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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

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Chancellor to bid farewell to UWRF

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UW-River Falls Chancellor Don Betz made an announcement Tuesday of his plans to accept the role of president at Northeastern State University in Oklahoma.

Betz has been working at the University since July 2005 and will resign his position on June 30.

Provost Connie Foster will be filling in as interim chancellor until the University is able to find a new one.

Foster said she was in shock when she initially heard that she would be replacing Betz.

"It was kind of a strange feeling," she said. "I am very appreciative of the opportunity and of the confidence people have in me."

Prior to her time as provost, Foster had been a member of the faculty and the chair of the health and human performance department, the athletic director and the dean of the College of Educational and Professional Studies.

Faculty Senate Chair David Rainville said that Foster has been a good provost and that he believes that she has good rela-

tions with the University that will help in her new position.

Foster said she believes the University is in a better position now to find a new chancellor than the University was in 2004, when it had to attempt to fill the chancellor job after the sudden death of Ann Lydecker.

"We're still going to move on," Foster said. "Don has done an excellent job and we're still going work on our plans."

NSU is composed of three campuses located in Tehlequah, Broken Arrow and Muskogee Okla. The University has been looking for a president since the fall semester, when the former president, who had a serious heart attack, announced that he would not be returning to the school.

Betz was sought out by NSU to fill the position when it opened up.

"This was a search where I was asked to take a look at it and to consider it. And again, I know something about the institution even though I have been gone for awhile. I've paid a attention to what was going on," Betz said.

The decision to leave River Falls was a hard one for Betz, and



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

UWRF Chancellor, Don Betz, introduced Gov. Jim Doyle last fall. Betz recently announced his plans to take a position as president at Northeastern State University in Oklahoma.

See Betz, page 3

River Falls man faces charges for May Hall break-in

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A pre-trial conference has been set for a River Falls man who allegedly entered May Hall without permission on March 12.

Aaron J Braasch, 32, faces charges of illegal entry into a building and felony bail-jumping. The hearing will take place on April 21.

According to a police report, Braasch entered May Hall as a female resident was stepping outside for a cigarette at 4 a.m. She watched him come back to the door several times to poke his head out and look around, the report said.

Confused, the student asked what he was doing. He told her he was an employee of the University.

The concerned student asked to see his University ID but he told her he didn't have one, that the University "likes to keep these things low key."

Braasch quickly left the scene as the resident went back inside and told her RA what had happened.

Officers from Public Safety and the River Falls Police Department responded to the call. According to police reports, the suspect was spotted near Rodli Commons and a chase ensued. Once officers were finally able to catch up with Braasch, he admitted to entering the building, but said that he had been let in by a student to use the bathroom.

Upon searching his belongings, officers found an unwrapped condom in his pocket, the report

said.

Braasch was taken to the Pierce County jailhouse, where he registered a .08 blood-alcohol level. He was released the next day on \$450 bail.

In addition to the new charges, Braasch is already out on bail for charges of disorderly conduct and felony stalking. He did not return phone calls made to his River Falls home.

Public safety director Richard Trende said the facts of the March 12 incident were fairly clear-cut.

"There was no reason for him to be there, and he knew that," Trende said.

He explained that residence halls require more security than other buildings on campus, such as 24-hour card-only access and resident-only

access after 10 p.m.

"The residence hall is a dwelling," he said. "There's some level of privacy that a person is entitled to."

Sandi Scott-Duex, the director of Residence Life, said that despite these and other measures, the responsibility for safety ultimately lies with students.

"It's really important for students to be on the lookout for suspicious individuals and tell staff members," she said.

Both Scott-Duex and Trende commended the student for "doing the right thing."

"Don't open the door for just anyone," Scott-Duex said. "You have to watch who you let into your house."

Campus summer job hiring process undergoes changes

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In the past, all of the summer staff positions on campus were handled by Conference Services, but now each department is hiring and training its own staff.

"This is a summer of transition," Residence Life Director, Sandi Scott-Duex, said.

Residence Life began accepting applications for summer staff positions March 24, started interviewing this week, and will continue to accept applications until all positions have been filled.

"There is still someone here that will be the contact point, but housing handles the housing end of summer, dining handles the dining end," Scott-Duex said. "Ultimately what that will do is allow us to be better providers of service to whoever our guests are in the summer."

The positions Residence Life is hiring for are: three summer conference managers, three summer resident assistants, approximately six conference assistants and a custodial crew.

"Throughout the spring we're

always looking for more students who are interested in summer custodial positions," Residence Life Area Coordinator, Jason Neuhaus, said. "We don't feel we'll have any difficulties filling the other positions, but the custodians we'll continue to hire probably through the first day of work."

Most of the summer positions have a varied work schedule depending on when there are camps and conferences that need assistance.

The custodial positions are more structured with set work hours from 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, with occasional weekends, according to the job posting.

On average, UWRF hosts between 30 and 40 camps and conferences during the summer.

"We're hardly ever totally swamped unless a big conference comes, like last year we had the Friends conference and used every single space we had on campus," Neuhaus said.

The conference assistants and conference managers will get training in customer service,

See Summer, page 3

Students represent Wis. to Congress

Katrina Styx
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UW-River Falls will be sending two students to Washington DC to present their undergraduate research findings to senators and state representatives April 29.

Matthew Blodgett, a physics major, and Amanda Liesch, an international studies major, are the only two under-

"It really shows how good our undergraduate research program is."

Amanda Liesch, UWRF senior

graduates in the state of Wisconsin to be selected for the trip.

Nationwide, 60 students were selected out of 255 to present their findings on Capitol Hill, physics professor James Madsen said.

"It is ... a great honor to be selected, and have the opportunity to interact with other students and Congress people," Madsen

said in an e-mail.

It is especially impressive that UWRF is sending two students-the only two in the state, Terry Brown, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said.

"It really shows how good our undergraduate research program is," Liesch said.

Liesch has been working on a soil presentation under the advisement of Bill Anderson, a professor in the plant and earth science department.

"It involves three different types of organic matter treatments and how that affects the soil structure," she said.

Liesch got the news that she had been selected for the session Feb. 15, the day before her birthday.

"It was probably the

See Posters, page 3

Grant prepares students for doctorate programs

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Nine UW-River Falls seniors are graduating as McNair Scholars this May, continuing on to graduate school and doctoral degrees.

"The McNair Scholars Program is a federally funded grant that UWRF receives from the department of education," Njia Lawrence-Porter, the assistant director of the McNair Scholars Program, said. "The purpose of the program is to prepare first generation, low income and underrepresented students for doctoral studies."

The program is available to juniors and seniors.

As part of the application process, students also write an essay about their goals, have a minimum GPA of 2.8 and the desire to achieve a Ph.D.

The nine UWRF seniors are Rebecca Cote (biotechnology and biomedical biology), Hsajune Dyan (history), Travis Getzie (physics), Jacquelyn Harvey (speech communication), Crystal Mathisrud (English and broad field sci-

ence), Mitra Naseri (biology-biomedical), Martha O'Brien (mathematics and biochemistry), Ashley Styczynski (sociology) and Paul Borofka-Webb (history).

The program is named for Ronald E. McNair, a black astronaut who was killed on the Space Shuttle Challenger explosion in January 1986.

According to the McNair Scholars Program Web site, McNair grew up poor in South Carolina and "worked diligently to earn his B. S. in physics from North Carolina A&T University and then his Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology."

McNair Scholars receive benefits such as academic counseling and support for taking the Graduate Record Exam. McNair Scholars are also assigned a faculty mentor from their department who helps the students develop a research project as part of an internship.

Each student receives a \$3,700 stipend for their research.

"The purpose of that intern-

See McNair, page 3

VOICE SHORTS

Club hosts annual fundraiser

The Agriculture Mechanics Club is sponsoring its annual lawn-mower tune-up, April 11-13. This is a major fundraiser for Agriculture Technology. They are hoping for a great turnout and want people to gather all push or rider mowers and bring them in for a tune-up. No appointments are necessary. The cost is \$20 for a push mower and \$30 for riding mowers with an extra \$5 if pick-up/delivery is required. For additional information, contact John Lilla at 608-484-2323 or Eli Chandler at 715-651-0140. The fundraiser is located in the Ag. Engineering Annex.

Upcoming jazz concert features UWRF ensemble

The all-new RADD Jazz Series is performing April 17 in the Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. These modern and contemporary jazz compositions feature UW-River Falls' very own Jazz Ensemble, directed by David Milne with special guest artist and jazz trumpet player Kelly Rossum. The event starts at 7:30 p.m. and is \$5 per adult and \$3 for seniors and students.

Free Open Horse Show comes to campus

At 8:30 am, April 20, the UWRF Block and Bridle Club will sponsor the WSCA Open Horse Show. The club welcomes all to come to the free event and enjoy a day at Lab Farm 1 for its horse exhibitions. If you are interested in being an exhibitor, please e-mail Jenna Miller at jenna.miller1@uwrf.edu for details. Updates can be found on the Block and Bridle board in the Agricultural Science building.

Dance show combines African, urban dance

At 8 p.m., April 22, in the North Hall Auditorium, a dance performance will be presented for students and the River Falls community. “African Roads, American Streets” is based on director Edna Stevens Talton’s journey from her home country of Liberia to her new home in New York City. This show encompasses both African dance and urban dance along with spectacular drums and hip-hop to make a unique and exciting production. This event is free for UWRF students, \$3 for 18 and under and \$5 for general public.

Unity in the Community celebrates cultural differences

The annual Unity in the Community outdoor festival is scheduled for April 23. This day-long celebration brings together our diverse neighbors from around the world. In the past there have been events including music and dance from Latin, Irish, Native American and Japanese cultures. The campus-wide picnic will provide a taste of ethnic food for everyone (food will be made available for purchase for those without a meal-plan). Bag lunches and blankets are encouraged if you are visiting so you can stay and enjoy the multicultural festivities. This event is located on the University Center mall.

Shotgun confiscated, three arrested following argument

River Falls homeowner Daniel Harden is in jail for intentionally pointing a firearm at a group of young men and women arguing on his front lawn; UWRF students Justin Eloronta, 22, and Devin Underwood, 24, were also jailed for disorderly conduct. Harden was bothered by a noise outside his Third Street home 3 a.m. Sunday. When he stepped outside to tell the congregated group on his front lawn to quiet down, Harden claimed they responded by yelling insults. It was then that Harden went back inside to retrieve a 12-gauge shotgun, which he aimed at the pair. Eloronta says that Harden threatened to shoot. By the time officers appeared on the scene, Harden, Eloronta and Underwood were all shirtless, wrestling on the ground. Both college-students had elevated blood-alcohol levels upon their arrest. The case is being reviewed by the district attorney; no charges have yet been filed.

Voice Shorts compiled by
Joe Nourse

Student Voice Correction

A correction in the April 4, 2008 edition of the *Student Voice* had an error in it. The correction for the article entitled "Ramer Field's restoration raises student fees" stated that student fees will only cover \$500,000 of the \$3.5 cost. The total actual total cost is \$3.5 million.

The *Student Voice* regrets the error and any confusion it may have caused.



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

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

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

Greeks oppose Senate budget approval

Jerry Clark
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A heated debate regarding funding for Greek organizations took the foreground at Tuesday's Senate meeting. Students showed up for the meeting early in an attempt to pack the meeting. Thirty-eight students, including 29 members of the Greek community, united to address the Senate.

Students in the Greek community felt the Greeks had been treated unfairly by the Leadership Development and Programming Board (LDPB) during budget committee meetings.

"[The Finance Committee] feels strongly that the Greek request for an annual budget should get a fair hearing. We're not sure that they did ... but we didn't feel that it was a reason to kill the motion in our committee," Finance Director Jason Meier said. "One of the biggest issues we have with LDPB budget is that there is not a lot of oversight in the use of funds after they're allocated."

"I asked [LDPB] Chair [Mike] Defenbaugh if they had any sort of record of minutes of their meetings so we could get an objective source...and they didn't take minutes," Sen. Matt Dale said. "I think that's really inexcusable. That puts this entire situation in question."

"If [the Greeks] weren't looked at neutrally... how [were other organizations] on campus looked at?" Sen. Benjamin Casper said. "It definitely plays into how valid this budget really is."

"I can assure you that all the budgets were passed through

their respective committees and they were looked at extensively... things were debated over whether we could fund them or could not ... the whole Greek [community]... has been a really gray area," Defenbaugh said. "This is why the LDPB does have an appeals process."

Student Senate's approval of the annual budget failed by a vote of 6-12.

Senate made a number of recommendations to the LDPB concerning the next budget proposal. A recommendation was made to create separate accounts which could be audited for student fee funding for Greek events to ensure that the appropriated funds were going to public events.

Further recommendations were made concerning accountability of treatment of organizations during budget meetings.

"Let me offer a solution...the possibility of recording those meetings, " Senate adviser Gregg Heinselman said. This proposal was met with wide support. "These minutes are for the student body ... just let us know the motivation [behind specific cuts]" said one student in attendance.

The finance committe is disappointed in this year's budget tardiness, noting that the spring deadline makes further adjustments at this point extremely difficult.

"We shouldn't be getting [this budget] so late and tell us 'well there's not enough time to change it'" Finance Director Jason Meier said.

"I would just like to express my strong disappointment [with] the Shared Governance Association and the decision



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice
Mike Defenbaugh and Mike Pearson discuss the LDPB single-event budget at Tuesday's Student Senate Meeting

that they made for the student body and their lack of trust in the LDP Board." said Defenbaugh.

Other Senate News

- Sen. Casie Kelley made a motion to eliminate Senate support for the fifth budget priority put forth by the UW Student Representative Group. This priority would provide funding for Domestic Partner benefits for all UW-System employees.

The proposal was immediately met with: "Absolutely not; it's discriminatory against people who don't want to get married," Sen. Tom Friant said.

"I just want to point out that ... one individual is not dependent on the other, they both pay taxes, and they are not married," Sen. Casie Kelley said. "I would also like to pose the question, how many states' University Systems actually do this?".

"By striking this we may be chasing out some very tenured, very seasoned, very experienced staff," Parliamentarian/Ethics Chair Nathan McNaughton said. The motion to strike failed 1-8 with nine Senators abstaining.

- In shared governance reports Derek Brant discussed the library survey. He said the suvey is currently online and that he encourages everyone to take it. He also said that although it is long, it's the best way to make sure that changes will be made.

Student Senate Elections will be held online April 22-23 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Agendas and minutes for Senate meetings are available at the Senate Web site. Senate meetings are held every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. in the Willow River Room of the University Center. Students are encouraged to attend and participate.

Annual health fair to promote healthy, active campus

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For students who want the opportunity for free massages, henna tattoos, hair styling and more, the annual Health Fair is just around the corner.

The event is scheduled to take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday in the University Center Ballroom.

"Students should expect an interactive event that is targeted toward them," Student Health Services intern Hannah Miller said in an e-mail interview. "Booths range from topics covering alcohol, tobacco, stress, posture, dental, nutrition, etcetera ... Basically anything that is related to the health of a college student we tried to get at least one booth there to cover it."

Besides booths, there will be competitions students can compete in throughout the course of the day. There will be push-up and wall sit competitions and "River Falls Fear Factor."

"My own personal goal as the coordinator is to have it as fun and interactive as possible, and to show the students that being healthy isn't just about exercising and eating right, it is much more about

being well balanced in all aspects of life." Alice Reilly-Myklebust, director of Student Health and Counseling, said that this event has been going on for several years and that each year, a binder is made so that it can be used for reference for planning future events.

"We've been really letting the interns do a lot of it," Reilly-Myklebust said. "It's really a joint effort between a lot of different people."

A number of other members of the health and human performance department help organize and run booths throughout the day. Also, the community members who come in to do free up-dos and screenings are a big part of the day's success.

Miller said that most of the booths at the fair are free, but students should feel free to bring a couple extra dollars in case there is something that has a small cost.

Miller is working to advertise on campus and make students who have not attended the fair before want to come.

"I've seen posters around campus and seen it listed on the events section of the school Web site," senior Alicia Braker said. "It makes me want to go. I've always wanted to go, but have always had class conflicts."

Braker is planning on getting a free massage and learning about "all the information they have to offer," she said.

Miller said she hopes students are able to take a lot out of the Health Fair.

"The importance of the Health Fair is to encourage students to become more aware of their own personal health status, gain knowledge and awareness of a variety of health-related issues, and collect information on different issues and the services available to them," Miller said. "We live in such a fast-paced world that many people don't take the time to stop and realize all of the different health issues that could potentially lead to future problems, and the Health Fair is a perfect opportunity for students to get away from classes and their jobs and just take time out for themselves to relax and have fun in an educational way."

Students are reminded that the event is designed specifically for them.

"It is not just another event being held on this campus; ... it is for them [students] and was planned out with them in mind," Miller said. "It actually is a fun event and is so much more than just some boring health stuff."

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.	
April 1 —Padraic J. O'Brien, 20, was cited \$280.50 for disorderly conduct in McMillan Hall.	sumption in McMillan Hall.
—Calvin J. Schwartz, 19, was cited \$280.50 for disorderly conduct in McMillan Hall.	—Approximately \$800 worth of damage was done to a light pole by Crabtree hall. The pole had tipped over and had landed on a garbage dumpster.
—A Huffy bicycle was reported stolen from the South Fork Suites bike rack. The bike was reported to be locked up.	April 5 —Joseph S. Gangl, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.
April 3 —Approximately \$100 worth of damage was done to a Dodge Caravan in A-Lot.	—Michael J. Bland, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.
April 4 —Donavan C. Oliver, 20, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in McMillan Hall.	—Michelle L. Pettee, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
—Hollie C. Chase, 19, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in McMillan Hall.	—A John Deere Gator vehicle was found in the South Fork River near South Sixth Street. Damages done to the vehicle were estimated at over \$5,000.
—Kathryn S. Polansky, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in McMillan Hall.	—A window pane in May Hall was broken, and replacement costs are estimated at \$200.
Apply now for a job at the Student Voice. All positions are available. Applications can be found outside of 304 North Hall.	

Posters: Students presented with opportunity to explain research to senators, state representatives

from page 1

bestest birthday present ever,” she said.

Blodgett’s poster focuses on the IceCube project, which is developing an ice-based telescope to detect certain astrological events by way of detecting the neutrinos that are produced by

Blodgett’s adviser is Madsen, who has been working on IceCube since 1998.

Undergraduate presenters will not only display their research, but also discuss their findings with their senators and state representatives.

“It is increasingly important that the scientific community works to ensure that those in the U.S. Congress who provide funding for science and science education have a clear understanding of the programs they fund and why these pro-

grams are important,” according to the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Web site. “Undergraduate research must be among those programs that members of Congress understand if it is to be supported.”

“Congress with the President sets the budget, so they are exactly the people with whom we need to connect,” Madsen said.

Student presenters will also attend speeches by congressman Vernon J. Ehlers and

James Madsen, physics professor

John Marburger, the science adviser to the President, according to the CUR Web site.

The session will begin April 29 with an orientation session and will conclude the evening of April 30, according to the CUR Web site.

Betz: Chancellor announces departure from University

from page 1

Students and faculty alike were not surprised by the decision of Betz to leave the University.

“Having Don here has been wonderful because of his charisma and vision for our University,” Student Senate President Derek Brandt said. “It’s not surprising that he is moving on to greater things.”

Rainville said he could not blame Betz for leaving the University to take the job to basically go back home.

Betz spent over 23 years working at NSU previous to his time at River Falls.

“I arrived there when I was 25 years old and I taught my first college class there ... my very first regular college teaching semester was there,” Betz said of his experience at NSU. “I have lots of memories of obviously going from being an assistant professor of political science up through the ranks and then being involved with a number of programs and then eventually at NSU.

“We are thrilled to have Dr. Betz back in Oklahoma,” Cherry said. “I have worked with him before. I think his insight and creativity will help some of the major things going on at Northeastern.”

“Having Don here has been wonderful because of his charisma and vision for our University.”

Derek Brandt, Student Senate President

ence at NSU. “I have lots of memories of obviously going from being an assistant professor of political science up through the ranks and then being involved with a number of programs and then eventually at NSU.



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Chancellor Betz leaves his office to prepare for a meeting in the University Center March 3.

ally taking on a number of different roles”

He said that he had fond memories of watching the campus grow from around 4,000 students to near 7,500. He also said that he enjoyed seeing a change in the quality of programs and gaining diversity in programs.

Besides the movement of Foster to the interim chancellor position, other changes will be made as well. Terry Brown, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will be made the interim provost and Brad Caskey will be in charge of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Betz said he does not plan on being a stranger once he leaves the University. He said he is looking forward to seeing what is going to happen to the school in the years to come.

“A huge thank you to so many people who have made these three years absolutely phenomenal,” Betz said. “We all have these experiences in our lives and this one will count really high for me. I’ve learned probably more than I’ve given and I appreciate that from everybody who has made the difference along the way.”

McNair: Students look forward to graduate school, doctorate degree after graduation

from page 1

ship is so they can develop research experience, which is really important for being admitted to graduate school,” Lawrence-Porter said. “It allows them for that summer to not focus on working a summer job, but actually getting paid to do research.”

Samantha Wenwoi, a Dec. 2007 UWRF graduate who majored in journalism, did her research project on the Atlanta Constitution’s coverage of lynching from 1884-1930.

“The aim of my research was to determine when the coverage became less racist and more objective,” Wenwoi said in an e-mail interview.

As part of the research project, McNair Scholars travel to academic conferences at places such as the University of California-Berkeley and Penn State to present their findings.

“I presented my preliminary findings at last summer’s National McNair conference at Penn State, and presented my final results at the AMSLC (American Multicultural Student Leadership Conference) conference and National McNair conference last fall, both of which were in Delavan, Wis.,” Wenwoi said.

The program is available at 181 universities around the country and is available to any major where a Ph.D. is likely.

“There are some majors where people are not really pursuing a Ph.D. and are not going to graduate school right away,” Lawrence-Porter said.

“[The program] has helped me to figure out what I want to do with the rest of my life.”

Samantha Wenwoi, UWRF graduate

Every four years UWRF has to compete with other schools to receive the grant, and over the course of each four year time period, the grant brings in almost \$1 million.

UWRF has received the grant three times.

With that money, UWRF is able to take on 12-15 new students per year and have a total of 24-27 students per year as part of the program.

“[The program] has helped me to figure out what I want to do with the rest of my life,” Wenwoi said. “[It] has given me the confidence to believe that I can achieve that goal.”

Summer: Res. life now accepting applications

from page 1

facilities management, emergency procedures and public relations over the summer.

“Our number one goal is to provide great customer service. Whether they’re campers, summer school students, conference participants in the summer—we’ll provide great customer service,” Scott-Duex said.

Students who work on campus during the summer are able to take one class during each summer session, according to the job posting.

Although students will be working, they will have time to get to know other summer staff.

“It is a unique opportunity for [students] to be on campus in the summer and that core group of students that work together really become a mini family and have a lot of fun working together in the summer,” Kristie Feist, Residence Life Area Coordinator, said.

The camps that come to UWRF have the potential to leave a lasting impact on the students and the future of UWRF.

“Every camp that comes in is a good group of potential UWRF students for the future,” Neuhaus said. “If we can really wow them with our services, that can really increase our admission numbers down the road when they remember they had a positive experience here.”

CLASSIFIEDS

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410 S. Third Street, 304 North Hall
River Falls, WI 54022
Phone: (715) 425-3118 advertising@uwrfvoice.com
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The Student Voice is currently accepting applications for the fall 2008 semester.

Editor and assistant editor applications are due April 18. All other positions are open and applications will be due April 23.

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EDITORIAL

Staff ‘Voices’ opinion on Betz

We at the Student Voice would like to stop and take a moment to congratulate Chancellor Don Betz on his new position and to wish him luck in Oklahoma.

We appreciate the effort and enthusiasm he put into his time here, and, despite the increasing number of negative comments, we want to thank him for making a positive impact on our campus.

Yet the student body, faculty and administration need to start considering who it is that we need to replace him. Here are a few ideas we came up with.

We need someone who will be able to pick up where Betz left off. A lot of initiatives were taken in the last few years, such as the sustainable campus, international relations, brand development and more. Our campus is finally starting to stand behind these motions; our new chancellor needs to be able to put his or her hand in for these initiatives and not ignore them as the visions of a vanished predecessor.

We want someone who can positively represent this university to this and surrounding communities, the state, nation and world-someone who can be genuinely proud of what we have and are working to accomplish.

Our new figurehead needs to be more than a portrait hanging in the first-floor hallway of North Hall. We don't want to undermine the importance of finding someone who is capable of handling the multitude of responsibilities a chancellor takes on. From a practical standpoint, that ability is critical for anyone who has a desire to lead this campus.

But a chancellor cannot represent the University if he or she maintains a distance from students and staff. Our new chief must be accessible and approachable. He or she needs to be comfortable interacting with students and staff for any number of reasons. This campus also needs someone who realizes the importance of maintaining a consistent flow of communication from the administrative side to all those who really make this institution one of higher education.

Betz's successor should also be able to live up to Betz's standard and bring new vision to UWRF. In the last three years Betz showed us that this little University could be so much more. We still have a lot of growing to do, and our new chancellor needs to be able to prune and shape this small-town school in the direction that will produce the best fruit.

In his relatively short time in River Falls, Chancellor Betz accomplished a lot. We need to make sure we find someone who can build on his accomplishments.

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

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS

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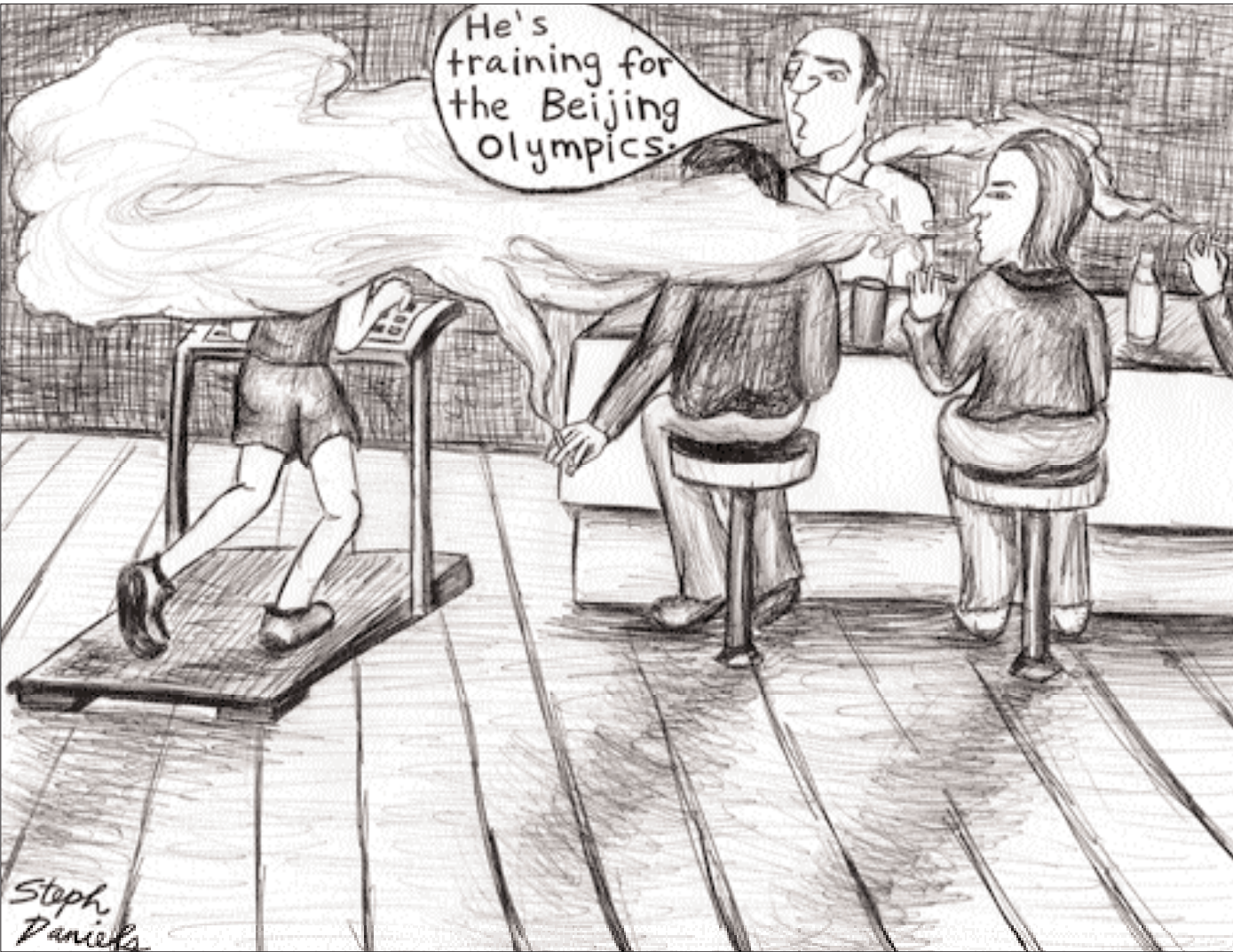
All editorial content in the *Student Voice* is determined by the newspaper's Editorial Board. The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of the newspaper's advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.

Letters to the editor must be 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.

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

Chancellor Betz disappoints student

Wonderful. It's no surprise that Chancellor Betz used UW-River Falls as a stepping stone to Chancellordom before crawling back to his lair.

None of his policies and future goals for this campus made any sense or aligned

with any previous goals. We were just a test lab for his ideas and a poor fit for them at that. I just hope Connie Foster will start rolling back everything he's done to the campus and follow along with the previous agenda of maintaining a small, friendly campus community with excellent staff and faculty.

It would be great to see those ugly chain fences removed

and our nice, comfortable dirt paths replaced as soon as possible.

The clock that matches nothing on campus should be sold to the highest bidder that will drag it off, with the proceeds going to replace the giant trees we had to cut down outside North Hall.

I find it ridiculous that we have a recognized landscaping major and we are not actively

using deciduous trees to block the sun during the summer and dramatically lower cooling costs.

The efforts of self-sustainability and energy conservation have definitely gone in the wrong direction since Betz arrived.

Robert Hughes,
student

Journalists should remain viewpoint-neutral

The dictionary defines journalism as "writing characterized by a direct presentation of facts or description of events without a attempt at interpretation." When you present facts without including your interpretation of them, it gives the reader the opportunity to form his or her own opinion about the subject at hand.

There is a distinct difference between news and opinion, articles and columns. A reporter is responsible for supplying readers with a neutral introduction of the facts. On the other hand, a columnist presents a subject and his or her opinion of it.

Journalistic integrity is a key part of the newspaper business because it shows that your paper is trustworthy. Isn't that what everyone expects from their news

source? I certainly do.

As a staff member of the *Student Voice*, I hate to see a 'corrections' box in the paper but then again I feel like it is a

necessary addition to the paper when we make mistakes. How respectable of an institution would we be if we didn't admit our humanly flaws?

Sometimes it's hard to determine whether a written piece is fact or opinion. What is it when

it has facts that are drenched in subliminal opinion? Is it a news article? A column?

Recently, a reporter for the *Voice* submitted a seemingly newsworthy article but when you take a closer look, you can see that it is quite skewed. Most news stories have more than one side.



Megan Leoni

Collecting facts from one side isn't journalism, it's gossip. To be totally newsworthy you need to get ALL the facts, not just what your preferred source provides you with. It doesn't matter if you don't like what a source has to say or whether you believe them.

It is true that deadlines need to be met, but submitting a half-hearted, gossip-filled article is inexcusable. Not only is incomplete news slanted, it's unethical and can be slanderous. The last thing our school's newspaper needs is to be sued for libel.

I am not a journalism major, nor am I claiming to be an journalist, but I do follow the ethical guidelines involved in journalism when I write for the paper. I expect my peers to do the same.

Megan is a marketing communciations major with a business administration minor. She enjoys reality TV and sleeping in. She is a hard worker but has been known to procrastinate like it's going out of style.

Certain behaviors just can't be rationalized

Every once in a while—actually, more often than not—there is a story in the news that is so unsettling and disturbing that it upsets and sometimes even haunts the reader or viewer.

In recent news, I read such a story. This one was about a polygamist compound in Texas. Now, we've all heard about these weird polygamist cults before, but every time we hear or read about them, we feel the need to find a logical explanation for the revolting lifestyles of these cult followers.

There has to be some reasonable motive buried underneath all that. Just like when studying serial killers, we always search for some meaningful background information, like they were abused or abandoned as a child, but what if we're just searching for something that's not even there? What if these people enter this cult knowing full well that they are taking part in an abusive monstrosity full of incest and the psychological damage of young children?

What if some serial killer had no troubled past and simple felt compelled or got pleasure out of the act of killing? Why do we constant-

ly have to believe that everyone has some excusable motive behind the terrible things that they do?

The most disgusting part of the polygamist compound story was the fact that there were so many incestuous marriages. And not only were they incestuous, but they were between old men and very young girls.

I find it hard to believe that any of these men forcing young girls, most of the time related to them, into marriage have a disturbing past that explains their behavior. Sure, you could say that it's the way they were raised, but that explanation doesn't satisfy.

As human beings, we have free will. We can choose how to live our lives, and we don't have to re-create our own childhood.

You could say they were brainwashed as young children into believing that this is the way life is supposed to be. But I think that no matter how we're raised or how much we're brainwashed into following morally corrupt beliefs, we each still have a conscience or a moral compass of some kind.

It's human nature to try to find the good in all people,

but sometimes I think we just believe what we need to believe. Everything has a logical motive because it simply has to. To do horrible things, one must be sick or disturbed in some way.

We search for meanings for everything. Some even believe in fate, in which everything happens for a rea-

son. But what if life is just a disconnected mess of random events? What if there is no order? And what if some people are just morally corrupt to begin with, without any outside influence?

I remember in my sociology class we discussed the two viewpoints on how people are corrupted. It's sort of a nature versus nurture debate. Most people share the common belief that all human beings are born good and untainted—a blank canvas—and their environment is responsible for corrupting them. Still, there are a few who believe that human beings are born corrupt and find order through their surroundings, if they do at all.

This debate is very similar to the whole optimistic versus pessimistic outlook on life. Some of us automatically believe that there is good in all of us, and everything happens for a reason, while some of us believe that some people are just rooted in evil and everything is random and disconnected. And then some of

us don't know what we believe. But for the most part, we all view these horribly disturbing stories in the same way, searching for meaning and motive.

We need meaning to make sense of all the horrible events that go on from day to day and we need it to get to sleep at night without being haunted by the daily corruption. I believe that no abusive or disturbing background information will ever justify serial killing or the rape and abuse of young girls. Some people are just bad apples.

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



Natalie Conrad

College students advised to run away from monotony

I'm kind of angry right now; I'm trying to pinpoint the cause of my anger, but I can't seem to put a finger on it. As soon as I think I have the reason, a new one pops into my head.

It's not the weather that's put me in this mood; I like cloudy skies because I don't have to squint. It's not schoolwork—nothing there has changed. I'd like to think it wasn't the people around me—after all, they've all been this way for quite some time.

I guess I'm okay with being angry. If I was never angry, I wouldn't know how great it is to be happy. But I don't really feel like smiling right now. I kind of want to wade in my own shallow pool of anger.

When I'm feeling this way, when things are just mundane, there's usually only one thing I like to do. It's something I wish every college student would do: run away.

No eyebrows should be raised, no gasps should be heard. It's simple: you pack your essentials and leave.

When monotony strikes or you're craving

adventure or you just don't want to be wherever you currently are, run away.

The last time I ran away was last summer. I couldn't work because of a scarring incident that took place somewhere between River Falls Days and the desire to go swimming at three in the morning, and I was fed up with hanging around doing nothing in a house with no air conditioning. I got a map and decided to explore somewhere south and east of River Falls.

With a soundtrack, a bag of trail mix, a notebook and markers, a full tank of gas, a map of Minnesota, a borrowed camera, an extra pair of clothes [I never know what I'm going to get myself into], bug spray and two bottles of Gatorade, I was off.

I had a few goals: stop at a dock and put my feet in the water and listen to my newly created compact disk the whole way through as many times as necessary.



Abby Maliszewski

I'm not sure I want to tell you exactly where I went. But here's what I got out of it: windmills may cause automobile accidents—they just have a way of sucking me in. The same goes for irrigation systems. Train tracks are no longer the only interruption I appreciate on the road, but they still leave me longing to run down them.

Sometimes roads beg to be discovered, even if they're deserted driveways. Grown-ups can act like teenagers and still believe that no one knows what they're doing in the park after work. I still hate mosquitoes and horse flies. Deserted parks heavily littered with campers are eerie and disturbing. I will forever be a child who finds interest in far too many topics. Running away on the hottest day of the year isn't the most rewarding idea, but having your windows rolled down on a hot summer's night definitely eases the stickiness. There's

way more to life than what is in your fifty-mile radius, especially on a week day.

When running away, it's absolutely necessary to turn around if you pass something intriguing behind you. It's okay to drive around a block three or four times just to look at some pretty cool architecture. It's best to stop and eat at a small, independent restaurant instead of a chain—after all, you're running away, seeking out the unknown. It's more intriguing to tell people that you got strange looks because you were the only person under 50 at Jack's Fish and Chips than admitting that you went to a Perkins and got funny looks.

Running away is the perfect way to get to know yourself. I dare you to run away. Not every consequence is bad.

Abby is a marketing communications major. If you run away sometime soon and create your own soundtrack, Abby recommends these following tracks for the occasion: "I Don't Know What Else To Do" by Aloha, "Night Drive" by Jimmy Eat World and "A Story About A Girl" by Our Lady Peace.

Biking is better than driving

Want to go for a bike ride? I'll take you to places that you have never been. I'll challenge you to a race. I'll probably lose, but at least you will feel good about beating a girl. And I'll still feel good because my bicycle is cooler than yours.

The weather is nearly perfect for a stroll through the park, to toss a Frisbee and take a pleasant bicycle ride. Well, the weather has been perfect for cycling for some time now (disregarding the hardcore winter bikers).

Where is your bicycle? The streets are overcrowded with cars, and people still complain about gas prices. For those unaware, bicycles are great transportation that receives zero miles to the gallon of gasoline because it requires zero gallons of gasoline.

No more trips to any of the several fueling stations in town to pay an exorbitant amount of your hard-earned cash for the very thing that drives the conflict between our beautiful country and the exotic Middle East.

Bicycles do not emit carbon dioxide into our atmosphere and they cost much less than cars. No expensive insurance is required by the state for bicycles either.

Sure, walking is great exercise and is cheaper than cycling your way around the tiny town. But think of the calf muscles you will have after a couple of weeks of some regular biking. Yes...hot.

River Falls disappoints me when I see traffic backed up on Main Street. Granted, I am sure a lot of these people in their cars are just coming into town from the Twin Cities, but unfortunately I know too many people who will drive even to EconoFoods. This is absolutely unnecessary. Get a bike.

In support, promotion, awareness and for the

love of bicycling, River Falls will have a critical mass event. For those who do not know, a critical mass is an event in which a mass of people ride their bicycles together in a leaderless structure.

Origins of the globally-known event go back to over ten years ago in San Francisco to recognize the unfriendliness of cities to bicycles on the streets. Now, over 325 cities in the world have had a critical mass, some recurring once a month or even once a week.

A common misconception of critical masses is that it is a political social movement or a political protest. Rather than thinking of it in these terms, you can think of it as a way to enjoy the company of others that enjoy doing something you enjoy as well.

It is a celebration of riding and proving to society that we have the ability to have gatherings for a great thing.

Since no one is in charge on the ride, and no explicit ideology is practiced, the riders have the freedom to create their own reasons for participating in the critical mass.



Teresa Aviles

"It could be that all we're doing is riding from here to there on bikes. But what is so amazing is that in attempting such a simple task, so many important and provocative questions come up. For a moment, a window is opened onto a possible future: a future where no one is in charge and most people ride a bike!" according to a

handout distributed at a critical mass.

Watch for the first River Falls critical mass: coming soon.

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

Google answers life questions

The Internet, as many of you know, is a place brimming with innovation and creativity. Our glorious benefactor, the Google, is itself a company that makes mountains of cash designing breakthrough software and services.

A few months ago I discovered a great Google spin-off tool called "Google Suggest." This fascinating flavor of Google looks mostly like the normal Google search screen, except that when you begin typing, the search field drops and displays the most commonly searched phrases.

For instance, typing "Why do" will display searches like "Why do cats purr?" or "Why do we yawn?" and so on.

Google Suggest is effective at showing what questions average people ask Google.

Our connected culture is turning more and more to Google for answering all of life's questions, no matter how small or large.



Joe Hager

Though surely an unscientific measure of the public's surfing activity, Google Suggest does have the power to reveal our common concerns, worries and problems.

For instance, many people may wonder why cats purr, but Google Suggest informs us that millions of people also want to know why men cheat, why Americans don't vote, why Easter changes dates and why Buddhists eat garlic.

And apparently, tens of thousands have wondered "Why does Flavor Flav wear a clock?" and "Why don't French women get fat?" Do these two inquiries reveal a dual addiction to trashy reality TV and self-pitying

Over the last few years, we've become very intimate with that little Google search bar.

many people want the same answers you do from the great and powerful wizards of Google.

Joe is a marketing communications major and creative writing minor. He is interested in movies, religion, politics, culture and politics.

STUDENT VOICES

“What do you think about celebrities who use their fame to promote their own ideas?”



Avery Newman, senior

“They have the right to promote their ideas, as does every other person.”



James Scott, junior

“It depends on whether they're promoting themselves or using it for a charity.



Jenn Jamison, senior

“Why do they get the attention? I say something and I don't get any.”



Kate Story, senior

“It depends on the cause, because if it's something worthwhile then it's all right.”

Student Voices compiled by Ben Brewster.

Celebrities spend too much time lecturing

You might have heard the news that Charlton Heston has passed away. Heston made a name for himself with conservatives as the president of the National Rifle Association.

You may not believe it, but Heston also had a very successful movie career. Don't believe me? Look it up.

He was Moses, Ben Hur and ate food made of ground up people. Lately, however, Heston had become the poster child for the political right and gun-toting Americans everywhere.

There is a thin line in Hollywood between actor and

political activist, and political nut and sometime actor.

While being a Hollywood megastar opens doors which would not normally be open to individuals, it comes with a huge risk.

We are all familiar with the political leanings of Susan Sarandon, Tim Robbins and George Clooney, right? Liberals.

Nearly every opportunity they get, many Hollywood

stars give their opinion of the current political situation. Because you played a doctor on a popular NBC program doesn't give you the credentials of being one.

Remember when Tom Selleck was kicked off the Rosie O'Donnell Show because he wanted to discuss handguns instead of his upcoming movie? I do.

I am all for free expression. If you have a viewpoint, I believe fully that you should share it. I write a column every week that only a handful of friends read (or at least tell me they read), and use it to convey some of my viewpoints.

The difference though, is that politics will be my career. I'm not acting, I won't be making millions of dollars in any picture or for any other reason for that matter. I don't draw millions of people in with my charismatic portrayals of lawyers or even politicians only to use my fame as a means to showcase my political viewpoints.

I realize politics sells, but I enjoyed movies more when

they were what they said they were: meaningless.

Eventually, stars lose their image as Hollywood icons and become different in some way.

Remember when Bono was a member of a little band called U2? Now he is busy saving the world.

I will be the first to admit that there is a lot wrong with the world, but how much can Bono help? Bono and many other stars have become a parody of themselves.

Many celebrities have been lampooned by members of the media, characterized because of their political viewpoints. At what point does a celebrity come to hurt the movement they've spent so much time building instead of helping?

I consider myself a liberal—no surprise—and I am shocked at how everyone now considers liberalism a dirty term.

I wondered how being a liberal could be considered such a horrible thing. Even politicians running for President, like Barack Obama, refuse to call themselves liberals.

Then I turn on “Entertainment Tonight” or “The Insider” and see the latest celebrity railing against the war in Iraq or the Bush administration and my head suddenly hurts.

As a movie fan, I appreciate your cinematic work. However, I don't believe the Oscar ceremony should be an opportunity for your soapbox political stance.

By all accounts, Heston was a wonderful man. He made some of the greatest movies in movie history—he was a Hollywood icon.

In the end, however, what will be about his movies and what will be about his political views?

Many celebrities have made excellent movies but run the risk of having them overshadowed by their political ideology.

Please, Hollywood stars, would you just shut up and act?

Joe is a political science and international studies major. He has been involved in several activities on campus, including a stint as last year's Student Senate president.

Jordahl hopes to improve on the success of last season



Falcon athlete Becca Jordahl won second place at the indoor track nationals this year. She continues her success in the outdoor track season.

Alayne Hockman
alayne.hockman@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls health and human performance major Becca Jordahl is in her second year of running cross country and track with the Falcons. She has won a number of competitions and awards in those events, including winning second place in the 5,000-meter race at the 2008 NCAA Division III indoor meet. Jordahl is in her fourth year of college, but her second at UWRF. She spent her first year of college at Walla Walla Community College in Washington State, and then attended Century College in St. Paul, Minn. for a year, where she attained an associate’s degree. While looking at what UWRF has to offer, Jordahl got the idea to go out for the cross country team while searching the school Web site under athletic interests. She says she spoke with the coach and was convinced to join the team. Jordahl played soccer during her college career and switched to track when she came to UWRF.

One of the most interesting aspects of her career is that she had never run on a team before last year. “I was always really athletic,” Jordahl said in a phone interview. “I played soccer and softball and danced. I did pretty much everything but track. I always ran for health benefits, but I never ran on a team.” Jordahl runs the 6,000-meter race in cross country. Her credits for cross country include being named the 2007 Div. III Midwest Region Female Cross Country Athlete of the Year by the US Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. Jordahl was named to the Division III All-Midwest-Region Cross Country team and won the NCAA Midwest Regional individual title in the same year. She was an NCAA All-American in 2007 as well, according to the UWRF athletics Web site. Her success with cross country running led Jordahl to go out for track as well. She runs the 3,000-meter and 5,000-meter runs for the indoor track season and the 5,000-meter and 10,000-meter runs for the outdoor track season. Jordahl’s success has continued

throughout her running career. She holds several UWRF school records. In indoor track she holds the mile, 3,000-meter and 5,000-meter records. In outdoor track she holds the 10,000-meter record. Jordahl made all of those record times in 2008. Adding to Jordahl’s athletic accomplishments are her wins at the 2008 WIAC indoor conference meet, where she took first in the 3,000-meter and the 5,000-meter. She also won second place in the 5,000-meter run at the NCAA Division III indoor meet. “I got second place by four seconds, and I thought it went really well. I gave it all I could at the time,” Jordahl said. “Maybe on another day I could have won, but it was definitely her [the first place winner’s] day to win.” More recently, Jordahl was named the WIAC Athlete of the Week April 8 for the current outdoor track season. Jordahl will compete at the UW-Eau Claire Open Saturday. The meet will begin at 10 a.m.

Falcon Ruggers receive new sponsorship deal

Marta Olson
marta.j.olson@uwrf.edu

With a new spring season, the UW-River Falls women’s rugby team has new sponsorship. The team was selected to be sponsored by the National Guard and USA Rugby, and will receive new uniforms, balls, field equipment and goal posts. “This was a great accomplishment for our team and we are very honored to represent UWRF to the entire nation as a model of great sportsmanship and a general love of rugby,” senior Katherine LaPorte said. The women’s rugby team on campus does as much as it can to help out the community and campus. Team members participate in Adopt a Highway and offer free services to community members for leaf raking, snow shoveling, painting and wood stacking.

“They are a group of very responsible, very dedicated and very interested young women. They work very hard and play very hard, and they get little recognition,” Ken Olson, faculty adviser to the team said. The UWRF women’s rugby team is considered part of the Minnesota Rugby Union. They play teams from all over the state such as Mankato, Winona, the University of Minnesota and Carleton College. They also play teams from as far away as St. Cloud, Thunder Bay, Canada and North Dakota State University. “Rugby is a relatively new sport across America. Although it is one of the fastest growing college sports in the Metro area, it is not getting a lot of recognition from universities,” Katherine LaPorte said. “The game has become the most popular club sport on college campuses.”

The rugby season on campus is divided into

two parts. In the fall the team plays its competitive season, while the spring season is more relaxed which allows the team to have more fun. The team travels the most in the spring, playing in a different tournament almost every weekend. “Most of the girls have never seen a rugby game,” Team President Amanda Prochazka said. “[On the field] they are given the ball and told to run.” A game April 5 was played a little differently. It was a home game and there were three teams: UWRF, St. Olaf and Macalester. Instead of a traditional match, the teams mixed together to give everyone a chance to play with new teammates. They drew names out of a hat to pick teams. The team that calls themselves the Falcon Ruggers consist of 25 women. Officially, their name is simply the UWRF Women’s Rugby team. The team currently practices at Hoffman Park and plays their games at the intramural fields behind campus. “We used to practice every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 6 a.m. in the Knowles Center, but due to open recreation time, the practices were moved to 4 p.m. on the intramural fields,” LaPorte said. “We have now had to move practices to



Rugby players Amanda Prochazka and Carrie Bender practice at Hoffman Park due to the desire to maintain UWRF intramural field conditions.

Hoffman Park due to the field conditions. The fields would be damaged by the team’s cleats, and the University wants to maintain the reputation for having the best field.”

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Falcon softball blanks Blue Devils

Kimberly Kuhens
kimberly.kuhens@uwrf.edu

With lightning comes thunder, which is exactly what the UW-River Falls softball team brought with them to Menomonie as they swept UW-Stout 5-0 and 4-0 last Saturday. UWRF has now extended its school record winning streak to 13 games. These victories also led to a three spot advancement from No. 14 to No. 11 in the NFCA

poll released April 8. Ashley Bertrand opened WIAC season play with her first career no-hitter against UW-Stout. She is now 11-1 on the season with a 1.02 ERA. Bertrand was also named WIAC Athlete of the Week. She has thrown five shutouts and three one-hitters on the year. Brittany Rathburn continued the storm by following with a complete game shutout in the second game of the double-

header. Keri Feller started the first game of the doubleheader with an excellent show in the batter’s box as she went 3-for-4. Emily Howlett and Jessica Lundgren both finished 2-for-3 at the plate in the second game. UWRF is now 19-1 overall and 2-0 in the WIAC. The Falcons have a decent chunk of their season left to play, with six more conference competitors still to face. They play Stevens Point and Whitewater next week.

Cut-Throat Racquetball Shootout

Sponsored by: UWRF Racquetball Club
Thursday, April 17, 5:00 p.m. in Karges Center

Free Pizza
For Participants

SIGNUP:

Email: Sara Lake
sara.lake@uwrf.edu
Include name & level
of play (beginner, inter-
mediate, advanced)

Deadline: No entries will be accepted after Tuesday, April 15
Questions: Contact: Sara Lake at sara.lake@uwrf.edu

For more information about the UWRF Racquetball Club:
<http://www.uwrf.edu/racquetball/>

Check out a
column by Chris
Schad and
information about
the upcoming
lacrosse tourney
online at
www.uwrfvoice.com

Writer-in-residence Ellis discusses writing with UWRF students

Teresa Aviles
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Author Mary Relindes Ellis visited UW-River Falls this week to offer her expertise for students. Ellis is UWRF’s spring 2008 writer-in-residence as she is originally from northern Wisconsin in which her award-winning novel, “The Turtle Warrior,” is themed. Ellis came to campus Wednesday to hold a critiquing session for selected graduating senior’s work. She also joined English professor Jennifer

Brantley in her Writing Seminar class to discuss her writing process with students. On Thursday, students had the opportunity to accompany Ellis in a brown-bag lunch in the dean’s conference room which was hosted by the English department and Papercuts, the UWRF Literary Society. The lunch was followed by a public reading of her novel in the Library Breezeway. “I am currently a graduate student in the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and when Professor Brantley invited me

to be the writer-in-residence I jumped at it because it is an honor to be invited to speak here. The University [UWRF] is an excellent college and I had two sisters who attended. And I was homesick,” Ellis said. Ellis lived in Hammond, Wis. for five years and spent some time in River Falls, especially the library, during her residence in Western Wisconsin. She also worked at the University of Minnesota for 25 years. “I’ve given readings here before but I think people find the novel fascinating, particularly the writing process

and how it came to be and that it is about a part of the world they are familiar with,” Ellis said. “It has been published and is doing well in France which was a wonderful surprise.” Ellis has been writing in her contemporary fiction style for 25 years. “The Turtle Warrior,” has a major influence from her childhood. “I grew up in an old culture with immigrants and big extended families. Northern Wisconsin has a unique and powerful history. My upbringing there was unique and meaningful. I wanted to honor a region I felt often

got overlooked,” Ellis said. “The Turtle Warrior” is about a boy, Bill Lucas, “and his tenacity for survival amidst family violence. But it parallels his neighbor’s belief as a mixed-blood man, of what turtle means in Ojibwa culture.” Ellis has been influenced by writers like Leslie Marmon Silko, Margaret Atwood and John Steinbeck. She is currently working on her latest novel titled "Geese" about female generations and the family mythologies that can both enhance and hide the truth.

The Raconteurs rock out with new release

If reality had a say, The Raconteurs should have crumbled in 2006 with their glam-pop debut, “Broken Boy Soldiers.” Think about it. Garage rock bluesy master Jack White joining forces with the power pop of Brendan Benson and complemented by Yardbirds—inspired Patrick Keeler and Jack Lawrence of The Greenhornes isn’t normally an equation for success. But formula is obsolete-the Raconteurs don’t follow rules, they make their own. “Consolers of the Lonely,” their latest album, does just that. Announced a little under a week before its release, The Raconteurs surprised everyone with a swift collaboration, recording the album in early March and releasing it later that month. “The music business is so scared all the time, and I don’t like living in fear like that,” White said a few days after the album hit stores. How’s that for unformulated? Unusual releases or not, music makes the band, and on “Consolers of the Lonely” it succeeds, depending on which way you lean. If you prefer the raw power of White’s stripped and dirty version of the blues (like I do), you’ll dig the guitar slides country vibe on “Top Yourself.” Not your thing? Go for Benson’s “Many Shades of Black,” a heart-breaker with



Matt Loosbrock

mariachi trumpets and one of Benson’s best ever. What you may not like is when the two take on the persona of each other. Don’t misunderstand: Benson clearly feeds off White when he shouts “I found myself just looking right behind my best intentions / Ignoring any kind of prize I might receive at all / Why all I seem to find is wrong kind of satisfaction / I find a ridicule that isn’t cool for me at all,” on the power rock “Salute Your Solution,” and vice versa, White eats up Benson’s tenderness as he sings harmony on the barnyard jam “Old Enough.” “The Switch and the Spur” is a tale of an “appaloosa and a wanted man” springing from jail. That’s it. Add in soaring trumpets, piano and echoed guitars and you have something really special. As far as myths go, rarely are they spoken like “Carolina Drama.” I won’t spoil it, but deceit and murder are afloat within a dysfunctional family that surprises and stings. When all is done, White ends it, “Well now you know every side to the story but you want to know how it ends / If you must know the truth about the tale, go and ask the milk man.”

Matt is a senior double majoring in music and creative writing who likes lots of music types, both old and new, especially if it's good.

Letterdoku

	G	B			A	D		
	H			I				E
D				E	B	A		F
		H				C		G
G	A		B		H		D	I
C			D		F			
I	B		A		E	F	C	H
	F		I				E	
		C			G			

Difficulty: Medium Submitted Rules for Letterdoku: Fill all of the empty squares so that the letters A to I appear once in each row, column and 3 x 3 box. Solution for Letterdoku appears at www.uwrfoice.com.

Clooney’s football comedy ‘Leatherheads’ a nostalgic treat



A.J. Hakari

In recent years, George Clooney has successfully executed that all-too-risky jump from matinee movie star to skilled filmmaker. After taking on heavier topics his first two times at bat, Clooney presents his third directorial effort, “Leatherheads,” as his first foray into the arena of flat-out crowd-pleasing entertainment. Don’t get me wrong, the flick’s not entirely mainstream, as its intentions are geared slightly more towards being artistic than they are towards being just another goofball comedy. But as long as you enter the theater in the right frame of mind, you’ll have no problem scoring yourself some of the charm that “Leatherheads” gives away by the gross. The year is 1925, and pro football is in a sorry state of affairs. Attendance is flagging, budgets are being cut and teams are falling apart in a flash. Dodge Connelly (Clooney) is the captain of such a team, the struggling Duluth Bulldogs. When the wave of cutbacks hits his beloved crew, Dodge scrambles to find a way to keep the team afloat. He soon finds his ticket to ride in the form of Carter “The Bullet” Rutherford (John Krasinski), a war hero and college football champ. Sure enough, after coercing young Carter into joining the Bulldogs, attendance picks up

fast, with the team going from getting into fights on the field to actually winning a few games for a change. But it’s not long before Dodge becomes involved in a love triangle that pits him and Carter against one another for the affections of Lexie Littleton (Renee Zellweger), a spunky reporter with a secret agenda of her own. A few days before I saw “Leatherheads,” I read a web-comic that questioned the incentive for seeing the movie. Being a pre-Depression Era comedy about the early days of professional football, the flick has its work cut out for it in trying to pin down exactly who its demographic is. Clooney has crafted the story into a shining example of pure screwball idealism, with plenty of solid laughs to be had all around. The problem is that at almost two hours, “Leatherheads” often finds itself running on moxie alone, without much real content to provide. The material is stretched way too thin at times. Still, Clooney does manage to take most of the movie and turn it into a pretty entertaining ride. The man himself is at his roguish best as Dodge, a fast-talking shyster willing to keep the spirit of pro football alive and kicking at all costs. Much like the “athletes” it depicts, “Leatherheads” doesn’t always have its act together. It’s a little rough around the edges and could’ve used a good rewrite or two to shave

off some of the thematic fat. But if you’re in the mood for a flick that, at the end of the day, is all about having a few good laughs and a heaping helping of 1920s nostalgia to go with it, “Leatherheads” is sure to give you just what you’re looking for.

A.J. is a senior journalism student who has been reviewing movies for almost 10 years. He digs horror movies and documentaries the most.



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.

abides by those same tattered conventions to a fault. Dodge Connelly (George Clooney, in yet another turn that repeatedly uses his age as a punch line) wishes to take his lackluster 1920s pro football team, the Duluth Bulldogs, out of the mud slogged cow pen fields and into packed stadium arenas. Enter Carter Rutherford (John Krasinski), straight-laced Princeton star athlete and national war hero, drafted to the Bulldogs in a vain attempt to translate his patriotic fan fare into gross ticket sales. But the team chemistry soon starts to dissolve as volatile vixen Lexie Littleton (Renee Zellweger), a snub-nosed yellow journalist digging into the validity of Rutherford’s hero status, drives a carnal wedge between the two men, each of them passionately ensnared by her sharp-tongued voluptuous personality. The film presents itself as romantic comedy, but never allows for a comfortable fit in either genre, bringing together elements of insincere amour with coerced slapstick, using as bonding agent rapid-fire salvos of witticism launched between Clooney and Zellweger. Romance—the sad truth is, there’s none. There is a spark of something, but I wouldn’t call it love, or even lust, between Dodge and Lexie. It is more the scintillating realization of finding an equal in each piercing exchange. Not quite impassioned lovers tangled in lustful interplay, they are more worthy combatants respectful of each other’s linguistic skill in articulated battle. As for the playtime between Lexie and Carter, forget about



Ken Weigend

it. Zellweger dances the part of Black Widow well; not once will you actually believe she has any feelings for this pretty, dull boy wonder. Constantly aware of Lexie’s fangs dangled deplorably above Carter’s veins of naive inexperience, any sense of competition for affection between our duelist male opponents (being the advertised romantic driving force) is effectively erased. The comedy is a little harder to draw a bead on. Clooney, who also directed the film, tosses the prose back and forth between high and low comedy, juggling incredibly funny, sometimes too quick-witted, humorous dialogue between hit-or-miss slapstick antics. The end result is akin to Woody Allen or Wes Anderson directing the Three Stooges. Borrowing heavily from the visual flare of the Coen Bros., Clooney paints his “O Pigskin, Where Art Thou” in sepia-toned vibrations, giving it the soft-edged old-timing feel of a classic talkie. Clooney raises himself as Cary Grant for the new milenia, Zellweger as Rosalind Russell, in this Capro-corn feel-gooder that should have been titled “His Girl Sunday.” It’s not that “Leatherheads” is a bad movie; it can be quite entertaining. But the problem is that while it never falters below expectations, it never dares to rise above them, either.

Ken is a junior journalism major with a film studies minor. He has aspirations to write film reviews as a career. His favorite genres are drama and comedy.



Group encourages religious, cultural understanding

Stephanie Daniels
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A new student organization, Sisters and Brothers of Islam, will offer UW-River Falls students an outlet for sharing their faith and learning about the faith of others.

“The purpose of this organization is to create dialogue [and] share knowledge and understanding about Islam between students,” according to the constitution of Sisters and Brothers of Islam.

Sophomore Qurina Khan founded the group because of a perceived need for such a group in the community.

Khan, with her headscarf, got a lot of questions about Islam when working at the River Falls Econo Foods, she said.

Additionally, her non-Muslim friends encouraged her to start a group that would educate students around campus about her beliefs.

“They feel like there is a gap that needs to be filled,” Khan said.

The group is still in the setup process and has yet to have an official meeting.

Their “grand opening” will be in fall 2008, Khan said.

“I really want this to be kind of a big hit,” Khan said. “And I really want people of all backgrounds and religions to attend, because that’s what makes things interesting.”

Carolyn Brady, acting adviser for the group, said she encouraged Khan to follow through with her interest in starting the organization.

The increasing population of Muslim students at UWRF and a growing curiosity among students of other beliefs make such an organization a welcome addition to the campus community, Brady said.

Brady also serves as the advisor for the Asian American Student Association (AASA), a group she credits for inspiring students to create other cultural awareness groups. Muslim students and East Indian students attended meetings of the AASA before founding their own groups—Sisters and Brothers of Islam and the Desi Student Organization, respectively.

“That kind of got the momentum going,” Brady said.

AASA meetings showed the students, though they didn’t completely identify with everyone attending, that it was possible to get a lot of students involved in events promoting cultural awareness and celebration, Brady said.

Khan’s plans for next semester include a week that will highlight a different aspect of Islam each day.

“I want to call it Islamic week,” Khan said.

Khan said she would also like for Sisters and Brothers of Islam to collaborate with the Desi Student Organization and put on an Iftar dinner.

Muslims fast between sunrise and sunset during Ramadan, the ninth month of their calendar. Members of Muslim communities break their fast together each evening at a meal known as Iftar, according to Tanya Gulevich’s book Understanding Islam and Muslim Traditions.

Freshman accounting major Kerry Carter, who identifies herself as a Christian, said that she might attend one of the group’s meetings in the upcoming semester.

“I think it’d be interesting to learn about their culture and everything,” Carter said.

The group has not named a permanent adviser yet, though Brady said she will continue to serve as the adviser for as long as the group needs her.

“I would do anything I could to help the organization,” Brady said.

Brady’s decision to advise

another student group arose from a mix of necessity and personal interest in the group.

Though the students were capable of running their group, the organization needed to have an adviser to be formally recognized, Brady said.

Additionally, Brady’s father emigrated from North Africa to the U.S. with his family. Like Brady’s father, some of the students in Sisters and Brothers of Islam are immigrants.

Brady said that the fact that these students are in basically the same position her father was in at college makes her feel especially motivated to help them out.

It is Brady’s hope, however, that more faculty members will take an interest in Sisters and Brothers of Islam and seek the role of adviser as the group becomes more visible in the upcoming semester, she said.

Sisters and Brothers of Islam members active in the planning process may have one meeting before the end of spring semester to make sure all plans for fall are settled.

Earn \$4,000 to \$5,000
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at UWRF Facilities Management

Facilities Management has a number of summer positions on our grounds, housekeeping, paint and repair/maintenance crews. These are full-time jobs from May 19 through August 29. Part-time summer school students will also be considered for some positions. A \$100 bonus will be paid to all student workers who work through Aug. 29 on a full-time basis.

Earn from \$4,000 to \$5,000 this summer. Starting salary is \$7.50/hr. In addition, those wishing to stay on campus will have dorm rooms available.

Applications are available at the main office (room 102) of the Maintenance and Central Stores building (behind McMillan) between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. weekdays or at our Website: www.uwrf.edu/facilities-management/students



Alex Halverson leads the Rally in the Valley march from the Public Library on Main Street to the University Center.

Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

THE STUDENT SENATE
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES:

**STUDENT SENATE
ELECTIONS WILL
TAKE PLACE**

APRIL 22nd at 8 a.m. to APRIL 23nd at 4 p.m.

ALSO ON THE BALLOT:
Changes to the Student Senate Constitution
United Council Referendum