River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau presents the 8th Annual River Falls Roots and Bluegrass Music Festival, brought to you by Premiere Event Sponsor, Fulton Brewing Company. The River Falls Roots and Bluegrass Music Festival will be held April 13 – 15 in River Falls, Wisconsin, just 30 minutes east of St. Paul, and will feature headlining performances from well-known bluegrass and Americana bands including Monroe Crossing, Steam Machine, Thirsty River, and Miles Over Mountains. This free, indoor music weekend features 40+ hours of foot stompin’ bluegrass, Cajun, and roots music from regional and local artists where young and old can stroll historic Main Street and find bluegrass music on every corner!

Kick off the 2018 River Falls Roots and Bluegrass Music Festival on Friday, April 13th at the Annual Beer and Wine Tasting from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Junior’s Restaurant & Tap House. Attendees at this ticketed event can sample over 30 wines and beers from local wineries including 65 Vines and Belle Vinez Winery, and breweries such as Fulton Brewing Company, Summit Brewing Company, and Swinging Bridge Brewing Company to name a few. Tickets are \$20 in advance (available online at www.riverfallsbluegrass.com or at the River Falls Chamber of Commerce office and Junior’s Restaurant & Tap House) or \$25 at the door.

Artists nationwide have a chance to win coveted prizes by demonstrating their musical talents to standing-room only crowds in the Roots & Bluegrass Band Contest and the Singer/Songwriter competition. Also available for entertainment and excitement during the festival are the “Percussion Petting Zoo” at Brickhouse Music, “Flapjacks & Fiddles” at Riverwalk Square, Hoedown! Library Barn Dance, open jam sessions, and more!

Whether you are a die-hard bluegrass or roots music fan or just in the mood for a unique, costeffective event, the River Falls Roots and Bluegrass Music Festival is the perfect fit for you and your family.

Admission to attend the concerts and competitions is free thanks to our great sponsors. For festival lodging, schedule of events, and more information about the River Falls Roots and Bluegrass Music Festival, visit www.riverfallsbluegrass.com or call (715) 425-2533.

Corrections:

In the “Professional Sales Club” story from last week, there was an error regarding the formatting of the paragraphs.

In the news brief titled “River Falls City Council votes to remove Kinni River dams,” the story was not credited to Gretta Stark from the River Falls Journal.

Check out the Student Voice online at uwrfvoice.com

Student Senate Update: Mar. 6

Jordan Derby was sworn in as the new College of Education and Professional Studies Senator.

The Student Media Committee and Student Organization budgets were brought up and briefly discussed, but not voted on because they were introductory only.

There is more talk regarding the sustainability green fee. Vice President Kaylee Kildahl suggested bringing in Mark Klapatch from the Sustainability Office to talk more on the subject in a future meeting.

“Under the Lights” was approved as a new student organization. Their org. revolves around musical theater, and plans to perform musical as a distinct group from the UWRF theater department.

The budget for Mental Health Awareness Week (April 2-6) was brought up for consideration.

- The total budget of \$2,500 will be taken from the Student Senate Funding Pool. The majority (\$1,250) will go towards bringing speaker Kevin Hines to campus.
- Senator Elijah Anderson voiced disapproval for the expense of the event: he said he believes Senate could foster mental health awareness in less expensive ways. He also specifically said that the advertising budget (\$425) could be made less by not printing posters and simply sending emails.
- Senator JJ Knapp pointed out that planning for the event has been ongoing for a long time, and that Anderson had that entire time to voice his concerns.
- Knapp also cited surveys showing that students tend not to be aware of events on campus and would like more advertising.
- The motion to approve the budget was introductory only, and will be voted on at a later date.

The information in this update comes from the minutes posted to the Student Government Association Falcon-Sync page every week and from the live tweet posts gathered by Student Voice staff. The Student Senate meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Willow River Room of the University Center.

Weekly UWRF Crime Report

- Thursday, March 1**
- Underage alcohol was reported at McMullan Hall at 10:07 p.m.
- Friday, March 2**
- Vandalism was reported at R.A. Karges Center at 2:25 a.m.
- Saturday, March 3**
- A motor vehicle accident was reported at 530 S. Main Street at 12:11 p.m.
 - Underage alcohol was reported at Grimm Hall at 9:32 p.m.
- Monday, March 5**
- Theft was reported at Grimm Hall at 10:14 a.m.

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





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Francis Johnson: how one person affected the people in his community, one story at a time

Continued from Page 1

He was also very handy, she said, and he would often help his friends with odd jobs. She recalled one instance when, during a blizzard, she had to shovel out the parking lot at Holiday. The whole time she was there, Johnson was too.

“I spent so much time cleaning that stupid lot,” she said, “and he was right there next to me, making sure I didn’t get

hit by cars, and he’s a big six-foot something guy and I’m just barely five-two.”

This was not, she said, uncommon of him. “He was there for everybody,” she said.

In 2010, Sande got engaged. She introduced her husband to Johnson, and the two of them got along well. In 2012, Sande and her husband were married at the Kilkarney Hills golf course at the north edge of River Falls. Johnson attended, and

he of course biked all the way there.

“After the ceremony was done, he gave us a big bear hug and kissed us on the head,” Sande said, “and, just, he was such a good guy. He would just do that.”

Johnson’s influence in town was far wider than perhaps even he knew. Minda Matthys, director of the C.H.I.L.D. Center daycare at UW-River Falls, said that she remembers Johnson coming in once a day to deliver catered meals from Chartwells for the kids. Over time, she said, he became a local celebrity.

“When he pulled up and they saw his lunch cart ... you could just hear them chanting, ‘Francis! Francis!’” Matthys said. “They probably knew Francis better than some of the other teachers ... He would wave hello and give them the time, and sometimes they would sneak out of Karen’s (Knap-ton) room just to get a better look at Francis.”

Elise Koop is the Events and Activities Coordinator at UWRF, and she met Johnson at a move-in day picnic while she was student on campus. They were both very sociable people, and hit it off quickly. Over time, she discovered the philosophical side of his nature and the way that side of him extended to his love of biking.

“He biked to get around town and to get to work, but also just for the love of biking itself,” she said. “He talked about how biking, for him, was a spiritual and an essential experience.”

Her impression of him, she said, was of someone who was very good at connecting with people. He would say “hello” and tell his stories, and though these seemed like small things, they showed that he was invested in his community.

After Johnson’s death, people from across the River Falls community banded together to show how much they appreciated him. Facebook posts announcing what had happened were followed by dozens of sad comments from people who knew him, and multiple groups from across town decided to wear orange on March 2 in his memory.

“So many people were affected by him, and he was just living his life,” Koop said. “He didn’t realize the impact he had on the community.”



Teachers and children from the UW-River Falls C.H.I.L.D. Child Care Center wore blaze orange on March 2 in memory of “local legend” Francis Johnson, who died on Feb. 27.

Photo courtesy of Minda Matthys

Once a cesspool and now a premier trout stream, Kinni Corridor set to become free

Continued from Page 1

exceeded the physiological temperature limit for brown trout. In 2012, this physiological limit of 66 degrees was exceeded in the river for a cumulative total of 8.8 days, according to monitoring data from Trout Unlimited.

Aside from preserving the river as a healthy living environment for trout, another environmental concern is the renewable energy that the river will no longer supply after the dams are removed. The city currently obtains from the dams an estimated 2 million kilowatt hours of energy annually, which is enough to supply 223 homes with electricity for an entire year, according to the EPA.

“I’m all in favor of green energy. I’m the CEO of a medical center that’s running completely on geothermal heating and cooling,” Page said. “Renewable energy is a great thing, but should we forfeit the beauty of this free-flowing river in order to get it? No.”

Despite Page’s firm stance and solid support of a free-flowing river, she thoroughly agrees with the sentiment expressed at the council meeting by Alderman Scott Morrisette to not allow the issue to lead to “unhealthy division within the city.” Exercising this desire for unity, Page does not allow her opinion on the topic to disrupt a long-held friendship she has had since high school with Patricia La Rue, a lifelong resident and staunch opponent of the dam removal.

“I appreciate the 2 million kilowatt hours of green energy we get every year,” said La Rue, who serves on the city’s Kinni Corridor Planning Commission. “I support having Lake George and spending the money to improve Lake George, so that we have a river-lake-river environment.”

For proponents of the dam, having Lake George results in having an increased level of ecological diversity in the city, according to La Rue.

“The lake has a different diversity than the river, so therefore you have turtles, which aren’t going to be there,” La Rue said. “You and I don’t like to eat carp, but blue heron do, so blue heron would be there, but now they’ll be gone because there’s no carp.”

Just like Page, despite the level of energy and involvement she has devoted to the corridor, her friendship is much more meaningful to her than the city’s decision to take away the dams.

“You can’t take away high school,” La Rue said. “We still are friends and we always will be.”

Bowls for Hope event raises money for Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley

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“It’s a highly successful fundraiser for organizations that make great impacts on our community,” said Pat McCardle, one of the event’s contributing artists.

For the third year in a row, McCardle provided the wood bowls that were up for auction. He has a love for woodworking, saying, “I’m shaping and displaying the beauty of the wood.” Ever since he was first invited to participate, he’s been excited to involve himself with Bowls for Hope.

McCardle wasn’t the only one to share this sentiment. “It’s a unique opportunity for the broader community and the campus to support a nonprofit,” said Chancellor Dean Van Galen. “It’s a bridge between UWRF and people who would not ordinarily visit campus.”

Although the total amount of proceeds is still being calculated, it’s clear that the event was a resounding success. For most of the night, the ballroom, which was prepared to accommodate 200, was full. The tenth annual Bowls for Hope event is already scheduled for the same week next year.



Attendees at the Bowls for Hope were able to purchase bowls and food in the knowledge that the money would go towards the Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley.

Yasmine Ruetz/Student Voice

Residents take sides on City Council’s latest dam decision

Lauren Simenson
Falcon News Service

Neal Gilbertson, 74, has been a resident of River Falls his entire life. Like many residents of River Falls, he has a bright blue sign on his lawn notifying his neighbors about his opinion regarding the dams in the Kinni River.

Gilbertson’s giant, homemade sign reads “Free the Kinni” in white, with a red circle around the letters and a slash across it. This was put up in response to the many bright blue “Free the Kinni” signs he saw popping up around River Falls.

The sign, which has only been up three months, was vandalized in January with white spray paint after only two weeks of being erected on his lawn. Gilbertson suspects “one of those Free the Kinni tree-huggers” was behind the damage. No one has been found guilty of defacing his sign. Currently the homemade sign sports a new message in response to the recent decision made by the River Falls City Council during their most recent meeting on Feb. 27.

Gilbertson, who has been to every City Council meeting that talks about the Kinni and its dams, was the first member of the public to speak to the council during the public comments section of the meeting last Tuesday. Regarding the final resolution passed that night, he said, “I’m happy with the recent decision and that the removal date is still so far away.”

Gilbertson is pleased that millions of dollars will not be spent on taking out the dams. He thinks it is plain common sense to spend that much money on more worthwhile projects like raising the height of manholes and fixing the embankment by the dollar store so that Main Street won’t cave in.

To express his satisfaction with the council’s decision, Gilbertson has now replaced the red circle and slash around the words “Free the Kinni” with a bright yellow smiley face.

For another member of the community, the resolution to pursue relicensing the dam and eventually removing the Junction Falls Dam by 2035 to 2040 did not go over well.

Michael Page is president of the community organization Friends of the Kinni and responsible for those bright blue

yard signs proclaiming, “Free the Kinni.” He also attended the Tuesday night meeting.

“It was good that they moved up the time frame for the removal of the second dam, but it’s just silly,” he said. “They aren’t taking into account all of the substantial public feedback that this city has received in support of being done with the licenses and removal of both of the dams.”

Like Gilbertson, Page thinks that the logic of common sense is not being taken into account by the council. “It makes no sense to remove the lower dam first,” he said. “Ecologically, you should be removing the upper dam first and then the lower dam. It makes no sense to do two different dam removals.”

The resolution that was reached by the City Council on Feb. 27 is still awaiting a final review and approval from the mayor. Until then, it looks like the city of River Falls is still divided over the issue of dam removal, and apparently over the issue of bright blue yard signs.

EDITORIAL

Small changes can have a big effect on campus life

In just about any given environment, the people living or working within it will notice things that they want to fix. A university is no exception; thousands of people walk the halls of the buildings and sit in the classrooms every day, and many of these people have one or two things they think can improve.

The physical environment of a classroom is the first thing that people tend to notice. Student Voice staff have noticed a handful of things that can improve at UW-River Falls. Some of the smaller things are a lack of left-handed desks, Kleenexes and hand sanitizer in classrooms. Something more significant is the recent decision to remove trash cans from the classrooms, which has made it difficult to dispose of waste when professors strongly discourage students from leaving class.

The other factor in a classroom is the relationship between professors and students. The syllabus, for example, would be more useful if it were made available to students before they sign up for classes. Student would be less likely to sign up for classes they can’t handle, and so there would be fewer last-minute drops.

In terms of establishing deeper relationships between students and professors, office hours are a valuable opportunity. Most professors strongly encourage that people take advantage of these hours. However, the current method for posting these hours is inconsistent and often-times inconvenient.

The Student Voice staff would like to see a centralized list online where students can look up the office hours of their professors without having to walk to the physical office. This will reduce wasted trips from off-campus locations and ensure that a student won’t miss the professor. The best place to put this list would likely be under the staff directories that already exist on the university website.

Another feature that could be implemented would be an online system for signing up for meetings. Many professors already have meeting sign-up sheets in physical form that they post on their doors. Moving this online and making it available with every professor would make it much easier for students and professors to avoid conflicts when setting up meetings.

Students also have a responsibility to make these relationships with professors work. Professors get frustrated when no one shows up to office hours. It is doubly frustrating when students make appointments and never show up to them. If an online appointment system were to be made, students should make sure that they make the effort to uphold their commitments and show professors that their time is valuable.

There will always be small changes like these that students across campus will want to make. The university can’t account for them all, but we think that a good way to get a better feel for them would be to implement a suggestion box in the University Center. The students are the ones who live in this environment, and they often have a good idea of what needs to change.

Editorials represent the opinions of the Student voice Editorial Board and are prepared by the editorial staff.

STUDENT VOICE

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

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

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

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

Best Picture nominees display contrary image of cigarettes

Lauren A. Simenson

Columnist

For anyone who has spent any time with me since Christmas, the subject of how excited I am for the Oscars has definitely come up in conversation at least once. Award season, in my opinion, is the best season – and I am taking a firm, “sorry, not sorry” stance on that.

This year, I have been filled with even more anticipation than usual for the Academy Awards. For the first time ever, I have actually seen almost every single one of the Best Picture nominations. If any inquiring minds would like to know, the only movies I still need to check off my list are “Darkest Hour,” “Phantom Thread” and “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri.”

Even though I have not seen all nine films this year, I have followed their journeys throughout the different award shows leading up to the Oscars finale and have consequently seen trailers and clips of all of the best picture movies.

This is how I know that all nine of these movies covers a diverse and wide range of topics such as war, falling in love with a sea creature and of growing up and moving away from your parents. These nine movies also feature story lines that span many decades such as the 1940s, the 1980s and even the modern day. The movies are all very different from one another, but they might be more similar to each other than you realize.

The similarity I am talking about specifically has to do with the lighting of and the smoking of nicotine and tobacco-filled cancer delivery devices. In every single one of the films

nominated in the best picture category, at least one character smoked a cigarette! Every single movie. In comparison to today’s changing mood to smoking, which views the smoking of cigarettes as increasingly taboo and rare to even see someone doing, the many scenes that I saw with fingers curled around a glowing and smoky cigarette really stood out to me.

If it is not obvious, I am really against smoking cigarettes. I often acknowledge how terrible cigarettes are for people’s health by exclaiming to those around me, “why would someone spend so much money on something they know is going to give them cancer?” But in the movies, cigarettes do not seem so unhealthy to me. They seem ... glamorous and cool.

I realize that for many of the Best Picture movies, the time frame of the story practically demands that smoking be a part of the movie. It was just part of what you did during that time in history. But for other movies, I can’t help but think that smoking was added or even emphasized to help a character make a statement. When I watched the movies that were nominated this year, smoking was used to show toughness, manliness, sophistication and a sense of elegant nonchalance. I would never associate any of those characteristics with someone I saw smoking on the street today.

Cigarettes still seem to have a big image problem that sharply contrasts the old-fashioned glamour of smoking against the modern-day sensibilities of knowing how dangerous cigarettes.

Lauren Simenson is a senior majoring in journalism and communication studies. Her interests include eating dark chocolate, online window shopping and reading anything she can get her hands on. While not at work, at school, taking naps, or doing homework, she likes to cook, canoe, fish and write.

Horoscopes by Beth: Spring Meltdown

Bethany Lovejoy

Columnist

Aries

Spring break is here, and even if you’re going somewhere, you’d much rather be home. Sure, home has your bed and all your amenities and a few dozen toaster strudels, but you’re going to get a bad idea the minute you arrive anywhere remotely homey.

Do not get a haircut. I repeat: do not get a haircut. You are going to regret it for the rest of your life because you’re going to have a mullet or some sort of none high fashion bowl cut. This is not a good idea. Watch some Netflix or something.

Taurus

Last week you were third wheeling and this week you are bicycling.

You, my friend, are going to meet a 10/10 babe this spring break and have some great noncommittal memories. Maybe you won’t remember what they looked like by next year, perhaps you can’t really remember the details of your love story. You definitely won’t remember their name or where they’re from.

Gemini

You’re going to eat a lot of pasta. Like, to the point where some people would call you a carboholic.

The best part about this arrangement is that it all plays into you conning people into thinking you can cook. Sure, the first time you’re not going to mean to con someone, but when they ask you if that bomb Prego sauce was your recipe, you’re going to accidentally say “yes.” Because of that accidental “yes,” you’re going to have to live with this mistake for the duration of your spring break, eating only Pasta Roni and Prego sauce with a pinch of salt thrown in.

Cancer

Have we talked about ramen on this column before? I wanna say not, but who knows.

Point is, you’re going to eat a lot of ramen. Now, you may wince, but this is a good thing. This is an active choice you made. Maybe it’s really fancy ramen, because for a solid week and a half that is going to be the majority of what you eat.

Sure, you’ll spice it up, put some food in or something, but like ...

Ramen.

Leo

You are going to Target this week: congratulations.

The sun is beating down on your constellation and put you in the deals section. You’re going to spend a lot of time in the cheap section near the front of the store, see some strange sponges in the cleaning section and get some free samples due to heavy favoring by the sun.

And then, like a light, you will see Tim Tams, and lo’ they will be great.

These chocolate covered biscuits, available only at Target, are the height of cuisine and the world will surely end without them. I’m actually super happy for you.

Virgo

You’re going to be subject to the whims of Mercury, who is in a fun mood.

It’s going to be spa Saturday on some random day of the week for you, and you are going to do some skin care and personal reflection. This is all going to go well until you take the skincare too far. You’re going to either rip off part of your eyebrows or dry out your skin.

This, however, won’t be that bad as you’re already prepared for it. After all, you read my column.

Libra

You’re going to see the side of the family that you do not like. This is because of Venus.

They’re going to say some things to you that are going to make you beg to return to college campus where, somehow, people aren’t as radical in their political beliefs.

Scorpio

Your constellation is just sailing through the star system, much like how you will be sailing through the internet.

You’re going to get embroiled in a meaningless internet conflict and become a little bit too emotional about it. It could be something as stupid as how the toilet paper roll is supposed to go, but you’re going to end up weirdly crying over it anyway.

Sagittarius

The Sagittarius constellation was low in the sky when I last looked, and I was pretty sure that I looked at a pretty good star-looking time.

As a Sagittarius, I am really sad to report that this means we are all going to get saggy chins that no lotion can defeat. Even a massage cannot end the onslaught of droop.

Capricorn

You’re going to eat a lot of candy corn. Get it? Because it sounds like Capricorn.

Being real though, you are going to eat more candy corn than you want to this week. This is going to suck because most of you actually hate candy corn, except for one special snowflake or something.

Maybe just discretely throw it away? All of this is because your sign is near the corn constellation.

Aquarius

You’re going to do some Pinterest projects this week.

Most are actually going to turn out bad. The glue and scissors constellations are actually just floating off somewhere away from you. You are, however, going to have one that turns out extremely good, likely the one you thought was too dumb to work.

Surprise.

Pisces

Your constellation is looking worn out and sad, which means only one thing: you’re going to take a shower.

A really long, hot shower – the kind where you shave everything in an attempt to stay in the water longer. Like your skin is going to wrinkle up, but you are going to be beautiful.

Then you’re going to step out of the shower into a not-cold bathroom and leisurely walk to your bedroom, cleaner than a hospital room.

Bethany Lovejoy is a creative writing major, and her parents are very proud.

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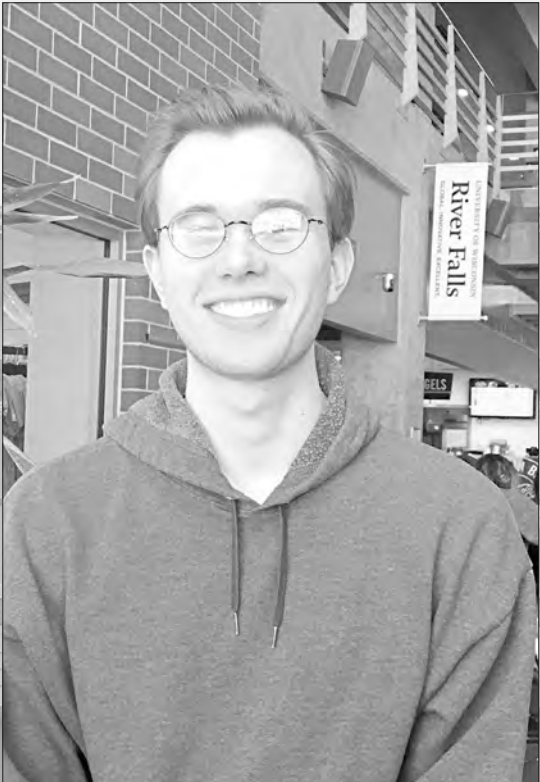
STUDENT voices

Compiled by Yasmine Ruetz

“What are you most excited for about Spring break?”



Levi Thompson
(Freshman)
“Working.”



Gabriel Hill
(Sophomore)
“Going to Texas with my family.”



Gaozhoua Pa Vang
(Senior)
“I’m looking forward to ice fishing and visiting friends up north.”



Abigail Micheals
(Junior)
“To go and job shadow.”



Erin Fagin
(Freshman)
“Getting to see my dog.”



Lashia Maua
(Junior)
“Nice weather and seeing my friends and family.”

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UWRF Athlete of the week: Colton Sorensen



Kathy Helgeson/ University Communications

Zach Dwyer

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Colton Sorensen, a senior pole vaulter from Balsam Lake, Wis., qualified for the DIII National Indoor meet in Birmingham, Ala., this past weekend at the Last Chance Meet at UW-Stevens Point. His vault of 4.91 meters moved him up to 10th in the country and qualified him for the national meet. His

vault on Saturday was only .01 meters off his personal best of 4.92 meters, which happens to be a UW-River Falls record. Sorensen will compete on Friday afternoon in Birmingham.

The Student Voice sat down with Sorensen to discuss his increased workload this season and his final indoor meet.

Q: What has this season been like for you?

A: It’s been my best season so far in my college career. I’ve been hitting big bars and attempting the national bar almost every meet that we went to. I attempted 16 feet, and I kind of made it connect at the Last Chance Meet.

Q: What led to you wanting to try out the heptathlon this season?

A: I always wanted to try it in college. I figured it was my senior year, so I might as well give it a go. I turned out being okay at it and got ninth at the conference meet. It was fun, and I was glad I did it.

Q: What events make up the Heptathlon?

A: It’s the high jump, long jump, pole vault, 60-meter dash, 60-meter hurdles, 1000 meters and shot put.

Q: Were any of the events new or challenging for you?

A: The only event that was new for me was the shot put. I did all the others a little bit in high school.

Q: Did you find you were better at any of the events than you expected?

A: I did a lot better in the hurdles than I thought I was going to do. My first race (this season) was really, really, bad. By the end of the year I had it down pretty well.

Q: Did training for the Heptathlon help you out in any way in your pole vaulting?

A: I think it did. I definitely got faster in my 60m, which is going to help pole vault if I run faster. I’m going to continue outdoor to train for a few different events. I won’t do the Decathlon, but I will train for a few events.

Q: What kind of vault did you need to qualify for nationals this past weekend?

A: I made 15 feet 9 1/4 inches at conference in the Heptathlon. That actually would’ve made it to nationals. It would’ve been in 15th place, which is the last spot to get in. But I really needed to get that 16 feet 1 inch mark to secure the spot; that was the bar going into the weekend. I figured 15 feet 9 1/4 inches wasn’t going to make it, so I had to make that jump.

Q: What was your near-record 4.91-meter jump like? Did it all come together?

A: I was jumping really well in warmups and then I almost

didn’t make 15 feet. I barely made it and I nicked it on my third attempt. I passed 15 feet 7 inches and went straight to 16 feet 1 inch. My first attempt was just shallow, which means I wasn’t going into the depth I needed. My second attempt was also shallow, but my third attempt I knew I had to give it everything I had, and I made it.

Q: What is your goal for competing in nationals? Is this your first appearance?

A: This is my second time going there; I made it in 2015 as a freshman. My goal is to be an All-American, which is top eight. The height I’d really like to hit is five meters, which is about 16 feet 5 inches. That would be the highest I ever jumped.

Q: How did you do in your first appearance at nationals?

A: I was pretty nervous the first time I went. I think I jumped 15 feet 3 inches, which was opening height. I missed the next three attempts and was done. I think I won’t have as many nerves this time and will be going there to compete.

Q: What are you looking forward to in the outdoor season?

A: I’m looking to finally get over 16 feet outdoor. My best is about 15 feet 6 inches for outdoor, which is the school record. I think I would’ve broken the school record in outdoor about six times in indoor this year. I’d really like to get it over 16 feet and qualify for nationals outdoor, because I haven’t gone yet.

Q: How have you developed throughout your time as a pole vaulter at UWRF?

A: In my freshman year, I really had everything click indoors and figured out a lot of things I needed to do. I went 16 feet 1 3/4 inches my freshman year, and I never quite had that feeling again the last two years. This year I finally was running good, and everything is coming together this year. It was all building up to this year. I know I haven’t jumped my PR (personal record) yet, but I’m jumping better than I ever have.

Q: What will you remember most about your time as a Falcon?

A: I honestly will remember the people that were there and made the journey fun. We don’t have a huge track team, but it’s the few people on the team that make the difference. I wouldn’t change it in a million years.

Softball begins season with strong showing in dome games

Zach Dwyer

zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

The Falcons softball team graduated only one senior last season, returning five seniors with multiple years of experience and three all-conference players on the team.

Their leadership was on display this weekend in Rochester, Minn., with the Falcons going 3-1 and outscoring their opponents 43-15 in their four games in the Rochester Dome.

“Us seniors have played together for the last four years, and the chemistry is strong,” senior outfielder Shannan Borchardt said. “We have all of us together in the lineup, and that chemistry will really help the team be successful.”

Borchardt said that as a senior she’s been through it all, which helped the team to get off to such a fast start this season. She said they usually don’t have much success in their dome games, but the addition of nine new freshman and a strong lineup has been important.

“Each one of (the seniors) brings a ton of experience and three of the five are all-conference players,” head coach Amber Dohlman said. “They all have been a starter for more than one year and have worked hard this last offseason.”

The team’s main goal is to make the conference tournament for the first time in the past few seasons. This will give them an opportunity to reach the NCAA tournament.

While youth has been one of the recurring themes in past seasons, this senior class is one of the biggest in the last four years.

“There’s only one freshman in the lineup, and everyone else had a year of playing experience,” Dohlman said. “We’ve been talking a lot about being champions and being at the top, and they took that mentality into the games.”

The Falcons came out with their bats already in midseason form against Knox College, with 15 runs on 16 hits. Seven

different UWRF players recorded at least two hits, and Ali Krohn led the way with four RBIs.

Borchardt and Amber Galloway each had three hits and three runs in their 10-2 win over Ripon College. UWRF came back the next day to win 16-3 over Beloit College by only allowing one hit. Krohn and Borchardt each added four hits, and the Falcons recorded their third-straight game of closing their opponent out in less than six innings.

The game against Cornell was a tougher battle, as UWRF came up short 3-2. They only managed to get five hits in their second game on Sunday, but Dohlman still thinks their bats will be what gets them out of tough spots this season.

“We only had one strikeout the whole weekend,” Dohlman said. “We were hitting it to people against Cornell and there weren’t gaps in that game. It wasn’t because of a lack of contact, but the good hits were making it to people.”

The Falcons usually open up their season by playing a top-25 ranked team, but instead faced more teams closer to their level in past years to ease into the season. Dohlman saw steady progress and was happy to see things she can’t when they’re practicing indoors at Knowles.

The weekend was the first opportunity for the group to come together and get innings as an official team. With nine new freshmen, Borchardt said there is still a learning curve.

“The younger girls realized that you’re going to play back to back games and some with an hour between games,” Borchardt said. “The challenge with that is being ready to go after you’ve had a game break and you’re tired. Going to Florida is important for our team to know we have to be prepared and bounce back from the game breaks. I think we will do really well in Florida.”

Borchardt said that the stacked lineup the team has to offer will be one of the biggest threats. The pitching has also improved, with Payton Speckel entering her third year and

second as the main starter. Maddie Studnicka will also provide relief when she isn’t playing first base.

“In the offseason we were hitting live a lot and we were prepared from our pitchers,” Borchardt said. “Payton has worked really hard in the offseason and her speed changed and her balls are moving more. I thinks she’s really going to lead us to success this year.”

Borchardt added that this weekend helped the team realize that they can go consecutive games playing very well.

“In the last game we had trouble stringing bats together,” Borchardt said. “That was against more of an experienced pitcher, so we’re going to have to face pitchers that don’t just throw balls down the middle. We will hit off Payton in practice and get ready to see some of those better teams in the WIAC.”

The Falcons would have had seven home runs over the weekend, but they only count as doubles in the dome. Hitting the ceiling is also an automatic out. Playing in the dome is always a much different experience than the rest of the season, according to Dohlman.

“Defense is always tough playing on turf versus dirt; there’s definitely a different feel to it,” Dohlman said. “We just need to get used to not being in gym floors and on turf.”

Dohlman has been pleased with the pitching and the added depth. She also thought that it was important for the players to each get a hit in the first game of the season.

“When you can get that behind you, it changes the way they are when they step into that box,” Dohlman said. “It was a confidence boosting weekend, and it’s definitely carrying over. They’re not questioning their ability and they know they can compete and play.”

The Falcons will travel to Florida over spring break for the PFX games, where they will play 12 games in only seven days.

Women’s hockey recap

UWRF ended their season with a 3-2 loss in double overtime to UW-Eau Claire at Hunt Arena last Saturday afternoon. The Falcons weren’t able to replicate the 3-2 overtime win they had over the Blugolds in last year’s O’Brien Cup final, instead allowing UW-Eau Claire to beat them for the second time this season. Both team’s were held scoreless in the first period, but Courtney Wittig scored her 13th goal of the season about 8 minutes into the period to give the Blugolds a 1-0 lead. UWRF responded with a Hailey Herdine goal only 6 minutes later to tie the game up at 1-1. The Falcons continued their momentum as Kora Torkelson set up Payton Rudiger for her seventh goal of the season to give UWRF a 2-1 lead in the final period. The Blugolds quickly knotted the game up at 2-2 on an Elizabeth Bauer goal to force overtime. It took until the second overtime for Maria Czech to finally break the tie and clinch the WIAC title for UW-Eau Claire. The Blugolds will match up against Gustavus in the first round of the NCAA tournament, while the Falcons season will end with their first time not making the tournament in almost a decade. The Falcons ended their season at 19-6-3 overall and 5-2-2 in the WIAC. This was UWRF’s first time not winning the O’Brien cup in its five years of existence. Senior Carly Moran ended her Falcons career with 84 goals and 83 assists, which is the second highest scoring total in program history.

Sports Schedule

All softball games in Clermont, Fla.

March 11 softball vs Concordia University (Wis.), 2 p.m.

March 11 softball vs Smith College, 7 p.m.

March 12 softball vs Becker College, 4:30 p.m.

March 12 softball vs North Park University, 7 p.m.

March 13 softball vs Lakeland University, 9 a.m.

March 13 softball vs Minnesota Morris, 2 p.m.

March 15 softball vs Gordon College, 11:30 a.m.

March 15 softball vs Framingham State University, 2 p.m.

March 16 softball vs Lake Forest College, 2 p.m.

March 16 softball vs Transylvania University, 7 p.m.

March 17 softball vs St. Lawrence University, 2 p.m.

March 17 softball vs Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 7 p.m.

Women’s hockey battles Eau Claire in O’Brien Cup final



Tori Schneider/ University Communications
Jessie Andersen, left, Leighton Rockensock and Tatyana Delaittre stand for the national anthem before the puck drop of the O’Brien Cup final last Saturday afternoon at Hunt Arena. The Falcons lost in double overtime 3-2 to the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds.



Tori Schneider/ University Communications
Carly Moran (8) tried to get around an Eau-Claire defender in the O’Brien Cup final at Hunt Arena last Saturday afternoon.



Tori Schneider/ University Communications
Hailey Herdine (4) moves the puck up the ice to score the first Falcons goal in the second period of the O’Brien Cup final last Saturday at Hunt Arena.



Tori Schneider/ University Communications
Carly Moran (8) fights for the puck in the O’Brien Cup final at Hunt Arena last Saturday. UWRF went ahead 2-1 in the third period, but eventually fell 3-2 in double overtime.



Tori Schneider/ University Communications
Callie Hoff (10) takes a shot in the second period against UW-Eau Claire in the O’Brien Cup final last Saturday at Hunt Arena.



Tori Schneider/ University Communications
Fans cheer for UWRF at the O’Brien Cup final last Saturday at Hunt Arena. UWRF lost in the O’Brien Cup final for the first time in the WIAC championships five-year history.



Tori Schneider/ University Communications
UW-Eau Claire raises the O’Brien Cup championship trophy last Saturday at Hunt Arena. It was the Blugolds first time winning the O’Brien Cup.

'I Give it a Year': more like, I give it a three

Bethany Lovejoy

Reviewer

I'm going to be real with you for a total of three paragraphs, and then we are going to jump into ratings of hunks and criticisms of bad characters.

A large part of growing up (for me and others) is learning forgiveness. There are so many times in your life when people are going to hurt you, and you are going to want to jump into criticisms, cut them out of your life and ensure that as many people as possible don't interact with them. That's a radical idea; think about not doing that.

A lot of the feminist media I've digested has recently started coming to terms with the idea of forgiveness and the importance of relationships you throw away in order to validate your inner self-worth. That's been awesome because it is so important to know that there are relationships that would hurt more to throw away. Yes, people cheat, they lie and they hurt you in so many other ways. You don't have to forgive them; just consider for a moment asking yourself what that relationship means and if you want to lose it.

It's so easy to cut off people who hurt you, but sometimes it's more beneficial to ask why something happened and how you can fix it. Part of being a mature and healthy adult is facing conflict rationally and treating other people with respect regardless of your own opinions (not talking dirt, insulting them, screaming at them in hallways).

The people in this movie are not mature and healthy adults. I'm going to describe these people and you tell me if you think they should actually be married after seven months of dating.

The girl: 10/10 babe, but has that look that sorta says, "I'm a type A and I probably actually own a digital planner. Also, every inch of my body is definitely shaved and I only eat kale and the occasional treat of orange juice."

The guy: I'm a huge mess.
They did get married though – oh boy they did.
"I give it a year," says a secondary character during the wedding, name dropping the title.

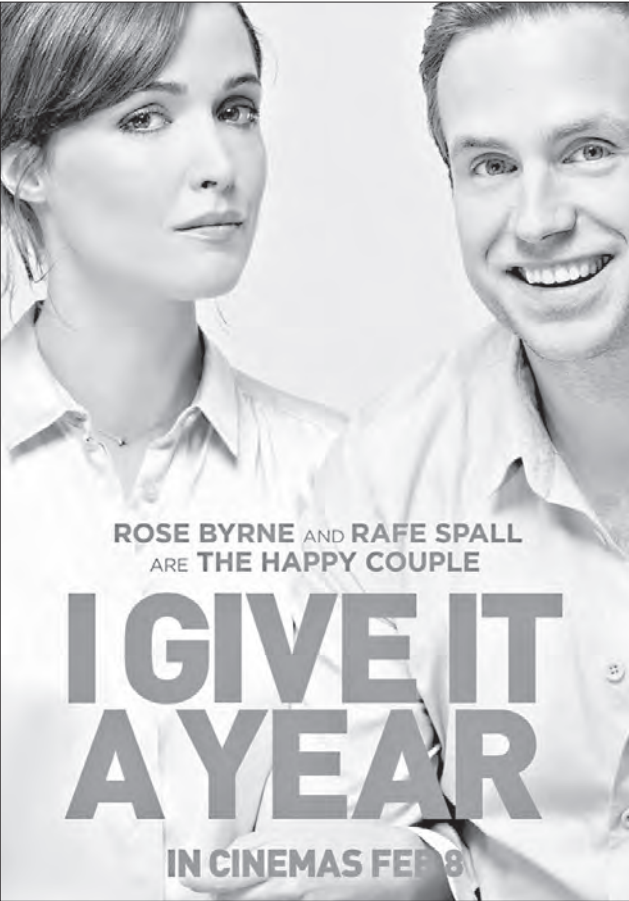
Their wedding was the mediocre wedding of mediocre Pinterest board dreams. Literally the only thing that indicated individuality from the typical tent in a backyard vaguely rustic feel was the fact that there were no Mason jars. It was 2013 though, so Mason jars weren't, like, "invented" yet.

They have the most basic ceremony I have ever laid my eyes on. The best man comes up and is, surprise, uncouth, and then we're done. There is literally the worst choreographed dance of all time – a slow rap – and done.

Like nothing else. Flash forward nine months. Except for the guy's parents standing awkwardly by them and making out. But, you know, basic.

The couple goes to therapy, work and, you know, to talk about their living wills. It's all very boring and apparently they think as much, because they have a dinner party.

This dinner party is beneficial because it allowed me to reassure myself that the greatest actress of our time was in this movie. She descended onto the earth like an angel with a bad haircut, drinking copious amounts of wine with her rose petal



lips.
Anna freaking Faris.
I would take a bus for Anna Faris. A whole bus, full of school children, if Anna was even vaguely in front of it. I would shove her out of the way and let the bus mangle my body. Anna Faris is the Jack Black of female actors; she is perfection.

Anna Faris's character used to date the huge mess of a guy. This is almost believable, because she does large amounts of charity work on the side.

The dinner party is put off by this because the best man from their wedding is all like, "Anna Faris and my sad sop of a mate never really broke up. In fact, all he did was cry. His time without Anna Faris was the lost years."

And the wife lady is like, "Okay excuse me, why is she at my dinner party?"

But the husband responds, "Yeah, I totally wanted to end myself without Anna. But I met you and I guess you're okay. I mean, like, if you ignore your personality."

And they avoid talking to each other for the rest of the party. The next day I learn everyone's names.

Josh (The sad sop of a groom) is hanging out with his ex, Chloe (Anna Faris), at her job and being super, hyper critical of anyone who dares to date her. This is weird and horrible.

But not as weird and horrible as Nat (the wife) who decides to talk badly of an advertising client in a public space, mocking his potential accent and his likely lack of education. She is surprised when he shows up and knows exactly what she said, throwing it back in her face. Because, you know, not even professional. But this must be like the only advertising company in the world, because this American decides to stay with the frigid mistress's company and instead sort of builds his own ad campaign through them with little input from them.

Also, she is not wearing her wedding ring, which is important because this one detail causes this guy (who actually looks exactly like my father and therefore will not be rated) to look at her butt. This is the height of romance.

I start to get the feel for the movie at this point and realize that everyone (except Anna Faris) is going to cheat on each other and ruin their relationships. This is unsurprising.

Adultery starts edging in, flowers are sent and emotional connections made. Music is badly sung and Anna Faris appears (an angel of temptation).

The man who looks like my dad takes Nat to his bleach factory, telling her about his cleaning solution fortune and making masked references to marrying a woman he's met once before. She is totally about this and made me want to bleach my life.

There's a lingerie shopping scene with Anna Faris, a romantic dinner and some heart breaking declarations. You know, basic stuff.

Nat and Josh run into each other with their respective lovers and decide the best course of action is to get their lovers to date each other and go on a double date with them. This works out like trying to put out a fire with newspapers, and Nat and Josh are miserable throughout the whole engagement.

After the double date of death, Nat and Josh decide the best way to make it through the first year of marriage, which they've been told is the hardest, is to accept every single fault and quirk of each other. This miraculously doesn't make them love each other.

If you read the first paragraph of this column, you might also realize that some relationships in life are just so horrible they need to be trashed.

Nat and Josh realize that their relationship is what McDonald's is to the Olympics: an actual horrible pair that makes people question the integrity of both parties. They run after their lovers who are now madly in love and going to Paris.

Only, I guess they're not, because Nat and Josh show up in all their basicness and the two lovers pretty much look at each other like, "Well, bye then."

And then everyone makes out around each other.

Most portions of this movie were borderline horrible. The humor was tacky, the relationships were unhealthy, the characters were unlikely. There were only two highlights: Anna Faris and the clothes.

The clothes were good guys. Like, you know how Victoria's Secret's fashion show looks like a middle school art project in motion? These people are actually dressed well, and I'm pretty sure every single outfit in this movie was bought off Amazon.

Every single time they dressed Anna Faris, I could hear an angelic chorus drowning out all of the horrible people as her sweet face was illuminated by light lace detailing.

So I guess the true rating should be:

1/1 Anna Faris

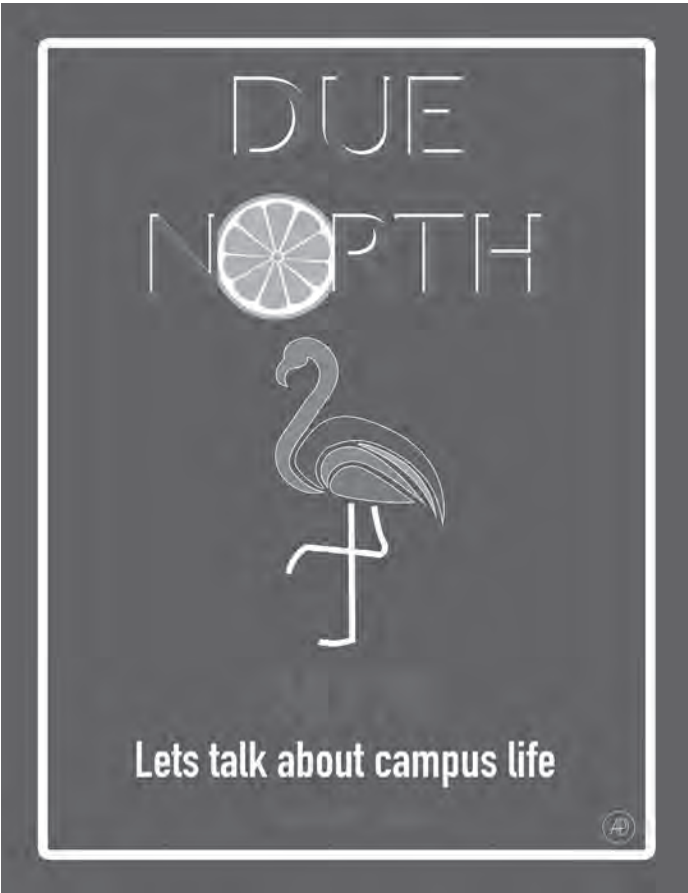
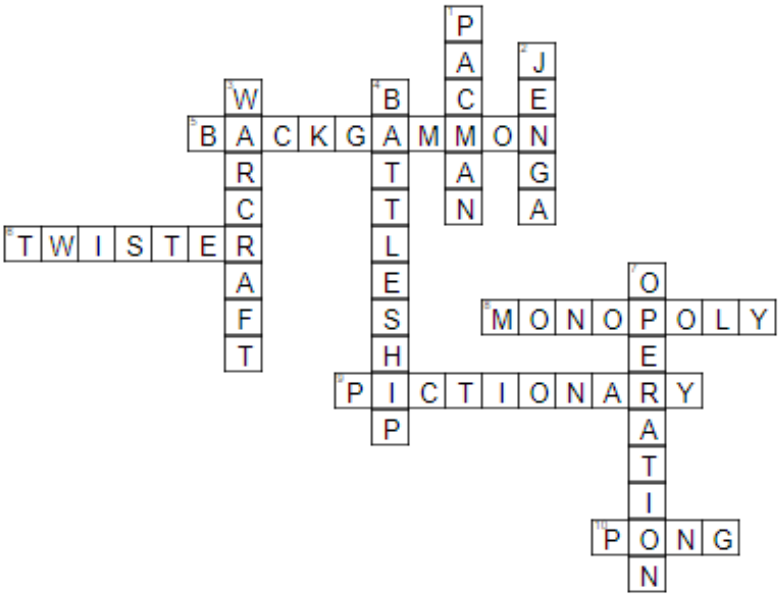
10/10 Amazon clothes shopping.

3/10 for the actual movie.

Bethany Lovejoy is a junior at UWRF. She is a creative writing major, and all she does is sleep, watch Netflix and tell you to watch Netflix.

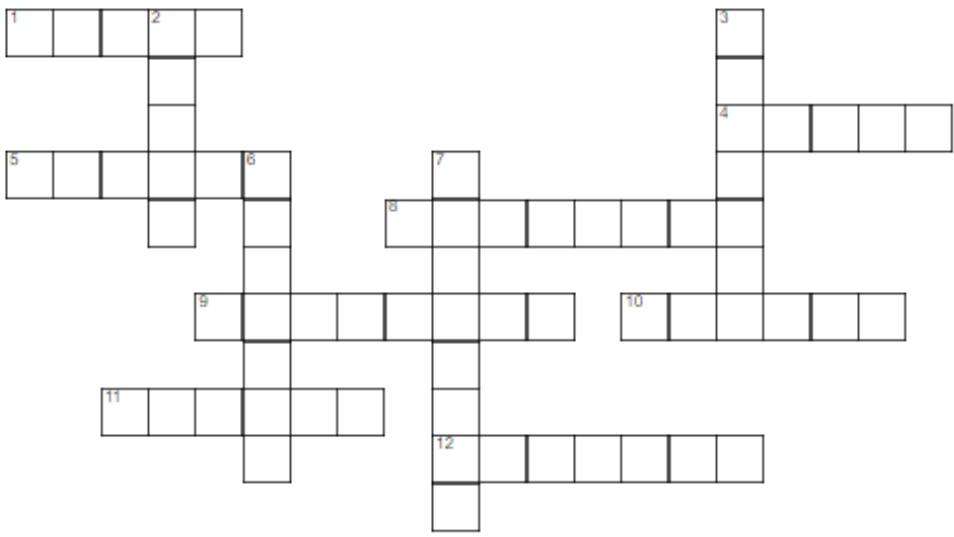
Last Week's Answers

Games



Puzzle of the Week

State capitals



ACROSS

- 1 Idaho
- 4 Delaware
- 5 Kansas
- 8 Ohio
- 9 Connecticut
- 10 Colorado
- 11 Texas
- 12 Michigan

DOWN

- 2 Oregon
- 3 Wisconsin
- 6 Georgia
- 7 Hawaii

Find Freddy's lost feather in this issue of the Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theatre!

The first person to report the find to zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu. AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins!

Now Playing: "1517 to Paris" and "The Post"

The winner will be announced on the Voice's Twitter and Facebook accounts:

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