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is key note speaker
at undergraduate conference

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Columnist fantasizes
about and plans
for early retirement

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Assistant athletic director,
volleyball coach
anticipates 400th win



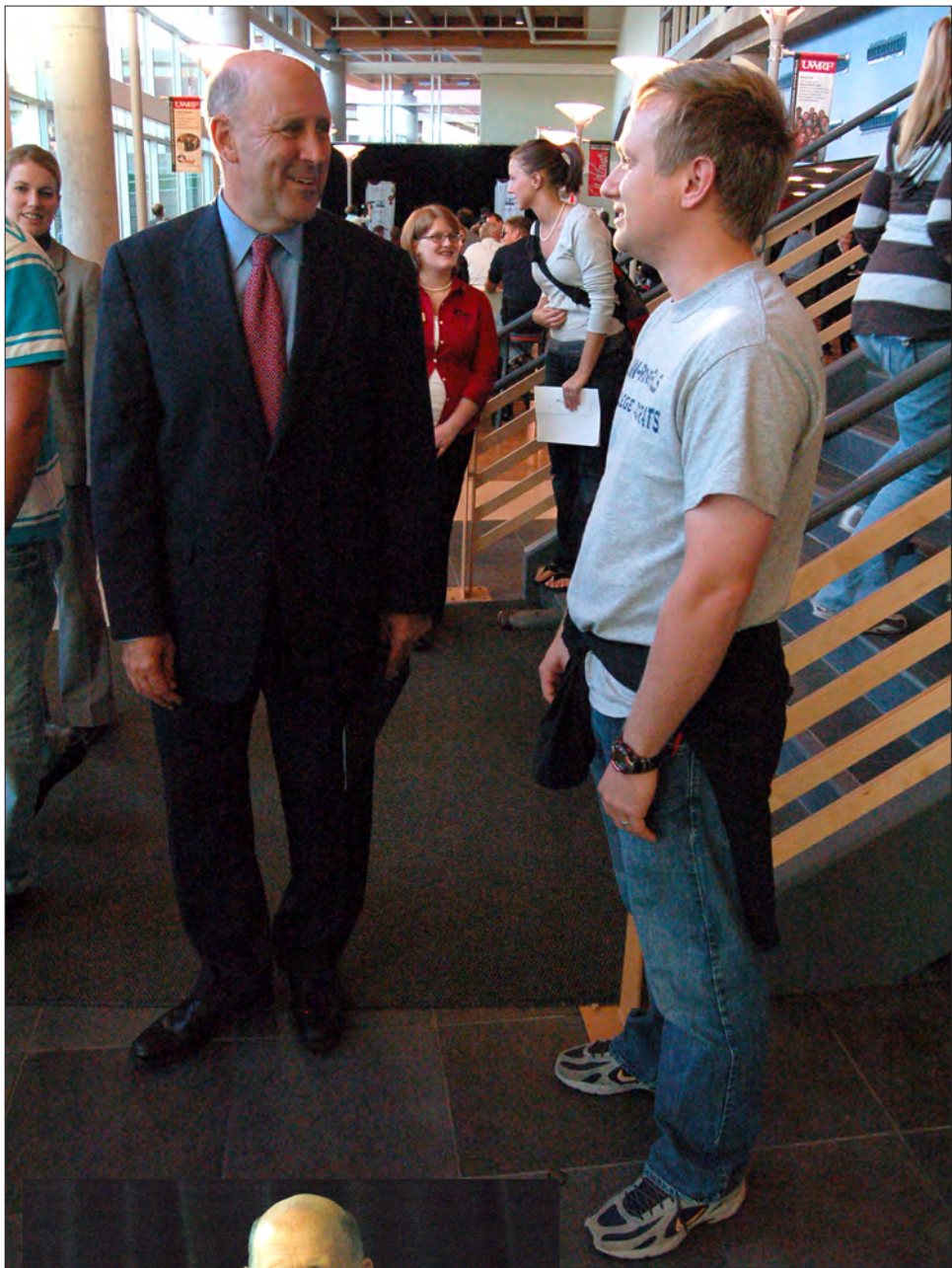
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Doyle visits UWRF



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Above: Governor Doyle speaks with the co-chair of UWRF College Democrats, Nate McNaughton. Doyle visited UWRF for the I-Q Corridor Investors' Symposium. One issue Doyle covered was the unresolved Wisconsin budget.



Alleged assaults cause concern among many UWRF students

Leah Danley
leah.danley@uwrf.edu

A sexual assault that took place on a campus path last year raised the issue of whether or not campus is doing all they can to keep students safe.

The sexual assault that took place last year raised issues for many people. The assault happened to a female student at 11:30 p.m. Nov. 9, 2006. The assault happened by what was said to be a male attacking her from behind, according to UW-River Falls Public Safety Reports.

There was also an apparent alleged assault that happened within the last two weeks. The details of that are not being released at this time.

The paths that many students use on a daily basis run from Ramer Field behind the University and back to South Fork Suites.

The paths that are highly traveled between Ramer Field and the University are well lit, unlike the path that leads behind the University Center to South Fork Suites.

There are call boxes around campus, illuminated with blue lights, to use in case of an emergency situation. When a button is pushed on these devices a signal goes to River Falls police and an officer is notified to check out the situation.

"Most of the time they are being hit by people who are just messing around," River Falls Police officer Eric Van Nocker said.

The call boxes are placed at a visible distance apart, so that when you are standing at one box you can see another one. This was done with the intention of making sure that everyone is safe while walking on campus.

Student Senate has also put in some time in helping keep the paths a safe place to be walking on at all times. Student Senate has allocated \$30,000 of their money to help with the safety of students walking on the paths at any point in time. The money that senate put aside is for call boxes, each one costs approximately \$4,500.

"We want all of our students to be safe,"

Gregg Heinselman, UWRF student affairs employee, said.

The path between the University Center and South Fork Suites does not have any lighting or any call boxes.

"That is why we recommend that everyone walks in groups," Heinselman said. "We do not recommend that anyone walks by themselves after dark anywhere on campus."

The paths are meant for students to use, but mainly for use during the day.

"I would not even want to walk on those paths alone at night," Sgt. Janis Bock said.

The paths, which are used quite frequently, even at night, are dangerous for a number of reasons. There are many animals that live in the woods. Also, there is no telling whether or not there are people hiding, because the woods are so thick.

"We have done a lot of work with the vegetation, cutting it away from the trails," Heinselman said.

Cutting away some of the vegetation surrounding the trail will enhance student's vision of their surroundings while using the path.

"Originally we did not want to put lights on the path that leads to South Fork Suites," Heinselman said. "We want students to stick to the main path and walk in groups."

Student Senate also offers a safety walk-through, which is meant to help inform students about safe procedures when using campus paths and trails. The walkthrough is also meant to make students aware of the possible dangers of walking alone or in groups on campus paths.

"I agree with campus, you want to try to discourage anyone to go through there," officer Van Nocker said.

"I don't use the paths all that often, but I do work at a bar, and it would be nice to know that there were more lights if I did need to walk down those paths when I was coming home from work at 3 in the morning," junior Nici Kunkel said.

See Assaults, page 3

The UW Board of Regents return to UWRF campus

Lee Ann Bjerstedt
lee.bjerstedt@uwrf.edu

For the first time in nearly seven years, the UW System Board of Regents will return to UW-River Falls. The Regents arrived in River Falls on Oct. 3 and have meetings scheduled in the University Center Oct. 4 and 5.

Traditionally, the board meets two times per year at campuses other than UW-Madison. A total of 14 four-year universities means the Regents make it to each campus about once every six or seven years, so it's very exciting each time they return, Board of Regents Vice President Charles Pruitt said.

"We really look forward to learning about what's going on in River Falls," Pruitt said. "That's the top thing for most of us."

The agenda will include items to be discussed by the business and finance committee, education committee, physical planning committee or by the Board as a whole.

The Regents will also have opportunities to learn about River Falls as a campus and a community through other events going on during the two-day meeting. Board members are invited to participate in the joint meeting of the Wisconsin and Minnesota Technology Councils on Wednesday, browse through the International Study Abroad Fair or take a walk through

the Outdoor Art Installations on Thursday and check out a variety of displays in the University Center throughout the duration of their visit.

UWRF will begin the Regent's visit with a campus tour at 8:30 a.m. Oct. 4. Soon after, UWRF will have the chance to present the Regents with a "multi-faceted introduction to River Falls in 2007," Chancellor Don Betz said in an e-mail interview.

This will include the strategic plan, "Living the Promise," which was introduced by Chancellor Betz in February, as well as presentations on sustainability, global literacy and engagement, and building a culture of inclusivity.

Not only will the Regents have an opportunity to review displays of campus activities and projects, but to meet and hear from students as well. Students should be aware that Regents may even approach them while on campus to get their take on things, Betz said.

"It is very likely that the Board members will spontaneously speak to students in the UC and elsewhere on campus," Betz said. "Students shouldn't be surprised when this occurs."

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the Regents being on campus, director of Student Life Programming Vicki Hajewski said during the Sept. 24

"We really look forward to learning about what's going on in River Falls. That's the top thing for most of us."

Charles Pruitt,
Board of Regents Vice
President

See Regents, page 3

Library, computer lab keep doors open late

Phillip Bock
phillip.bock@uwrf.edu

Students will now be able to study long into the night due to a differential tuition initiative that funds longer hours for the Chalmer Davee Library and the College of Business and Economics' computer lab at UW-River Falls.

The library added 15 hours to its schedule to better accommodate students, library director Valerie Malzacher said.

The library is now open until 1 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and open until 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, according to the library Web site.

"I knew we needed extra hours to accommodate students who work during the day," library employee Serena Weber said.

The longer hours only apply to the portion of the building housing the library; the lower level computer

labs are not included in then new hours, according to the Library Web site. A late night visit to the library shows that students are already getting use out of the new hours.

"I like it a lot better because personally, I don't have Internet, and I can come here to do research at night," senior Margo Taylor said. "I'm busy and sometimes I can't get research done during the day."

Library staff have been impressed with the high volume of students using the library's new hours so early in the semester.

"We're really pleased with how many we're seeing in the library," Malzacher said. "We are keeping an hourly tally, and we're seeing 20 to 30 people in the library between midnight and 1:00."

The library is also adding close to 2,000 new scholarly journals to its catalogue, Malzacher said. The new journals include databases from JSTORE and Elsevier and will be

accessible in the library and online via the library's Web site.

"The library is really appreciative that the Student Senate approved the funding for longer library hours and scholarly journals to benefit the students," Malzacher said.

"I'm busy and sometimes I can't get research done during the day."

Margo Taylor,
UWRF student

A 24-hour computer lab is also being made available as a result of the differential tuition initiative. The lab is located in South Hall 221 and will be open weekly from 3 p.m. on Sunday until 4 p.m. on

See Extended hours, page 3

Instructor brings global perspective to campus

Samantha Wenwoi
samantha.wenwoi@uwrf.edu

For Monika Johansson, the seeds were sown early.

As a child, she spent her summer vacations exploring the countries of Western Europe with her family.

During grade school she gained fluency in three languages besides her native German: English, French and Latin.

The foundation was laid for the UW-River Falls instructor of modern languages to develop a strong fascination with cultures different from her own.

In her 29th year at the University, Monika Johansson hopes to inspire students in her beginning French and German courses with the same fervor.

"I enjoy sharing knowledge about other cultures and languages with them, and opening the door to other cultures to my students," she said. "That brings every day enjoyment."

In a world that is becoming increasingly interconnected, foreign language proficiency is a valuable tool to have, Monika Johansson said.

"I try to convey that to my students, that it's a life skill," she said of language fluency. "Sooner or later, they will be able to use what they learn in the classroom in today's world."

Teaching students how to properly conjugate French and German verbs is the fulfillment of a childhood dream for the mother of two.

The Neumunster, Germany, native grew up knowing that she wanted to head her own classroom. A career in university instruction was particularly appealing to her.

"I always wanted to teach college," she said. "I like to discuss current events, literature, history...topics that are



Abby Piette/Student Voice

Monika Johansson, UW-River Falls French and German instructor, shares her cultural experience from Europe with her students.

more for an adult audience."

She entered the University of Freiburg, Germany in 1969 with the intent of earning a bachelor's degree in history and German literature. But fate stepped in when she met American graduate student Peter Johansson at a

See Johansson, page 3

VOICE SHORTS

Geological conference visits UW-River Falls

The 68th Annual Tri-State geological field conference will be held Friday evening through mid-day Sunday and will explore a range of geologic topics spanning Phanerozoic Time, according to the Office of Public Affairs.

Saturday is designated for the observation of several lower-Paleozoic rock units and discuss stratigraphy, weathering and pale-okarst features. An unusual unconformity is cut into one of these units. Participants will also visit an interesting structure present within pre-Wisconsin glacial deposits in a gravel pit. The use of the on-campus stream valley as a hydrogeology-teaching laboratory will be presented. A special car-caravan field trip on Sunday morning will take participants to the Rock Elm Disturbance, a Paleozoic impact structure located southeast of River Falls.

Non-field events will take place in University Center as well.

For more information about attending the conference, contact Sue Freiermuth at (715) 425-3345.

Everyone invited to ribbon-cutting event

At 2:30 p.m. Oct. 12 The College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences invites the University community and the general public to the ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony for the new Dairy Learning Center at the Mann Valley Laboratory Farm. The program will be followed by a reception and tours of the facility.

For more information, contact Carol McClelland, CAFES Dean’s Office at (715) 425-3535.

Smoking ban extended in Minnesota

Smoking in Minnesota is now banned inside nearly all public places. The smoking ban, as of Monday, extends to bars, restaurants, private clubs, public transportation, bingo halls, home offices with one or more employees or that are used exclusively or regularly to meet customers, day care and health care facilities, work vehicles and common areas in hotels.

According to the *Pioneer Press*, in 1975, Minnesota was the first state to pass a law prohibiting smoking in most workplaces, including offices and most public places, but it didn’t ban smoking in bars and restaurants. Now, 16 other states as well as Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C., have passed smoking bans that include bars and restaurants.

Most Minnesota bar patrons say they will continue to smoke and frequent their favorite taverns, even if it just got more difficult to do both at the same time.

Homecoming begins, many events planned

Homecoming week starts Oct. 8. River Falls is gearing up to get their passports stamped at the “Wonders of the World” themed Homecoming Week Oct. 8 thru13.

Team competitions begin on Monday with the first clue of the annual medallion hunt. Clues will be available to prize-seekers Monday thru Thursday at 9 a.m. at the University Center Info Desk. The winner of the hunt will receive \$50. A kickoff party Oct. 8 will be held on the University Center lawn from 3 to 8 p.m. Activities include an inflatable obstacle course, henna tattoos, caricatures and live music by Jester’s Panic and The Blend.

Cyber safety month continues at UWRF

The theme for the second week in October is “Protecting Yourself and Your Computer.” FredNet Services and IT Services will be providing information for students and employees on the following topics: social networking programs (Facebook and MySpace), identity theft, physical computer security and phishing schemes (attempts to scam users into giving out private information).

Look for information online at www.frednet.uwrf.edu/, www.its.uwrf.edu/, and www.uwrf.edu/desire2learn/ and on Channel 24. Also look for fliers at FredNet (basement of East Hathorn Hall), IT Services Helpdesk (basement of Chalmer Davee Library), front desks of residence halls and the University Center.

State of Wisconsin still without a budget

According to the River Falls Journal, Gov. Jim Doyle was in Appleton on Monday where he outlined to a group of senior citizens some of the things that would happen if lawmakers don’t pass a budget. Some of these include a possible \$800 surcharge on students attending the University of Wisconsin if there isn’t a new budget in place by the second semester of the school year. In addition the Department of Corrections would not be able to fund GPS monitoring of child sexual assault offenders.

Doyle says the legislature’s job is to pass a budget, and one week ago both sides were billions apart, but today we have significantly narrowed the differences. On Monday morning Doyle met with his cabinet to make plans and prepare in case a budget is not passed. As governor he has to plan for the consequences if the Legislature continues to fail to pass a budget.

New task force focuses on crisis response

On Friday, one day after Gov. Jim Doyle’s Task Force on Campus Safety met at UW-River Falls, another college shooting made national news, according to the *River Falls Journal*. The setting was Delaware State University. The victims were two teenage college students, male and female. Just 10 days before the state Task Force on Campus Safety assembled at the UWRF University Center, the building was evacuated late at night because of students talking randomly about a bomb going off inside.

River Falls Police Chief Roger Leque was named co-chair of the Task Force on Campus Safety. The task force is made up of a sheriff, police chief, campus public safety director, a student, a parent and other university and technical college officials, which offers a wide range of expertise. A recommendation will likely be that each Wisconsin campus set up a crisis response team that meets on a regular basis. This crisis team would act on complaints and concerns about behavior-related issues that might be troubling around the campus.

Briefs compiled by
Marta Olson

Check out the *Student Voice* on the web at www.uwrfvoice.com.

SENATE

Motion passes, new members join Senate

Lee Ann Bjerstedt
lee.bjerstedt@uwrf.edu

During a meeting Tuesday, Student Senate had many motions on the table including two that brought in new members to join those recently elected, leading to a nearly full Senate and fresh ideas for the new year.

Laura Adrian was appointed as College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences representative, while Jovan Paulzine was appointed as Greek representative, both by a unanimous voice vote.

All committee members are not official until approved by Senate, therefore a motion was passed appointing numerous students to Student Senate, Leadership Development and Programming Board, Facilities and Fees, Faculty Senate and Administration committees, all by a unanimous voice vote.

Nearly all of the winners of the spring elections were present as well, making for a crowded meeting room.

Winners included: Aaron Taylor and Melody Reimer, to the position of senator-at-large; Charles Guerin, Jordan Kocak and Matthew Northway as first year representatives and Joshua Breyer as the College of Business and Economics representative.

While not all of the newly elected representatives were reached in time for comment, several shared their motivations for joining Senate.

At-large senator Aaron Taylor is looking forward to building off of learning experiences he’s gained through his fraternity.

“[I want] to put my skills gained from Theta Chi to use and change things on campus,” Taylor said.

First year representative Matthew Northway said in an e-mail

interview that he hopes to use his position to help freshmen voice their thoughts and opinions about campus.

“This new position will allow me the opportunity to help express [freshmen] needs and desires, so that the entire Senate can work towards making the college careers of new freshmen successful and enjoyable,” Northway said.

Pursuing majors in both economics and finance will allow Josh Breyer to represent the College of Business and Economics accurately while still working toward a variety of goals, Breyer said in an e-mail interview.

“Some of my goals include making it easier for student organizations to access and raise funds, implementing more opportunities for student involvement on a campus-wide scale, which is hard at a commuter campus such as River Falls, and actively seeking feedback from students to promote growth within UWRF that would benefit students above all else.”

Members new and old also had the chance to hear from guest speaker Sarah Egerstrom, director of First Year Experience, before voting on a motion to make a contribution of \$12,000 to support the event.

“We would like to see this event rebuilt as a campus tradition,” Egerstrom said.

The motion to allocate funds to Family Day later passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Two other motions were introduced but will not be voted on until next week’s meeting.

Overall, it was promising to see the meeting room full, President Derek Brandt said.

“Hopefully soon we’ll have a full Senate for the first time in awhile,” Brandt said. “We look forward to working with everyone.”

Creativity takes center stage at conference

Derrick Knutson
derrick.knutson@uwrf.edu

On a blustery, rainy Saturday afternoon, students gathered in the confines of the University Center and shared creative works with peers, professors and parents at UW-River Falls' first all-undergraduate academic conference.

Presentations included works of poetry, prose and critical analysis. The conference took place Sept. 29 in the St. Croix room of the University Center. The conference was sponsored by The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) dean's office, the Department of English, the Office of the Provost, the Literary Society, the Literary Magazine Review, the Chalmer Davee Library, the women's studies program, the Department of Journalism and the Film Studies Program. The official title for the conference was Nature, Artifice and the Self: An Undergraduate Conference for Critical and Creative Engagement.

“We wanted to find a venue - that was the big thing,” Michelle Parkinson, a UWRF Assistant Professor of English said. “Some of the faculty had this idea and when we talked to some of the students in the literary society they seemed really excited about it.”

Parkinson played a major role making this conference a reality, but other professors and students within the English department also helped her.

“I am in the honors program and I needed to come up with an idea for an honors thesis,” Tricia Danner, a senior English major said. “I thought that would be a great way to be involved in the program and to use it for an honors thesis.”

As part of her work for the event, Danner made room reservations, organized speakers into different sessions and made the pamphlet for the event.

Presentations by the students throughout the day differed between somber, introspective pieces, humorous, light-hearted pieces and in-depth critical analysis of other author's works.

“I believe that upon first contact the wilderness will kill me,” Shane Hawley, one of the presenters from UWRF said.

Hawley’s piece was a humorous treatise about how he suffers from a kind of reverse



Abby Piette/Student Voice

Assistant Professor of English Michelle Parkinson speaks at the first UW-River Falls all-undergraduate academic conference, Nature, Artifice and the Self, Sept. 29.

claustrophobia. He would much rather be in the enclosed confines of a city than be subject to the horrors of the wilderness.

“Bears sniff the air for honey, beer and human flesh,” Hawley said.

Some of the other creative works involved analyzing poets like Walt Whitman, commenting on the dichotomy between religion and art, analyzing the effects of war and genocide, and presenting original poetry.

After the 12 students had finished presenting their works, there was a keynote speaker, Masha Hamilton. Hamilton is an award winning author and journalist; she currently has three novels published and she is working on a fourth. Hamilton worked for a number of years for *The Associated Press*, spending five years in the Middle East covering the intefadeh, an organized uprising by Palestinian against

Israelis, and another five in Moscow where she was a correspondent for the Los Angeles Times, according to her Web site. Hamilton also reported for NBC/Mutual Radio during her stay in Moscow. Her three published novels are, *Staircase of a Thousand Steps*, *The Distance Between Us* and *The Camel Bookmobile*. Hamilton gave a presentation that focused mainly her most recent work, *The Camel Bookmobile* in the breezeway of the Chalmer Davee Library Sept. 28, and she gave another presentation at the conference on Saturday.

UWRF English Professor Jennifer Brantley was instrumental in securing Hamilton as the keynote speaker.

“When Dr. Parkinson started talking

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

Editors note: Information for this section is taken from River Falls Police and UW-River Falls Public Safety incident reports.

Nick Sortedahl
nicholas.sortedahl@uwrf.edu

Sept. 24

- Tanner J. Wilson, 18, was fined \$172 for underage consumption at 227 East Elm St.

- Jade R. Miller, 18, was fined \$172 for underage consumption at 227 East Elm St.

Sept. 25

- Nancy J. Paulsen, 54, was fined \$140.50 for failing to yield to a pedestrian on Cascade Avenue.

- Joshua M. Weiss, 26, was fined \$172 for an after hours violation at Coach’s Bar and Grill, 127 South Main St. Weiss was bartending at the time of the violation.

- Michael J. Keown, 25, was fined \$109 for an after hours violation at Coach’s Bar and Grill, 127 South Main St. Keown was a patron at the time of the violation.

- Jacob D. Scheevel, 24, was fined \$109 for an after hours violation at Coach’s Bar and Grill, 127 South Main St. Scheevel was a patron at the time of the violation.

Sept. 26

- Joseph S. Anderson, 22, was fined \$500 for battery and \$300 for resisting arrest after a fight at the Lazy River Bar and Grill, 115

W Walnut St.

Sept. 27

- Damage was reported to a car in E-lot. There were dents in the front and rear passenger side doors.

Sept. 29

- Daniel W. Gilles, 21, was fined \$298 for reckless driving and \$235 for criminal damage to property for driving through the yard of River Falls resident Janet Cudd. Gilles admitted to driving through Cudd’s yard in the early morning hours after he had left the bar.

Sept. 29

- Kristopher D. Berklund, 18, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.

Sept. 30

- Christopher D. Roy, 18, was taken into custody by the River Falls Police Department for possession of drug paraphernalia. Roy, Chauncey Vacek, Michael Timo and Jason Heinrichs were in Roy’s room in McMillan Hall where there was a complaint of the odor of marijuana coming from the room. RFPD confiscated three marijuana pipes, two scales and three bottles of liquor from Roy’s room.

- Daniel J. Yochim, 19, was fined \$249 for underage consumption on Cascade Avenue.

- Blaze R. Fugina, 18, was fined \$249 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.

Assaults: Students question their safety after incidents



UWRF student Kathrine LaPorte walks on the path that runs between the South Fork Suites and Ramer Field.

Abby Piette/Student Voice

from page 1

“I try to avoid walking on those paths even during the day.” With continued growth at UWRF the path that leads behind the University Center to South Fork is being used more than in past years. There has been talk about adding more call boxes for safety measures. The path that leads to South Fork now does not have any call boxes or lights.

“Campus security is always going down those paths, and we patrol them if there is nothing else going on,” Van Nocker said.

This year UWRF added 240 students who will possibly be using those trails. Also, with an addition planned for the South Fork Suites there could be even more people using those paths at night.

“I think that they should be adding more lights to those paths, especially since there will be an addition to the suites,” senior Danny Gilles said.

Some students believe that there is more the University can do to improve the safety and well being of students.

“I think there not only needs to be blue lights [call boxes] added, but I think there should also be at least one camera on the paths just in case you need to go back and find something,” Gilles said.

The cost of each blue light is not the only cost that the University would be paying for.

“Along with the costs of the blue lights, we have to pay for the wiring and all the running of those lights,” Heinselman said.

“That is why we recommend that everyone walks in groups. We do not recommend that anyone walks by themselves after dark anywhere on campus.”

River Falls Police officer,
Eric Van Nocker

The University is now working with Student Senate and reaching out to the UW system to ask for more funding to make the paths a safer place to be. It will cost the University roughly \$200,000 to make the paths safer.

“It’s nice to know that they are at least trying to work with someone for our safety,” freshman Justin Wagner said.

While the best thing that campus can do for now is to warn students to not walk home alone, late at night, by themselves.

Extended hours: Library and computer lab remain open longer

from page 1

Friday, according to a press release from the College of Business and Economics.

“It’s a great opportunity for students who work and take evening courses,” Computer Science Professor Ahmad Abuhejleh said.

The lab will be staffed 24-hours by student employees.

“I think it will be nice when I get really busy with work,” student Jacob Meier said.

The new hours are made possible by a differential tuition initiative that passed spring semester, budget director Kristen Hendrickson said.

Differential tuition is an additional fee added on to undergraduate tuition that funds several new projects across campus. A year-

ly fee of \$72 for full-time undergraduate students has been implemented with part-time students paying a pro-rated amount based on their credit load, Hendrickson said.

“The rate is fixed for four years, so there won’t be any adjustments made to the rate,” she said.

Last semester an oversight committee consisting of staff, faculty and six student representatives passed the initiative to fund various projects across campus, Hendrickson said.

“We’ve asked the library to collect data on how many students are in fact using the extended hours,” she said. “We are going to be keeping track of how many students are coming in during those hours to make sure that the funding is being used appropriately.”



UWRF student Margo Taylor studies on main floor of Chalmer Davee Library at 11:30 p.m. Oct. 3. The library used to close at 11 p.m. on week nights until a differential tuition initiative allowed the library and one of the computer labs to extend their hours.

Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

NEW LIBRARY HOURS

Monday thru Thursday: 7:45 a.m. to 1 a.m.
Friday: 7:45 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday: Noon to 1 a.m.

Regents: The Board visits UWRF for the first time in seven years

from page 1

Student Senate meeting.

“They’re very interested in students and really want to know what your experience is,” Hajewski said. “It’s important to give any help you can give in making this the positive, friendly, personable campus we plan to be.”

Senate president Derek Brandt said the Regents’ “Breakfast with Students” at 7:30 a.m. Oct. 5 will

act as a forum for students to “give input and just say what they want to say without administration looking over their shoulder.” This is something that must be taken advantage of, Brandt said.

“This is the first time they get to see what we’re really about,” Brandt said. “We can’t stress enough how important this is to our institution.”

Although it is only Senate vice president Sara Deick’s first year in student government, she

recently had a chance to meet some of the Board members during student government training this summer. After finding them to be open to student input, she urges any and all students to make contact with them.

“They’re very approachable and want to hear from students,” Deick said. “This is a good chance to show them what we’ve done and what we can do.”

Johansson: Professor shares diverse cultural knowledge

from page 1

University-sponsored dance that year.

Studying at Freiburg on a Volkswagen Foundation Scholarship, the UWRF professor of modern languages said that he was immediately impressed by his future wife’s personality.

“I liked her optimism [and] her decisiveness,” he said.

The two found that they had a lot in common, including a shared curiosity about each other’s home countries.

“He had a lot of interest in my culture, and I had a lot of interest in his culture,” Monika Johansson said.

They married in 1971, and Monika Johansson followed her husband to the University of California-Santa Barbara that fall, where he enrolled as a doctoral student in Germanic language and literature. She transferred her studies there as well, eventually earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in German

“There’s just so much that comes out of the French culture that has contributed to world literature and world art,” she said.

In 1977, Peter Johansson accepted a teaching position in the UWRF modern languages department, and the Johanssons made Western Wisconsin their home.

Monika Johansson served a two-year stint as a user services specialist in the University’s computer center before becoming a teacher herself in 1980.



Peter Johansson

And after having been in the classroom for 27 years, witnessing the personal evolution of her students still excites her.

“You hope that students come out differently after four years so that they have grown personally and educationally,” she said. “You can see that after a semester, with most people, that something is happening.”

UWRF senior Jaymie Stocks, who took Monika Johansson for Intermediate German, can attest to the instructor’s passion for her subject matter.

“If you want to learn German and keep up with it, she’s a good teacher to have,” Stocks said. “She knew what she was talking about.”

So can Kristine Butler, chair of the UWRF modern language department, who extolled Monika Johansson as “a very caring person who takes a strong interest in her students” in an e-mail interview.

“She’s a great resource as a language instructor,” Butler said. “[She] has a wealth of experience and cultural fluency that serve her students well.”

But perhaps the most meaningful praise comes from her husband and co-worker Peter Johansson.

“She’s well-organized [and] very enthusiastic,” he said. “I would say [she’s] a great teacher.”

“She’s a great resource as a language instructor. She has a wealth of experience and cultural fluency that serves her students well.”

Kristine Butler,
Chair of Modern Language
Department

literature with a minor in French.

When asked about her attraction to the French language, Monika Johansson cites the country’s rich heritage as a reason.

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EDITORIAL

Campus security needs attention

In the wake of another alleged violent crime occurring on campus this semester, safety has become an issue at UW-River Falls once again. If the latest allegations—the details of which have not yet been released by the River Falls Police Department—are true, within the last calendar year UWRF will have seen two sexual assaults and one peeping tom added to its list of deviant crimes. While we are lucky that this number isn’t much higher; students and campus administration could be doing more to remedy the problem. It has been nearly four years since WCCO visited UWRF to conduct an undercover study to expose problems with dorm security. While the initial visit prompted administration to administer changes that improved the situation, more could still be done to make UWRF safer, not only in the dorms, but in other places on campus.

While safety on the path between the South Fork Suites and Ramer Field could be partially remedied by adding some emergency call boxes and better lighting, students also need to use a little common sense. UWRF administrators and Public Safety are adamant that you should never travel the path by yourself late at night, and they’re right. If you can’t find someone to walk with you on that path, the choice is simple, take a different, safer route, even if it is a longer one. A little extra exercise is a much better alternative than being the victim of a crime.

Common sense is also the problem in regards to safety in the dorms. Students are constantly allowing tailgaters into dorms. This was found to be true in the WCCO follow-up report on dorm safety a year after their original report, when their undercover cameraman was allowed access to every single dorm by overly trusting students. While students who allow tailgaters into dorms are being nice, they are also taking an unnecessary risk that could cost them, or someone else, dearly at some point. Next time you are going to allow a tailgater into your dorm, you should ask yourself if you want to take the chance of allowing a sexual predator into the building.

Another step administration could take would be to close off exterior access to all side and back doors to the dorms and filter everyone through a main entrance that either has a security camera or guard. While students might be slightly inconvenienced by having to walk an extra 100 feet this would likely deter any deviants from entering the dorms.

If these steps, or some extra alternate measures were taken, maybe UWRF could get the number of crimes of perversion on campus just a little closer to where, ideally, it should be: zero.

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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Inaccuracy of facts injures reputation

I am writing in regards to my name and “situation” which was printed in the “River Falls Police/Public Safety” section of your first printed issue. As a fellow journalism student and former critic of film and music for your paper, I am very humiliated and disappointed with your reporting. The first rule that we are taught in journalism is to get all the facts straight—names, ages, locations, etc. This establishes your credibility as a news institution. My age is not 23 and as much as a lady hates to admit her true age, I am 22. If you had any questions about this information, you could have called or sent an email; it’s not hard. I think you relied too much on the weekly police blotter, and assumed it to be true, but you made an “ASS out of U and Me.” Just because it comes from a credible source doesn’t mean that you don’t have to double check the information. That is lazy reporting. You should have learned better from the amazing

journalism professors and staff we have here. My age discrepancy is small potatoes compared to the detail of my offense that you printed. You reported that I was sent to L.E. Phillips in Chippewa Falls, WI. SWING AND A MISS. The L.E. Phillips-Libertas Center is a live-in facility for addicts who receive daily counseling and treatment for the ailments that hinder a productive lifestyle. I spent one night in a legitimate county hospital in Eau Claire. When you publish poor information, it doesn’t just affect your paper or inform a general public. Two weeks ago, you basically printed to the entire campus that I spent days in a rehab facility—which I didn’t. Do you understand what that does to my reputation and standing in the UWRF community? Because of your misinformation, I look like a crackhead instead of a typical college student that had one too many keg stands. I am humiliated that you would print such devastatingly wrong information. You should know better, and I am VERY disappointed in the quality of your journalistic performance.

At least you spelled my name right.

Jenna Lee Student

Senate committees need better leaders

Student Senate has ignored student needs. By combining the Women’s Initiatives and Diversity Issues Committees into a single committee, the Senate has effectively told a significant number of students on campus that their issues are not that important to their representative body. The idea of combining the two committees was intended to strengthen their drive and accomplish more goals. Instead, the new combined committee will have an even larger task. Student Senate committees do not need huge numbers to achieve a positive change on campus. They need dedicated leaders who will bring forth issues and concerns from students and bring those concerns to the Student Senate. The Senate should have more faith in itself and understand the respon-

sibilities of the committees. Rather than give the committees and their appointed directors an opportunity to even consider the issues which affect our campus, the Student Senate made a rash decision and combined the two. Part of fostering new campus leadership includes allowing the leaders in place the opportunity to make change. There is a bright side, however. Because the changes implemented required a bylaw change (the governing documents which Senate must follow), the combining of the two committees cannot become effective until the next year. I hope the newly elected members of Student Senate strongly consider whether throwing more people in to address a problem is a true solution. I encourage Senate to reconsider its position on this matter and develop a strong base so all issues can be addressed. In my time as a committee director and President of the Senate, I have seen students accomplish fantastic things when given the opportunity.

Joseph Eggers Student

Adversity defeats today’s teens

Editor’s note: The *Student Voice* will be running a weekly faculty/employee column this semester. This is open to any UW-River Falls staff member who would like their opinion heard on the pages of the *Student Voice*. The columns are opinion pieces between 450 and 600 words and must be submitted to the editor by the Monday prior to that week’s issue. Please send any columns or questions regarding them to: editor@uwrfvoice.com. The *Student Voice* also reserves the right not to print a column if it is not suitable.

As we approach the sixth week of the semester, signs of fall are around us. Shorts and t-shirts have given way to jeans and sweatshirts. Leaves have begun their annual transition to glorious shades of red, yellow and orange. The Packers and Vikings have played their first game. And the X-factor is about to strike! For those unfamiliar with this tradition, let me enlighten you. In my role as associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, I have had extensive experience with the X-factor. When I ask for an explanation from a suspended student who is appealing for reinstatement, I get the following story: “Everything was going well and then ‘X’ happened.” In most cases ‘X’ is relationship trouble, roommate trouble, illness/injury, family or personal problems, work issues or academic issues. Inevitably, regardless of how the sentence begins, it ends with, “and then I quit going to class.” Astonishingly, I am just as likely to hear this story from a student with an ACT of 30 as from one with an ACT of 15. Also, while I am more likely to hear this from a first year student, it is not uncommon for the words to be coming from a senior. To understand the X-factor we must acknowledge first that college can be challenging, even for the most capable and confident student. Data from a 2004 American College Health Association survey of 47,000 college students provides an excellent illustration of the potential scope of the problem. Two widely reported findings of

this study included the fact that 63 percent of the students “felt hopeless at times” and a frightening 94 percent indicated that at times they simply felt “overwhelmed.” The second factor concerns the current cohort of traditional-age students entering college—a group that has earned monikers like “Millennium Generation,” “Echo Boomers” and the “iGeneration.” As a lifespan developmental psychologist, I know the danger of labeling any diverse population. However, the social psychologist in me also recognizes that having an understanding of characteristics common within a group does have some utility. For all the strengths of the iGeneration, this cohort is not known for their strength in coping with adversity. Of course the key question is, “why does this generation display such limited coping skills?” One hypothesis of particular interest to me is the concept of the “hovering” or “helicopter parent.” Back in the 1960s, when I was a child, a common reaction of a parent to a child who was struggling was “figure it out for yourself.” Many parents of iGenerationers react in a more altruistic manner and at a minimum advocate for their child and at a maximum just solve the problem. On the positive side, this style has led to many iGenerationers having less stressful childhoods. But many teens today simply have not had much experience in dealing with adversity. When confronted with a problem without familial/familial assistance, their preferred coping style is to not know what to do and to ultimately end up doing nothing. Given these tendencies, it came as no surprise that according to a 2007 study I and psychology major Danielle Gargaro conducted of 297 UWRF students concerning strategies when coping with their problems, 218 slightly or strongly agreed that they would seek advice from a friend, 169 slightly or strongly agreed that they would seek advice from a family member, 53

slightly or strongly agreed that they would seek advice from the internet, and an amazing 216 slightly or strongly agreed that, “When attempting to cope with my problems I would sleep.” Perhaps the most disappointing finding of this study was that only 17 agreed that “When attempting to cope with my problems I would typically see a counselor.” One of the great strengths of a student-oriented campus like UWRF is that when the X-Factor strikes there is a great deal of assistance available to those willing to seek it out. For most academic issues the place to start is with the course instructor. It is remarkable what difference a brief conversation on study habits or course material can make. As a faculty member, I truly appreciate students who take the initiative, acknowledge that things were not going well and seek assistance. In most cases the instructor will welcome the contact. Assistance for all students is available through the Academic Success Center. In the case of personal or mental health problems there are many supports in place. In the residence halls, start with your Residence Assistant. Students should also consider a conversation with your academic advisor. If the X-factor has begun to impact you to a significant degree, please consider seeing a member of the UWRF counseling staff. In a perfect world no student would have to worry about what to do when the X-factor strikes, but this is not a perfect world. The best we can do is try to tackle the problem head-on and utilize the many support services on the UWRF campus.



Brad Caskey

Brad Caskey is associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and is in his third year in that position. A 1980 UWRF alumni, Dr. Caskey has received numerous awards including UWRF Distinguished Teacher (1997), UWRF Advisor of the Year (2004), and the Regents Award for Teaching Excellence for the University of Wisconsin System (2005).

College costs hurt students

Does anybody remember the days when being a college student meant you were rich?

I know—when was that?

Back in the day, college was a place for elitists. Tuition was paid for by scholarship, wealthy parents or extended family members. Dormitories were furnished with real wood furniture and students attended class clothed in skirts, dress shirts and ties.

Today campuses are filled with students who acquire more and more debt each year they study, adorned in pajamas some days and sweatshirts most other days, who are lucky if they get a mattress in their room that doesn't have any mysterious stains on it from last year's inhabitant.

Don't get me wrong—I am not about to suggest that a university education should be restricted to those who can afford to recline by a huge fire in their robe and slippers, smoking a pipe and drinking wine while reading the *Wall Street Journal*.

I'm not even about to suggest that students today should stop wearing sweatshirts or pajamas. Education does not depend on what clothes we wear, and if being comfortable helps you learn, then pajamas it is!

No, my complaint lies with the fact that most college students today simply *can't* be rich.

Everyone knows the college student cliché: I can't afford (insert item here); I'm a college student. And whoever hears will immediately respond with an exaggerated nod of the head as understanding immediately sets in. These days, college equals poor. And quite frankly, I don't like it.

More and more students are having to pay for their education on their own (despite what FAFSA likes to assume about parental contributions). But no high school student can make enough money to cover the expenses of college, and being a full-time student doesn't allow enough time to work enough hours outside of class to make the money in-term. What that means is that nearly every person attending classes at a university is attending thanks to loans, and that means debt.

You would think that with more and more people paying tuition, that universities could afford to give their students a bit of a break. Every year enrollment goes up, and tuition

goes up, and services almost seem to be going down the drain. It's like those mysterious missing socks that go into the dryer but never come out—where does all the money go?

And not only is this an issue of money, but also an issue of the education itself. Apart from questioning the quality of education we get for our money, the fact that students are forced to worry about their financial situation adversely affects their class work.

When students are forced to work outside jobs to pay for rent or even for tuition, it takes away from their ability to perform to their best abilities academically. Even if the stress doesn't bother them, the fact that there is only so much time in a day will have its affects.

Take this not-so-hypothetical situation. Say you work 20 hours a week, take 15 credits and even just one extracurricular activity (which is practically required if you want to have a decent-looking resume). There isn't much time left in any given week. Add in an estimated two hours of homework for every hour of lecture, and you end up with 75 hours of nothing but work, class and homework. Include say an extra 10 hours for the aforementioned extracurricular, and we're up to 85 hours every week accounted for out of a possible 168—travel time not included. Throw in any semblance of a social life(such as saying "hello" and "goodbye" to a roommate as you run in and out the door), and there's not a whole lot of time left for something as essential as eating or sleeping. And in my personal experience, this is a conservative estimate.

This is the life of a college student. Or at least



Katrina Styx

one who's really trying to get something out of this "priceless" education.

Something needs to be done. Unfortunately, I don't know the answer. The work load is heavy, but I do agree that in the end, it is worth it. After all, I am one of the thousands—millions, even—of college students in the country racking up debt and working myself beyond the boundaries of exhaustion. But it's not fair to the students. We are here because we want to learn, not to spend four years growing gray hairs or ulcers.

There must be some way—any way—to make it easier!

We are here because we want to learn, not to spend four years growing gray hairs or ulcers.

Katrina is a senior majoring in English with a literature emphasis and a minor in journalism. Her passion is working with words—either writing or reading them. She hopes to someday make a career of editing.

Early retirement looks like fun

I've been thinking more and more about retiring. Sure, I'm only 23 years old, and I've got my whole life stretched in front of me; it's like my own giant smörgåsbord of opportunity. Think of the wonderful experiences I'll have as I progress through the stages of life. But I'd rather focus on what's really important: relaxation. And that means retirement. That's definitely the life for me. No more homework, no more stress, no more expectations, no need to wake up before noon, and most of all, no work! I can see it now; I will routinely fall out of bed at 2:00 p.m. only to eat some muesli for breakfast, watch the afternoon news (wait, is there such a thing? Ahh, CNN!, and promptly begin my afternoon nap at 3:00 p.m. And then it's dinner time.

My grandchildren can visit often enough to make me remember my youth. I'll sit around and talk about the good ol' days, back when gasoline was only \$3 per gal-



Joe Hager

lon, back when the Iraq War was only four years old, back when free speech was still hanging around—oh the stories I'll tell my future grandkids. And they'll have respect for their elders, which will actually be an important value in the future because—

face it—how else will I fund my awesome lifestyle? Certainly not Social Security.

On weekends, my wife and I will lay in bed all day and watch Fox News, which won't even use conventional language then. It will consist mainly of episodes of irate men yelling incoherently at the camera while they punch a variety of children and infants. Bill O'Reilly Jr. will be our favorite, since the senior edition will have since passed away from heart complications due to anger. Once O'Reilly Jr. finishes ranting and punching kids, we'll head to church to learn about love, tolerance and peace.

I'm sure that from time to time I'll have

some health problems. I'm not too worried about these at this point. Naturally, I'm assuming that medical science will have found a cure for everything by then. Diet and exercise? Screw that. I want to eat Turducken (a chicken stuffed in a duck stuffed in a turkey) every day. Remember: retirement equals relaxation. I just can't relax if I'm jogging or chewing on asparagus. Nothing stresses me out more than leafy greens. If I need a few operations here and there, who cares? I don't need universal healthcare; I'll have my rich kids to pay for that stuff. Things will be great.

Yep, it's retirement for me. Bring on the creaky knees and liver spots—it's worth it if I can live the ultimate lazy man's life. Maybe I won't even wait until I'm in my nineties to retire like everyone else; maybe I'll just call it quits now. Joe Hager: the world's first 23-year old retiree. Now where did I put my Special Cough Medicine?

Joe is a Marketing Communications major with a Creative Writing minor. This is his first semester writing for the Student Voice. He is interested in movies, religion, politics, culture and people.

Confidence is critical to overcoming fear

The train ride is smooth, but full of commuters. There are no more seats available, and the majority of the people are forced to stand close and hold on to whatever handle they can manage to find. Bodies are crammed into the Tube's carriage and sent off to another destination. Occasionally, the loud speaker warns all commuters of pickpockets and, of course, to mind the gap between the train and the platform. Walking through the station, strolling through the streets and even pausing for a bite to eat, the city-dwellers are bombarded with cautioned signs of thieves, robbers and terrorists. Am I supposed to be living in a constant state of fear?

Years ago, one of my friends was robbed on this same trip, three friends had their apartment broken into, and last week my roommate was mugged. How terrifying it is to see their misfortunes caused by greedy, self-absorbed people. I won't go into the "what has this world come to?" sermon, but I will say that the differences in culture between a large European city and a small Wisconsin town are massive.

Upon moving to River Falls over a year ago, I was surprised to find that nobody locks the doors to their homes. Nobody cares to lock the doors to their cars or chain their bicycles to the racks. This is a comfortable, safe town, I thought. Rarely do you hear an alarm system blaring off its painful siren from a car or home.

My current home has an automatic locking device and the sound of an alarm in the neighborhood is a recurring one. Walking

through the streets at night, I pass by groups of males that will try to talk to me. They're not friendly, and I keep walking—not too fast and not too slow.

To get them to stop following me I found a trick that always works: turn slightly in their direction, smirk the smirk that tells them their interest is appreciated, but you've got better things to do than to fend them off. Never make eye contact; clutch your bags tightly, but not so much as to make it apparent.

The state of fear that the billboards and verbal announcements tell me I am supposed to be in comes and goes. Confidence is vital when you're alone and have only few belongings—just the essentials for getting by, that is. Although when I am confronted in some of these situations, the fear does rise from my gut, desperately wanting to be let out. I push it down with my nose up and the vulnerable look dissipates into a tiny little girl inside me craving her safety.

This is not to say that I am not safe. It is only the fear of being alone that makes me think I am unsafe. It is actually quite liberating to feel proud to be alive at the end of the day, everyday. As long as we all keep our wits about us, we can survive the fight of human versus human. What a strange fight it is.

Teresa is a journalism major and a geography minor. She is enrolled in the Semester Abroad: Europe program and is currently doing research on the River Thames in London. Later in the semester she will be independently backpacking across Europe.



Teresa Aviles

New main street coffee shop exceeds expectations

Sometimes I would sweat profusely at work. My teeth would chatter in between my hyperactive conversation. I might have worried that my customers assumed I was on some sort of crazy drug as I gave them their drinks with a trembling hand, but they knew my state of mind all too well. They were addicts themselves. They would stagger in at painfully early hours of the morning and pay a large sum to feel how I felt. It wasn't cocaine or speed they were after, but caffeine in its most delicious form.

When I first started at the coffee shop, my boss, a demanding elderly woman with extraordinarily keen taste buds, told me to "perform" as I made my drinks. I asked what exactly she meant by that. She told me that it says BARISTA on my nametag, but that title holds more superiority than people may believe.

Preparing drinks is an art and she declared me an "artist." At the time, she sounded so cliché and snobbish that I had to scoff. A few months later, once I was

beyond the awkwardness of struggling with the milk steamer and espresso grinder, I agreed with her. I learned the language of coffee and my arrogance grew with each new and delectable drink I concocted.

Although I miss the power I felt making the drinks, I missed the coffee shop atmosphere even more.

I went to a coffee shop this evening to fill that hole in my heart. Located at 114 South Main Street in River Falls and called Hot Spot, I wasn't expecting to be too impressed, but as I walked in the door, the smell and setting were brilliant and my assumptions were immediately proved wrong.

I couldn't believe the size of this place. The bar is on the main floor and there is enough seating for our entire freshman class, which is still a significant amount even considering how tiny they all are. One wall is lined with tall tables for feet-dangling lovers such as myself. According

to one of the baristas, the owners plan on building a stage for their live music and open mic nights. The second floor has multiple pool tables, and I was very surprised to hear that it's smoke friendly.

Because they have wireless Internet, I brought my laptop in order to write this column, but my plans were ruined because I was so distracted by coffee shop culture. Coffee houses usually have very distinct social circles, and it can be difficult to squeeze your way into one, but this particular coffee house is welcoming. People lounged around contentedly, some of them socializing and some of them studying, all of them wired on caffeine's delicious and satisfying side effects.

Leaving was the only annoyance during my experience this evening. But on my way out the baristas in their charming black aprons fixed me another hazelnut latté that, although I could have made it perfect, was still delicious. My warm mug kept me elated on my long way home. It took me only one visit to become a Hot Spot regular.

Annee is a junior studying Creative Writing. She loves astronomy and her main goal in life is to dance like David Byrne from the Talking Heads.



Annee Mayer-Chapleau



Ross Wargula, freshman

"Yeah. There are lights out there so it seems safe."



Chad Ronayne, senior

"I feel fine about it, but I can see how its dark and creepy for girls."



Courtney Schlosser, freshman

"No. I don't think so."

STUDENT VOICES

Do you think the path between South Fork and Ramer is safe to walk on at night?

Justin Corfman sophomore



"I believe it could be better lit and it's safe as long as you walk in groups."

Camri Naseth, freshman



"No. There needs to be better lighting on the paths."

Amber Mueller, sophomore



"No. Just because of everything I've heard. There're no lights out there."

Former student becomes recreation coordinator

Lee Ann Bjerstedt
lee.bjerstedt@uwrf.edu

For most students, the typical pattern is: take finals, graduate, leave campus and find a job. But for Kurran Sagan, recreation coordinator, all of that happened without ever really leaving campus.

After graduating from UW-River Falls in May of 2005 with a degree in Health and Human Performance, options one and two, Sagan applied and even had a part-time teaching job lined up. Then he received a call from UWRF, informing him that a full-time position for recreation coordinator was in need of an emergency hire. Although the call was unexpected, Sagan said, he decided to take the position fairly quickly.

“It was surprising to get the call, but it didn’t take me long,” Sagan said. “Besides being full-time, I was familiar with the department from my time as a student, so I said ‘definitely.’”

Because the position of recreation coordinator involves over-looking intramurals, club sports, BodyShop, and KinniConnections, the first couple months were “definitely a whirlwind,” and much of his experience came from learning on the job.

Now, his long list of duties includes everything from reserving fields and scheduling events to training officials, ordering equipment and promoting events.

“From A to Z, I do it,” Sagan said. “I’ve had to become very detail-oriented.”

It also helped that he worked for the recreation department as a student and had experience with the program and all of the staff, Sagan said. In fact, previous recreation coordinator Tim Ryerson was the person responsible for forwarding Sagan’s name as a candidate.

“It really helps to be familiar with the people before you,” Sagan said.

Because the program was already very developed, it hasn’t needed many major changes

since Sagan began. Instead, much of the focus has been on making small adjustments here and there to “smooth out the process,” such as streamlining the intramurals program, updating the Web site and giving attention to training staff, Sagan said.

It has been a continuing goal of Sagan’s to add more short-term opportunities for students to get involved as well. Routinely checking out other school’s Web sites helps to keep a flow of ideas into the program.

“We really leave no stone unturned,” Sagan said.

Although the improvements may be small, they don’t go unnoticed by students, Web site manager Charlie Sowa said. Much of this can be attributed to how Sagan manages his staff.

“He gives us quite a bit of free rein to do what we need to do and trusts [the staff] to get it done,” Sowa said. “And it shows from the people outside of intramurals who’ve said they’ve seen improvements from the time they were freshmen to the time they were seniors.”

Apart from balancing his time between all four areas of recreation on campus, Sagan works as assistant basketball coach, where he started as a student manager five years ago. Involved in basketball in high school, Sagan made the decision not to play in college but still “felt the itch to be involved” and has been very happy with his decision.

“It’s definitely a passion of mine,” Sagan said.

Outside of school, Sagan said he finds time for golf, coaching, attending as many Twins games as he can and...more school. Working on his Master’s degree at the University of Minnesota, he’ll graduate in May, and although “the teaching boat has passed,” athletic administration may be in his future, Sagan said.

For Sagan, this job seems to fit perfectly for right now.

“I’m really happy with it,” Sagan said. “I love being out and watching intramurals...seeing students really participate.”



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice
Kurran Sagan, UW-River Falls recreation coordinator, graduated from UWRF in 2005. Sagan does everything from reserving fields and scheduling events to training officials, ordering equipment and promoting events. Sagan also works as an assistant basketball coach for the Falcon’s men’s team.

Early season trading tips from a fantasy football veteran



Nick Sortedahl

If you’re playing fantasy football, you need to read this column. I’m not saying you need to do what I tell you, but to at least consider it. During 15 seasons I’ve experienced many scenarios to start my season. Some of you may be sitting at 4-0 and saying to yourselves, “what the hell do I need to make a trade for? My team is unstoppable.” If you’re one of the people saying that, you’re an idiot. No matter how good your team is, or seems to be right now, it could always be better. So now I’m going to lay out some guidelines for you to follow to help improve your team, no matter how good or bad they appear to be on paper at this very moment.

Target your tradable assets

The first thing you need to do when formulating a trade is to target which players on your squad are peaking in terms of value. I’m not necessarily advocating trading Randy Moss or Tom

Brady, but if you can get a deal that improves your team by trading one of them, why not do it? Do you really expect Moss to keep up this pace and score 28 touchdowns this season? The ideal type of player I’m talking about is someone like New York Giants wide receiver Plaxico Burress. Burress is a player that traditionally runs hot and cold. Right now, he leads all NFC receivers in touchdowns, but chances are defenses will start keying on him more or he’ll get hurt, or both. Regardless, if he’s on your squad, he probably won’t keep up the production level he’s at right now, so why not trade him to a team desperate for help at receiver and get back a maximum return on his value?

Target talented players off to slow starts

Players that fall in this category through week four include Steven Jackson, Marvin Harrison and Maurice Jones-Drew. All three of these players are obviously talented individuals who have fallen on hard times early this season. The trend may continue for them, especially in the case of Jackson, because his team is terrible, and Jones-Drew, because he’s sharing carries, but these guys are much better than they’ve shown this year, and you can probably get them at a discounted rate from a frustrated owner who is like-

ly struggling because he used a high pick on one of them. Hell, even LaDainian Tomlinson falls into this category right now. Think of what it would have taken to trade for him before the season started and what it would take to trade for him now, and you’ll see my point.

Another strategy you can apply, if you’re feeling really daring, is to target players that are injured. This is obviously very risky, but as with most risks, it can come with a high reward.

Check your league standings

This may sound simple, but it is easier to target an owner in your league who may be getting desperate because his team is off to a slow start. If you’ve ever heard the expression ‘on tilt’ in poker, it’s basically the same concept here. It is much easier to trade with an owner who is frustrated with his team’s performance than an owner who’s got a winning record and is confident his players will continue to perform at a high level.

Check the NFL schedule

Researching the NFL schedule is key for two reasons.

The first step is to check the schedule to see which teams in your league will run into bye

week problems. You can really take advantage of the bye week situation in week six, when six of the more fantasy talent laden teams, Buffalo (well not so much them), Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh and San Francisco will have bye weeks. There are also six teams with a bye on week eight, so keep that in mind as well.

The second is to see what teams have an easy schedule down the stretch. Before finalizing a trade for a player make sure you check that player’s remaining schedule to make sure it’s not too brutal. This should only be used as a deciding factor if you’re unsure of whether you want to go through with a trade or not.

Final thoughts

One final word of advice, trust your gut instinct. If you think it’s a bad idea to trade for a particular player, don’t do it. But remember, by the end of the season, everything will likely even itself out for the most part, and talented players like Tomlinson, Jackson and Harrison will put up good numbers. Like former Arizona Cardinals head coach Denny Green once said, “They are who we thought they were!”

Nick is a 29-year-old senior majoring in journalism and minoring in philosophy. He has been playing fantasy football for 15 years and is currently in seven fantasy football leagues. One of his career goals is to become a writer or editor for a fantasy football publication.

Wild ‘07-’08 season in hands of injury prone Gaborik



Chris Schad

The Minnesota Wild are locked in a tight game against the Calgary Flames. It’s scoreless late in the third period. The Wild are chasing the Vancouver Canucks for the Northwest Division lead. Flames winger Jerome Iginla tries to pass to a teammate. Wild winger Marian Gaborik intercepts the pass and uses his blazing speed. He cuts up the ice, looks to his left, and center Pavol Demitra is right with him.

It’s a two-on-one breakaway. Gaborik passes to Demitra. Demitra gives it back to Gaborik. They’re getting closer to the net, and Gaborik should probably shoot off the one timer but again passes back to Demitra.

It looks like they know exactly what the other is thinking because Demitra throws it right back at Gaborik right in front of the net. It slides across the crease and Gaborik stuffs it into the net, giving the Wild the lead.

Moments like that fueled the Minnesota Wild last season. Some people say the Wild are really two teams: the one with Gaborik and the one without. The biggest concern for the Wild is the health of Marian Gaborik. Gaborik clearly is the straw that stirs the drink for the Wild.

Observe their record at the beginning of the season. The Wild got off to a 10-1 start with Gaborik healthy and playing. After that,

Gaborik went down with a groin injury and started to slide. Gaborik missed 34 games and the team went on a slide.

When Gaborik came back, he was a scoring machine. When Gaborik was in, the Wild had a combined record of 33-9-6. Without Gaborik, they went 15-17-2. If the Wild want to contend in the top heavy Northwest Division, Gaborik must stay healthy.

Backstrom must play like he did in latter part of season

Manny Fernandez was a headcase and was traded to Boston for a minor league prospect. Now, Niklas Backstrom is the man between the pipes. He got rewarded for his strong second half, where he went 23-8-6 filling in for Fernandez.

What is really surprising is that he dominated the Anaheim Ducks. Although the Wild lost in five games, Backstrom stopped 134 of the Ducks’ 145 shots. If Backstrom can continue his hot play in net, the Wild will not relinquish their title of allowing the fewest goals in the NHL.

Scoring from the blue line

Kim Johnsson was supposed to improve this last year. He was signed to be the offensive defenseman the Wild needed.

Johnsson managed just three goals last season. The Wild need their defensemen to pick up their end of the offensive load.

The most likely candidate to do this is Brent Burns. Burns had a huge second half for the Wild, as at one point, he scored back-to-back overtime game-winning goals.If

Overall team health

Hey, it’s not just Gaborik who’s got to stay healthy. What if Brian Rolston or Pavol Demitra go down? The Wild would be screwed. Any injury to one of the Wild’s key players would be disastrous.

Finally, Boogaard needs help

Derek Boogaard may just be the baddest man on the ice. Boogaard would even give Chuck Norris a run for his money. However, in the Anaheim series, the Wild struggled with the Ducks’ physical play. Some players on the Wild stepped up in that series, as Burns registered (and won) his first two fights of his NHL career.

The Ducks got some more help of their own as they signed goon Todd Bertuzzi. When you add Chris Pronger and Brad May, Boogaard can’t fight three-on-one, no matter how tough he is. Someone must step up and kill, I mean, fight goons like Bertuzzi.

Chris is a 21-year-old junior majoring in journalism. He is also the sports director for 88.7 FM WRFW and is the play-by-play voice for the Falcon Football and Hockey teams.

SPORTS WRAP

Four Falcons named athlete of the week

Falcon cross country runner Becca Jordahl and tennis players Kozue Matsumoto, Katie Anderson and Mindy Rudiger have all been named WIAC Athletes of the Week.

Jordahl won the Roy Griak Maroon III Invitational title Saturday in Minneapolis, Minn. Jordahl covered the 6,000-meter course in 22:01.55 and beat the second place runner by 30 seconds. Her time was the third best in Falcon history.

Matsumoto stayed undefeated for the Falcons at No. 1 singles with three wins last week and two came in WIAC play. She defeated a Stevens Point opponent, 6-2, 6-2, an Oshkosh opponent, 6-1, 6-0 and a Bethel opponent, 6-2, 6-1. She is undefeated with an 11-0 record.

The Falcon No. 2 doubles team of Anderson and Rudiger improved its record to 9-2 with three wins in three matches last week. They defeated a Stevens Point team, 8-7, an Oshkosh team, 8-6, and a Bethel team, 8-4.

Volleyball 0-4 in Simpson Tournament

The Falcons’ first loss was against Loras with the score of 30-24, 30-21, and 30-22. Kelsey Scheele led the Falcons with seven kills, 16 digs and one blocking assist. Gina Derosa knocked down six kills of her own and six assisting blocks. Mandy McKenzie also had 16 digs and one kill.

Wartburg handed UWRF their second loss of the tournament with scores of 30-25, 30-24, 30-16. Scheele led with eight kills and dug six. DeRosa managed to hit five kills and had one assisting block. McKenzie led the Falcons in digs with 15.

The Falcons third loss came against hosting Simpson with the score of 30-28, 30-27, 30-25. Once again Scheele led the Falcons with 17 kills, eight digs, three assisting and one solo block. Hample led in digs with 15, and hit two serving aces.

River Falls’ fourth loss was against Principia with the score of 30-21, 30-25, and 30-22. Scheele led the Falcons in kills for the fourth time of the tournament with 12. McKenzie led in digs with 14, and one serving ace.

Football starts conference play with loss

The Falcons put six touchdowns on the board but lost at UW-Stevens Point 45-42 on Saturday afternoon in the WIAC season opener.

River Falls began the scoring in the first quarter on a 1-yard senior running back Nathan Anderson rush at the 9:26 mark. Bruce Baillargeon forced a fumble and it was recovered by Ben Arata at the UWSP 39.

Stevens Point came back as Kasey Morgan returned the ensuing kickoff 83 yards for a touchdown.

UWRF’s Josh Grover returned the kickoff 43 yards to the UWSP 43. Junior quarterback Storm Harmon found freshman Michael Zweifel, for a 15-yard touchdown strike on the next drive to take the lead back 14-7.

Senior defensive end Gregg Neumann recovered a Stevens Point fumble with 1:12 left in the first quarter letting the River Falls offense set up shop at the Stevens Point 35 yard line. It took five plays for River Falls to punch it in; two passes to Zweifel, including a 15-yard touchdown play.

Harmon led the Falcons back going 3-4 for 54 yards on the next drive, with an 18-yard touchdown pass to sophomore tight end Ryan Hansen. On the ensuing River Falls possession Harmon, for the third consecutive week, threw an interception that was returned for a touchdown.

Harmon scored a touchdown on a 2-yard run with 3:09 to play in the third quarter taking it to 35-31.

Anderson scored on another 1-yard run, give UWRF a 42-38 lead.

Swank scored what proved to be the winning points with just 2:17 to play. He scored on a 25-yard run that capped a 60-yard, eight-play drive.

River Falls got the ball back but turned the ball over on downs after they were unable to convert a fourth-and-eight from the River Falls 31.

River Falls has given up 114 points and scored 89 points in the last three games, going 0-3 in that span, and putting them at 1-3 overall and 0-1 in the WIAC. The Falcons stay on the road next week in a match-up at UW-Whitewater at 1 p.m.

Coach nears historic 400th victory

Ben Brewster
benjamin.brewster@uwrf.edu

In the midst of her 16th year at UW-River Falls, Falcon volleyball head coach Patti Ford is approaching a milestone, her 400th career victory.

Originally from Sioux Falls, S.D., Ford attended Mount Marty College in Yankton, S.D., where she received her undergraduate degree in health, physical education and recreation in 1983.

Following graduation she got her first teaching job at Shanley High School in Fargo, N.D. She was the head volleyball coach there as well as coaching basketball and track and field.

Ford said she began coaching because she “enjoyed the intimate atmosphere of teaching a sport to accomplish something more outside of the classroom.”

Ford never played volleyball - she played basketball in college - but she said at Shanley she “really caught onto volleyball.”

While at Shanley her teams compiled a volleyball record of 201-63 and won state championships in 1988 and 1991. In 1991 she was also named North Dakota Coach of the Year and the East Regional Coach of the Year.

Ford left Shanley after the 1991 season and began work at North Dakota State on her master’s degree, which she earned in 1994 in education/physical education.

“I was around a very good core of volleyball people to help guide my career,” Ford said of her time at North Dakota State.

“[Ford] has a lot of information to give to the team and knows a lot of strategy and how to teach the skills of the game,” outside hitter Courtney Schroeder said in an e-mail interview.



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Patti Ford grew up in Sioux Falls, S.D. and went to Mount Mary College in Yankton, S.D. After coaching volleyball, basketball and track and field at Shanley High School in Fargo, N.D. Ford got her master’s and began coaching at UWRF in 1992. In 1995 Ford received the WIAC Coach of the Year award.

Ford’s first year coaching at UWRF was in 1992. The team finished in seventh place with a 2-6 record in the WIAC and 12-22 overall. They improved quickly. In 1993 they had an overall record of 23-14 despite finishing 1-7 in the WIAC.

Since 1993, the team has not finished any lower than fifth in the WIAC.

By 1995 the Falcons had become a very strong team under Ford. They finished third in the conference with a 6-2 record and went 38-7 overall. The 38 wins set a Falcon record and Ford received WIAC Coach of the Year.

In 1996 they won the WIAC title and

would go on to win titles in 1999, 2002 and 2003.

The Falcons finished strong last year with a 24-13 overall record, but they have struggled some this year after six seniors from last year’s team graduated.

“Not only does [Ford] care about our success on the court, she expects that we do well in all other aspects of our lives as well, such as in school,” Schroeder said.

Ford is also the assistant athletic director at UWRF. She is in charge of the day-to-day operations of events, oversees the student athlete advisory committee and makes sure

the athletics department stays in compliance with NCAA regulations.

“[Ford] is invaluable in that she handles the winter sports game administration, and is one of the primary sources in student athlete eligibility,” athletic director Rick Bowen said.

On her upcoming milestone, Ford said “I think it’s a great tribute to all the people who have come into this program and who have given the same amount of heart and desire to keep it successful.”

The Falcons will play their next match at noon Oct. 6 at UW-La Crosse.

Sports Wrap courtesy
of UW-River Falls
Sports Information

SHOWCASE HOME GAME

Soccer



vs



UWRF

UW-Oshkosh

2 p.m. Oct. 6
Ramer Soccer Field

The eighth place Falcons go up against the fourth place Titans in a conference matchup.

STANDINGS

Football				Tennis			
WIAC Standings	W	L		WIAC Standings	W	L	
UW-Whitewater (3-1)	2	0		UW-Eau Claire (7-2)	4	0	
UW-Stevens Point (4-0)	1	0		UW-Whitewater (5-2)	3	0	
UW-Stout (2-2)	1	0		UW-La Crosse (4-0)	2	0	
UW-Eau Claire (4-1)	1	1		UW-River Falls (9-4)	2	3	
UW-Oshkosh (3-1)	0	1		UW-Stout (4-3)	1	3	
UW-La Crosse (2-1)	0	1		UW-Stevens Point (5-5)	1	4	
UW-Platteville (1-3)	0	1		UW-Oshkosh (3-3)	0	3	
UW-River Falls (1-3)	0	1					
Volleyball				Soccer			
WIAC Standings	W	L		WIAC Standings	W	L	T
UW-Oshkosh (18-1)	4	0		UW-Stevens Point (8-2-1)	4	0	0
UW-Whitewater (17-2)	3	0		UW-Eau Claire (9-0-1)	3	0	0
UW-Stevens Point (13-6)	2	1		UW-LaCrosse (7-3-0)	3	2	0
UW-Eau Claire (13-6)	2	1		UW-Oshkosh (4-7-0)	2	2	1
UW-LaCrosse (16-4)	1	2		UW-Whitewater (7-6-1)	1	2	1
UW-Superior (13-8)	1	2		UW-River Falls (2-7-2)	1	1	1
UW-River Falls(5-15)	1	2		UW-Platteville (2-5-3)	1	3	0
UW-Platteville (16-7)	0	3		UW-Stout (2-9-0)	1	3	1
UW-Stout (9-10)	0	3		UW-Superior (5-4-1)	0	3	0

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

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check out www.uwrfvoice.com.

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ZOR Shriners & UW-River Falls Parade

Downtown River Falls
Starts at 10:00 AM

Homecoming Parade

Saturday, October 13

Parade Route- Main Street (near West Wind Restaurant) down to Spring Street (after Holiday Gas Station) to Second Street (ends at Cascade Ave.)

For more information call Student Affairs at (715) 425-4444
or email homecoming@uwrf.edu

Parking issues cause debate on campus

Hike in meter prices, charges at Ramer anger many UWRF students

Sarah Packingham
sarah.packingham@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls has spent almost the last month or so adjusting to parking problems on campus. The increase in parking fees has bothered some students, and the reason the White House was still in Q Lot when school began made a number of students wonder why it was still there.

In Q Lot, the commuter lot across from North Hall, prices were raised from 25 cents per half an hour to 50 cents per half an hour, Wendy Penny, operations program associate, said.

While the quarter difference may not seem like it would make a huge impact on students, it has.

The lot, that was previously full nearly every day, now sits emptier day after day, senior Katie Crowell said.

Crowell commutes 15-20 minutes each day from her home in Hastings, Minn.

“I do park there every now and again,” Crowell said. “It still makes me mad. I didn’t know why the prices went up and there wasn’t any information as to why.”

UWRF Public Safety Director Dick Trende said the increase in the charge for metered parking was necessary.

All the meters in that lot were removed and updated to digital meters. The old meters kept breaking down and having to be fixed. Now, the University can’t get the parts to fix the old meters, so they just made the switch to all-new meters, Trende said.

The extra money also helps pay for the upkeep of the lots across campus.

The school ended up spending more money than it was worth to ship the old meters to get fixed if they couldn’t get fixed on campus, Penny said.



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Increased meter fees and other parking issues this year have students complaining.

Another situation involving Q Lot was the non-removal of the White House over the summer. The removal of the house would have allowed about 13 more spaces to be created. Unexpected delays forced the project to move slower than originally projected.

“There were still folks living in the house until the end of July,” Tom Weiss said in an e-mail interview. “We could not destroy or move the house until then. We opened the bids for removal on the 27th of July and there were no bids. We turned it over to the Facilities Management folks to proceed to have the house demolished or properly recycled.”

Weiss is still unsure when the house will be completely removed from the lot.

When students went to the first home football game of the year Sept. 8 at Ramer Field, they noticed something new. This year, officials were charging \$3 to park in the parking lot next to the field.

The football season is the only time

money will be charged to park at Ramer Field.

Students who already park in Ramer are not charged to park during games, athletic director Rick Bowen said.

“Money is split between parking and the athletic department,” Bowen said. “We are charging because it is a revenue source. We will not be charging for hockey. [It’s] too cold and too hard to staff.”

Some students agree with what the school has done with the increase in parking fees.

“I understand why it had to be done,” senior Derek Brandt said of the fees increase. “But I don’t agree that the commuters have to bear the burden of that decision.”

Brandt said that he thinks that a number of students who commute couldn’t live on campus if they wanted to unless they lived in the extended housing rooms on campus, which is another problem that needs to be addressed.

Homecoming week provides students with numerous events

Jenna Nelson
jenna.nelson-1@uwrf.edu

Homecoming 2007 begins Oct. 8, and this year students will be able to experience various events on campus with this year’s homecoming theme: Wonders of the World.

The overall theme for homecoming 2007 was actually decided upon after last year’s Homecoming, by the Homecoming Committee. The committee considered themes based upon different things such as pirates or movie themes but finally settled on one that was both broad and diverse.

According to Abby Maliszewski, homecoming committee chair, the team thought it was important to make homecoming well rounded and able to include suggestions made by students.

“Usually if we hear something on campus, we try to incorporate it,” Maliszewski said. The committee chooses certain events that they feel pertain the best to students. They focus on the favorite traditional activities enjoyed by students and also try to introduce new events. When new ideas are suggested, the committee weighs the pros and cons until it is decided what will work.

“We try to get competitions as diverse as possible among different areas such as athletics or academics,” Maliszewski said. “We also try and create different events that appeal to different people.”

While this year’s homecoming will be similar to last year’s, it will also contrast in a few key ways.

One major change is how the competitions will be run. Last year, only organizations were allowed to compete in events. New this year is the fact that anyone is eligible for competition. They simply have to form a team and sign up on the UWRF Web site. Numerous events will make a return this year, but new events were also created. One new event is the Foam Party.

“I’m definitely planning on going to the Foam Party,” sophomore JD Rojas said. “I’ve never been to one, so I’m planning on making the most out of it.”

The Falcons will launch their homecoming events 3 p.m. Oct. 8 on the University Center lawn. The kickoff will last until 8 p.m. and will include an inflatable obstacle course, henna tattoos and caricatures at no cost to students. Also during the entirety of the event, there will be two bands playing: Jester’s Panic and The Blend.

In addition to the Homecoming Kickoff, the Best Seat in the House Competition will be taking place, also on the University Center’s front lawn. While the University Center will be buzzing with events and students, the Foto Phrenzy team competition will help UWRF get underway with the homecoming week. The competition involves taking pictures in six required locations and will then be judged using set criteria. Additionally, Monday will be the first

day of the traditional and week-long Medallion Hunt, and will be the day when the first clue is delivered. Each consecutive day will present a new clue which will aid students in searching for the hidden medallion on campus.

Tuesday will also host a series of homecoming happenings, including The Pop Tab Competition, and the Arid Architecture competition, which begins at 5 p.m. Arid Architecture involves team members striving to maintain a human pyramid for as long as possible. Following Arid Architecture will be the Ancient Fashion Show hosted in the Falcon’s Nest at 7 p.m. The competition consists of homecoming royalty competitors designing their own version of Ancient Fashion. Although only royalty can compete in this event, everyone is welcome to attend.

Wednesday’s events will begin in the Falcon’s Nest for Boggle Your Mind and Board Games. Later that evening, the UWRF volleyball team will take on UW-Stout for their homecoming game at 7 p.m. in Karges. Prior to the game a Yell Like Hell competition will return to UWRF. With the contest taking place in Karges, each team will perform their own original cheer for 90 seconds.

Thursday the events begin at 9 a.m. with the Change Wars contest. The contest will involve collecting as much loose change as possible and then donate the proceeds to Feed the Children. Also on Thursday, the highly anticipated Lip Sync battle will be occurring in North Hall at 7 p.m. This year’s song theme is One Hit Wonders.

Friday is the day of the food drive, which is located at Riverside Commons and will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A new event that will be held in Knowles Arena this year is the Foam Party and DJ.

The Foam Party will be held in a pit and has been described as a “big bubble bath” by Maliszewski.

The event is free for students and pizza will be provided.

Saturday will bring the grand finale to UWRF’s Homecoming. The Homecoming parade will occur at 10 a.m. in downtown River Falls for the second year in a row, which will be followed by the Homecoming BBQ at the University Center. Falcon football will kickoff at Ramer Field at 1 p.m. to take on UW-Eau Claire. The 2007 Homecoming royalty will take the field during halftime, when the king and queen will be crowned. Following the game will be Big Event at 3:45 p.m. in the Amphitheater.

With these events in mind, UWRF students have already caught wind of the upcoming excitement.

Jeff Gerlach, a transfer student, will be experiencing Homecoming River Falls style for his first time.

“I look forward to seeing what homecoming is all about here at UWRF,” Gerlach said. “I’m really looking forward to all the food as well.”

Additional information concerning team competitions and royalty voting can be found at www.sa.uwrf.edu.

Conference: Author speaks about career

from page 2

about it I just sent her an e-mail and I said that Masha Hamilton would be perfect for the keynote,” Brantley said.

Brantley and Hamilton had first made contact six years ago when Brantley decided to teach Hamilton’s first novel in some of her classes. They have been corresponding ever since, and Hamilton has visited River Falls three times during that timeframe.

As part of the presentations, Hamilton did readings from *The Camel Bookmobile*, and her fourth work, which has yet to be published. During her short stay at River Falls, Hamilton also answered a number of questions about her professions and her works. Her years as a foreign correspondent for *The AP* and the *L.A. Times* were the focus of questions from a number of people.

“I loved it; I felt so lucky to be able to see the Middle East up close and personal,” Hamilton said. “To be in Moscow during the collapse of communism felt like the center of the world.”

For years Hamilton witnessed and reported on the violence and bloodshed in the Middle East and she was reporting out of Russia during the end of the Cold War. Reporting in these two places changed her as a person and her views on humanity.

“It taught me that the idea of us against them is a simplistic idea,” Hamilton said.

“I would meet Israelis that were so much like the Palestinians that I was interviewing, and visa-versa, and I would think that the government created an artificial barrier.”

Hamilton has experienced many different aspects of life in her years as a reporter, but she now works mainly as a fiction novelist. “I was working in Moscow for five years and I began to dream fictional stories,” Hamilton said. “I realized that I wanted to dive more deeply into stories that interested me as a journalist.”

Writing fiction can sometimes bring an author closer to reality than reporting on the days events can, according to Hamilton.

“Fiction - making it up - offers us the best shot at getting to the truth,” Hamilton said.

After Hamilton finished her keynote speech, professors and students commented about how the day went.

“It was so nice to actually be able to hear other student’s work,” Suzanna Lee, a UWRF senior and one of the day’s presenters, said.

The presentations throughout the day went rather smoothly, but there were some complaints by students and staff at the end of the day.

“It was a failure of the University Center because the staff were not accommodating about directing people or letting us hang up posters,” Lee said. “If they would have just let us put up a damn sign in the entryway it would have helped a lot.”

This sentiment was shared by a number of the other presenters and some UWRF professors. A couple of presenters even showed up late because they couldn’t find the St. Croix room and the staff they talked to were unaware of where it was.

There may have been some advertising and direction problems with the conference, but students still got the chance to present their works to their peers, professors, parents and friends nonetheless. This was UWRF’s first attempt at a conference of this sort, and plans for the future include inviting more students from surrounding universities and bringing in more keynote speakers.

For more information on the first-annual academic conference and possible future conferences, the UWRF English Department can be contacted. For more information on Hamilton and her works, visit her Web site, www.mashahamilton.com.

Tune in to WRFW 88.7

Tuesday: "Let's Talk," with Rose Rongitsch (with special guest Dr. Wesley Chapin to discuss the state of Wisconsin budget.)

Wednesday: "Mad Movie Man," with Adam Hakari & Ken Weigend.

Thursday: "Game Break," with Phil Bock.

Friday: "Wisconsin and World Issues," with Ben Plunkett (featuring the Pierce County Development Corporation)

ALL NEWS AND INFORMATION BLOCKS: 5-6 p.m.

10/16 "Disco Night" at the UC in the Entertainment Complex starts at 9 p.m. Admission is free.

Employment

Attention all Early Childhood & Elementary Education Majors - Do you like working with children, a fun, flexible team? Join our team at Beane Sprouts Child Care - just 15 minutes from UWRF - no weekend hours-contact Karen at 715-262-4245 - afternoon hours are available

Spring Break 2008, Sell Trips, Earn Cash and Go Free. Call for group discounts. Best Deals Guaranteed! Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, Bahamas, S. Padre, Florida. 800-648-4849 or www.ststravel.com

CLASSIFIEDS

To learn more about classified or display ad rates, contact the business office at 425-3624. You can also view them online at www.uwrfvoice.com

Student Voice Business Office
410 S. Third Street, 304 North Hall
River Falls, WI 54022
Phone: 425-3624 Fax: 425-0684

Employment

Wanted: Person to walk recovering foundered horse in indoor arena. Location is between River Falls and Hudson. Fees negotiable. Please call 612-834-0261.

PT - Office Assistant
Part-time office assistant (around 9-12 hours a week) for an office in Hudson Wisconsin. Computer and people skills a must with a positive attitude. Please contact Lana Meyer at 715-760-2462

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Students showcase artwork on campus



Left: UWRF students Amanda Jury and Katie Berends stop by the art show Wednesday. Right: Justin Anderson admires a mural of TV host and personality Conan O’Brien outside KFA.

Local band, Jesters Panic, drops sophomore album



Matt Loosbrock

My Book Report On Life, Jesters Panic’s sophomore effort, is a solid attempt to create an album that tries to make sense of everything that occurs before death. While it can be argued that summing up one’s life in nine songs is somewhat vague, the album does not try to prophesize and teach. It is simply a young band’s nostalgic vision of the first two decades of their mortality, and for the most part, they succeed in their delivery.

The local band from River Falls has been around for a few years. You may have seen them around campus previously, performing in the

University Center or elsewhere, and you’ve probably heard the delicate melodies of Jamie DeGrolier. Her sound is astounding; meshed with the calm, jaunty vocals of Sonic Youth’s Kim Gordon and the torch like, alt-country style of The New Pornographer’s Neko Case. The result is some really engaging singing made possible by the band’s main song writer, Mike Benoy.

As the sole song writer (save for “Bristol,” written by the band’s multi-saxophonist Mike Pearson), Benoy wants to invoke familiar feelings of lost friendships (“Here From Your Letter”), lost loves (“Frozen”) and remembering the best times (“Green”). He succeeds in the fact that there’s at least one song on the album that someone can find a connection to, something to relate. Benoy’s words aren’t Dylan, in the way that we feel the emotion, but they are cleverly crafted as relatable to anyone, with nothing to read between the lines.

Musically, the album borrows from influences

such as 70s power anthems, like the album’s opener, “Jefferson Dr.,” which starts with a simple guitar riff and then explodes into a series of power chords. “Here From Your Letter” sounds like The Smiths’ guitarist Johnny Marr guest played, creating a familiar 80s rock vibe, while songs like “Boy’s Lie Girl’s Cry” matches the noise pop of the Smashing Pumpkins. Pearson’s saxophone kisses each song just delicately enough to sound fresh each time you hear it. Considerable effort, considering the sax isn’t used as much in pop songs as it should be. My only complaint with the album is that I wish Jesters Panic would break out just a bit more and really define their sound. They’re off to a great start, no doubt, but there are songs that beg to be exposed just a little more. Take the closer “Hands.” While it starts off with an alien-like keyboard intro, not unfamiliar to The Steve Miller Band, it reverts to the basic guitar chords, drum beat and keyboard melodies that are featured in

most pop songs heard today. The songs grab my interest for sure, but I don’t just want my mind soothed, I want it blown.

Here’s the best part (for your wallet) of *My Book Report On Life*: you can judge it for yourself, for free. You can download the entire album (what I’m calling a web album) from www.mybookreportonlife.com. You can check out their MySpace profile at www.myspace.com/jesterspanic.com for more info on the group. Also of note, Jesters Panic will be playing on campus, for free, as part of the Homecoming kick-off party, at 4 p.m. Oct. 8 in front of Hathorn Hall. Now that you’ve heard my opinion, make your own. This group deserves a listen, at the very least, and you have no excuse not to.

Matt is a senior double majoring in Music and Creative Writing who likes lots of music types, old and new (save for modern country, which is not his thing).

Action packed, star studded ‘Kingdom’ tackles terrorism



A.J. Hakari

While such post-9/11 films as “The Guys” and “Reign Over Me” were more dramatic character pieces about attempting to move on past that horrible day, “The Kingdom” attempts to merge that volatile environment with the spirit of a shoot-’em-up action flick.

It’s a premise that’s extremely tricky to pull off, but in the end, “The Kingdom” manages to tackle this touchy subject matter in the form of escapist entertainment. It’s not as smart as it thinks it is, but at least not terribly exploitative either.

The U.S. has been dealt a crushing blow after an elusive terrorist executed not one, but two successive bombings at an American housing compound in Saudi Arabia, mercilessly slaughtering oil company workers and their families.

FBI agent Ronald Fleury (Jamie Foxx) is ready and willing to lead the agency’s investigation into the incident, only to confront a flurry of red tape preventing him from stepping on Saudi soil.

After a little finagling, Fleury manages to gain his team (Jennifer Garner, Chris Cooper and Jason Bateman) acceptance to carry on their investigation a little more closely.

They have more than a few tight conditions to work under, particularly a five-day window to see what information they can gather, a situation the team must find a way to work

Foxx gives a solid and compelling turn as the lead FBI man on the case.

around in order to not only track down the brains behind the bombings, but to also combat an impending threat growing against them.

After a jarring opening sequence and a brief history of Saudi Arabia’s rise to power, “The Kingdom” settles into being a swift police procedural with a nice “stranger in a strange land” glaze.

The story addresses such intriguing topics as the presence of an American law enforcement team reflecting on the Saudi royal family, not to mention one of the agents being a woman.

These themes are fleetingly touched upon (and pretty much discarded completely during the movie’s “bullet the blue sky” climax), but director Peter Berg pays them enough attention to earn the viewer’s interest.

All of this is accomplished at a near-break-neck pace that makes the time fly by pretty darn fast.

While Berg proves to be pretty adept at capturing an edgy atmosphere and even ending the film on a realistic note, “The Kingdom’s” cast is a little bit more of a mixed bag. Foxx gives a solid and compelling turn as the lead FBI man on the case.

Cooper is his usual awesome self, bringing a sense of experience and wry humor to his role that the man has gleaned from years of playing memorable supporting characters.

Garner, on the other hand, doesn’t get to do much except hold a gun and wolf down Tootsie Pops, and Bateman’s character could’ve been scrapped altogether.

One could say that because of the nature and environment at the

time of its inception, “The Kingdom” lucked out on getting to carry around some extra thematic baggage, but as is, the flick is still a very rousing, intense and skillful action flick.

A.J. is a senior year journalism student. He enjoys all genres, but he digs horror and documentaries the most.



Ken Weigend



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.



It is a common practice for Hollywood to re-write history in its own image. Events entombed in our textbooks get new life on the silver screen, re-animated to be bigger and more extravagant. That is exactly what “The Kingdom” does. A political conflict that has, until now, been taboo for the entertainment industry is captured on film as a picturesque ideal of the Middle East where good always trumps evil.

Being a politically saturated action thriller, “The Kingdom” starts off as a mirror of modern newscasts; a terrorist bombing murders hundreds of American oil workers and their families in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Bogged down by timid politicians and fueled by revenge, FBI Agent Ronald Fleury (Jamie Foxx), along with his elite team of experts (Chris Cooper, Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman), arrange for a secret five-day incursion into the oil kingdom to find those responsible. There, sympathetic Saudi Colonel Al-Ghazi (Ashraf Barhoum) helps the agents navigate an untrusting Saudi government and a volatile cityscape rife with enemies.

Once the team arrives the chase begins. Manifestly, “The Kingdom” is a crime-drama - a cat and mouse whodunit set abroad that uses the same detective tricks as every episode of “Law & Order.” But “The Kingdom” is separated from other clichéd murder mysteries in its ability to feed off an audience steeped in political conflict. Every person in the crowd has some idea of the quagmire that is the Middle East. The filmmakers rely on that to bring you closer to the situation.

Director Peter Berg does a brilliant job in keeping politics out of a political movie.

The horrific acts onscreen become mere shadows of atrocities shown on the news every night. While the film never comes out and speaks about the war in Iraq, it presents a parallel in which viewers can’t help but compare. And therein lies the bulk of its power.

Despite this parallelism being drawn, there is no political agenda at work. Director Peter Berg does a brilliant job in keeping politics out of a political movie. The most important thing the film does is present a view of Middle Easterners not tarnished by hate. The Saudi populace is presented as intelligent, valuing many of the same principles we do in the United States, such as honor and family. The landscape is not a collection of bloodthirsty savages but rather a civilized culture plagued by infectious radical extremists.

Where the movie does falter, however, is in its romantic vision of outmatched heroes saving the day against all odds. “The Kingdom” becomes a fantastical daydream of not half-a-million, but four U.S. troops going in and beating the bad guys, swiftly and unequivocally. I can almost hear Foxx yelling, “We are America and we always get our man!” as he blazes his way through the film’s bullet-ridden climax.

In the end, “The Kingdom” succeeds as a visceral gut punch that brilliantly feeds on a nation’s want for an end to violence. So simple yet incredibly powerful and thought provoking, it is a frantic pipe dream do-over that showcases a righteous America taking terrorism head-on and winning.

Ken is a junior Journalism major with a minor in Film Studies. He is an aspiring film critic and an avid DVD collector.

Wellness Wednesdays promote healthy alternatives

Series of events to take place at least once every month

Sarah Packingham
sarah.packingham@uwrf.edu

Student Health and Counseling Services has put together a new program for students to show the variety of health alternatives that are available to them.

Personal Counselor Jennifer Elsesser came up with the idea for Wellness Wednesdays last spring, but didn't know how the campus community would receive such an event.

"As a staff we decided we wanted to show students some alternatives," Elsesser said. "We've had a lot of health professionals offer to come to campus and show ways for students to improve their general health and just feel better."

Last spring, the first speaker was Susan Wahl, a naturopath from River Falls. She will be speaking again later this semester.

Senior Terri Marquardt doesn't know much about the Wellness Wednesdays events, but finds the idea behind them to be interesting.

"I think the topics that would really benefit students would be interesting like stress management, yoga and nutrition," Marquardt said. "I think students would go if they were well publicized and people knew about them."

The schedule for Wellness Wednesdays is available on the Falcon Daily and also on the Student Health and Counseling Services Web site.

Senior Alicia Braker heard a bit about Wellness

Wednesdays at the end of last semester, but hasn't attended any sessions yet. She said she would find a sleep specialist most interesting to see, since sleeping conditions of college students is considered a huge issue.

While the events haven't drawn a huge crowd so far, the organizers have been pleased with the outcome. There has been a lot of faculty, staff and students who have been required by a class to attend.

"I know it's hard for students who are so busy," Elsesser said.

Marquardt said she would go to one of the sessions if her class schedule, work and homework schedule allowed.

One of the most well-attended sessions was when a kettlebells instructor gave a demonstration outside the front of the University Center.

"I think that if there was more advertising, more awareness, more students would attend," Braker said.

Events are from noon to 1 p.m. and usually in room 232 of the University Center.

"I think a lot of students could get a lot out of these events," Elsesser said. "It's really important that we let people know what's out there."

Elsesser said she is always looking for new ideas for guest speakers and encourages students with ideas to send her an e-mail whenever they have any suggestions.

Future speakers include Deb Sanders, a dietitian.

Past speakers include Gail Bair from Eclectic Energetics, Marty Larson, the kettlebells instructor, and Daniel Zimmerman, a sleep specialist from the clinic.



Abby Piette/Student Voice
Instructor Daniel Rivera teaches the art of yoga to Wellness Wednesdays' participants in the Wyman Education Building. Here, the participants perform the "tree" position.

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