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Geology professor shares his passion, brings life to rocks

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Voice staffer gets an inside look at National Figure Skating Championships

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Reviewers provide insight on movie, "The Eye" starring Jessica Alba



# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

February 8, 2008

www.uwrf.edu/student-voice

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## Students' interest in politics rises

Katrina Styx

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An estimated 90 people showed up to "Pizza and Obama" Jan. 31 to show support for Presidential candidate Barack Obama and encourage students to vote in the upcoming primaries. The event, sponsored by the Black Student Union, began with pizza for all and proceeded with a presentation outlining Obama and his campaign.

Simeon Talley, a representative from Obama's Twin Cities headquarters, spoke with students about the importance of voting.

"We recognize that things have to change," he said. He focused on Wisconsin and Minnesota, emphasizing their importance in the election race. Currently there is no clear front-runner in either state.

Ted Cannady, Tom Friant and Nikki Shonoiki, coordinators of the event, shared their ideas about why Obama deserves the vote.

"I feel like my opinions and views matter, and that I can be a part of history," Cannady said. Cannady told students that before this election he had not been interested in politics.

The event not only informed students about Obama and his campaign, but also worked to inspire students to vote

See **Obama**, page 3

## Ron Kind visits UWRF campus

Phillip Bock

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U.S. Rep. Ron Kind, D-La Crosse, held a roundtable discussion in the University Center Theater on Tuesday to discuss issues facing small businesses in River Falls and the surrounding areas.

For the last year Rep. Kind has been on the House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee, a committee focused on writing tax legislation and bills affecting Social Security, Medicare and other entitlement programs, according to the committee's Web site.

While on the committee, Kind has been focusing on ways to help Wisconsin businesses invest in their companies, afford reasonable health insurance, modernize small business tax rules and offer retirement plans to employees, according to his small businesses agenda press release.

"We do see some bright spots, as far as economic activity, both at home and nationwide," Kind said. "Small businesses, I think, are one of the bright spots."

Kind invited small business leaders from around the area to attend the discussion and voice their input on his small business agenda. The discussion was meant to focus on the issues business owners are facing and to discuss possible reforms that could be made to help them grow their businesses.

"What I'm hoping to do is hear from you," Kind said "your comments, thoughts and questions about your businesses."

Affordable health insurance for small businesses is one of the primary goals of Kind's business agen-



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

**Tom Friant, a UWRF student dressed up as a rabbit and made a sign to demonstrate his feelings on the war in Iraq during U.S. Representative, Ron Kind's visit to UWRF. Kind lead a discussion addressing issues that affected small businesses in River Falls. An estimated 25 people attended the discussion, including, business owners and students.**

da. Business owners in attendance provided input on Kind's proposal.

"Last year our health insurance went up 21 percent and I had the unhappy experience this afternoon to tell my employees that it went up another 27 percent this year," Dale Jorgenson, a small business owner in River Falls, said. "Whatever you can do to push that legislation through would be greatly appreciated."

Business owners in attendance also brought up issues with growing utility costs and the effect it has on small businesses, going green, problems with the Department of Motor Vehicles and finding

ways to fund struggling new businesses.

"This was a very helpful listening session. [There are] a lot of diverse business interests here today and a lot of different issues were raised," Kind said.

The roundtable discussion drew some criticism as well. In the back of the room, a person in a rabbit costume held a sign that read "I'm hopping mad about you funding the war."

There were about 25 people in the audience for the discussion. Small business owners, city leaders and several students were among the audience

See **Kind**, page 3

## Professor passes away due to surgery complications

Derrick Knutson

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The door to Cliff 'Skip' Mottaz's office remains closed, and a sign with a picture of him adorns the outside that reads, "Dr. Cliff Mottaz, Dec. 4, 1940-Dec. 21, 2007."

Cliff Mottaz passed away on the aforementioned date at Abbot Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis as a result of complications from surgery, according to a UW-River Falls public affairs news release.

"It was really tragic and it was a

shock to all of us," the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Terry Brown said. Cliff Mottaz's passing has left a void in the sociology department that the college desperately had to try to fill before spring semester started.

"Right now we've had to scramble to hire someone from the outside to cover his courses, and we've moved some faculty around in their teaching assignments," Brown said.

"Currently, no clear decision has been made about what to do in the long term," Brown said.

### As a colleague

Dr. Ed Robins, the current chair of the UWRF anthropology department, worked with Cliff Mottaz for 35 years.

"I think one of his most attractive features was that he was very down to earth as a person," Robins said. "He had no pretensions; he was just a very natural type of person and I think that's what people enjoyed about him most."

Cliff Mottaz was a trusted colleague to Robins and he wouldn't hesitate to go to him for advice.

"I think I found in him somebody



Cliff Mottaz

Sociology Professor, Brian Copp, met Cliff Mottaz when he came to River Falls 30 years ago. "When my wife and I first came here it was

that was quite accessible," Robins said. "I trusted his judgment in a lot of areas."

Cliff Mottaz's advice to his colleagues was not limited to education alone.

Cliff and his wife who found a house for us to rent," Copp said.

He and Copp got to know each other over the years and played softball together. Copp's two daughters also referred to Cliff Mottaz's wife, Carole Mottaz as 'aunt Carole,' according to Copp.

"She [Carole Mottaz] was really very close to both of my daughters," Copp said.

Trica Davis said she met him eight years ago.

"He was very supportive when I first got here," she said. "He will be

See **Mottaz**, page 3

## Car accident to blame for campus, city power outage

Tyler Liedman

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Twice the night before classes, and the students did shout. The school had gone dark, for the power was out.

Around 8 p.m., Jan. 27, as students and staff were settling in and preparing for the beginning of a new semester, the entire UW-River Falls campus lost electricity and, with the exception of some emergency backup systems, stayed that way for nearly two hours.

The outage occurred when a vehicle crashed into a transmission pole east of the city near the intersection of County Roads M and JJ, said Jan Lorenz, a spokeswoman for River Falls Municipal Utilities, the company that provides electricity to River Falls and the surrounding area.

Lorenz said about 20 percent of their coverage area was affected by the outage.

This included parts of the city's east and south sides as well as the entire University campus.

Sophomore Ashley Taylor was in her room in Hathorn Hall when the blackout occurred.

"My lights went out and my computer shut down," Taylor said, who was uploading photos at the time. "It was really frustrating."

Among many other Hathorn residents, mass confusion began to take hold.

"Everyone was out in the hall," Taylor said. "People were actually screaming."

After a few tense moments, the backup generators kicked in and the hall lights turned back on. But the problems were far from over.

"You had to keep your door open because the room lights were still out," Taylor said.

See **Power Outage**, page 3

## UWRF senior given opportunity to assist, attend '08 Super Bowl

Nicole Aune

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On Super Bowl Sunday, UW-River Falls senior Ryan Stridde had a prime seat at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz., where the Super Bowl was played.

Stridde arrived in Arizona Jan. 27 and worked with NFL Films the week leading up to the Super Bowl getting audio equipment set up. All audio transmission went to a trailer outside of the stadium full of audio equipment during the game.

Inside the stadium, Stridde helped set up microphones and audio receive sites. Audio receive sites are frequency boxes with antennas that pick up audio from the game, patch it through to the camera guys and record audio to the cameras.

On game day, Stridde "miked up" Patriots' coach Bill Belichick and a referee. Stridde also "jammed all the time codes" so that the audio devices and cameras were in sync with each other.

"It makes synching all the video and the audio and the editing process a lot easier," Stridde said.

Stridde also met with the radio guys from each team in the press box to pick up radio tapes that were recorded during the game for NFL Films.

During the downtime that Stridde had, he sat in a camera spot behind the Patriots end zone watching the game.

After the game, Stridde helped pack up the audio equipment and was able to walk on the field.

"It was definitely a busy day—a lot of people—but everything went well and that was nice. It was a really cool atmosphere," Stridde said. "Just seeing all the players and all the commentators that you see on TV, seeing them in person was awesome."

Stridde has been working with NFL Films since last summer when he was recommended by film professor, Evan Johnson, to help with a film.

"Ryan, like all five of the digital film and television students that we had working with NFL Films this summer, has talent, works hard and has a great attitude," Johnson said in an e-mail.

See **Stridde**, page 3



VOICE SHORTS

Former *Voice* staffers win awards at WNA

Two former writers for the Student Voice have won awards in the annual College Better Newspaper Contest sponsored by the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.

Ben Jipson took third place in column writing for his December 2006 piece, “Cereal is essential ingredient for dating.” The column examined the relationship between dating and breakfast cereal choices. Jipson graduated in 2006 from UWRF with a degree in English.

Josh Dahlke, who graduated in December with a degree in journalism, received an honorable mention for his March 2007 story, “Students postpone schooling for military duty.” The story looked at students serving in the U.S. armed forces. Contest results were announced Feb. 1 during the WNA’s annual convention in Lake Delton.

Physics department to host observatory viewings

On the first clear night next week, the physics department is hosting the first talk and observatory session of the semester. The evening will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Room 271 of Centennial Science Hall. At 8 p.m. there will be a telescope viewing.

Matt Vonk will present a talk entitled "The Best of Tonight's Sky."

Interested participants can check the physics Web site at [www.uwrf.edu/physics](http://www.uwrf.edu/physics) and click the observatory link or call extention 3560 after 6 p.m. on campus to see if the viewings are on.

Viewings are suitable for all ages.

First Covenant Church to host meeting

On Thursday, from 1-2 p.m. the First Covenant Church will be holding a Community Aphasia Group Meeting. The meeting is sponsored by the UWRF Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic.

Speech therapists, graduate students and trained volunteers will be facilitating the evnt. This group is designed to support, educate and provide resources t those who are affected by aphasia.

The group will meet the second and fourth Thursdays of each month until May 8. More information can be obtained by calling 425-3245.

Library honors intellectual, creative output

The UWRF Library, in conjunction with the Office of the Provost and Grants and Research, are once again sponsoring a Celebration of Research, Scholarship and Creative Achievement (CRSCA). CRSCA, much like the Undergraduate RSCA Day, is an annual event to honor the intellectual and creative output of the faculty and staff of UW-River Falls. Books, journal articles, academic posters, art-work, performance art, funded grants, and other items created by UWRF faculty and staff will be collected and published and exhibited throughout the library.

All UWRF students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend the reception which will be held in the library's main floor atrium Tuesday, Feb. 19th from 3-4:30. UWRF students Maite Oyarbide-Sanchez and Laura Hanson will perform at the reception. Refreshments will be served.

Meeting for summer trip taking place Feb. 20

An informational meeting for those who are interested in a summet trip to Isreal and Jordan are invited to attend a meeting at 4:30 Feb. 20 in Room B107 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building.

For more information contact Steven Derfler at 425-0639.

Voice Shorts compiled by

*Student Voice* staff

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Student Voice

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www.uwrfvoice.com.

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**Tuesday:** "Let's Talk," with Rose Rongitsch

**Wednesday:** "Act on Ag," with Jodi Kauth

**Thursday:** "Mad Movie Man," with Adam Hakari & Ken Weigend

**Friday:** "Wisconsin and World Issues," with Ben Plunkett.

SENATE

Student Senate meeting short, sweet, to the point

Jerry Clark

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The Feb. 5 Student Senate meeting opened at the usual time of 7 p.m. in the Willow River Room of the University Center, with a number of members not in attendance. They were purportedly at the "Super Tuesday" happenings in Minnesota.

The Senate quickly moved on to addressing issues concerning Senate committees needing to be filled. The Student Affairs Committee, Senate Election Committee and Leadership Development and Programming Board were mentioned specifically.

Legislative Affairs Director, Craig Witte spoke of the efforts of the on-campus voter registration service, describing it as "very successful" with registration totals of between 500 and 600 students. He moved on to upcoming challenges such as discovering ways to promote the upcoming primaries and how to inform the student body regarding a district map of River Falls, so they will know where to go to vote.

Student Association Student Senate Advisor, Gregg Heinselman, suggested a display in the University Center, as well as contacting Amy Lloyd for suggestions. At the end of the meeting, Witte's motion to approve funding for the Presidents Day Great Debate, happening Feb. 18, in the Riverview Ballroom (featuring members of the College Republicans, College Democrats and Socialist Alternative student organizations and moderated by Professor Neil Krause) would be passed unanimously.

Diversity Issues and Women's Initiatives Co-Directors, Nikki Shonoiki and Laura Adrian described their efforts towards deciding on what conferences to attend and goals that their committee should have.

Parliamentarian and Ethics Chair, Nathan McNaughton, mentioned that the senate bylaws as posted on the senate Web site, (<http://sa.uwrf.edu/student-senate>) were out of date. Senate President Derek Brandt stated that the Web site was currently bring updated and that this and other updates (such as a link designed to make allocation of tuition and fees more transparent to students) should be completed soon.

Vice President, Sara Deick had the floor next, she mentioned that Jason Meier was the appropriate contact regarding financing of business cards and placards. She also brought up that the Wisconsin Caucus would be Feb. 19, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., and that if any Senate members were going to be late for the Senate meeting, they should e-mail her in advance.

Leadership Development and Programming Board Chair Mike Defenbaugh brought to the floor the need for review of the budget policies and the vacancies in the committee as well as the aforementioned Web site regarding allocation of tuition and fees.

Heinselman had the most to say of anyone in attendance. He started by bringing up that the Accreditation Review Board would be visiting UWRF on April 21 and 22, and that he was looking for faculty and students to help tell the UWRF story and speak to the student experience on

campus. Continuing on, he stated that UWRF is looking to get in on the beginning of a new national program to help prospective students evaluate various universities across the country and mentioned that he was looking for students to participate in the steering committee of this program as well. Other opportunities for student involvement were detailed in a program designed to recruit summer camp programs to be located on campus (making use of the UC and South Fork Suites) to help ease the costs of student fees.

He also mentioning the very likely possibility that the Kansas City Chiefs might not be using UWRF facilities in the future, which would significantly impact university summer income. He described the UWRF housing staff as "lean" and detailed the prospect of hiring two professional staff members as Assistant directors of housing in response to the opening of South Fork Suites. Five other positions that needed filling were: judicial and conduct officer, student organization voordinator, director of student life, intramural/recreation coordinator, and the transformation of the director of conference services into a conference coordinator position .

The Senate meeting concluded with the unanimous passing of the motion to appoint Jason Meier to the Ethics committee. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next Student Senate meeting will be on Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Willow River Room of the University Center.

UWRF transitons to FalconFile

Caleb Stevens

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So ‘where the heck’ are your files? Over the winter break, Information Technology Services moved files saved on the S:/Home and T:/Oasis drives to the much talked about, much advertised, FalconFile.

FalconFile is the University’s \$534,411 answer to the failing Oasis and Home drives. The program combines all of the separate S, T, P, G, and H drives with a universally accessible interface and gives students, faculty and staff the ability to share files more easily and safely.

“Oasis hardware was aging and it needed to be replaced by better technology,” FalconFile Project Manager Wendy Helm said. “There were significant concerns about Zeus’ (G:/Dept, H:/Home drives) health, so the project was long overdue.”

The most noticeable changes from the separate drives to the universal FalconFile are the off-campus access of saved files and the “ability to streamline e-mail by sending hyperlinks to documents instead of emailing attachments.”

“The biggest pro would be remote access, anywhere you can get Web services you can get at FalconFile,” Helm said. “And it gives students the ability to collaborate and work with other people.”

Along with off-campus access, files can be shared and modified without having to e-mail attachments. By e-mailing hyperlinks, people will be able to share the original file with changes rather than copies of that file.

“With FalconFile, you send a link and everybody goes to the

document,” ITS Executive Director Lisa Wheeler said. “When attached, it sends a copy and creates more traffic on the system, so now the system will be more responsive.”

Less traffic means a less likely risk of a crash, but the project also increases safety by running “redundant” twin datacenters simultaneously in case one goes down. Redundancy greatly reduces the risk of a crash, but also accounted for nearly 40 percent of the more than \$530,000 price tag of the system.

“One of the big decision points was whether to make it redundant or not,” Helm said. “It cost a lot more money but we do have redundancy to help out with crashes and outages.”

Senior education major Jennifer Barber works at the University Center Help Desk and has had a training session in FalconFile.

“It sounds like a good idea,” Barber said. “I like the fact you can access it anywhere without much of a hassle. That really helps because I don’t live on campus anymore.”

Though Barber has had training with FalconFile, she has not used it personally, a trend among students. Only one out of 20 students asked has used FalconFile, though 19 out of those 20 had heard about it.

“I don’t think students really know yet,” Barber said. “They’ve advertised enough but I don’t know of any students using it.”

ITS is offering workshops to inform students and faculty about the uses of FalconFile. During the opening week of the semester, eight students attended the Monday workshop and six attended on Tuesday.

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

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

**Jan. 1**  
-Lance Malark, 23, was cited \$109 for urination and defecation in public.

**Jan. 11**  
-Benjamin F. Wilson, was charged with illegal dumping at the Stratton Hall dumpsters. Items being dumped were listed as: a trampoline, four tires and several bags of garbage.

**Jan. 13**  
-An RA in Stratton Hall called UWRF Public Safety stating that someone had removed the fire hose from the cabinet on the third floor of the residence. It is unknown when this actually occurred.

**Jan. 16**  
-Wesley J. Olson, 20, was cited \$249 for operating a vehicle after revocation of license.

**Jan. 18**  
-A public safety officer noticed damage to a window on the south wall of Hathorn Hall. There are no suspects at this time.

**Jan. 23**  
-Eric J. Bloms, 22, was cited for shoplifting and also with resisting arrest. Bloms was said to have stolen a bag of Old Dutch Potato Chips and a breakfast sandwich. Items were valued at \$0.99 and \$1.99.

**Jan. 27**  
-Amanda S. Thompson was cited \$109 for loud and unneces-

sary noise at 1063 East Cascade Avenue Apt. #12.

-Campus was without power for almost an hour and a half after a car accident knocked out power for UWRF and portions of the city. Nobody was hurt during the incident.

-Dustin W. Hartenstein, 24, had a warrant out of Hudson, Wis. and was charged to pay a bail bond of \$109.

**Jan. 30**  
-An unknown student stole a five-gallon bucket of ice cream from the University Center dining area. The ice cream was valued at \$18.95.

**Jan. 31**  
-Thomas D. Justesen, 19, was cited \$249 for underage consumption.  
-Seth M. Gould, 20, was cited \$172 for underage drinking.

**Feb. 2**  
-Michael J. DeMatties, 18, cited \$249 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.  
Bryan A. Capristo, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.  
Kimberly J. Bernarny, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.

**Feb. 5**  
-Addison D. Griffin, 19, was taken into custody for disorderly conduct after UWRF Public Safety was called to Hathorn Hall.

Wanted:

Assistant News Editor, Freelance Reporter and Advertising Rep.

E-mail: [editor@uwrfvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrfvoice.com).



# Power Outage: Lack of electricity catches students, citizens off guard

from page 1

Eventually, the noise became too much and she decided to finish her work at a nearby friend’s house who still had power. Taylor said when she returned around 10 p.m., the power had only been back for a short time.

A sustained power outage can cause several safety and comfort issues, Dick Trende, director of Public Safety said. Fortunately, no one was hurt during the blackout and the facilities were able to remain warm until the heat turned back on, Trende said.

Trende commended students and residence hall staff for their handling of the situation. “Residential life did an excellent job keeping order,” he said. “Students were very respectful and we had no major issues.”

The blackout did, however, present a major dilemma for the staff at Information Technology Services, better known as ITS. Though university computer systems can run on battery power for a short period of time, the length of Sunday’s outage required a manual shut down, said Lisa Wheeler, executive director of ITS.

“Services need to be shut down in a particular order and brought back up in a particular order as well,” she said. “With over 150 servers in the campus network, this is not a quick process.”

Staff members worked into the night, some until 2 a.m., to make sure everything went smoothly. Fortunately, all

operations, including the transfer of files for the new FalconFile, escaped unscathed. “Restoration actually went better and faster than we anticipated,” said Wheeler. “So everything was back up on Monday.”

A similar outage occurred in May of last year, and in Aug. 2006, the University was without power for over 24 hours, the longest blackout in recent history.

This lengthy recovery process may soon be a thing of the past. According to Wheeler, a state-funded generator capable of providing sustained back-up power is expected to be installed near the end of the semester.

“A generator will be a great benefit to the entire campus,” Wheeler said.

# Kind: U.S. Representative addresses issues relevant to River Falls businesses

from page 1

members.

“I support Ron Kind on a heck of a lot of issues, but I think he needs to realize where the American people are standing on issues like the war and military spending.” Senior Tom Friant said.

Though the roundtable discussion focused on small businesses, students in attendance brought up broader issues affecting the economy.

“I think it’s impossible to ignore the 200-pound rabbit in the room,” student Benjamin Plunkett said. “The fact of the matter is that America has to make a choice, we cannot afford to borrow

against our children’s future to fund war at the cost of our education, our health care and our business investments.”

Kind said that he is working on legislation to lower the interest rate burden on students and that he wants to increase money available for Federal Pell Grant Program. He said that the broader programs will have to be looked at, but that he fully supports higher education.

“We have one of the best universities in the country right here, I’m so proud of what’s been done with this campus and the impact it’s had economically,” Kind said. “We are in a 21st century global economy, and we need students to be well-equipped and well prepared to work in that global economy.”

“We have one of the best universities in the country right here, I’m so proud of what’s been done with this campus and the impact it has economically.”  
Ron Kind,  
U.S. Representative

# Stridde: Student recommended by professor to offer audio assistance on Super Bowl Sunday

from page 1

NFL Films was on campus last summer to film a Kansas City Chiefs episode of the HBO series “Hard Knocks” while the Chiefs were training. During this time, Stridde was an audio production assistant and worked on setting up audio for the film, including putting microphones on the coaches and players.

That was Stridde’s first time working with audio. Since then his interest in film has broadened. Stridde has learned everything he knows about audio while working on the field with NFL Films and continues to learn each time he works with them.

Stridde was also part of the Green Bay Packers and Minnesota Vikings game Sept. 30 at the Metrodome.

“I sat right behind the end zone that (Favre) made the touchdowns in,” Stridde said.

Not only did Stridde have a prime seat during the game, he also was able to hear everything that Favre said during the game

because the microphone in Favre’s helmet was connected to the audio receive site that Stridde worked at.

On Thanksgiving, Stridde received an e-mail from NFL Films in which he was offered an audio job at the Super Bowl.

“I was excited and nervous at the same time because I knew I’d be missing the first week of classes,” Stridde said.

Stridde talked to his spring semester professors and they were very supportive of him and what he is doing. Although Stridde knows that it might be tough to catch up at first, he’s thankful for his professors’ support.

Although Stridde is a health and human performance major and a film minor, now that he has gotten into film, he finds himself rethinking his future.

“It’s hard to think about because I always thought film would be hard to get into,” Stridde said.

Stridde is thankful for the opportunities that he has gotten as a result of Johnson’s recommendation this past summer.

“Without Evan, none of this would have been possible,” Stridde said.

“Without Evan, none of this would have been possible.”  
Ryan Stridde,  
UWRF senior

# Obama: Support for candidate demonstrated with campus event hosted by Black Student Union

from page 1

whether they wanted to vote for Obama or another candidate. Voter registration took place on campus Jan. 28 to Jan. 30 in the UC and in the residence halls.

In just those three days, more than 500 students took advantage of the opportunity to register, Friant reported.

“Young folks are turning out in ways we’ve never seen before,” Talley said.

Those numbers are encouraging, when trends seemed to be indicating declining voter turnouts. In February of 2004, only 1,690 of roughly 14,000 River Falls residents voted in the primaries, compared to 8,114 in the November election that same year.

The Legislative Affairs Committee of the Student Senate has been working in conjunction with River Falls Votes project to encourage students to vote in local, state and national elections.

Their efforts are paying off. According to a recent news release, record numbers of stu-

dents voted in the 2004 and 2006 elections. Considering the numbers recorded at pre-poll registration, participation for the upcoming November polls promises to impress.

The “Obama for America” campaign came to the Target Center in Minneapolis on Saturday. Tickets for the rally were given away to the public, but had to be reserved online and sold out within 15 hours of becoming available.

Those students who attended the “Pizza and Obama” event were given complimentary tickets to attend the rally.

Attendees waited hours in the cold to see Obama, the majority of them fitting into a much younger demographic than political rallies normally attract. College students brought a new level of enthusiasm to the campaign.

“I think this campaign is about young people to. Young people care about change,” Talley said.

His sentiment is reflected in students’ reactions to Obama.

“Barack is the most promising candidate today,” Shonoiki said.

“Barack is the most promising candidate today.”  
Nikki Shonoiki,  
Event coordinator

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# Mottaz: Beloved professor shows dedication, passion for teaching before unexpected death

from page 1

missed in the department.”

**As a professor**

Cliff Mottaz’s passion for teaching and advising was more than prevalent to everyone he came across.

“As a teacher he was really informative; he seemed to know just about everything there was to know about what he was teaching,” Mike West, one of Mottaz’s former students and advisees said. “As an advisor he would make any time possible for you. If you needed him he was really easy to get a hold of.”

Cliff Mottaz was recognized for his advising in 2001 when he was named “Adviser of the Year,” according to a public affairs news release.

“Professor Mottaz is always available to his students to answer their questions and to provide thoughtful advice. He is an example to us all,” former UWRF Chancellor Ann Lydecker said in the news release.

Sophomore Amanda Mollner is another student that Cliff Mottaz had a profound impact upon.

Mollner had to go through surgery while she was in one of Cliff Mottaz’s classes and she subsequently missed numerous class periods.

“He was so understanding and so supportive,” Mollner said. “I knew that he was having surgery, but I didn’t know for what and he

said he would pray for me during my surgery. I said I’d do the same for him.”

Cliff Mottaz was one of those rare professors that took time to get to know each and every one of his students and it was difficult to find anyone who had a complaint about him.

“If you couldn’t get along with Mottaz, there is something wrong with you,” West said. Robins echoed this sentiment.

“I don’t think I ever had a student come to me and complain about him,” Robins said. “He took real pride in what he did.”

**As a husband**

Cliff Mottaz had a passion for teaching, research, cars and sports, but his true passion was his wife of 31 years, Carole Mottaz.

“He was always excited to go home on Fridays and spend time with his wife,” Mollner said.

Cliff and Carole Mottaz were inseparable and they simply enjoyed spending time together.

“He always wanted to spend time with me,” she said. “He told me every day that he loved me. His greatest passion was me.”

They shared many of the same passions and hobbies.

“We played racquetball for years,” Carole Mottaz said. “We always went together and we even entered tournaments.”

As time progressed Cliff and Carole Mottaz had to give up the game of racquetball, but a new passion emerged: Cliff’s emphatic love of antique cars.

“In college he was a math major, but he changed to sociology,” she said. “The lingering part of the math was his attention to detail.”

That attention to detail led Cliff into the restoration of 1957 Chevrolets. Carole

and Cliff traveled to car shows all throughout the United States to showcase the restored cars. Cliff Mottaz later became enamored with restoring 1970 Chevelles, according to Carol Mottaz.

After Cliff Mottaz’s cars scored a perfect score at two car shows in 1999, he decided that he was done with car restoration because he had reached the pinnacle, Carole Mottaz said.

Aside from teaching, advising and car restoration, Cliff Mottaz also thoroughly enjoyed the simple aspects of life.

“We have a deck and we just loved sitting outside in the summer and talking,” Carole Mottaz said. “Sometimes the neighbors would come over and we’d have drinks.”

Cliff Mottaz was a recognized and praised scholar in the field of anthropology and this allotted him opportunities to travel across the nation and teach at larger universities as part of a lecture circuit, but his devotion to his wife and UWRF kept him here.

“He wanted us to be able to be together,” Carole Mottaz said. “He [also] liked the small-town feel of River Falls.”

**His legacy**

Cliff Mottaz spent 38 years of his life teaching and advising at UWRF. He made an impact upon the university and his legacy will live on through the scholarship that pairs his name right beside his wife’s. The Doctors Cliff and Carole Mottaz scholarship will be instituted 2008-2009 and it will be available to Cliff Mottaz advisees. Along with the scholarship there will be a memorial service set up some time during the spring to honor the life and legacy of Cliff Mottaz, Carole Mottaz said. To read more about Cliff Mottaz and his contributions to UWRF visit: <http://www.uwrf.edu/sociology/>

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EDITORIAL

Election needs students' voices

Here in the United States we have the ability to vote for the one person we want to be the leader of our country. For some people, including young people, that ability may be taken for granted. In past elections, young people haven't paid nearly as much attention as they should to the upcoming elections and haven't put much effort towards learning about the candidates.

This year, however, things may be changing. But it is still up to us to make them change. Only we, the young people, can get to the polls on Election Day and make our voices heard. According to an article in the Washington Post in 2004, only 47 percent of people between the ages of 18-24 voted. Although that number is not nearly where it should be, it's significantly higher than in the past.

This election year is different. Candidates across the country are capturing the attention of young voters, and some are doing a great job of getting people our age involved. Organizations on campus are doing a great job of trying to get students involved in politics. From Jan. 28-30, almost 600 new students registered to vote. Also, information was given out about how students could register leading up to the primaries at City Hall or the polls.

Whether organizaions support Obama, Clinton, McCain Paul, they've been making a similar plea: we don't care who you vote for, we just want you to get informed and vote Not everyone has a political bent or even cares about elections.We understand that in the right to vote is also a right not to.

If you don't have any knowledge about any of the candidates, don't just jump on the bandwagon. An uniformed electorate will do more damage than one that doesn't vote. Just keep in mind that if you choose not to participate in selecting our leaders, you give up your right to complain once you see how those leaders operate. If you don't know anything about the candidates, there are a few wonderful resources to help you learn the basics. River Falls Votes has been working on campus to provide information. Googling each candidate's name will bring up a host of Web sites detailing their ideas. Even just standing in the Political Science department in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building is sure to give you some insight. This is college. We should know how to do a little research.Young or old, your opinion does matter, and voting only takes a little bit of time out of one day. So get out there, get to know the candidates, and let your voice be heard.

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Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall or to [editor@uwrfvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrfvoice.com).

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

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

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Former student upset with rebuttal

I was disappointed to read your rebuttal to Mr. Defenbaugh's letter in today's Student Voice. As a former editor of a student newspaper and one-time journalism student here at UWRF, I felt your response was out of line. I understand how difficult it is to manage a paper. What I do not understand is how you formulated such a personal attack. Mr. Defenbaugh's letter was addressed to the entire editorial staff, not you personally. In fact, you do not even edit the section that the incorrect article was published in. Of course, that may be something that changed during your "hilariously ironic" copy-editing session.

Mr. Defenbaugh's letter did nothing but point out the discrepancies between the facts and what was reported by Ms. Olson, as well as say where accurate information can be found. His feelings toward the paper seemed nothing more than a wake up call to the staff of the *Voice*: You are supposed to be professionals-in-training.

Where the real unprofessionalism came in, Ms. Styx, was when you chose to respond. Instead of simply informing readers of the work it takes to put out a paper, you began insulting Mr. Defenbaugh, calling him "illiterate." Being that he was able to read Ms. Olson's article in the first place, that is

blatantly incorrect, and just downright mean. You also criticize UWRF, saying that after five years, students still do not know how write a letter or use proper grammar.

I have always enjoyed reading the *Voice*, and have typically found the paper interesting and informative. Unfortunately, now all I see looking at the pages are flagrant disregard for journalistic integrity. Good thing you are the one editing the Viewpoint section, Ms. Styx. There are few other desks your column would have made it off.

Traci A. Tufte

Supreme Court can not be bought/sold

Last year, Wisconsin Manufacturing and Commerce (WMC) spent over \$2 million in special interest money to purchase a seat on our Wisconsin Supreme Court. This year, even before some people had a chance to take down their Christmas decorations, WMC is already airing their first special interest ad designed to buy another seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court by unseating Justice Louis Butler.

Someone should tell these outside special interests that our government, especially our Supreme Court, is not some commodity to be bought and sold.

WMC's over \$2 million plan to unseat Justice Butler and install a puppet Justice

goes against the very notion of elected government.

When corporations poison our families by selling hazardous and inferior products like lead toys and arsenic pet food, I don't want that company's CEO in charge of our courts.

WMC just made this April's election an easy choice for me. I'm standing up to WMC's \$2 million special interest money by voting to retain Justice Louis Butler. A Supreme Court race should be an election, not an auction.

Brandon Buchanan  
Eau Claire City Councilman

Apparently atheism has very strict rules

I was afforded the winter break to contemplate my response to Joe Hager's column on so-called angry atheism, so I'll try to make the most of this opportunity.

Hager complained of recent trends toward anti-religion among atheists. I prefer the term 'antitheism,' as was first presented to me by the brilliant author Christopher Hitchens. My frustration does not end on the level of organized religion, but the poisonous god belief itself.

Cowardly, apologetic, passive atheists like Hager are working to undermine the mounting progress of secularism in this country by embracing theism: by considering atheism and theism to

be equal philosophical opposites. He nonsensically defines atheism as a lack of belief. Any person who has been introduced to the concept of a god actively decides whether or not to accept that concept.

Hager claims to know the job of atheists, which involves living outside the realm of religion. We can not live outside the realm of religion in America today when more than 3,000 Americans were murdered by Muslim terrorists on 9/11. A more direct but less shocking example would be the fact that last semester I and dozens of other students in this very University were shown slides explaining the easily refuted intelligent design argument. This was not a Philosophy class, but a required course in the Business and Finance department. I suppose it needs to be pointed out that the arguments that refute intelligent design were not presented in any capacity by this professor.

You are not angry enough, Joe. I suggest you step back and let me and others who are fed up with deadly, sexually oppressive and obsolete beliefs continue to advocate atheism in all of its obvious intellectual and moral superiority.

Religion needs to be eradicated from the earth one deconversion at a time.

Muriel Montgomery  
Student

Mind races without any reason

First day of school, no problem. I have done that well over 15 times in my life. What does one bring to school? Notebook, check. Pen, check. Backpack, check. Colored pencils, check. Textbooks, oh, I guess I forgot all about those. Add that to the list of things to do. Shoes, coffee, keys and I am out the door.

Walking to school I realize that it has been about nearly eight months since the last time I attended a class, much less been inside a classroom. Realizing that I am walking towards campus with no academic building in destination, I stop in at the library to find out on eSIS as well as brace myself for a semester of class work.

During my fall semester in Europe there were no classes to attend or homework due at

the end of the week. Few deadlines and one extensive paper on the topic of my choice was all the work that the semester entailed.

With travel time and exciting new adventures around each and every corner, I have trouble understanding why every student doesn't do college this way.

Now the Semester Abroad: Europe 2007 group has returned home to River Falls from their glorious lives across the sea. Culture shock reversed hits hard in addition to the monotonous, "How was Europe?" question that floods my ears.

The difficult part about traveling throughout Europe, hands down, no contest, not even a runner-up, has been the return home. The rush, the

adrenaline, the drive to see the world and learn even more than expected through the amazing act of travel comes to a halt once one is tossed back into a routine of work and school.

My mind continues to race without any trains to catch or hostels to book, and the thrill of linguistics becomes dull. Meeting a person in the U.S. who does not speak fluent Midwestern English is a delight.

"Brace yourself," I say to my distant mind. Now is the time to embrace the opportunity that I so impulsively took advantage of. Take in the wonderful things that small town America River Falls has to offer. Quaint Main Street, a beautiful Wisconsin river, an awesomely active and involved community and friends that you will not find anywhere else in the any corner of the world, have been ever prominent during my recuperating J-term.

Returning home from a four-month adventure has taught me that as long as I retain these experiences, memories, languages and achievements in my exceedingly nostalgic mind then my very life will be the essential reminder of how phenomenal it is to just be alive.

So life continues with or without me there. I might as well attend since it's been fun so far. Classes? I might as well attend those as well since I am paying for them.

Shouldn't we all live by the idea that we would not be doing something that we do not wish to do? Apparently I came back to River Falls to attend more classes for some reason.

Maybe there's a reason for the colored pencils as well.

*Teresa is a journalism major and a geography minor in her senior year. She enjoys kangaroo burgers and creating pretty maps.*



Teresa Aviles



# Indecision useful in every day life



Abby Maliszewski

“Indecision is the key to flexibility.” I never thought my first column would spark off a quote from the back of a Hooter’s post-meal wet-nap. Some people could successfully argue that being indecisive is a negative quality. And for some indecisive people, it could be. Until I read the package of the horrible smelling hand-sanitizing wipe, I thought my case of indecision was a curse of something similar to year-round allergies. All too often I’m caught answering “It doesn’t matter” or “whatever you’d like.” And although these phrases are usually delivered to a friend or significant other, I sometimes find myself saying them to people doing their job when serving me: “How would you like your change”—what ever’s easiest for you. “What kind of toppings would you like?”—surprise me. “How do you want your hair cut?”—what do you feel like doing? The thing I like about being indecisive is the amount of situations I’ve been through that may have not been my initial choice. If life is made up of roads and paths, my life map looks like a bad case of spider veins on your grandmother’s legs. And even by recklessly spinning off-road, I’ve discovered strange tastes that are incredibly appetizing. And through all the variety, the intensity of my appetite has become immense.

I walk into a store, find the ugliest clothing possible, try it on, and usually fall in love...

shape who an individual is. He or she discovers new ways of doing things aside from the “norm;” depth is amplified and the individual is increasingly interesting (ask an indecisive person about his or her strangest/most awkward/most incredible moment). I have a slightly difficult time shopping. The problem is that I just cannot pick out clothing for myself anymore because it’s just ... lame. So instead, I walk into a store, find the ugliest clothing possible, try it on, and usually fall in love with it. And I’ve gotten to appreciate not judging clothes on a hanger before I’ve tested them out. Indecisive people can be taken anywhere and presented with just about anything. But it takes others’ help to get them there. So for your best partner-in-crime/sidekick, pick someone who doesn’t know what they want. If you’re the indecisive individual, join in the fun-but try not to become a push over.

Eventually, indecisive people turn into flexible individuals through experience and expertise. And they figure out

what they appreciate most because of all they’ve encountered (as if they’ve used a bracket system for weighing all the options) by trying new ideas and having different thoughts, making better-informed decisions. And maybe indecision and flexibility works for you, maybe it doesn’t. I’m definitely rocking indecision and flexibility, and chances are, by the time I perish I’ll have more stories under my belt than that person who has his or her life seriously organized and planned out in specific detail.

Abby is a marketing communications major and hasn’t yet decided if she will double major in journalism.

Indecision actually helps

# Professor wants butts out of eyesight



Faculty column

Bill Henderson

years I have been here, I have learned the best ways to show off this campus. One of the areas I try to avoid is the courtyard between May and Prucha. One might ask why I avoid this particular area of campus. In taking a close look, especially as you enter the back side of May into the Nelson lobby, something is revealed that has become a campus embarrassment: BUTTS. Thousands and thousands of BUTTS (and no, I don’t mean the kind that indicates our student body is sunbathing nude)! Many of the smokers who reside, work or visit this campus have turned many of the doorways around campus into their own trash cans. This eyesore has taken over just about every building on campus. The powers that be had the insight to put BUTT receptacles near many of these areas, BUTT it doesn’t seem to be helping much. I am going to admit to being a rabid anti-smoking advocate. If I had my way, the tobacco farmers would be offered incentives to plow under their crop and start growing hemp, which, I’m told, is one of the most efficient forms of ethanol. For the sake of brevity I’ll avoid going into the usual rants about health, cost and standing outside a doorway in miserable weather. Suffice it to say that I lost my father to smoking and my mother’s health suffered from it as well. Last year, after seeing a female co-ed throw her BUTT down on the grass near the UC, I made some inquiries about the con-

sequences of doing this on campus. I was informed that this action constitutes littering and can result in a fine of almost \$200. In California, my home state, if you are caught throwing a cigarette down in an area with a high risk of wildfire, you can be fined thousands of dollars and jailed for a lengthy term, and woe unto you if you cause death or property damage. I would like to propose some possible solutions to this problem: 1) Make UWRF a non-smoking campus: no tobacco products of any kind allowed on campus grounds. This is my personal favorite and one that has lots of support. 2) Start issuing citations randomly to smokers who toss their BUTTS onto campus grounds. 3) Smokers who contribute to this blight could develop a conscience and stop inflicting their disgusting habit on the rest of us. The third solution listed seems to be one that would be the easiest on everyone involved. Unfortunately, there will always be those special people who don’t care about the environment, the rest of us, or anything other than their own selfish desires. There’s nothing quite like the indignation a smoker can exhibit when confronted about the habit. In conclusion, I’d like to say how proud I am of this campus and the student body in general. River Falls is my home and I derive great joy in taking a stroll across campus, especially in the spring, summer and fall (still haven’t learned to appreciate sub-zero temperatures). I’m trying to alleviate the BUTT problem in town by joining a group known affectionately as the BUTT-pickers, who go out in the mornings and sweep up along Main Street. Perhaps you smokers here on campus could do that as well. Either that, or a swift kick in the BUTT!

Coach Bill Henderson is the head coach of swimming and diving at UWRF and serves as the athletic department’s equipment manager. He received his bachelor’s degree in Journalism and his master’s in Physical Education from Sacramento State in California.

# Addiction: compulsive need for a habit forming substance

Now that winter break has come to a close and we are all readjusting to our normal lives of school, work and play, it becomes crucial to establish the kind of level-headed, even keel that leads to success and good grades. Becoming a good student requires many things: time management, a healthy sleep schedule and a day-in, day-out work ethic. Perhaps more important than any of these is the willingness and honesty to come to terms with your own addictions. We talk about addiction all the time in our obsession-obsessed culture. How many times have you heard “OMG I am like, soooo hardcore addicted to Facebook,” or, “I am obsessed with paint thinner and Peanut M&Ms!”? It makes you wonder if addiction is really that bad—people fling the term around with a kind of nonchalance that spoils the weighty severity of the word. In fact, it seems that addictions are getting lamer and lamer. In decades past, we had cultural icons like Hunter S. Thompson, who routinely thrashed his brain with a sparkly cocktail of intra-

venous drugs. Now we have people seeking treatment because they can’t help but spend ten hours a day killing orcs on the internet. Aren’t addictions supposed to be a little more dangerous? Could these people at least play World of Warcraft while shooting black-tar heroine or bathtub crank? While online addictions can be inconvenient and financially costly, they lack the substantial element of “cool” that makes the ruination of your life all worth it. Other addictions are even lamer. Gambling, for instance, is an exceedingly pointless addiction. It’s fun to do from time to time, of course. But when it becomes a compulsion, gambling can make even the most dignified, mature people look impulsive and pathetic. Mathematically, there is no real pay-off in gambling: you dump the contents of your wallet into a machine or onto a

table, and you’re pretty much guaranteed to lose most of it. For the non-addict, gambling is a fun and exciting outing with friends. For the compulsive slot-cranker, however, gambling represents an unmatched exercise in futility. So this semester, take inventory of all your addictions, compulsions and vices. If you need to trim a few off to save your mind, your money and your time, make sure it happens. Don’t you think that it may be difficult to attend class every day if you’re all wanked out on Maui-wowie, cruising on trans-fatty acids or surfing Facebook nonstop? Let the online dragons kill the online orcs—it’s not your fight anymore. With luck, we can all become the moderation-minded, good-grade-earning students our parents want us to be.



Joe Hager

Joe is a marketing communications major with a creative writing minor. This is his second semester writing for the Student Voice. He is interested in movies, religion, politics, culture and people.

# Young voters need to step up to the plate for election

To me, it’s no wonder why the percentage of first time and young voters, like myself, is so low. Throughout high school, I always tried to avoid the topic of politics whenever it came up. I never knew what party I belonged to, so I kept my mouth shut. When asked, I’d just say moderate, because I figured that right smack dab in the middle was a safe bet. When it comes to politics, I’ve always been intimidated by those people who know exactly what party they belong to and will argue like crazy if you don’t agree with them. In a lot of ways, politics is one followed with the same loyalty and passion as religion. I was raised Roman Catholic and went to a private Catholic school from kindergarten to eighth grade and never felt the need to peddle my beliefs to people like an obnoxious salesman the way many people do with politics, so I

guess that’s probably how I reached this disconnect with the political world. A lot of older adults would say that the reason the percentage of young voters is so low is because young people are extremely self-involved, and to some extent, they’re right, as much as I hate to admit it. But I think there’s more to it than that. I think that many young people are just confused and undecided, like myself. What if your beliefs don’t fit Republican or Democratic? Of course there are many other political parties; the most recognized would be the Green party, the Independent party and the Socialist party. But if you vote for any of these novelty parties, it doesn’t really matter anyway, because they have realistically no chance of actually winning. When looking at the platforms of both the Republican party

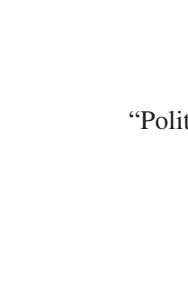
and the Democratic party, I see values and issues represented on both sides that I agree with. So, where does that leave me? There is no moderate party candidate, and even if there was, that person would have no chance of winning the election. Why must we fit ourselves into one of two categories? Certainly, with the United States being as large and diverse as it is, hundreds of different ethnicities and about 313 practiced religions, we can’t slump everyone into two political parties. And what about those who support smaller parties, will their voices ever be heard over the deafening roar of the Republicans and the Democrats? Will they ever truly be represented alongside these two dominating parties? While looking at the facts provided supporting each candidate, I was overwhelmed by the extensive amount of information. I went on the website ontheissues.org and found an insane number of quotations on every issue by every candidate. No wonder so many new voters aren’t stepping up to the plate if they have to do extensive research to figure out which candidate that they should vote for, especially since the majority of these voters are college students and already have plenty of research to do for school. At the end of the day, I know exactly why I never have, and most likely never will, enjoy politics: compromising values. For me, politics means picking and choosing which values are the most important and accepting some beliefs that I don’t support that come along with them. I wish there was an ideal candidate to fit all my beliefs, but since there isn’t, I’ll just have to continue researching the platforms of these candidates to find the best fit. As much as this column seems very cynical and describes the logic and understanding of the lack of young voters, I in no way support this behavior. I really do think one vote can make a difference, and if all of us young students vote this year, we will have the opportunity to have our voices heard not just as individuals, but as a demographic that has been dormant from the election ballots for far too long.



Natalie Conrad

Natalie is a freshman with sophomore standing with a Journalism major. She enjoys running, reading, lacrosse, intramurals, shopping, and writing. She also DJs for WRFW on Tuesday nights from 6-8.

# STUDENT VOICES



Billie Timmerman, sophomore  
“Politics is a waste of time and I don’t care to vote.”



Zach Lorenzen, freshman  
“I’ll vote.”



Nathan King, sophomore  
“I registered to vote.”



Lucas Hoch, senior  
“I go on YouTube to watch presidential debates.”



Mike Dematties, freshman  
“I talk to people about it, I registered.”



Brigid Stapleton, sophomore  
“Look at polls on the internet.”





## Important match-up for men’s hockey team



Chris Schad

As many of you know, the UWRF men’s hockey team has been having a hard time recently. The Falcons were been playing good hockey for most of the season, as they were cruising to a 14-2-3 record and sat just two points behind St. Norbert for the NCHA lead. What a difference three games make. Since Jan. 26, the Falcons have lost three in a row.

St. Norbert sputtered a little bit as well, as they’ve been 1-0-2. Not to say that the Falcons’ poor stretch has taken the luster out of the matchup; their standings are still No. 1 and No. 2 in the NCHA, but the Falcons now trail St. Norbert by 6 points. Let’s take a look at the matchup between these teams.

### OFFENSE

The Falcons have three top-five scorers in the NCHA on their top line. TJ Dahl (6 G, 29 A, 35 P), Derek Hansberry (18-15-33) and Pat Borgestad (21-11-32).

Likewise, the Green Knights have a great top line, as well. They have two scorers in the top 5—Marc Belanger (17-17-34) and Matt Boyd (1-17-33).

While analyzing teams, one should look at the scoring depth. So far this year the Falcons have been more involved in their offense. The additions of Nolan Craner (8-10-18) and Tyler Czuba (13-8-21) have helped with that. The Falcons also hope to get a boost from Wade Harstad this weekend, who has been out since Dec. 1 with a pectoral injury.

The Green Knights have the same number of double digit scorers on their team (eight), but the Falcons have more guys that are capable of putting the puck in the net. ADVANTAGE: FALCONS

### DEFENSE

The Falcon defense is very talented. They have tremendous depth; however, only six defensemen can play. Coach Steve Freeman has done well with ensuring that they all get adequate playing time.

There will be one advantage for the Falcons, as Jim Jensen will be on the ice after missing the 5-2 loss in De Pere Dec. 8.

The Falcons are talented at defense, but the Green Knights have some great defensemen of their own. Most of the team’s defensive core was wiped out at the end of last season, but the they were fortunate to play most of their games at the Cornerstone, letting their new defensemen to ‘get their feet wet’ in a friendly environment.

Now the Green Knights get to see what they can do in a hostile environment such as... a whiteout? The Falcons experience should overrule the Green Knights’ talent and the Falcon offense will get opportunities during the game. ADVANTAGE: FALCONS

### GOALTENDING

But the question is, can they put the puck past Kyle Jones? Kyle Jones has been a wall for St. Norbert all season long. The Green Knights played Superior last Friday, and while the young defense didn’t play very well, Jones played a sensational game between the pipes. Jones is the NCAA Div. III career leader in shutouts and is finishing his career with an amazing 12-1-3 record and 1.28 Goals Against Average. On the Falcon side, Stephen Ritter has played well since debuting Jan. 4 against Marian, but recently he has given up a lot of long rebounds. In the 5-0 loss to Eau Claire last Saturday night, Ritter looked very sluggish and the Blugolds caught him out of position for easy goals. Ritter will have to be on top of his game tonight and after seeing his New York Giants upset the Patriots in the Super Bowl (Ritter is from New Jersey), that may give him some motivation to pull an upset of his own. However, the nod goes to Jones. ADVANTAGE: GREEN KNIGHTS

The average fan would say that since the Falcons have a 2 to 1 lead in the categories so they should win the game, right? Not really. These two teams are very evenly matched and should be one of the best games of the season at Hunt Arena tonight. If the Falcons can get a win, they will be right in the thick of the NCHA Regular Season title race and have a great note to put on their resume for the NCAA tournament. A fourth straight Falcon loss however, would put this team in a very deep hole that they may not be able to get out of. Oh, and by the way, don’t forget to wear some white tonight.

Chris is the 21-year-old Sports Director of WRFW. He is also the Voice of Falcon hockey and football.



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

**Senior Jim Henkemeyer dives for the puck against Eau Claire’s Joe Bluhm during Saturday’s game. The Falcons lost 5-0, but return to Hunt Arena this weekend to face St. Norbert and Lake Forrest.**

## Falcons look to rebound at Hunt Arena

Sarah Packingham  
sarah.packingham@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls men’s hockey team hit a bump in the road in the last four games. Since Jan. 25, their record is 1-3, with the three losses coming consecutively.

On Jan. 25 the Falcons beat UW-Superior at home and then lost at home to St. Scholastica and on the road to UW-Stevens Point and UW-Eau Claire.

“In these past few games we’ve strayed from our systems and lacked physical play,” senior captain TJ Dahl said. “Our power play, which has been automatic all year has also struggled as of late and we’re working on it and hoping it will begin to click again like it was awhile back.”

Dahl also said that the losing streak is difficult for not only players and coaches, but fans as well. “I would have to say that the last few games we’ve lost have been tough for our hockey team and our fans. I guess I wouldn’t say any of them are at the level we want to be playing at,” Dahl said. “We’ve

watched the tapes and are working out the kinks.”

Despite the three losses, the Falcons record still sits strong at 14-5-3 overall.

Since the start of winter break, the Falcons have had two new additions to the team in sophomore Stephan Ritter and junior David Moncur.

Junior assistant captain Derek Hansberry said the addition of those two players will help add more experience and depth for future success.

With seven seniors on the roster, the Falcons will have to start looking to their older players for experience in the coming weeks.

“We have a lot of guys on this team that have been around for a few years and have experienced adversity and we’ll lean on our

veteran leadership, but mostly as a team we need to realize we need to come out this weekend and make a statement and send a message to every team in our league that these last few games were a fluke and anyone who meets the Falcons from here on out ... will have their hands full,” Dahl said.

Coming into this weekend’s games the Falcons are still ranked nationally, this week holding the No. 9 position. Their opponent for this weekend however, is still ranked No. 1 in the country.

The Falcons host St. Norbert tonight at 7:05 p.m. at Hunt Arena. They will play at home against Saturday night as well, with a game against Lake Forrest.

**“In these past few games we’ve strayed from our systems and lacked physical play. Our power play, which has been automatic all year has also struggled ... ”**  
TJ Dahl, men’s hockey captain

## UWRF sophomore lives dream week during National Championships



Eric Pringle

A few weeks ago, the single most important event in the American figure skating world came to St. Paul—and I was lucky enough to be right in the middle of the action.

The 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Championships was a week-long event held in the end of January which showcased the talents of some of the best skaters in the country. As a longtime skater (and now coach) myself, I was extremely excited at the notion of being able to see my favorite athletes up close and personal, but my experience extended far beyond that of spectator.

As the skaters were wowing packed crowds at the Xcel Energy Center (a.k.a., the “X”) with high-flying triple jumps and dangerous lifts, I was living my dream working as a media intern for United States Figure Skating (USFS).

Ask anyone who knows me and they’ll tell you that skating has been my passion for almost as long as I can remember. I was hooked after watching the 1998 Olympic Winter Games on TV, and soon set out upon Olympic dreams of my own (which you can probably tell, didn’t quite make it). After years of competing and testing, I have now transitioned into more of a coaching role here at the Hunt Arena Skating School on campus.

Though I still find time to skate and work on programs early in the morning (no, 6 a.m. ice is not always fun), it’s definitely more difficult now that I must juggle work and a full course load.

Combining skating along with my other passion (journalism, if it’s not already obvious) was something that I had been dreaming of ever since I found out that St. Paul would be hosting the annual event back in October 2005. Over the past year I had been exchanging e-mails with Scottie Bibb, the director of media and public relations for USFS. Fortunately, Scottie was extremely friendly, accommodating and helpful in making my dream a reality.

She stuck with me, even through the countless pesky e-mails I sent her in which I would anxiously beg for details and more information. A few days after Christmas, I finally knew what I would be doing at the event. Scottie informed me that I would be alongside the skaters in the “mixed zone,” the place where they talk to reporters backstage after they leave the kiss-and-cry (for those not familiar with skating lingo, that’s where the skaters wait with their coaches to receive their scores). The thought of standing next to many of the athletes I look up to the most was definitely exciting!

I suppose the most agonizing part of the whole experience, however, was the waiting. After all, this was something that I had been looking forward to and planning for years. There really wasn’t a day that went by that I didn’t think about Nationals. Obsessed? Maybe, but I think I was more excited and just ready for it to begin.

On Jan. 20, I drove down to the X to meet with Scottie and have her show me the ropes. She gave me a tour of the media room, as well as where the mixed zone would be set up and where the NBC camera crews would roam. After meeting with Scottie, I decided to stick around and watch some of the early practice sessions. Although most spectators that day saw an empty arena, I could see so much more. It was so surreal to think that in a few days, thousands of people would fill the seats and witness world-class athletics.

The novice and junior level events kicked off a great week of skating in St. Paul. The talent and skill displayed by the young athletes really impressed me, and it was fun to see some local Minnesotans vie for national medals. The excitement really built mid-week, however, as the championship level events got under way, as well as my internship.

I didn’t sleep much the night before I was to start. My adrenaline was through the roof and I kept trying to imagine what the day would bring. After a 45-minute drive to downtown St. Paul—fighting my way through morning rush hour, no less—I was finally at the arena and ready to start.

I met up with Scottie in the cramped USFS media room again and was introduced to the

rest of the media team assembled for the event. The USFS room was secluded from the general media room by a thin, black curtain. The general media work room contained rows of tables with power strips lined up, important papers for the press and media guides to aid reporters in writing their stories (little did I know that this room would turn into a madhouse over the weekend’s events as antsy reporters yelled for results and hurried to meet their deadlines). A small table contained trail mix and chips (not exactly what one would call a “balanced” meal), and the thought of only having this to eat kind of freaked me out (though the catering did improve during the week). I was hoping that I would be busy enough where my grumbling stomach wouldn’t bother me.

My first task was to type up the competitor’s planned element sheets for former Olympic medalist Nancy Kerrigan to use in her commentary on IceNetwork.com.

After spending most of my morning in the media room, I then got the opportunity to take pictures backstage and in the kiss-and-cry, which would then be published on IceNetwork.com. Watching the skating action from the ice entrance and being amongst some of my favorite skaters was a highlight, although I was scared of invading their space and breaking their concentration as they prepared for the competition. In the end, though, I got some pretty good shots, including one of (now) 5-time national ice dance champions, Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto. And who wouldn’t love photo credits on a popular Web site?

The rest of the week was a whirlwind, and I spent the time typing up more element sheets for Nancy, snapping backstage pictures for the Web site, attending press conferences and talking to skaters in the mixed zone. I kept myself so busy during the day, that the fatigue didn’t really hit me until my late nights driving home. Though the 16 hour days (yikes!) seemed too long at the time, I now find myself looking back and missing the time I spent there.

Aside from gaining valuable journalism and public relations experience, I was also able to “hang out” with the skaters and get to see them more as normal people than as high-caliber

athletes. It was fun to talk with them a bit before they skated, and I must say that Charlie White (the silver medalist in senior ice dance with partner Meryl Davis) is one of the nicest guys I’ve met. While many of the other skaters avoided eye contact and tried to stay “in the zone” (and rightfully so), Charlie came up to me while I was watching the competition from the ice entrance and talked to me for a few minutes.

Though it may not seem like a huge gesture, it’s something that would not have happened if I was forced to watch the event from the stands, and it reminded me of how privileged I was to have this once in a lifetime opportunity (and that’s why I vote Charlie White the nicest guy of the 2008 U.S. Championships).

As Sunday approached, it brought with it the last day of competition and one of the most contested moments of the championships: the showdown between Evan Lysacek and Johnny Weir in the men’s final. The drama unfolded all afternoon, and I was in the middle of the frenzy backstage. Lysacek and Weir would end up tying, each scoring an overall total of 244.77 points. Lysacek, however, won the tie-breaker and thus the overall competition since he (barely) won the free skate. The World Championships this March should prove to be another thrilling showdown between the two rivals. Sunday also signaled my last day interning at Nationals, as I had a little thing called the new semester starting the next day. Looking back, I would definitely take the long, hectic days over the quizzes and essays that classes have brought so far. I want to give a shout out to USFS personnel Mickey Brown, Troy Schwindt and Scottie Bibb for all of their help throughout the week. I definitely appreciate their patience and guidance which helped to make my week so memorable and such a success. More than adding to my portfolio and gaining experience, my week at Nationals is surely one that I’ll never forget.

Thank you, St. Paul, for hosting an amazing event, and thank you, skaters, for providing me with enough thrills, spills and excitement to last another year.

Eric is a sophomore journalism major and international studies minor. He is the Etcetera editor for the Student Voice and coaches skating at Hunt Arena.



SPORTS WRAP

Jordahl & Phillippi set track records

The Falcon indoor track & field teams competed in the MSU-Mankato Open on Saturday where Becca Jordahl and Jason Phillippi set school records.

Jordahl set a record in the 5,000-meter run. She won the race in 17:21.45. Her time is a NCAA national meet provisional qualifying time. The previous record was held by Marlene Yaeger. She ran a 17:59.07 in 2006. Jordahl broke the record by about 38 seconds. She also set a Falcon record in the 3,000-meter race last weekend (10.10.98) at the Stout Open.

The Falcons will next host the Coca Cola Class/Multi two-day event at the Knowles Building on Friday and Saturday.

Men’s hockey shutout by Eau Claire

In the second game of the weekend road trip, the Falcons came out flat footed again and lost their third straight game, a 5-0 decision at UW-Eau Claire on Saturday night. Before this three game skid, the Falcons had won nine out of their last ten games. This is the second time UWRF has been shutout this season, losing by five in both games. All three defeats have been at the hands of lower ranked NCHA teams.

The Falcons’ (14-5-3, NCHA 6-4-1) next home game will be the first official white out game in UWRF history. This game will be Friday against the St. Norbert Green Knights (18-1-3, NCHA 8-0-3), 7:05 p.m.

Falcons b-ball drops game to UWP

The Falcon men’s basketball team faced another tough WIAC opponent and came up short Saturday, losing to UW-Platteville, 71-60, at the Karges Center.

UWP started the game on an 8-2 run that proved to be the difference in the first half. The Falcons did storm back with a mini 5-0 run thanks to a layup from junior forward Steve Farmer and a three-pointer from senior forward Scott Kelly. That run helped make it a one-point game with the score 8-7 at the 12:11 mark of the first half.

UWP’s Jeff Skemp led all scorers in the first half with ten points, adding four rebounds, and Senior guard Courtney Davis led the Falcons with six points on 3-5 shooting from the field. Davis also added an RF-high three rebounds. The Pioneers eventually put the Falcons away by hitting 5-6 free throws down the stretch.

Women’s hockey ties against UWSP

UWSP rallied, scoring three unanswered goals forcing a 3-3 tie Saturday afternoon at Hunt Arena.

The unranked Falcons came out strong against No. 3 ranked Stevens Point Saturday afternoon. Jamie Briski put the Falcons up early in the first period on a short-handed break away goal, her sixth of the season, and a Stevens Point tripping penalty set up a Falcon power play goal by Cassie LeBlanc, her eleventh of the season.

Again, the Falcons would strike first in the middle period off a Stevens Point hooking penalty. Assists came from Briski, her eighth, and Jessie Dyslin, her seventh, as they found Stefanie Schmitz who put it in for her third goal of the season and the Falcons’ third of the game, making it a 3-0 Falcon advantage.

That would be the last time the Falcons would score, and three unanswered Point goals in the third period would set the stage for an overtime at Hunt Arena that would feature no scoring and see the game in a tie.

Falcon goalie Cassi Campbell stopped 37 of 40 Pointer shots in the tie, including four saves in the overtime period.

Women’s b-ball loses to UWP 73-56

Four Platteville players scored in double digits to help lead the Pioneers to a 73-56 win over the Falcon women’s basketball on Saturday afternoon at the Karges Center.

Leading the Pioneers in scoring was Grantman with 20 points. Behind her was Lisa Wubben with 16, Megan Guernsey with 15 and Charity Stotmeister with 10. Wubben led the team in rebounds with nine and Grantman had eight. The Pioneers were 27-54 in total field goals (.500) and 12-16 in free throws (.750). They were also 7-19 in three pointers (.368).

Krystal Parr led the Falcons in scoring with 13 points while Sarah Schoeneck had nine and Jenna Hanson eight. Caitlin Hunstock led the team in rebounds with five. Overall, the Falcons were 20-56 in total field goals (.357) and 12-14 in free throws (.800). They were also 4-14 in three pointers (.286).

Sports Wrap courtesy  
of UW-River Falls  
Sports Information

Freshmen ‘twins’ shoot to make giant impact on the court

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Do you ever remember a time when you wished that you were bigger? Think back to a time when you weren’t allowed on the roller coaster or a time when you couldn’t reach the cookie jar on top of the fridge. How about when Tom Hanks asked the Zoltar machine at the carnival to make him big in the classic movie of the same title, or when 90’s rapper and one-hit-wonder Skee-Lo rhymed, “I wish I was a little bit taller, I wish I was a baller”? Well, those famous lyrics fell on deaf ears for two freshman additions to the Falcon basketball team, because fortunately for the program, the fans that pack Karges Arena every home game and anybody in need of help changing a ceiling light bulb, these boys are taller, and they are most certainly ballers.

Freshman recruits Alex Whittenberger and Wade Guerin both stand at 6 ft. 8 in. tall, weigh in at 210 pounds, play the position of forward, rank statistically in the team’s top ten lists in overall scoring, points and rebounds and wear jerseys donning the numbers #21 and #22 respectively. It’s almost as though if you saw either of them walking down the hall to a dorm room you could mistake one for the other. The only thing they could do to possibly be more alike is to be room-mates in the same dorm room, and wouldn’t you know it, they are.

Aside from all the similarities, the freshman twin towers came to UW-River Falls from different backgrounds, making the coincidences between them even more interesting.

Whittenberger hails from West Allis, Wisc., and came to the Falcons by way of Nathan Hale High School, where he averaged six points and seven rebounds per game as a senior. UWRF was the first college to notice and recruit Whittenberger, and he felt that after talking with the coaching staff he really believed in them and what they had to say.

Now that he is here, Whittenberger recalls the fact that all of his classes are really close together and within walking distance, as well as that the University Center stands as a good center of campus activity as some things he has grown to like about living on campus. He recalls the first month of school as being tough because he was adjusting to being five hours away from home, as well as getting used to the workload that accompanies college classes, but credits his getting used to it to the friends he made instantly when he was introduced to his fellow ballers.

One of these athletes he met was Guerin, his current roommate, who helped make the decision halfway through the first semester that would have Whittenberger, who was living in temporary housing, move into a room with him at the start of the second semester. Guerin, who hails from Bloomington, Minn., came to the Falcons by way of St. Croix Lutheran High School where he averaged 16.1 points and 8.5 rebounds per game his senior year and was an All-Conference selec-



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Among their similarities, Freshmen Alex Whittenberger and Wade Guerin were both recruited by UW-River Falls, stand tall at 6 ft. 8in. and play the position of forward.

tion. Guerin was also recruited by the coaching staff. After two campus visits, he chose to become a Falcon.

Guerin also found that he liked the idea that he could walk to all his classes, as well as spend free time in the University Center, but also mentioned how much he enjoyed the Karges facility, and how when packed, it is an extremely positive place to play basketball. Regarding his transition into college life, Guerin recalled the nice feeling that came from having so much more freedom than he did at home, as well as the sense of maturity produced by being responsible for making 100 percent of his own decisions for a change.

When asked the question of how each responded to the higher level of play they encountered when taking the step from high school ball to college ball, the giant gentlemen were as similar in their answers as their physical characteristics.

“Not only are the players at this level stronger physically,” Whittenberger said, “but they are also stronger fundamentally.” Guerin’s answer would follow those same lines, but would also go into a bit more detail about the game as well. “The game is alot more intense,” Guerin said. “It’s faster, the competition is higher and everyone on the court is an athlete working at their highest level.”

As for the idea of how each can improve their game, Whittenberger would like to work on improving his

strength, specifically so to become stronger on the post, as well as put in time practicing his mid-range jumper. Guerin would like to improve like any athlete does and get bigger, stronger and faster, while at the same time continue to put in work on his 3-point shooting and improve his jumpshot off the dribble. Both athletes feel that they have the potential to do great things here under head coach Jeff Berkhof, who, according to Whittenberger and Guerin, “stresses a strong work ethic, puts in alot of time along with the rest of the staff and really knows his basketball and how to teach it to his players.”

So feel free to say hello to the freshman twin towers on the Falcon basketball team. Maybe there are times when you wish you were a little bit taller, and want to curse those like #21 and #22 who walk among us like giants, but when such an instance arises, these 6’ 8” student athletes would like you to think about the luxuries you take for granted. Luxuries like not having to duck in doorways or bend down to get under the showerhead, or maybe most importantly, sleep in a bed without having your feet hang 12 inches off of the end. Remember these things, and remember to show your support for these student athletes and the rest of the Falcon basketball team this season.

Former Falcon participates in bowl game, preps for NFL Draft

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The Tostito’s Fiesta Bowl held Jan. 2 in Glendale, Ariz. had an unexpected local twist with the play of UW-River Falls alumnus Owen Schmitt.

Schmitt is originally from Gilman, Wis. but moved with his mother to Fairfax, Va. in eighth grade and was a 2003 graduate of Fairfax High School.

As a high school junior, Schmitt sent a high-lights tape to Falcon head coach John O’Grady.

O’Grady had met Schmitt at a summer foot-ball camp when Schmitt was still in grade school and living with his grandfather in Gilman.

“I thought he was a very good player as a junior, and people were making a mistake not

recruiting him,” O’Grady said.

Schmitt ended up coming to UWRF for his freshman year, and immediately stood out from the rest of the team.

“It was very obvious from the first practice that he was unusually fast, athletic and strong for his age and he was probably one of the fastest guys on our team,” O’Grady said.

Schmitt rushed for 1,063 yards and scored five touchdowns that season, on his way to being named to the 2003 All-WIAC Team.

After the season ended, O’Grady said he talked very openly with him about transferring.

“I told him I thought he had a chance at a scholarship from a Div. I school,” O’Grady said.

Schmitt transferred to West Virginia University for the 2005 season and has become a valuable part of the Mountaineers’ offense. He rushed for 380 yards and scored two touch-

downs that year, following that with 351 yards and 7 touchdowns in 2006 and 272 yards and 4 touchdowns in 2007.

“Him leaving here was a painful time for this program, but there is no anger towards him. The bottom line is it was the best thing for him,” O’Grady said.

In August of 2006 Schmitt was featured on the cover of a regional issue of Sports Illustrated along with running back Steve Slaton and quarterback Pat White.

In the Fiesta Bowl, Schmitt scored the first touchdown for WVU (ranked no. 11 in the Bowl Championship Series) on the way to an upset win over No. 3 ranked Oklahoma.

After two field goals by WVU in the first quarter, Schmitt rushed for 57 yards for a touchdown with 6:29 left in the second quarter. His touchdown made the score 13-3, a lead that WVU would never relinquish.

The game ended with a 48-28 final score. Schmitt has become somewhat of a cult hero at WVU, spawning groups on Facebook with titles like “Chuck Norris fears Owen Schmitt” and “Owen Schmitt: Crusher of Skulls.”

A Sept. 12, 2007, Washington Post story by Eli Saslow mentions that Schmitt has destroyed eight face masks during his college career, and quotes former WVU coach Rich Rodriguez as saying “I didn’t know you could bend those things before.”

Schmitt has graduated from WVU and will enter the 2008 NFL draft.

In a Jan. 25 article by Chris Low for ESPN.com, Low states that Schmitt is “one of the top two fullbacks in the NFL draft.”

“I absolutely think he will do something in the NFL, and not just at fullback and they should use him at tailback,” O’Grady said. “He has everything it takes.”



# Geology professor diamond in the rough

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William Cordua, professor of geology at UW-River Falls, is, himself, what he says he loves best about the rocks he avidly hunts: a diamond in the rough.

The average student taking one of his general geology courses may have a hard time cracking his rough exterior, as senior geology major Patti Roettger can attest.

"He's hard," Roettger said, "He demands a lot, but he's not unreasonable."

"But for people who share his passion, Cordua is great," Roettger said. "It's easy to see his zeal for the subject. Cordua is quick to describe his field as a treasure hunt."

"Every rock you crack open, no one's ever looked at that before," Cordua said. He described the excitement he felt as a child growing up the Washington, D. C. area, searching for his buried treasure.

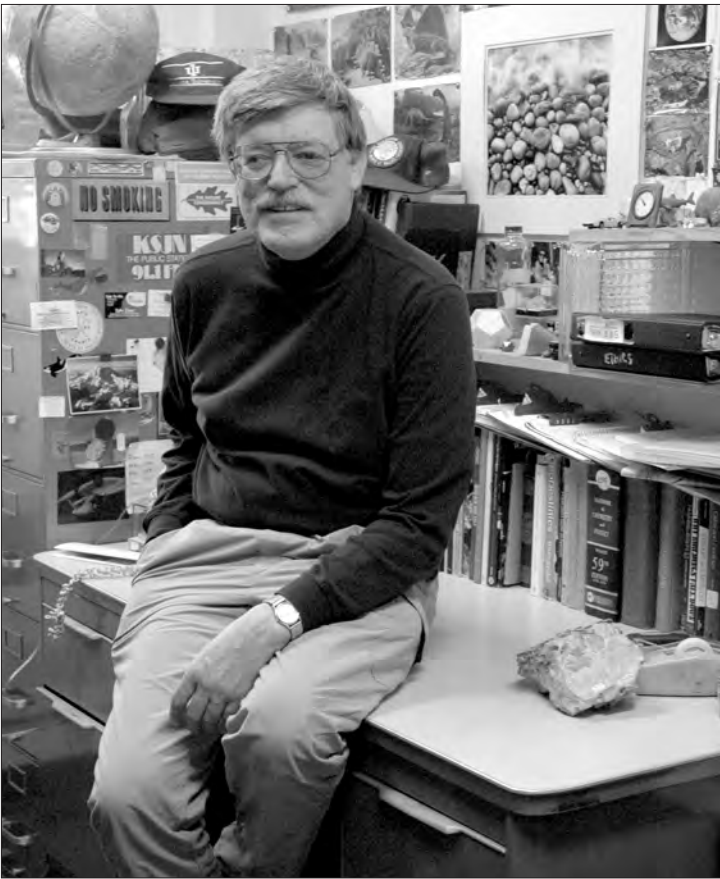
"I was a rock hound," Cordua said. "There was the excitement of going out into nature, finding something neat and then asking what does it mean and how was it formed?"

"I found a little gold in Montana once," Cordua said. "Even a geologist thinks that's neat."

The passion of Cordua's childhood remains evident in his work through the University. Roettger has volunteered with him at rock shows where children can bring in rocks to be identified.

"It was great," Roettger said. "He knows a lot and he's

really great with the kids." His passion reaches not only young treasure hunters, but the students in his classroom. "He really tries to engage everybody," Roettger said. "He's helpful, he pays attention and he knows so much.



Niki Paton/Student Voice  
**William Cordura, geology professor at UWRF, sits at his desk, surrounded by treasures of his life's work: rocks.**

He's helpful outside of class, too. Like rocks you'll bring in, he'll never hesitate to talk with you about stuff." An eager teacher, Cordua doesn't limit his enthusiasm to the upper level courses. "I really like general courses. You can look at so many different topics, the whole planet, the canvas is so wide. It's taking the general stu-

dent to show interest in something important about the planet." Cordua's current project is a geological atlas of Pierce County—specifically the Rock Elm Meteor Structure, which he says is the most dif-

ficult portion of geology. 450 million years ago a meteorite, Cordua said was the size of Lambeau Field, crashed in Pierce county creating complex rock formations in the area. Cordua had been studying this area on his own for a long time when he was asked to contribute to a map of bedrock in the area that could help with land plan-

ning, developments and ground water. The map covers the whole of Pierce County, but can be narrowed in to a specific individual's land. "I'm excited that this is coming out so people can see it and use it," Cordua said.

He has devoted much of his time to benefiting the public. Cordua's involvement in the community does not end with his investigation of the meteor site, though having written, in his estimate, over 100 articles for consumption on the general level, created Web sites to help inform the general public about minerals and donated his time to create a driving tour of minerals in Pierce County.

"The University encompasses the state, the nation, not just the school," Cordua said. "They should benefit from things we do here, things that go into the community."

In the future Cordua hopes to attend a conference in Oslo, Norway, where he would present his research regarding the meteor but he says he won't know officially until March.

Animatedly discussing his work in the community, Cordua sat in a classroom surrounded by rocks, posters of minerals and rock formations, the treasures to which he's devoted much of his life.

Eager to convey the captivating nature of his finds, Cordua rushes across the room to pick up a dark grey, rough rock. He turns it over revealing a gash of bright pink on the underbelly.

"Boom! You've got pink," Cordua said. "That's really pretty."

# UWRF participates in nationwide program

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On Jan. 31, UW-River Falls participated in a nationwide program entitled Focus the Nation. Focus the Nation organized a national teach-in on global warming solutions across America. The intent is to educate and engage millions of students and citizens nationwide in an effort move America forward so we can face up to the challenge of global warming. This all

came together as a simultaneous educational symposia in which over 1,700 schools across the country participated. Kelly Cain, one of the

people who helped organize the events at UWRF and director of the St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development said that this was the first year to have this particular event nationwide.

The events took place in the Falcon's Nest in the University Center and started at 8 a.m. with an introduction by Chancellor Don Betz.

Following that was a webcast from Dr. James Hansen, who participated in the Nobel Laureate Conference at Gustavus Adolphus College in October 2007.

Hansen, a leading climate scientists talked a lot about how the climate has changed dramatically over the past 65 million years and how much more it could change over the next several decades if we don't act.

"I believe that a business as usual scenario will guarantee disintegration of West Antarctica and parts of Greenland."

In the afternoon, Brad Pfaff and Karrie Jackelyn, advisors for Congressman Ron Kind, discussed Kind's climate change agenda and discussed the Energy Independence and Security Act, which was passed last December. This initiative will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, implement new standards for businesses and improve the efficiency of consumer appliances. They ended with a brief discussion of how the United States needs to lead the way as countries like China and India try to increase their standard of living.

The final presentation of the day was a panel discussion featuring four profes-

sionals who are informing the public about what different businesses are doing. The panel included Brian Zelenak of Xcel Energy, Jake Oelke of Wisconsin Public Power, River Falls Mayor Don Richards and Director of Facilities Management at UWRF, Mike Stifter.

Brian Zelenak discussed wind power and how Xcel Energy is the No. 1 provider of wind power in the nation.

He also discussed some clean energy policies in

Minnesota and Wisconsin. Minnesota has the most aggressive renewable energy standard in the country, while Wisconsin has a government task force on

global warming and has increased spending on energy conservation. Xcel has pledged to continue to be an environmental leader.

The other three all had similar presentations. They talked about leading by example and how we as a nation need to keep working on solutions for global warming by leading other countries into new standards of living. Richards extended a hand of gratitude to UWRF students for choosing renewable energy for our new University Center.

In the end, Cain was very happy with the speakers and their commitment. He said that with all the speakers "the consensus is clear that we have moved beyond the question of whether climate change is real; we have moved into the solution phase."

Cain did mention that while the afternoon events were poorly attended, the morning crowd was good, thanks to some environmental science management classes. He mentioned that the poor crowd was due to the fact of the late semester start among other circumstances, which made it difficult to get the word out.

"Regardless, every effort helps move us a little closer to a public clarity on the issues and the recognizing of socio-economic opportunities that emerge in the form of ecologically-based solutions," Cain said.

This was a day when UWRF students, faculty, and staff could put aside business as usual, focus on one topic and discuss global warming solutions for the future.

# Wellness Challenge returns to UWRF

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UWRF Student Health Services will offer students, faculty and staff an extra source of motivation to adopt healthier practices starting Feb. 11 when the third annual Wellness Challenge begins.

During the four week program, participants will compete individually and in teams to see who can accomplish the greatest number of healthy tasks. "It's not just about exercise," Student Health Services intern Stacy Dekkers said. "It's overall wellness, and community involvement is a part of that."

That's why, in addition to scoring points for practices like getting regular exercise and eating five servings of fruits and vegetables a day, participants can earn bonus points by attending certain events that they will be informed about during the challenge, Dekkers said.

Participants are to submit their total points for the previous week into an online log each Tuesday at noon. Points will be added up weekly with the names of the top five individuals and teams posted on the Student Health Web page so participants can monitor their progress.

Last year Dekkers, who also organized and publicized this year's Wellness Challenge, moved the event from April to February to help get people on campus to keep up with healthy activities, like exercise, during the winter when motivation tends to dwindle and people start to give

up on New Year's resolutions. The team support and competition the Wellness Challenge offers may help students overcome the temptation to slip into unhealthy habits, Dekkers said. "I'll exercise more if I know I have a friend waiting to go out," Dekkers said. Team support and competition between himself and other cross country runners helped senior Jason Samens place first among individual competitors in last year's Wellness Challenge. "It's a lot easier to be in a group and have someone else to work out with than be on your own," Samens said. This year, participants can form their own teams of at least five individuals rather than be part of their building's team if they prefer, Dekkers said. Last year's second place winner, Megan Wisbar, a senior TESOL major, encourages other students to sign up for the Wellness Challenge. "It's really fun, and you get really good prizes," Wisbar said. Possible prizes include treatments at Lori's Day Spa, exercise passes, pedometers, smoothies and a semester membership to the Strength and Conditioning Center on campus, according to the Student Health Services Web site. Dekkers' goal for this year's challenge is to get more participants to follow through with it to the end. "Last year, participation levels dropped through the challenge after a strong start of over 200 participants," Dekkers said. The majority of students, faculty and staff could benefit from a month of

actively pursuing goals for healthier eating, sleeping, exercise and stress-relief habits, Alice Reilly-Myklebust, director of Student Health Services, said. One specific health problem that students, faculty and staff have in common is a Body Mass Index exceeding that recommended by health experts. Measuring a person's BMI is one way of determining whether their weight is healthy for their height. According to the 2006 National College Health Survey, the average BMI for both male and female UWRF students was more than 25; anyone with a BMI of 25 or more is considered to be overweight, Reilly-Myklebust said. Over 55 percent of respondents to the Faculty and Staff Worksite Wellness Survey conducted in spring 2007 reported a BMI in the overweight or obese category. Activities in the Wellness Challenge address the BMI issue and many more, Reilly-Myklebust said. One thing that Wisbar learned by sticking with the challenge was "that walking is a really good habit. I like walking places now," she said. Students, faculty and staff interested in participating in the Wellness Challenge can register at [http://www.uwrf.edu/student-health-service/wellness\\_registration\\_form.htm](http://www.uwrf.edu/student-health-service/wellness_registration_form.htm). The registration deadline has been extended to Feb. 10. Anyone with questions about the Wellness Challenge can e-mail Dekkers at [stacy.dekkers@uwrf.edu](mailto:stacy.dekkers@uwrf.edu).

Attention Writers and Artists!

Prologue, UWRF's literary and art magazine is looking for your written and visual pieces for it's 2008 publication. Take advantage of the opportunity to have your work published and share your visions with the UWRF community. Submission forms will be available outside the English office, 241A Kleinpell Fine Arts building. Guidelines and rules are posted on the forms.

Deadline for submissions:  
Thursday February 20 at 4:30 p.m.

Questions?

Contact: Alli Malkmus at [allison.malkmus@uwrf.edu](mailto:allison.malkmus@uwrf.edu) or Brad Brookings at [bradley.brookings@uwrf.edu](mailto:bradley.brookings@uwrf.edu)

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# Twin Cities’ musician performs on campus

Jenna Lee  
jenna.lee@uwrf.edu

Musician Ari Herstand helped to kick off the Univeristy Center’s birthday bash at the Falcons Nest Jan. 28. The event also included activities for students to work on suh as decorating your own picture frame, eco-friend-ly canvas grocery bags and making friendship braclets.

According to Tanya Hartwig, the Student Events Manager, about 125 stu-dents came out for the concert and crafts.

Herstand is a musician from Minneapolis who has been performing a solo act for the past three years. In that time he has released two compact discs: his debut “Baby Eyes” and a live CD called “One Take.” He has opened for Cake and Sister Hazel and is a frequent performer at regional

venues such as The Varsity Theater in Minneapolis and SummerFest in Milwaukee. His songs have also been used in hit television shows such as “The Real World.”

Herstand is part of a grow-ing group of solo musicians that use loop stations in their performances. This allows him to play one instrument and record it so he can pick up another instrument and

**“He’s just so original. I like all of his songs.”**  
Melanie Preiner, UWRF student

layer the sound. This can make one musician sound like an entire ensem-ble.

“It helps incorporate the beat box and trumpet for live shows,” Herstand said. “It helps bring everything together.”

Besides beat boxing and the trumpet, Herstand sings and plays guitar and piano.

Although the wind chill reached a low of minus 27 that night, an audience began lining up for Herstand’s show

before the doors opened at 7 p.m. When asked why they would brave the severe weath-er, students had different rea-sons. Shawna Fritz said, “Make your own grocery bags!” Chelsea Thompson was excited for the perform-ance, saying, “I heard the music was really good.” Some of the students in atten-dance had become fans of Herstand after seeing him per-form elsewhere. Melanie Preiner had seen Herstand’s performance in Dinkytown.

“He’s just so original,” she said. “I like all of his songs.”

Herstand performed an hour and a half set with songs from his two albums as well as a few tracks from a new album that he has not named yet, but will be released in April. The song “Last Date,” which will be included on the CD, is scheduled to be used in a future episode of “Grey’s Anatomy.”

“If the freakin’ writer’s strike ever ends,” Herstand said.

The musician did not per-form with a set list in mind and took requests from the audience. After a few shout-outs for standard rock songs, Herstand joked back.

“There will be no Tom Petty, Billy Joel or Lynard Skynard played tonight.”

Herstand played one cover song. His jazzy version of “Wonder Wall” by Oasis received the biggest applause of all the songs he played.

Some members of the audi-ence requested to hear Herstand’s original work. “Poster Boy Celebrity” is one of the most popular songs on the “Baby Eyes” CD. The song is heavily influenced by Ska music, which got some concert goers tapping their feet and dancing.

“He’s fantastic and cute too,” Holly Knudtson said. “Its nothing like anything I’ve seen before.”

The male members of the audience also applauded Herstand’s performance.

“It takes a lot of guts to be

just one person on stage,” Alex Wahlberg said.

The audience began to leave the event around 9 p.m. after Herstand performed his last

song, “Center of a Kiss.” However, many stayed after the lights came on to chat with the musician and pur-chase a CD or t-shirt.



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice  
**Minneapolis singer/songwriter Ari Herstand performed at the University Center’s Birthday Bash on Jan. 28.**

# Vampire Weekend creates buzz, excitement with debut album



**Matt Loosbrock**

On their self-titled debut, Vampire Weekend has become quite the buzz band. While a por-tion of their first effort was leaked onto the internet back in September, they still manage to impress and amuse with creative sound influenced by Western Classical, Afro-pop, reggae and New Wave. It will make you grin, or perhaps smirk, with happy-go-lucky (if not too cute) tunes.

Take for instance their biggest charmer, “Oxford Comma.” Singer Ezra Koenig man-

ages to take a line like “Who gives a fuck about an Oxford comma?” and make it sound like it’s a Sesame Street pop ditty. Or try “Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa,” which may have been ripped from Paul Simon’s library. Not only do bongo and congo drums take front and center, toy pianos jam like real ones, and Koenig’s falsetto kicks into gear while refer-ences to Peter Gabriel are made in the chorus.

Vampire Weekend sound their best when they keep it simple. “A-Punk” is merely Rockabilly-lite with a sexy bass line, and “Mansard Roof” repeats verses several times and features a classical-esque guitar shredding the same theme over and over again. However, songs like “M79” prove that too much suffo-cates, as what starts with laid back strings, a

harpisichord and drums, changes drastically to a march of drama (“No excuse to be so cal-lous/Dress yourself in bleeding madras/Charm your way across the Kyber Pass”).

The album slips further with “Campus,” delving into High School Musical territory, only, it’s supposed to appear differently, taking place at a college. Don’t buy it. With lyrics like, “How am I supposed to pretend/I never want to see you again?” it’s hard to take seri-ously.

Lucky for us, these songs are a distraction leading to better things. “Walcott” brings the quartet back to Rock beats and more interest-ing ideas. Perhaps rooted in from personal experiences, it’s about letting go and starting new (The bottleneck is a shit-show/

Hyannisport is a ghetto/ Out of Cape Cod tonight”).

But the highlight has to be “I Stand Corrected.” Stripped down to an organ to lead way for a “Crocodile Rock” piano riff, the song builds and morphs into a song of power-ful mystery, as Koenig confesses “Lord knows I haven’t tried/I’ll take my stand one last time.” Is he admitting to a relationship? Alcohol abuse? It’s unclear, but it gives an important lesson of college life: while we all make mistakes, it’s the ones we can admit to that make us human.

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).

# New Alba flick ‘The Eye’ a bad remake of frightening original



**A.J. Hakari**

The original version of “The Eye” stood at the forefront of the Asian horror boom. It arrived just in time, right before leagues of imita-tors stormed the gates and made it difficult to distinguish a ripoff from a truly frighten-ing slice of cinema.

But what the new American version does to its predecessor is like slapping a Budweiser hat on the Statue of Liberty; sure, the flick’s essentially the same, but every-thing new it brings to the table only serves to has-ten its descent into sheer goofiness.

Having been blind since a child, Sydney Wells (Jessica Alba) is about to undergo a surgical procedure that will at long last restore her sight. Everything goes off without a hitch, but it’s when she starts adjusting to seeing things that something strange starts hap-pening to Sydney.

As she takes in the world around her, there are a number of odd occurrences she can’t seem to explain, from seeing phantom-like figures lurking about to encountering people who disappear on a moment’s notice. Those around her, including a cynical doctor (Alessandro Nivola), think she’s just going through a dif-ficult transitional phase, but with her visions becoming more vivid and violent, Sydney becomes determined to get to the bottom of them, the ensuing investigation uncovering a most bizarre

truth about her cornea donor.

It’s not that the story is a bust, since I dug not only the original version of “The Eye” but also its two sequels. At least this movie remains active, whereas “One Missed Call,” another recent Asian horror remake, was dead in the water from the word “go.”

But in translating the picture for audiences on this side of the pond, “The Eye” directors David Moreau and Xavier Palud have stricken their baby with a serious case of overkill. The ghosts announce their arrivals with enough ear-piercing sound cues and errat-

**Alas, no little gold men are in Jessica Alba’s future.**

ic editing to give you the impression that the flick’s post-production was handled by a team of people all having

seizures at the same time.

Usually, when an actor plays someone with a physical handicap, it means they’re fishing for an Oscar. Alas, no little gold men are in Jessica Alba’s future, as her blind girl act here lasts a grand total of two minutes. For the rest of the time, she runs around like a garden-variety scream queen with beer goggles, stumbling to and fro from blurry specter to blurry specter.

The film would’ve been even more suspenseful if she had remained blind, for at least then it would have avoided such awkward situa-tions, as when the script goes out of its way to mention that Sydney isn’t yet visually acquainted with the world, yet she knows without a doubt what smoke and shadows are right off the bat.

Those not turned off by sub-titles will find the origi-nal ver-

sion of “The Eye” to be a freaky little treat, but those hoping for entertainment out of the remake would be better off setting their sights on something else at the multi-plex.

A.J. is a senior year journalism stu-dent. 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.



Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery; plagiarism, however, is the most insincere form of literary treason. There is a knife’s edge separating reverent idolatry and bold-faced counterfeiting. “The Eye,” the latest Asian-pirated horror flick, wobbles on the edge of that precipice for a short while before swan-diving right into the fraudu-lent waters of shambled copy-cattng.

Co-directed by David Moreau and Xavier Palud and adapted by Sebastian Gutierrez, “The Eye” is an American re-tooling of the Hong Kong frightfest “Jian Gui.” Sydney Wells (Jessica Alba) receives cornea implants hoping to restore the sight she lost at age five. The operation goes perfectly, but Miss Wells is terrified to discover her new specs carry with them the ability to see the spiritual world. Thought to just be adjusting to the overwhelming newness of sight by her doctor (Alessandro Nivola), Sydney must unravel the mystery of her eyes and the deadly pre-monitions she sees every night at 1:06 a.m.

The film starts off promis-ing enough, albeit with its base rooted in what would be a modern medical miracle. The promise of horrific visions and mystery is an enticing carrot dangled by the directors, but it becomes apparent rather quickly that this rabbit hole is really a snare that quickly kills its viewers through familiarity and trite boredom. Even the story, scant enough to begin with, starts to break down almost immediately as ocular implants somehow seem to make Sydney hear things with no visual counterparts.

Frantic editing and timid

but obligatory “shock-shots” do their best to hold up this facade, a smoke screen dis-traction that hopes to keep you off-track long enough to cover up the fact that almost every scene in this cover-up is borrowed from other films. Tattered edges remain from where pages were ripped from the “The Mothman Prophecies” and “The Sixth Sense,” something the film-makers seem to relish in as they mockingly recreate the famous line “I see dead peo-ple.”

Sadly, not even the perform-ances can bolster this crum-bled attempt at cinema. Alba brings her striking beauty and innocence but little else. Teenagers and lonely men will flock to the theater houses merely for a chance to see Miss Alba reveal even the skimpiest amount of flesh. Spurred by this, or the crew’s own twisted delights, comes a random shower scene fol-lowed by intimate close-ups of Alba slipping into cotton panties; is it sick that this scene is the most artistic and carefully implemented?

“The Eye” quickly forgets what it is doing and gets lost, scrambling to pick up its own broken pieces by force-feed-ing 100 minutes of plot into the last 20; the third act stum-bles as it tries to carry the load. The climax, dropped quizzically into Mexico, sev-ers itself from the film. The ending is the pack-mule of absurdity, leading you blindly into a conclusion off the beat-en path of logic and sanity. Between this random incon-gruous finale and the uninter-esting characters acting with no rhyme or reason, the only real horror here is the death of horror itself.

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





Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

The University Center welcomes UWRF students back to campus after winter break. The University Center opened in January 2007 and celebrated its Welcome Back Birthday Bash last week with free events for students and staff, including ping pong tournaments, Dance Dance Revolution and showings of “Grease” and “Superbad.”

# BIRTHDAY BASH WELCOMES STUDENTS BACK

Teresa Aviles  
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Most of us are able to recall the first time we set eyes on the newly finished University Center on campus one year ago. The towering building houses a reflection bigger than any other found in western Wisconsin. In an effort towards a “green” campus, an extra \$1 million was dedicated toward sustainable development in the building voted on by UWRF students. The week of January 28, the University Center hosted the Welcome Back Birthday Bash.

To celebrate the one-year birthday of the University Center, a series of free events took place during the first week of the new spring semester. On Monday, the “Birthday Party Kick-Off” was held at the Robert ‘Bob’ Sievert Fire Place Lounge in the

University Center. Appropriately, a birthday cake was present to treat attendees. Also on Monday, a “drive-in” double-feature was shown in the Falcon’s Nest of the University Center. The chosen films were “Grease” and “Superbad.” Students had the option of bringing a blanket and gazing up at the big screen or sitting in the provided seating to enjoy the films.

**“We had over 25 people play (ping pong) ... People were standing around and watching as the tournament finished. No one really left, even if they had been defeated and were done.”**

Kurran Sagan,  
Recreational Leadership  
Coordinator

On Tuesday, over 100 people were entertained by the Minneapolis singer/song-writer Ari Herstand. The folk rock music was held at the Falcon’s Nest in the University Center amidst students making arts and crafts and enjoying the provided food. To accompany the “green” mentality of the building, there were eco-friendly canvas grocery bags available for decorating.

On Wednesday, the interactive improvisational comedy group, Comedy Sportz, performed. Hailing from Minneapolis, Comedy Sportz involves audience suggestions in their zany jokes and made up scenes. Comedy Sportz was sponsored by the Student Entertainment and Arts Committee (SEAC).

All week long at the University Center, people were given the chance to sign up for the Ping-Pong tournament held on Thursday. “We had over 25 people play, with most of those being walk-ups. People were standing around and watching as the tournament finished. No one really left, even if they had been defeated and were done,” said Kurran Sagan, Recreational Leadership Coordinator. Winners of the tournament will receive an Intramural long sleeve shirt and runner-ups will receive a short sleeve T-shirt. “Other highlights were the talent of some of the students participating. Aaron, the guy that won the tourna-

ment, had a mean back hand and Josh, the second place guy, had a fire behind some of his shots, defeating his competition with ease!” said Brittany Johnson, UWRF student and facilitator of the event for the Recreational Activities Committee.

The Ping-Pong tournament was sponsored by the Committee. The Committee also hopes to continue the tournament Thursday evenings throughout the semester with a possibility of adding billiards to the fun.

Friday was the night to break out the dance moves. The “Dance, Dance Revolution” game was played on the big screen in the Riverview Ballroom in the University Center. Free food and refreshments were provided as well.

One of the more impressive recent installations in the University Center is the piece of art unveiled on Monday in the Fire Place Lounge. The artist, Bonnie Rubinstein, spoke

about the piece, called “River Fusion,” and showed a video of how the piece was created. The fused glass sculpture representing the Kinnickinnick River is on display in the Lounge. Inspired by the natural beauty of the town’s river, Bonnie used a layering method of glass fused as a sole piece to portray the depth of the river, as well as stones and grass surrounding the sculpted river.

The University Center has been a central commons area for the campus community for one year, leaving Hagestad Hall and David Rodli Commons collecting dust and muddy footprints of students cutting paths through the buildings. There have been many improvements and additions to the building, as well as kinks worked out during the year.

One addition that will be arriving to the University Center sometime between mid to late February is an extra lounge. The lounge areas in the University Center have been quite popular among the students in the past year. The new soft seating area will be located in the north section of Pete’s Creek.



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Musician Ari Herstand performs in the Falcon’s Nest in the University Center on Jan. 29.



Sally King/Student Voice

Halsey Lyndquist and James Moore of the Minneapolis-based Comedy Sportz entertain students on Jan. 30.



Ben Brewster/Student Voice

UWRF junior Andrew Phelps shows his Dance Dance Revolution skills Feb. 1.