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Two freshmen starters lead Falcons on the hardwood

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Columnist pulling for Democratic domination in 2008 presidential election

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'Smokin' Aces' action-packed scenes leaves a questionable plot



STUDENT

VOICE

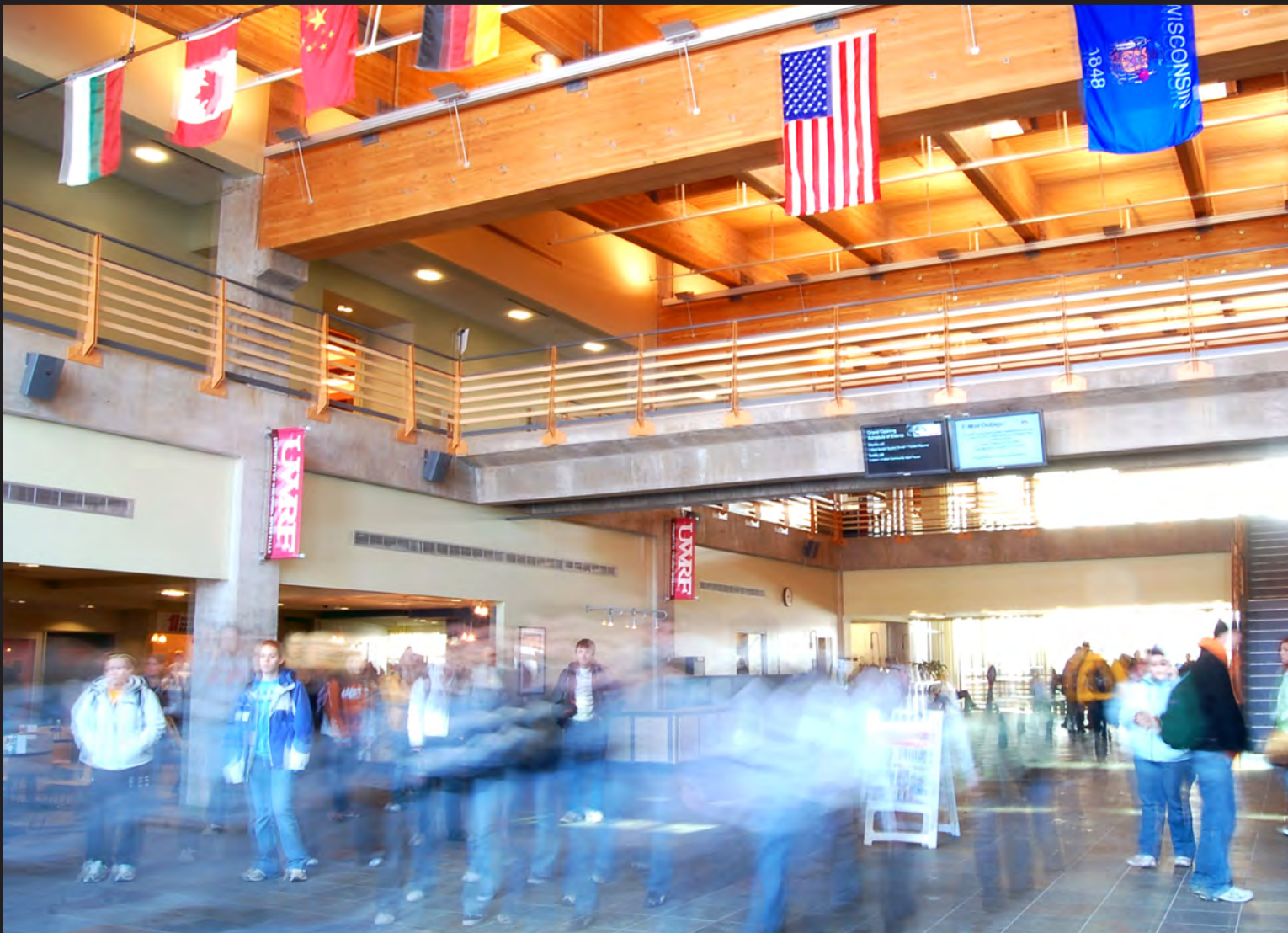
February 2, 2007

www.uwrfvoice.com

Volume 93, Issue 13



Welcome to the new University Center



After its official opening Jan. 22, students leave and enter the new University Center by the dozens. Top: Student Chris Aeschliman eyes a shot during a game of billiards Jan. 22 in the game room.

See the entire University Center grand opening story on page 10

Recent student influx changes dorm options

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After applying to universities, getting accepted and officially deciding where to attend, the next issue that arises for a new student is housing.

Many universities, including UW-River Falls, require incoming freshmen to live on-campus for at least their first year. Because of the large number of students that are required and want to live on campus, housing shortages are common. UWRF is no exception.

Knowing new semesters bring about a need for even more space, plans are already in progress for next year.

"One thing we are going to do to guarantee space is discontinue the single rooms on campus. We'll probably send out a letter letting students know that they can keep their room space, but will have to accept a roommate," Willson said.

Brian Hogenson, a senior who is currently living in a designated single room, won't have to deal with the housing issue after he graduates at the end of the semester. However, he understands that the discontinuation of single rooms may be essential to creating more space.

"Five to six people shouldn't be shoved into a study lounge. Also, the loss of the study lounges for the purposes they're actually there for hurts those who need them for academic purposes," Hogenson said. "So, it's a more far-reaching issue than just a matter of people being [stuck in] temporary housing."

UWRF will continue to offer singles for medical and disability reasons, and South Fork Suites will remain as is. Resident assistants' contracts, Willson said, specify that single rooms will be provided "as available."

"This past fall we assigned roommates to approximately 30 RA's. Most did not have roommates longer than the first week of classes. We anticipate doing the same at the beginning of fall semester 2007," Willson said.

Singles aren't completely out of reach for students. Willson also said that once students initially assigned to temporary housing have received perma-

See Dorms, page 3

Future renovations of HHP buildings await governor's approval

Amber Jurek

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Plans to construct an addition to the Hunt Arena and Knowles Center, and to reconstruct the existing buildings may begin to be sketched out if funding for the 2007-09 budget is approved and signed by Gov. Jim Doyle.

The \$39 million project would provide, among many other improvements, a better space for the health and human performance program (HHP), a new pool and a new locker room.

Doyle is expected to officially release the state building list at the beginning of March.

The Board of Regents approved the proposal made by UW-River Falls administration in August, and has forwarded its recommendations to Doyle.

"We are hoping the governor will approve and move forward with the Board of Regents' recommendations," Chancellor Don Betz said. "The competition is stiff. Every UW institution has at least one project it wants funded by the state."

Public Affairs Director Mark Kinders said in addition to all the UW institutions, 21 state agencies are competing.

"There are more projects in the pot than the government has the money for," Betz said. "Our goal is to make sure our project proposal stays there and make it known how important it is to the campus."

College of Education and Professional Studies Dean Connie Foster led a tour along with Kinders and Campus Planner Dale Braun Jan. 12 to inform four new Wisconsin legislators about the University's need for a new HHP building.

The legislators who embarked on the 90-minute tour through Karges Center and Nelson Physical Education Center were Sen. Pat Kreitlow, Rep. John Murtha, Rep. Ann Hraychuck and Rep. Jeff Smith.

UWRF officials showed the legislators the University's swimming pool, one of several highlights on the tour.

"It is sort of a puke-green color," Foster said. "The drains are corroding as well as the pool itself."

UWRF senior Ali Miesen was a member of the UWRF swim team for three years.

She said the poor condition of the pool forces the team to hold all of its meets at River Falls High School.

"The pool is not adequate enough for a college Division III swim meet," Miesen said.

She said a new and bigger pool with a diving board would allow the swim team to hold its meets at the University and would make the pool adequate for swimmers to practice in.

"The poor condition of the pool has hurt the team. Divers frequently choose other schools or end up quitting our team because there isn't a place on campus for them to practice," she said. "This puts the team at a disadvantage compared to other universities."

UWRF is the only university in the state that has the original pool that was installed when the University first opened.

"We're the only UW institution that doesn't have a new pool," Foster said.

Other faults in Karges Center are the racquetball court, the classrooms and the gym.

See HHP, page 3



Jens Gunelson

Rep. John Murtha, left, examines the ceiling of classroom 44 in the Emogene Nelson Physical Education Center on a tour of the building with, left to right, Connie Foster, dean of College of Education and Professional Studies, Rep. Jeff Smith, Rep. Ann Hraychuck and Dale Braun, campus planner.

Spirit Day shows school unity at UWRF

Brandi Stillings

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Chancellor Don Betz is encouraging Falcon pride by implementing Spirit Day at UW-River Falls.

Spirit Day started on Jan. 26 and will continue to be held every Friday throughout the Spring Semester.

Students, faculty and alumni are asked to demonstrate their school spirit by wearing the colors and logos of UWRF.

"It starts with a spark that will ignite a flame," Chancellor Betz said.

He said this is only the beginning of a new movement for UWRF that will grow to become a tradition. Friday is the best day to show school spirit since most sport competitions are held on weekends.

In addition, it allows faculty to dress down and take part in casual Fridays, in which they are allowed to wear comfortable UWRF



Jens Gunelson

Left to right, Lisa Stratton, Deb Toftness, Brenda Bredahl and Mark Kinders, don UWRF attire during Spirit Day Jan. 26 as they go about their day in the Public Affairs office.

See Spirit Day, page 3

E-mail improvements cause problems, outages for users

Chris Acker

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Slow, annoying, stressful and frustrating are just a few of the words that have been used on campus when talking about the most recent batch of e-mail fiascos.

Since the beginning of the spring semester, students have been welcomed back with a barrage of technological snafus that have plagued the University's e-mail system. This has pitted the students in a battle of sorts against the folks in ITS. Students have

voiced their outrage.

"It's the only e-mail I have," senior Andy Doro said while describing his problems with the e-mail malfunction, one of which was the inability to turn in assignments via SquirrelMail.

Many students share the same thoughts and feelings. The problem with the e-mail system has made the first week of the spring semester a stressful and strenuous one for many.

Although there have been many frustrating and stressful days for students and faculty alike, there is a solution.

See E-mail, page 3

VOICE SHORTS

LOCAL

Italian course offered on campus

UW-River Falls is offering a “Beginning Italian for Travelers” course beginning Feb. 7 and ending March 14.

The non-credit course is offered Wednesdays from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in the Regional Development Institute conference room 129.

The course teaches the basic Italian expressions, practical vocabulary, and offers cultural and travel insights. It is interactive allowing for conversation and role playing to help students develop the confidence they need for an Italian experience abroad.

Communication-oriented activities mirror typical situations travelers may encounter every day in an Italian-speaking environment.

The course offers a good introduction to the language for people planning on traveling to Italy. The course fee is \$85.

For more information visit www.uwrf.edu/outreach or contact the Outreach Office at 425-3256.

Memorial service held to honor professor

A memorial service will be held for Bob Beck, UW-River Falls English professor, Feb. 3 at 11 a.m. at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in River Falls.

Visitation will be held at 10 a.m. Beck died Dec. 16 at the River Falls Area Hospital. From 1951-53 he served as a sergeant in the U. S. Army Signal Corps in Korea.

Upon discharge he entered graduate school at the University of Minnesota.

In 1961 Beck joined the faculty at UW-River Falls, teaching and coordinating the freshman English program.

In 1988 he received the Outstanding Teacher in Humanities Award.

Student pleads guilty to felony charges

Jesse W. Bigjohn pled guilty Jan. 22 in Pierce County Circuit Court to a second-degree felony for recklessly endangering safety and carrying a concealed weapon, a misdemeanor.

The 21-year-old UW-River Falls student was given a one-year probation for the weapon charge, with a stipulation that he follow disciplinary conditions imposed by UWRF, since the incident happened on University grounds.

Those conditions are no alcohol during the probation period, alcohol treatment, counseling and paying all court costs.

The campus incident happened in the early morning hours of Oct. 13. Witnesses claimed Bigjohn was stopping people as they tried to enter Stratton Hall.

He allegedly claimed to be a resident assistant and demanded to see identifications. This upset some students, which led to a fight.

He allegedly pulled out a knife and held it to the throat of a male student. Others were able to disarm and hold him down until police arrived.

Bigjohn was described by officers as intoxicated and nearly incoherent. One person was cut on the hand, but there were no other serious injuries.

RF seeks consultant to reconstruct road

River Falls City Council made a decision Jan. 16 to advertise for a consultant to help the city start planning the reconstruction of Cascade Avenue. The project would extend from Spruce Street to Wasson Lane. The strip of Cascade is bumpy and old, and has been coated with asphalt and concrete several times. It is also sloped to state highway specs as opposed to a city street, and lacks good lighting. The consultant’s job will be to analyze the project, conduct meetings among interested parties and identify the issues.

City Engineer Reid Wronski said he anticipates that all of the stakeholders, including Wisconsin, River Falls, UW-River Falls and its surrounding neighborhoods and local utilities, will have ideas about how Cascade Avenue should be improved. Cascade reconstruction sits on the city’s capital improvement budget for 2009, but no funds are in place to support it yet.

Some money may come from the state and also from the University if it is interested.

Challenge offers healthy opportunities

Student Health Services is holding its second annual UW-River Falls Wellness Challenge beginning Feb. 5 and ending March 4.

The challenge encourages healthier living through physical activity, nutrition, safety and overall wellness. The four-week program is designed with incentives to develop a commitment to healthy lifestyle choices.

Students, faculty and staff earn points during the four weeks through daily activities such as excersising and eating healthy. Participants compete both individually and as a team.

Rewards will be given to the team and individual with the highest points each week. The first place team and individual will receive a final reward at the end of the program.

Updates will be available at the UWRF Student Health Services Web site each week tho show how teams are doing. There are no fees for the program.

UWRF students step up as leaders

Two UWRF students are setting the bar higher as part of a program designed to help produce the next generation of civic leaders.

Elizabeth Barnett and Tera Lazarre have been selected as the 2006-07 Campus Compact Student Civic Leadership Fellows.

The Campus Contact program links fellows from college campuses in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin through participation in a Student Leadership Institute, service as a Campus Compact Ambassador, and coordination of at least one civic engagement event on campus.

Barnett, working on a double major in business administration and economics, was nominated to be a fellow by UWRF economics Professor Glenn Potts.

Barnett, who attended the Student Leadership Institute in Farmington, Minn., with the other fellows, said the conference was very enlightening.

Lazarre is currently assisting University staff in preparation for the American Democracy Project North Central Regional Conference at UWRF April 12-14.

To Lazarre, being a fellow has been a great experience well worth the time and the commitments.

Briefs compiled by Amber Jurek

CORRECTIONS:

- In the Dec. 15 issue of the *Student Voice* a swimmer in a page 7 photo was incorrectly identified as Sara Cannady.
- In the Dec. 8 issue of the *Student Voice* a page 6 column, written by Nick Sortedahl, said that the Wisconsin Badgers football team "got screwed out of at least \$10 million." In actuality all Big 10 schools share any revenue gained from a Bowl appearance.

Fry, Hagen begin new postions on campus

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Blake Fry, former dean of student development, has taken over the position of special assistant to the chancellor, as Suzanne Hagen stepped down to return to the classroom full time.



Blake Fry



Suzanne Hagen

Fry began his full-time duties as special assistant on Jan. 3, and Hagen is teaching four classes this semester.

“It’s far more administrative based than any position I’ve had in the past,” Fry said.

Once Hagen announced her plans to return to teaching, Fry said the rest of the campus community was informed of the opening of the position.

“It was at that time that I, and many others, became aware of the need to fill the vacancy Suzanne’s position change would create,” he said.

Fry had been the dean for student development and campus diversity at UWRF since August 2005 and will maintain some of his responsibilities as dean in his new position.

“The biggest change will be the amount of special projects the chancellor has asked for help with,” Fry said.

Fry will bring three elements from his role as dean to the special assistant position including diversity, emergency planning and chairing the American Democracy Project

North Central Regional Conference in April.

“As I will be retaining several of my [former] responsibilities in my new position, it is very likely that the job description associated with my current position will be changing,” Fry said.

“The chancellor, provost and vice chancellor for administration and finance have received, with great appreciation, input from numerous members of the campus community [to craft] a revised position description.”

Whoever is chosen for the new position, which will be deemed assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs, will not have the same duties Fry had.

“The load that comes through [that office] will lessen to a degree,” Fry said.

Until someone is chosen to fill the vacancy, Fry will be operating as both special assistant and dean of student development.

Hagen said she has been a member of the UW-River Falls faculty since 1977, when she began teaching in the speech communication and theatre arts department.

“I served as chair of that department for three years, as associate dean in the college of arts and sciences for 10 years and as both equity and compliance officer and assistant to the chancellor for the past four years,” she said.

Throughout her years working as special assistant, Hagen said she has continued to teach at least one or two classes.

“My first love has always been teaching,” Hagen said. “I’ve missed having contact with students and look forward to being back in the classroom.”

Hagen returns to the speech communications and theatre arts department.

She said she taught a Business and Professional Communication (SCTA 116)

course during winter break and is teaching two sections of Fundamentals of Oral Communication (SCTA 101), one section of Communication & Leadership (SCTA 318) and one section of Communication Training & Development in Organizations (SCTA 416).

During her time as special assistant, Hagen worked with many administrative and clerical staff members, as well as three different chancellors.

“I’ve enjoyed my administrative work, have learned a lot and have appreciated the work variety and the people throughout the campus with whom I’ve worked,” Hagen said.

“My first love has always been teaching.”

Suzanne Hagen, professor

While working as assistant to the chancellor, Hagen said she was responsible for several different things. In addition to drafting presentations, letters and reports, Hagen also coordinated campus events, including commencement and award programs, among other things.

“I served on several university committees and task forces,” she said. “And I worked on other projects and tasks as assigned by the chancellor.”

In stepping down as special assistant to the chancellor and passing off her duties, Hagen said she is certain Fry will do a good job.

“I have known Mr. Fry since he came to UWRF,” she said. “I know he will bring energy and commitment to this position, which should serve the chancellor and the university well.”

Professor to retire after 30 years

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Bob Baker the associate dean for CAFES and a professor in the department, has decided to retire this spring.

“I am young enough now that I can be healthy when I retire,” Baker said.

He plans to move on to the next phase in his life.

“I have seen too many that have taken too long to retire,” Baker said. “They don’t get to enjoy their retirement, I want to enjoy mine.”

Baker has been a professor at UW-River Falls for 30 years, teaching introductory and upper level geology classes; he also teaches meteorology.

Baker’s career at UWRF has been one filled with many achievements. He has been the department chair for 16 years, being re-elected to that position every third year. He was also the assistant swim coach for 13 years.

Baker plans to work on some research projects that need to be finished. He has had many successful research projects and has had some students find jobs after graduation because of the work they conducted together.

“I couldn’t have done it without the students, they are a big reason as to why the projects get funded,” Baker said.

He has taught and conducted research with three students who have received jobs working in the Canadian Arctic working with glaciers because of the experiments that they successfully completed.

“Without those experiences, those students wouldn’t have been able to get those kinds of jobs,” Baker said.

Baker was not only the department chair, but also the assistant dean of the CAFES department. He moved into the position this year.

Both of those responsibilities meant less teaching for him. He has been a full-time faculty member for 16 years, but has only been teaching half of that time because of the added responsibilities.

Gunnar Umnus, a fifth year student at UWRF took Baker’s class.

“He was always willing to answer questions and help you understand,” said Umnus.

“I am going to miss it very much,” Baker said. “The students have been my life for so long and I have really enjoyed working with them all.

Becky Kallinen, a UWRF graduate also had Baker as a professor. “I liked him because he had a really organized way of teaching,” Kallinen said. “He didn’t have unreasonable expectations and he didn’t go off on tangents.”

According to Baker the department plans to hire from outside the department instead of from within.

“We want someone who has more experience. We also want some-



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Bob Baker begins the final semester of his career as professor and associate dean in the CAFES department at UWRF.

one who has experience with soil sciences,” Baker said.

The person who will be hired will need to have experience with soil sciences, general geology and meteorology. The candidate will also need to have the qualifications to handle working with students of good and bad status.

“There is a large void that needs to be filled with this person who is going to be hired,” Baker said.

The CAFES department is trying to replace the soil science professors because of lack of funding.

The department has had a need for someone educated in working with soil sciences, and now will be able to find someone that will qualify for both positions.

The department will now begin to interview and is taking the time to find an adequate replacement for Baker.

Baker will now have time to finish the things he has wanted to get done.

“I have about a two-page list of chores to do at home,” Baker said. “I have had a great experience here and will miss it very much.”

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

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Dec. 27

- At approximately 6:00 a.m. damage to a trash can located on the east side of South Hall was reported. The cost to replace the trash can is \$200.

Dec. 21

- Daniel R. Huddleston, 21, was arrested at 222 South Main Street for Disorderly Conduct. Police were called to Emma’s Bar at approximately 1:41 a.m. in response to a report of an unwanted subject at the location. Huddleston was detained by two bartenders and a bystander until police arrived according to reports.

Jan. 9

- Damage to signs in both C and Q parking lots were reported to Public Safety around 2:00 p.m. No one gave permission to write on the signs, no further action is taking place.

Jan. 10

- Damage to a Cushman Utility vehicle parked on the north side of North Hall was reported at 10:00 a.m. No one gave permission to damage the vehicle. No further action is taking place at this time.

Jan. 17

- A child choked on a piece of hot dog in Hunt Arena while attending a men’s hockey game at 8:40 p.m. Officer Fischer, of the UW-River Falls Public Safety department performed the Heimlich Maneuver to successfully dislodge the piece of food. The child needed no further treatment and walked away from the incident.

Jan. 20

- Lisa M. Demmer was fined \$298 for reckless driving at 1:00 a.m. at 1400 Wildcat Court.
- Benjamin W. Yoder, was fined \$375 for second-offense underage consumption in Grimm Hall.

Jan. 23

- At 3:10 p.m., theft from a parked vehicle was reported. A digital camera and memory card were taken. The rear-passenger door was found un-locked. The owner said that the door has a defect, according to reports. The total estimated value is \$280.

Jan. 24

- At 4:30 p.m., Jakob P. Speich was stopped by police on Main Street after his license plate number was recorded by a Holiday staff member for shoplifting. Speich was later placed under arrest for Absolute Sobriety when he blew a .08 on a preliminary breath test. On his final breathalyzer, he blew a .10 and was issued a citation for

Operating With a Prohibited Alcohol Concentration of .10 or higher. Speich was issued two more citations related to his passenger and remnants found in the glove compartment: Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Underage Person Transporting Intoxicants. Several fines were given, according to reports.

- At 2:29 a.m., Michael J. Schulenberg, 21, was spotted riding a moped-style motorcycle and attempting to push another moped along side of him at the intersection of Maple and Second Streets. Upon confrontation with police, Schulenberg dropped the second moped and sped away, later dropping the vehicle altogether to run on foot. Upon apprehension, he was taken into custody and asked to perform several field sobriety tests. His blood alcohol level was reported at .20 and was given a citation for first-offense Operating a Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated and a fine of \$716.

Jan. 26

- Nicholas S. Harrington, 18, was fined \$298 for underage consumption at 108 West Cascade Avenue.

Jan. 29

- Kirk A. Steineck, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.
- Brandon C. Neeck, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.

E-mail: Updated system offers reliable, enhanced features

from page 1

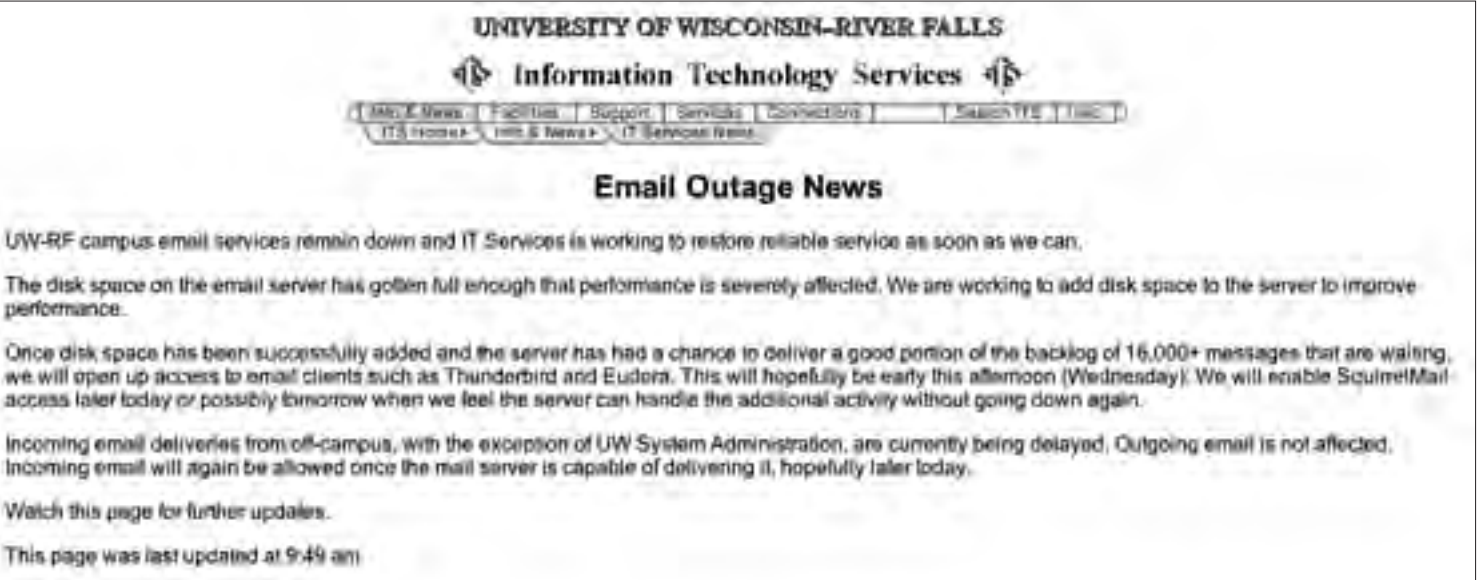
The solution comes in the form of a new and improved SquirrelMail. It has been talked about for some time, and that time has finally arrived. From Jan. 26 — 29, upgrades were made to SquirrelMail changing the look slightly and unfortunately causing attachments to be more difficult to use. This newer version of the e-mail system has implications for both students and faculty, ITS employee Robert Rust said. A major feature for the faculty is the ability to share e-mail folders through a filter that makes accessibility to e-mail easier.

Another difference is the archive function. This task allows students to clean up their inbox, but save messages that are important by placing e-mails into a folder by name or date, instead of using the old method which stored e-mails strictly by number. Among the more useful changes in the upgraded SquirrelMail, is a feature that offers any user the ability to go back to composing an e-mail if the window tab accidentally closes. The program now



Robert Rust

reverts back to the composition function after closing, and from there it asks if you want to recover your previously started work. It does not work however, if the entire browser is closed. All of the new details and upgrades will be helpful to every student, staff and faculty member who uses the e-mail services. However, what does the upgrade in e-mail mean for students? “The biggest thing is performance and reliability,” Rust said. The new system runs on two servers that are dedicated solely to SquirrelMail. This means a more reliable form of e-mail that is faster and not in need of constant repairs.



Screen Shot

SquirrelMail displays an updated message to users as they attempted to log-in during the outage. The system originally went down Jan. 23 with slowed usage again on Jan. 25. It was also down the weekend of Jan. 26 - Jan. 29.

Dorms: New options being planned to avoid temporary housing

from page 1

nent assignments, single rooms will be granted as additional spaces become available. The biggest plans to create more space have to do with the building of another residence hall, known currently as South Fork Suites II. Willson disclosed that plans have been submitted to build another South Fork Suites, which will bring the housing capacity from 240 to 480 students. It is expected that a decision will be made later this spring, and if all goes as planned, another residence hall may be available to students around 2010. While South Fork Suites is currently available only to third and fourth-year students, the new building may also be open to sophomores. With enrollment anticipated to continue increasing, UWRF is preparing to take on new students. Willson, among others, is optimistic that it will have a positive effect on all involved.

“One thing we are going to do to guarantee space is discontinue the single rooms on campus. We’ll probably send out a letter letting students know that they can keep their room space, but will have to accept a roommate.”

Terry Willson,
director of Residence Life

increase of 4.5 percent. The question the increase creates is where to put all the incoming students. Terry Willson has been working as director of Residence Life at UWRF for 10 years and believes that the last two years have shown the biggest numbers by far. Fall semester opened with a total enrollment of 5,990 students. Of those 2,444 students live in the residence halls, meaning UWRF has 41 percent of its total students living on campus. These numbers, Willson said, are right on par with expectations. “Our goal is to house 40 percent of the student population, so we’re right on track,” Willson said. “These are our highest numbers ever and have been for two years in a row.” During times of high enrollment, especially at the beginning of the school year, temporary housing is common. Any space that can be used to house students, from study lounges to basement storage, is converted into temporary housing. “For fall, we looked at every possible space we could put two beds and a dresser in, and used it,” Willson said. While temporary housing may sound harsh, it’s actually a common practice for some universities. Similar to overbooking in hotels, the University plans on making use of temporary housing knowing it will lose students to transfers and drops. To some, it might seem risky, but the Residence Life staff is committed to keeping students comfortable, even in temporary housing, Willson said. There are resources available to help students during their first weeks in on-campus housing, be it temporary or permanent, if they find the transition too difficult. Sarah Egerstrom is co-director of First-Year Experience, a program that began in August with the goal of helping out newly admitted students, transfer students and their families. “We’re about getting them connected to the resources they need to be successful,” Egerstrom said. Before the fall semester started, Residence Life took every measure to make sure that students were aware of the housing shortage, sending letters and offering students that are normally required to live in on-campus housing the opportunity to live elsewhere. Students that still chose to live on campus were transferred from temporary to permanent housing as it became available. For spring semester, while UWRF was ready to use temporary housing, it wasn’t needed. In fact, there are currently around 100 beds still open, mostly for women.

Spirit Day: UWRF attire shows campus pride during weekly event

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clothing instead of their more formal attire. Even though Betz encourages Spirit Day, some students on campus are skeptical. They are concerned that it will not catch on as quickly as anticipated. “Maybe it would contribute to school spirit, but I don’t think many students will participate,” sophomore Alice Bearss said. Other students think it is a great idea, but also agree that it would not be a realistic occurrence every week. “If there was a game on the weekend it would help with school spirit, but not every Friday, it could be overwhelming,” senior Justin Modeen said. Chancellor Betz started Spirit Day as a weekly event because he wants UWRF to show off the pride that he notices each day. Especially with the opening of the new University Center, he felt a sense of unity amongst the UWRF students and faculty when unveiling the building. Alumni have been notified of Spirit Day as well and are encouraged to participate. Most alumni, along with their families, live and take part in the UWRF community. Daniel McGinty, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, said that Spirit Day is going to do well. He noticed last Friday a lot of staff showed their pride by wearing school colors. “I do believe that Spirit Day is received very well on our campus,” McGinty said. “The faculty and staff here at UWRF take a great deal of pride in the work that they do for this great University and are willing to support this program.” Although Spirit Day seems to be a new concept at UWRF, McGinty said that the Alumni Foundation have been wearing clothing with logos on Fridays for over a decade. “Our alumni are very loyal to the University. Anytime that we host an alumni event you will see a wide array of UWRF memorabilia being worn by our alums,” he said. McGinty said that there is also a statewide “UW Spirit Day.” It is a one-day event dedicated to celebrate the contributions of almost 500,000 UW-alumni. The alumni participate by wearing their campus colors or logos to show their connection throughout the workforce in Wisconsin. Displaying something as simple as a UWRF emblem at home or at work shows school pride and effort, Betz said.

HHP: Campus officials seeking to improve facility, increase quality

from page 1

The plaster is crumbling off the walls and ceiling in the racquetball court, the tile in the classrooms on the top floor is coming up, there is poor ventilation and the gym is too small, Foster said. Also, the gym doesn’t allow for handicap seating. “It is a worn out building and is too small,” she said. “It was originally built for 1,500 students and now we have 6,000. Additionally, our HHP program is one of the larger majors on campus.” The program needs a bigger and a significantly better quality facility, she said. The legislators also toured Emogene Nelson Physical Education Center where ventilation has been the biggest problem.

“It is a worn building and is too small. It was originally built for 1,500 students and now we have 6,000.”

Connie Foster,
dean of College of Education and Professional Studies

The training room is almost unusable as a result of poor ventilation, Foster said. Other big problems with the building are the lack of locker rooms and showers, the classrooms are in bad shape, storage rooms are being used for offices because of the small amount of space, and the ceiling in the volleyball court is barely adequate. “The building has out-aged itself by 15 years,” Foster said. “[Overall] I think the legislators realized the severe state of the facilities.” If funding for the project is approved, construction would start sometime after July 1.

CHILD CARE

The New Richmond Area YMCA is seeking a

SAC Sr. Coordinator

Licensed teacher to lead a new 4K program w/ the New Richmond school district. Resp for assisting the Child-care Director w/ the overall operations of a YMCA child care center. Directly supervise childcare staff, manage all classrooms, assist in the devel & implementation of the program curriculum & activities, & recruit, hire, train & supv staff. Complete req'd admin work & assist w/ reaching enrollment & revenue goals. Quals incl Kindergarten Licensing by DPI (#090 PK-K, #083 PK-3, #106 K-6 or Early Childhood Level license after 8/31/04), WI HFS 46 Teacher quals, incl yearly in service reqs & min age of 21. Min 1 yr previous supv exp & strong interpersonal comm & org skills. Ped CPR, AED, & First Aid Certs w/in 30 days of hire. Abil to work w/ individuals from diverse bkgds. Prefer degree in educ or recreation. Educ or exp in child devel, child guid, human relations, comm or rec progs pref. YMCA membership incl. Send resume, cvr ltr & apps to: New Richmond Area YMCA, attn: K. Haydysch, 428 S. Starr Ave., New Richmond, WI 54017. Apps available at any Y or online: www.YMCATwinCities.org/AA/EOE/M/F/D/V

24-hour access at www.uwrfvoice.com

FITNESS

The River Falls Area YMCA is seeking an FT

Sr. Fitness Coordinator

Assist Director in planning, coordinating & promoting fitness progs &/or classes. Recruit, hire, train & supv PT staff. Supv fitness dept & activities. Provide qual cust serv to members, volunteers & participants. Assist Director w/ budget devel & mgmt. 20% Personal Training &/or Sports Specific Training. Quals incl min 1 yr mgmt exp, incl supv. Min 2-3 yrs exp working in Health & Fitness progs, & excellent org, comm., & admin skills. Abil to recruit, train & motivate paid & volunteer staff. CPR, First Aid & AED Certs, & Nat'l Fitness Cert In-Group Exercise &/or Personal Training. Degree in Health & Science or related field pref. YMCA membership incl. Send cover ltr, resume & apps to River Falls Area YMCA, attn: V. Kaczmarek, 303 S. Main St., River Falls, WI 54022. Apps available at any Y or online: YMCATwinCities.org/AA/EOE/M/F/D/V

RECYCLING ROCKS THE GRAND OPENING



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Recycled Percussion creates a rocking beat with plastic buckets while entertaining a large crowd in the Falcon’s Nest Entertainment Complex of the University Center Jan. 23. The event was scheduled for the opening of the building.

EDITORIAL

D2L best option for consistency

There is a multitude of options for professors to choose from when deciding where to have their class information posted in the great expanse of the World Wide Web.

Many professors have become accustomed to using Desire 2 Learn (D2L) for posting class syllabi, turning in assignments and hosting discussions amongst the students.

Some instructors still use courses folders which are nearly impossible to access from the dorms or any off-campus location.

And for those not using either of the aforementioned methods, they either do not use the Web at all or they have individual Web sites that branch off of the UW-River Falls main Web page with all of their own class information listed.

Why isn't everyone just using one format? The courses folders and personal Web sites do not allow students to upload homework, create discussions or interact in any way. Instead, they are simply vehicles of information from professor to student. Though getting information into the hands of students is an integral part of learning, with tools available that allow actual interaction between students and their professors, why are some faculty members still choosing to use less convenient, outdated technologies? D2L, however is not without its faults. Even though it is the most advanced option, it has some problems: discussions are often difficult to use and tedious, sometimes the entire program is unavailable and not all students access it daily.

The largest problem with this most popular form of student-teacher sharing is that many professors still do not know how to use it properly.

We know that it is easy for a student to sit down and complain that grades aren't uploaded or assignments aren't posted, but we have never tried using it from any other perspective than our own. How difficult is the program to actually use?

We would hope that the faculty and staff are given some sort of training in programs like D2L and the courses folders to make the moving of information from one person to another as smooth and convenient as possible.


Apparently not even this is possible since there are still those classes where information is impossible to find, whether on D2L, a personal Web page or the outdated courses folder.

How about we make most of those options extinct and declare D2L the University standard — and soon. This would not only help out the students a great deal, but it would finally make classes uniform campus-wide.

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

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The *Student Voice* is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Thursdays during the regular school year.

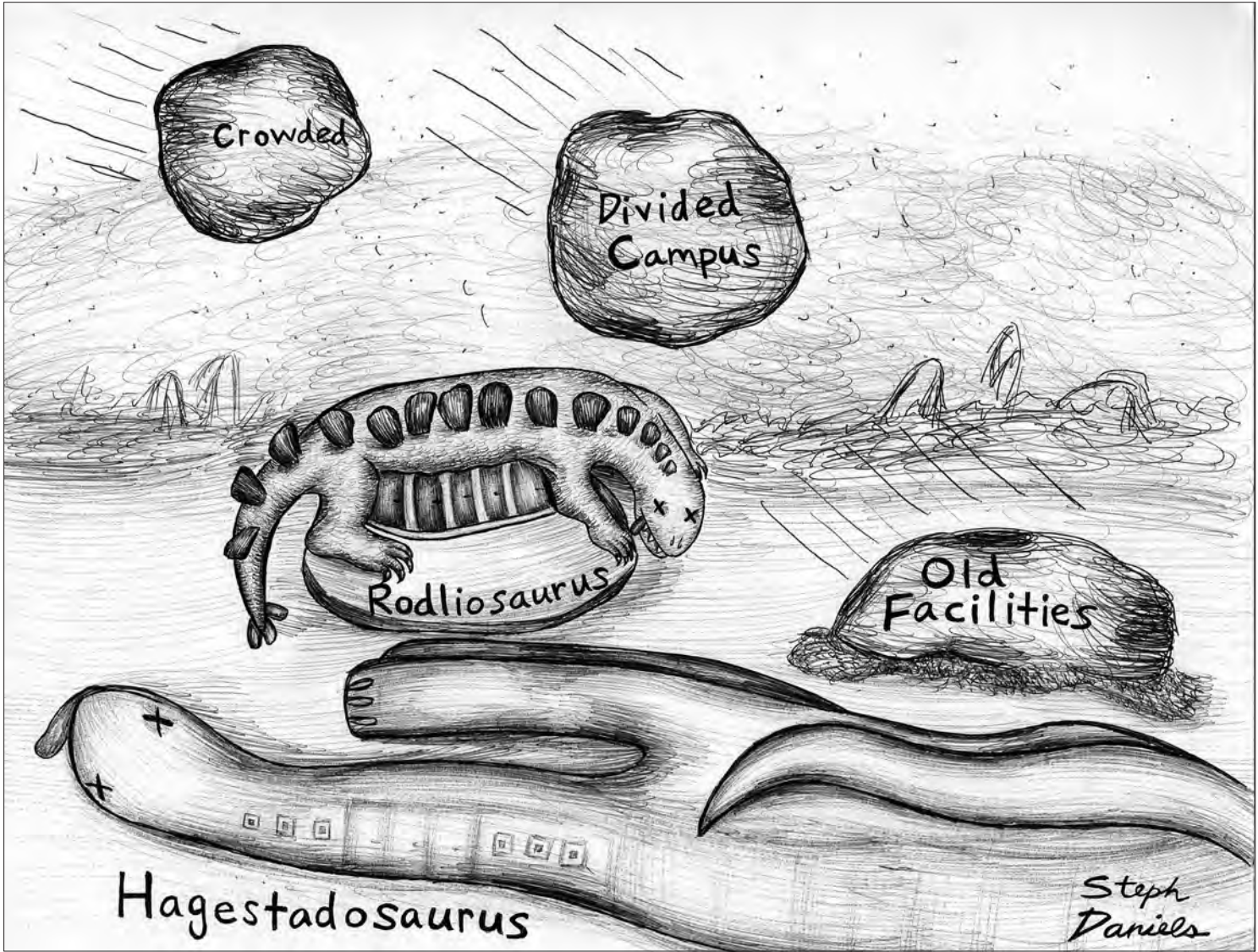
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Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall or to student.voice@uwrf.edu.

The *Student Voice* reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters.

All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon.

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



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ITS defends technology issues

We write in the context of the recent email challenges and in response to the December Voice editorial (IT Fails Again) to remind the campus that IT staff are working hard to serve the technology needs of students, staff and faculty. Since last summer we have all been a part of a faculty/staff/student team, the ITS Redesign Project, working to make significant improvements in all aspects of IT services. The project encompasses more than 80 distinct tasks ranging from enhance-

ments in hardware to software to user services to training for students, faculty and staff. A few examples of recently completed projects are automating the process of granting new students access to IT resources, wireless connectivity in the Davee Library, South Hall and a portion of Centennial Science and enhanced support for classroom technology. The email problems the first week of classes have been frustrating, but please know that they are temporary. IT staff are implementing a solution to the slow email service which has resulted from the time it takes each week to back up the system. A second key IT priority is

extending wireless connectivity to Wyman Education Building, North Hall and the remainder of Centennial Science.

We encourage people to visit the IT Redesign website at www.uwrf.edu/ITS for further updates on the project. Redesign team members are attentive to feedback, but we do want to correct information in the December editorial. Please note that when you click on helpdesk from the Web page, the phone number is clearly listed, and the helpdesk indeed is the appropriate, informed source to contact for e-mail problems, as well as other IT concerns. We hope the Voice will continue to cover IT issues

and accomplishments, well informed by thorough research including conversations with Lisa Wheeler, Executive Director of IT Services.

Debra Allyn, Professor, Health and Human Performance
Suzanne Hagen, Professor, Speech Communication & Theatre Arts
Hossein Najafi, Professor, Computer Science & Information Systems
Marina Onken, Assistant Professor, Business Administration

Sweatpants are the reason women are single

Hey ladies. Are you single? Do you wonder why you haven't found Mr. right at college? Do you wear sweatpants to class? If you do, let me try to give you some insight into your problem. Listen, sweatpants are ugly, and no matter what words you have printed across your butt, we're not buying it.

First off, I don't want to single out the women on this because men are equally guilty, but women in sweatpants are far more hurtful to my eyes.



Kris Evans

Women have curves, and more bells and whistles than their male counterparts, so why would they want to wear sweatpants and a sweatshirt that effectively change their physique into that of the Stay-Puff Marshmallow Man?

Like it or not, the first thing men see is your looks, and if you make your appearance completely innocuous and frumpy, he isn't even going to talk to you long enough to see the "real" you?

What's with the words written across the ass? I know it's important to let everybody know that you're a princess, or that you play softball, but show some class. The

whole point of that is to draw attention to your frumpy, sweatpants-covered butt, and that just screams that you have no class on multiple fronts. Maybe I'll start wearing pants that have the words "ego-maniac" or "hung" written over the crotch. That would get me all kinds of positive attention.

The defense I hear for sweatpants is that they are comfortable. That's true. It makes them the perfect thing to wear around the house or in the dorm, but when you go

dence. I know that when I put on a three-button suit, I feel great. When a girl looks great, she lights up a room and everyone can see it on her face. When she dresses like a bag lady, she's just lazy.

Finally, if you dress well, you're setting yourself up psychologically for the day ahead of you. Recent studies performed by major companies like General Motors and Pepsi show that people who dress better are more productive.

Girls, are you setting yourself up for success if you go to class looking like you just rolled out of bed? No, you're treating the classroom like it's the dorm room. Don't

... sweatpants are ugly, and no matter what words you have printed across your butt, we're not buying it.

outside put on some jeans or something that actually compliments your figure. Jeans are still very comfortable and your legs won't look like those of a stocky, grey elephant. They are quick, easy and they compliment your figure. Everybody wins.

If you don't want to do it to look good or to have your own sense of style or attract the opposite (or same) sex, then do it for your own positive self-image. How you dress shows people how you identify with yourself, your aspirations for the day and will directly affect your confi-

think I didn't see you sleeping back there, sweatpants girl. What's the problem? Too comfortable?

It's true, sweatpants are as much a staple of college life as ramen noodles, but you only hurt yourself by being seen in public in those clown pants. Wear something that works for you, something that fits well. You'll look better, have greater self confidence and be far more attractive.

The beginning of the end has started

So they have finally come and gone: the last first day of classes, the last first week of classes, the last weekend after the first week of classes and this is a semester of finales for me, as I conclude five years of academic questing.

As I look back over those five short years, I realize how important the good, but especially the not so good experiences were for me.

I also realized even food you don't like can cause you to get a little chubby ...

If I hadn't started out as a biology major for three semesters before realizing that writing lab reports was the only part of chemistry I was any good at, I wouldn't have had this whole extra year to get my degree in English.

Therefore, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to get to know some people, and I wouldn't have been able to meet many others.

If I hadn't been forced to eat

the food at Rodli, I might never have become acquainted with the dollar menu, and other ways to spend very little money for a lot of food. I also realized even food you don't like can cause you to get a little chubby, so you're better off at least enjoying accumulating poundage.

When I moved off campus my junior year, I was confronted with the dread of actually getting mail, just as my parents had always warned me would happen.

As the end of the month crept closer, eating out and going to the movies gave way to creative combinations of whatever in the fridge was about to expire and watching "Runaway Bride" on TBS.

Another side effect of living off campus is a longer stroll to class. Sometimes it's hard to ensure that extra 20 minutes of

walking time when sleep feels so right, and I end up having to drive. By that time, parking spots are scarce, so once you find one, you go for it, even if it requires parallel parking.

In order to save a few precious minutes, I learned to parallel park my crazy awesome van in less than thirty seconds.

Just don't time me if you ever get the chance to witness it. I get self-conscious.

Walking to class is sometimes treacherous.

It took witnessing several people fall and almost falling myself to realize that sensible shoes are a lot less embarrassing in the long run.

No matter how great heels make your butt look, it doesn't look so great with a giant wet spot creeping over the seat of your pants.

There are a lot of fun things

that taught me lessons as well, like if you're going to keep a kitten in your dorm room, hide the kitty toy packaging in your garbage. Those are kind of hard to explain away. However, the most important lessons are the hard ones to learn.

Although at some point you may be going through a hard situation, a time will come when you'll realize it was all worth the struggle.

Just keep a positive attitude and allow the chips to fall where they may.

After all, what doesn't kill you only makes you stronger, and I say true dat, to that.



Cassie Rodgers

Natural redheads are endangered

During the J-term break, I came across a scientific study released in 2005 regarding redheads. These persons contain a recessive gene in their DNA on the 16th chromosome.

According to the study conducted by the Oxford Hair Institute in England, the gene for red hair in humans is likely to disappear in less than a century. If true, this not only means that natural redheads will disappear from the population within about five generations, but the genetic possibility of red hair would end as well, rendering the mutation, for lack of a better word, extinct.

Naturally this interested me, not only as someone who's grown up with red hair, but also as a pessimist who always secretly believed someone was

out to remove him from the gene pool.

Today, only 4 percent of the six-and-a-half billion people on the planet possess the so-called "ginger gene;" since it's a recessive trait, even less are actual redheads. This number changes depending on what part of the world you're looking at. However, no matter where you go, red hair is becoming harder to find.

For instance, in most of Asia, it is non-existent. Even in parts of Scotland and Ireland, the area of the world usually associated with red hair, redheads rarely make up more than 10 percent of the population. In the United States, we average about one percent, and that number is decreasing. Extrapolated down, this means that there are about 60 to 70 of us genetic outliers left on this campus, faculty and

staff included.

The accuracy of Oxford's findings is still up for debate in the scientific community. The gene for red hair was discovered only a decade ago. Though there seems to be agreement that red hair is becoming much less common in the population, many experts believe that there are too many genetic and geographical factors concerning hair color that are not fully understood to say conclusively

But, just in case, I felt I should pay tribute to some noteworthy red-haired individuals:

Tom Robbins - In his novel Still Life with Woodpecker, Robbins refers to redheads as "children of the moon," their hair a product of an addiction to sugar and sex; an accurate description.

Ronald McDonald - Would Happy Meals really be as happy if they came from an

overly-friendly clown with blonde hair?

Judas Iscariot - Many historical texts describe the apostle who turned Jesus Christ over to the Romans as having red hair. Whether you're Christian or not, you have to admit that anyone who would betray the son of God for thirty pieces of silver has got to have some balls.

And let's not forget Leonardo Da Vinci, Galileo, Queen Elizabeth I, Vladimir Lenin, Thomas Jefferson, Jean-Paul Satre, Mark Twain, Vincent Van Gogh and Christopher Columbus — all of them are redheads. Needless to say, we will leave an everlasting imprint on the history of the world.

So, make a red-headed friend today. Because, after they die — or their hair turns gray — you may never see another one again.

... natural redheads will disappear from the population within about five generations ...

Selfish political hopes explained with poker

Despite the next presidential election being nearly 21 months away, it's weighing on my mind. Through talking to some of my friends and family, I know I'm not the only "average Jane" with it on her mind. While I've usually been pretty exclusive with whom I choose to talk politics with, this seems like an appropriate venue to open up.

I'll proudly admit it, OK I'm selfish.

I want the democrats to have control of both the congressional chambers and the White House. The dismal State of the Union has been documented and the ink in the history books is still wet from when the republicans had their hand at control.

It's fair to say the hand looked more like a pair of deuces than a royal flush.

That being said, I want the dems to shine and cash in while we're ahead. While watching the Grand Old Party folds before the turn.

Here's why I'm selfish: I'm scared the polarizing characteristics of U.S. senators and presidential hopefuls Barack Obama and Hilary Clinton are

young, he can appeal to other young U.S. citizens.

I don't think experience is the only characteristic we should look for. As further support for my notion that experience doesn't equal qualification, consider the fact that President Bush was no rookie to politics.

In his eloquent speech announcing he will be considering presidential candidacy, Obama said changing how politics work in Washington is the first change that has to be made.

Sharing a self-motivating mantra with Smoky the Bear, he puts the fate of change (or prevention of forest fires) in the hands of "you." He doesn't say it will be an easy task, but one having to be initiated by people who are willing to work for the transformation.

When it comes to situations of sinking or swimming, Barack grew up in Hawaii ... he knows how to swim.

Looking to another "radical" option, Clinton also wants the flop cards to be in favor of the democrats. I have a feeling she's itching to get back into the 900-thread-count sheets in the White House and have her name on the desk plaque in the



Keighla Schmidt

... Barack Obama and Hilary Clinton are jeopardizing the possibility of a democratic reign ...

Oval Office this time around.

When she delivered "I'm in," her speech confirming she was seeking presidential nomination, she too put responsibility on the people.

Seeking to have a "conversation with America" Clinton wants to know converse with people to see have to say about issues ranging from healthcare options, oil and the looming threat of social security deficits.

Neither of these two White House seekers want to engage in foreign wars or get back at someone for something their failed to satisfactorily execute; can we agree to listen to them and not be afraid of their potential because they are black or female?

Que the dramatic cinematic music here: let's make this happen, let's be the match that lights the fire of change, let's unite as a population of young people and cause a metamorphosis .

We're young people who like to see how things can be better. We're the next generation of leaders.

Let's be responsible political-news consumers in the next 21 months and make our cards, as the young voters dominate the table.

Betrothed shares marriage readiness signs

In my first column, I am going to be talking about a topic that makes most women giddy and most men nervous, especially around Valentines Day: marriage.

While the thought of the m-word can stir up a whole registry of emotions, there are certain checkpoints any couple should go through before they head down a road filled with decisions over flower girls, groomsmen and in-laws.

First of all, learn how to effectively communicate with one another. This is above all the most important part of any relationship. Communicate properly over every thing, even the smallest stuff.

Speaking from my own experience, I can tell you that my then-boyfriend — now fiance — and myself had to have a lengthy discussion over what the word "clean" means to both of us when I caught him kicking a piece of food under a rug after I had just finished washing the kitchen floor.

If he had his own column, I am sure he would mention when he led a conversation about honesty and the phrase "don't drive on the rim," after I had to admit to doing a world of damage to the wheel of my car because I drove on a flat tire for over 10 minutes. These slipups aside, we, just like any other couple, benefit greatly by communicating effectively.

A second key factor in serious relationships is a pet. If you and your honey bunny are thinking about ever bringing a child into this world, get a pet — most preferably a dog. While all pets are wonderful in their

own way, dogs require a lot of special attention. According to my father, having a dog is like having a 4-year-old.

After having a dog for a little over a month, I can say that he is 100 percent correct. So, the benefit of owning a pet that is as needy as a pre-schooler is that you and your prospective spouse have a glimpse at how each of you would handle being a parent.

In addition to seeing your significant other as a solo puppy owner, the opportunity for you both to see how you work as a duo is invaluable.

Once you have a pet together, you will know if there is cooperation with the added responsibility from each party, or if one person ends up doing all of the work. Along with this aspect, watch the type of dog owner they are. Are they disciplined with the pet or do they let it run amuck?

How would it feel parenting a child with someone once you see how you both act with a dog?

A third tip to know if you and your sweetie are ready for the ball-and-chain is one that can cause a sense of panic, literally. Going through a crisis situation is just that while you are living it — a crisis.

Although the entire experience is less than pleasurable, the process of overcoming an obstacle is essential for any couple that is pondering a trip down the road to spending the rest of their lives together. Because I am offering this piece of advice, it may seem that my fiance and I have been through

some sort of crisis. While we have faced our fair share of problems, a sewer issue in December took the concept of crisis to a whole new level.

Without getting into too great of detail, not only for your sake, but also mine as I am writing this while I eat lunch, we found ourselves using my largest mixing bowl to scoop out our bathroom basement which was filled with the contents of our flooded septic tank. I never thought my relationship would cross the bridge where the only way we could pass the time was by playing the game "Honey, guess what day's dinner this pile is?" As vile as this sounds, facing this sort of trauma and not killing each other truly brought us closer together.

This sense of togetherness brings me to my last tidbit of advice for engagement bliss.

Guys, before you plunk down all the money you have for a sparkling diamond, and ladies, before you buy a notebook and devote it solely to practicing your new signature, take a good look at your mate and think about these things: Are you truly and honestly ready to stand behind this person when the world is against them? Have you openly communicated with each other about what each of you wants in all aspects of life? What are you going to do if some of those dreams cannot happen?

While these questions are only a fraction of what needs to be thought about before you head off to the chapel, chances are that if, as a couple, both of you are talking about these issues, you may be well on your way down the aisle.

... we found ourselves using my largest mixing bowl to scoop out our bathroom basement which was filled with the contents of our flooded septic tank.

Check out the latest campus news at uwrvoice.com



Karwee Marshall, junior

"The game room and the TV area. It feels like a real student center, comfortable to get something to eat, nice place to relax and feels nice."



Marco Fields, sophomore

"I like the setting, the overall scope of it is very open. You're free to think and it seems like it provokes the imagination."



Jon Hellinga, senior

"The [Silver Strike] bowling game."

STUDENT voices

What is your favorite aspect of the new University Center?

Kiana Tom, freshman



"The fireplace area, it's a cute spot and it's cozy."

Bee Vang, freshman



"The open atmosphere, clear windows. It's a good atmosphere for work and play in the rec. center."

Derek Haubenschild, freshman



"The new food set up. There is more of a variety with a 20 day rotation. Can't eat the same thing [twice] in 20 days. The movie theater is awesome and the game room. I like the overall look and location."

Football junkie shares Super Bowl thoughts and hopes



Nick
Sortedahl

With the big game looming, I have a number of topics I want to touch on. I’m not going to waste your time with redundant game analysis - the national media will do plenty of that. Instead, I want to touch on some topics that may be ignored by our friends in the national media.

This Sunday is basically a holiday for me, and my holiday wish is for a close game.

Blowouts have been a common occurrence when the Super Bowl is concerned. Only 12 out of 40 Super Bowls have been decided by a touchdown or less, a paltry 30 percent. Considering how big an event the Super Bowl is for the media, advertisers and everyone else, it doesn’t surprise me that this fact is com-

monly swept under the rug.

But there is reason for hope if you look at recent history as an indicator: 55 percent of the nine Super Bowls played since 1998 have been decided by a touchdown or less.

Football fans can thank the emphasis on parity via the salary cap and free agency, which were implemented in 1994, for the improvement.

I have a bad feeling about this game though, but I’ll get to that later.

One thing I hope will soon become extinct is the pre-Super Bowl bye week.

I’m usually not one for conspiracy theories, but I am convinced that the real reason for the week off is to give the media extra time to build up the game in the public eye. Then, after everyone has been inundated with the basic plots, sub-plots, historical facts and expert opinion, we’ll finally get to watch the main attraction - the game.

Don’t get me wrong, I love football more than most. On average I watch about 25 game hours of football per week during the fall (pretty sad, I know).

It bothers me that the media has an extra week to prepare and they ask players questions like: “If you were an animal, what kind of animal would you be?” Trust me, it will happen.

I shouldn’t complain too much though. Without that extra week off I wouldn’t be able to write this column. Plus, it gives those of us who normally waste our Sundays from September through January more time to get acclimated to life without football.

One topic the national media better not ignore, considering they’ve had plenty of time to prepare, is the recently deceased Kansas City Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt. Hopefully the NFL has the foresight to give at least a small tribute to a football and sports pioneer. Hunt, who passed away on Dec. 13, 2006, coined the term Super Bowl.

Everyone in River Falls should also give some remembrance to Hunt, since it is his team that has graced Ramer Field every summer since 1991 to hold training camp. This winter the Chiefs’ organization received the 2006 Outstanding Service

Award from UW-River Falls for their contributions to the campus community.

Last, but not least, I’d like to talk about a slightly disturbing discovery I recently made. Realizing that the loss by the New Orleans Saints in the NFC championship game left the general public without an obvious underdog/favorite, superbowl.com offers a service to make the decision for the indecisive masses. Since my only real hope was that the game is competitive, and it always makes it a bit more fun to actually pull for a particular squad, I decided to test this out. All I had to do is answer five seemingly irrelevant questions and I was told to root for the Bears. This sealed the deal for me. I’m now rooting for the Colts.

There are two reasons for my decision to cheer for “the young male horses that are usually not castrated and have not attained an arbitrarily designated age,” (per Merriam-Webster definition). First, I hate being told what to do, especially by a machine. Second, the Bears are led by a player I loathe more and

more each time I hear him speak, or watch him play: quarterback Rex Grossman.

He was the punk who admitted he couldn’t get focused for the regular season finale against the Packers because he was too worried about his New Years plans. I guess Grossman’s \$625,000 salary for the 2006 season wasn’t reason enough for him to set aside his holiday plans for a few hours and go out and do his job. Hopefully his

post-Super Bowl agenda doesn’t get in the way of this game.

If it wasn’t for Grossman, I probably would be rooting for Chicago. That’s the exact same rationale I’m using for my prediction. Does anyone really think Grossman will have three playoff games in a row where he doesn’t do something to completely ruin the Bears chances?

My Super Bowl prediction: Colts 26, Bears 17.

Super Over/Under

Things to watch for during Super Bowl XLI

- Times Rex Grossman looks completely lost: 30
- Times the ‘this is our country’ Chevy commercial is aired: 24
- Times the camera cuts to a shot of the Manning family: 21
- Times Peyton Manning has the ‘why did you just crap on my ice cream cone?’ look on his face: 6.5
- Visits to the play-by-play booth that have no real relevance to the game: 2
- Times the question ‘if you were an animal what kind of animal would you be?’ has any relevance to the actual game being played: 0

Freshmen starters vital to improvement

Ben Brewster
benjamin.brewster@uwrf.edu

After going 5-11 in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) and 6-19 overall in the 2005-06 season, the men’s basketball team has made a remarkable turnaround in just one year. As of Jan. 24, they are 4-7 in the WIAC and 9-11 overall, in contention for a playoff spot.

This turnaround is due in large part to the play of two freshmen starters, guard Jontae Koonkaew and forward Nate Robertson.

Robertson said he grew up with basketball and has been playing competitively since he was in fifth grade. In coming to UW-River Falls, he didn’t know whether he would be starting or not, but knew he would have a chance at contributing immediately. He feels the transition to college ball is going well and is very comfortable, but said the game is a lot more physical and everyone is bigger and quicker.

Robertson has made the best of his chance to start and is leading the team in rebounds with 132, blocked shots with 32 and in scoring average with 14.4 points per game. He is also second in points scored with 273. He said his strengths are posting back to the basket and being able to score on anyone.

“Nate has been our presence inside, both as a scorer and rebounder,” Head Coach Jeff Berkhof said. “He’s also held his own defensively, banging against the big bodies in our league.”

Koonkaew said he has been

playing competitively since he was 6 years old. On moving up to the college level, he said that the game is much quicker.

On the court, Koonkaew is leading the team in steals with 23, free throws made with 80, points with 274 and is second in assists with 61.

“He is able to push the ball up the court with his speed and quickness and does a very good job finishing around the basket

“[He is] one of the most dominant post players I’ve ever played with.”

Jontae Koonkaew, men’s basketball player on fellow freshman Nate Robertson

or making a great pass to an open teammate,” Berkhof said of Koonkaew.

With only five games left to play in the regular season, both players have seen improvement in the team over the course of the season and feel good about the Falcons’ playoff chances. Robertson mentioned the losses to Bethel College and Macalester early in the season.

“If we played them now we’d annihilate them,” he said.

The Falcons are currently in 6th place in the WIAC, but are only a half game behind UW-Whitewater and one and a half games behind UW-Platteville. If the team can move past those



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Freshmen Jontae Koonkaew and Nate Robertson have started 35 games between them for the Falcons this season.

Two seniors reach milestones against Stevens Point

Reimann, Lindman achieve individual accomplishments

Mark Haley
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The Falcon women’s basketball victory over UW-Stevens Point on Jan. 20 was extra special for seniors Traci Reimann and Megan Lindman.

During the 68-44 win, Reimann reached career point number 1,000, while Lindman set the new all-time blocks record at UW-River Falls. Reimann knew she had reached a career milestone as soon as she made a lay-up while being hacked by Steven Point’s Ashley Windt with 4:40 left to play in the game. Walking to the free-throw line to complete the three-point play and give the Falcons a 55-36 lead, Reimann had the chance to glance up at the Falcons fans that had made the three-hour trip from River Falls to Stevens Point.

“That was really fun to have some fans and parents up there to celebrate the 1,000th point with me,” Reimann said.

Amongst the clapping and hol-



Tracy Reimann

lering Falcons faithful stood teammate Krista Cordes’ parents, holding homemade signs. It was at this point that Reimann said she had the chance to see Cordes’ father holding a sign which proudly proclaimed her 1,000-point milestone. The sign may have been upside-down, but she understood it.

Reimann said she also realized the accomplishment she had reached, knowing that she had come a long way since point number ‘0001,’ as the sign in the Berg Gym read. Directly to the left of Reimann’s sign, Cordes’ mother held a right-side-up sign announcing that Lindman was the new career block leader at UWRF.

Lindman, who swatted her record 103rd shot during the game, broke a 25-year-old mark

Season	Points
‘03-‘04	298
‘04-‘05	261
‘05-‘06	237
‘06-‘07	261
Total	1,057



Megan Lindman

previously held by Patty Saxton. Reaching an individual accomplishment was the last thing on Lindman’s mind at the time of the block.

“To be honest, I didn’t even know that I broke it,” Lindman said.

Ask either of these Falcons post players, and they will tell you without a moment of hesitation that getting a victory in Stevens Point was more important to them than reaching the milestones they did on Jan. 20.

The Falcons win snapped a UW-Stevens Point 22-game home winning streak, with the last Pointers loss coming on Feb. 15, 2005, when River Falls ended a 12-game home winning streak the team held at the time.

In their final season as UWRF women’s basketball players, Reimann and Lindman are inter-

Season	Blocks
‘03-‘04	24
‘04-‘05	35
‘05-‘06	27
‘06-‘07	18
Total	104

ested in winning aboveall else.

“It was awesome to get it, but I’d rather win the rest of the games the rest of our season than get 1,000 points,” Reimann said.

Quotations like this remind Falcons Head Coach Cindy Hovet every day of how special Reimann really is.

Hovet said she knew Reimann would be a great player before she even came to UWRF, and has exceeded all expectations, proving to be the type of player that a coach may only have the opportunity to work with once in a career.

A ceremony was held before the team’s game against UW-Stout on Wednesday recognizing both of the players’ accomplishments.

See Women’s basketball, page 7

Falcons falter down the stretch against rival Green Knights

Two late goals keeps Norbert’s home streak against Falcons alive

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The River Falls men’s hockey team played a crisp, tight defensive game for 59 minutes at St. Norbert last Friday night. Unfortunately for the Falcons, the game was 60 minutes long.

The Falcons had the lead until St. Norbert’s Matt Boyd fired the puck past Falcon goaltender AJ Bucchino to tie the game 2-2 with 5:40 left in the third. The Falcons called a time-out to regroup, but the Green Knights scored 16 seconds later on Tyler Allen’s first goal of the season. Norbert held on to win the game 3-2.

River Falls continues to be stymied at the Cornerstone Community Center, losing all 11 games played between the teams since St. Norbert moved there during the 2000-2001 season. The Falcons have lost 14 straight on the road against the Green Knights, dating back to

the team’s days at the De Pere Ice Arena.

“You can’t have [the losing streak] in the back of your mind,” Falcons forward Tyler Kostiuik said. “You just have to concentrate on what things are going to happen in the game and what you have to do to be successful.”

St. Norbert got on the board early with a goal by Andrew Derton just 3:56 into the first period. It was the first time the Falcons had given up a goal in the opening period since Jan. 6 against Bethel.

The Falcons trailed 1-0 after the first intermission, but Derek Hansberry intercepted a pass in the Green Knights zone and scored an unassisted goal just 57 seconds into the second period to tie the game 1-1.

Not to be outdone, fellow top-liner Pat Borgestad scored 56 seconds into the third period to give the Falcons the 2-1 lead. Borgestad accepted the pass from defenseman Sean Pettinger, slipped the puck around a Green Knight defender, and regained the puck before

See Men’s hockey, page 7

Women’s hockey win and tie over the weekend

On Jan. 28, the Falcons took a 4-1 lead against Finlandia to secure a 5-3 win. Stefanie Schmitz set the pace for the game when she came out and scored the first goal of the day just 39 seconds into the first period. Finlandia answered back at 8:41 with a power play goal, but that would be the team’s last goal for the period. The Falcons scored at 10:17 of the third period, but Schmitz wasn’t done scoring yet, making her fourth goal of the night at 15:41. On Jan. 27, the Falcons took on UW-Superior for 65 minutes and pulled off a 2-2 tie. UW-Superior scored first, late in the first period. Both teams battled it out in the second period, but the Falcons came out strong in the third to score their first goal of the game. UW-Superior came back at 10:17 to take the lead, but a power-play goal by Jenna Scanlon with an assist from Schmitz at 14:08 tied the game at two. The Falcons take on UW-Eau Claire on Feb. 3 at Hunt Arena. The puck is scheduled to drop at 2:05.

UW-River Falls 5, Finlandia Women 3 (Jan 28, 2007 at Hancock, MI)	UW-River Falls 2, UW-Superior 2 (Jan 27, 2007 at Superior, Wis.)
UW-River Falls..... 4 0 1 - 5	UW-River Falls..... 0 0 2 0 - 2
Finlandia Women.....1 0 2 - 3	UW-Superior..... 1 0 1 0 - 2
First period	First period
00:39 RF - Schmitz (Schmidt, Scanlon)	18:36 SUP - Schmeichel
08:41 FNLW - Leitch (Syrowik)	(Dunkel, Theofylatos)
09:45 RF - Schmitz (Dyslin, Scanlon)	Third period
11:18 RF - Dyslin (Scanlon, Schmitz)	07:28 RF - Sunderman (Scanlon)
19:07 RF - Schmitz (Wallace)	10:17 SUP - McClintock (Crabb)
Third period	14:08 RF - Scanlon (Schmitz)
10:17 FNLW - Riutta (Peterson, Benson)	Goalkeeping (min-shots-saves)
15:41 RF - Schmitz (Schmidt)	RF - Lindner (65:00-35-33)
19:15 FNLW - Sleik (Leitch)	SUP - Nespor (65:00-33-31)
Goalkeeping (min-shots-saves)	
RF - Bruggeman (60:00-26-23)	
FNLW - Czekaj (56:47-21-16)	

Swimming and diving finish regular season

Competing in the last regular season meet, the Falcons took on the St. Mary’s Cardinals in a dual swim meet Saturday afternoon. The women beat St. Mary’s 149 -111. The men were defeated and took second with 111 team points. Matt Banz and Mikhael Keyser led the men with Banz earning three first place finishes and Keyser earning two. Jill Lambach, Danielle Mandich, Sara Cannady and Alyssa Adair battled the Cardinals for top finishes. Lambach and Mandich led the pack with two wins each. Falcon freshman diver Jaynell Feider contributed to the women’s win with 1- and 3-meter dive wins. Next for the Falcons is the WIAC Meet at Stevens Point Feb. 15, 16 and 17 starting at 10 a.m.

Indoor track and field take part in Stout Open

On Jan. 27, the men’s and women’s track and field team competed in the Stout Open. The top finishers for the men were Bryan Woitas, Andrew Reckard and Alex Wahlberg. Woitas took sixth in the 55-meter dash, Reckard placed fifth place in the 800-meter run, Phillippi came in second in the 3000-meter run and Wahlberg took fifth in the high jump. For the women, Shannon Zweifel clinched fifth place in the 400-meter dash and Leah Korf came in sixth in the 1-mile run. Taking first place in the 3000-meter run was Amanda Kozicky, while fellow Falcons Jill Crandall and Krista Hasselquist took first in the high jump and shot put, respectively. Hasselquist also place second in the weight throw. Another first place finisher was pole vaulter Holly Kromray. Maria Michaud and Jessica Reed came in second in the 5000-meter run and the 55-meter hurdles, respectively. As a team, the UWRF women took second place in the 4x400-meter relay.

Sports Wrap Compiled by Ben Brewster


STANDINGS

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

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


SHOWCASE HOME GAME

Men’s and Women’s Basketball



UWRF

vs



UWEC

Men at 6:00 p.m. Women at 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 7
at Karges Gym

Kram Karges

Students of P ED 450, Sport, Fitness and Recreation Management are holding “Kram Karges Night” on February 7th. There will be prize giveaways during both games. The Grand Prize is Minnesota Timberwolves tickets.

Men’s basketball: Freshmen excel on court

from page 6

teams into 4th place they will secure a home playoff spot. Berkof said he has high hopes for the two young athletes and the future of the team. “If they continue to work hard and commit themselves, they will both have great careers as Falcons,” he said. While excelling in major roles, neither player considers themselves to be a leader. Robertson said that he prefers to lead by example and that juniors Ryan Thompson and Tim

Dahl reaches milestone on the road

Hockey players 100th point comes at crucial time for Falcons

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Drive, passion and talent are just three characteristics that junior TJ Dahl shows on the ice. Those characteristics and many others are what have allowed Dahl to be only the 31st player in Falcon hockey history to score 100 points in his career. Going into a road series against St. Norbert and Lake Forest on Jan. 26-27, Dahl had 99 points. Even though he was only one point away, he didn’t let his individual successes overshadow the tough weekend. “I really haven’t been thinking about that lately because of how important this weekend is for our hockey team,” Dahl said before the road trip. “I’m more nervous about winning the NCHA league championship than anything, but if I do gain that milestone I will be truthfully just honored to be among some great River Falls players who have played before me.” Dahl was unable to score his 100th point until Saturday night against Lake Forest. He assisted on Derek Hansberry’s goal to tie the game with 42 seconds left to play. “Friday night we played Norbert and our team and our line had a bunch of chances, but couldn’t score,” Dahl said. “[Saturday] we couldn’t get anything to go in; luckily at the end we got it.” Dahl’s assist helped the Falcons manage a tie on the road, leaving the road trip with only one point. Head coach Steve Freeman

Year	Goals	Ast.	Pts.
’05	12	18	30
’06	9	21	30
’07	11	29	40
Total	32	68	100

said that Dahl has been on the first line since he joined the team in 2004. His freshman season he played with Garrett Larson, and for the past two seasons he has been with Pat Borgestad and Hansberry. “I’ve been blessed to have great linemates,” Dahl said. “I can’t say enough good things about them. I’d also like to acknowledge the coaching staff. I appreciate them giving me a chance to step up and am thankful for them believing in me.” In the future, Dahl doesn’t have any plans for his career, except getting better each day and continuing to contribute to Falcon hockey.

“I’ve been blessed to have great linemates.I can’t say enough good things about them.”

TJ Dahl,
men’s hockey player

“He’s a strong all-around player,” Freeman said. “He’s a real intelligent player. He reads the ice well. He has good chemistry with his teammates.” The 2002 Apple Valley High School graduate planned on making the jump to Div. III hockey right away after school, but went on to spend two seasons playing in Nebraska and Iowa. Following his stint there, he found that River Falls was



Jens Gunnellson

TJ Dahl looks to pass the puck against Lake Forest Dec. 1 Dahl had a goal and an assist in that game and scored his 100th career point in Lake Forest on Saturday.

the right fit for him. Dahl said that one of the reasons River Falls is such a good fit is the proximity to his home. His parents attend most, if not all, of the Falcon’s home games. “It’s far enough away, but it’s close enough for them to come,” Dahl said. “I love seeing my parents along the glass. It’s a huge confidence booster.” While his high school career was heartbreaking, losing in the state tournament qualifying game two seasons in a row, Dahl was determined to make his hockey career the best it could be. Freeman has worked with Dahl for the past three seasons and said it’s impressive what

Women’s basketball: Lindman, Reimann stay focused on team accomplishments

from page 6

For Lindman, the milestone comes amidst an up-and-down season. The senior wears braces and wraps all over her body during games, and at this point, it is pretty easy for Lindman to recap what all is injured. “Everything,” she said. “I’m pretty much down to one good limb, which is my left arm.” Despite the pain, Lindman continues to block shots at a

“I’m certainly going to miss these seniors ... ”

Cindy Hovet,
women’s basketball coach

remarkable rate. Nothing stops her from going after the ball, not even the threat of picking up a foul, which she often does. “I get a lot of fouls because I try to block shots,” Lindman said. “It’s one thing I really like doing.” This season, not only has Lindman been forced to cope with injuries, but she’s also had to learn to deal with coming off of the bench. Lindman hasn’t seen the starting lineup since Jan. 6, in a Falcons loss at UW-Whitewater. “We think [Lindman] is better coming off the bench,” Hovet

said. “Just for our whole team I thought it was better.” The demotion hasn’t brought down Lindman’s spirits or her play. In fact, she recently led the team with 20 points in a 79-61 victory over UW-Superior on Jan. 24. Like the rest of the Falcons seniors this year, Lindman helps out the team any way she can. Hovet doesn’t remember ever having the kind of senior impact that she has this year, with all top five scorers on the team being seniors. Behind the senior leaders, the team is now playing its best basketball of the season after a recent slump. In the end, this overshadows any milestone for a senior leader like Reimann. “It’s a pretty big deal but I’m just glad our team’s picking it up and doing a lot better this season at the end,” Reimann said. With all of the senior leadership coinciding with the talent on the team, the team has the potential to finish the season with an appropriate grand finale for the seniors. While it’s great to have all of these seniors, Hovet said she knows that soon the day will come when it is time for these girls to move on, and that is a day Hovet isn’t ready for quite yet. “I’m certainly going to miss these seniors,” Hovet said. “They’re great kids.”



Niki Paton/Student Voice

Senior post players Traci Reimann and Megan Lindman have played key roles in the Falcons winning four of their last five games.

Men’s Hockey: Two late goals extend Falcons’ losing streak at St. Norbert

from page 6

netting his 11th goal of the season. But Norbert took control of the game from that point on. The Falcons were out-shot in the final frame 22-6, as the Green Knights scored quick back-to-back goals to take the lead late in the third. The latter proved to be the game winner. “We didn’t pick up the blocking on the face-off,” Falcon’s Coach Steve Freeman said. “They got to the puck first down there, threw it out to the point, and the kid took the shot.” It wasn’t a clean shot from the point, but after deflection it ended up in the back of the net. “He shot a one-timer, but he kind of fanned on it,” Bucchino said. “But the puck still flickered towards the net, still going the right way, and a kid in front of me just hit it out of the air and

got it right through my legs. There’s nothing really that me and the defensemen could have done on that.” The goal was especially demoralizing since it came right after a Falcons time out, which they had hoped would kill the momentum that had suddenly swung to the home team. “It was definitely frustrating ... especially how we took that time-out for the crowd, it was going pretty crazy in there, to settle things down,” Kostiuk added. “But then we just got out of position in the defensive zone and they got a lucky one on us.” The Falcons were fortunate to hold on to the lead as long as they did. St. Norbert hit the pipe four times in a five-minute span in the middle of the third period. “We got the lead in the third period and kind of went back on our heels and tried to defend it too much instead of pressing,

and that hurt us,” Freeman said. The Falcons pulled Bucchino with 32 seconds left, but were unable to score with the extra attacker. Green Knights goaltender Kyle Jones made 20 saves in the game. Bucchino matched that number in the third period alone, on his way to a 32 save night. The loss to St. Norbert, combined with a Stout win, puts the Falcons three points out of first place in the NCHA. It also moves the Green Knights to within one point of the second place Falcons. TJ Dahl went into the game needing one point to get his 100th as a Falcon, but did not factor directly into the scoring on either Falcon goal. The Falcons’ streak of 14 straight losses on the road against St. Norbert is not only the team’s largest road losing streak, but also the only one

worth noting. The only other road streak the Falcons are currently on is a one-game losing streak at Superior, where the team lost earlier this season. “We don’t really think about [the losing streak] that much,” Freeman said. “But to be honest with you, it’s just human nature to kind of have it in the back of your mind.”

St. Norbert 3, UW-River Falls 2 (1/26/07 at Green Bay, Wis.)
UW-River Falls..... 0 1 1 - 2
St. Norbert..... 1 0 2 - 3
First period
03:56 SNC - Derton (Wheeler)
Second period
00:56 RF - Hansberry
Third Period
00:57 RF - Borgestad (Pettinger)
14:20 SNC - Boyd (Derton, Belanger)
14:36 SNC - Allen (Skoog, Forrester)
Goalkeeping (min-shots-saves)
RF - Bucchino (59:28-35-32)
SNC - Jones (60:00-22-20)

Class times will shorten by five minutes next semester

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For the 2007-08 academic school year, Monday, Wednesday and Friday class times will be reduced by five minutes, making each class period 50-minutes long. Tuesday and Thursday sessions will be only 75 minutes, instead of the current 85-minute length.

Faculty Senate approved a motion, which was investigated and written by the Calendar Committee by a vote of 16-3 on Dec. 20. Chancellor Don Betz encouraged the change and said the five-minute reduction will have a positive affect on the education received by students attending UW-River Falls.

The committee measured the “input and output” of students during class. The “input” included the amount of time students sit in seats during their class sessions, and the “output” consisted of the amount of education they achieved overall during a class period, Provost Charles Hurt said. “Students now learn differently with lots of stuff coming at you,” he said about UWRF student’s learning abilities. “Now, there are a lot more ways to get information.”

With the five-minute change it will allow UWRF to be similar in class times to other institutions in the state and nationally, Hurt said. “There was a lot to be concerned with, like measuring the quality of education, the face-to-face value,” said Karl Peterson, chair of the Calendar Committee and chemistry professor. “Like River Falls, we value that more than other institutions do; it’s part of the feel we have at this school.”

The chancellor and vice chancellor promptly instructed the Registrar’s office to implement the new times as soon as they could get all the necessary changes done, Dan Vande Yacht in the registrar office said. The office is responsible for compiling all the class schedules, which are available on eSIS for students at the time of registration for the next semester.

“We wanted to make the 50-minute class period as soon as we could,” he said. “It was a little added work load, but we did it.”

Vande Yacht said the amount of time to change the foundations within the tables in databases available to him and his staff took less than a month. These tables allow a quick and easy system to take the numerous classes offered a certain semester and place them in a

timely order.

When the Calendar Committee explored the idea of having 50-minute Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes, many positive and negative aspects were discussed in length by the committee and senate.

Some of those aspects included the decrease in time of the in-class instructional time, students and faculty will have shorter class periods and work days, and an increase in the use of technological and alternative strategies, like Desire2Learn (D2L) and field experience.

“As chair of the committee, the process we used followed the process of shared governance-the campus community was asked to give input, including the students,” Peterson said. “For some people it (the change) was not an issue; we simply summed up the feedback.”

The institutions in the UW-System have a range of 4,300 to 4,680 minutes of classroom instruction time per year, Peterson said. This accounts for a typical three-credit Monday, Wednesday and Friday course over an entire academic year. For the 2006-07 academic year, UWRF holds 4,620 minutes of in-class instructional time for a three-credit course on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

“Now, we need to be at the top of the quality list,” Hurt said. “We need our students to go out and do great things, whether in the work force or in graduate school.”

When students experience the 50-minute classes, UWRF’s ranking will drop to the lowest with instructional minutes at 4,200, Peterson said, representing a loss of almost four 55-minute class periods per semester in comparison to the current schedule.

“We may be the lowest, but that’s the wrong way to measure this,” Hurt said. “We are looking at the minutes in the wrong way. I don’t care if we are at the bottom; I care if we are giving the quality education that students deserve.”

Peterson said face-time value with a professor is not essential for a student’s academic outcome because every student has a different learning ability.

“Everyone is going to have to adjust,” he said.

With adjusting the change, class times will begin on the hour for Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes, or half hour for Tuesday and Thursday sessions, allowing an easier schedule for students and fac-

ulty to schedule their meetings and other activities in their day, Peterson said.

Classes falling in the afternoon, like 2 p.m. and later, may be more appealing to students, he said.

“Ask any professor at this University and they will tell you how hard it is to find a classroom around 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.,” Peterson said. “It is pretty impossible, but later in the afternoon more classrooms are empty because students don’t like taking later classes.”

Night classes could start at 5 p.m. instead of 5:45 p.m. because the last session on Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes ends at 5:35 p.m., he said, possibly making those classes much more appealing to students and faculty.

Faculty Senate Chair Wes Chapin said he was concerned with losing that five minutes of educational time. Even though faculty and students will be gaining those precious five minutes somewhere else outside of the classroom, it doesn’t quite fix all the time problems everyone has at UWRF.

“It’s five minutes here and five minutes there,” Chapin said. “It all adds up.”

With tuition increasing and students working more because of decreasing student aid, most students will think of the less time in class as more time to work, he said, which should not be viewed as negative.

Faculty’s amount of time outside of class decreases every year with budget cuts and an increasing student body, Chapin said.

“More students in a classroom mean more time for advising,” he said. “Students should be thinking about the time it will take to grade papers, tests and respond to e-mails.”

The reduction in class time to 50 minutes is not a fix to any major problem on campus, but a start, Chapin said.

The five-minute decrease in class will only cut things out of a class, he said, like a chapter in a textbook, a required paper, quiz or tests.

“It will be interesting to see what students will have to say,” Chapin said. “With the gaining of time, will it impact the overall quality of their experience?”



Niki Paton/Student Voice
The construction of the new Dairy Learning Center is ahead of schedule. With the weather being as warm as it has, the building is now going to be open sooner than originally anticipated. Construction is already well under way.

Dairy Learning Center set to open in fall

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With River Falls having a mild winter this year, the University is making steady progress on the new Dairy Learning Center. The center is projected to open fall of 2007. Original plans for the center indicated that the facility would not be open until fall of 2008, but warmer temperatures have allowed work to advance ahead of schedule.

The Dairy Learning Center is being built for the College of Agriculture Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) students and dairy science majors. The new facility will hold 100 adult cows, which is an additional 30 cows that the old farm could not maintain. It is located on the east side of Lab Farm 2, which is approximately two miles north of River Falls on the Mann Valley Farm.

Steve Kelm, chair of the UW-River Falls department of animal and food sciences, said that he “anticipates increased enrollment” with the opening of the facility in the fall. The old lab farm was too “labor intensive” and required extra faculty assistance, he said.

The new Dairy Learning Center is

equipped with state of the art technology, which allows faculty and students to concentrate on learning new management techniques and research trials.

The building holds two 25-student capacity classrooms with a divider in between, which can be opened for larger meetings.

“I think the new Dairy Center is great for CAFES students because it teaches them new techniques with brand new technologies.”
Kendal Liebbezeit, student

According to an Oct. 23 press release and the CAFES homepage, the center will include a “compost bedded pack barn for approximately 100 lactating cows, a BouMatic double-6 herringbone parlor, which will increase milking speed and efficiency, a special needs barn, calf barn, heifer barn, hay barn, bunker silos, feed shed and machine shed.”

The Dairy Learning Center will also include a “StepMetrix lameness detection system,” with sensors that are capable of monitoring weight distribution and research bays with Calan gates, which allow the herd to be split into groups by reader identification tags.

“I think the new Dairy Center is great for CAFES students because it teaches them new techniques with brand new technologies,” CAFES student Kendal Liebbezeit said.

The new facility will attract incoming freshmen because of the technology and the opportunity to increase the efficiency in managing a farm.

“The Center is great because students are benefiting without having to pay for the facility,” Liebbezeit said.

The funding is coming from the state commissioning board, companies, businesses and individuals.

The press release also indicates that UWRF is “well known in the U.S. dairy industry as having one of the three largest dairy science undergraduate programs in the country with about 110 dairy science majors. In addition, the program has more than 450 animal science majors.”

Trende anticipates changes at UWRF

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Last November, former Hudson Police Chief Dick Trende became the new UW-River Falls Interim Public Safety Director.

UWRF Director of General Services Thomas Weiss originally approached Trende about the position, knowing he was well qualified.

Trende worked for the Hudson Police Department for 34 years after graduating from Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, Minn. in 1972. Starting as a patrol officer and detective sergeant, he was promoted to chief of police in 1993 after attending a semester at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va.

Trende retired from the Hudson Police Department in May 2006 with the intention of returning to the work force.

In November, Trende was hired as the Interim Public Safety Director at UWRF. He is openly embracing his new position as a learning experience, but has already set clear goals for what he wants to accomplish in the department. His main objectives are to observe current practices and make recommendations that will make them better.

“A lot of it is fine-tuning the operations we have, and deciding if they are correct in what they do or not,” Trende said.

He is in charge of determining the way operations are run in the department. This includes, but is not limited to, the budgeting process, training of employees, assessment of the department’s equipment and the evaluation of procedures.

“If there is a final decision on anything in Public Safety, it comes through me,” he said.

One addition he has already brought to the department is a UWRF Public Safety Citizen Complaint Form. This form gives UWRF citizens an opportunity to voice a formal complaint in writing, which was previously unavailable. The complaint goes directly to Trende where it is fur-

ther investigated with the goal of a resolution. An online version is also anticipated in the near future. These forms can be found outside the Public Safety office in the basement of South Hall.

Trende is also concerned about staffing in the department. There are currently four full-time and three part-time Public Safety officers. He said he believes there is room to add more officers in order to adequately staff events and provide coverage for current officer’s vacation, days off and sick time.

His primary goals for the staff are proper training and professionalism. He values his interaction with the officers and other staff members.

“It’s a lot of responsibility they have, and you try to support them in any way you can,” Trende said.

Public Safety Officer Adam Balow said he and Trende talk a lot about policies and what they can do to improve the department.

“We talk about which direction the department is heading as a whole,” Balow said.

Trende sees parking and underage drinking as the most common issues that the department must address.

He said he believes that people need to recognize what the rules are for parking on campus, and understand that the rules exist to make sure needs are met. He said students and officers who enforce parking regulations do it ethically.

“If you don’t enforce parking regulations it will get out of control,” Trende said.

When it comes to underage drinking he is most concerned about alcohol abuse, which he said can lead to criminal conduct and chemical dependency.

“You have bad habits that start and that often leads to bad decisions,” he said.

Trende understands that the department relies heavily on relationships with the students and the community as a whole.

“It’s my hope that it’s a positive relationship,” he said.

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Twin Cities band, Ice Land, begins to break out



Jenna Lee

There is a little part in all of us that dreams of becoming a rock star. Every time your roommate plugs a small red guitar into a PlayStation for a round of Guitar Hero or a drunken girl ill advisedly takes the mic at karaoke, they can pretend for a few minutes to rock out in front of a roaring crowd. Few of us ever get to experience these dreams in reality, but Ice Land, a new band breaking out in the Twin Cities is combining their knowledge of elec-

tronics and music to bring a new sound to the stage. I got to sit down with the band after their first show at the Fine Line in Minneapolis on Tuesday, Jan. 23 to discuss their sound and what it takes to start up a new band. Ice Land took the stage that night after another first time performer, the Jeff Wenberg Band, and a set by veteran performer Ryan Lee. Although it was the first time for the guys in Ice Land to perform outside an apartment/studio, they had been playing as individuals or in other groups for many years. Daniel Lee Cornforth, the band's lead singer and acoustic guitar player explained to me how he got the ideas for this group. "I started writing this project three years ago, but I didn't do

anything with it," Cornforth said. He met the other two members, Lucas Price and Shon Troth, at the bars in Uptown and a connection was easily formed between the eclectic musicians. "I started writing this project three years ago, but I didn't do anything with it." Daniel Lee Cornforth, Ice Land lead singer When asked if they had any advice for bands that are coming together from different, but equally experienced back-

grounds. "Just bring anything together that you know, no matter how weird, and it'll work," Troth said when asked if they had any advice for bands that are coming together from different, but equally experienced back-grounds. For example, Price belonged to a metal band in Milwaukee before he moved to Minneapolis. Now, he uses a mini keyboard and Macintosh computer to add electronic depth to the band's sound. Price is quiet and contemplative. "Don't limit yourself," Price said. Electronic and ambient music is gaining popularity in the rock community, and it is important for bands like Ice Land to use computer software like Pro Tools to create a unique and captivating sound.

The band agrees that these programs help musicians to be creative without being restricted to a typical studio. "They allow musicians with no budget to release an album," Price said, which is exactly what Ice Land has been working on. The band has three EPs (Extended Play) on the schedule, with the first already being recorded in Cornforth's apartment. But like all emerging groups, the guys understand that their experiences will continually shape and change their style. "We haven't really formed our sound yet, and we need to experiment more," Cornforth said. Although Ice Land has only had one gig at the Fine Line so far, I would not underestimate the talent and potential of the

band. Their sound projects a quiet madness that can hush the whole room. In plain musical six degrees, Ice Land captures the instrumental mood of Radiohead and the introspective lyrics of Kind of Like Spitting. This is an amazing feat for a band that only uses an acoustic guitar, electric guitar, Mac computer, keyboard and lap steal guitar for instruments. Joseph Hughes of Ryan Lee sat in for a couple of songs during Ice Land's set, but currently they have no regular drummer. The band plans to schedule more shows in the area but until then, I would highly recommend checking them out on Myspace, at www.myspace.com/iceland-band.

UC events entertain students

Sarah Packingham sarah.packingham@uwrf.edu Students flocked by the dozen to enter the new University Center Jan. 21. The long awaited open house ran that evening to show students what the new building had to offer in terms of dining options, banking and entertainment. While students are impressed by the vast changes from the old Student Center to the newly erected University Center, a number of them are impressed by the various options for entertainment in the new building. "It's really exciting," Entertainment Coordinator Karyn Kling said. "There are a lot of new places, and a lot of things to do." One of the more popular facilities used by students is the game room on the main floor. The room houses two pool tables, an air hockey table and a few arcade games including Silver Strike Bowling. Throughout the day and even into the night, it's hard to find a time when people aren't waiting

in line to play a game that is already being used. "It's pretty cool," junior Greg Lund said of the game area. "It's something that gives an off-campus student like myself more of a reason to hang out here. I also like checking my e-mail in the computer kiosk." There were a number of different bands and musicians performing during the lunch hours throughout the grand opening week. The lunch hour music received mixed reviews from students thus far. While some students said they have found the music relaxing, a number of students found the music overwhelming and made it hard to have conversations with friends sitting at their own tables. Since the new building opened, there have already been a number of different performers present on campus. On Jan. 23, the group, Recycled Percussion performed in the new Falcons Nest Complex and was well received by the campus community. "Recycled Percussion played a really awesome show," senior

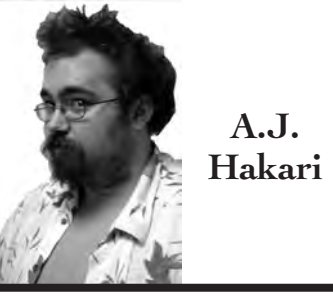
Katie Bollig said. "It was a great way to showcase such an amazing facility." The group also enjoyed the new facilities on campus. "Recycled Percussion said they really enjoyed playing in the Falcons Nest Venue," senior Tanya Hartwig said. Another new aspect the building has to offer is the Kinni Theater where students will have an opportunity to enjoy movies on campus for free. The first movie shown was Al Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth." In the Falcons Nest Complex there is a bigger space for bands with better equipment and Kling said that the venue should allow River Falls to get bigger bands to perform on campus without the worry of where to get stage and lighting equipment. Another part of the University Center Kling is excited about is the new ballroom on the second floor. The Leadership Center in the old Student Center used to be a ballroom, but was converted into offices when the Leadership Center was built. Artists like the

Johnny Holm band used to perform there. The arcade games aren't the only games in the University Center that will allow students to relax. In a few weeks, the lounges on the second floor will be equipped with Xbox, Playstation 3 and Nintendo Wii, Kling said. On Friday night, to cap off the events for the opening week of the University Center, Mad Chad Taylor performed for students his juggling chainsaw act. "Everything has been packed, it's been really well attended," Kling said. The building itself is also something that draws people into the University Center. "It's a nicer building, a nicer venue," Lund said. "I think it will be busy here for awhile." Tonight at 9 p.m. Comedian Pete Lee will be performing at the new Entertainment Complex. In the near future students will have events like the Jazz Arts Collection and Winter Carnival to look forward to.



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice Mad Chad Taylor juggles chainsaws at the new University Center on Jan. 26. Taylor was in the line-up in the new UC.

'Smokin' Aces' leaves a number of questions



A.J. Hakari

You may have noticed lately that the action genre has been undergoing a minor overhaul. "Smokin' Aces" illustrates how these flicks are starting to be a little rougher, a little meaner and tend to go that extra mile to show the viewer an explosively good time. "Domino," "Crank" and "Running Scared" belong to this new school of more hardcore action flicks, and although the newly released "Smokin' Aces" doesn't quite graduate magna cum laude, it's definitely on the dean's list as far as movies like this are concerned. Our story is a simple one: Buddy "Aces" Israel (Jeremy Piven), a washed-up drug fiend/Vegas magician, is getting set to testify against all of his mob-based connections. It's not long before the mafia gets wind of this and offers a \$1 million bounty on Israel—and brings back his heart on a plate. A rogue's gallery of assassins, hired killers and various forms of criminal ilk hear word of the prize and proceed to quickly converge upon Israel's penthouse hideaway in Lake Tahoe, with guns blazing and chainsaws roaring. Two FBI agents (Ryan Reynolds and Ray Liotta) are bent on protecting Israel at all costs, but with a cadre of killers determined to, as one character eloquently puts it, "pour boxes of bullets" into ol' Aces, they'll need everything they've got to keep their star witness alive and

kicking. As much as I appreciate films with complex characters and intricate storylines, once in a while I just like to turn my brain off and let the good times roll. "Smokin' Aces" provides just that experience, a veritable ballet of bullets that'll have no problem in quenching the thirst of action fans. Still, I was a little disappointed that it wasn't quite the frenetic actioner that the trailers made it out to be. What "Smokin' Aces" does is try to incorporate a smidge more depth and story than a lot of action films are willing to tackle, which ends up working both for and against the flick in the end. Writer/director Joe Carnahan keeps things interesting just in terms of a variety of characters (from masters of torture to dudes with "Mission: Impossible"-style masks), and he does a good job matching this motley crew with a series of hard-hitting action sequences that oughta make Steven Seagal wet the bed. The trouble with "Smokin' Aces" is that Carnahan tends to space out the action almost too much. The gunfights and such are cool, but they're also surprisingly few and far between. The filler consists of some repetitive dialogue, wasted character development and a mixed bag of acting. Jeremy Piven stands out the most in this ensemble cast, giving a solid performance as the coked-up Israel, and in her leading debut, Alicia Keys does a pretty nice job as a slinky hit-woman. Just about everyone else gets little screen time to really shine. Ben Affleck doesn't have much to do as a bondsman hired to bring in Israel, two of the less-prominent assassins are a couple of yawners and a dementedly awe-

some, psychotic trio of siblings called the Tremor Brothers definitely got the shaft in terms of screen exposure. Despite a handful of buzz-kill moments, "Smokin' Aces" still musters up enough energy and action to spice up the multiplex in these early, barren movie-going months of 2007.



Teresa Aviles

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

Ol' Van Wilder finally graduated from college and became a cop; a passionate, slightly overdramatic cop. You can always trust this man, whether he is a college-party lover or giving CPR to his fellow FBI agents. Among the unusual all-star cast, I did not expect Ryan Reynolds to play one of my favorite characters in "Smokin' Aces." Upon going into the movie, I held little respect for it, merely because of the 'Ben Affleck' name plastered on all of the posters and trailers. Luckily, the name was only a marketing scheme. Reynolds, the top FBI agent, is protecting a Las Vegas performer-turned-gangster, Buddy "Aces" Israel (Jeremy Piven), whom has agreed to rat out his fellow mob members. While in protective custody of what appears to be a swank Vegas penthouse suite, word spreads to numerous hit men (and women) of Israel's hide out. Maybe it's because I don't watch many crime/action movies, or maybe it was because I don't think with a 'business mind,' or maybe it's because I was distracted by the performances of new actors, but I had a terrible time following the plot of the movie. I found myself confused as to why particular people wanted the man dead. Other questions arose in my head during the viewing like, 'Why did that guy just kill that other guy?' Also, 'Is that guy buddies with that guy?' Then I thought that these questions I had were completely irrelevant because of the bloodiness and mild gore that filled the voids. After all, it's an action movie, logistics < sweet fight scenes. I continued to be relieved of

my cynicism as the movie progressed with its visual eye-candy and fast-paced movement. There were few things that didn't rub me right with the movie, such as nerdy hotel security guards with puss-filled pimples that seemed to increase in number throughout the movie. Israel's unimpressive card tricks become annoying quickly, especially since the audience doesn't know why his nickname is "Aces." Despite the occasional faults, "Smokin' Aces" bounced back and forth hitting the audience with "Ocean's 11"(-13)-esque double screen shots pulling and pushing each other out of the screen. A small scene with Jason Bateman as 'The Lawyer' stole most of the comedy bits of the whole movie into one or two appearances. Alicia Keys, in her first film role, portrayed a potential lesbian contract killer with fishnet stockings called Georgia Sykes. Though boasting her breasts and feminism in the movie, she proved that if you're a woman that can't really act, you better have a smokin' hot body, and you better flaunt it if you want to be cast in any other films for the rest of your life. Along with Keys' character, I thoroughly enjoyed every scene with the Tremor brothers. This group of massacre-causing, tattoo covered, machine gun-toting rednecks were the most unpredictable and colorful of all the characters of the movie. Everyone else just looked like white guys in suits and ties with a gun in a hip holster. When it comes to it, "Smokin' Aces" only won the popularity contest.

A.J. is a junior-year transfer student studying Journalism and Film Studies. He mostly digs horror movies and documentaries.



Teresa is a junior-year transfer studying Journalism and Geography, and enjoys dark comedies and documentaries.

Building becomes new stomping ground

Jennie Oemig
jennifer.oemig@uwrf.edu

As students were making the trek back to UW-River Falls on Jan. 21, preparing for the start of a new semester, the doors of the University Center were open for everyone to get their first glimpse of the building.

During the open house, students were allowed to venture throughout the building, utilize the two-story game room and some even stopped to relax on the couches in front of the big screen television on the first floor to watch the Chicago Bears defeat the New Orleans Saints and secure their place in Super Bowl XLI.

These are just some of the features the new University Center has to offer. Besides free gaming tables and arcade games, students are able to enjoy the luxuries of a cyber café, a convenience store with late-night hours and a bank open on Saturdays, all without leaving campus.

"The building definitely has more room for students to hang out, and I have definitely seen an increase in the visibility of the student body in this past week," senior Katie Bollig said.

Last week, the grand opening ceremonies were held with many students, staff, faculty and community members on hand.

The festivities began on the evening of Jan. 22 with a candlelight walk from the old student center, now Hagestad Hall, to the new University Center. After the walk, a dedication of the Robert Sievert fireplace was held.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place in the lower level of the building on Jan. 23, with student and staff members speaking about the building and their hopes for the future of the University Center.

With a red ribbon adorned with UWRF emblems hanging in front of the podium, Shaun Priesgen, the chair of the University Center Committee, welcomed everyone to the new four-level structure.

"What a building. I can't believe how big it is," said Natalie Hagberg, chair of the Leadership Development and Programming Board, reminiscing about a tour she had taken of the building last spring, while it was still under construction.

Now that the building is completed and students are roaming every square inch, Hagberg said she is very excited for the future of the University.

"I knew this building would open many doors for this campus," she said.

In looking toward the future, Hagberg challenged current and future students to utilize the space to the best of their abilities.

"Let's make this our building," she said. Matthew Meyer, the former president of the Earth Consciousness Organization then spoke of



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Mike Stifter, Charlie Hurt, Don Betz, Joe Eggers, Matt Meyer, Natalie Hagberg and Shaun Priesgen participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan 23 at the University Center. Students and staff members shared their hopes for the future of the new campus facility.

the ways in which the building would be beneficial to the campus due to its "sustainable design features."

Where the University Center was erected, the Ames Education Building once stood, and many architectural aspects of that historical building are evident in the new facility.

"Parts of that building are alive again," Chancellor Don Betz said in his speech. "Ames lives on."

A bench on the lower level outside the Falls Room was constructed using a slab of concrete from Ames, which can be seen by the words "Erected 1961" engraved along the bottom.

"This is the epicenter of our University," Betz said. "This becomes the jewel in the crown of our 134 year-old institution."

Betz went on to describe the values instilled in this University and his expectations for the future.

"This is our time. This is our responsibility," he said. "And shame on us if we don't embrace it."

Provost Charlie Hurt expressed his gratitude toward alumni and former faculty and staff of UWRF who made the decision 10 years ago to proceed with the construction of the new building even though they knew they would never

utilize the space.

"Ten years ago, students, faculty and staff cared about future students, faculty and staff ...," he said. "They were willing to tax themselves years ago."

On Jan. 24, Bill Lydecker and his grandson, Mitchell Favor, were on hand to unveil a sculpture entitled "Singers" in honor of the late Chancellor Ann Lydecker.

A community open house was also held on Jan. 28 for members of the River Falls area to view and tour the newest addition to the campus.

The University Center houses 11 meeting rooms all equipped with the latest technology. Many groups will be able to take advantage of these spaces.

"Already people are lining up to hold their meetings in this building," Student Senate President Joe Eggers said at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Director of Student Life Facilities Mike Stifter said that because the majority of the funds used to build the University Center came from students, they would have the priority in holding meetings in the building. Outside users can also reserve these spaces, but for a nominal fee, and when technological equipment is utilized, the rate would increase.

Stifter said that in the next two to three weeks, a secret-shopper type program in which students and staff members will give us feedback on the building will be introduced.

"They will come in and rate us on their first impressions," Stifter said.

These first impressions will include but are not limited to safety (salted and shoveled sidewalks), appearance (cleanliness of restroom facilities, windows, floors and outdoor walkways) and smell.

Because the new building is very modern and there is a lot of open space, it may deter those who want to study.

"There is no quiet place to sleep or do homework in between classes," senior Michelle Maccoux said. "Everything is so open that people who don't live on campus have to go to the library if they want a quiet place, and there they can't eat."

One thing that is very evident upon entering the University Center is the welcoming spirit, with flags of nations including South Korea, Russia, Kenya, China, Canada, Japan, Germany, India, Jordan, Mexico, Ukraine and Taiwan hanging from the rafters. More flags will be added in the future.

The entertainment as was held last week will not be a one-time thing. Stifter said that he hopes similar events will continue to be held somewhere in the University Center, whether it be in the Falcon's Nest Entertainment Complex or even along the bridge on the second floor.

"The Entertainment Complex will serve as a spectacular venue to host many great events," Bollig said. "Recycled Percussion was a great preview of many exciting things to come."

During the first week, several different venues were utilized for entertainment purposes to get a better grasp on what works and what does not as far as sound and acoustics are concerned.

"We want the program to drive the facility," said Stifter, referring to possible late-night events that will potentially be offered throughout the course of the buildings existence.

Stifter said that if there are events that run until 2 a.m., they will be accommodated to and someone will make sure the place is cleaned up once everyone has vacated the building.

"I feel that with the new building brings a new sense of energy and excitement to the student body," Bollig said. "It is definitely a great update and I hope to see many great happenings as a result of this new space in the future."

Stifter said that the inclusion of areas where students could play arcade games, video games and other such things has been well-received.

"It was a good move on our part," he said, adding that anytime free games are available, it is bound to be successful with the majority of students.

Though there have been some glitches in the past week with the building being brand new and students being overwhelmed with all of the changes, Stifter said it was something that was expected. When the building was under construction, there was no way to gauge how everything was going to pan out once everyone was

allowed access to the building.

One area of concern for students and faculty alike was the residential and retail dining facilities located on the lower floor of the University Center. Jerry Waller, director of Dining Services, was well aware that the long lines would be likely when the building opened.

"We knew it was going to be a challenge," he said.

Waller said that with the building being new and students getting acquainted with a new environment, the first week of the semester would be the worst. Now that everyone is more familiarized with the building and the dining hours, he said the long lines will continue to lessen as the semester progresses.

"There is a natural migration away from lines," Waller said, adding that people will change their meal times accordingly to avoid the crowds.

Because the building is new, Waller said more time is needed to fully evaluate the dining situation and decide if changes need to be made.

"It is hard to evaluate after one week [because] it will continue to evolve," he said. "This is a learning experience for us all."

The current status of the University Center is not necessarily set in stone. Feedback is something that Stifter said will play a role in molding the building to the ideal facility where students, staff and faculty can come together and enjoy spending time.

University Center Factoids

- **Cost of Project:**
\$34 Million
- **Gross Square Feet:** 142,660
- **Facility Includes:**
entertainment level and game room, cyber cafe and convenience store
- **Four levels, complete with elevator access**
- **An environmentally sustainable concept design**

"We're not really in a position to say 'no' to anything. We can give it a go and test the limits ...," he said. "The more we can open people's eyes up to new possibilities, the better off we'll be."

Stifter said that one piece of feedback that has been received from several different people is the need for more computers in the facility, especially with the access to wireless Internet. The locations of the kiosks were chosen because of the numerous functions that one could perform in a limited area, with the convenience store, copy shop, bank, coffee shop and soon, the bookstore all in a centralized area.

"It's meant to be a sticking point," Stifter said. "It will provide a convenience factor."

Due to the success of the kiosks, one possibility that has been brought forth is to provide more stations or to allow for the availability of laptops for students to check out.

Though the construction of the University Center is complete, there are still a few things left on the agenda. The University bookstore and the card office are still located within the desolate walls of Hagestad Hall. Stifter said the bookstore will be relocated to the vacant space set aside on the main floor of the University Center sometime around spring break.

In the future, Stifter said Brandy's will undergo renovations and will eventually house Information Technology Services, Frednet and the card office.

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