



Former College Republican files a counter-response to allegations

Columnist thinks computer labs in residence halls should be limited to academic use only

Critic's review of new suspense thriller, 'Firewall'



STUDENT VOICE

March 3, 2006

www.uwrf.edu/student-voice

Volume 92, Issue 16

Funding for e2rn@UW-D2L)

Administration pays for D2L

To the Campus Community:

For the past two years, through the Student Special Technology Committee, the student majors/professors/their comm my major) "nobody but not of stu

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The controversy revolving around the Desire2Learn program was partially resolved Wednesday when the Facilities and Fees Board approved the 2006-2007 budget for the Special Technology Committee. Committee Chair Jonathan Eisch said the committee revised the budget Feb. 26. The group essentially made a swap with the administration, picking up the salary of an existing full-time employee. The administration will, in turn, foot the bill for D2L. "The understanding is we won't see this again at Special Tech," Eisch said. The full-time employee will primarily work with the wireless Internet project on campus. The Special Tech Committee has already been working on the wireless project.

"This fits into what our committee is supposed to be funding," Eisch said. The budget still needs to be approved by Student Senate and the administration. The funding issue with D2L was brought to light last week after two UW-River Falls employees posted a message on the site claiming the Special Technology Committee voted to discontinue funding for the program. The message urged students and faculty to take action by contacting Senate President Nick Cluppert, former student Nick Sirek, previous chair of the Facilities and Fees board and Eisch. The message, signed by Bob Baker and Mary-Alice Muraski, was posted on the D2L site last Wednesday and drew attention from professors and students alike. Senate convened an emergency meeting last Thursday evening and some professors even offered extra credit to students who contacted Eisch, Cluppert and Sirek about the issue.

See D2L page 3

No access: RF e-mail server fails

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UW-River Falls' campus e-mail went down around noon Feb. 28, leaving students, faculty and staff without access to their e-mail accounts for the remainder of the day and continuing until the early morning of Thursday. Information Technology Services (ITS) posted a link on the UW-RF homepage warning users of the outage in the evening. The log-in screen wasn't accessible after the problem was reported to ITS. Instead, the page had the warning about the outage.

"It was good to get the web pages in various spots," said Gary Smith, ITS director. Questions and answers were also posted to help users with any concerns.

"It's an inconvenience, but I think people understand that these things happen from time to time," Smith said.

A hardware component on a disk controller failed, Smith said.

"We don't have the resources to keep a fault-tolerant system," Smith said. "There are going to be some risks of faults."

A server with an array of hard disks stores the e-mail data, he said.

The e-mail hardware is getting old and ITS has new hardware to replace it with, but when to switch it over has been a difficult decision, Smith said.

"Unfortunately, it broke before we got to it," Smith said.

ITS had to first back up data throughout the night, he said. Then, they replaced the controller device with a new one. The tasks were finished around 11 a.m. Wednesday.

Since the controller was replaced, the server has been undergoing a disk check to find any damages have been done to the disks, Smith said.

On one array of disks ITS found were the data had been written incorrectly by the controller, causing the corruption, Smith said. The data from the disks have been placed on a new server.

"My staff worked around the clock until they got it [e-mail] going," Smith said.

About one-half or one-third of users do not have their historical e-mail because it was on the disks were the controller was damaged, he said. Everyone will receive their stored emails by the end of the week or no later than after spring break.

The first priority was to get the e-mail running for everyone, he said.

"Like any electrical device, eventually it will wear out and break," Smith said. "It is a very complex technology."

Plan 2008 to develop diversity at UW-RF

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Increasing awareness and addressing diversity issues have been the focus for the last 20 years at UW-River Falls and throughout the entire UW System.

Currently, the UW-System's Office of Academic Diversity and Development is piloting a program where a portion of the UW campuses (UW-RF is not included) are accessed and given an Equity Score Card, said Blake Fry, dean for student development and campus diversity. The Equity Score Card measures how effective diversity efforts have been on each individual test campus.

UW-RF has executed two diversity plans in the past 20 years. Plan 2008, a 10-year, two-phase plan, began in 1998. Recently renamed Plan 2008: Education through Diversity, it is the second plan created to increase diversity and help diverse students excel during and after college.

The first initiative to increase diversity, called Design for Diversity, was created 18 years ago and lasted 10 years, said Phil George, member of the Plan 2008: Education through Diversity committee.

After the duration of the first diversity plan, the enthusiasm and focus on diversity died out, George said. This created the need for a second plan.

See Plan page 3



Submitted Photo/AASA

Members of AASA join the group for support and fun. The group is constantly growing because members bring friends, who become members and the process continues. The group has 70 members.

Friendship creates bonds for students

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Almost one-third of all Asian American students on campus belong to the Asian American Student Association (AASA) for support and fun.

"Our members are pretty much all friends," Co-President Robert Yang said.

This friendship, he said, creates a bond for the students that makes them feel more at home and welcomed to the River Falls community.

The group has grown because members bring their friends, who then become members who bring their friends, Robert said.

Advisor Carolyn Brady said when she started advising the group there were eight members, one female and seven males. Now the group gets up to 70 people at its meetings

and bake sales, and booths are always well attended, she said.

In the past, the group has lobbied and received changes to University menus to be more in tune with the students' palette, Brady said.

Last year, when an asian student was being called a racist name by a professor, the student did not want to approach the situation alone, Robert said. The group quickly confronted the professor, who issued a written apology to the student and organization.

Robert said the group has a strong bond because they have all had struggles that are similar. It could be cars that don't stop for Asian Americans in the crosswalk or people who yell at them as they drive past.

Mindy Yang was at a shop downtown with her friends two summers ago, when her friend was asked not to hold an item

See AASA page 3

UW-RF directory raises security questions, concerns

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The online UW-River Falls directory, commonly referred to as "Stalker Net," makes local and home addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of students, staff and faculty available to anyone on the Web.

The availability of the contact information has raised security questions among students on campus, although no reports have been made citing problems resulting from the public site.

"We're not out of sync," said Alan Tuchtenhagen, director of enrollment services, adding that other campuses

in the UW System offer similar directory information online.

"There's a philosophy that if you're part of a public institution, it's part of a public record," said Campus Web Developer Mike Woolsey. "I don't know the policy on why the phone and addresses are listed."

Yet some students are unaware that the information can be changed or removed at the request of the individual.

According to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), "Schools may disclose, without consent, directory information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and

place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance."

The regulations made by FERPA apply to all schools that receive funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

The act also states, "schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA."

Tuchtenhagen said the rights are explained to all new students at reg-

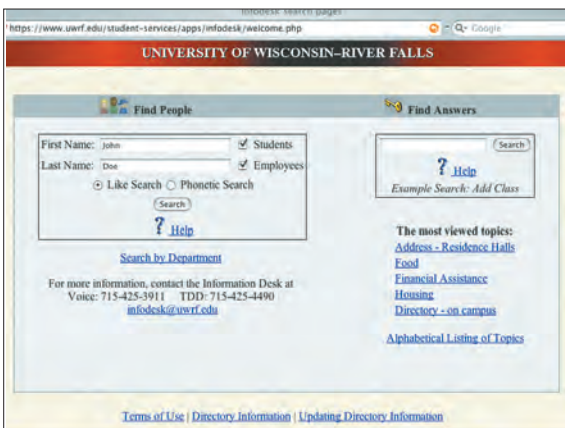
istration, and an explanatory e-mail is sent to current students as well.

"Most people who have a serious concern know immediately to ask for this [restriction of information]," Tuchtenhagen said. "The upside is people can't reach you; the downside is people can't reach you."

The "Find People" page also has a "Find Answers" section that lists the "most viewed topics." Residence hall addresses is the first on the list, suggesting that most people who use the service are seeking to locate student addresses.

"It makes me feel uncomfortable,"

See Directory page 3



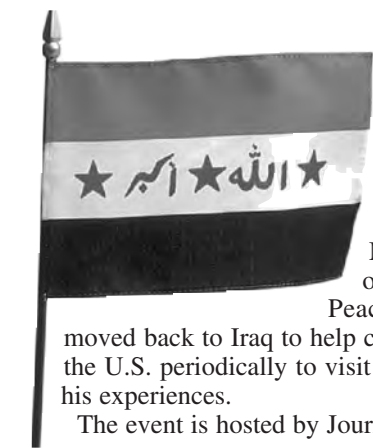
Screen Capture/Student Voice

A screen capture of the Find People page shows how easy it is to access personal info.

VOICE SHORTS

LOCAL

Muslim peacemaker to speak about Iraq



A Muslim peacemaker will speak on March 6 in Abbott Concert Hall at 7:30 p.m. about his recent experiences in Iraq. Sami Rasouli is an Iraqi American who was born in Najaf, Iraq. He came to the U.S. where he ran Sinbad’s Market in Minneapolis for 25 years, and is one of the founders of Muslim Peacemaker Teams. Rasouli has moved back to Iraq to help contribute to peace. He returns to the U.S. periodically to visit family and friends, and to share his experiences. The event is hosted by Journey House Campus Ministry.

Public library discusses single-sex classes

River Falls Public Library is holding a meeting March 9 at 7 p.m. to discuss a bill that was recently introduced in the Wisconsin state legislature. The bill would permit public schools to enroll only one sex or to create single sex classrooms.

While critics argue that boys and girls need to learn together in order to later work effectively with both sexes in the workplace, others say that studies at this time are too limited to undertake such dramatic changes in education. The meeting will discuss this legislation and its implications to education and the future workplace.



REGIONAL

Attorneys plan appeal in Wal-Mart lawsuit

A group of attorneys who filed a lawsuit against Wal-Mart for allegedly denying lunch breaks to employees plan to appeal their case to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. According to the *River Falls Journal*, Milwaukee attorney William Jennaro said a team of lawyers interviewed hundreds of Wisconsin Wal-Mart employees who were forced to work off the clock. However, the Wisconsin state appeals court said it would be unmanageable to examine thousands of time clock records, and denied the suit class action status. Jennaro said forty similar suits filed in other states have prompted Wal-Mart to stop keeping the time clock records necessary to prove employees were cheated. A Wal-Mart spokesperson, however, said the company has a written policy posted by every time clock telling employees they are required to report any off-the-clock time they work. So far, Oregon and California are the only states where similar suits have gone to trial. If the Wisconsin suit is successful, it could affect 86,000 current and former Wal-Mart workers in the state.

Lawmakers propose driver cell phone fines

Fines would double for motorists who speed or commit any other traffic violation while using a cell phone under legislation proposed Monday by two Democratic-Farmer-Labor lawmakers. According to the *Pioneer Press*, Rep. Dan Larson, DFL-Bloomington, and state Sen. Scott Dibble, DFL-Minneapolis, said they planned to introduce a bill suggested to them by a Minneapolis eighth-grader. At a news conference, the 14-year-old said he became convinced cell phones and cars were a dangerous mix when a vehicle he was riding in with his sister nearly collided with a car driven recklessly by a cell phone user. Larson estimated that about 14,000 Minnesota motorists are both driving and talking on cell phones during any given hour. He said the proposed legislation would double the fine for any traffic offense those motorists commit. Minnesota lawmakers have rejected previous attempts to outlaw the use of hand-held phones by motorists. However, last spring a law was enacted that prohibited Minnesota drivers under the age of 18 from using all types of phones, except in emergencies. Legislatures in Iowa, Michigan and Mississippi are considering proposals similar to the one outlined Monday, according to Matt Sundeen of the National Conference of State Legislatures. He added that the District of Columbia, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut have banned the use of hand-held cell phones by motorists. Six states have gone in the opposite direction, passing laws prohibiting local governments from cracking down on behind-the-wheel cell phone users.

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NATIONAL

States ask for leeway in education act

SALEM, Oregon — About 15 states want to be chosen as one of the few that will be allowed some flexibility in how student progress is measured under the No Child Left Behind Act. Under the current law, schools are expected to show year-to-year improvement in test scores. In addition, schools must bring all students up to grade level in reading and math by the year 2014. Schools that fail to get increasing percentages of student test scores face a series of consequences, from having to pay for after-school tutoring to a state takeover. According to CNN, under the pilot program, however, schools will be allowed to chart how individual students are doing on standardized tests from one year to the next. A maximum of 10 states will be chosen by this spring. The idea is the latest move by the Bush administration to allow more breathing room in the No Child Left Behind law. The administration is also giving rural teachers more time to become “highly qualified,” and is allowing more exemptions for severely disabled students.

Briefs compiled by Amber Jurek

SENATE

Senate defines biennial budget plan

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The UW-River Falls Student Senate passed motion SS050651 at the Feb. 28 meeting to recognize its priorities for the 2007-2009 biennial budget campaign. The priorities differ from those of the United Council to recognize the needs of all students. The campaign includes: an employee pay increase of 3.75 percent, full funding on financial aid, full funding for domestic partner benefits, \$15 million for Plan 2008 and \$5 million for advising. The Senate budget campaign also does not support a tuition freeze. “A tuition freeze is beneficial to students who would be going to school between ‘07-’09, but the students who come to school after then would feel the effects,” said Senator Joe Eggers. He said a tuition freeze took place three budgets ago, and tuition has since seen an increase of over 60 percent. “An alternative to a tuition freeze, which Senate is working on, is a mix of increased general purpose revenue funding from the state and small tuition increase that matches the rate of inflation,” Eggers said. “A tuition

rate that is roughly the same as inflation makes the increase more manageable for families, unlike the 6+ percent increase students are currently paying under the current budget cycle.” He said the rate of inflation is now between 3 and 4 percent, and Senate is pushing for a tuition increase of only 3 percent.

Other Senate News

- Senate passed motion SS0506045 to have the United Council referendum be separate from Student Senate elections. Senator Joe Eggers said he believes this change will be beneficial to students and increase voter turnout for both events. The dates of the referendum will be April 3 and 4, one week prior to Senate elections.
- Senate passed motion SS0506047 for UW-RF to allocate \$1,000 to implement a budget campaign separate from the United Council’s.
- The motion states, “The United Council budget campaign overlooks several components which are important to the education of students ... [a separate budget campaign]

Senate VP becomes more involved

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Bethany Barnett

The 30-minute interview for the vice president position of Student Senate was finally coming to an end, and the last drilling question was asked: What color of a crayon would you be? The answer was red, because it is Bethany Barnett’s favorite color, and is vibrant but not as wild as hot pink. The question seemed a little ridiculous, but also felt really good to ease the nervousness Barnett felt during the interview. “I was nervous, but it helped that I was interviewed by people I knew,” she said. “It helped me relax.” With the final question answered, Barnett said the tension was gone, and a few laughs and thank yous were exchanged to end the interview. Barnett, a sophomore and elementary education major, was appointed Student Senate’s new vice president for the remainder of the spring semester. “I felt I could do the job,” she said. “It seemed like something I could use my talent towards.” The opportunity became available due to the resignation of former vice president Liz de la Torre at the first meeting of Senate for spring semester, opening the position for

any senator to apply. Barnett’s main reason for applying for the position, she said, was to help students realize what Senate is and what it does for them. “Senate makes so many decisions that affect the every day running of this campus,” she said. Helping students become more aware of the tasks and duties Senate does, Barnett said, is why she felt drawn to the position. “They need to be aware about where their money is going, what the faculty is saying of our futures and knowing the changes of courses they will be taking,” Barnett said. Compared to her involvement in activities, clubs and organizations in high school, she said she has surprised herself with the role she is taking on as vice president. “I didn’t think I was going to be involved [on campus],” Barnett said. “I shocked myself because the roles I have taken on put me outside of my comfort zone.” Barnett is a native of Kenosha, Wis., with a population around 92,000. River Falls was a drastic change in size. She had only been to a farm once in high school and had never heard of UW-River Falls because recruiters from the University never came to her school. In high school, Barnett was involved in Key Club, a type of community service organization; Diversity Action Team and, for a small amount of time, French club. When she got to high school, a teacher encouraged her to pursue her dream of becoming an elementary teacher. She only

is in the best interest of the students at UW-RF and across the state.”

- Senate passed motion SS0506049 to allocate \$210 to fund supplies for the Vagina Monologues College Campaign. The money will be used to purchase chocolate vagina pops, Vagina Monologue buttons, and shipping and handling.
- Senate passed motion SS0506052 to stand strongly opposed to TABOR, the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. TABOR would amend the Wisconsin state constitution, implementing a series of financial restrictions, cutting money for the UW System, counties and two-year colleges, and eliminating tuition reciprocity.

The motion also states, “tuition does not fall under what TABOR covers, which leaves the possibility of incredibly high tuition raises to compensate for the lack of general purpose revenue funding coming from the state.”

A copy of the resolution will be sent to Rep. Rhoades, Sen. Harsdorf, Sen. Grothman and Rep. Wood.

Student Senate meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Student Center’s Regents Room.

Parking saga continues to unfold

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Frustrations over parking are nothing new at UW-River Falls. UW-RF students Jessica Smith, 21, and Rebekka Nelson, 23, are familiar with searching the streets near campus for a place to park. Neither student pays for a parking permit, and both say finding a parking spot can at times seem impossible. Nelson, however, has the option to walk or drive. “I don’t mind walking,” Nelson said. “It is nice to drive, but it is so hard to find a place to park.” Smith commutes from St. Paul, Minn., and tests her luck looking for close parking spots daily. “Parking around here sucks,” Smith said. “There is never a spot to park.” Campus Planner Dale Braun

knows these irritations all too well. “I understand the frustration of not getting a spot when you want it, where you want it,” Braun said. He also knows there is no simple fix for the problem. “If there was a cheap, easy solution, we would have done that already,” Braun said. As a member of the Parking Plan Committee, Braun works with Tom Weiss, Larry Testa and Jim Murphy, he said. The committee has been working together to answer the question of how much parking is needed at UW-RF, Braun said. Their work includes car counts to monitor the peak times and low times, analyzing student and faculty parking habits, and the major factor of additional cost, Braun said. In comparison to recent years, the cost of additional parking areas has gone up.

“Rates have doubled, if not quadrupled,” Braun said. A parking lot used to cost \$1,000 per stall, and the cost has grown to \$4,000 per stall, Braun said. The cost of a parking lot pales in comparison to a parking ramp, which costs \$14,000 a stall, he said.

To cover the cost of additional parking, students could end up paying \$300 to \$600 in raised fees a year, Braun said. “I’m really concerned about how students are able to afford some of this,” Braun said. “To

See Parking page 8



Jen Dolen/Student Voice

Parking spots on Cascade are limited and in high demand.

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

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Feb. 20

Kristen R. Juven reported the theft of approximately 50 compact discs from her vehicle to the River Falls Police around 1:15 p.m. Juven told police she had parked her car in front of 237 Broadway on Jan. 30 and did not return to the vehicle until Jan. 31. When she returned she found that someone had entered her car and stolen two CD cases from her car, totaling approximately 50 CDs. Juven told police she waited to report the crime because she didn’t think the CDs would be recovered. Loss is estimated at \$500.

Feb. 24

• Emily S. Nierenhausen, 21, was fined \$167 for shoplifting from the Holiday gas station, 302 S. Main St., around 2:15 a.m. An employee of the store witnessed Nierenhausen allegedly leave the store with a bag of chips in her purse. The employee stated Nierenhausen never checked out at a register. Another employee was able to get the license plate number of the van Nierenhausen left in. River Falls Police officers responded to the complaint and found the van parked along the 400 block of South Spruce St. Officers found Nierenhausen in the backseat of the van and questioned her. Police report she later admitted to taking the chips and was placed under arrest for shoplifting. Restitution: \$2.89.

• Eric J. Bloms, 20, was fined \$715 for operating a vehicle with a prohibited alcohol content, \$711 for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated and \$104 for operating while suspended around 1:45 a.m. along Cascade Ave. Officers report finding a vehicle parked in the middle of the 200 block of Cascade Ave. According to the police report, two males were outside of the vehicle lighting off fireworks. As the officers approached, the two males ran. officers then noticed Bloms sitting in the driver’s seat of the vehicle. Bloms was allegedly unresponsive to most of the questions asked by the police, but he did say he had dropped off some friends and then parked the vehicle in the road. Officers report that they smelled a strong odor of alcohol coming from Bloms and placed him under arrest for drunk driving.

EDITORIAL

Don't forget to look both ways

It is a common occurrence on the UW-River Falls campus -- traffic along Cascade Ave. will get congested between class periods as pedestrians pour into the streets to get to their next destination.

In most situations drivers and pedestrians tend to coexist, but sometimes a driver gets impatient or a pedestrian wanders into traffic without even looking. Either scenario displays a lack of respect.

In an area around a university it should be known that there will be a lot of pedestrians attempting to cross roads throughout the day.

Drivers need to be aware that the area around the University is going to be a high-pedestrian area. This means watching more closely for people crossing the street, driving at slower speeds and respecting those who are in crosswalks.

Revvng your engines, honking your horns or speeding through crosswalks is only going to result in angry or even injured pedestrians.

Likewise, on a large commuter campus - such as UW-RF - it is to be expected that many students and faculty will be attempting to drive through the campus as they go to and from classes. This increased traffic needs to be addressed by pedestrians attempting to cross the streets around campus.

Pedestrians should use crosswalks when possible and never assume that a vehicle is going to automatically stop for them.

According to Wisconsin laws, vehicles must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians at any crosswalk or street intersection. However, the law clearly states that pedestrians should not suddenly walk out in front of traffic.

The law goes on to state that pedestrians must yield the right-of-way to vehicles when attempting to cross a road at any point other than within a marked or unmarked crosswalk.

While much of this seems like common sense, the practice of defensive driving and walking is not practiced in many cases. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 54 pedestrians were killed in Wisconsin in 2004, with more than 4,000 killed nationally.

These figures are eerie, especially considering that at least one pedestrian fatality has occurred in River Falls in the past year.

If defensive driving/walking strategies aren't practiced there could be some horrible results not only for students, faculty and staff, but the University as well.

There is no simple solution to this problem, but everyone needs to remember that in a situation of driver versus pedestrian we are toying with other people's lives.

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

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS

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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 legible, contain a first and last name and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters can be submitted at 304 North Hall or to student.voice@uwrf.edu

Please limit letters to 300 words.

The *Student Voice* reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters. Letters to the editor become the property of the Student Voice and cannot be returned.

All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads, and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Tuesday at 11:59 p.m.

Single copies of the *Student Voice* are free. Printing costs are paid for through student fees.

Drug Facts

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HumorTo make you laugh
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USES ■ Relieves aches and pains associated with reading the rest of the 'viewpoints' section

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Critic's view of 'RENT' unappreciated

To say that I am disheartened by the recent movie review of "RENT" is an understatement. I wholeheartedly disagree with the reviewer.

First, to say that the point of the movie was to "watch a bunch of homeless people do drugs and whore around" is grossly misleading. "RENT" was written as a piece to emphasize the struggles of coming to terms with the AIDs, the homeless and the drug epidemics that terrorize the streets of downtown New York City. This work received four Tony awards and many other presti-

gious awards from the theater community, so it obviously must have been doing something right.

Secondly, to complain that "RENT" has only 5.4 minutes between each of its musical numbers show that the heart of this film is unrealized. In its true Broadway form, "RENT" has less than ten whole minutes of conversation while the entirety of the show is sung. Hence, it is dubbed a Rock Opera rather than a musical. My point is that the show is meant to be that way.

Thirdly, the reviewer's criticism of the characters seeming to have split personalities shows a large theme was missed. For the criticized character of Mark Cohen, it is about his struggle to find himself and his path in life. His character is meant to be

portrayed as not truly knowing where he lies in life.

Finally, the reviewer's chiding of Diggs and Dawson's performances are misleading. Both Diggs and Dawson are members of the original casting of "RENT" performed on Broadway. In fact, all but two of the movie's cast are members of the original troupe. This casting was not poorly chosen, as this teaming brought "RENT" its original fame.

Perhaps more time and care should be taken before a movie is criticized so harshly to understand where it is that the movie comes from.

Katherine Arcand
Student

Time management on the rocks

There is a good chance if you are a college student you are pressed for time. Many of us have jobs, papers and the occasional nightlife when our professors are gracious enough to give us a weekend off.

But are we all really that busy? Do we really spend all our time doing homework and prepping for exams?

I work two jobs, an internship, a full class load and train for triathlons 12 to 15 hours a week - I thought I was probably the busiest person you know.

But I'm not.

While reading *Triathlete* magazine, a columnist commented on how difficult it was to manage life with training.

He said Dr. Steven Covey, author of *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, pulled out a jar while speaking to an audience. He filled the jar with rocks and asked the crowd if it was full. They answered with an obvious, "yes."

He then took out a bag of sand and poured that into the jar. He asked if it was full and the audience, getting the point, said, "no."

After all that he poured a pint of water into the jar.

The point is clear.



AJ
Oscarson

We all know these people, and it is aggravating to the point of absolute exhaustion. They are the people that walk up to you and for no reason give you their schedule, as if you are supposed to be in amazement that they even had time to do their hair and make up.

These people take things way too far. They spend four hours studying for a freshman level test, even though they are seniors and juniors.

Just prioritize your life a little bit.

A freshman survey course outside of your major and minor is just not worth the stress and the valuable time. Get your grade and move on. Don't lose the color in your hair over it.

Your time is better spent at work or studying for that big business law test.

The columnist from the magazine suggested making your jar bigger to better accommodate the oddly shaped rocks - things that have to be done at a certain time and are just at awkward times in relation to the rest of your life. Granted, his concern is more for making time to train for a triathlon.

For example, the pool I swim at is open for lap swim at 6 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. If that is the only time to swim, I am going to swim. Luckily, nothing else really happens at that time, so it works for me.

But I can't imagine there a lot of people, besides the swim team, who get up at 5 a.m. to swim.

Nevertheless, there are plenty of ways to deal with the stress of being a college kid. I have been doing this for the better part of a decade, and I am just figuring this all out.

Regardless, it gets more done than whining about your so-called busy life that leaves no down time while you watch the 'Law and Order' marathon.

Insurance needs revamping

This past Saturday morning, I received a phone call from my mom at 5:30 a.m. informing me that my sister was in the emergency room of the River Falls Medical Clinic. As I arrived at the hospital, I was wondering what was wrong, whether or not she was going to have surgery and when would my parents arrive. Little did I know, that by the end of the day my thoughts wouldn't be concentrated on my sister's health but instead on insurance.

After suffering through intense pains in her stomach during the middle of the night, my sister was diagnosed with appendicitis and had her appendix removed during emergency surgery. A short time after the surgery was performed, the doctor informed us that all went well and my sister would be back to normal in a few days.

With the good news also came the bad as a nurse told us that because River Falls Medical Center is considered to be "out of network" by my parents insurance company (based in Rice Lake). My parents were

going to be paying considerable money out of their own pockets to pay for the surgery and care. After this revelation, I found my self once again questioning the insurance industry.

Further discussions with my mom revealed a previous negative encounter with an insurance company. This past summer my mom's Rice Lake home was the unfortunate victim of Mother Nature not once, but twice. The first assault came in the form of a windstorm, which left broken windows, siding and gutter damage. The second assault from Mother Nature was a hailstorm, which left significant damage to the house's roof.

My mother spent 18 years in the same home with the same insurance company and never once missed or was late on a single insurance payment. However, upon receiving these

two claims this past summer, my mother's insurance company informed her that they would not be renewing her insurance when it was due to expire. It wasn't until a threatened call to the State of Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance by my mother did the insurance company change it's mind and continue to insure the home.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines insurance as the "the business of insuring persons or property, coverage by contract whereby one party undertakes to guarantee against loss". With the use of this definition as well as my previous knowledge of insurance, I have concluded that it is the role of insurance companies to pay the costs of unforeseeable medical emergencies, property damage, dental care or automobile accidents among others.

However, it seems as though when many people need the very service they have been

paying for years to have, insurance companies try to find any way out of paying for their client's expenses. Insurance, therefore, has become a necessary evil that all of us must have. We are obligated out of necessity to pay for health, homeowners, auto and life insurance among others and yet we never have the full blanket protection of insurance.

Though this issue has affected many people, I feel slightly pessimistic about possible solutions to the problem. According to the Center For Responsive Politics, the insurance industry regularly spends the most money lobbying U.S. and state Congresses as well as donating campaign contributions to both Republicans and Democrats alike. The only way for us as citizens to combat this influence the insurance industry has on elected officials is by contacting them ourselves. Call, write or e-mail your elected officials and express your discontent for the way insurance companies can treat their clients. Demand action.



Nate
Cook

Reading boosts writing abilities

When students come to the campus Writing Center seeking assistance, it is interesting to hear the achievements and annoyances they face as writers. There are a few writers who are extremely proficient, and they rarely encounter problems with the writing process. More common, however, are the students who despise writing because they aren't good at it.

By far, the most prominent reason good writers are able to write well is the amount of reading they do. (I don't necessarily mean literary classics, but perhaps something with a little more substance than a textbook or *Cosmo*.) Reading to improve writing is much the same as watching a chess expert defeat an opponent or Michael Jordan shoot a jump shot.

Learning by observing is a great first step towards grasping any technique.

For many students though, reading isn't their cup of tea. Developing a taste for reading is a tough yet conquerable feat. I cringe at the thought of writing autobiographically, but for those with such an aversion towards reading and writing, I think my story may be one with which you can sympathize.

As a child I read very slowly, and by the time my classmates would get done reading a book, I'd only have half the book finished. Perseverance didn't top my list of priorities at that time, so instead of wanting to become better, I grew frustrated with my inadequacy. I had more fun sitting in the corner with the paste eaters anyway.

Writing wasn't much different. My refusal to read led to being a horrible speller, and that made me less comfortable with a pen. Third grade proved to be a traumatic experience for me, mostly because of my teacher, Mrs. Hurd. She thought my creative

writing exercises were unimaginative and my spelling was disgraceful. You may doubt her ruggedness, but there is valid reasoning behind the nickname I gave her: Hurd The Turd. I got the last laugh on that one.

Then in high school I read a great John Irving novel - the main character was an author - and it made me more open to reading and writing. As I continue to age and become more educated, I realize the importance of reading and writing as a means of effectively expressing thoughts and ideas. In fact, I couldn't imagine not being cooped-up in my bedroom each night for hours on end with my nose in a book or my fingers on the keyboard.

Reading and writing are important to everyone. Unlike the ability to solve complex algebraic equations or read musical scores, the ability to effectively read and write are two disciplines that help students and employees succeed, no matter the field of study or profession.

If that sick-to-your-stomach feeling hits after a professor assigns a novel to read, remember that reading is more than dragging your eyes across a page. It's an imagination-provoking experience. Who knows, you may be one novel away from having a different perspective on reading and writing altogether.

And while that writing technique is improving and you still get hit with a force field of doubt when you have to write a paper, know that there are many students who share your apprehension. Classmates and professors are a valuable resources, not to mention the Writing Center tutors who are always there to help, pearly whites shining. Observing and practice lead to excellence, just like MJ's jumper.



Ben Jipson

Middle East policies dangerous

It appears there has been a lot of confusion over the transfer of many of America's biggest shipping ports over to a company based in the United Arab Emirates. Concerns have been raised by many respectable and apprehensive individuals on the matter, but the majority of what I have heard is from people who have no idea what sort of transfer is going on. The operations of the ports were previously controlled by a British company, but are now being sold to a larger conglomerate based in the Middle East. There are those who think that we are selling our ports or putting the security of shipments into the hands of a foreign company. This is not the case, what is occurring is a business deal.

Now I would agree that the situation calls for extra scrutiny since this is a region of the world where there are many people who would like to cause as

much damage to America as they possible can. I would prefer that the president was not encouraging benefits to a region that wants to kill our citizens, but I am glad that this transaction has made people aware of the economics that is the driving force to the majority of our problems in the Middle East.

We are encouraging further economic ties with the Middle East in order to gain access to the abundance of oil. This controversy shows just how powerful a connection this is if the president would turn against his party and supporters in order to force this deal to completion. We have made the United Arab Emirates and other parts of the Middle



Travis Grieman

East very wealthy with these policies while at the same time perpetuating the hate many of the locals feel for us. This is a recipe for terrorism, which became very clear on Sept. 11th. A great deal of the money and resources to carry out acts of terrorism on the West come

from wealthy contributors who can thank us for their prosperity. Bush was correct in his speech; saying that to disallow this transaction would be discriminatory towards a company that is most suitable to handle the job. What is unsettling is how he tried to push forward the action so that it would not become public. Actions such as this show were his loyalties lie, and it is not with his sup-

porting constituents. Throughout his presidency Bush has continued to try and give America a stronger foothold in the Middle East, but now people are starting to take notice. Instead of trying to attack legitimate business operations we should be focused on creating policies that do not encourage terrorism. Our dependence on foreign oil is what is funding such actions and fueling the hatred many have for us. If you want to help fund Al-Qaeda just fill up your SUV and support legislators who encourage the big automakers.

Hopefully the public's notice of the recent events and the president's strong push for their quick completion shows just how dependent we have become on the Middle East. We need to change our policies on a large scale, not attack the business operations of a transaction that we facilitated.

Guilt-free drinking for students

As anyone knows, I am sort of an advocate of the 'trying new things' mentality. In most of my columns that I have written I am often saying, "try something new." It is good for you, and it gives you more life experiences that you could tell your grandkids. This column is for those people that have not tried something

but still are very much opposed to the idea of it. The most controversial subject is the drinking that goes on in college and on campus.

Drinking is something that I do at least two or three times a week and I enjoy it very much. I have a group of friends that come with me and we get a little drunk and have some fun. It is harmless and the worst thing that has ever happened is maybe a little disagreement or a little trouble-making on the way home. But there are a lot of people out there who say this is very immoral and we should feel bad for going out and having a couple of drinks. Well, anytime that someone tells me that I should feel bad for having some fun I get a "little antsy in the pantsy" if you know what I mean. Drinking that does not lead to



Jason Conway

death or dismemberment is not something that I am going to feel bad about and none of you other students should either.

One of my many pet peeves is when people start to talk about something that they themselves have never tried. It would be the same thing to say that driving a car is very unsafe and people should not do it if you never driven before yourself. It is almost an oxymoron.

My favorite new word is "binge drinking." Binge drinking is used to describe a person that goes out and in one night consumes more than five drinks. Wow, a whole five drinks I do not know about you but we are in Wisconsin and five drinks to most people is just a warm up. This term is used all over the place now and it is giving drinking a bad name. Some people have different tolerances than others and five drinks might not do it for them.

This new phrase also implies that everyone that "binge drinks" is coming home at the end of the night completely plastered and unable to function. This is a very false statement and I think that is where we got all the naysayers from. They have decided to not drink because they believe that you cannot go out drinking without getting

drunk. And everyone that knows or had the experience of drinking understands that this is not true.

We also get all these cool statistics from certain organizations on campus that say that most students on campus do not drink at all and everyone should join this majority. First of all, I would like to find out where these stats come from. Thursday night I see a lot of people out and they are all drinking. I mean, really the Library probably has a capacity to hold around a thousand people and it is full all the time. This does not count in the students that are at the number of parties and dorms that are drinking. So my stats would say that about one third of the student population drinks between one and five drinks per week.

Well this all said, it is true that drinking a lot all the time is very bad for you and you should always drink in moderation. However, getting a little drunk every once in a while is not going to be horrible for you either. Life is about trying new things and for all you naysayers out there get some friends and go have a couple drinks. You know, just try it out and then if you are still against it talk all you want about it.

At least you tried something new and you got the experiment out of the way, so later in life when people depend on you no innocent bystander could be hurt.

Residence hall labs for academic use first, surfing second

This column isn't going to win me many fans in the Residence Halls, so I'm going to just come right out and say it.

I think the computer labs in the Residence Halls should be strictly limited to academic use, with popular sites such as Facebook, Myspace, and all of those other browsing-at-your-leisure sites prohibited from access.

I realize a lot of people use the computers in the labs for personal stuff, such as checking their e-mail, posting pictures of their latest drunken adventures, chatting with friends and so forth. I don't see a problem with these activities as a whole, but I feel they should be limited in the Residence Hall computer labs because they waste valuable computer resources.

Most Residence Halls have one computer lab with four computers in it. One of these computers is usually broken or locked up, and the other three are usually occupied by people listening to music and browsing their favorite Web sites.

Usually, there is a sign posted on the wall that says something along the lines of "This computer lab is only to be used by residents of this hall" and that "priority will be given to those using these facilities for academic purposes."

This leads me to ask - who exactly is enforcing these rules?

I understand that we could go talk to our RA's and have people booted out of the lab for not doing homework, but who wants to do that? Nobody wants

to be seen as the snitch, so as much as some of us are annoyed by the labs being taken up by people not doing homework, it'd be against our "Minnesota-nice" character to tell them to kindly vacate the lab.

I'm not saying that nobody should be allowed to use any of the labs on campus for anything non-academic, but maybe students could be a little bit more considerate and choose to do their Internet browsing from one of the bigger computer labs like the ones found in the Library or South Hall. If you simply have to check Facebook,

try doing it during non-peak hours like late at night or very early in the morning. If all of the computers are taken up and you're only there to kill some time, maybe you could opt to log out



Hans Hage

so that someone who does want to do homework has the chance. A little bit of common courtesy can go a long way.

And while we're on the topic of common courtesy in the computer labs, it would also be nice if people would take their phone calls out in the hallway instead of talking while sitting at the computer. There's nothing more distracting than trying to write a paper on

The Reformation when someone sitting next to you is blabbing on and on about how their roommate hooked up with some guy named Kenny at Rugby last night. The same goes for people listening to music: it's great that people listen to it with headphones on, but some need to pay attention to how loud the volume is, and adjust accordingly if others are in the room.

We don't have to ban non-academic use from the computer labs in the Residence Halls, but we do need to start realizing that, because the computers are public, everyone should have a right to use them for their schoolwork. If your computer use is stopping someone else from getting their work done, you might want to reconsider your actions.



Jenna Cahall, sophomore

"I think it's good. They have a right to smoke and I have a right to breath."

STUDENT VOICES

What do you think of the new smoking policy?



Aaron Stelzig, freshman

"I think it's stupid unless it's in the summer, because people have their windows open and then they have something to complain about. But it's winter, so people shouldn't have anything to complain about."



Mike Barthman, sophomore

"I think the rule would bother me, but it seems Public Safety is obviously too busy protecting us from real dangers like skateboarding and malevolent parking."



Kelsi Roth, freshman

"I think it sucks that you could get fined just because people don't respect how far they stand away from buildings. But to me it's not that big of a deal."



Ashley Saylor, junior

"I think that they should have a smokers' hut if they are going to punish us."



Pam Fear, junior

"I think it's unfair, especially in winter and we can't stand in the corner and no one has their windows open."

Student Voices by: Kirsten Farrar

Feeling at home



Sarah Packingham

During this school year I’ve taken on many new challenges in and out of the classroom. One of the challenges this year was taking on the role of Sports Editor for the *Student Voice*.

Although this may not seem to be a challenge for some, it was for me. It was difficult to be writing generally two or three articles a week and to learn the program we use for laying out pages.

Coming into this job I was quite nervous. I had been told I was the first female Sports Editor in a long time; in fact there was even some talk of me maybe being the only one in the 90-year history of the *Voice*.

I thought, “What if people aren’t ready to handle a female in a field that’s primarily dominated by males? What if I’m not accepted and taken seriously as a journalist?” With all the negative thoughts that ran through my mind, I took one big breath of fresh air and jumped in feet-first with the first kickoff of the Falcon football season.

And luckily for me, I haven’t come across as much hostility as I thought I would. There are other young women who work for the Sports Information Department, so I wasn’t the only female out there trying to get the story.

All of the coaches’ help and support of the *Student Voice* has been never-ending this year. I wouldn’t have been as successful as I have been thus far without sitting down with our coaches and their players and seeing how the season is going, hearing about the trials and tribulations of our teams, and just seeing the chemistry on and off the playing field or the ice or out of the pool.

Back home, the newspaper I read has only one female sports reporter and a huge number of male reporters.

I have been lucky enough to go with her and learn the ins and outs of the business.

But over J-Term I had to fly solo.

I had my first experience of real journalism for a daily newspaper and I didn’t have anyone else to depend on. While I was sitting up in the press box I did everything I could do to make sure I remained cool and calm. While at home before leaving I was nervous that I would somehow screw it up.

I was covering University of Minnesota-Duluth Bulldog men’s hockey for a newspaper on the Iron Range, which left me up in the press box with my laptop and reporter’s notebook. I was the only female in the box.

It was a bit awkward having to put down the seat to go to the bathroom. But other than that, it was not what I expected.

I expected some of the guys to give me a hard time or not be willing to help because I was a female and a student. But everyone was so willing to help, making it a fantastic experience.

Having this experience made me realize even more that this is what I want to do with my life. I don’t have to be afraid of being a minority; I don’t have to worry about not being accepted.

In my high school years I did sports journalism, and during the time I’ve spent here working on the *Student Voice* I’ve only come across a few people who I didn’t feel respected me or what I did.

And I think that comes with that field whether you’re male or female.

Critics will come and go, but all of you who have a dream just have to not be afraid to live it out.

That’s why I’m here right now. Living my dream, writing about the games I love and I couldn’t have asked for better people to work with this year.

And I’m looking forward for more to come in my future.

Falcons running strong to the finish



Submitted Photo

The 2006 men’s and women’s track teams recently competed in the Ole Open at St. Olaf in Northfield, Minn. The next meet is the WIAC Championship.

Dan Rinker
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Both the men’s and women’s track teams have been running strong as the indoor season draws to a close.

This weekend at the Ole Open in Northfield, Minn., Jason Phillipi took first in the 1,000-meters with a time 2:33.51. 600-yard dash runner Dave Jones placed third with a time of 1:15.59. The men’s 4x200 and 4x400 both took second.

The Women also did well at St Olaf.

Core-runner Brittany Smith had a time of 26.81 in the 200, finishing second. Marlene Yaeger took second in the 1,000-meter run with a time of 3:04.39.

Three-sport athlete Yaeger came off a record-breaking performance last weekend in the Blue Devil Open in Menomonie. With a time of 10:29.32 she broke a school record that was

“something like 24 year[s] old,” said Assistant Coach Kevin Syverson.

The amazing part? It was her first indoor race.

There were no team scores reported from the Ole Open, however, in the Blue Devil Open, the men’s team finished third out of nine with 78.50 points, and the women fourth out of eight with 82.33 points, missing third by just one point.

“The team is young, but improved from last year,” Syverson said.

Since the team returned to the WIAC track in 2003, they have done nothing except get better. It does seem that the Falcons have been slowly climbing the ladder. “One year we will be eighth out of nine and seventh out of nine the next” Second-year Coach Martha Brennan said.

The future looks bright for the Falcons; they have a solid upper-class and most of the

team’s runners on the WIAC honor roll are freshmen and sophomores.

“The coaching staff is good and we have good recruits ... we are definitely excited for seasons to come, we are improving quite a bit,” freshman Joe Weinrich said.

“The team has been developing very well,” freshman Alicia Ekegren said.

Indeed, they have been improving as well as any team in the WIAC. Someone has a PR every week and different runners are hot each week, which is a good sign.

Key athletes so far this season have been: Ben Kirmse, Clint Christy, Al Moore, Jason Phillippi, Mike Meissner and Mike Zander. For the women: Vicki Cooper, Jill Crandall, Krista Hasselquist, Marlene Yaeger, Shannon Zweifel and Jess Reed.

The WIAC championship in

Steven’s Point is scheduled for next week, and despite the team’s improvement, “it all points to conference,” Syverson said.

For many of the underclassmen, this is their first shot to run in such a huge event. The WIAC is known as one of the toughest conferences in Division-III.

“This is where the freshmen learn how to compete,” Brennan said.

Teams to watch out for include UW-Lacrosse, UW-Stevens Point and UW-Oshkosh.

What happens indoors is also always a good predictor for the outdoor season.

Coach Brennan went on to say, “the only reason the two seasons are separate is the snow on the ground.”

The team is ready to get outdoors because the smaller indoor track is much harder on the runners, so the improvement should get even better as the outdoor

season progresses. The team will also finally get a chance to sport the new track, as the Falcons host two important home meets this year.

Brennan emphasizes that things are different now for Falcon track and field.

“I want the River Falls track team to be known on campus,” Brennan said.

Women
February 24 results
St. Olaf Open
No Team Scores kept

UW-RF top finishers (event-performance)
2. Smith, 200-meter - 26.81; 2. Yaeger, 1000-meter - 3:04.39; 2. Crandall, High Jump - 1.60 m; 2. Kromray, Pole Vault - 3.28m ; 3. Hasselquist, Shot Put - 12.35m.

Men
February 25 results
St. Olaf Open
No Team Scores kept

UW-RF top finishers (event-performance)
3. Jones, 600-meter - 1:15.59 ; 1. Phillippi, 1000-meter - 2:33.51; 2. Crandall, High Jump - 6.45m; 4. Christy, High Jump - 1.89m; 10.Olson, Shot Put - 13.64 m.

Falcons prepare for playoffs

Matt Zinter
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The UW-River Falls women’s hockey team starts the NCHA tournament on March 3, going against second-seeded UW-Superior.

The Falcons ended their season losing their last three out of four games, which dropped them to the third seed. Two of those games came against Superior.

“We ended the season a little disappointing,” senior Leah Baron said. “The team had potential to do better.”

The NCHA tournament will be held at the Ice Hawks Arena in Stevens Point.

“Our team looked really good in practice,” Baron said. “We are getting faster and stronger and more disciplined, which is what we need to do to beat Superior.”

For the season, the Falcons ended with a 13-10-2 overall record, and a conference record of 8-6-1. This team went through some struggles and tri-

umphs throughout the whole season, beating up on nationally ranked Gustavus in the first game of the season, all the way to losing to last place Finlandia in the middle of the season.

“Overall, I think that we had a great season,” senior Lindsey O’Keefe said. “We had our ups and downs, but it ended very well.”

Baron agrees.

“We definitely had our ups and downs,” Baron said. “We had great success this year though. I could not be more proud.”

Superior has beaten River Falls all three times that the teams have played each other this season. O’Keefe, Baron, and senior Lou Paulson all said that there is nothing to lose in this game, and they are playing for “pride.”

“That is all we really can play for,” O’Keefe said. “It is hard to beat a team four times in a row in the same season, so we really do have nothing to lose.”

The game starts at 7:30 p.m on the road.



Jen Dolen/Student Voice

The Falcons try to get the puck during a home game against UW-Superior. The two teams face off again Friday.

Sheer madness on the horizon



Matt Zinter

I love March Madness. Every year, I fill out my bracket and put in different betting polls across my school, online and through my family. Every year I usually can tell who is going to win and who is going to lose, but sometimes I do get predictions wrong. Last year, I never thought Louisville was going to make it to the Final Four, UW-Milwaukee shocked everyone by beating Alabama and Boston College to make it to the Sweet 16 and N.C. State upsetting second ranked Connecticut in the second round. Here is the run down for my picks of how the

bracket is going to turn out this year.

The Ohio State Buckeyes are unstoppable right now. I don’t even think that Duke could stop them. They have beaten up on multiple teams this year who were said to make a run at a championship like Michigan State, Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois. I expect this team to make something happen.

West Virginia is another one of those teams that will be huge in the tournament this year. Last year, they made it to the Elite Eight. They have beat some impressive teams, including Pittsburgh, UCLA and Villanova. Their star player is center Kevin Pittsnogle, who was furious when his team lost last year in the Elite Eight. This team can smell a Final Four appearance this year.

The Texas Longhorns is the other team that is sick of losing just before they make it to the

Final Four. They have a solid team this year that has won some crucial games. The Longhorns have two stars P.J. Tucker and Lamarcus Aldridge. These two players are both averaging close to a double-double. They also have beaten some really tough teams this year too, include West Virginia, Iowa, Villanova, and Memphis and will make a strong push.

The team that will win it all this year, though, no doubt in my mind, is the Duke Blue Devils. That team this year is just plain unstoppable. They have only one loss on the year. J.J. Redick has led that team the whole way this year. He is a future hall of fame player for the NBA. He is averaging the most points with 28 points.

Now that I’ve given a little run down on the teams I think have a shot of the championship, I don’t suppose anyone would argue with what I said.

Flying to new heights

Falcon Cheer and Stunt team soars above all

Sarah Packingham
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Every year there are teams and athletes that go without any recognition or glory, and here at UW-River Falls the Falcon Cheer and Stunt team just happens to fall into that category.

Even though the Falcon cheer squad is visible on campus at home football games, basketball games and hockey games, many people still don’t know much about its existence.

In the winter the squad makes a competition squad to compete around the area.

“There are 12 girls on the squad,” junior Laura Franz said. “And this weekend we have our third competition.”

This third competition will also most likely be the Falcons’ last

for this season, but they have performed well already this year. They got third in the Raider Tournament, and they also performed at the Mall of America, which wasn’t really judged like a

“But flying is a rush, you don’t know what’s going to happen...”
Laura Franz,
junior cheerleader

competition.

This weekend the Falcons travel to Sun Prairie to showcase their skills in the final meet of the season.

“Most of the teams we compete against are in high school, but I think Whitewater will be there this weekend,” Franz said.

Coming into this weekend, the women have all worked very

hard to do the best they can for the season.

“We practice a lot. We practice every Tuesday and Thursday night,” Franz said. “Also, our meet at the Mall of America was in January and we had to come back for a week during break to learn the routine.”

The Falcons are lead by coaches Sarah Egstrom and Michelle Dodge. Amber Frome, who is a member of the team, also choreographed most of the Falcons routines.

Franz is one of the members of the Falcon squad who enjoys “flying” as part of the sport of cheerleading. During the football season she always was flying, but during competitions it has to be different.

“There are a lot of people that fly in competitions. We also have to switch bases all the time,” Franz said. “We get docked

FINAL STANDINGS

Men's Basketball			UW-Superior(4-20)			0	16
WIAC Standings	W	L	Men's Hockey				
UW-Whitewater(20-5)	13	3	NCHA Standings				W L T
UW-Stout(20-5)	12	4	St. Norbert (22-3-2)	10	2	2	
UW-Stevens Point(17-9)	11	5	UW-River Falls (17-7-3)	9	4	1	
UW-Lacrosse(20-6)	10	6	UW-Superior (15-9-3)	7	5	2	
UW-Oshkosh(17-9)	10	6	Lake Forest (15-12-0)	7	7	0	
UW-Platteville(12-13)	7	9	UW-Stevens Point (12-11-4)	6	6	2	
UW-River Falls(6-19)	5	11	St. Scholastica (15-10-2)	6	7	1	
UW-Eau Claire(12-14)	4	12	UW-Stout (15-12-0)	6	8	0	
UW-Superior(5-20)	0	16	UW-Eau Claire (2-21-4)	0	12	2	
Women's Basketball			Women's Hockey				
WIAC Standings	W	L	NCHA Standings				W L T
UW-Oshkosh(19-7)	12	4	UW-Stevens Point(15-4-4)	9	1	3	
UW-Stout(18-7)	12	4	UW-Superior(19-2-2)	9	2	2	
UW-Stevens Point(19-7)	11	5	UW-River Falls(13-10-2)	8	6	1	
UW-Lacrosse(19-7)	9	7	Lake Forest(11-8-4)	4	5	4	
UW-Eau Claire(13-13)	8	8	UW-Eau Claire(7-12-6)	1	8	6	
UW-River Falls(12-14)	8	8	Finlandia(7-13-3)	1	10	2	
UW-Whitewater(12-14)	6	10					
UW-Platteville(10-15)	6	10					

For complete stats check out UW-RF Sports Information Web site at www.uwrf.edu/sports

TOP PERFORMERS



Jason Phillipi men's track

Phillipi, a sophomore, won his 1,000-meter event at the Ole Open over the weekend in Northfield, Minn. He won the race with a time of 2:33:51. He hopes to improve on his time in the WIAC Indoor Championships this coming weekend.



Brittany Smith women's track

Smith, a sophomore, placed second in the 200-meter-dash with a time of 26.8 as one of the many Falcon women who were placing high in the Ole Open in Northfield, Minn. Smith hopes to improve this weekend at the WIAC Indoor Championships.

After UW-River Falls takes part in the WIAC Indoor Championships this weekend the outdoor season begins to take place. The schedule is as follows:

March 17 at Texas-San Antonio Relays, 10 a.m.
March 18 at Texas-San Antonio Relays, 10 a.m.

April 8 Falcon Invitational, 10 a.m.
April 15 at Eau Claire, 10 a.m.
April 22 Border Olympics, 10 a.m.
April 26 at Macalester (men), 10 a.m.
April 27 at Drake Relays, 10 a.m.
April 28 at Macalester (women), 10 a.m.
April 28 at Drake Relays, 10 a.m.
April 29 at Drake Relays, 10 a.m.

May 5 at WIAC Outdoor Championships (at Oshkosh), 10 a.m.
May 6 at WIAC Outdoor Championships (at Oshkosh), 10 a.m.
May 20 at Last Chance Meet (at La Crosse), 10 a.m.
May 25 at NCAA Div. III Outdoor Championships (at Lisle, Ill.), 10 a.m.
May 26 at NCAA Div. III Outdoor Championships (at Lisle, Ill.), 10 a.m.
May 27 at NCAA Div. III Outdoor Championships (at Lisle, Ill.), 10 a.m.

PLAYERS TO WATCH



Margo Taylor Softball

Taylor returns for the Falcons as one of only three juniors. She is going to be the Falcons catcher this season. While suiting up last season Taylor played in 14 games and had four RBIs.



Brittany Rathbun Softball

Rathbun returns for a second year on the mound with an Honorable Mention on the All-WIAC Team. She went 5-6 last season and was named the Co-Most Improved Player.

Softball goes 2-0 against Carleton

The UW-River Falls Falcon softball team beat Carleton College twice at the Rosemount Dome March 1. The Falcons won the first game of the double-header 3-1 and the second game 4-0. In the second game Falcon pitcher Brittany Rathbun tossed a no-hitter. She faced nine batters in the first three innings before walking one batter in the fourth. Rathbun picked up a save for her efforts in the first game against Carleton. In the second game the Falcons had eight hits, including three from Amanda Wojnowiak, who went 3-3. Margo Taylor also went 1-1. In the first game, the Falcons managed to pick up three runs on four hits. Starting pitcher Ashley Bertrand only allowed two hits in the 3-1 win. The Falcons' next game will be March 12.

Leading on and off the ice

Efforts lead to NCHA Scholar-Athlete honor

Sarah Packingham
sarah.packingham@uwrf.edu

For UW-River Falls senior defenseman Mike Salmela, hockey has always been a way of life. He has always been serious about his academics too. This season as a senior on the Falcon hockey team, the two came together as Salmela was named NCHA Scholar-Athlete of the Year. "It's pretty cool; I feel honored," Salmela said.

"He's a quiet type of leader, but a great veteran leader."

Aaron Venasky, junior hockey player

There are many requirements the NCHA makes for the recipients of this elite award, including at least a 3.5 GPA. "They look for excellence in leadership, athletics and academics," Salmela said. "They also have you list your activities, but I'm not sure how much they look at that." Even though Salmela is a senior, this is only his third year wearing a River Falls jersey. After his graduation from Duluth East High School in 1998, he took the route that many hockey players take and laced up his skates for junior hockey. He played in juniors for three seasons before heading to River Falls. It was during Salmela's final year of juniors when he realized what he really wanted to do with his life. "During my last year I lived with a doctor's family, since you live with host families," Salmela said. "That's when I was really introduced to it, he used to let me follow him around and he used to tell me stories. He even

let me go into surgery with him." Since that experience in juniors Salmela hasn't been able to shake the thoughts of becoming a doctor. He came to River Falls looking to major in biology and end up graduating in May and then will go on to medical school. "I wanted to be able to do well in school and still play hockey, since I've been doing that since I was a little guy," Salmela said. Salmela's first season for the Falcons was back in 2001-2002, then he also played again the following year. After those two seasons he took some time off to concentrate on what he needed to do in order to better himself for his career. During that time he was given the opportunity to become an EMT in River Falls. "That's why I stopped playing," Salmela said. "I took those years off to become an EMT and study for my medical school admissions tests."

As of right now, Salmela doesn't know where he is going to end up for school next year or in the future. His options are very vast including schools in Vermont and Minnesota. "It's a very competitive process," Salmela said of applying to different schools. Besides working as an EMT, he has been busy doing research at the University of Minnesota. He also hopes to have a little bit of time to relax before graduation. Salmela is also unsure of what type of doctor he wants to be. He used to think he wanted to be a neurologist, but he realized he would like to have a job where he can have more hands on experience with the patients and do more to help others. Salmela is confident once he hits medical school he will be able to figure out what he wants to do, because there they allow you to try out a lot of different stuff before you narrow down your options. This season, Salmela was one of the four Falcon seniors playing in what could be the final



Kirsten Farrar/Student Voice
Senior Mike Salmela gets ready to take on an opponent. This May, Salmela will graduate with a degree in biology.

"They look for excellence in leadership, athletics and academics."

Mike Salmela, senior hockey player

year of their hockey careers. Throughout the course of his playing career, he had the opportunity to meet a lot of new people. "We're really a pretty close and diverse group of guys from all over the country which is interesting," Salmela said. "It's nice having a potpourri of personalities."



Submitted Photo
The Falcon Cheer and Stunt Competition Squad took part in a meet at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn. This weekend, the Falcons compete in their third and final competition in Sun Prairie, Wisc., and hope to finish on a high note.

Cheerleading: Competes for final time in competition season this weekend

from page 6

points if we don't. But flying is a rush; you don't know what's going to happen. You have to hope and pray they catch you if it goes wrong." This weekend when the squad hits the mat, they will be performing for the final time this season, and one member will be competing for the first time.

Junior Marcy Lutzen just joined the squad three weeks ago to help out after one of their athletes went down with an injury that ended her season. For some it would be hard to pick up a routine so quickly, but not for Lutzen. "It wasn't really that hard to pick it up I watched Laura [Franz] learn the routine, and I also went in and helped earlier in

"I also went in and helped earlier in the season with stunting..."

Marcy Lutzen, junior cheerleader


the season with stunting and spotting," Lutzen said. "So I

already knew part of the routine coming in." With Saturday being the last time the Falcons will compete together for a long time, Franz summarizes the season as one that has been a lot of fun and an interesting experience for all who were involved. After this season the cheerleaders won't perform until the football season.

Congratulations to:
Jenny Wallace All-NCHA Women's Hockey Team

Second Team honorees:
Lindsay O'Keefe
Lou Paulson

All Academic Team:
Lindsay O'Keefe

Coffee with the **Times**
"Challenges and Opportunities in the Middle East"
Discussion Leader: Chancellor Don Betz
Monday, March 6 at 3:30 p.m.
UW-RF Davee Library Atrium
Open to the Public
Sponsored by American Democracy Project & The New York Times Readership Program


Parking: Parking solutions limited, administration looks at new options

from page 2

provide convenient parking, we have to charge.” Nelson has no opposition to additional fees. “I think that would be OK,” Nelson said. “It’s not a huge amount of money; it would be more beneficial for students.” Smith does not agree. “I don’t know if it is worth \$300,” Smith said. “I honestly wouldn’t pay \$600.” One area where UW-RF does need to improve is parking access for disabled persons, Braun said. Smith understands the necessity of increased access. A recent car accident resulted in her using a parking pass for disabled persons, Smith said. While it was a benefit to have

the parking pass, there are not enough spots, Smith said. If an additional parking lot was built, an existing lot should be converted into a lot exclusively for disabled persons, Smith said. One UW-RF parking option is in the works. An existing lot near the Student Center, which is under construction, is being redeveloped and will offer 76 stalls, Braun said. Overall, an increase of parking stalls or a parking ramp will affect students with higher fees, and the committee is working to find a good balance, Braun said. “We are doing all in our power,” Braun said. “It is a matter of cost versus convenience.”

Academic Quadrathlon tests skills

Beth Dickman
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Every year the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences holds an Academic Quadrathlon. Eight teams comprised of four students from the college compete in four contests. The teams each have four members who specialize in various areas throughout the college such as equine sciences, dairy or swine. Together, the members take part in a hands-on lab practicum, a written exam, an oral presentation and a fast-paced quiz bowl. The events and skills necessary to succeed in the Academic Quadrathlon are all information-based and depend on the students’ academic knowledge as well as their experience in the Ag Science fields. “Everything you do and everything you know comes from memory ... there’s nothing you can really do to practice,” said James Magolski, a junior majoring in animal sciences and a member of team 3, the winning

team. “We were lucky to have a well-rounded group, each with different skills,” he said. Though there is little to do to practice for the competition, the work the students put into their academics and related outside activities compliments their knowledge and adds to their ability to do well in a contest like this one. Magolski not only is a student in the animal science department, but is also the student manager of the swine enterprise on campus. Like Magolski, his fellow team members are also active in field-related clubs and jobs. On Feb. 4, all of the teams took part in the lab practicum here on campus and then gave an oral presentation for a selection of judges and spectators. The competition concluded on Feb. 9, with the written examination and the quiz bowl. “The toughest part was the written exam. It’s impossible to know everything, and it draws on a lot of different areas of information,” Magolski said. “My favorite part was the quiz bowl. You have to be a quick

thinker; you have to be able to push the button faster than the next person.” Magolski participated in the Academic Quadrathlon for the first time this year, joining his three group members junior Emily Antinoja, senior Nicole Ketcham and senior Beth Hankins. This group, minus Magolski competed last year in the Academic Quadrathlon together, though this is their first time placing first. From here, the group heads to Des Moines, Iowa, to compete in the Upper Midwest Regional Academic Quadrathlon. The event will be held March 18 and 19. The UW-RF team will compete against teams from a number of other schools including Michigan State University and North Dakota State University. In April 2000, the team from UW-RF took first place at the Upper Midwest Regional competition, beating teams from Iowa State, the University of Minnesota and nine others. For more information on the regional competition or UW-RF’s Academic Quadrathlon, Gary Onan can be contacted at (715) 425-3704 or stop by the Ag Science building.

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Student Voice
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Phone: 425-3624
Fax: 425-0684

YAY — OR — NAY

To the horror caused by e-mail outages!



To one more week of classes before spring break

To quickly approaching midterms



Falcon Favorites



Kris Paulson
Dean’s Assistant, CBE

Although Paulson has just recently joined the UW-RF staff, she is already the most experienced assistant in the CBE office.

Since she joined the CBE staff in September, all of the other assistant positions have been replenished with new faces. This year has been a big learning curve for them all.

Paulson's job is to support the dean with administrative functions and help manage and coordinate office duties and responsibilities.

Paulson is a graduate of Minnesota State University - Mankato in business administration with a concentration in human resources and a minor in economics.

Paulson said the best part about working in the College of Business and Economics office is the variety of work she does and the responsibility that goes along with it.

"I work with the dean, faculty, students and businesses that are affiliated with the college," Paulson said.

Yet Paulson says the most frustrating part of her job is her previous experience in a corporate setting.

Some words of advice Paulson would give students are to meet with advisors and seek internships to gain experience.

"You are making a great investment going to college," she said. "It can be a lot of work, but it's worth it and pays off."

Campus Calendar

Monday, March 6

3:30 p.m. - Coffee with The Times

A conversation series on current issues and events.

"Challenges and Opportunities in the Middle East."

Chancellor Don Betz will lead the discussion.

The "Coffee with The Times" series is sponsored by the American Democracy Project and The New York Times Readership Program.

Location: Davee Library Atrium

Wednesday, March 8

3:00-4:00 p.m. - Lion's Paw Book Club: *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett.

Retired English professor Margaret Odegard will lead this Lion's Paw Book Club discussion.

For more information call the library at (715) 425-3321.

Location: Davee Library Breezeway

Thursday, March 9

7:00-8:30 p.m. - Can Single Sex Classrooms Help? Closing the Gender Gap in Math and Science

Can math and science education be improved by separating girls and boys? Some people think so. A bill recently introduced in the Wisconsin state legislature would permit public schools to enroll only one sex or to create single sex classrooms. Some critics argue that boys and girls need to learn together in order to later work effectively with both sexes in the workplace. Others say that studies at this time are too limited to undertake such dramatic changes in education. Parents and educators, as well as business professionals, will want to know about the proposed legislation and its implications to education and the future workplace.

Location: River Falls Public Library

FALCON REVIEWS

Voices sets Matchbook ablaze

Erik Wood
student.voice@uwrf.edu

“We are, we are the shaken, we are the monsters underneath your bed.”

There is no way those lyrics can come from a punk/emo band out of Poughkeepsie, NY. Well, as it turns out, those same lyrics came from vocalist and guitarist Andrew Jordan and Matchbook Romance.

Less than two years after their debut album *Stories and Alibis* hit shelves, Matchbook Romance is back with an even more unique sound. They have shocked fans with a new twist on their semi-pop punk lyrics with a unique sound transformation.

Epitah Records puts it perfectly into perspective, “as decidedly more sparse, moddy and meditative...significantly removed from the sound they honed on their debut.” Andrew Jordan decided that they “declared war on power chords. Though distorted, muscular major chords are still present on *Voices*, the songs contain a sort of cinematic yearning that was only hinted at on *Stories and Alibis*.”

To put it bluntly, this melodic punk

band has taken a step in the right direction. They have set themselves apart with a unique sound that seemingly no other artist in their genre possesses.

When comparing hit tracks on *Stories and Alibis* to those on *Voices*, you can find many differences, not only lyrically, but in the overall feel for the music they ever-so-passionately created.

On *Stories and Alibis*, tracks like “My Eyes Burn,” “Your Stories,” “My Alibis,” “Playing for Keeps” and “The Greatest Fall (Of All Time)” give the vibe any other punk/emo band has in the past two years. If you just take a moment to listen to some of the hit tracks on *Voices*, including “Monsters” and “You Can Run, But We’ll Find You,” you may find yourself asking, ‘Is this really Matchbook Romance?’

If you are anything like me when it comes to music, an unexpected shift to old time favorites can be difficult. When lis-

tening to *Voices*, I have found that I do not get the same feel as I did with *Stories and Alibis*. I sense a large amount of dark, highly emotional and orchestral feeling.

Matchbook Romance is one of the few bands that has walked the plank, so to speak. They took a chance, totally reworked their music and have seemingly succeeded.

Classifying these guys has become a challenge. When it comes to the placement of their album *Voices*, I would consider them to be an alternative rock band.

Notice, no punk, no emo, no hard-

core. Matchbook Romance has set itself apart from that scene. Whether it be for the better or worse is for you to decide. If you find yourself listening to upbeat punk rock music, check out *Stories and Alibis*.

If you like bands like Staind, A Perfect Circle, or recent Slipknot, check out *Voices*.

Matchbook Romance has redefined themselves in the rock music scene whether current fans are ready or not.

Regressing to past works may be a good thing.

3.0

out of five points

Ratings for music reviews are based on a scale from one to five. An album that scores a five is worth a listen, while an album that scores a one is better left on store shelves.



Gamers, get your ‘Gun’

Eric Ebert
eric.m.ebert@uwrf.edu

In a college arena that’s rife with Madden fanatics and Halo 2 followers, it’s good to stray from the path every once in a while and splurge on a new game.

Video game publisher Activision released “Gun” on Nov. 8, unleashing a barrage of six-shooting, wild-west-riding, cowboy-killing action onto the PlayStation 2. Publisher of games such as the Tony Hawk series, True Crime and Call of Duty, Activision seemingly struck gold again with “Gun.”

The game is set in the late 19th century wild west of the United States. The story follows the life of Colton White, a hunter by trade. After your father, Ned White, is killed in the opening segments of the game, he entrusts you with a mysterious medallion that you must take to Dodge City. From there the game follows Colton on various missions to seek revenge on the perpetrators of his father’s death.

All in all, “Gun” offers players a free-roaming environment with many side missions revolving around the main story line. Missions in the game range anywhere from winning a hand of Texas Hold’em to taking up wanted ads. While the side missions don’t follow the story, completing them boosts Colton’s stats as well as pay cash, which can be used for equipment upgrades.

Most of the game is played as a third-person shooter, which has comforts reminiscent of an old west version of Grand Theft Auto. But “Gun” also offers a “quickdraw” function that adds another level to multiple enemy fights.

When the “quickdraw” function is tapped, game play is switched to first person and game speed is slowed down, allowing easy kills on multiple enemies. However, this Matrix-like effect is gauged and can only be tapped so often.

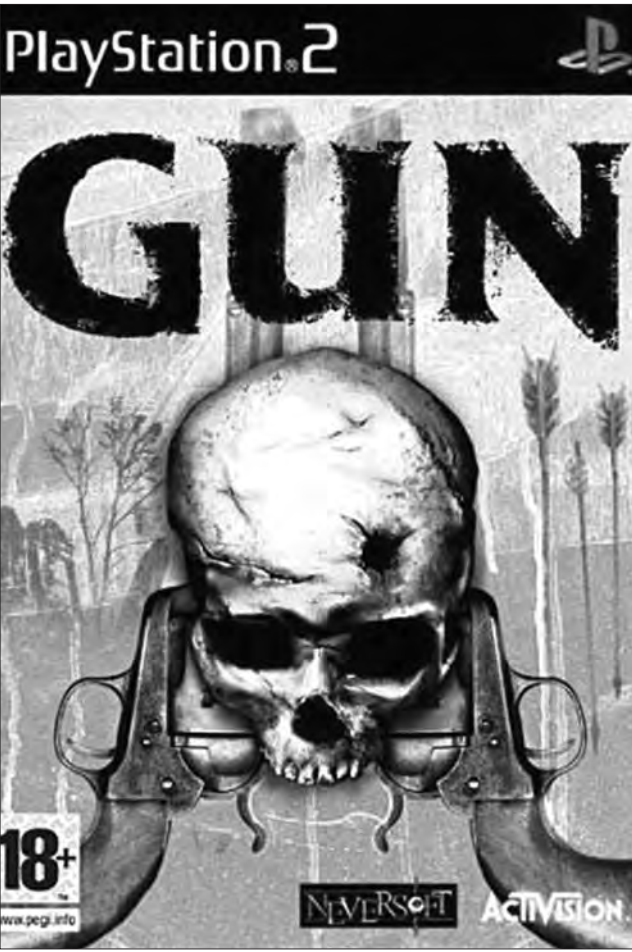
Overall, “Gun” offers a compelling feeling that will have you yearning to go out and rope some steers. The scenery in the game is extraordinary but the image processing lags at times.

Main bosses in the storyline are also relatively easy if a player completes most of the side missions. However, the final boss presents a unique challenge that will have even the most well trained cowboys confused at first.

The simplistic bosses and Native American stereotypes negate from the games overall value but shouldn’t kill the game’s popularity.

With rich game play and a compelling storyline, “Gun” provides a refreshing breather in a gaming world being choked by sequels and unoriginality.

However, knowing the game world, Activision will no doubt be eyeing a “Gun 2” on the next generation consoles. And I’ll be waiting in line to buy it.



Ford breaks through ‘Firewall’

In the early months of the year, Hollywood normally releases its smaller films to audiences.

This is the time when Hollywood is occupied with winning awards, not making record profits.

So what producers will often do is take films that have been put up on the shelf (for a delayed release because of the competition), and release them at this time.

Normally, films released during this time range from boring and confusing to just plain awful.

But every once in a while, a memorable film will come out, like “The Count of Monte Cristo,” “John Q.” or “Hitch.”

This is the category the film “Firewall” would fall under.

In this suspense thriller, Harrison Ford plays Jack Stanfield, a bank-security expert whose specialty is designing theft-proof computer systems. He is devoted to his job and is also a family man.

After work one day, during a round of drinks, his boss introduces Jack to the courteous Bill Cox (Paul Bettany), a possible banking client.

Seconds after starting his car, Jack is stunned to see Cox jump into the backseat. and pull out a gun. “Drive home,” he says.

Jack later learns that Cox isn’t a client, but a master thief in need of Jack’s help to rob \$10 million from the bank. Since Jack was the one who designed the security system, it would be logical to think that he could find a way in.

If he refuses, Jack’s family will be killed.

Ratings for movie reviews are based on a scale from one to five. A film that scores a five is a stellar movie worth seeing at least once, while a film that scores a one is a horribly acted or directed film with no substance.

Cox shows his ruthlessness and apathy toward human life in several scenes. He even kills one of his own men after making a mistake.

Realizing what kind of person he’s dealing

with, Jack has less than a day to not only find a flaw in the bank’s internal system without getting caught, but to also try to recruit help to save his family.

Unfortunately, Jack is under constant visual and auditory surveillance, giving Cox’s team the ability to know everything he’s doing.

First of all, I realize Harrison Ford is getting up there in age (he’s got to be in his mid-60s by now). Therefore, you’re probably thinking he’s getting too old to play the same kind of action roles he did 30 years ago.

I’m sorry to disappoint you, but Ford has still got it in him. Despite his age, he still knows how to take a punch and kick ass.

This type of character, a normal guy who is thrown into an extraordinary situation, has always been Ford’s forte.

All of the roles that he is best known for (Han Solo, Indiana Jones, Jack Ryan) have fallen into this genre.

I don’t care what you say, I believe that

Ford’s intense acting is unmatched. There really isn’t anyone else that could display such a range of emotions (fear, courage, vulnerability, strength) all at the same time.

He’s the kind of hero, though completely ordinary, you can still cheer for. At times, even the kind of person you wish you could be.

It’s a story about literally risking your life to save those you love. Honestly, how many of us could do that?

Sure the plot is the usual action-movie story, but like “Entrapment,” it’s written so intricately, you have no clue what will happen next. It’s engaging, so you cannot help but become involved.

Even the climax is unforeseeable. When it happens, you think ‘Whoa. Now that was cool.’

I was entertained, which really is the purpose of going to see a movie. Although it is another stereotypical good guy versus bad guy flick, you want to cheer him on, hoping that once again, the good guy will come out on top.

Nick Welsh is a 21-year-old junior majoring in history. He enjoys watching comic book superhero movies.



3.5

out of five points



Chris Rogers/Student Voice

Former College Republican files response

UW-RF political organizations feeling effects of listserv woes

Jennie Oemig
jennifer.oemig@uwrf.edu

Former UW-River Falls College Republican Joey White, who was accused by the Pierce County Democrats (PCD) for allegedly using the UW-RF listserv to illegally benefit the Paul R. Nelson for Congress campaign, has filed a response to allegations brought against him by complainant Wanda Brown.

In January, Brown, the former chair of the PCD, was named in a complaint along with the Pierce County Democratic Party, the UW-RF College Democrats and other third parties. In the original complaint Executive Director of the Republican Party of Wisconsin Rick Wiley alleged that the PCD gained illegal access to the UW-RF listserv through the College Democrats.

In response, Brown filed a counter-complaint against White and the Nelson campaign, claiming that the University listserv was utilized by White to “coordinate with both the St. Croix County Republican Party and the Pierce County Republicans to promote County Party fundraisers and other political events.”

When contacted, White had not yet filed a response, but he said he and Nelson had requested and received an extension to file a response from State Elections Board Attorney George Dunst. The new deadline was set for Feb. 23.

“We’re filing the response and then we’ll defend it at the State Elections Board. We won’t be filing any counter-responses out of spite,” White said. “We don’t care for below-the-belt politics.

We’ll simply answer the frivolous complaint against us and let the State Elections Board decide.”

After Attorney Michael Maistelman, who is representing Brown and the PCD, received word of the State Elections Board granting the deadline extension, he said he would object to its validity because White and Nelson did not request an extension before the original deadline had passed.

“When they didn’t file the response, it was assumed that they weren’t denying the allegations,” Maistelman said.

According to a Feb. 15 press release issued by Maistelman, the State Elections Board sent White and the Paul Nelson Campaign a letter informing them that failure to file a response by Feb. 12 would be viewed as an indication that the Nelson Campaign does not contest allegations made in Wanda Brown’s complaint.

“By failing to respond to the Elections Board investigation, Paul Nelson is admitting that he and his campaign violated Wisconsin Law,” Maistelman said in the press release.

Dunst said the extension was requested by White’s attorney, Charles Harris, and granted between Feb. 13 and 17, which

was after the original deadline.

“Suffice it to say that as far as the Board’s staff is concerned, the extension is a non-issue,” Dunst said. “Our extension policy is fairly liberal. Our only concern is with the issue of the use of UW-River Falls IT or computer services for political purposes by non-student organizations.”

According to the response, “In having data entered, Joey White was acting in his role of the Chair of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Republicans pursuant to the Purpose Statement of said group which had gained approval from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.”

White said he believes the allegations made against him and Nelson will not hold up when it comes time for the State Elections Board to make its decision.

“My only concern with the State Elections Board is that it has a majority of Democrats on it, but the charges filed against us are so weak that I still can’t believe they’ll hold up,” White said.

One reason Brown said she thinks the complaint against White and Nelson will hold is because of the serious nature of the matter at hand.

“The important thing about our

counter-complaint is that it does not have to do with the College Republicans’ use of the listserv, but with a Federal Congressional candidate using University computer labs for data entry for his campaign.”

Brown said she does not expect anything to come of the original complaint against her, the PCD and the College Democrats.

“I am anticipating and hopeful that the Elections Board will dismiss the complaint when it meets in March,” Brown said.

With all the concerns the recent listserv incident has created for campus politics, White said he does not understand why students should be punished for being politically active.

“Just as the complaint against the College Democrats should never have been filed against

them, this complaint never should have been filed,” White said. “To come down on someone for political activism while they’re a student is absurd, and I think people understand that.”

UW-RF College Republicans chair Stacy Solberg said White’s intentions were to encourage members of the organization to be more politically active.

“I think it’s fine because it’s part of our purpose to be active with political campaigns,” Solberg said. “Joey just said, ‘Here. Here are these chances to get involved.’”

Repercussions of the issue are still being felt by campus political organizations. The College Republicans have had to reevaluate their listserv usage.

“It has brought a lot more legal issues to light,” Solberg said.

“We just have to be a lot more careful.”

Katy Leisch, the UW-RF College Democrats chair said that the listserv issue has also had an impact on the organization’s collaboration with local democratic parties.

“I believe this situation has made us more cautious of our interactions with the Pierce County Democrats, but we know how our relationship only strengthens both of our organizations,” Leisch said.

Leisch said those involved have now had first-hand experience with both the ups and downs of politics.

“The entire situation has given everyone involved a real glimpse into politics,” Leisch said. “We can say we have experienced the good, the bad and the ugly.”

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