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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

STUDENT

RIVER FALLS

Voice

February 20, 2009

www.uwrfvoice.com

Volume 95, Issue 15

Rainwater reuse system reinforces sustainable goals at UW-River Falls

Joy Stanton
joy.stanton@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls students, faculty and staff may or may not have noticed the blue signs in the University Center bathrooms commenting on the gray water in the toilets. The signs-put up during J-Term-signal the recent success of the rainwater reuse system.

The rainwater reuse system is the first of its kind in a state of Wisconsin building, Mark Gillis, assistant supervisor of facilities maintenance, said.

The rainwater reuse system has begun to run functionally in the last month. The University Center opened two years ago, but the original design of the rainwater reuse system did not work.

The system had to be redesigned three times before it would start, according to Gillis.

The plumbing staff, engineer staff and Gillis had to maintain health and building codes while making the system self-sustaining and automatic.

The system is mainly up and running, but control issues like a pump that did not shut off one night and built up too much pressure are keeping it from operating around the clock.

“It’s a work in progress,” Gillis said. “[We] are still testing and adjusting it.”

The concept for the rainwater reuse system is simple, Gillis said.

Roof drains and drain tiles around the basement of the University Center collect rainwater into four 12,000 gallon tanks.

Capable of holding 48,000 gallons of water, the tanks are located under the front lawn by the bookstore. A submersible pump propels the water through a filter which rids the water of larger materials, like leaves, that could clog the system.

The water sits in the 500 gallon holding

tank—the day tank—where it is treated with chlorine dioxide to kill any bacteria. A separate system, Halox, makes the chemicals to pump into the day tank. Two booster pumps build pressure to force the treated water through secondary filters, then up to the toilets and urinals throughout the building.

The day tank, submersible pump and filter were things added to make the system more reliable and user-friendly from a maintenance point of voice, Gillis said.

The water is treated with chemicals because the toilets and urinals could splash water.

A licensed plumber comes every day to test the water sample.

“[The treated water] is supposed to be safe enough to drink,” Gillis said. “But I won’t be drinking it myself.”

Should the filter get plugged or the tanks run empty, the system automatically goes back to city water pressure. Anyone using the toilets or urinals would be oblivious to the switch.

UWRF students voted to pay an addition \$1 million for the green concepts of the University Center and the rainwater reuse system is included in that cost, according to Cara Rubis, assistant director of the University Center.

Operating costs for the system are unknown because it does not run all the time yet.

“It is going to [cost] more than using the city water, I can tell you that,” Gillis said.

The University Center pays \$500 per month for water charges, not including a sewer charge for flushing. The water charges amount should decrease, but the cost of maintenance is a factor as well.

“In doing things like this, it’s hard to say things in today’s dollars and cents,” Director

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Sally King/Student Voice

Choir performs at UWRF

Twin Cities Gospel Choir member Robert Robinson performs before a full house of UWRF students and faculty Wednesday night in the North Hall Auditorium.

Women’s hockey team wins first NCHA title in six years

Justin Magill
justin.magill@uwrf.edu

For the first time since 2003 the UW-River Falls women’s hockey team captured the NCHA regular season title.

It did so last weekend with two dominating victories against Finlandia University (Mich.) 11-1 and 6-1 in Hancock, Mich.

“It feels great to wrap it up early and not have to worry about it anymore,” Falcon Head Coach Joe Cranston said. “We have come so close in the last few

years. We had some tough losses to deal with, so winning it is a great feeling.”

A post-game party consisted of a celebration and a bus ride full of alcohol-free champagne, Cranston said.

“They had that [alcohol-free champagne] with them for after the game,” he said. “They had a lot of fun on the bus ride home.”

With the conference title wrapped up it does not close out the regular season. UWRF has a two game road

series against UW-Eau Claire this weekend, prior to the NCHA playoffs, which will be held at Hunt Arena on Feb. 27-March 1.

“We talked about how there is still four points left to get,” Cranston said, referring to the Eau Claire series. “We want to get them and are not satisfied with 27 points to end the season.”

The Falcons went 13-2-1 in the NCHA (15-5-3 overall), which was good enough for the conference title. The last time UWRF won the regular season championship it also won the NCHA playoffs.

With the conference postseason being held in River Falls, Cranston said the home ice advantage is not as

big of a factor in hockey compared to other sports.

“Having home ice during the game is not that big,” he said. “I think we have been a better road team of late, but the good thing is you have the No. 1 seed, get to choose your game times and get to stay at home.”

One of the benefits of playing the NCHA’s worst team last weekend was sophomore goalie Cassi Campbell was able to rest her injured knee. Campbell dislocated her patella on Dec. 13 against Eau Claire in the closing seconds of a 5-3 Falcon win.”

“It was important to get her some rest this week,” Cranston said.

“Since we won conference I don’t know if she will play again this weekend. It’s important to get her the rest she needs.”

In the conference clincher last Sunday UWRF fell behind early, but Abby Sunderman scored her fourth goal of the weekend in the closing minutes of the first period.

Sunderman and Jamie Briski had hat tricks in the 11-1 thumping the night prior.

Early in the second period Kayleigh Bell scored what was the conference clinching goal. She added a second goal 11 minutes, 32 second later for some insurance.

See Women’s Hockey page 3

“It feels so great to wrap it up early and not have to worry about it anymore.”
Joe Cranston,
Falcon head coach

Fantastic Sams sponsors hair donation event at University



Fantastic Sams manager Amanda Halverson (left), UWRF senior Rachel Hilb (middle) and stylist Kacie Enz at Locks of Love Feb. 13.

Renae Bergh
renae.bergh@uwrf.edu

Being different from other people because of physical appearance can be hard on anyone, but it can be especially hard for a child who has lost his or her hair due to medical illness.

To help these children find a sense of normalcy, the River Falls Fantastic Sams sponsored a Locks of Love hair donation event in the University Center Feb. 13 to give those who qualify a chance to change the life of a child.

Fantastic Sams works with Locks of Love to encourage people to give donations of hair when they come to get their hair cut at their salons. The salon then keeps the donated hair and sends it out to Locks of Love who then use it to make wigs for

children. Those persons choosing to donate to Locks of Love at a Fantastic Sams salons receive a free haircut after their donation.

Amanda Halverson, manager of the River Falls Fantastic Sams, said the salon sponsored the event because it is a good way to help children.

“Just think about not having hair,” Halverson said. “As a child it would be even more traumatizing.”

There are a few basic requirements for donating hair. First, the hair must be at least 10 inches in length. Second, the hair needs be clean, healthy and in good condition.

Third, the hair can be colored or

permed but cannot be bleached or highlighted. Lastly, the hair must be secured in a braid or pony-tail before being cut, River Falls Fantastic Sams Stylist Kacie Enz said.

Senior Rachel Hilb is no first time donor, having donated hair to Locks of Love at least three times before. Hilb said she donates because it is going to a good cause.

“I’ve always liked the idea [of helping children],” Hilb said. “Plus, my hair grows really fast.”

Junior Christine Bronk said she donated her hair because she has no

See Locks of Love page 3

“I’ve always liked the idea [of helping children]. Plus, my hair grows really fast.”
Rachel Hilb,
UWRF senior

Baby Mama will be shown in the Kinnickinnic River Theatre in the University Center on Saturday Feb. 21 at 2 and 7 p.m. The movie will be free of charge and is hosted by Student Affairs.

The UWRF NRHH chapter

Competing against a
drive, the Fall pilot p
iRock won the progr



Klapatch, a business administration senior, was nominated and received the

The UWRf NRHH chapter won the school spirit award through cheers, networking and bonus points for hiking up to the Platteville's "world's largest M" landmark.

"I could not be more proud of our delegation," Klapatch said. "They presented programs, led cheers, showed school spirit and assisted in the bidding and presentation of numerous awards. It was incredible to see all 10 of our delegates' hard work pay off."

Students Ashley Thompson, Ben Stanek,

Twelve psychology students, who are involved in five to seven different projects, will be traveling to Chicago, April 30, to take part in the Midwestern Psychology Association Convention.

Last year, the psychology department talked about plans for the future and one of the ideas was how to find ways to increase involvement in undergraduate research. They decided to put this idea into action by creating a new

"In any program, with any student, I recommend that they get involved as best they can in the program that they're in, with their professors, getting involved in research or some writing," Reich said. "You get a nice relationship going and I think it strengthens the education that they get and the connections at the University."

Students can sign up for tutoring at the Academic Success Center in almost any subject they are having difficulty with. Students with disabilities can make appointments with Mark Johnson for advising and getting helpful accommodations made. Aside from tutoring, students also have the possibility of receiving help with note taking. Junior business admin-

A similar program offered at the Academic Success Center is the Upward Bound program run by Tyra Nelson. Upward Bound is a government funded program that helps inner city high school students achieve their goals of going to college and graduating, Academic Success Center's marketing specialist Karwee

The Academic Success Center is open Monday through Thursday from 7:45 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. On Fridays it closes at 4:00 p.m.

"All of our parts are necessary to function properly for students. I believe we have one of the best teams on campus," Amie said. "At the core of all of my colleagues is a craving to assist students in succeeding."

February 13
- Megan A. Storlien, 18, was cited for retail theft at 302 S. Main St.

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Rainwater: Reuse system part of University’s plan to go ‘off the grid’ by 2012

from page 1

of Facilities Michael Stifter said. “I have no doubt what we have learned over the past two years [in getting the system operational] is something we can share with others.”

Gov. James Doyle selected the University—along with three other UW campuses—to become energy self-sufficient by the year 2012, according to a September 2006 UWRF press release.

The rainwater reuse system is part of the University’s efforts to become sustainable.

The system cuts down on the energy-associated with greenhouse gas—that would normally be used to pump clean water from the aquifer. Also, it makes use of water that would otherwise be shipped to the ocean via streams and rivers, according to Director of the St. Croix Institute for Sustainable



Michael Stifter

Community Development Kelly Cain.

“[Using] good clean water to flush stuff down a toilet is not a good way to use valuable water,” Cain said. “We live in the Saudi Arabia of water around here. We don’t have a sense of how valuable water is in the world... Over the long haul, as water gets more valuable, I suspect our system will pay off, besides just doing the right thing.”

Elementary education senior Meghan Moynihan, 22, has been a building manager for the University Center since May. Also a campus tour guide, she said she thinks the water system is a great way to promote being green.

“As part of our [campus] tours we do mention the green factor,” Moynihan said. “Prospective students and families get a kick out of it.”



Joy Stanton/Student Voice

Rain water collected on the roof of the University Center is used in the building’s toilets. The reuse system is part of a \$1 million plan that students voted on to incorporate green concepts in the UC.

Locks of Love: Florida-based charity helps children who have lost hair due to medical reasons

from page 1

reason not to.

“Why not?” Bronk said. “I just want to help out a good cause.”

Locks of Love is a charity based out of Florida aimed at helping children 18 and under who have lost their hair due to some sort of medical circumstance. According to their Web site, their mission statement is to “return a sense of self, confidence and normalcy to children suffering from hair loss by utilizing donated ponytails to provide the highest quality hair prosthetics to financially disadvantaged children.”

The hairpieces are made specifically for the individual child and are secured to the scalp by a vacuum seal which can only be removed by breaking the seal at the temples.

The Locks of Love Web site explained the necessity for custom fitted hair pieces.

“Children can dismiss insecurities about classmates pulling off their hairpiece, or losing it at recess,” the site said. “They can swim, shower and do gymnastics—in short, they can be kids again.”

Besides supporting Locks of Love, the River Falls Fantastic Sams also offers special pricing to students every Wednesday. This includes \$13 hair cuts, liters of shampoo and conditioner priced at two for \$20 and also specials on coloring.

Women’s Hockey: Falcons will finish out regular season in Eau Claire

from page 1

Freshman Melissa Deardorff started both games in goal and recorded wins in each for her fifth and sixth wins of the season.

Three players put up six points this weekend. Jessica Thompson and Stefanie Schmitz had a goal and 5 assists, and Sunderman scored four goals and had two assists.

The Falcons will be on the road this weekend at Eau Claire for their final two regular season games.

Student Savings Card to be offered by Student Senate this semester

from page 1

Renee Thony
renee.thony@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls students will soon be offered discounts at local businesses through a Student Savings Card from the UWRF Student Senate, and this can make a difference in where they decide to shop.

For groceries, for example, they can go to Dick’s on the south end of town or EconoFoods on Main Street.

“I live two doors down from the Dick’s grocery store, but they don’t offer me anything off. I figure I can drive that little extra to Econo to pick up the discount,” Rachel Weisenbeck, a junior at UWRF, said.

Econo Foods offers students a 5 percent discount when they present their student ID at the register.

EconoFoods is not the only business in River Falls that offers discounts to students who have their student ID. Econo Foods’ discount is operated under a program that other businesses in the area use as well. UWRF’s Student Senate is working to resurrect this discount program.

Dusty Pfundheller is one of the Student Senate’s driving forces behind the program. Using an example of the program from 1994, Pfundheller said the discounts are something he’s very excited about.

“This program benefits every student at UWRF—on and off campus—especially with the way the economy is right now. It’s just so beneficial,” Pfundheller said.

The Student Senate reassured students that the system is not very complicated. Pfundheller and company have talked to each of the businesses involved. The businesses participating are going to have a sign on their door that says they offer discounts when a student presents his or her student ID.

Pfundheller has set out to viciously promote the discount program.

“Students just aren’t aware of it. If I would have known, I could have saved so much money. We’re determined to get the news out all over campus,” he said.

Student Senate is currently in the process of creating cards that have lists of each business involved. Pfundheller thinks

these will be the key to letting students know where they can save and how much discount is offered.

“These cards will be distributed all over campus. We’re looking to work with the res halls and see if we can stick them in students’ mailboxes. We’ve created a Facebook group, and there’s a Web site, too. We’re really working very hard to get the word out. This program will benefit every student at UWRF,” Pfundheller said.

Students who live off-campus will benefit as well. Pfundheller said he feels that these students will actually benefit the most.

“Students off-campus are the ones who need to go grocery shopping. They’re the ones who need to go buy appliances and home furnishings. This program is perfect for those students,” Pfundheller said.

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“These cards will be distributed all over campus. We’re looking to work with the res halls and see if we can stick them in students’ mailboxes...we’re really working hard to get the word out. This program will benefit every student at UWRF.”

Dusty Pfundheller,
UWRF Student Senate

Businesses involved include those from both River Falls and Hudson. In addition, Pfundheller said that Student Senate has made an agreement with UW-Stout to share in their program as well.

“UW-Stout has a program just like the one in River Falls. It’s managed and organized so well. We’ve worked with them to allow it so our students can use their IDs to get discounts in Menomonie. Ideally, we’d love to work something out with the U of M,” Pfundheller said.

Some of the businesses involved include: Buffalo Wild Wings, Perkins, Hudson Bowling Center and From You Flowers. A complete list of businesses and discounts is available online.

Pfundheller said the Student Senate-made cards will be ready in about two weeks for distribution.

UWRF assistant professor discusses trip to Poland at social justice event

from page 1

Joy Stanton
joy.stanton@uwrf.edu

During the first Social Justice Series event of the semester, Feb. 11, Todd Savage, an assistant professor in UW River Falls’ school of psychology, talked about his experiences involving a student social justice leadership mission to Poland.

Extra chairs had to be brought in to seat the approximated 60 people attending the event.

“This was a huge turnout,” Leadership Student Manager Katherine Francel said in an e-mail interview.

With a deadline of May 1, this spring the SJS is offering UWRF students an opportunity

ty to travel and participate in MHR on a trip to Poland Aug. 1-8.

Savage participated in the inaugural March of Hope and Remembrance program (MHR) in March 2001. The purpose of the trip is for students to learn about the Holocaust by visiting prison camps in Poland and work for social justice back home.

“The world, with their silence, gave its consent and allowed the atrocities to continue,” according to the MRH Web site. “You will understand why we must continue to teach, to help individuals communicate the message of the simple yet elusive goal for all people—never again.”

Savage’s main message was one about applying the lessons of the Holocaust to the here and now.

Citing historian Raul Hilberg’s model of genocide—exclusion, expulsion and extermination—Savage used audience interaction to get participants thinking about the steps that led to the destruction of 6 million Jews during World War II.

“If more and more people

stood up and said this is not right, who knows what would have happened,” Savage said. “All it takes is one person working for social justice to get it started.”

Leadership Training Coordinator Amy Lloyd said in an e-mail interview she thought Savage’s interactive approach worked well.

“It was not difficult for the session’s participants to list off the ‘signposts’ that they see in their own backyard everyday that demonstrated exclusion,” she said.

Audience members listed the U.S. military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy, the lack of gay marriage rights and the simple act of telling prejudice jokes.

Savage also talked about the social psychological concept of the bystander effect that says people are less likely to intervene in emergency or unjust situations when oth-

ers are present.

Sitting idly by is “giving tacit permission,” Savage said.

UWRF graduate student Sage Lavant who attended the event said in an e-mail interview she thought the UWRF campus supports minorities and the surrounding issues

“To be able to be in these situations and talk to [Holocaust] survivors made it come alive more than reading a book or watching movies.”

Todd Savage,
UWRF assistant psychology professor

spots and talk to survivors made it come alive more than reading a book or watching movies,” he said.

Any 40 undergraduate or graduate students who want to go on the trip will have to sign up for an independent study. Savage will assign readings and journaling to prepare students for the trip.

“The group needs to rely on each other to get through the experience,” he said. “It is a very heavy trip.”

The estimated cost is \$3,600. Savage said anyone interested in going should apply for a passport immediately if they do not have one.

Knowledge and awareness are paramount to the SJS, according to Lloyd.

“I believe that this session/trip is a perfect way to get people thinking about what can happen if we, as individuals with power and privilege, ignore the injustices around us,” Lloyd said. “It pushes us to first acknowledge where the injustice lies within our own communities, and also how we as individuals have the power to make social change possible.”

Check out the Student Voice online at uwrfvoice.com

EDITORIAL

Women’s hockey deserves attention

The UW-River Falls women’s hockey team won the regular season title in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) after beating Finlandia 6-1 on Feb. 15. They finished the regular season with a record of 13-2-1 in the NCHA and a 15-5-3 record overall, and have the best record of any UWRF varsity team. Yet even with their great success, the attendance to their games remains extremely low compared to the men’s hockey team.

According to the NCHA’s official Web site, the average attendance to the UWRF men’s hockey games is 752 while the women’s is only 180. The women’s hockey team (along with women’s basketball) is one of the only varsity teams at UWRF with a winning record, but they somehow get one fourth of the attendance the men do.

The Student Voice feels this is because the men are given preference of game times and are more heavily advertised than the women. The men’s hockey team has represented UWRF well over the years, but the fact is that this year they just are not good. The women should be given as much attention as the men, if not more in a situation such as this.

But around town, the attention for the men’s team dwarfs the women’s. There are posters and schedules for the men in local businesses, not to mention the sandwich boards that can be found in front of the University Center, in front of Hunt Arena, at the corner of Cascade Avenue and Main Street and on the other side of town by Walgreens. No such signs are posted for the women.

The men also receive the prime timeslots for their games—usually 7 p.m. on weekends. Even when the men are away, the women’s weekend games are usually played in the afternoon.

The combination of the lack of advertising for the team and having games in the afternoon when people are busy with other things could be driving the women’s attendance down.

With their victory to clinch the regular season title at Finlandia, the Falcon women have earned the right to host the NCHA playoffs. It would be embarrassing for this University to host the entire NCHA playoff tournament and have no attendance to the event.

While the men have fallen short this season, the women have performed admirably, and students and citizens of River Falls should come out to support them during the playoffs.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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By Jon Lyksett

Existence goes beyond the abortion debate

In the last two weeks, I read two opinion pieces on the subject of abortion.

Both were interesting and well-written; both also made some generalizations that were less than fair.

A pro-choice writer alleged that her opponents were really “anti-choice,” caring too much about the unborn and not enough about adults.

The pro-life writer argued (correctly) that her movement sought to take care of pregnant mothers as well.

She concluded that pro-life people were just trying to “put HUMAN LIFE back where it belongs, in the hands of GOD”—and for me, that brought up a larger issue.

I do not think that I (or any of us) exist because a mysterious deity decided it. I think we exist because one day, a number of years ago, our parents had sexual intercourse. Period.

There’s not much evidence

for anything beyond that certainty. A child’s life is in the hands of its parents.

How they take care of it is their decision, regardless of what our feelings might be. Personally I dislike abortion and think it should be only a last resort, but I don’t impose those beliefs on anyone else.

Furthermore, who or what is God? Where did he come from? Why did he create us? Why does he exist? Why does he need to exist? And if he does, why aren’t we born

knowing it? The man himself has not dropped by my house to answer those questions for me, and until he does I’ll have to go

by my own experience.

It tells me that my life is my own, and I want to make something of it not because God is watching, but because maybe no god is watching.

When we move past the façade of religious argument, things get a bit more

philosophical. So let’s ask ourselves, “what makes life special in the first place?”

It’s special to us, yes. But what about in the grand scheme of things? A lot of us just assume that life must be sacred, or we wouldn’t hold onto it so dearly—but that’s pretty much a universal instinct. Life is everywhere, constantly replacing itself. Deep down inside we know that if we died tomorrow, the planet wouldn’t notice. We want to believe that we have some powerful, invisible force on our side that does notice, and can give us another life after this one. But I believe this is wishful thinking on a grand scale.

Besides, what do we mean when we say life is sacred? Are we talking about all life on the earth? There are many forms of life that most people don’t consider special at all, like insects, livestock,

poultry, game animals and germs. We kill them all the time and lose no sleep over it, because we assume our

existence is more important—but is it really? And where is the proof?

Many of us will say all human life is sacred. Even that can be tricky. Was Saddam Hussein’s life sacred?

How about Hitler, Stalin, bin Laden, Vlad the Impaler, Jack the Ripper or Emperor Caligula? Were their lives as valuable as anyone else’s, and if not, why? I say that either all life is sacred or none of it is—and I lean toward the second one.

My point here is that we should cherish life, but there doesn’t have to be some divine importance behind it. For all intents and purposes, our lives are in our hands.

Nathan is a perpetual miscreant. He enjoys death metal and the color blue.

Sporadic winter weather affects emotions

Here we go again. At some point in February, we seem unable to resist feeling the weather has taken control of our mood. We are euphoric on a sunny and warm day and irritable on a cold and gray day.

There are days in February and March when we see the world as full of possibilities and days when we see the world as full of false promises and dead ends.

You get the point. Chances are, if you are reading this, it is one of those false promise and dead end days for you.

Fortunately, there is a lot to learn about ourselves, and our mental health, from this topsy-turvy time of year.

The first lesson is expectation management. Expectation management is actually taking the time to be realistic about how long it will take to be able to rely on the weather not to kick us around anymore.

Most of us have some awareness that we can become more open to the consistency of warmer days somewhere around April 10. This is when the weather gets its act together and treats us to the song of easy living that lasts until October 20 or so.

Until that point, however, we have no business expecting anything less than a roller coaster of weather and moods.

Expectation management is an effective

tool in helping us to understand just what is reasonable to expect from family get-togethers, political promises and Adam Sandler movies. The lesson is that the best predictor of the future is the past.

The second lesson of this time of year is learning not to fight your moods. We can learn to accept them and roll with them. Learning to be comfortable with our moods first requires that we respect them. A bad mood is not necessarily a bad thing. It is inevitable and is very much part of the human experience. A bad mood can indeed be a painful thing but we don’t have to suffer from it.

Suffering comes from thinking that we shouldn’t be in a bad mood. So accept the bad mood and then we can go about the business of treating ourselves a little better for the day.

We can do this when we lower our expectations for productivity and become ok with taking a long bath, watching our favorite comfort movie (for me that would be Star Wars) or calling Grandma (or anybody who has loved you well in your lifetime).

In addition, because you are smart about moods, you go through the day understanding that your moods won’t last forever and that they, like the weather, will soon change.

The third lesson from this time of

year is to understand how cruel inconsistency can be in any of its forms, including in weather.

Emotional abuse occurs when we are inconsistent in accepting and/or rejecting the people in our life. If we are one-day kind and one-day cruel to those we care about, we are creating emotional helplessness in those who would care for us, especially if that person is dependent on us to get one or more of their needs met.

We may have had a parent who treated us this way. Ask yourself if you are still working to win the praise and affection of one of your parents.

Inconsistent weather, like inconsistent caring from a parent, friend or significant other, can make us feel helpless and hopeless.

Pay attention to how you treat the people in your life. Also, pay attention to how you treat yourself. If you are the victim of a relationship that consistently leaves you feeling helpless and hopeless you owe it to yourself to get out.

If the weather in this state was a real person I would definitely leave her, but the only place that is consistently ok for weather is Hawaii and then you get into issues around emotional isolation, and that is another column altogether.

Mark Huttemier is a Personal Counselor for UWRF-Student Health (715)-425-3884.

For free online Mental Health screening check out: <http://www.ulifeline.org> and click on the Self E-value-tor button in the top right corner.

Smoking ban necessary on campus

What makes UW-River Falls unique? What makes us stand out from the rest? What makes this campus different? What benefits does this school provide that others don't?

These are all questions you should be considering if you care about this college. There are many possible solutions to these questions, some of which have already been implemented.

I've decided that in this week's column, I'm going to offer one of my own.

This "solution" has gotten quite a bit of coverage and I find it's a point that needs to be driven home.

What I'm referring to is a smoking ban in Wisconsin and more specifically, on the UWRF campus.

Twenty-two states have implemented a statewide smoking ban, including Minnesota but not Wisconsin. River Falls' only policy on smoking is that it is banned in all restaurants that make 50 percent or greater sales from food.

I'm not sure I fully understand how that is helping. Instead of banning it completely, River Falls is sticking its toe into the water and seeing how cold it is. It's a half-hearted effort.

Along with state policies, more and more campuses are making an attempt to implement smoking bans.

According to the Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation, at least 260 colleges and universities have smoke-free campuses. That number does not include campuses that designate certain areas smoke-free.

As of January 2009, seven Wisconsin colleges and universities are 100 percent smoke-free: Alverno College, Chippewa Valley Technical College, Medical College of Wisconsin, Nicolet Area Technical College, UW-Baraboo/Sauk County, UW-Platteville and Western Technical College.

Now that I've hit you with all the statistics and facts, here is my view on the subject.

It's proven cigarettes and tobacco can cause major health problems. If you disagree with what I'm saying, you have these things to look forward to: heart disease, aneurysms, bronchitis, emphysema, stroke and possibly death.

If you are a non-smoker who's in disbelief, listen to this: secondhand smoke can cause heart disease, lung cancer, lung infections, asthma and death.

I understand that smoking is a person's choice. However, it is not my choice to breathe in secondhand smoke. It affects the health of myself and other students and faculty.

The 25-foot rule was a good idea, but it doesn't work. Most people do not follow it and what exactly are the penalties for breaking it?

I've never heard of anyone receiving a fine or penalty and if so, please let me know.

If this University prides itself on "going green" then it should certainly understand the benefits and the need for a smoke-free campus.

A smoke-free campus means less cigarette butts lying around and overall better air quality. It would make the University stand out among others and would draw interest from potential new students.

Having to walk elsewhere to smoke may also encourage those who do, to cut back. The fact is, I don't enjoy having to walk through a cloud of smoke to gain access to the door of an educational facility.

Smoking is disgusting and I don't like smelling, seeing or breathing it. Smokers seem to argue, "Give us our freedom." I argue, "Stop polluting mine."

Cristy is a journalism major. This is her second semester working for the Student Voice.

The 25-foot rule was a good idea, but it doesn't work. Most people do not follow it and what exactly are the penalties for breaking it?



Cristy Brusoe

STUDENT voices

Do you think UWRF should be a smoke-free campus?

Alexis De'Aquisto, sophomore

"Yes I do. I don't like to breath the smoke it. It's not fair for the non-smokers."



Ashley Jackson, senior

"I would like it to be smoke-free but it probably shouldn't be."



Joe Hansen, senior

"Yeah. I wouldn't mind"



Tom Hofmeister, junior

"No, but they should obey the rules and stay away at least 25 feet."



Brianna Theis, freshman

"No. They are outside and outside should be public property."



Student Voices compiled by Tennae Maki.

Squirrel gang terrorizes campus

Though still mid-February, it seems there are many signs hinting toward a premature spring season.

With Mother Nature teasing the students of UW-River Falls with occasional temperatures groping the mid 40s, and the temptation to inflate their dying basketballs for a game of lightning, life on campus appears good.

On multiple occasions Main Street has been submerged under salty, slushy water while residents trudge through in tennis shoes, capri's and t-shirts.

Life is simple in warm weather as the sun grazes over foreheads seeming within arm's reach.

But with spring's welcoming offers comes a hefty, annual price. Since these untimely and phenomenal occurrences started, on at least three occasions have students been terrorized, in at least one case violently, by lingering squirrels. In recent weeks, a renegade gang of squirrels known as the "Silent Seven" have returned to campus.

The gang was thought to have Harley'd their way out of the city back in 1999. The Silent Seven, composed of seven muscular, beard bearing squirrels, were known for their ruthless scrounging, looting and mugging, and often targeted UWRF students in the late months of winter. The recent attacks have taken place in the Silent Seven's

old stomping grounds. The first occurrence took place on the walking path running parallel to the Melvin Wall Amphitheatre. The male student, who wishes to remain anonymous, was



Brad Brookins

approached by a dark figure, most likely the gang's leader Musky Marv, and chased for a quarter of a mile before "barely getting away," he said.

The second attack—this one much more aggressive—pitted student Keith Cremin against a host of fury gang members. Cremin, a sophomore majoring in digital film and TV, was taking a midnight stroll behind the Hathorn Hall when he was jumped by two of the Silent Seven.

"He just came out of nowhere—probably the trees!" Cremin said. Shaken, he continued: "they pulled my shirt over my head and took my wallet. They swarmed me and then I was on the ground."

Cremin finished by frantically reenacting the episode by twirling around as if blinded, then falling to the ground where he claimed to have "balled up in fear." He then displayed multiple scratches and then admitted he was wearing thick make-up to cover a grotesquely blackened eye.

The third and arguably laughable encounter occurred just four days ago when female student Jackie Flynn and her boyfriend Gabriel Blanchester

were attacked by a fellow human student. The assailant, who also currently wishes to remain anonymous (until next week's Public Safety reports), explained what happened.

"I engaged the guy first by throwing him to the ground, and then I went for the girl," he said, also trembling.

The assailant then grabbed Flynn's shoulders in an attempt to mug her when he was grabbed and thrown to the ground. "I could smell its rancid breath as it leaned over my face."

"Ain't okay to pick on the ladies, [expletive]," said Musky Marv.

"I thought I was toast," the attacker said before he himself was beaten and robbed. "After me they started on [Gabriel], but left [Jackie] alone!"

The goon then broke down in tears, shielding his face with bandaged hands. The River Falls Police Department is readying for a stiff examination into the attacks and have fronted Officer Ryan 'Stil' Stiller as the lead investigator.

"I've been on the force for three years now, and I've never seen such atrocities," Stiller said. "But know this, The Silent Seven will be met by the unstoppable force that is me," he said, stroking his chrome Colt .45.

The investigation is underway, but no leads have been discovered. As for now, students and River Falls residents alike are being asked to travel in groups after 9 p.m., leave their valuables at home, and to lock their car doors.

Cultural classiness succumbs negatively to pure laziness

So none of my ideas from last time spanned out. Too bad, I guess genius will have to wait.

This week I'm onto classiness, a topic that—since it's been on my mind—has caused me to experience severe cognitive dissonance and general uneasiness. No worry, they're two conditions I've gotten used to, and perhaps grown a little fond of.

To be classy means to display a sense of style and elegance in one's general behavior. My ambivalence on the subject stems from my crude style, which is unsettlingly reminiscent of a vagrant's.

But I'm just a dude with frugal apparel and I'm writing a column on classiness. I'll start now.

I think the philosophy of convenience has overridden classiness in my generation—and in the broader culture.

Convenience is everywhere—fast food franchises cling to the two lanes in every town in America and probably most of the world. Billboards are plastered with sweaty burgers waiting to be inhaled at the next exit line our nation's highways.

We're treated to portions fit for the fattest of kings. Not very classy.

Our fashion lacks classiness as well. Baseball hats dominate; there's nothing wrong with a good baseball hat now and then—it is my favorite sport after all.

But the general abundance of baseball hats and beer t-shirts and jeans engineered to look old and shitty amounts to a shortage of cultural class. Rappers took it a little too far with their heavy chains saturated with gold and diamonds.

I guess jewelry can be too elegant, after all.

Also, the dancing associated with hip-hop and modern club music clearly lacks class, but then again, sometimes you just gotta bounce that booty.

Gone are the classy days of slow-dancing to "Sleepwalk," a seminal hit at the high school proms of yesteryear. We need a bar with a weekly retro prom night—get wasted on whisky and beer and slow-dance the night away, romance in the air.

Our vernacular has suffered from a sharp decrease in class. People are now abbreviating the most ridiculous of things. Actually speaking the letters "lol" has replaced real laughter in a

growing number of cases.

Some shorten "just kidding" to its internet abbreviation, JK. But I always think they're talking about J.K. Rowling. Those are some really unattractive shoes... JK!

Wait, J.K. Rowling has ugly shoes? What?

This obviously all stems from the general popularity of text and instant-messaging, which has, in my opinion, clearly altered our language in the youth culture (whether you like it or not, lit majors!).

I've also noticed many people frequently adding the suffix "-ish" onto

too many words. To speak with class, one must speak with clarity and precision. I do it okayish, I guess.

We don't respect our elders very much, which can't be too classy. "Mister" and "Missus" has almost left the language as a

reference to one's elders—we now even call the parents of our girlfriends or boyfriends by their first names.

James Bond wouldn't do that. He'd say Mr. Hager or Mrs. Hager, even if they asked him not to bother with that.

James Bond has ultimate class, even when he's in the midst of violent, ass-kicking carnage.

He emerges bloodied, his clothes torn. But Bond remains undeniably classy. And he probably doesn't like reality TV, which I think lacks class.

There are exceptions, Top Chef is a new favorite of mine. But I somehow can't picture Bond draped on a couch

with a wine glass and the latest issue of National Enquirer, scoping out the latest consignment of ladies for The Bachelor to woo on ABC. He's got too much class for that BS. So is it a generational thing or an age-related phenomenon?

Has our culture changed dramatically since the cultures of previous generations, many perhaps classier than our own?

Or maybe we'll grow out of it, and we'll lose our ignorant sense of entitlement, and we'll mature as a culture into one that reflects the classiness of the past.

But then again, vulgarity and blatant unclassiness in generational conversation can be deeply entertaining, and often makes me chortle and guffaw.

Joe is a marketing communications major with a creative writing minor.



Joe Hager

To be classy means to display a sense of style and elegance in one's general behavior. My ambivalence on the subject stems from my crude style, which is unsettlingly reminiscent of a vagrant's.

Something on your mind?

Write a letter to the editor.

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Falcon women heat up at right time

Joe Engelhardt
joseph.engelhardt@uwrf.edu

After struggling the entire month of January, the Falcon women's basketball team has now won four out of their past five.

"We're playing with a lot of confidence right now," Head Coach Cindy Hovet said.

Starting this streak was a road victory at UW-Superior, a game in which they shot 57 percent from the field.

"We worked hard in staying focused even on the road," freshman Maranda Dohrn said.

The Falcons are doing well on both offense and defense, shooting over 40 percent from the field and averaging 15 steals per game over the winning streak. In their latest victory, the Falcons shot 42 percent from the floor and forced 16 turnovers on the road at Oshkosh on Feb. 14.

"Our defense has been able to force turnovers which help lead us to better shots," Hovet said. "Also, we have been more patient on the offensive end, waiting for a good shot to open up for us."

Another category in which the Falcons have been winning lately is the free throw battle, getting to the line on average 22 times per game, and making approximately 65 percent of those attempts. The reason for this, according to Hovet, is the increased number of offensive rebounds, and the constant drives to the basket.



Sally King/Student Voice
UWRF's Maranda Dohrn gets a shot off just inside the free throw line against La Crosse.

"We have been more aggressive on offense, our guards have done a nice job of driving into the lane and then kicking it back out for an open shot," Hovet said.

The Falcons have not only been successful offensively, but defensively as well. So well that foul trouble has not been a factor for any of their recent victories.

"We're playing good clean defense, and really helping each other out," Hovet said.

The Falcon freshman have been playing well and not just during the month of February, but been consistent the whole season.

Tiffany Gregorich and Alise Holst have been valuable young assets to the Falcons.

Gregorich is among the conference leaders in points with 12.7 points a game. That average is the best among all freshman in the WIAC.

Holst, who was named conference player of the week on Feb. 10.

She was an important factor in UWRF's 69-63 win against UW-Eau Claire at the Karges Center on Feb. 7.

Holst had 12 points and seven rebounds in the victory against the No. 5 Bluegolds.

Even though the Falcons had momentum with four straight victories, that was not enough to get a fifth straight victory

Wednesday night at home against UW-Stout. The Falcons lost 84-62, trailing for most of the game. The Falcons struggled to get anything on the offensive end, and Stout was able to get a high percentage of shots.

"The Blue Devils were able to stretch our defense with good inside game and great outside shooting," Hovet said.

UW-River Falls only shot 38 percent from the field, and turned the ball over 20 times. Hovet said one thing stressed during the recent practices was offensive rebounding, something the Falcons failed to stop in the game.

"We have stressed rebounding in practice, but it didn't turn over into the game," Hovet said. Other than the loss to Stout UWRF has played well on defense, posting some of the better defensive numbers in the conference. It allows on average 57 points a game, which is third in the WIAC. Conference leader UW-Stevens Point is the best defensive team in the conference allowing only 50.4 points a game. Part of the reason why the Falcons have not allowed many points is for the fact that they average the most steals per game in the conference. Averaging 12.74 steals per game has also helped them turn its defense into offense. UWRF is also relentless on the offensive boards. It is the second best WIAC team with an average of 15.43 offensive rebounds.

The loss to Stout puts the Falcons down in the loss column, but they are still in line for a playoff bid. Their conference record is now at a 7-8, which puts them sixth in the conference.

The victory for Stout improves its record to 10-5 in the conference, which is currently fourth.

Their final regular season game will at the Karges Center against UW-Whitewater, on 3 p.m. Feb. 21. The WIAC playoffs get started Feb. 24.

Whitewater is battling for the WIAC title along with UW-Stevens Point, who already has a share of the championship.

TwinsFest all about Mauer

A couple weeks ago, I attended TwinsFest at the Metrodome. For those of you who don't know TwinsFest is a convention where Twins fans gather and throw down ridiculous amounts of money to get autographs.

I had just gotten done waiting in line to get Denard Span's autograph when it was my friend's girlfriend decision as to which line we should stand in next. She emphatically screamed that she wanted Joe Mauer's autograph. So I stood in line for three hours with a bunch of screaming 12 to 20-year-old girls to get the Baby Jesus' autograph. After this adventure, I approached a friend of mine who was a fan of Mr. Mauer. Her response to the story?

"Oh, wait...ah, I just thought of him!"



Chris Schad

she responded. After telling her that in a friendly way that I despise people like her, I came up with a conclusion. Joe Mauer fans are clinically insane.

These fans could overtake a small town. They have many weapons at their disposal. Their signs are used as battle shields, all with a clever saying like "We want Mauer in the shower." Or "April showers bring Joe Mauer." Their ear piercing screams could knock out even the most trained police force on the account of their heads exploding. They also blind them with the glitter used for their t-shirts. All of this makes me take my anger and rage out on my own body by pounding down \$6 beer after \$6 beer until even I'm screaming "OH MY GOD IT'S JOE MAUER!!!" every time he comes up to bat.

They even have reasons why they are meant to marry Joe Mauer. The best excuse that I've ever heard was a girl who said that she was meant to be with Mauer because she played catcher in high school, wore the number seven, and shared the same birthday. I don't mean to be the bearer of bad news, but I think Mauer was dating a former Ms.

USA at one point. I don't think your odds are very good.

Then I started to think of this. Why do girls love Joe Mauer, but not some other Twins? I mean, look at his partner in crime, Justin Morneau. Ladies, don't tell me that you don't dream about sticking the big, rugged Canadian first baseman in a lumberjack costume. There's Carlos Gomez too. Sure you can't understand about 83 percent of what he's saying, but he's got a Latin accent. Then, there's Joe's backup, Mike Redmond. His nickname of Red Dog screams porn star!

Do Joe Mauer fans annoy me? Yes. However, I can't help but respect the fact that they at least are into the game. Take it from a guy who once went on a date with a girl to a Vikings game who asked where the yellow line was on the field. I would rather have a bunch of fans screaming over one strong, handsome, brown-eyed catcher than have someone who doesn't know the difference between a hot dog and a home run (Hannah Storm). So to all of you Mauer Maniacs, keep the signs coming, and keep screaming.

STANDINGS

Men's basketball

WIAC Standings	W	L
Stevens Point(21-3)	14	1
Platteville(20-4)	12	3
Whitewater(20-4)	12	3
Eau Claire(15-9)	8	7
Oshkosh(14-10)	8	7
River Falls(11-13)	5	10
Superior(11-13)	4	11
La Crosse(10-15)	4	12
Stout(7-17)	1	14

Women's basketball

WIAC Standings	W	L
Stevens Point(21-3)	13	2
Whitewater(21-3)	12	3
Eau Claire(20-4)	11	4
Stout(15-9)	10	5
La Crosse(17-8)	9	7
River Falls(14-10)	7	8
Platteville(8-15)	5	10
Oshkosh(6-18)	1	14
Superior(5-19)	0	15

Men's Hockey

NCHA Standings	W	L	T
Superior(20-2-3)	13	2	1
Stout(18-5-2)	10	2	2
St. Scholastica(18-5-2)	9	4	1
St. Norbert(17-7-1)	8	5	1
Stevens Point(15-8-2)	6	7	1
River Falls(10-13-2)	4	9	0
Eau Claire(13-11-1)	3	10	1
Lake Forest(5-18-2)	0	13	1

Women's hockey

NCHA Standings	W	L	T
River Falls(15-5-3)	13	2	1
Stevens Points(13-4-6)	11	4	3
Superior(14-7-2)	10	4	2
Eau Claire(12-8-3)	7	7	2
Lake Forest(10-12-1)	6	9	1
Concordia(5-15-3)	3	10	3
Finlandia(1-21-0)	1	15	0



SHOWCASE HOME GAME

Women's Basketball



UWRF

VS

3 p.m. Feb. 21
Karges Center



UW-Whitewater

Hansberry closes in on scoring record

Justin Magill
justin.magill@uwrf.edu

It was four years ago when Derek Hansberry, co-captain of the UW-River Falls men's hockey team, was mulling over the decision to continue his hockey career.

The Arvada, Colo. native made a last minute choice to attend UWRF and play for the Falcon hockey team. There he has become one of the elite goal scorers in the programs history and his 74 career goals are five goals away from breaking the school record for career goals of 78 set by Brian Wilson in the 1993-97 seasons and Mike Kelly in 1980-84.

"I almost didn't come to River Falls," Hansberry said. "God no, I never thought I would end up playing here. It was a last-second decision in August to come here. At the time I thought it was Div. I hockey or done. Never realized how good the competition was in the area."

When Hansberry arrived on campus, he said he was unsure if he was going to make the team, let alone become an elite scorer.

"I never thought I would do as well as I did," Hansberry said. "I came to the team with a lot of great players, which really helped. I also played on some great lines, which has helped me become a better leader, especially this year."

The Falcons have had a down year, finishing sixth in the highly competitive NCHA conference.

UWRF lost to rival UW-Stout this past Friday 6-5, despite scoring four goals in the first period.

It will play the College of St. Scholastica

(CSS) in the first round of the NCHA Peter's Cup on Friday in Duluth, Minn.

With 16 goals in the regular season, Hansberry has had another stellar season and has been one of the few bright spots offensively for UWRF. He also has nine assists, which puts him at 25 points for the season and 131 for his career.

His 74 goals is currently fourth all-time and 131 points is 12th in school history. He said it is something he has thought about, but not as much as the success of the team.

"It has been on the back of my mind," he said. "I keep it on the back burner though. I just care about how the team does."

If and when career goal number 79 comes, Hansberry said he wishes it would come in an important game at an important time.

"I hope I score it in a big way," he said. "An overtime goal or one that wins a playoff game would be a good way [to break the record]."

Head Coach Steve Freeman, who is in his 13th season, said Hansberry is the perfect player UWRF could have.

"He's the consummate Falcon," Freeman said. "The perfect role model you want to have on your team. His work ethic has been among the best during his career here. His off-ice training is noticed by everybody and it shows on the ice. He continues to be a bright spot on offense and has been that way since he got here. When he gets opportunities to score, he usually puts them away."

There is more to Hansberry than just a hockey player, Freeman said.

"He does a lot of great things outside of hockey to make the school proud," he said. "Derek is an excellent student. He does the

right things all the time. He's a leader on and off the ice. Just a wonderful guy to be around and wonderful to have him in your life. Everything he has done here, you just have to thank him."

The past three years the Falcon captain has earned WIAC academic honors, along with two NCHA All-Academic team awards.

For Hansberry, the start of the season went a little slow in the goal scoring department. It was not until the fourth game of the season when he tallied his first goal of the season in a 6-4 loss to Gustavus Adolphus College (Minn.).

"He was snake-bitten a bit at the start," Freeman said. "When he got things going the whole team started to play better."

Freshman Ben Beaudoin said he has become a better player being on the first line power play because Hansberry makes everyone around him better.

"Being able to play on the same line with him helps you become a better player," he said. "You learn a lot by playing with him. He's a huge part of the team and the success of it. He's been one of the leading goal scorers since he has been here and is the leading scorer now. He just makes things happen when he's out there [on the ice]."

The Falcon scoring leader kept plugging away, shooting at will and continued the style of play that has put him near the top of UWRF's best goal scorers.

"You just have to keep putting pucks on the net," Hansberry said. "As a player, you have to have a mindset that they will go in eventually."

In the 2005-06 season, Hansberry had his

best season statistically, when he scored 19 goals and had 19 assists and was named the team's most valuable player.

If the record goal or national championship does not come it does not mean Hansberry's career is incomplete. He said it is important for UWRF to play well in the postseason, and for him, a career is already special with all the people that have entered Hunt Arena as a Falcon.

"We just have to make sure we play hard and do our best with a few games to go", he said. "It's an honor to have played here. A lot of great players and people have been a part of this program. To have your name mentioned with their's is something special."

Hansberry and the rest of the Falcons will play at CSS in the quarterfinal round of the NCHA Peter's Cup playoffs this Friday and Saturday.

The Saints knocked UWRF out of the Peter's Cup last season, also ending its chance at an NCAA selection.

The teams split the season series winning a game apiece. UWRF won its first game of the season 6-3 at Hunt Arena on No. 14. Hansberry had two goals that game.

CSS got revenge on Jan. 24, when Saints forward A.J. Tucker saved a clearing attempt by Falcon goalie Stephan Ritter. Tucker attempted a pass to his teammate at the front of the net and unfortunately for the Falcons, it hit off their own defenseman and got past Ritter.

If UWRF is able to win its series, it would advance to the semifinals on Feb. 28. The NCHA championship game is scheduled for March 7.

UWRF barbershop ensemble takes fourth in competition

Kelly Richison
kelly.richison@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls barbershop ensemble, Wissota Voices, placed fourth at the Barbershop Harmony Society Youth Chorus Competition in Pasadena, Calif. Jan 30.

The ensemble was founded in 2007 by Scott Perau, UWRF alumnus and director of the group. Wissota Voices is made up of men from River Falls, the Twin Cities and the surrounding areas. The group includes students from the UWRF campus, but enrollment is not required for membership.

Drew Buehler, UWRF senior and history major, is a member of the group who rejoined the group at the beginning of last year. He said that this was the first time that Wissota Voices appeared at the BHS youth chorus competition and he said he thought the group’s fourth place ranking out of 11 was very good.

“I think they said that 70 or 80 is what a lot of first time choruses should shoot for,” he said. “The rating we got was still a good rating for a first time barbershop chorus.”

Buehler said also that the ensemble practiced for three months prior to the BHS competition in California.

“We started practicing at the beginning of last semester,” he said. “We did once a week and at some point less than half of the way through the semester we started practicing on Sunday nights for three or four hours too, in Woodbury with the director of GNU, which is the Great Northern Union.”

To participate in the competition, each group must prepare three selections. Two of them must be standard barbershop tunes and the third may be any a cappella selection of choice. Each chorus member must evaluate the performance of another group. Each group is evaluated by a

panel of judges and is given a rating. Wissota Voices received an averaged score of 68.4. Ensembles may also elect to be ranked against other vocal groups in the competition, according to the Barbershop Harmony Society Web site.

Rob Silvers, UWRF sophomore and communications major, said that he has been a member of Wissota Voices since it started a year ago. He said traveling to California and performing in the competition was a good experience.

“It was a lot of fun and it was kind of cool to have the best groups in the world around there,” Silvers said.

Silvers said that each group is judged in three categories, including music and presentation. Each chorus receives a rating based on the scores of the categories.

“We’re scored in each category based on 100 by two different judges,” he said. “That’s for all three



Sally King/Student Voice

The UWRF barbershop ensemble sings during a practice Tuesday Feb. 17. The ensemble took fourth in a competition in California.

songs we get a score, and then they’re just averaged.”

Buehler said the members of Wissota Voices had the opportunity to perform in front of some of the top barbershop groups in the coun-

try.

“We had one small performance where we just performed for the senior barbershoppers around the nation,” he said, “The ones that kind of put on the whole convention.”

‘Coraline’ makes animation appealing for children, adults



Nathan Piotrowski

America seems to be finally joining the rest of the world in accepting animation as being a genre open to adults as well as children. Dreamworks’ “Coraline” is a prime example of this recent trend in the nation. With a darker setting and story than most animated films, a wonderful look to it, a great cast of voice actors and a soundtrack to rival the works of John Williams, the film is a great treat to viewers of any age.

The world of “Coraline” is not unfamiliar from our own, with the obvious exception of there existing something called The Other World, created by Coraline’s Other Mother. Throughout the first half of the film the audience sees Coraline exploring both worlds. Everything seems to be better in the other world, but there is a sinister side to it that is not revealed until the last third of the movie. It is an easy plot to follow with a lot to offer younger and older audiences, but it is definitely a darker movie that may scare some younger viewers. The only real complaint to be had is that the pacing of the film is a little slow, but not enough to bore audiences to tears, so it is forgivable.

The stop motion animation and CGI blend together to make one of the most visually interesting and gorgeous films to have graced the silver screen. If one does not even care remotely about the characters, though this is



doubtful, the images on the screen will dazzle them and still keep them interested. This movie takes what “The Nightmare Before Christmas” started and takes it to a whole new level.

The characters are truly brought to life by the voices of the actors behind them, and the casting for “Coraline” could not have been better. Dakota Fanning steals the show as the adventurous and charming Coraline, while Teri Hatcher does a great job bringing to life both of Coraline’s mothers. Other names that bring the charm of this story to life are that of Jessica Saunders, Dawn French and Ian McShane voicing Coraline’s neighbors, while veteran voice actor Keith David gives a mysterious personality to a cat that prowls the grounds of her apartment building.

The oddest thing about “Coraline” is that although it isn’t a musical, the music of the film is prominently featured and wonderfully done. Bruno Coulais’ score is incredible and compares with the great works of both Williams and Hans Zimmer. Also, the band They Might Be Giants makes a memorable impression with a song that, although brief, adds to the charm of building up the Other World.

Overall, it’s a well put together film, with something to offer audiences of all ages, but adults will get the most out of it. With its amazing style, incredible music and truly memorable characters, “Coraline” is an animated film that warrants the attention of all movie lovers, no matter if they are seeking a good film, or if they are just a child at heart.

Nathan is a digital film and television major with a film studies minor. In his spare time, he attempts to be a professional lottery winner.



‘Friday the 13th’ relies on original plot, falls short of inventiveness



José Cruz, Jr.

Warning: The following review contains spoilers about the original three “Friday the 13th” films.

Ah, the remake. As Hollywood continues to get more and more unoriginal, a smorgasbord of remakes seems to be constantly in the works. This is especially true when it comes to the horror genre. However, if done with enough originality and creativity, a remake can be successfully pulled off (“Scarface,” arguably Rob Zombie’s “Halloween,” for example). But 2009’s rendition of “Friday the 13th” is not such a success in reinvention.

Approximately 30 years after Ms. Voorhees psychotic episode (see: “Friday the 13th” [1980]), Whitney (Amanda Righetti) and her friends come to a boarded up Camp Crystal Lake to harvest a hidden crop of marijuana. Soon, they encounter psycho-killer Jason Voorhees with fatal results. In true rinse and repeat fashion, another group of college kids take a trip six weeks later to a cabin nearby Crystal Lake, and meet Whitney’s brother, Clay (Jared Padalecki), who has been searching for her. As they indulge in sex, booze and weed, Jason picks them off one by one, as well as some local folk.

This reboot gets off to a decent start. There

are flashbacks to when Jason’s mother is killed, and then 30 years later, he is setting a woman in a sleeping bag on fire. It is classic Jason Voorhees, but with a more contemporary and stylish feel.

But that becomes its downfall, as it is really nothing new. This installment is basically the SparkNotes for the original three films in the “Friday the 13th” series. It has all the same elements (nudity, gore, intoxication), while paying homage to the earlier film (he goes from the potato sack to the hockey mask).

As for my fellow gorehounds, I think this will turn out to be a lackluster experience. The original film was well known for its creative kills and gore effects. But this time around, it is mostly all stuff we have seen before. Sure, a few of the murders are interesting enough, but nothing to call your friends about after the screening.

There is at least something a bit absurd in every other scene. For example, Jason will be killing a victim one second, and then it appears he has jumped onto the roof the next. Whether it is continuity error on the director’s part or we’re expected to suspend our disbelief is anybody’s guess.

Again, I am not against remakes. If a screenwriter feels he can retell an old story while bringing new ideas to the table; I say mazal tov. But why do the same thing over again, as is the case with “Friday the 13th?” Hopefully the people behind the remake of “Nightmare on Elm Street” will take some notes.



José is an English/creative writing major at UWRF. He enjoys documentaries, horror and independent films.



‘The Pains of Being Pure at Heart’ adds new twist on recycled material



Andy Phelps

If you’re asking yourself right now, “Who the hell are The Pains of Being Pure at Heart?” then you probably find yourself in pretty good company. Yours truly hadn’t had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with the New York quartet until their self-titled debut album graced my speakers earlier this week. They apparently have a large underground following, and it doesn’t take long to realize why.

As many critics have pointed out, TPOBPAH’s defining, encompassing sound shares the same DNA as that of

My Bloody Valentine and The Jesus and Mary Chain; every minute of their first effort seems like it could have been ripped right out of the Lost in Translation soundtrack-probably one of the most glowing endorsements that could be bestowed on a piece of music.

What they have created here is a compact set list that pumps steadily with a youthful heartbeat. It is methodical but never too slow, upbeat without ever getting ahead of itself. The band has managed to draw upon the best qualities of their musical idols (the Pastels, the Ramones) and infuse them with a fresh, unique rejuvenating energy.

The first single, “Come Saturday,” is a fuzz-filled gem that begins on a screechy note, but then effortlessly mingles itself around leadman Kip Berman’s smooth, facile voice. The album’s greatest track, “Gentle Sons” serves as the flourishing touch, with a cloudy beat that is perfectly balanced by a needle-sharp electric guitar interjec-

tion. The lyrics revolve around typical boy-girl relationships and the fiber that holds them together.

In a way, the leisurely tendency of the tracks to flow together is a product of a spiritual simplicity that comes hand-in-hand with raw unexposed talent. TPOBPAH tends to play it safe with this collection of songs, which takes nothing away from the overall effort.

In fact, I can’t even remember the last time I heard a record that registered such a deep, memorable imprint. I didn’t once have the urge to overanalyze the words, and it’s not the type of music to get up and dance to. Instead, I just wanted to sit back and enjoy the dreamy atmosphere and great melodies.

It is a record that has no illusions or intentions of appealing to a broad audience, but it may well eventually be hailed as an indie rock classic. Although the sound may be recycled, it’s simply too infectious to fade from memory anytime soon.

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River Falls bars defy expectations, serve surprises



Abby
Maliszewski

Week two’s bar review definitely adds to the smorgasbord of establishments in River Falls. But before you choose your favorite place, make sure to visit them all. It doesn’t have to be in one night, of course ... but that’s always fun, too.

The Library

Usually the last place college students end up, they’ll only end up there Wednesday through Saturday, because that’s the only days of the week they’re open. As soon as you walk through the door, you’ll stick to the floor. Someone asked me if the dance floor makes up for this. Truth be told, it does.

The Library isn’t for the timid, the shy or the humble. Loud music, spilling drinks and young minds resonate within the walls. Obnoxiously drunk I show up; obnoxiously drunk I leave.

On “Wobbly Wednesday,” patrons may have too much fun for \$20 with \$1 Long Islands, \$2 Captain & Cokes and 50 cent taps. Wednesday is also teen night for 18 plus as long as they enter through the back door (where IDs are checked). Thursday from 9 p.m.-11 p.m. you can get 50 cent Old Milwaukee’s Best cans. Ladies drink for free and guys for \$2 before 10:30 on Thursday nights.

Friday is college ID night with three for one on taps, rails, and calls from 10 to Midnight. There’s also \$2 pitchers for beer pong. Yeah, did you know there is a beer pong table at The Library? There isn’t any karaoke, though. Shucks.

This bar gives students something to do for \$5. It also gives college students-females, mostly-a place to practice their stage routines.

Ground Zero

Only open Wednesday through Saturday, Ground Zero is known for their \$5 Captain & Coke or Long Island liter drinks. But before you can scoot your way to the bar, you have to get past the two bouncers who scan your ID to

Monday - Saturday Drink Specials						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ground Zero	CLOSED		\$1 taps & rails	All you care to drink Ladies \$7 Guys \$10	2 for 1 domestic bottles 9 p.m.- 10 p.m.	
			\$5 liter Captain & Coke and Long Islands, \$4 liter rail drinks, \$3 JagiCherry bombs			
Bo's n Mine	9 p.m.-close Orange Cup deal: Domestic taps \$1, rails \$2 Happy Hour 3-6 p.m. 9-Midnight 1/2 off appetizers					Lady's night 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
Shooter's	Happy Hour Open-Close	Double Shot Rail Drinks \$1.50 canned beer	Pitcher Night Beer: \$5, \$6, \$7 Cocktails \$8 \$10 \$12	\$2 Vodka Drinks 7-Close		Lady's night 6 p.m.-10 p.m. 10 p.m. Victoria Secret gift card drawing
		Happy Hour M-F 3-7 p.m., Sat & Sun 12-Close				
The Library	CLOSED		\$1 Long Islands \$2 Captains 50 cent taps	9 p.m.-11 p.m. 50 cent cans 3 for 1 Old MI. Best	9 p.m.-Midnight 3 for 1 taps, rails, call	
Corner Saloon	Frat/Club team Clothing, 1st drink free	2 for 1 rail drinks	Team karaoke \$10 buckets	\$1.50 Domestic Tap \$3 Domestic pitchers	\$1.50 tap \$2 Captain drinks	\$1.50 Bloodys 12 p.m.- 4 p.m.
		Happy Hour Mon.-Fri., Sun.-Thurs. \$1 domestics & rails from 10 p.m.-12 a.m.				
PR's Place	Happy Hour 4 p.m.-7 p.m. 1/2 off Appetizers, 2 for 1 taps & rails					

make sure it hasn’t already been used by someone else to get in.

The bar itself is rather large and curves around the center of the room, allowing patrons to find a spot to mosey on up and get a drink. This is a bar where you can easily find your friends, as long as they stay in relatively the same spot.

I really like the four booths that are set deep into the shadows in little wall pockets. It’s a good place to block out the chaos or to duck in with your friends, especially if you have a liter drink sitting in front of you.

My other favorite part of the bar is free foosball on Wednesday nights. That, added with dollar taps and rail drinks, make Wednesdays a cheap night. Thursday is \$7 Ladies all-you-care-to-drink and \$10 for guys. Guys have to get there before 10 p.m. and ladies before 10:30 p.m. to sign up for this deal. Fridays offer free pool on Friday from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. They are also

one of two bars that have air hockey and never offer live music or karaoke.

But the bathroom is a different story. Dingy and dark, it’s almost better that way, you don’t want to see the condition of the annually-cleaned toilets. I’d recommend you use the farthest stall since it is the least well lit.

Bo's 'n Mine

With a lot of space to stretch out, Bo’s is a great place to get some food and grab a drink or two or 10. The owners are trying to get more into a restaurant scene, and because of that their drink specials have gone down.

They do have a spectacular set up for Guitar Hero competitions, but since the craze has died down, the large screen has gotten dusty.

The bar has a really nice, cozy atmosphere and is a good place to belly up and hang out with close friends and play trivia. And if you’re there from 9 p.m. to close and get hungry, Bo’s offers half-priced appetizers. You can always count on \$1 domestic taps and \$2 cheap rails. And ladies, there’ll always be a clean stall available for you.

Double Shot Tuesdays with two shots in every drink, but I like my drinks strong. Really strong. They’ve also added Victoria Secret Gift Certificate drawings Saturday at 10 p.m.

PR's Place

PR’s is either unheard of or easily recognized, depending on how close you live to it. You get the best of both worlds with sports bar and night club joining one venue. And the owners will argue you to the floor that they have the best live music venue in River Falls.

It has great potential for live music with a nice set up and lots of space, but I’ve never seen a music event with more than 15 people participating there. In mid-March and April, Texas rock music bands are scheduled to come, and PR’s is aiming for two to three national acts a month, whether it’s music, comedians or hypnotists. You can check out more information at PRsplace.com.

Every Friday night that there are UFC fights, you’ll find them on the screens at PR’s and dollar taps behind the bar. When there aren’t any bands playing, Friday nights are also 18+ Dance Club nights. Come warmer months volleyball courts and bean bag games will be available. Until then, warm up by the fire place.

The Corner Saloon

You can come to The Corner to be yourself, to be an individual, and you let others be that way, too. Possibly my favorite bar in town, the Corner Saloon is solid on live music, atmosphere, drinks and karaoke night. I hate karaoke, but at the Corner, it’s not just terrible singers pretending they’re Beyonce. But then again, I’ve never heard anyone there try to sing Beyonce...

There’s always a place to hang your coat, to set your drink, to be loud and to be quiet. The bar is divided into two partitions, the main bar and a back room where they have a wide variety of live music, from hip-hop to 80s, acoustic and metal.

Ladies, no one is going to break the door down to the bathroom or get into the stalls.

If you can’t decide what kind of shot to get, pay \$2 and spin the Lucky Shot Wheel and get one of 25 or 30 random shots.

...before you choose your favorite place, make sure to visit them all. It doesn't have to be in one night, of course...but that's always fun, too.



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Renae Bergh
Student Voice

Bartenders serve and attend to patrons at Coach's in downtown River Falls.