



MEN'S HOCKEY, PAGE 6

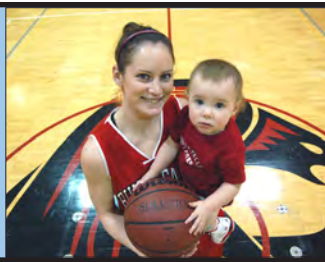
Falcons advance to semifinals

CAMPUS DEBATE, PAGE 8

First student-organized debate covers a wide array of topics

BASKETBALL FEATURE, PAGE 7

Team leader juggles school, motherhood and basketball



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

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Updated admissions policy expands diversity at UWRF

Amber Jurek

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An updated admissions policy will allow UW-River Falls to use an applicant's race and ethnicity as a factor in the admissions process to help ensure diversity on campus.

The policy was passed by Faculty Senate last spring and was unanimously approved by the Board of Regents Feb. 9.

Alan Tuchtenhagen, associate vice chancellor for enrollment services, said the policy was updated to improve the

language on admissions requirements.

"We set up admissions standards so we can set people up for success, not to get into college," Tuchtenhagen said.

"A new student's admission to UWRF is determined by a number of academic and nonacademic factors," the updated admission policy states.



Alan Tuchtenhagen

While the current admissions policy says both academic and nonacademic factors will be used in deciding the admission of applicants, the updated policy has clearer wording.

Tuchtenhagen said academic factors include an applicant's cumulative grade point average, the difficulty of high school curriculum, high school class rank and standardized test scores.

Nonacademic factors include such things as leadership, community service and personal characteristics, like race and ethnicity, he said.

By considering both academic and

nonacademic factors, Tuchtenhagen said he hopes it will bring more diversity to the University, not only with regard to race and ethnicity, but also geography and talent.

"In the process, race might be a factor in the consideration of an applicant, but it won't be the only factor," he said.

Freshman See Yang said he hopes the updated admissions policy will bring more diversity to campus as a result of race, ethnicity and other personal characteristics being considered in the admissions process.

"There needs to be more diversity,"

Yang said.

Freshman Michelle Johnson said having race be a factor in the admission of an applicant is a touchy situation.

"I don't think race should be a factor," Johnson said. "It should just be about academics."

She said if race is considered, it shouldn't disadvantage applicants who deserve to be admitted.

Some people are concerned that academics will be deemphasized with the new policy, Tuchtenhagen said.

See Admissions, page 3

Minnesota threatens to end reciprocity

U of M System wants increased tuition for Wisconsin residents, making up millions of dollars in losses

Rachel Ogrodnik

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The University of Minnesota (U of M) System is threatening to end a longstanding tuition pact with Wisconsin after realizing how many millions of dollars were lost in tuition.

The U of M will continue the pact as long as Wisconsin students pay more to attend Minnesota schools.

Without the agreement between the states, tuition would soar for students who attend schools across the border.



Minnesota Universities and Colleges:
1. Bemidji State University
2. U of M, Crookston
3. MSU, Moorhead
4. U of M, Morris
5. U of M, Duluth
6. St. Cloud State University
7. U of M, Twin Cities
8. Southwest Minnesota State University
9. MSU, Mankato
10. Winona State

Wisconsin Universities:
1. UW-Superior
2. UW-River Falls
3. UW-Stout
4. UW-Eau Claire
5. UW-Stevens Point
6. UW-Green Bay
7. UW-Oshkosh
8. UW-LaCrosse
9. UW-Madison
10. UW-Milwaukee
11. UW-Platteville

Both Minnesota and Wisconsin officials agree they don't want it to come to that.

Senior Megan Sohns said she came to UWRF because of the reciprocity agreement.

"The big deciding factor for me coming to this University was cost," Sohns said. "So, if it had been more expensive, I probably would have chosen a different university."

Sohns also said she was happy to be graduating.

"I think the issue really stinks, but it makes sense at the same time," she said.

At UW-River Falls, Wisconsin residents pay an estimated \$2,864 per semester, while Minnesota residents pay an estimated \$3,160, according to Enrollment Services.

Student Senate President Joe Eggers said the Student Senate fully supports tuition reciprocity.

"Without it, nearly half of the students who attend RF would be paying thousands of dollars more for the same education," Eggers said. "Reciprocity is integral to maintaining an affordable option for college for many students on both sides of the border."

Eggers also said the setup of reciprocity is flawed.

"Wisconsin students have a lower tuition rate on both sides of the border," he said. "Because of this, Minnesota is looking to end its side of the bargain. It would be far more beneficial to students from both sides if an agreement which addressed the concerns over reciprocity were addressed and an equal deal was met."

Eggers said the Student Senate passed a motion pledging support for reciprocity and has been added as one of its main priorities for the rest of the semester. Eggers said they plan to work with legislators in Minnesota and Wisconsin and a campaign will arise when they have more information.

"Until we find out more what Minnesota is considering, there is little that can be done," he said.

Jenifer Biss, legislative chair of the Student Senate, said it is quite clear why the Student Senate is in favor of a continued reciprocity agreement between Minnesota and Wisconsin.

"It is important to Minnesota and its students that tuition not skyrocket to the out-of-state rate because such an increase would simply be unmanageable," Biss said. "As for the state of Wisconsin, it is not realistic for them to compromise the interests of such a large population of their student body, especially at a time when the state intends to increase enrollment in the UW System."

The reciprocity agreement between the states has kept

Graphic compiled by the Student Voice editorial staff.

See Reciprocity, page 3

SWEA provides help, options for education majors

Students receive helpful tips, guidelines to survive in the education world

Chris Acker

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The Student Wisconsin Education Association (SWEA) was set up on the UW-River Falls campus last February, and has been increasing in numbers.

The organization continues to help students build résumés, experience and insight into the world of the education profession. There are currently 56 students involved in the SWEA on campus.

"We are not a club, we're an organization," chapter founder Melissa Danczak said.

Danczak started the UWRF chapter of the organization last year when she arrived on campus and realized there was no similar program in place at the University.

She said she started the organization on the UWRF campus due to the importance it places on future education providers and preparing them for the working environment in which they will be placed.

"This is an organization that is recognized nationally by 90 percent of schools in the country," Danczak said.

There are three different levels of the Wisconsin Education Association (WEA). The first is the local level, which is based on colleges or universities. There is the state level for students where the student board of directors and the president of SWEA are. There are almost 2,000 members at the state level. The national level is the National Education Association (NEA).

The goal of SWEA is to provide students with the opportunity to learn about the different aspects of teaching and what is involved in being a member of the NEA, Danczak said.

"Everyone has to pay dues to the NEA if you work in an NEA-affiliated school," Danczak said.

There are many benefits to being in SWEA for students at UWRF. The organization provides seminars to help students understand and informs them of the different license laws they will have to deal with in Wisconsin and Minnesota in order to become a licensed teacher, Danczak said.

Speakers are a big part of being a member of SWEA. They provide presentations and speakers on varying issues in the world of education, such as the No Child Left Behind Act that was recently enacted. Other presenters are also available to bring real world perspective and experience to students looking to enter the education world.

This program offers students the opportunity to take part in training seminars that help create cover letters, résumés and provide interviewing tips.

"For elementary education there are 25,200 applicants to 1,237 openings in

See SWEA, page 3

Student Health Services launches e-CHUG

Survey allows students to assess drinking habits

Lee Ann Bjerstedt

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Student Health Services has always offered a variety of health-related resources to students on the UW-River Falls campus, from counseling services to personal wellness brochures. In fall 2006, e-CHUG, an online survey designed to help students assess their personal drinking habits, was introduced.

Students can access the survey through the Student Health Services Web site. All answers are confidential, so students are encouraged to answer honestly to ensure accurate feedback.

After spending several minutes answering a variety of questions, the student is provided with a drinking profile with comparisons and statistics specifically aimed at college students. For example, calorie intake from alcohol is translated into cheeseburgers.

Health education coordinator Keven Syverson said he thinks e-CHUG will give students data that is more useful and easier to understand.

"It's in terms that students get," Syverson said.

While e-CHUG is available through the UWRF Web site, it does not belong to the University. It is owned by San Diego State University, using data provided by UWRF officials. The University pays a yearly access fee to make it available to students. This year the money came from grants, but whether or not the program stays in

place in the future will depend on its rate of success, as well as availability of funding.

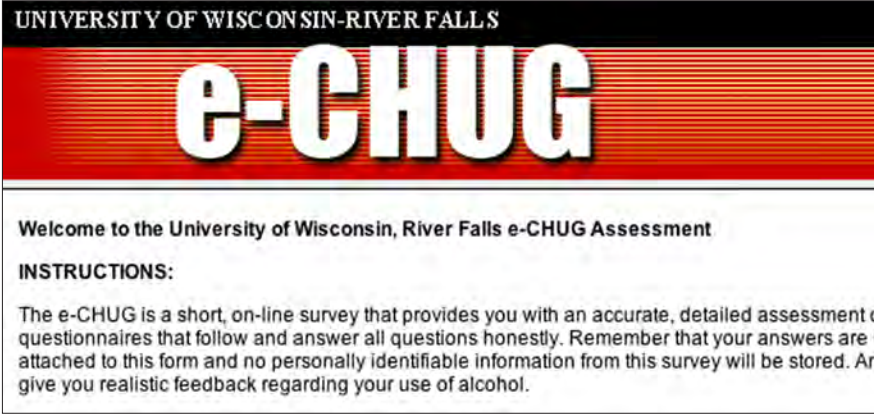
"We'll take a look at it this summer and go from there — see what the vibe is," Syverson said. "How to pay for it, yes, but it's really about seeing what fits our needs best."

Alice Reilly-Myklebust, director of Student Health Services, said UWRF focuses on monitoring students' physical and mental health and e-CHUG can be a tool to do just that.

"We try to be about prevention and promotion," Reilly-Myklebust said.

Originally, e-CHUG was put in place to educate first-time underage drinking offenders. Student Alex Gehin, who recently took the survey, speculated as to the reason behind its implementation.

"I think what was happening was that kids would get drinking tickets, then the



Screen Shot

The e-CHUG Web site is available at the UWRF Student Health Services homepage. Students can take the survey to assess their drinking habits.

parents would just pay it off and the students wouldn't learn," Gehin said.

She was right, Syverson said. There has always been a disciplinary aspect when it comes to underage drinking on campus, but nothing to help students learn from getting caught.

"We never had an educational mechanism [for underage offenders]," Syverson said. "There was always just the punitive aspect. It's a way to get students to at least look at their alcohol

See e-CHUG, page 3

VOICE SHORTS

Organization offers events to campus

The Black Student Union is hosting its annual Soul Food Dinner Feb. 23 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Journey House, 143 E. Cascade Ave.

The menu will includes fried catfish and chicken, baked macaroni and cheese, black eyed peas corn bread, greens, Kool-aid, sweet tea and a variety of desserts.

Students, staff, faculty and the community are invited to attend the dinner.

The cost is \$3 for students, \$5 for faculty, staff and community, and children five and under are free. With February coming to a close, so are the events taking place around campus in commemoration of Black History Month.

Throughout the course of the month, the Black Student Union (BSU) has been working to raise awareness of black history on campus.

So far, BSU has hosted a panel discussion on racism in classrooms and there was a Black History Month program.

BSU President Tony Anderson said the events have been very well attended and received by the campus and community.

BSU is hosting an Open Mic Night, titled "Freedom of the Expression Word," on Tuesday evening.

"[It] consists of expressing yourself with words, which may be poetry or some speech. Everyone is welcome to come," Anderson said. "This is the first time it has been done and I would like to see it every year if possible."

Following the completion of Black History Month, BSU is not sure what they will continue to do to entertain campus, but Anderson said the group members know they're not done for the year.

Anderson said BSU plans on reaching out to other organizations on campus and community, because "black history is American history."

Popular choir to perform on campus

The Twin Cities Gospel Choir will perform Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. in the North Hall Auditorium.

Tickets are free for students with an ID, \$5 for the general public, \$3 for 18 and under and children five and under are free.

Tickets will be for sale at the door before the show starting at 7 p.m.

A film looks into Kennedy’s assassination

Students can view the film “Bobby” for free Feb. 24 at 4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. in the Kinnickinnic River Theatre.

The film is about the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel June 5, 1968.

It takes viewers through the lives and reactions of 22 people who were at the hotel that night. The group represents a diverse spectrum of people who represent America at one of its most defining thresholds.

The event is brought to students by Leadership Development and Programming Board and Committees and is funded by student fees.

Auditions to be held for all performers

Summer theater auditions will be held Feb. 24 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the 2007 St. Croix Valley Summer Theatre in the Davis Theatre located in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building.

Auditions will be for casting actors, singers and dancers in the three productions scheduled for the 41st season: “The Last Night of Ballyhoo,” by Alfred Uhry, “Radio Gals” and Disney’s “High School Musical.”

No experience is required. A pianist is provided for auditioning singers, however, those auditioning have to provide their own music.

People auditioning are advised to dress for movement.

Interviews will also be conducted for both paid and unpaid positions with the 2007 production staff.

The season begins June 4 and ends Aug. 11. For more information, contact managing director Michael Norman at michael.norman@uwrf.edu.

Ride a real donkey at a basketball game

Students can watch their peers and professors ride real, live donkeys at the donkey basketball game Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.

The event will take place in the Karges Center gymnasium. Teams will consist of not only peers and professors, but also Horseman’s Association members, Greek Life and local school teachers.

The cost is \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. For more information, contact Aubrey Rankin at aubrey.rankin@uwrf.edu.

Debate held to discuss Pluto disappearing

Physics professor Eileen Korenic will host a debate Feb. 27 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to discuss what really happened to the former planet, Pluto.

The debate will be held in the lower level of the River Falls Public Library.

In 2006, astronomers made the decision that Pluto was no longer officially defined as being a planet. What counts as a planet in our solar system? How is that status determined and why would it change?

These questions will be addressed during the debate. Across the country, community and school groups and professional science societies responded to the 2006 Pluto decision with varied emotions, ranging from deep disappointment to scientific satisfaction.

Through the case of Pluto, learn how science reinvents itself as new discoveries are made.

Results of freshmen study to be discussed

Students, staff and faculty are welcome to attend a presentation that will discuss the characteristics, behavior and expectations of first-time, full-time students attending American colleges and universities Feb. 28 from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m.

The presentation will be held in the Chippewa Room of the University Center, and will focus on the national normative data that was gathered by a University of California-Los Angeles program called the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP).

For the past 41 years, the program has provided an annual report of its findings in freshmen students.

The CIRP survey was administered to UW-River Falls’ incoming freshmen during New Student Registration in June 2006.

If students, staff and faculty are unable to attend this presentation, but would like to learn about the CIRP’s findings, please contact the First-Year Experience Office at 425-4444.

Briefs compiled
by
Amber Jurek

SENATE

Senate debates differential tuition

Beth Dickman
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This week an issue was presented to Student Senate by an outside speaker, Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance Kristen Hendrickson. She, along with Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Gregg Heinselman, presented a proposal for Senate’s approval for UW-River Falls to convert to a differential tuition rate starting in fall 2007.

According to the handout outlining the proposal, it “... focuses on the transitions that students make to, through and from the University to life-long learning.”

Hendrickson elaborated on the information on the handout.

“The goal is to improve our retention rate,” Hendrickson said. “It’s also about enhancing the entire learning experience for the students.”

A differential tuition is an amount added to the base tuition level to fund programs that go above and beyond the existing programs and activities.

There are two types of differential tuition rates: institution-wide rates and program-specific rates. The rate UWRF would be using is the program-specific rate.

The amount added to tuition would be set by the Board of Regents to fund the program enhancements. Students who pay the differential tuition rate would benefit from the improved services.

It would cost each student roughly \$172 per year in order to fund all of the proposed items that accompany the differential tuition plan. This number is based on a current estimate of 5,500 students and rough estimations about the cost of adding and improving the physical spaces and programs to campus.

In the years to come, as the number of students on the UWRF campus increases, it wouldn’t necessarily decrease the amount each student would pay because costs always increase as well.

“The cost of these things will continue to rise, we know they probably will” Hendrickson said. “The resources available to us will increase at least 10 percent a year as well, so the cost of these programs will continue to increase every year.”

Student Senate was presented with a list of proposed areas of fund-



Gregg Heinselman

ing for the members to debate and discuss at great length. The proposed items included improving the library’s hours and resources, supporting the overall remodel of Hagestad Hall and adding a testing center to campus similar to that of UW-Eau Claire and UW-Madison, among other possibilities.

The members of Student Senate exhausted the debate about each project proposed, breaking down the pros and cons in order to come to a decision based on the interests of “the entire student body,” Leadership Development and Programming Board Chair Natalie Hagberg said.

“You have to represent the students,” Student Senate President Joe Eggers said. “We don’t have the time to talk to every student ... we need to move fairly quickly; we can’t take a lot of time with this.”

At Tuesday’s meeting, Student Senate voted to add five of the seven proposed areas of funding to the list of priorities for differential tuition.

One of the two projects Student Senate rejected by a majority vote was the addition of a first-year seminar for-credit course that each new student would be required to take. The second was a focused academic advising service geared toward helping new students navigate their way through the liberal education requirements.

Even though five of the proposed projects passed, not all members of Student Senate were excited about the idea as a whole.

“I’ll admit, I have my reservations, but I think that this is something that we should take the time to look into further,” Hagberg said. “We owe it to the students because this is something that will affect them and benefit them in the future.”

“This will affect students for a very, very long time. We have a responsibility to be educated on this,” Diversity Issues Director Ashley Olson said. “What are the positive impacts for the students and what are the drawbacks of funding these things?”

The final decision about the proposed projects for differential tuition will be voted on during the March 6 Student Senate meeting.

“The only way we’ll support this is if Student Senate has the final say,” Eggers said. “... We want to be able to control it.”



Kristen Hendrickson

Campus Mission Week aims to stir curiosities

Brandi Stillings
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“Is this all there is?” is just one of the many questions Campus Mission Week will undertake, along with a variety of events that will explore other uncertainties students may have about life.

This year the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) will be hosting the annual Mission Week, which runs during the week of Feb. 26.

The vision statement and overall goal of IVCF is “Students and faculty transformed, campus renewed, world changers developed.”

Throughout the week the organization plans to confirm their purpose.

“A lot of students probably wonder ‘Is there more to life than graduating and getting a job,’” large group coordinator of the mission team Kelsey Schonning said. “The most we can hope is that they start to ask those questions; the plan is to really engage the campus and stir curiosity.”

According to the IVCF Web site, InterVarsity is about building relationships with students, staff and to see the campus transformed through helping them come to

know God.

IVCF makes every effort to develop a presence through events that captivate the campus and get them asking questions.

Guest speaker Mark Slaughter will lead a discussion combining the issues of heaven, purpose and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. This will be Slaughter’s third year as a speaker during Campus Mission Week.

The event is scheduled for Feb. 27 in the University Center Ballroom starting at 7 p.m., followed by live music and an open forum, where Slaughter will be taking any questions the audience may have about the topics at hand.

“I wish students on campus would take the topics seriously and try to understand how it impacts their lives, like AIDS and how it has an effect on the world,” mission team member Emily Wagner said.

Another IVCF member describes her expectations for the week.

“I hope that people will be open and willing to talk about God,” mission team member Natalie Hanken said. “They should feel comfortable asking questions because we will respond to anything.”

The participants have been working to prepare for the activities and promotion of events.

“It has been amazing having a lot of freshmen involved this year,” Schonning said. “There has been more leadership, more active and passionate people and it’s been going smoothly; we are bonding together.”

Jessica Wright is the publicity coordinator for Campus Mission Week and a sophomore at UW-River Falls.

“I would love to see God at work in people,” Wright said. “It just wouldn’t be worthwhile if He wasn’t here with us during this week.”

The week will also offer interactive zones, located in the University Center and in the Chalmer Davee Library. These zones will allow students to interact with mission team members to answer questions; there will also be brochures and short activities to encourage involvement.

“I’m looking forward to the events during mission week,” faculty advisor for the UWRF InterVarsity chapter Richard Kathan said. “It will hopefully develop a conversation exchange between students and faculty.”

Everyone is welcome to attend the InterVarsity meetings, which are held every Thursday in the North Hall auditorium starting at 7:30 p.m.

Speech department anticipates name change

Leah Danley
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The department of Speech Communications and Theatre Arts (SCTA) has decided, as a whole, they would like to change the name of the department to better suit the needs of students and other individuals. The name would change to Communication Studies and Theatre Arts.

“It will reflect what we are really doing in our department,” SCTA Chair Robin Murray said.

The department will have a new beginning and will be better able to help the needs of students to focus on what they are really doing with their education.

“It will make it easier with some of the misconceptions that

people have with the department,” speech professor James Pratt said.

SCTA has dealt with people who think the main reason they are there is to teach people public speaking, which, in most cases, is not true. The department is more than just speeches and public speaking.

With the name change professors and advisors will be able to turn the emphasis from speech communications to communication studies. With the name being changed to studies rather than speech, only people will not focus so much on the one thing that might be involved in the department. It is not the only thing they do in the department.

“I am glad they are changing the name,” freshman Heidi Neibert said. “I am taking a few

classes that have nothing to do with speech at all.”

The changes are something professors in the department have been looking for.

“Everyone in the department is pretty excited with the change,” Murray said.

The change will allow professors and advisors to break things down into smaller categories. They will also be able to do a tracking system with it.

“I think we have all had the name change idea in the back of our heads,” Murray said.

It was a unanimous vote when the idea was being kicked around.

The tracking system will entail having three main categories: theatre, communication studies and mass communications. Because there are a variety of

classes that are not all speech-based, the name change makes sense. With all the changes within the department, it will allow students a better opportunity for education.

“It is going to reflect the field and where it’s going,” speech professor Jennifer Willis-Rivera said.

With the new changes to the department there will also be a couple classes added to the curriculum.

“There are many hoops that we have to jump through in order to get everything approved,” Murray said.

The department has gone through one hoop already and is planning to meet with another

See Speech, page 3

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

Beth Dickman
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- Feb. 9**
- Bryan Derheim, 20, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Hathorn Hall.
 - Nathan Burris, 19, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Johnson Hall.
- Feb. 10**
- Alexander VanRoy was fined \$375 for second offense underage consumption in May Hall.
- Feb. 11**
- Kelsey Swokowski, 19, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.
 - Michael Low, 19, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Stratton Hall.
 - Kathleen Wright, 19, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Hathorn Hall.
- Feb. 16**
- At approximately 12:40 a.m., River Falls Police responded to a

- noise complaint on West Cascade Avenue. Christopher Plummer, 20, was fined \$109 for loud and unnecessary noise.
- Feb. 17**
- Martin Patzke, 20, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Johnson Hall.
- Feb. 18**
- Jorden Rickard, 18, was arrested for shoplifting from the Holiday Station on South Main Street around 1:15 a.m. The item taken was valued at \$0.79. He was fined \$172.
 - Eric Anderson, 19, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
 - Steven Ryan, 19, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
 - Joshua Maldonado, 20, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
 - Ryan Wermerskirchen, 20, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Prucha Hall.
 - Kelsey Myers, 20, was fined \$375 for second offense underage consumption in Prucha Hall.

Admissions: Ethnicity secondary for admission

from page 1

“Academic performance will top anything else in the admission of applicants,” Tuchenhagen said. “Race may play a role if an applicant falls in the middle of meeting standards, but it is really a secondary way though.”

The debate over whether to consider race in the admissions process has been going on for two years, he said.

“There are people out there who don’t want race mentioned on applications at all,” Tuchenhagen said. “In Gratz v. Bollinger, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of having race on college applications.”

The case involved a student who sued the University of Michigan on grounds that the University’s consideration of race and ethnicity in its undergraduate admissions decisions violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, according to the Duke Law Web site.

“Academic performance will top anything else in the admission of applicants. Race may play a role if an applicant falls in the middle of meeting standards, but it is really a secondary way ...”

Alan Tuchenhagen,
associate vice chancellor
for enrollment services

The Supreme Court ruled the university could consider race and ethnicity in its undergraduate admissions process as long as it was part of a comprehensive file, Tuchenhagen said.

“In other words, race cannot be a single factor,” he said. “It can be, however, one of many factors.”

SWEA: Program assists students applying for education positions

from page 1

2004-05 for elementary positions” in the state of Wisconsin, Danczak said.

The organization also offers online mini resumes for members where they can put in their qualifications, and employers can search for someone who meets their requirements.

In addition to the assistance this program gives to education students, it also gives back to the education community. Every year in the spring, SWEA conducts their “Outreach to Teach” program, where students go to a school that is short on funding and helps by providing services and maintenance the school is unable to afford.



Screen Shot
The SWEA Web site offers online resources to students looking for employment in the education workforce.

Reciprocity: Agreement allows tuition to be affordable

from page 1

tuition affordable for students in both states since 1968. Last year, about 12,000 students from Wisconsin came to Minnesota for college, while about 14,000 from Minnesota headed east.

Wisconsin residents attending the U of M-Twin Cities, pay \$8,219 a year, \$1,191 less than the tuition paid by Minnesota residents. On the U of M-Morris campus, Wisconsin residents pay \$7,592, \$2,720 less than students from Minnesota.

Wisconsin State Senator Sheila Harsdorf said the fact that Minnesota is threatening to end the program is short-sighted.

“Ending the program would not only limit access, but students of both states would be faced with thousands of dollars in higher education costs,” Harsdorf said.

Harsdorf said it is important to note that Minnesota is getting compensated for the difference in tuition levels.

“What does not make sense is for Wisconsin to be strong-armed into raising tuition for our residents or penalized for keeping ours lower,” she said.

The states compensate each other for costs connected to the deal. However, that money goes to

“Ending the program would not only limit access, but students of both states would be faced with thousands of dollars in higher education costs.”

Sheila Harsdorf,
Wisconsin senator

the state’s general fund, not directly to the universities. Last year, Wisconsin’s compensation totaled \$6.5 million.

Wisconsin officials said they are not the ones to blame for the tuition skyrocketing in Minnesota, while Wisconsin rates stayed in check. Six years of U of M tuition hikes caused Wisconsin students at the Twin Cities campus to pay \$1,200 a year less in tuition than Minnesota residents.

The bottom line is the current deal costs them more than \$6 million a year in lost tuition, according to U of M officials.

Officials from both states plan to meet by the end of February to further discuss the agreement.

e-CHUG: Survey provides educational mechanism, awareness

from page 1

use.”

However, the program has expanded campus-wide and is now advertised on posters throughout campus, encouraging any and all students to try it out.

Every three years, the American College Health Association conducts the National College Health Assessment on campuses in the UW System. Students are randomly selected to answer questions about alcohol and other drug use and the results

“It’s good to get an overall summary, a picture of people on campus. It provides us with a lot of data ...”

Keven Syverson,
health education
coordinator

are later posted for anyone to view.

Syverson said there is a possibility that the generalized data Student Health Services

receives from e-CHUG could eventually be organized into a similar format for interested students, faculty and the public to view.

“It’s good to get an overall summary, a picture of people on campus,” Syverson said. “It provides us with a lot of data that helps us with programming efforts. We think this’ll be a good resource for everyone.”

To take the survey, go to <http://www.uwrf.edu/student-health-service/welcome.htm> and click the e-CHUG link.

Speech: Name change will not affect current classes

from page 2

future.

“We hope to have the name change approved by this summer,” Murray said.

If the name change is accepted, the department will begin to change. The ways in which people are recruited, and the way the department is talked about, will also change. SCTA will also have to change every brochure that is sent out, every folder that is made for students and anything else that might be involved in promoting the program.

Name changes are not very common in departments because it takes so much work to change them. The department was called the Department of Speech, which was changed to the Department of Speech and Theatre Arts.

“We have had one name change before this about 25 years ago,” Pratt said.

“It was changed for two reasons; one was because the Theatre side was not mentioned at all

and was a large part. The other was because there is more than just speech involved, so they changed it to Speech Communications,” Pratt said.

The name change 25 years ago was to go along with the broadening of the field as is the name change today.

“It better reflects who we are as a discipline and a department,” Willis-Rivera said.

The change in name will also allow students to understand what is involved in the department and, with clarifications, it might add some students to the department.

The change in the department name will not affect any classes that are being offered. It has, however, opened the door for a couple more classes to be offered.

The change will allow students to see a better-tracked plan for themselves.

“With the change in the department, it will allow students to be on a more focused path,” Murray said.



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EDITORIAL

Course credits, class timelines need changes

The process of planning a class schedule and registering for classes is a grueling experience for students. Every semester we spend an extraordinary amount of time before registration even begins searching eSIS in order to fit classes into timeslots and fill up the categories in our DARs as quickly as possible.

When registration opens, it is a mad dash for the seniors to fill all the classes pertinent to graduation. Underclassmen try as hard as they can, talking to professors and asking for exceptions in order to get into just one class that already filled up, though it fit just perfectly in their pre-planned schedule.

It never works out the way we expect, and when it does, it feels like there is always something to throw the perfect schedule right back where it started — blank.

Classes are designated a certain number of credits that appropriately matches the workload expectation for that particular class, yet at times, the amount of work doesn’t seem to add up with the credits allotted for a class. The number of credits help determine the hours of in-class time each student spends per semester as well as the number of weeks the class runs for.

Credits and course hours have discrepancies, which are unexplainable to students. For instance, why does a half-credit course that is supposed to run for the first half of the semester overlap with a similar class slated to run for the second half of the semester? Also, why does a two-credit class run for two-thirds making it impossible to take part in another class for the latter part of the term?

Credits, course hours and workloads vary from class to class and department to department. Even though the system is standardized in some way, it is impossible to determine how a student’s grade, participation and ability to simply withstand the class during their current semester compared to last, even though the number of classes and credits are identical. Yet, students are required to do more busywork in other classes than others with the credits and course level being the same

As students, it’s frustrating to see an inconsistency in workload, amount of time spent in a class and credits varying all across the board because courses don’t all run according to a specific pattern, causing, in some cases, classes overlap.

Students are missing, opting out or simply substituting certain courses because that one class needed has an awkward schedule running through only half or two thirds of the semester. The outcome resulting in the frustrations of getting a students semester-load of courses to work perfectly will only result in a loss of education at UW-River Falls.

A much needed look into changing any consistency to course credits, workloads and timelines should be considered and done soon.

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

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS

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

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

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

Speaking out is how things get done

I for one totally agree with Kris Evans’ viewpoint, “Students are selfish, apathetic.” The only way to get things done in life is to stand up and take charge. Some people are afraid to ask questions and state their opinions. I feel this way sometimes, that people will laugh at me. So I force myself to speak, the results are pretty surprising, especially when there are ten other people who feel the same way on an issue. “Oppression can only survive through silence.”

- Carmen de Monteflores

Joshua Woodward
Senior

Rewards for recycling

As some of you know (those who read the student e-mails) and hopefully more now, UW-River Falls is involved in a nationwide competition with other colleges and universities across the United States called Recyclemania. Recyclemania is a friendly contest to see which school has the best recycling program and to promote the importance of recycling. Prizes and awards are given to the top schools. Let’s be one of them! We need the help of everyone on campus, whether you live on or off campus or are faculty and

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

staff members, to help get our numbers up. The contest began in late January and will run to April 7, so we still have many weeks to recycle. If it’s plastic, glass, aluminum, cardboard or paper, think about where you’re throwing out because none of those things belong in the trash. Our first week’s numbers were one pound per person of recyclables and week two was 1.17 pounds per person. Not bad, but we can still do better and keep our numbers going up. For those of you with a competitive streak, UW-Stout is beating us. It’s not too late, though! Get out there and recycle! Remember.... “You recycle, we all win.”

Becky Alexander
Student

Alum thanks hockey fans

I’d like to take a moment to thank the “Hunting Grounds” for traveling to the frigid confines of Dunn County Ice Arena for the last regular season men’s hockey game. You arrived early in face paint and Falcon red, and stayed long after the final whistle to cheer the team to a regular season championship. You blew horns, chanted and did the chicken dance with a friendly and entertaining manner that all ages could enjoy. In a hostile environment you gave a positive image of college students unlike your counterparts.

You didn’t lower yourselves to rudeness, harassing and tasteless chants that some of the Blue Devils fans used at Hunt Arena

and Dunn County Ice Arena. I have traveled to countless Falcons games over the years. There are student sections larger and louder, but few reach your level. You represent what a student section should be, loud and crazy yet respectful and courteous to fellow Falcons fans as well as opposing fans, players and staff. You represent our school, our team and yourselves with a great deal of class. Keep it up! Go Falcons!

T. Juers
UWRF Alum

Viewpoints have led to revolutions in the past

The words “Opinions don’t matter,” graced the Letters to the Editor section of the Student Voice last week. Out of fear that these words may have been taken to heart by anyone, I am compelled to respond. While all are entitled to speak, I would concede that one with an uninformed, backless opinion is relatively powerless. The power, however, of one informed voice to inspire and make change should never be doubted. Even unpopular opinions, when appropriately stated, have the power to become widely held beliefs. Unpopular opinions face much resistance but are often among the most grave. If opinions are pointless and powerless to change the world than to accurately reflect this truth, we must rewrite history.

Teachers should be paid on performance

The key to student success in America’s schools is motivated and well-paid teachers. If students are to compete in a world market, schools are going to need well educated, certified, well-paid teachers who are paid according to market principles.

Teachers are not as valued as they should be in modern day America. They work long hours, spend their nights grading papers, invest themselves in the success of the students and endure micromanagement from administration, state officials and parents.

It is because of these things that a teacher should get paid more. Nobody going into teaching does it for the money, but having a system of performance-based pay would increase motivation and quality in the teaching profession. In Barack Obama’s book, “The Audacity of Hope,” he says there is no reason why a teacher shouldn’t make \$100,000 a year, but for a teacher to make that kind of bank, they need to be producing results.

Teacher unions have been long apposed to such legislation based on principle and poor implementation. Many union leaders are afraid that this creates inequality in the

profession or slight some of pay increases. Teachers shouldn’t be denied pay increases, but let’s be honest, all teachers are not created equal, so why should we pay them the same?

Frankly, the implementation of such plans across the country is long overdue. It isn’t the stodgy posturing of the teachers unions that is keeping it from happening. Instead, it is because of state governments that aren’t willing to really invest in the infrastructure that such a plan requires. Most of the problem with the bills is implementation. Jeb Bush, the former governor of Florida, tried to apply such a plan, but failed to find a compromise that would benefit the teaching profession and, ultimately, the students. In his plan, only 25 percent of teachers would be rewarded a 5 percent bonus based on good performance. Every other teacher would be left out, getting nothing.

The biggest problem with these plans is the methods for assessing teacher performance, most of which center around test scores. Under this plan, a teacher who is motivated to get a raise would teach only

what was on the test. If they teach to the test, their students will be “doin’ good.” But this isn’t the case; teaching to the test undermines real education by limiting content. Let me ask you, have standardized tests been the defining part of your education?

A more realistic plan would be one that evaluates lesson plans, student involvement, differentiation in curriculum, test scores, test performance increases, classroom management and quality of instruction. It’s a complex profession, so why should performance be based on one thing? A student might score 65 percent, but if that score is up form 35% percent, the teacher deserves monetary rewards for the evident effort they are making.

Some say that the Market system doesn’t belong in the school, but I disagree. With the proper implementation and the proper investment, plans like this could do a lot to improve education. We’ve all had teachers who just don’t care anymore. Investing in quality teachers who are motivated is an investment worth making, inasmuch as by improving classrooms and quality of education, we are investing in the greatest natural resources this country has: the will of it’s workers for higher productivity and the minds of young people.

Common courtesy is absent

In the fifth week of the semester, most students are nervous or cramming for midterms and, if you are like me, sick to death of the dreary winter weather.

While this combination among other stressors can cause a person to have an underlying feeling of frustration as they go about their daily lives, I think it is important to provide a reminder about being kind to one another.

Now, I have to admit, most of this column idea came to me after being royally chewed out while I was working by a customer for something I had no control over. (I am sure anyone who works in customer service can appreciate this situation.)

After this unpleasant experience, I thought it would be a good idea to make a point to notice the way people treat each other.

In all honesty, I was shocked by what I saw. In general, people are quite rude to one another on a day-to-day basis. Why is this? Doesn’t it seem strange that the simple act of holding a door for someone is something that a person rarely sees?

According to the Web site, www.rudebusters.com, which obviously has a lot to say about this topic, the problem of rudeness is one that is plaguing America. The Web site features the words of former American Psychological Dr. Frank Farley, who has this to say about the state of kind-

ness in our country: “What’s going on? We’re rude and we’re mean: there’s road rage, air rage, cell phone rage, checkout rage, bike rage, sports rage, parking rage, rail rage, bank rage, roller rage, boat rage, desk rage, car alarm rage and drivers who even honk at people on crutches. And according to one expert, there’s also funeral rage - people actually flip the bird and cut off funeral processions.”

Although what he has to say may seem shocking, the sad part is that it is true. While this problem is widespread, it can be applied to UW-River Falls. Unfortunately, I can say that I have seen too many instances of students being rude on campus.

Think about how many times custodians have been ignored when they clean a blackboard before class begins - is it that hard to say hello? Another instance of our localized rudeness epidemic is when people brush past the clerks at the University Center when they are buying something to eat. In the countless times I have been in the checkout line, I rarely see students at least attempt to make conversation with the clerk who tells

them to have a good day or stay warm. Why is returning the favor of a kind message so difficult?

Don’t get me wrong, I am not always a beacon of kindness and I understand people have bad days but, that is no excuse for being rude to a person even in the smallest ways of not holding a door for someone or talking on your cell phone so loud in the library that the people studying around you cannot focus.

While the threat of midterms can cause stress, there is no need to take it out on the people around you. Without trying to sound too preachy, if everyone tried to do something nice every day, maybe our problem of rudeness could be helped.

Even at UWRF, kindness could increase with small changes, such as if drivers with permits would park on their side of the street

instead of grabbing a spot from the side of the road open for all commuters, or if those who leave their garbage where they were sitting in the University Center, for someone else to pick up, had a revelation and found a trash can.

Small acts like this will not change the world but, it would make it a more pleasant and kind place to be.

Student Voice is your paper, put your voice in it:

write a letter to the editor

Childhood favorite comes to life in ‘Bridge to Terabithia’



A.J. Hakari

When I first heard about “Bridge to Terabithia,” my curiosity wasn’t all that piqued. On top of being yet another cinematic tale of fantasy for the kiddies, this is the latest production from Walden Media, who’ve apparently decided to adapt every children’s book that enjoyed the most remote hint of popularity into a flick.

Having read the novel in middle school (not remembering the slightest bit of it), I held out for a little hope that “Bridge to Terabithia” would help revitalize the dying live-action family movie genre. Alas, with an unspectacular sense of imagination and tired story, “Bridge to Terabithia” merely joins the rank of the other mediocre attempts of its kind on the market.

Josh Hutcherson plays Jesse, a grade school kid whose escape from a world of bullies and troubles at home is through sketching a number of imaginative creations.

One day, he finds a kindred spirit in the form of Leslie (AnnaSophia Robb), a new girl with an equally bright mind and a knack for writing. These kids become fast friends and, after learning they live next door to each other, head deep into the wilderness to let their imaginations run wild. They eventually form their own private kingdom called Terabithia, a land populated with monstrous trolls, insect warriors and the mysterious “Dark Master.”

Through their adventures in Terabithia, Jesse and Leslie learn to handle problems in the real world, although a tragedy occurs that threatens to destroy their creation forever.

In the pantheon of recent fantasy flicks, “Bridge to Terabithia” doesn’t have an angle to its name.

It goes without saying that a movie doesn’t necessarily need a gimmick to be good, but an intriguing hook to lure viewers in and keep them interested would be nice. “Bridge to Terabithia” stakes out territory other films of its kind have treaded over various times before. What it brings to the table are some ruminations on faith and spirituality, but Disney and Walden Media already played the religious card (and much better, at that) with the first “Chronicles of Narnia” movie.

Instead of coming across as thought-provoking, these out-of-place moments make “Bridge to Terabithia” almost grind to a halt, and the story’s dramatic turning point seems to come out of nowhere. In the meantime, it rehashes all those elements familiar to kiddie movies (tormenting bullies, jaded parents, etc.), becoming more like a checklist than an actual movie.

The special effects are decent, the leading kids give alright performances.

The message of “Bridge to Terabithia” is earnest enough to tap into your imagination, which alone makes it better than a good chunk of the pandering crap Hollywood calls “family entertainment.” The storytelling approach, though, leaves a lot to be desired.

It’s ironic how a flick that’s all about enriching one’s imagination comes across as fairly unimaginative.



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.



Teresa Aviles

When mention of the new children’s fantasy film, “Bridge to Terabithia,” was made, responses were similar: ‘Oh yeah! I read that book, like, in the sixth grade ... I don’t remember it though.’ Regardless of popular belief, just because the book wasn’t memorable doesn’t mean the movie won’t be great.

The story begins with fifth-grader Jess Aarons (Josh Hutcherson), a poor farm-boy who gets picked on by the eighth-grade bullies who dominate the school. Jess finally makes a friend, Leslie Burke (AnnaSophia Robb), who shares the same unfortunate social trait. Jess and Leslie become close friends as they stumble upon an abandoned tree house, which results in an imaginary territory of their own called “Terabithia.”

The two characters took me away from the mundane college life to a past childhood that I remember better than any book I might have read then. The similarities were amazing, from the house in the sticks to the abandoned car in the woods. From my best-friend-who-happens-to-be-a-boy next door to the getting back at the jerks who made you pay for things that should be free during recess, the flashbacks on the big screen were uncanny.

As soon as Zooey Deschanel, who plays the music teacher, walked into view, the eyes of Jess and mine were focused only on her. I may not be the only one who can share Jess’ crush

on the music teacher. Deschanel was delightful as always in this movie, even when she pulled the strange teacher-student relationship move and took Jess on a private field trip on a Saturday.

Robb does an excellent job playing the inspiring, individualistic young fifth-grader. She has a creative way of portraying the “new kid” along with making herself look unique, not only in her character but as a young actress. Her confidence stands out compared to the likes of Dakota Fanning and Kristen Stewart.

The movie generates a large fantasy/adventure theme upon viewing but the majority of the film is a growing friendship and playful childhood activities. Their adventures come sporadically, but accordingly, as do the brief fantasy bits which include, but are not limited to, a mountainous landscape, a giant troll and a kingdom of Terabithians.

The characters, Jess and Leslie, are probably the most beautiful children I have ever seen. It is too bad they are fictional because, regardless of the age difference, those are the kind of people I would want to be friends with. Their love for life and strength for hope are what drives the audience to fall in love with them so easily.

When tragedy strikes the pair, tears of the audience in the dark theater were all too apparent, keeping in mind that what might be cheesy to an older audience might be quite dramatic and powerful for children of elementary levels.

Lessons are learned in “Bridge to Terabithia,” like, it’s okay to be friends with the opposite sex; creativity stems from a vivid imagination; and not having a TV doesn’t make you weird.

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. She enjoys dark comedies and documentaries.



Submitted Photo

Anberlin’s newest album, “Cities” fell short of expectations, falling sort of musical talent.

Anberlin’s new album falls short



Jenna Lee

like you can’t stop talking about it. It’s incredibly more difficult to write about something that is mediocre.

I was really excited to hear more from Anberlin after I was first introduced to them via mixed tape, but their latest album “Cities” is just another CD that I will put on my iPod, only to skip over it when I shuffle through my songs.

Like most indie bands, Anberlin’s lyrical ability far surpasses the musical talent. For all my readers who are suckers for boys who play instruments and wear tight pants and chucks, “Inevitable” is a perfect song.

When I hear lead singer Stephen Christian’s breathy voice sing, “I want to be your last first kiss for all time,” even I start to daydream that he’s singing it to me while I stand in the front row and then our eyes lock.

But as much as I love to daydream about sexy, yet sensitive men, they can only hold my attention for so long (SO long) before I get sick of holding them when they cry. The same goes for

their music—I just can’t listen to an entire album of desperate heartfelt fluff.

To the band’s credit, I think *Cities* is a misguided commercial attempt to break into a popular scene and make a quick buck before the next cool thing hits. All the songs are radio friendly—not too long or complicated and you can sing the chorus while still feeling “edgy” because, I guess (technically), Anberlin is still considered indie. The only problem is that Anberlin came too late.

This formula would have worked great a year or two ago, but pop radio is already congested and clogged by these groups that fell off the emo band wagon. Even “There is No Mathematics to Love and Loss,” which is one of the better songs on the album, couldn’t excite me. When I heard the synth mixed into the voice and guitar I thought to myself, ‘wow, I really liked this song ... when Panic! At the Disco did it.’

Each and every one of these ten songs tries to be its own single, as if Anberlin thinks the chances will be ten times better to finally reach a TRL level of success — and if that is really how one measures musical achievement, this band has an even bigger issue. But the immediate problems with *Cities* are obvious. All the hooks rhythms and lyrics sound the same because they’re all trying to sound good enough to be on “the top 8 at 8.” That will probably impress bigger record companies, but not me.

Listening to this whole album in one sitting is like listening to a 45-minute whine fest while getting your teeth cleaned and wearing wet socks — horrible yet tolerable.

LETTERDOKU

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Medium difficulty

Jennie Oemig/Student Voice

Rules for Letterdoku: Fill all of the empty squares so that the letters A to I appear once in each row, column and 3 x 3 box. Solution appears on page 8.

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Falcons cut down Foresters in first round

UWRF to host the ‘miracle’ Saints in semifinals

Paul Winkels
paul.winkels@uwrf.edu

Just 13 seconds into the game on Friday night, the Lake Forest Foresters early goal had Falcons fans wondering if they’d be facing the same first-round heartbreak experienced last year. The remaining 1:59:47 in the weekend series against Lake Forest showed that this Falcons team isn’t the same one that barely managed a tie versus the Foresters in January.

The Falcons scored 11 unanswered goals during the weekend, cruising to victories on Friday night, 4-1, and on Saturday night, 7-1. The Falcons were especially stifling on Saturday, outshooting the Foresters 59-16, including the lopsided shots advantage of 32-3 in a three-goal second period.

“We knew we had to come out with everything this weekend. That’s what our team can do,” Falcons defenseman Jim Jensen said. “We have so many talented players. When we come out guns flaring, we put up points like that.”

On Friday night, Falcons captain TJ Dahl showed everyone why he was named the NCHA Player of the Year. He scored once and added three assists, figuring in on each of the Falcons’ goals. He now stands at 40 assists on the year and is averaging a fraction under two points per game.

The weekend got off to a rough start for the Falcons. The opening face-off was controlled by the Foresters, who quickly moved the puck into the slot in the Falcons zone and team captain Tyler Canal scored on a point-blank shot.

“It’s something you don’t want to give up at the beginning of a game, especially in your own barn,” Falcons forward Dustin Norman said. “But I think the team just settled down and went back to playing hockey the way we always play.”

The Falcons tied the game with a power-play goal at 8:36 in the first period, when Dahl scored on a backhand shot that goaltender Scott Campbell couldn’t knock down.

Pat Borgestad’s power-play goal 50 seconds into the second period proved to be the game-winner.

Derek Hansberry scored his team-leading 21st goal of the year in the second period, and Borgestad netted his second goal of the game in the third.

Saturday night’s game was a lopsided affair. The Falcons looked overmatched against the Foresters, taking the 7-0 lead before giving up a late goal. UWRF defenseman Jensen scored on a power play 6:34 into the first period to give the Falcons the early advantage.

Mitch Kerns added his sixth goal of the season on a setup by Lance Malark and Jordan McIntyre to put the Falcons up 2-0.

The Falcons were on the power play late in the first period when Norman got the puck at the left face-off circle. He had a little trouble controlling the pass from Jim Henkemeyer. With time winding down, Norman didn’t have enough time to line up the slap shot, so he snapped a wrist shot that got by Campbell with 0.2 seconds left on the clock in the period.

The Falcons led 3-0 after the first and continued their dominance in the second period, adding three more goals to the total. In the period, Lance Malark scored his first goal as a Falcon, and seniors Tyler Kostiuk and Jared Sailer added a goal a piece to put the Falcons up 6-0.

In the third period, Norman scored his second goal of the game to put the Falcons up 7-0. Mike Kneeland added a goal for the Foresters at the 15:45 mark, but it was much too little and far too late.

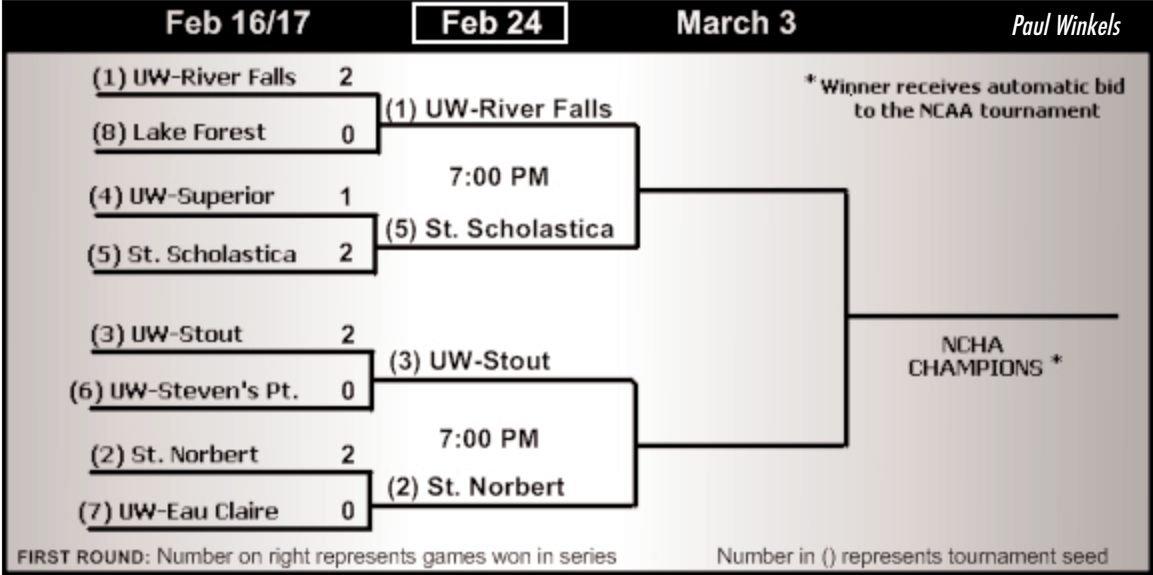
“I think the offense all started in the defensive zone, just breaking the puck out and getting it out smoothly and into their zone, overworking their d-men,” Norman said.

The Falcons power play play had its second consecutive impressive weekend, going 5 for 15 in the two



Jennie Demig/Student Voice

Top: Falcon Joe Adams chases down the loose puck after a shot by teammate Cory Baldwin during UWRF’s 7-1 victory on Feb. 17. Below: An updated and corrected bracket of the NCHA playoffs. The dates in the bracket from the previous issue were incorrect.



See Men’s hockey, page 7

Women’s hockey team ends regular season with win against UW-Superior



Niki Paton/Student Voice

Junior Renae Bergh plays the puck behind the Falcon’s net during the Feb. 17 game against UW-Superior.

Win puts Falcons ahead in standings

Sarah Packingham
sarah.packingham@uwrf.edu

The women’s hockey team took on visiting UW-Superior with plans of sweeping the Yellowjackets and clinching the regular season title.

However, UW-Superior had a different idea.

In Saturday’s game, the Falcons lost 4-3 after having fought back from a 2-0 deficit. Jenna Scanlon, Jennifer Wallace and Cassie LaBlanc all scored in the loss.

There was no scoring in that game until early into the second period.

“Saturday’s game was a very up and down game,” freshman Stefanie Schmitz said. “We had a good first and third period but in the second we let down and Superior got a couple quick goals. Then, in the third period, we crashed the net and scored two quick goals to

make the score 4-3, but we just couldn’t get another goal.”

Sunday’s game was a different story, however. The Yellowjackets took the early 1-0 lead, but the Falcons fought back to take the 2-1 lead after the first period.

River Falls and Superior added more goals in the second period and finished the period with a 4-2 score.

Sunday’s matchup was the final regular season home game for seniors Wallace and Amber Lindner.

The Falcons finished the regular season with a record of 14-7-4 and a 9-4-2 conference record.

Throughout the season, Lindner said she thought the Falcons improved greatly.

“We have played very well throughout the season. Sunday’s game showed that we have come a long way,” she said. “Our backs were up against the wall and we came out and had a great game.”

The Falcons are currently sitting on a two-

point lead over UW-Superior in the standings. Superior plays conference foe Lake Forest Friday and Saturday, and the pairings for the playoffs will be determined after this weekend’s matchups.

“The hardest part of the season, I think, has been our small roster,” Wallace said. “Some of the intense games can get really tiring. I also think it has helped our team chemistry to become close and really got us moving the puck. We want to get the puck up the ice and we have been passing a lot more.”

The NCHA playoffs are scheduled to take place March 2-4.

“The best moment of the season was when we played Superior at their rink,” Kelly Jensen said. “We took a timeout and our head coach Joe Cranston told us ‘This is your game, this is your season.’ From that moment forward we have played as though it is our season. We all believe in one another and want to hang a banner so badly.”

Men’s lacrosse team makes the most of their opportunity against Stout at the Xcel Energy Center

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Playing in a professional arena under a different set of rules did not deter the UW-River Falls men’s lacrosse club team from defeating rival UW-Stout on Sunday.

The 14-7 exhibition victory at the Xcel Energy Center may not count in the standings, but was a huge stepping stone for the Falcons’ confidence and the team’s hopes in bulking up their fan base.

“This definitely segues us into a high intensity fast-paced season with an optimistic outlook,” team president Blake Ashley said.

The Feb. 18 game was played immediately following the Minnesota Swarm’s 17-14 victory over the New York Titans.

“It was just so fun to get out here and get a little taste of what the Swarm gets,” defender Matt Ginter said.

The playing dimensions, goal sizes and number of players in action in indoor lacrosse differ greatly from what both UWRF and Stout were used to. Typically the teams play on soccer fields, which are more than 300 feet by 180 feet with 10 players to a side. Indoor lacrosse at the Xcel is played on a field the size of a hockey rink, about 200 feet by 85 feet. With smaller dimensions the speed of the game and scoring opportunities are increased.

In outdoor lacrosse there are ten players on each side, three defenseman, three midfielders, three attackers and a goaltender. In the indoor game there are five players and a goaltender on the field at a time.

The changes lead to a much quicker and chaotic game with increased scoring chances.

“Outside, more [off the ball movement] can go on,” goaltender and team captain Ben Wilson said. “Inside, you have twice as many open passes.”

The Falcons came into the game looking to strike early, but the Blue Devils got on the board first when captain Noah Hall scored two minutes into the game. Hall would end up scoring three goals. “He’s an offensive genius,” Wilson said.

Hall coached Falcons attacker and co-captain Matt Ribar in high school. It was Ribar who coined the term ‘offensive genius’ when referring to Hall, Wilson said.

The game remained 1-0 in favor of Stout for the next seven min-

utes until the Falcons capitalized on a determined offensive possession. Moments after attacker Trask Reed just missed on a great scoring opportunity Ginter tied the game with a shot from the point with 10:55 to go in the first quarter. His goal sparked a run that saw the Falcons outscore the Blue Devils 7-1 over next quarter and a half of play. Ginter scored two goals during the run, which helped the tone.

“I’m a defensive player, so if I can score two goals early it pumps the other guys up,” Ginter said.

The early scoring run was capped off with a goal by defenseman Joe Huettl on a feed from Reed with three and a half minutes to go in the first half.

Stout didn’t go down quietly, scoring two goals in the last two minutes of the half including Hall’s second of the game to cut the lead to 7-4.



Niki Paton/Student Voice

Falcons captain and goalie Ben Wilson looks to pass the ball downfield to teammate Eric Kopras during the team’s game at the Xcel Energy Center on Feb. 18. UWRF won the game 14-7.

Things got chippy right before the half as a melee broke out in front of the UWRF bench, involving several members of both teams. Even though the two teams are rivals, Hall didn’t like what he saw from his team.

“I got infuriated,” he said. “I had to discipline them.” By discipline, Hall meant giving his team a Bobby Knight-style, profanity-laced, tongue lashing, he said.

The start of the second half of play saw both teams tentatively come out of the locker room.

Then Ribar broke a five and a half minute scoreless streak after a pass from Huettl set up a breakaway attempt. Ribar put a shoulder fake on Stout goalie Mike Zemanovik en route to scoring his second goal of the game.

“It put a little damper on their [two goal] streak,” Ribar said.

Besides putting an end to Stout’s two-goal run, Ribar’s score also sparked another Falcons run that saw them outscore Stout 5-1 during the third quarter. That run was capped off by midfielder Adam Becker’s goal with 1:17 to go in the quarter, which gave the Falcons a 12-5 lead. Hall scored the only goal of the third period for the Blue Devils.

The fourth quarter saw each team score two goals, the final one was scored by UWRF defender Nate Jacobson with 1:49 left in the game.

Wilson’s play was vital to the Falcons victory. His aggressive style of play made him stand out throughout the game.

“When I play aggressively, it’s like having another defender,” Wilson said. “When it’s one-on-one, I’m too assertive to let them rip a shot on me.”

Wilson, who has played offense before, said he is also looking for the team to spark the offense by charging downfield and looking to make long outlet passes to set up scoring chances.

“The ball can move faster than people can run,” Wilson said. “I like to take advantage of that.”

Even though Wilson’s play stood out, the Falcons victory was a true team effort as 12 different players scored goals for River Falls.

The final totals for shots on goal were 32 for the Falcons and 28 for Stout. Wilson made 21 saves for UWRF and Stout goalie Mike Zemanovik had 18 stops.

The Falcons begin play in the Great Lakes Lacrosse Conference on March 31.

SPORTS WRAP

Women’s basketball wins at Stevens Point

River Falls had five players score in double digits during Monday’s 76-69 victory at Stevens Point in the first round of the WIAC playoffs. Traci Reimann led the Falcons in scoring with 19 and she pulled down eight rebounds. Kim Sorenson put up 12 points and led UWRF with four assists. UW-Stevens Point held the biggest lead of the first half, 19-11, with 10:58 left to play. The Falcons went on an 8-0 run to tie the game with 8:42 to play when Chantele Melgaard hit a jumper. UW-SP then built a seven-point lead, 28-21, with 5:22 to play in the half. The Pointers held their lead until 5:15 remained in the game. The Falcons took the lead, 54-53, when Sorenson hit a jumper. The Falcons went on an 8-0 run to take a 69-63 lead with 4:18 left in the game. UWRF scored the last three points of the game, on a free throw by Sorenson and two free throws by Melgaard to get the win and advance to the semifinals.

Swim team wraps up season

The Falcons closed the 2006-07 swimming and diving season Saturday in the final day of the WIAC Swimming and Diving Championships, hosted by Stevens Point. Ending a three-day conference battle, the Falcons finished in sixth place. The women earned a total of 199.5 team points and the men totaled 175 points after the completion of the last event. Swimming strong relay races throughout the duration of the meet, the women set a fourth place finish in the 400-meter freestyle relay going into the event finals. For the men Matt Banz and Michael Brudzinski produced competitive finishes in the 200-meter breaststroke and 200-meter butterfly preliminaries. Brudzinski swam the 200-meter breaststroke for a tenth place preliminary finish and a tenth place consolation final finish. Banz competed in the 200-meter butterfly to place eleventh during the preliminaries and tenth in the consolation finals in a time of 2:10.39. Banz, Jacob Moe, Dave Johnson and Tyler Ormson ended the day with a sixth place finish in the 400-meter freestyle relay.

Sports Wrap Courtesy of UW-River Falls Sports Information

STANDINGS

Women’s Basketball				Men’s Basketball			
WIAC Standings				WIAC Standings			
UW-Stout(19-5)	12	3		UW-Stevens Point(20-2)	13	1	
UW-Whitewater(17-6)	10	4		UW-Oshkosh(19-4)	11	3	
UW-Eau Claire(16-7)	10	4		UW-Lacrosse(15-7)	10	4	
UW-Stevens Point(16-6)	8	6		UW-Whitewater(15-8)	8	6	
UW-River Falls(14-10)	8	7		UW-Platteville(13-9)	8	6	
UW-Lacrosse(13-10)	7	7		UW-Stout(12-11)	5	10	
UW-Oshkosh(8-13)	4	10		UW-River Falls(10-14)	5	10	
UW-Platteville(9-14)	3	11		UW-Eau Claire(10-13)	3	11	
UW-Superior(8-15)	2	12		UW-Superior(6-17)	1	13	

Women’s Hockey				Men’s Hockey			
NCHA Standings				NCHA Standings			
UW-River Falls(14-7-4)	9	4	2	UW-River Falls(21-4-2)	10	3	1
UW-Superior(16-5-2)	8	3	2	St. Norbert(22-3-2)	10	3	1
Lake Forest(10-5-6)	5	3	5	UW-Stout(21-4-2)	10	3	1
UW-Stevens Point(14-6-2)	6	5	2	UW-Superior(20-6-1)	9	4	1
UW-Eau Claire(12-10-2)	6	7	2	St. Scholastica(14-11-2)	6	7	1
Finlandia(4-17-2)	0	12	1	UW-Stevens Point(7-18-2)	3	10	1
				UW-Eau Claire(9-14-4)	2	9	3
				Lake Forest(3-21-3)	0	11	3

For complete stats check out the UWRF Sports Information Website at www.uwrf.edu/sports

Melgaard hasn’t missed a beat

Senior comes back to help lead team one year after having baby

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Chantele Melgaard surprised many when she stepped back onto the hardwood this season to finish her career as a Falcon. After sitting out last season to give birth to and care for her daughter, Jordan Marie Melgaard-Torrez, she could just as easily have called it a career, but she was determined to play her senior season at UW-River Falls. Melgaard has picked up right where she left off in 2004-05, providing the team with a guard who can both score and be a defensive stopper. This season, Melgaard has played in all 25 games, starting the first 14, and averaging 26.2 minutes per contest. She is averaging 7.1 points, 3.3 rebounds, 2 assists and 1.5 steals and is shooting a career-high 32 percent from the field. She scored a season-high 19 points against Macalester on Dec. 13, in just her eighth game back. Twice she has been named the Falcons Player of the Week. Melgaard has helped guide the Falcons to a 15-10 regular season record, including a 9-7 record in the WIAC. “It’s really exciting to be back,” Melgaard said. “I didn’t realize how much I missed it until I got back on the court.” Only six weeks after she gave birth to Jordan, Melgaard picked up the basketball again and began preparing for a comeback. There aren’t many people out there who would challenge themselves with such a daunting task, but Melgaard’s love for the game is what drove her to finish out her career. “She has basketball through her core as a person,” head coach Cindy Hovet said. Melgaard said she knew it would be a tough journey to get back into playing shape, but she was very focused on getting it done. She is quick to point out that without a strong support system of friends and family, none of this would be possible. She gives a lot of thanks to her boyfriend, Dan Torrez, and her parents, Chip and Dawn, for being there for her. “They show their support by, not just helping with Jordan, but by coming to my games and cheering me on,” Melgaard said. Her teammates, coaches and trainers have



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Chantele Melgaard has played in all 25 games for the Falcons this season after taking a season off to give birth to her daughter, Jordan Marie Melgaard-Torrez.

done their part to be there in times of need as well. Jordan has become quite popular with the team and has been a frequent attendee of the team’s practices and games. “The team is always fighting over who gets to hold her,” Melgaard said. Like her mother, Jordan has grown quite fond of basketball. A smile goes across her face and her eyes light up every time she sees a basketball. “She’s already becoming a gym rat,” Melgaard joked. Hovet said she is also impressed by Jordan’s love of the game. “She’s the only baby I’ve seen whose favorite toy is a basketball,” Hovet added. Melgaard’s return to the court has meant a lot to her teammates and said they are amazed by the amount of determination and perseverance she has shown in the last year. “Words can’t express how happy the team was when we found out she was going to come back this year,” teammate Melanie Preiner said. “I know I definitely feel more comfortable and confident when she is on the court.” Juggling athletics, school and being a mother is no small task, but Melgaard has been able to do just that, even though in the beginning things were not easy. “After spending every day with Jordan this summer, it was frustrating the first couple of

weeks having to leave her,” Melgaard said. Like every mother, Melgaard had to adapt to being without Jordan while she was busy with other things. “It was tough for her early on, but it has been tremendous seeing her grow into being such a great mother,” Hovet said. Melgaard’s teammates know that it is a difficult task to be a student-athlete, but add being a mother into the mix and things become quite a bit more challenging. “It truly is amazing that she can handle being a full-time student, a full-time athlete and a full-time mom,” Preiner said. “The sacrifices that she has made to play on the team again go to show the strong-willed and determined person she is.” Hovet agrees with Preiner’s views of Melgaard. “She is proof that if you want something bad enough it can happen,” Hovet said. In Melgaard’s senior season at Lakeville High School in Minnesota, her team went a perfect 28-0 and won the class 4A state title. That is a tough act to follow, but the hurdles she has jumped and her accomplishments in her collegiate senior season have got to rank right up there. Melgaard said she is graduating this spring with a degree in health and human performance and coaching. She plans on working in a health club as a physical trainer someday.

Falcons men’s basketball season comes to an end in Oshkosh

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The Falcons men’s basketball team saw their season come to an end Tuesday night, losing to UW-Oshkosh 83-65. The quarterfinals of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Tournament matched up sixth seed UW-River Falls with third seed UW-Oshkosh, which is ranked as the seventh best team in the country, according to d3hoops.com. “Oshkosh is good enough to beat anyone in the country,” UWRF head coach Jeff Berkhof said. “Oshkosh could go all the way and win a national championship. One thing they have is senior leadership.” Oshkosh, behind 20 points from senior Jim Capelle, 18 points from 7’1” senior Kerry Gibson, and with 20 points from freshman D.J. Marsh, shot 55 percent from the field in the team’s victory over the Falcons. “The biggest problem was that we didn’t defend,” Berkhof said. River Falls tried a small lineup early, replacing starting center Nate Robertson with 6’2” guard Courtney Davis. Davis scored a game-high 21 points, but neither the small lineup, nor any other

lineup was able to slow down the Oshkosh offense. “I think not talking on defense probably hurt us the most during the game,” freshman guard Jontae Koonkaew said. A polar opposite of Oshkosh, the Falcons had no seniors on the roster this season. With a first-year head coach and a young group of players, UWRF exceeded the expectations of most by finishing the regular season with a 5-11 conference record to finish 6th in the WIAC. The fact that the Falcons will not lose any seniors along with the potential that this team has helped to ease the pain of a season-ending loss for some of the players. “It’s encouraging because we know we kind of get a second shot, which teams never really get,” freshman forward Nate Robertson said. With a strong freshmen class that includes Koonkaew and Robertson, who both started the majority of the games this season, the future could be bright for UWRF. “We got a good base for the future in Jontae and



Courtney Davis

Nate,” Berkhof said. “They can be very good, but they both have things to work on. Everybody needs to work on getting better. I’m going to work on getting better, and we can really make a splash next year.” Even though the Falcons will not lose any seniors this off-season, the players, coaches and athletic director Rick Bowen know that some pieces need to be added for next year. “The success of [Koonkaew and Robertson’s] careers is going to depend upon the type of players that the new coach can surround them with,” Bowen said. One piece of the puzzle that seems to be absent from the current roster is a lot of height. “We need another big guy,” Robertson said. “We need some more size.” Berkhof said he agrees that the team needs to get longer, but that ultimately, the Falcons just need to add some better basketball players. “As enjoyable as the season was for me, we were still 10-16 [overall],” Berkhof said. “I plan on doing a better job next year as coach, because obviously I’ve learned a lot this year and I also



Nate Robertson

think that the players we have need to get better and we have to get some new, better players.” Bowen, who spent the past 20 years coaching the Falcons before this season, said he thinks Berkhof did a good job taking over for him this season. “I was hoping it wasn’t going to be a four or a five win season,” Bowen said. “I’m tickled to death at the fact they won 10 games.” Chancellor Donald Betz ultimately has the responsibility of choosing whether or not to retain Interim Head Coach Jeff Berkhof for next season, but Bowen will be involved in the decision as well. Bowen had no comment as to if Berkhof had an inside track at retaining the position. Koonkaew and Robertson have already came out and supported Berkhof as head coach. “I think we should keep him,” Koonkaew said. “Coach Berkhof is more hip to the younger kids’ game, and he knows what he’s talking about.” Despite exiting early from the WIAC Conference Tournament on Tuesday, Koonkaew said he believes the Falcons have a great chance to win the conference in the very near future. “I think we have to,” Koonkaew said. “I think we have a great opportunity next year, and if not that, we have a great opportunity in the years to come.”



Defenseman Sean Pettinger controls the puck in the River Falls zone during the Falcons 7-1 victory Saturday against the Foresters.

Jennie Demig/Student Voice

Men’s hockey: Falcons set for single elimination battle against St. Scholastica

from page 6

games against Lake Forest. In the last two series, the Falcons went 9 for 22 on the man advantage, a 41 percent conversion rate. “Right now, our power play is clicking pretty good,” Falcons head coach Steve Freeman said. “We put up five power-play goals over the weekend. If you can get your power play playing that well, you’re going to create lots of offense.” The St. Scholastica Saints are up next for the Falcons. The rest of the NHCA tournament is single elimination, so the teams will only play on Saturday, with the winner taking on either Stout or St. Norbert in the finals on March 3. If the Falcons win, they will host the finals. St. Scholastica would have to go on the road because they are the lowest remaining seed. The Saints already have one win to their credit at Hunt Arena this year. On Feb. 3, the Saints beat the Falcons 4-2, handing UWRF one of their only two home losses this season. “We didn’t play to our usual standards as far as our intensity level in that game,” Freeman said. “We gave up some shaky goals, just little scrambles around the net where we made a couple of mistakes. Our intensity level wasn’t there.” Even though the Falcons beat the Saints 4-3 in St. Scholastica earlier this year, it was not a very convincing victory. Borgestad scored with 55 seconds left in the third as the Falcons escaped with the victory. “They basically just outplayed us and outworked us,” Norman said. “It’s going to be a big battle. We’re going to have to come and play as hard as we can.” The Saints enter this weekend riding high coming off an improbable Saturday in which they beat the UW-Superior Yellowjackets for the first time in 52 games. Trailing 3-0 in

the third period, the Saints chipped away at the lead, tying the game with 2:30 left in the period on a goal by Jake Nelson. They got their first lead of the game with 1:23 left in the third on a goal by sophomore Kyle Luschinski. The Saints held on, sending the series to the 20-minute minigame. “A lot of credit goes to our guys. The attitude on our bench throughout the game was very positive,” St. Scholastica head coach Mark Wick said. “They kept pulling and kept plugging along, and they were able to reap the rewards of that.” Another miracle awaited the Saints in the minigame. The Yellowjackets got the early lead, scoring just 30 seconds in to grab the 1-0 lead. They held that lead until the final minute of play, when the officials ruled that a Superior player deliberately knocked the goal off its moorings amidst pressure by St. Scholastica. The Saints were awarded a penalty shot, and after a few dekes by freshman Jordan Chong, he went five-hole on Superior goalie Chad Beiswenger to tie the game. In overtime, Saints freshman Aaron Spotts was the God-send, scoring the game-winner and earning the Saints a spot in the semifinals. Fortunately for the Falcons, the team has the home ice advantage throughout the NCHA tournament, which could help balance out the momentum that the Saints ride in on. “We’re only thinking about Scholastica right now,” Jensen said. “It’s good to know we’ve only got to play three solid periods at Hunt Arena in front of our fans, and we can pull it off.” Coach Freeman said the Falcons may have overlooked the Saints earlier this month, but he expects the team to be prepared for this weekend. “Right now, they’re not going to sneak up on us,” Freeman said. “We’re very serious, and we’re going to be ready to play.”

Presidents Day celebrated with debate

Topics range from the war in Iraq, economy and health care; debate first of its kind at UW-River Falls

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Members of the College Republicans, College Democrats and the Socialist Alternative spoke their minds at the entirely student-organized President’s Day Great Campus Debate on Monday evening in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center.

Two representatives from each of the campus political organizations participated in the debate, which focused on four topics: energy and environment, the economy, the war in Iraq and health care. Representing the College Democrats were Jennifer Jamison and Ben Plunkett; Brett Hoven and Nick Schillingford debated on behalf of the Socialist Alternative and Josh Sandey and Nick Carow represented the College Republicans.

Political science professor Neil Kraus moderated the event.

In opening, Kraus stated that the event possibly be labeled “first annual,” in anticipation that the President’s Day debate become a tradition at UW-River Falls.

“It’s outrageous to see a country that accounts for 28 percent of the [Gross Domestic Product (GDP)] can’t keep people out of poverty.”

Brett Hoven,
member of Socialist Alternative

To begin the debate, each of the political groups presented their opening statements. Plunkett started off the debate by thanking all of those in the audience for attending.

He went on to quote 2008 presidential nominee and current U.S. Senator Barack Obama’s campaign speech. Plunkett said the College Democrats anticipate that the debate will be a catalyst for more political conversation on campus.

“We hope this debate will serve as a starting point for further discussions to better the country,” he said.

In the Socialist introduction, Schillingford explained the 2004 election was the most expensive presidential election in history, and the 2008 election will most likely be even more expensive, with costs in the billions.

Speaking for the Republicans, Sandey forecasted the course he thought the debate would take, basing his analysis on the continuous grumblings of the liberals in the past.

“I expect to hear complaining from the liberal Democrats and Socialists tonight,” he said.

Environment

Beginning the debate, the Socialists posed their views on environmental concerns. Hoven said the environmental problems will continue to worsen as long as big business refuses to respond.

“We need to break free from these two parties that support big business,” he said, adding that subsidies need to be cut.

Hoven also offered up the idea that efficient, affordable public transportation would help in solving some environmental issues.

In response, Carow posed a question. “Did big business or small business build [the University center]?” he asked.

Carow also interjected his opinion on fuel oil and environmentally-friendly vehicles.

“We need to drill for more oil in the United States. Period,” he said. “We also reject the idea that tomorrow we stop driving SUVs and start driving hybrids.”

Carow insisted that the U.S. build more nuclear

“When tax cuts go to the wealthiest 2 percent, that does nothing. I agree wholeheartedly with the Socialist Alternative. Make the accountability rule so companies pay what they’re due to pay.”

Jennifer Jamison,
member of College Democrats

power plants and refine coal development. “We are the Saudi Arabia of coal,” he said.

On behalf of the College Democrats, Plunkett spoke up on the environmental issue.

In agreement with the Republicans, Plunkett said that nuclear energy is one of the cleanest forms of energy and is one option to consider.

“Denial is not just a river in Egypt,” he said, adding that we cannot simply ignore the environmental problems.

Plunkett also said there is need to make low interest loans available to families in order for them to purchase environmentally-friendly appliances.

In a wrap-up of the environment topic, Kraus asked all of the groups whether or not global warming is happening.

“By all means,” Jamison said, basing her answer on scientific proof.

The Socialists were in agreement with the Democrats, while Sandey acknowledged warmer temperatures, but gave no definite answer.

“We don’t know what it is,” Sandey said in reference to the cause of the climatic changes.

Economy

Jamison spoke first on the issue of the economy, stating that statistics can sometimes be irrelevant.

“You can make statistics say whatever you want,” she said.

Jamison also said that the way the economy works, the lower class continues to get poorer.

One solution she posed to the continuous economic problems is to cease spending money in Iraq.

Hoven, speaking for the Socialists, said that CEOs and politicians, not the average American citizens, are among the few who are actually benefiting from the current status of the economy.

He acknowledged the continuing rebuilding efforts in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and said as the economy grows, corporate gain is “going through the roof.”

Hoven then segued into the U.S. poverty levels.

“It is outrageous to see a country that accounts for 28 percent of the [Gross Domestic Product

(GDP)] can’t keep people out of poverty,” Hoven said.

For the Republicans, Sandey insisted the economy is strong.

He said that unemployment rates are at the lowest point when compared with the past four decades.

Sandey also said that with Bush’s tax cuts will come more growth and taxing companies is not the right answer.

“America cannot tax itself to prosperity,” he said.

During the open discussion, Sandey clarified that if companies were taxed, that tax would be passed on to consumers and prices on consumer goods would increase.

Jamison rebutted Sandey’s views on tax cuts.

“When tax cuts go to the wealthiest 2 percent, that does nothing,” she said. “I agree wholeheartedly with the Socialist Alternative. Make the accountability rule so companies pay what they’re due to pay.”

Iraq

The topic of the war in Iraq, for which the most time was allotted for debate and discussion, was intended to be the main focus of the evening.

Starting off the war debate, Plunkett listed off a number of inaccuracies with Bush’s intentions to invade Iraq. Iraqis did not have ties to 9-11 or al-Qaeda and they were not in possession of weapons of mass destruction.

“We are stuck in a quagmire,” he said. “The cure is worse than the disease that ailed us.”

Plunkett made his point clear in his closing statement: “Bring our troops home!”

Schillingford began his argument by stating that both the Republicans and the democrats wanted the war in Iraq at first and the Socialists did not. “Why are we in Iraq?” he asked.

In response to his own question, Schillingford offered up imperialism and corporate interest as reasons.

“We need to create an Iraq in interest of Iraqis, not imperial capitalism,” he said.

Fending off remarks from the liberals, Carow acknowledged that although the Democrats may want change in Iraq, they have no policy for what action to take right now.

“We can win in Iraq, and we will win in Iraq — with patience,” Carow said.

During the open discussion, Hoven reiterated what Plunkett and Schillingford had said about the intentions and miscues of the other two parties.

“Everybody voted for this war to start,” Hoven said. “We all thought [Saddam Hussein] had weapons of mass destruction. We were all wrong.”

Plunkett again insisted the troops be brought home, speaking about the price of the war.

“The longer the troops are in Iraq, the more dollars are squandered and the more lives are lost,” he said. “I’ve had enough!”

Hoven summed up his views on the United States’ meddling in Iraq’s affairs.

“It’s a civil war that cannot be settled by an outside force,” he said.

Plunkett then went on to take an economical standpoint on the events in Iraq in a statement aimed at the Republicans.

“Our business and our economy have suffered because of your war,” he said.

Health care

To finish the debate, the participants voiced their opinions on health care.

Sandey began by asking who we want supporting our health care options.

“I, for one, don’t want to be told which physician I can see,” he said.

Equality in health care availability was also on the Republicans list of necessities.

“[We need to] provide all citizens with the opportunity to buy health care,” Sandey said.

The Democrats insisted that the current health care option needs retuning.

“The new plan does not meet the need to help Americans afford health care,” Jamison said. “It’s

gonna help those who aren’t necessarily as affected.”

Shillingford said that just because we have the most expensive health care plan does not mean that it is the best.

“Half of American bankruptcies are due to the inability to pay health care,” he said, taking his information from a Harvard study.

During the discussion, Jamison pointed out that the money is not properly allocated with the current plan.

The cost of drugs was also a topic of debate.

Plunkett said that 1,300 prescription drugs are available at a lower cost than others, which he didn’t think was enough.

“If someone happens to be rich, they can go and buy other prescriptions, out of their own pocket,” he said.

Kraus then brought up the issue of corporate involvement in health care, to which all parties

“We are stuck in a quagmire. The cure is worse than the disease that ailed us ... Bring our troops home!”

Ben Plunkett,
member of College Democrats

responded.

Jamison questioned the high costs of co-pays.

Carow pointed out that corporations need to have a place in health care due to their ability to help fund medical research, noting the decrease in cancer rates in recent years.

Hoven then acknowledged the Socialist view.

“Health care companies don’t have the interest of the sick at heart,” he said.

In closing, each of the political organizations was allowed to make final statements on the overall view of the issues discussed.

Carow said that the Socialists did not specify a solution to any of the problems. He said he heard a lot of rhetoric instead of solutions and compared their statements to that of Stalin.

Jamison put Americans front and center in her closing statements, questioning how the citizens are being cared for.

“How are we caring for those who cannot care for themselves?” she asked.

“We reject the foreign policy of these groups because they have no foreign policy,” Carow said.

He also shed doubts on the Socialist view that American intervention does not work.

“We’re an optimistic people and our better days are still ahead,” Carow said.

Schillingford spoke on behalf of the Socialist Alternative, closing with the organizations credo: “Troops home now,” he said. “Money for jobs and health care, not war.”

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Hamah Miller Spring 2007

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