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installed on campus,
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for recent bank, economic woes

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STUDENT VOICE

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS

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UWRF in perfect (Lip) Sync



Members of Dance Theater perform in the annual Lip Sync competition, "Livin' La Vida Loca," Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the North Hall auditorium. The Lip Sync competition is part of UW-River Falls' homecoming festivities every year, where student organizations, Greek life and residence halls all compete against each other.

Sally King/Student Voice

University chancellors, presidents across U.S. debate drinking age

Joy Stanton
joy.stanton@uwrf.edu

While 130 chancellors and presidents of colleges and universities across America have signed a public statement that declares that the 21 age drinking laws are not working to curb binge drinking, Interim Chancellor Connie Foster has decided not to sign.

Foster made her decision after she consulted with UW-River Falls staff that did not support putting UWRF's name on the initiative. A new chancellor might want to look at the issue again, but Foster said that for now she sided with the experts.

Since it has surfaced this past summer, the Amethyst Initiative—named after the gemstone that the Greeks thought was the antidote to the negative effects of intoxication—has created a storm of debates in the media surrounding the possibility of lowering the drinking age to 18.

The initiative does not state that it wants to lower the drinking age. Rather, it "supports informed and unimpeded debate," according to a statement on the initiative's Web site.

Before signing, Wisconsin's only acting president listed on the initiative, president of Ripon College David Joyce,

consulted with his senior staff.

"The central issue with the 21 law is that it is inconsistent with the other ages of 'public trust.' You can get married, go to war, vote and pay taxes for three years before you can legally have a beer," Ripon's Director of Media and Public Relations Cody Pinkston said on behalf of the college in an e-mail. "It's similar in some ways to prohibition - rather than work out a tenable solution to a problem, you make it illegal. All we're saying is, there must be a better way. Let's sit down and figure it out."

Joyce said from his perspective the different age of consent sends a terrible mixed message to young adults today.

"What age do we say, 'you are an adult?'" Joyce said in a telephone interview. "The logic is there...let's find a common age and make it work based on research."

An important issue to note is that a leading critic of the Amethyst Initiative, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, calls into question whether or not the leaders who sign the initiative enforce the 21 age laws on their campuses.

Joyce was quick to state that they were dead wrong and, in fact, Ripon College has

See Amethyst page 3

UWRF aims to run on all renewable energy by 2012

Teresa Aviles
teresa.aviles@uwrf.edu

Last semester's deliberative polling recently presented results which show what UW-River Falls students think about the University's plan for "going off the grid" by 2012.

A total of 62 students completed the survey by either attending the workshop or taking it online and were provided with a briefing booklet for each. The survey consisted of fact-based questions to find out how much students knew about the issues at hand and opinion-based questions regarding global warming, the University's alternatives to complete the challenge and how to pay for the plan.

"Agree" or "strongly agree" were selected by 95 percent of students who took the survey for the funding option for the plan to lobby the state for funds, according to the results.

Another option for raising student's tuition received 65 percent of the students in favor.

"I was surprised to see that students were actually in favor of increasing their tuition," David Trechter, director of the survey research center and chair of the UWRF agricultural economics department, said.

Receiving compensation from carbon reduction offset credits for funding is a possi-

bility. The state, in conjunction with lending, may also give incentive money for renewable energy programs within institutions, Trechter said.

"I am an advocate for renewable energy," student Brady Wendt said. "I would be willing to pay an extra \$100 for the school's plan."

According to the survey, 94 percent of the participating students agree that UWRF should replace older equipment on campus. Aside from the new semi-sustainable University Center and the remodeling of Kleinpell Fine Arts' ventilation system, facilities management has been running tests regarding wood burning in the smokestack as opposed to coal.

"The problem with that is we're burning fossil fuel by bringing the woodchips there when you add that to our carbon footprint," Trechter said. "Electricity is one-fourth of the campus' energy use and the other part of that is heating and cooling. We've ran tests and there are issues."

This winter, they will continue the testing of burning wood biomass at the heating plant. If the tests prove to be successful, they will replace the burning of coal and natural gas with the wood biomass, a local and renewable source of energy for the campus heating needs.

See Energy page 3

Alumnus leaves \$400,000 to UW System

Blake Gandrud
blake.gandrud@uwrf.edu

A donation of \$400,000 was made to the UW System by an alumnus that passed away and is to be evenly split between UW-Madison's department of Bacteriology and UW-River Falls' College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

The alumnus, Lester Baribo, was a 1943 graduate of UWRF who majored in agricultural education. He went on to complete a Ph.D in bacteriology at UW-Madison and the majority of his professional work was with the Weyerhaeuser Corporation, a U.S. company involved in the forestry industry and the production of related products, according to their Web site.

"For our College, this is certainly one of the largest donations that we've ever received," CAFES Dean Dale Gallenberg said.

Since the indication was that the money should be for general support of educational programs in agriculture, the College has flexibility in deciding how to best allocate the funds.

"You hope that there aren't too many strings attached [to donations], that you can use them towards your priorities," Budget Director Kristen Hendrickson said.

The money is likely to be spread out in a number of projects, some of which will be fully funded, while others only partially with the balance from other sources.

The projects likely to be fully fundable include classroom renovation in the colt barn, redoing study and gathering places in the Ag Science building and the purchase of a number of laptop computers. Projects that could be partially funded include agricultural engineering lab renovation and a water lab that could be

used by several departments.

Rachel Bartel, a senior agricultural business major, said that she agrees with redoing study areas in the Ag Science building.

"The ag lounge [a study area across from room 116] is always pretty full, loud and hard to study in," Bartel said.

The list of projects had already been formulated in the form of an annual budget request, but after the Baribo donation Gallenberg consulted with the associate dean and department chairs and pulled out items from the budget request that could be funded by the donation.

"We're taking the funding needs that we have, that we've submitted to the University, and said, 'Here are our highest priorities,'" Gallenberg said.

Hendrickson gave an approximation of the impact that \$200,000 would have on meeting the priorities of the College.

"Let's say they submitted 20 requests, they are going to be able to fund ten of them through this gift," Hendrickson said.

Normally it could take years to meet that many requests and only one or two would be realistically funded by the annual budget.

Budget requests are submitted annually to the budget office and then various committees on campus review them. The committees critique and comment on the proposals and then pass them to the chancellor's cabinet, which adds further input, before the proposals end up in the hands of the executive cabinet.

There is also student input and representation through the various committees, such as on the Information and

Instructional Council (IITC), which has eight openings for students (only two of which are filled), according to their official Web site. The Student Senate makes all of the student appointments to budget review committees and an important qualification for students seeking a position on a committee is simply an interest to be on it.

"We usually have a hard time filling the spots," Hendrickson said.

The largest donation that the University as a whole has received was last year when Lucile Spriggs, a 1938 graduate who majored in history and English, left \$1 million to the University for scholarships.

Although alumni and other external support is only a small portion of the overall budget, it is becoming increasingly important to the University because of declining state support.

"What we would like to think is that state and federal support is used to conduct base programs, and other external support allows us to do some new and neat and exciting things," Gallenberg said.

"Increasingly, we're having to rely on other support to fund our base programs as well."

The UWRF Foundation is working to start a campaign that will seek donations from alumni and others that can help the University.

"I think we've seen more of these types of gifts lately," Hendrickson said. "Hopefully if we put together a campaign, we'll see even more of them."

"I think we've seen more of these types of gifts lately. Hopefully if we put together a campaign, we'll see even more of them."

Kristen Hendrickson,
UWRF budget director

VOICE SHORTS

River Falls host to homecoming parade

The annual Homecoming Parade will take place Saturday at 10:30 a.m. The parade route begins on the north end of Main Street, go through downtown River Falls and end at the UWRF University Center. The parade will feature the UWRF marching band, student organization made floats and, of course, students.

Homecoming football game between Falcons and Pointers

The annual Homecoming game will take place between the Falcons and the UW-Stevens Point Pointers Saturday at 1 p.m. at Ramer Field. Admission to the game is free for students with ID.

Family Day event returns to campus

Family Day 2008 is coming on Oct. 11. Hosted by First-Year Experience, it is a great way for students, families, faculty and staff to have quality time together while enjoying beautiful UW-River Falls and participating in events all day long. Activities include Falcon athletic events, showings of “Wall-E,” ice skating, a performance by ComedySportz, observatory showing and a scavenger hunt. The cost is \$12 per family member. Registered UWRF students and children under five are free.

Coffee with the Times highlights dangers of serfdom

The UW-River Falls Coffee with the Times discussion series features topics from international investments to identity theft. All sessions, which are free and open to the public, will be held in the Chalmer Davee Library breezeway and last approximately 50 minutes. The upcoming Coffee with the Times is "The Individual vs. The Collective: Avoiding the Road of Serfdom," with speaker Brian Huffman, UWRF professor in management and marketing. It will be held 11 a.m. Oct. 9.

Voice Shorts compiled by
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A greener glass furnace installed at UW-River Falls

Naomi Vogel
naomi.vogel@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls art department has recently done their part in making the UWRF campus greener by getting an electric glass furnace for their glass blowing classes that replaced their old gas model. The new furnace came in this summer at a cost of \$40,000.

Art student Jackson Schwartz described the new furnace as “a really well built, nice piece of equipment.”

“It is easier for the students to use,” Jim Engebretson, professor of the glass blowing classes, said. “It holds larger amounts of glass, melts the glass quicker, can be insulated twice as much as the old one and has a larger opening which makes it easier to get the glass out.”

The new electric furnace is not only greener and easier than the old gas furnace, but safer as well. Even though the new furnace is safer, students are still required to take proper safety procedures, such as not wearing synthetic clothing and always working with a partner.

“No combustion, no flame, no fire,” Engebretson said.

Not only was the old furnace not environmentally friendly, but it was also cracking and contaminated with all the different glass pieces inside, student Pauly Cudd said.

The new furnace can be fixed easier and more affordably if multiple things were to go wrong, while the old furnace would have had to be replaced entirely. The heating elements and the crucible can be replaced if they break.

“It was worth every penny,” Cudd said.

Cudd explained how the old furnace was affecting student’s education because it limited what they were able to do. He wrote a letter, which was signed by students in the glass blowing classes, to the Dean of Education in the art department requesting a new furnace. The result of his letter was the new safer, greener furnace.

“The new furnace ensures that River Falls will have equipment for a long time,” Engebretson said.

In the past the art department built their own glass furnaces that would usually only last five years, Engebretson said. The art department stopped building their own equipment approximately 12 years ago.

The glass blowing classes are located in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. There are both cold and hot glass studios. Students can be seen working on their glass blowing projects outside of class. There are two glass blowing classes offered at UWRF, Intro to Glass (Art 229) and Studio Glass (Art 329). Both classes are taught by Jim Engebretson. A student does not need to be an art major or have any prerequisites in order to take Intro to Glass.

When asked if the students enjoyed the new furnace, “Yes,” Engebretson said. “They seem to be in love.”

Enrollment increase causes crowding

Lindsey Rykal
lindsey.rykal@uwrf.edu

For the past three years, overcrowding in the residence halls has been an ongoing problem. There are approximately 200 overflow spaces that were converted into rooms for students, and 130 students are still assigned to them.

This results in study lounges turning into rooms for up to six people, and resident assistants, who previously had the luxury of having their own rooms, are now being forced to share. It is estimated that 20 students will leave campus as a result of the overcrowding in the dorms.

"Students decide to commute or go to a different school once they find out," Jason Neuhaus, residential life west area coordinator, said.

Students are placed in study lounges located on each floor until they are moved into permanent housing. Lounges may start out with six people living in them, but typically three or four students stay for the entire semester.

Students are placed into permanent housing once rooms become available due to other students leaving.

"Probably five to ten percent of students move off campus, transfer or get suspended within the first semester,"



Renae Bergh/Student Voice
Grant Everett, a freshman living in Hathorn Hall, is one of the five residents living in this study lounge.

RA and their age.

"RAs value their personal space 10 times more because you are always, always in a fish bowl," Johnson Hall RA Alyse Good said. "I didn't mind having a roommate last year, but I really appreciate having my own room this year."

Students are hesitant about being placed with RAs as well.

They tend to have negative stigmas towards the RAs, Good said.

"I was really reluctant on how living with a RA would affect meeting people, but it didn't make me change my mind about coming here. It was different living with an RA at first," Elizabeth Moos, Good's roommate last year said.

Moos was a transfer student and placed into temporary housing last year.

For the students it is also hard because they get to know everyone on their wing and have to move to completely different building once they are placed in a permanent room, Good said.

Roommates given to RAs can be placed into permanent housing before classes begin first semester, otherwise it takes about a month. Once a room opens up for the student the RA has to decide if they want to continue with a roommate.

"Luckily Alyse became close, to the point where I had the option to move out,

but the both of us decided that we wanted to stay with each other," Moos said.

According to Kristie Feist , residential life assistant director-community development and education, said plans are being made to build an addition to South Fork Suites adding 240 beds to help with the overflow issue. The addition is expected to be completed by 2011.

Campus to provide additional resources for bikers

Tim Stanislav
timothy.stanislav@uwrf.edu

An increase in bicycles on the UW-River Falls campus has caught the attention of the University and has resulted in allocation of funding for new bike facilities.

Within six months the University plans to incorporate additional "improved" bike racks for student bikers. Along with the new racks, paths on campus will be widened to improve traffic flow, Assistant Director of Grounds Maintenance Manny Kenney said.

The University will be trying a "pilot" program at the beginning of fall semester. Students will be assigned bike lockers to store their bikes during the winter, Julie Phelps, assistant director of residence life, facilities and administrative services, said.

\$15,000 was spent last year replacing the old bike racks with the newer, sturdier U-style racks. The new racks more effectively accommodate bikers as they allow for easier tethering to the bike frame. The new racks cost \$500 each and the money is allocated from the school's state budget money. The University plans on adding new racks to Karges and Hagedsted before winter, Kenney said.

A new pilot program going into effect next semester will allow ten student bikers a unique opportunity. The program will allow ten bikers to store their bikes in hard fiberglass bike lockers. The program aims at discovering whether students would use the lockers. If the program is successful the University may create permanent bike lockers that could be rented to students on a semester basis, Phelps said.

The campus will be increasing the width of select paths around campus as well. The main arterial east to west path,



Sally King/Student Voice
Bike overcrowding has caused the campus to reevaluate bike storage systems across campus.

which runs from South Fork Suites in front of the University Center and ends at the west end of campus near Hagedsted, is of primary concern. The paths will be widened from eight to 12 feet to better accommodate bike and pedestrian traffic, Kenney said.

"The paths can get congested but pathing is decent considering that the University can't tell people where to walk," student biker Tim Drallmeier said. "The lighting on campus is good. It's dark coming from the north until I get on campus."

The grounds-keeping staff clears off pathways on campus when they become obstructed by weather. The paths are cleared on a "set of priority" system, Kenney said. The emergency vehicle routes are cleared first, then the primary east to west path, and out from there. The paths should be cleared by the time classes start in anything but heavy snowstorms, Kenney said.

Biking is an integral part of the campus and greater community and is a healthy activity.

"I believe bikes on campus are important and very practical as long as people use them practically, safely and respectfully, on or off campus," Public Safety Director Richard Trende, said. "A few safety precautions bikers should consider are: learn hand signals and use them, wear appropriate reflections and lighting along with rear view mirrors and helmet, think and ride defensively."

Biking is an excellent way to achieve the 30 minutes of physical activity we require each day, Alice Reilly-Myklebust, director of student health services, said.

The financial burden to the University is minimal compared to the benefits, Trende said.

"I feel empowered when I'm riding," Teresa Aviles, a student biker said, "I'm not pumping gas, I'm pumping my heart."

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

September 19

- Daniel C. Rodewald, 21, was cited for attempting to buy beer with a fake ID at Dick’s Hometown Liquor, 1141 S. Main St.
- Jacob D. Didier, 19, was cited for open container and underage consumption on the 700 block of South Main Street.
- Alise K. Holst, 19, was cited \$249 for underage consumption at Hathorn Hall.
- Kayla M. Bachmann, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption at Hathorn Hall.
- Alysha Alden, 19, was cited \$249 for underage consumption at Hathorn Hall.
- Timothy F. Dick, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption at Hathorn Hall.

September 20

- Benjamin S. Anderson, 28, was cited for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated and possession of drug paraphernalia on the 600 block of South Main Street.
- Nathaniel J. Kasper, 20, was cited for underage consumption.
- Dillon M. Benda, 19, was cited for theft of a breakfast sandwich with the Holiday at 302 S. Main St.
- Knut H. Friisoe, 19, was cited \$501 for a third underage consumption offense at McMillan Hall.
- Russell T. Sawyer, 19, was cited \$501 for a third underage consumption offense at Karges Center.

September 21

- Taylor J. Young, 20, Joshua A. Gales, 21 and Michael F. Vanselow, 20, were cited for disorderly conduct at 603 S. Main St.
- Bradley J. Rhode, 21, was cited for a seatbelt violation.

September 22

- Racist graffiti was discovered on a bulletin board in the Ag Science building.

September 24

- Yissell Asencio, 18, was arrested at the University Center for theft of food and for violating a trespassing order given to her earlier in the day.

September 26

- Matthew S. Krause, 27, a bartender at Bo’s and Mine, was cited for being open after hours at 110 S. Main St.
- Kyle R. Swanson, 19, was cited \$249 for underage consumption at Crabtree Hall.
- Korbin L. Burke, 17, was cited \$249 for underage consumption at Crabtree Hall.

September 28

- Jessica Aasand, 19, was cited \$249 for underage consumption at Grimm Hall.

EDITORIAL

Racist act raises concern at UWRF

On Sept. 22, racial graffiti was discovered by a professor on a bulletin board in the Agriculture Science building. This event is disturbing in a number of ways.

When it was discovered, UW-River Falls Public Safety was notified and an e-mail was sent out to all faculty and staff. Students, however, were kept out of the loop.

The Student Voice feels that by not notifying students, the University was trying to hide the problem. The University wants to protect their image, but the student body cannot change anything if they do not know what is going on within their own campus.

The faculty and staff should address the problem directly instead of hiding it and acting like it does not exist.

The irony of this is that students are required to take courses in “American cultural diversity” and “global perspectives,” yet racism is obviously still occurring at UWRF.

There are a variety of courses that fulfill these requirements but their names suggest they do not exactly get to the heart of the issue of racism, including Playwrights of Color (CSTA 230), American Autobiography (ENGL/WMST 235), World Cinema (ENGL/FILM/INTS 442), World Food and Population (AGEC 250) and International Business (MNGT 355).

Students can take courses like these, get a good grade, have peace of mind and feel good about themselves for being “diverse.”

By University standards that is enough, but apparently the message is not getting across. The problem might also be traced to students being desensitized to racial issues because of racist jokes and stereotypes being thrown around so casually.

All someone needs to do to see an example of this is to watch Chris Rock or Carlos Mencia, where they base their entire performance on perpetuating stereotypes of their own races.

There is a sign on the border of River Falls that says “visit our an inclusive campus” and another one right next to it that says “we are building an inclusive community.”

Maybe UWRF is not at the point of being “inclusive” yet, and should go back and join the rest of the community in the “building” phase.

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

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student requests others to be aware

Typically, I don't think someone who saves me hundreds of dollars per year as a dictator. Textbook Services (TS) is a wonderful resource on this campus and I would say nothing to discredit their extremely efficient and money-saving operation.

Every semester I'm left with a feeling that can only be described by Geico commercials: I just saved a bunch of money on textbooks by attending UW-River Falls.

Working as a manager at McDonald's for five years has taught me that when employees make mistakes it's an "inconvenience" to the customer. However, when customers lose common decency when complaining to the employees, the inconvenience is promoted to a "problem."

I had an extremely similar occurrence last year. I explained that I was willing to pay, but I believed that there was a mistake. The response I received was (I paraphrase), "Your book appears damaged, but there must have been a miscommunication. Thank you for being understanding and we will wave the fine."

I do agree with your warn-

ing to freshman. Except, we shouldn't beware, but be aware. Yes, be aware of the rules given to you the day you check out your books. Be aware of your attempt to fix the problem and not the blame. Be aware of how fortunate you are to have Textbook Services at this University.

Jordan Harshman, Student

Explanation given, apology offered

Most students, I think, understand that Textbook Services (TS) saves them a lot of money on textbooks each semester. While students who attend universities which require them to purchase their textbooks can easily spend \$500 per semester on textbooks, full-time students at UW-River Falls currently pay a \$71.65 rental fee each semester. This entitles our students to check out primary and supplementary texts for their undergraduate classes.

The textbook rental system that we have at UWRF is a great system, but requires our students to accept responsibility for returning textbooks on time and for making sure to avoid loss or

damage to their textbooks during the time they are using them.

With this in mind, we give each student a one page copy of our policies at the time they check out textbooks. Had Eric read and observed the policies stated on this piece of paper, he would not have been charged either of the fines that he speaks about in his column.

We don't enjoy charging or collecting fines, but it is one of the few ways that we have to ensure that students observe our policies so the needs and rights of other students are not compromised.

Many times, not returning textbooks from dropped classes does result in another student not having access to a textbook. This happens often during the start of each semester and it is a serious problem for TS and students.

Failure to return textbooks from dropped classes also often results in TS having to purchase an additional copy of the text and, with many texts costing well over \$100, this is a significant expense that is ultimately paid for by all students.

We require that all textbooks from dropped classes be returned within four calendar days of the date that the class was dropped. In this sense, we are like many other

rental systems.

For example, the car rental company does not have to prove that someone else actually needs the car before they charge you extra when you return it late. All they have to show is that it can result in additional expense for them and inconvenience for their customers.

I must admit, though, that I did make a mistake in charging Eric a fine for the damaged book that he also referred to in his column. I take full responsibility for this mistake and apologize for the inconvenience and expense this has caused Eric. I will be sending Eric a refund for the amount of the fine that he paid for the damaged text. Or, he may come to TS and accept the refund and my apology in person.

TS policies are not written in stone. I am currently forming a Textbook Services Advisory Committee for this academic year. This committee is the best forum for discussions about TS policies. It meets once a month. We need five students and two faculty members to serve on this committee. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, please contact me.

Virgil Monroe, Textbook Services Manager

Shady politicians are still able to capture fans

I was sitting in an unnamed worthless class a few weeks ago as a discussion about the current election arose with the not so objective professor being the moderator.

Sometimes I get tired of fighting the good fight, but not this day. I heard the most definitive statement about college students and politics ever uttered. "I personally am a fan of Obama," the anonymous student declared.

I initially was less than surprised. What? A college classroom and I'm surrounded by libs? No way. But then I digressed into a pondering daze of what a "fan" of Obama actually is.

Obama began his political career by being elected into the Illinois State Senate by having his opponent, and once mentor, thrown off the ballot because of a technicality. Obama, who claims to be an agent of change, began his career by using old Chicago shady politics to get elected. That doesn't really seem like change, but let's keep going.

In that Illinois State Senate, Obama voted "present" on 129 different pieces

of legislation, refusing to take a "yes" or "no" stand in an act to avoid scrutiny. Former New York City Mayor

Rudy Giuliani jabbed at Obama during his speech at the Republican National Convention that he was unaware of a "present" vote after 9/11, and the point is dead on. As president, the guy couldn't hide behind a "present" vote on tough bills, which makes me a little nervous.

Obama, who has been in the U.S. Senate for three years, claims to be a leader who can reach across the aisle and encourage bi-partisan legislation.

But, according to the National Journal, which annually analyzes U.S. Senators' voting records to compile a list of the most liberal and conservative senators, Barack Obama is the most liberal senator in the U.S. Senate.

That's not according to me, or some conservative talking head, that's according to his voting record—the guy is just another liberal spewing the

archaic left-wing talking points.

I wish my editor would give me enough words to continue with the analysis, but he is a tyrant and I must get to my point, not that any of you Obama socialists are still reading.

After everything I've looked at, I too am a fan of Obama. If a man can get so far by doing so little, he's amazing.

Obviously I don't support him because I'm not a socialist welfare recipient cheering for wealthy successful people to pay for my laziness, but I am sure a fan. I'm a fan of Obama like I'm a fan of Rage Against the Machine. I know it's stupid, but it sounds great.

But I also know this: no one cares about the issues in this election. With all the blogs and forums online with idiots spewing all of their opinions, political columns feel like white noise. Nowhere is this more true than on a college campus.

This election year, I promise to not bore you with political rhetoric as often as I bore you with mindless rants about other stuff.

Caleb is a journalism major. He enjoys debating about politics and the NFL draft.



Caleb Stevens

Democrats receive accusations for America’s economic struggle

The irony of the economic struggle with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (F&F) is not lost on me.

Fannie Mae was formulated by Franklin D. Roosevelt in the New Deal to help pull the United States out of the Great Depression. Now Fannie and her brother are the cause of the greatest economic disaster since, well, the Great Depression! This disaster is coming to the forefront during the most heated and polarizing election in recent memory.

I am most interested in the constant finger pointing by both the Democratic and Republican parties. Obviously they can’t both be correct. I hear many arguments over whether this problem was over regulation or deregulation of F&F.

Conservatives tend to deregulate, and liberals tend to regulate. Surely our problems with F&F are caused by deregulation, right? Bush is president. Therefore, Bush messed up the economy, right? If F&F were better regulated, the plethora of bad loans would not have been approved or packaged together to be sold and outsourced, right? Wrong.

Unfortunately, the actual catalyst for today’s crisis was the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) which was enacted by a Democratic majority during Carter’s presidency.

The CRA allowed for federally backed loans intended to boost the number of homeowners, and push loans forward that would have otherwise been rejected by any legitimate financial institution. This bill was enacted because an imbalanced number of loans were rejected, specifically African American applicants.

The CRA called for the intentional oversight of information that would show whether or not an individual or family could actually make payments on their mortgage.

Essentially, F&F were forced to approve loans they would have otherwise turned down according to regulation (not deregulation) written into law by Democrats.

There were several attempts to stop this nightmare. The most notable attempt was a senate bill co-authored by John McCain, tongue-twistingly entitled the Federal Housing Enterprise Regulatory Reform Act of 2005(S. 190). S. 190 was filibustered by the then Democratic minority, which meant that S. 190 needed 60 percent of the votes to pass.

Unsurprisingly, the Democrats voted along party lines, which successfully killed this bill. This is absolute proof

that today’s crisis is undeniably the fault of the Democrats.

Fortunately for Barack Obama, most American voters have attention spans that are precisely equivalent to the duration of a single news brief.

It’s the economy, stupid. I have offered verifiable facts on this matter. Right now it could be our student loans, credit cards or home mortgages at stake.

Barney Frank, chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, is now famously quoted for saying in 2003, “These two entities, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, are not facing any kind of financial crisis.”

Not long after the bailout failed, Nancy Pelosi said, “\$700 billion. A staggering number ... but only a part of the cost of the failed Bush economic policies to our country.”

I am most offended by the fact that this information was so readily available to me, and still

these Democrats have the gall to lie right to my face.

Muriel is majoring in history with a philosophy emphasis. She is a mother of two, and a community disorganizer. She is happiest when she is debating, smoking and singing.



Muriel Montgomery

Fortunately for Barack Obama, most American voters have attention spans that are precisely equivalent to the duration of a single news brief.

Simple observation illustrates financial blunder affecting us

Do you realize how scary this year has been so far?

We’re in the middle of the direst financial crisis since the Great Depression. The government is on the verge of spending \$700 billion to bail out Wall Street. Just last week gasoline prices rocketed by \$25 in one day to \$130 per barrel—the largest single-day rise in oil

For instance, I recently discovered that Wendy’s has snatched from its customer’s hungry and quivering hands that which makes it so special: the 99 cent, 5-piece chicken nugget.

This disastrous ploy has cast a dreadful pall on Wendy’s value menu as well as the entire fast food industry. The replacement menu items,

the 4-piece or 6-piece nugget, are simply insufficient. Crude oil may fluctuate in price

daily, but I refuse to accept the fact that crude nuggets are a similarly unstable economic resource.

Are these troublesome trends to persist exponentially into the distant future?

Will we someday kill our dependence on oil? Will we someday pay \$750 for five chicken nuggets? It seems we are heading down a bleak path.

With gas rising in price faster than movie theater tickets, transporting oneself economically has become a priority.

The town of River Falls is great for illustrating the growing popularity of The Scooter. This petite motorized transport was once viewed as the most emasculating of all personal transit solutions (besides perhaps a pink Huffy with streamers and a Hello Kitty bell).

But The Scooter provides quick, convenient and cheap transportation, so it’s not surprising that we see them around more and more.

It’s just too bad they aren’t cool or trendy yet. Until they are, I’ll continue to transport myself using these two hairy, tubular, fleshy objects that are growing quite inconveniently right beneath my torso.

LEGS! That’s what they’re called! Legs.

I’m hopeful. You see, I’m a man of the future—I dream of a glorious time when we no longer depend on crude nuggets

or the tiresome trappings of a physical body.

Someday, we’ll live our whole lives on the internet, eating virtual chicken nuggets, riding virtual scooters around virtual River Falls. Spending virtual money and fighting virtual wars. We will have no more reality to hide from. Awesome!



Joe Hager

And those squirt-gun fights in Iraq and Afganistan—they’re still going on too, right? Oh yeah, that whole mission was accomplished way back in 2003.

And those squirt-gun fights in Iraq and Afghanistan—they’re still going on too, right? Oh yeah, that whole mission was accomplished way back in 2003. I forgot.

It’s easy to hide from all that reality if you fill your schedule with tiny things to agonize over.

Homework, tests, employment, a credit card, bills to pay—all these things serve to make our worlds tiny, familiar and manageable.

We feel safe enough to ignore the larger issues that don’t seem to affect us. But if you look around hard enough, you might see some of the consequences of these global catastrophes.

First presidential debate reminds columnist of elementary school

When I ran for class president in the third grade, I won. The runner-up became my vice-president.

Our differences were what made us a great team as we worked hard together to represent our class of 30 students and to sell the most heart-shaped lollipop Valentine-grams than any other classroom that year.

I often think about what our grand country would be like if this system was used for the president of the United States.

I imagine a well-rounded decision making team that includes both parties’ ideals. Everyone thinks their own opinion is the right answer. What if there was a way to incorporate all of the ideals, although opposite, into one? A probable clashing of heavens, I assume.

The first presidential debate between our candidates, Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama, was held Sept. 26. All day long people asked me what time it was scheduled to air, if I planned to tune in and asked if McCain would show.

People planned ahead to leave their dinner parties prematurely to watch the debate on TV. After parties popped open the beer bottles in rejoicing their candidate that won the debate.

Although the viewership was slightly below what was for the Bush-Kerry debate in 2004, and about half of the viewership of the Super Bowl, it still raked in a 33.2 household rating.

Why did so many tune in for this debate and why do people find it important? Because it is our two candidates arguing in front of us about matters that concern us and they want your vote to be our freaking leader.

For the first time ever I can really look at both candidates and pick at them with things I like and don’t like.

I like McCain’s experience and ideas on foreign policy. I don’t like McCain’s lack of confidence or his choice of vice president.

I like Obama’s ideas on health care, college tuition, the war in Iraq and education, but having so much

faith in hope is somewhat useless.

McCain started off shaky with his pathetic move regarding the current financial crisis. First he wanted to postpone the debate because his role as senator called him back to Washington. When he was proved wrong he had to show his face at the big fight.

This brings me back to the third grade again. The kid chickens out for the big fight he wasn’t cut out for in the first place.

His excuse is that the teacher needed help cleaning up the classroom (suck-up). But the teacher already cleaned up the mess and kicks the kid back

onto the playground to meet his opponent at the flag pole for the duel.

Obviously, Obama won the debate. He proved confident in his role as a leader and brought

forth his ideas and views that seemed logical and successful.

McCain was shot by Obama with his own wrong-doings and his nerves got the best of him.

I want a proud president that will fix the country’s problems and do it with confidence, consideration and encouragement from his fellow citizens.

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



Teresa Aviles

STUDENT VOICES

Did you watch the presidential debate? Why or why not?

Ashlee Stewart, junior

“No, I was working, but I’ll be reading the cliff notes tonight”



Cindy Bendix, junior

“Yes. I have not made my decision yet. I watched to see who I would agree with.”



Takayuki Kitano, senior

“No, I was studying.”



Nikki Galvan, sophomore

“No. I was working. The person I asked to record it forgot to do it.”



Patrick Okan, freshman

“Yeah, I have an interest in how the country is going and I was interested to see what each candidate said.”



Student Voices compiled by Jon Lyksett.

Students fail to care about what matters

I was going to write this column about the \$700 billion bailout that was rejected by the U.S. House of Representatives on Sept. 29.

I was truly considering it, but then I started wondering why, and I came to the conclusion that many of the students here at UW-River Falls couldn’t care less about any sort of economic deals, packages or stimuli if it means no money in their pockets.

This brings me to my point: even though eligible student voters are playing a large role in this election, few of our wants or needs are being met or considered. Perhaps you are sitting here reading this right now and wondering just what sort of wants or needs I am talking about, and that is my question to you.

What do you want?

When I go about my day-to-day business here on campus I see and talk to a lot of different people. Some of you may know me and some of you may not, but there is almost always a common theme.

People in our generation seem to be lost. Maybe it’s just my perception of the way things are, but when I look back to a time like the 1960s I see a strong revolutionary spirit, a sort of unified direction.

Granted it wasn’t the direction that everyone wanted, but at least people were thinking—at least they cared. It’s like that black and white photo we have all seen in the University Center of the hippy looking guy sitting alone across from what looks to be North Hall holding up the peace sign.

To me he represents a time long past, a time when students believed in their own personal power and left nothing to the powers that be.

For this one man to take time out of his busy life to peacefully protest against a war nobody understood was truly monumental. He is not representing just himself, or just a group, but an entire idea—a whole movement dedicated to the idea that peace was possible.

For the past few years there has been a high level of political apathy. Today this is changing, though there are still too many people who just do not care. Understand this: these upcoming elections have the potential to change a great deal about our country and we as students deserve to have our voices heard.

I’m not just talking about voting. Yes, voting is great and important, but it is not the only part of the democratic process which matters.

Call up your senators or congressmen. Learn their names and their agendas. Let them know what you think. Hell, write them a letter or e-mail if you don’t feel like talking to them.

Believe it or not, what these people say and do matters to you. It matters to me. It matters to your parents, your friends and all of the future generations after you.

As both presidential candidates are saying, a time of change is upon us. It doesn’t

matter if you’re a conservative, a liberal, a socialist or an anarchist. It truly does not matter what you believe.

The fact of the matter is that years of political partisanship, apathy and corruption have torn this country apart. Pick up a book, make a sign and say something to somebody.

Zach generally spends his time forming opinions, though when he is not doing that, he is trying his damndest to destroy them.



Zach Hauser

Falcons enter conference play 1-2



Renae Bergh/Student Voice
Falcon quarterback Storm Harmon throws a pass during the game against Northwestern College Sept. 20 at Ramer Field. After a winning match-up at Alma College (Mich.) Sept. 27, the football team enters WIAC conference play with a 1-2 record. The Falcons will play their homecoming game against UW-Stevens Point Oct. 4.

Justin Magill
justin.magill@uwrf.edu

With a loss to Northwestern College (Minn.) 41-34 on Sept. 20 and a win against Alma College (Mich.) 25-20 on Sept. 27, the Falcon football team will head into WIAC play with a 1-2 record.

UW-River Falls lost a close game against NWC in which two turnovers in the first half might have cost them the game.

After scoring on their first two possessions, UWRF had the ball on their own 10 yard line. Falcon quarterback Storm Harmon threw a pass to his left on a bubble screen, but the pass was too far behind and not caught by wide receiver John Bratcher.

NWC recovered the ball on the Falcons eight and punched in a touchdown two plays later.

“We have to limit our turnovers,” Harmon said. “That one put them in good field position.”

Throughout the first half, UWRF ran a lot of bubble screens because the NWC defense was plugging the middle after several long runs by running back Joel Yogerst, who had runs of 36 and 50 yards in the first quarter to set up Falcon touchdowns. Yogerst finished with 96 yards on six attempts and two touchdowns.

Another costly turnover came from an interception thrown by Harmon at the conclusion of the first half.

UWRF drove the ball deep into NWC territory. Instead of going for the field goal, the Falcons tried to get six more points, but Harmon’s pass was picked off by NWC defensive back Luke Delain.

“NWC is a team that has great players at the wide receiver and quarterback positions,” UWRF Head Coach John O’Grady said.

“We knew coming in how dangerous they could be,” he said. “Very concerned about their skilled players.”

NWC quarterback Zach Tarter had three touchdown passes, one of them coming on a

74-yard connection to receiver Kyle Thomforde.

“That was the duo we were most concerned about,” O’Grady said. “We had man-to-man coverage on him (Thomforde) and zone on everybody else.”

That was the last of many scores in the first quarter, which ended 21-19 in favor of the Falcons.

NWC had the only points in the second quarter and closed out the half with a 26-19 lead. UWRF took the lead back midway through the third quarter as Greg Klingelhuts ran in a touchdown from four yards out. The Falcons failed their two-point conversion, but still had a 27-26 lead going into the final quarter.

NWC scored two touchdowns which ended up being enough, but UWRF almost tied the score in the closing seconds of the game.

After NWC’s second touchdown of the quarter, which gave them a 41-27 lead, UWRF drove 80 yards and capped off the final two with a Yogerst touchdown run, his second of the game.

With 3:51 remaining and down seven, UWRF opted to kick it to NWC. With more than a minute to play, NWC had fourth-and-inches at their own 40 and were going to go for it to try to run out the rest of the clock. However, a false start penalty pushed them back five yards and they were forced to punt.

With under a minute, UWRF had the ball on its own 35 and Harmon went to work. After several short completions, he threw a 39-yard fade to Michael Zweifel and was pushed out-of-bounds at the NWC four.

On second down Harmon tried to connect with Zweifel in the corner of the end zone. Zweifel caught the ball, but the referee said he did not get his foot in bounds

“It was a close play,” O’Grady said. “If he did get his foot down, he got part of his toe down and that was it.”

“I was just hoping to see them (referees) throw their hands up in the air,” Harmon said.

On the final play, with four seconds left,

Harmon took the snap and looked left for Zweifel, but NWC brought its safety over for help.

Harmon then missed an open receiver in the middle of the end zone as he was hit as he threw the ball and NWC won the shoot out 41-34.

“I didn’t know if I got hit when I threw it, because everything happened so fast,” Harmon said. “I was expecting the receiver to sit in the middle, but he kept on moving and I missed him.”

After the initial read, it would have been a hard play for Harmon to complete, O’Grady said.

“He looked at his first read and saw he was covered, then progressed through the rest of his reads and the rush got to him and he had to make a throw to his right,” O’Grady said. “A tough play to make.”

In the end, it was NWC’s explosive offense that hurt the Falcons.

“We gave up too many big plays against them,” O’Grady said. “We switched our defense to be more conservative to not give up those plays, but they did anyways.”

The Tarter-Thomforde connection put up 160 receiving yards and two scores.

“Most of the big plays involved those two,” O’Grady said. “It was disappointing that we allowed those to happen.”

Zweifel led all receivers with 162 yards receiving and one touchdown.

Harmon finished with 264 yards passing, one touchdown and one interception.

UWRF was able to shake the memories of a crushing loss and beat Alma on the road 25-20.

“It was a close one the whole way through,” O’Grady said.

Alma took the opening drive for a score on

a Mackenzie McGrady to Jeremy Stephens touchdown pass.

UWRF countered with a 14 play, 80-yard drive of its own, holding the ball for 6:49. The extra point failed and the first quarter ended 7-6 in favor of Alma.

After a Jesse Finer field goal, the teams exchanged touchdown runs, which included Harmon’s second touchdown run of the year from the three-yard line and the first half ended with UWRF leading 16-13.

After a Finer field goal, McGrady ran in a touchdown from the UWRF three to give Alma a 20-19 lead going into the fourth.

“He’s a big, tough quarterback who isn’t afraid to get hit,” O’Grady said of McGrady. “Very talented player.”

Early in the fourth, sophomore running back Matt Pollock put the Falcons ahead for good with an 11-yard touchdown run, which ended up being the final scoring drive for both teams.

“It’s a very pleasing win,” O’Grady said. When the Falcons got ahead in the fourth, it was the defense that stepped up to hold onto the slim lead.

“The defense played tremendous football,” O’Grady said. “They played the way we wanted them to play. We controlled the clock on offense and that’s how this team needs to play to win.”

With the victory, O’Grady now has 99 career coaching wins as Falcon head coach. If UWRF wins its homecoming game against UW-Stevens Point on Oct. 4, it would be win 100 for O’Grady.

“It doesn’t mean much than I’m getting to be an old man,” O’Grady said. “If it happens I will be happy for my team.”

“They played the way we wanted them to play. We controlled the clock on the offense and that’s how this team needs to play to win.”

John O’Grady,
UWRF head football coach

ESPN shows bias, wastes time

ESPN sucks.

There, I said it. I know this will anger many of you who religiously tune in to SportsCenter, First Take, Around the Horn, Pardon the Interruption and all the rest of ESPN’s programming.

Everything that made ESPN good in their early days has been replaced by obnoxious anchors and analysts, human interest stories and coverage of fascinating events like the rock, paper, scissors world championship instead of, you know, sports highlights.

Now the airwaves are filled up with the likes of Skip Bayless and Stephen A. Smith shouting their opinions at you. I do realize this column is me shouting (writing) my opinion at you, but I’m not responsible for national sports coverage either.

ESPN is, and they abuse the privilege by shoving the Boston Red Sox, New England Patriots, New York Yankees



Ben Brewster

and Los Angeles Lakers down our throats at every possible opportunity, and largely ignoring anything that doesn’t happen near an ocean.

It baffles me how many people I meet around here who swear by ESPN, even when the Midwestern teams they follow are pushed aside for up-to-the-minute coverage of what Alex Rodriguez had for lunch.

ESPN has forgotten about sports journalism and moved on to sports marketing, appealing to the lowest common denominator of sports fans and airing whatever they think will get the best ratings.

SportsCenter, their flagship show, often starts off with ten minutes of highlights from the New England teams, followed by five more minutes of analysis of said teams. I can grudgingly accept the coastal biases, since ESPN is based in Bristol, Conn., but as soon as they cut to the analysts, I’m thinking they could be showing highlights from other games with

this time.

I’m perfectly capable of forming my own opinions about sports and I don’t need to be told what to think by washed up athletes-turned-anchors and whiny analysts like the aforementioned Bayless.

I also don’t need to see 20-minute human interest segments, hot dog eating contests, spelling bees and the World Series of Darts.

What I do need is to see more of the actual games being played, to aid in my opinion-forming abilities.

Maybe I would be better off just learning to love Manny Ramirez, Tom Brady and Kobe Bryant, but all I know is that a little part of me dies inside every time I contribute to ESPN’s ratings when I watch Baseball Tonight to see their 15 seconds of Minnesota Twins coverage.

Ben is a senior journalism major and is the assistant editor of the Student Voice. He is obsessed with baseball and is a die-hard Minnesota Twins fan.

SPORTS WRAP

Jordahl, Harmon named WIAC athletes of the week

Falcon cross country runner Becca Jordahl and football quarterback Storm Harmon have been named WIAC athletes of the week according to league Sports Information Director, Matt Stanek. Jordahl, a junior from Pocatello, Idaho, set a course record in winning the prestigious Griak Invitational race on Saturday at the University of Minnesota. Jordahl was the top finisher with a time of 21:59 over the 6,000-meter course. Nearly 500 runners competed in the race. This is Jordahl’s second win at the Griak. The Falcons will run at the Blugold Open Friday at 4 p.m., and some members of the team will run at the Pre-Nationals meet in Hanover, Ind.

Harmon, a senior from Altoona, Wis., led the Falcon offense to a productive day in the team’s 25-20 win at Alma College on Saturday. UWRF opens WIAC play on Saturday hosting UW-Stevens Point at Ramer Field. Kick off is set for 1 p.m.

Falcons host THINK PINK match Oct. 8

The Falcon volleyball team will host its inaugural “THINK PINK” match on Wednesday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. in Karges Center to raise both money and awareness for breast cancer. The first 200 fans in the door, wearing PINK attire, will receive a free Falcons volleyball t-shirt. The Falcons will collect donations for the Susan B. Komen Foundation through the “Dig for the Cure” campaign. Fans, businesses and family members may pledge amounts for every dig the Falcons record against UW-Eau Claire that night, or they can make flat donations. Each of the Falcon players has a goal of collecting \$500 for the cause. All proceeds collected will be donated on behalf of the WIAC to the Komen Foundation in Madison. During the match, the Falcons will wear pink warm-up shirts, pink shoelaces and pink hair ribbons and will set up a Breast Cancer Awareness booth and tribute outside of Karges.

Falcon tennis takes two

The Falcons extended their winning streak to three with two 8-1 wins over Ripon and Hamline Saturday afternoon at home. The Falcons, now 7-2 overall and 1-2 in the WIAC, will host UW-Eau Claire in a WIAC match Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Sports Wrap courtesy of

UW-River Falls Sports Information

STANDINGS

Football

WIAC Standings	W	L
UW-Whitewater (3-0)	1	0
UW-Stevens Point (3-0)	0	0
UW-Oshkosh (2-0)	0	0
UW-Platteville (2-1)	0	0
UW-Stout(2-1)	0	0
UW-River Falls(1-2)	0	0
UW-La Crosse(0-3)	0	0
UW-Eau Claire(2-1)	0	1

Soccer

WIAC Standings	W	L	T
UW-Eau Claire(9-0-2)	3	0	0
UW-Stout(4-4-2)	2	1	1
UW-Stevens Point(7-2-0)	2	0	0
UW-La Crosse(5-3-1)	2	1	0
UW-Platteville(6-3-1)	2	2	0
UW-Oshkosh(5-2-2)	1	0	1
UW-Whitewater(4-5-0)	1	2	0
UW-Superior(2-8-1)	0	3	0
UW-River Falls(2-8-0)	0	4	0

Volleyball

WIAC Standings	W	L
UW-Oshkosh(18-1)	3	0
UW-Eau Claire(10-9)	2	0
UW-La Crosse(14-5)	2	1
UW-Whitewater(13-5)	2	1
UW-Platteville(10-7)	2	1
UW-River Falls(8-10)	0	2
UW-Stevens Point(8-11)	0	2
UW-Superior(6-9)	0	2
UW-Stout(3-14)	0	2

Tennis

WIAC Standings	W	L
UW-Whitewater(4-1)	2	0
UW-La Crosse(5-1)	1	0
UW-Eau Claire(6-3)	2	1
UW-Oshkosh(7-3)	2	2
UW-River Falls(7-2)	1	2
UW-Stevens Point(5-3)	1	2
UW-Stout(1-4)	0	2

Falcons finish strong at Griak

Caleb Stevens
caleb.stevens@uwrf.edu

Junior cross country runner Becca Jordahl broke her previous record at the Griak Invitational en route to defending her title while the men’s team placed two runners in the top 15 Sept. 27.

“Based from last year we had a huge improvement in time from everybody,” co-Women’s Coach Scott Sekelsky said. “Overall I’m really happy and, of course, with Becca winning for the second year in a row, it was nice to see she could hang with and outkick a national champ in the one mile.”

Jordahl finished with a time of 21:59.9, beating Marie Borner from Bethel University by less than two seconds in the 6,000-meter race. The women’s team, however, was unable to place another runner in the top 80 and finished 19 out of 36 teams and fifth out of the seven WIAC teams that ran.

“I thought we did really well; we had four runners packed together well and our fifth, sixth and seventh runners all moved up a lot today,” captain Leah Korf said. “The WIAC is a tough conference, but I think we’ve got a shot to be a competitor.”

The men’s team, ranked ninth in the Div. III Midwest region, finished seventh out of 31 teams with all five scoring runners placing in the top 81. Junior Chad Ernst led UW-River Falls finishing 11th overall, running the 8,000 meter course in 26:08. Senior Jason Phillippi finished just one second slower, placing 14th.

“I feel pretty pleased that we did this well,” Ernst said. “Overall, it’s nice to get up there and have a teammate, Jason Phillippi, right behind me too, so



Sarah Schneider/Student Voice

The Falcon cross country teams run during a practice Oct. 1. The Falcons competed at the Griak Invitational Sept. 27.

that’s nice to see.”

The men’s team finished fourth among WIAC teams at the meet with 221 points. UW-La Crosse won the meet with 52 points and is ranked first in the Midwest region and third in the national poll. UWRF received two votes in the national poll, the first time in the program’s history that it has received votes.

“It’s a great meet for the men to see where we’re at against the ranked teams in the nation,” Head Coach Keven Syverson said. “I think overall the team responded well; we’ve never run particularly well here. It’s the first time we’ve had award winners here [for the men] in...well I don’t know if we’ve ever had award winners here.”

The seventh place finish for the men is 11 places better than the

18th place in 2007 at the Griak. Prior to the race, Syverson said that the men’s team was really looking to finish in the top ten and if they ran really well they could get in the top seven. Syverson attributes that finish to a pair of strong runners up front.

“You need a front runner,” Syverson said. “That’s what the men have been lacking: a nice one-two punch.”

Syverson assessed the WIAC with realistic expectations, noting that La Crosse, UW-Stevens Point and UW-Oshkosh were the top three teams, but also saying that it is wide open after that.

“We want to see where we fit into that mix. It’s going to be real tight in there,” Syverson said. “We’re closer than we’ve been in a while. To be in that mix is a real positive step for our program.”

Hey You!

Register to Vote!

5:00-9:30 p.m. Res Hall Lobbies

May, Prucha, Stratton Johnson and Hathorn

Tuesday, October 7

Grimm, McMillan, Parker, Crabtree and South Fork

Wednesday, October 8

If you have lived in the Residence Halls for 10 days by November 4, 2008 you can register and vote on campus.

SHARED GOVERNANCE ASSOCIATION

Student Senate • Leadership Development & Programming Board • Facilities & Fees Board

If you have any questions contact Senator matthew.dale@uwrf.edu or call UWRF Student Senate at (715) 425- 4444 ext. 175

New Facebook receives negative attention

Adrianne Patterson
adrianne.patterson@uwrf.edu

Unless you have been hibernating under a big rock in the Pacific Ocean or have recently deleted your Facebook profile due to the lack of homework getting accomplished, you are already well aware of the recent disapproving attention the new facelift Facebook has received.

As of Sept. 10, the new version of Facebook became the one and only option for users, sparking negative Facebook groups, online petitions and media attention.

According to Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook, the new change was needed to accommodate the growing and evolving site.

"In the last four years, we've built new products that help people share more, such as photos, videos, groups, events, wall posts, status updates and so on," Zuckerberg said in his Facebook blog. "As people share more, sometimes we need to change the site to accommodate how much information people are posting."

Zuckerberg expresses to Facebook users that adapting to change takes time and it is difficult, but the new version was created to simplify all the applications and features on the site.

On July 21, the Facebook Profiles Preview site announced the launch of the new version of Facebook. Users were given the option of changing to the new version and were encouraged to "get accustomed to it" and to express their overall reaction.

According to Zuckerberg, more than 40 million people tried the new version of Facebook and 30 million continued using it. This gave creators of Facebook more than enough proof to make the new version the only version.

"I personally saw the option to change to the new style of Facebook, but I felt there was really not a need to switch. A drastic change for millions of users is a risk that just screams drama," Kristi Kelly, a UW-River Falls senior, said.

On Sept. 10, when the new version became permanent, it left 60 percent of users still unfamiliar with the new Facebook, leading to negative attention in news media, blog sites and Facebook groups, all fighting for the return of the old version.

"When I first saw the previews for the new layout, I knew I didn't like it right away. Even after I played around with it for a while I still didn't like it," Scott Sanders, sophomore of Austin Peay University located in Clarksville, Tenn., said via e-mail.

After the new version was introduced, Sanders created the Facebook group "Petition Against the 'New Facebook.'" The group reached over one million members in five days and currently sits at 1,648,474 members.

Sanders' group, in particular, has received media attention from at least three national news sites about the rapidly increasing membership.

"I have received much more attention than I had expected. It

started out as dozens of messages and friend requests every day. Soon after, it moved on to small blog sites and then radio stations. Once the group reached the near million mark, I had spoken to Associated Press and BBC. At 1.5 million members, I spoke to someone doing a bit for iReport on CNN," Sanders said.

According to BBC, more than one million Facebook users have joined an anti-new version group, promoting their disapproving feelings towards the recent change.

Jaxon Gruber, a student from Newark Academy in Livingston, N.J., is the creator of yet another Facebook group against the change. "The new Facebook is shit. 500,000 against the new Facebook!" currently has 5,902 members and is growing every day.

"I created the anti-new version Facebook group because I felt it might've had a fighting chance against the permanent publication and I wanted to make sure that I wasn't alone in my beliefs. I just felt like the users of Facebook were already content with the old version," Gruber said in an e-mail interview.

Along with Facebook users across the country expressing their pessimistic emotions by joining Facebook groups, UWRF senior Betsy Straub said she shares the same reaction.

"I just don't get why the change was necessary. Facebook is popular because of the users, and if the users are not happy with something, that should be respected. I just feel like I am left with no options and that angers me," Straub said.

As growing anger and dissatisfaction continues to be expressed, the overall progress toward change is unknown.

"At most, I'd like to accomplish with this group is to convince Facebook to leave the option to revert back to the old layout," Sanders said. "If that does not happen there are still some changes they could make to the new layout to make it a bit more appealing to more users."

Zuckerberg responded to the reaction of the new version and assures users that their opinions are being heard and are respected.

"Facebook is a work in progress. We constantly try to improve things and we understand that our work isn't perfect. We appreciate the thousands of you who have written in to give us feedback," Zuckerberg said on the Facebook blog. "Even if you're joining a group to express things you don't like about the new design, you're giving us important feedback and you're sharing your voice, which is what Facebook is all about."

The next step, if there is to be one, is indefinite. Zuckerberg has not made any recent comments about altering the new version and the angry Facebook users have not stepped down from their pedestal.

"I know that Facebook users like me are angry, but I truly do not see users getting rid of their profile because of the change," Straub said. "It looks like we just might have lost this battle."

UWRF Students raise funds, provide support in Uganda

Kelly Richison
kelly.richison@uwrf.edu

Students from the UW-River Falls chapter of Building Tomorrow continue their fundraising efforts and will travel to Uganda in January 2009, where they will help to build a school.

Student Affairs coordinator Amy Lloyd said that the UWRF chapter of Building Tomorrow was started in 2006 during the crisis brought on by Hurricane Katrina. Students heard about the organization and wanted to get involved. Lloyd said that the chapter has raised \$8,500 so far. The chapter's goal is to raise \$12,000, which is enough money to build two classrooms in a school. It costs \$32,000 to build a school and each is built in the uniform layout established by the organization.

Lloyd will be traveling with the group of six students during the trip. She said that the group would leave on Jan. 2, 2009, and will return on Jan.17, 2009. The group is scheduled to travel first to Washington D.C. where they will meet up with other Building Tomorrow chapters before continuing on to Uganda. During the trip students will help with the construction of a school and will be staying with various host families they have been matched up with, Lloyd said. Also on the itinerary is a safari where students will have the opportunity to explore the surrounding area.

A similar trip to Uganda was planned for last year, but violence in Kenya prevented the group from leaving Washington D.C. and the trip was cancelled from there.

Building Tomorrow is a non profit organization that was started in 2005 by George Srour, who was an intern for the United Nations in Uganda. During his internship, Srour saw that there were children in Uganda who needed help. He established the very first Building Tomorrow chapter at the College of William and Mary. The chapter launched its "Christmas in Kampala Campaign" which raised nearly \$45,000. The organization was able to build its first school in Uganda in 2006. The organization now consists of 15 chapters at colleges and universities around the country. The goal of Building Tomorrow is to build ten schools in Uganda by 2010, according to the organization's Web site.

The UWRF chapter of Building Tomorrow has a number of different fundraisers in place to continue its' efforts. A pancake breakfast was held on Sept. 20, which raised \$850, Alicia Hurkman, the student manager of the chapter, said in an Internet interview

The chapter has a number of different fundraisers in place to continue its efforts.

"To raise the necessary funds our chapter sells handmade Ugandan necklaces, stationery, photobooks and buttons," she said.

In October, the chapter will hold its annual Big Event, which will consist of various activities and performances.

"We will be holding the 3rd annual Big Event on Oct. 11 with Family Day," Hurkman said.

The day will begin with the Little Event, which is a kid's carnival that will start at 10 a.m. and will run until 2 p.m. The Big Event will begin later in the evening at 7 p.m. with a performance by Comedy Sportz, which will take place in the University Center Ballroom.

The Big Event will end with a performance by the step company, Step Afrika at 8:30 p.m. in North Hall. All of the activities and entertainment of the Big and Little Events are free and open to the public.

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Campus archives relocating, expanding

Collin Pote
collin.pote@uwrf.edu

Plans to move the area research center and University archives have been put into motion as Head Archivist Alyson Jones and Dale Braun of campus planning will consult an architect over the next several weeks.

The new archives are going to be located in the Davee Library basement where textbook services used to be. If all goes well, demolitions and renovations will begin March 2009. According to Jones, planners need to nail down the particulars before anything can start.

According to campus planner Dale Braun, the motivation behind the move is the need of a new server room for UW-River Falls’ information technology services. It was deemed that the current archive room would be the

ideal location. This necessity is what actually moved textbook services to Hagestad Hall and made its former location vacant in the first place. Braun also commented on how the new space will be beneficial for the archives saying “The nature of archives is they always grow.”

The extra space afforded by the new location is expected to bring multiple improvements to the archives, the most basic being more room to effectively maintain and easily organize archive materials. Other improvements include designated spaces to better host classes and new areas to display artifacts the archives have accrued over the years such as a World War I uniform, rare books, china and even a Freddy Falcon outfit from the 1970s.

There are also plans to install a new HVAC system to better control air conditions in order to create the ideal atmosphere for preserving

some of the more delicate items in the collection.

The archives are currently located in the far back of the Library’s first floor. Jones acknowledged that the current location of the facility is likely a contributing factor to the archives not getting too much traffic from the student body.

“Not too many people know we’re here, but when they find us, they usually never want to leave,” Jones said.

Unlike the small room tucked in the back of the first floor, the new archives will be in a more prominent area in the Library.

“I hope because of this new location that more students accidentally discover us,” Jones said.

The River Falls area research center and University archives is one of fourteen such facilities found throughout the state of

Wisconsin. The function of the facility is twofold. The first is to offer students and the public access to its collection of items such as newspapers, photographs, public records, manuscripts and other such documentation. The archives collect data from Burnett, Polk, St. Croix and Pierce Counties.

The second, a function that has been performed since 1874, is to collect historical records of UWRF. This includes yearbooks, course catalogs, departmental and administrative records, master theses and other similar documents.

During the move to the new room, the archives are expected to go through two or three different renovations. The expected month of completion is September 2009.

‘Eagle Eye’ fails to live up to expectations



Ken Weigend

There was a time when American cinema was a gold mine of opportunity — film-dom’s fountain of youth. But now, as the well of fresh ideas begins to dry up, we as viewers are left with little more than recycled bits of yesteryear filmmaking repackaged into CGI-glorified digital litter. The prevailing notion of cookie-cutter filmmakers is to distract our attention so we won’t see the magician’s sleight-of-hand as the wool is pulled deftly over our eyes, blinding us to the truth that the once ever-present spark of originality has flickered out, and that an industry once ripe with fresh ideas has gone sour.

“Eagle Eye” is a blatant violator. The politically directed script sounds more like a Ron Paul campaign speech than Hollywood fiction. It reveals itself as nothing more than a homicidal computer action flick clone peppered with warnings off governmental control. Films such as “Colossus” and “2001,” masterpieces that first presented the idea of man against machine, committed an original sin, opening up Pandora’s Box and unleashing a torrent of insignificant copycats.

Jerry Shaw (Shia LaBeouf) is a college drop-out. His job at Copy Cabana is taking him nowhere but he refuses help

even from his parents. His life is a one-way train for destitute when he arrives home to his cramped apartment to find it packed with enough terrorist weaponry to make Osama blush. Quickly arrested by the FBI, Jerry escapes with the help of a mysterious female caller; one who can control every electronic device around him.

Rachel Halloman (Michelle Monaghan) is a depressed single mother struggling with her dead-end job and dead-beat ex-husband. The only thing she has going for her is her son, Sam. But when a mysterious female caller rings with a list of demands and a threat against Sam’s life, Rachel is forced to play along.

Both Jerry and Rachel are thrust into a digital game of follow the leader, as the pair must trust this strange caller over their own instincts.

Director D.J. Caruso starts off his deadly game of cat and mouse intriguingly enough. The pitch-perfect initial suspense is further buoyed by a manic film style resembling the cinematic offspring of Michael Mann and Ridley Scott.

But this stylistic flair can’t save a botched script - once it’s revealed that this is just another man vs. computer gone haywire story, any ounce of intrigue is ripped away, violently. From there, it becomes a film of attrition, attempting to weaken your resistance to its absurd “Stealth”-wannabe story arc by blasting you with increasingly frantic action fragments.

But “Eagle Eye” doesn’t

stop there. By the end credits, you’ll feel insulted by poor pacing, the juvenile storyline (complete with the easy-way-out ending) and enough shameless product placement to make NASCAR jealous.

“Eagle Eye” starts out with a bang, races too quickly towards a non-existent peak but blows its load way too early. The politically heavy ending note tries to sucker viewers with the guise of thought-provoking drama but I’m not biting - “Eagle Eye” is nothing more than a cinematic child trying to be accepted in an adult’s world.

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



Movie ratings are based on a scale from one to five. A film that scores five stars is worth seeing. A film that scores one star is horribly acted or directed, with no substance.



A.J. Hakari

The 1970s were rife with paranoid thrillers. Stuff like “The Conversation” and “The Parallax View” were all about the proliferation of technology in society and how maybe — just maybe — someone was using it to spy on you right now. What the new DreamWorks release “Eagle Eye” does is take all those movies, roll

them into one, then inject a dose of 100% pure goofy into the mix. But for all its wild and unbelievable traits, “Eagle Eye” gets the job done, ending one of the driest movie months ever with a heck of a bang.

Jerry Shaw (Shia LaBeouf) is, to say the least, having a bad day. He comes home from his brother’s funeral to find his bank account flush with a boatload of cash and his apartment packed to the gills with enough weaponry to wipe out a small nation. Jerry is swiftly taken into federal custody, but pulling the strings from behind the scenes is an unknown woman who has the uncanny ability to see and hear our bewildered hero at all times. Following a daring escape, Jerry is thrust into action with Rachel (Michelle Monaghan), a single mom whose son is being used by the mystery woman as a bargaining chip to ensure her cooperation. Together, the two are at the mercy of the omnipresent villainess, racing to evade government agents and trying to live long enough to figure out what’s really going on.

Let me say right now that “Eagle Eye” builds itself up to a point at which no matter how surprising or shocking key revelations are, they’ll never amount to the film’s own self-induced hype. But while a lot of what happens is about as easy to swallow as a pill the size of Guam, that’s not to say that

“Eagle Eye” isn’t a successful thriller. Sure, you’ll be left going, “What the...?” on a few occasions, but what slice of pulse-pounding suspense doesn’t have a handful of moments like that? They just seem to be particularly abundant throughout “Eagle Eye,” which, no matter how ridiculous it gets, always keeps you guessing as to where it’s going to go next. I’ve seen a lot of hate directed towards burgeoning star Shia LaBeouf, but I have to admit that the kid’s work here is nothing short of solid. It helps that he fits his everyman role to a tee; he’s not parading around as a wannabe tough guy, keeping Jerry grounded as a slacker who’s in way over his head. Nevertheless, the guy handles himself well in the numerous, “Bourne Identity”-style action sequences, ranging from a downtown car chase to the rather Hitchcockian climax. Billy Bob Thornton also has lots of fun as a smarmy government agent.

The ludicrous nature “Eagle Eye” brings to the table may be a bit too much for some. But for others such as myself, it’ll come across as an early fall treat — a big, loud and very entertaining picture to prepare us for the onslaught of the serious-minded awards season.

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



Bayside album is a ‘breath of fresh air’



Erik Wood

There is a unique sense that many bands possess, but for better or worse, many of those bands feel the need to add extra ingredients or change it up from album to album. This is not the case for the Long Island quartet Bayside, who on Sept. 30, managed to release not one, but two albums. Bayside has a unique mix-mash of dark, depressing, emo lyrics. They have solos that drown you into an oblivion of your own mind, and right when you think the

song is about finished, you’re hit directly in the face with a line from Anthony Raneri’s indistinguishable larynx that leaves you wondering.

Although this unique sound has stood strong throughout the years, it’s the album where Bayside finally decided to do something a little different. Take everything aside from Raneri’s vocals and wipe it out of your mind, because this album at first has you thinking outside the Bayside box. Their fourth studio release, “Shudder” is a breath of fresh air; the light at the end of the tunnel in comparison to Bayside’s previous releases. “Shudder” manages to provide the listener with a thriving burst of optimism, whereas

prior releases left listeners contemplating life’s next move. “Shudder” is nothing like its predecessors— it doesn’t possess the tightrope line equilibrium of lyrics that drown you into the sorrows of your life or bring you to the point of near resentment.

Raneri’s vocals are raw and more singalong-like then ever. There are many points on the album where there is as healthy blend between Jack O’Shea (lead guitar/backup vocals) and Nick Ghanbarian (bass/backing vocals). The first track, “Boy,” demonstrates this perfectly. Towards the end of the track all three vocalists are bringing the listener back to the old days while belting out an anthem, this time one of optimistic value. The album quickly moves into a fast paced Raneri dom-

inated track, “The Ghost of St. Valentine.” Every Bayside album has one track where you think to yourself, if they receive radio playing time, they’re going to be huge. “No One Understands” is that track. It opens with Raneri proclaiming how to live life to the fullest as he always seems to, but not cheesey like most famous quotes you copy and paste onto your Facebook. He has a way of melding true-life experience and melodic harmonies to motivate listeners. This track hits it right on the head with how it feels when no one truly understands you or your actions. Raneri and company have recorded a record not for the faint at heart.

They don’t directly have a set age group of listeners like many bands. This band is perfect for college scholars like yourself—it’s an album that is geared towards those of us still finding our place and meaning in this world.

The album closes with what many classify as Bayside’s most profound and memorable work: their acoustics. The closing track, “Moceanu” brings you back to square one, to what Bayside does best. “Shudder” is an album that takes Bayside in the right direction; even if it’s down a path they’ve truly never gone down. It makes me even more excited for their next release!

“Raneri’s vocals are raw and more sing-along like then ever.”

“‘Shudder’ manages to provide the listener with a thriving burst of optimism...”

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