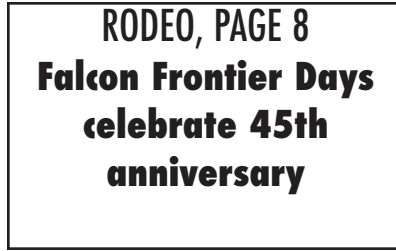




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Columnists fed up with media hype over swine flu



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Falcon Frontier Days celebrate 45th anniversary

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

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City strives toward Cascade renovation

Cristy Brusoe
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The City of River Falls continued work on the Cascade Avenue renovation over the summer by completing preliminary design studies and patching parts of the road until the actual construction begins.

"The physical work that was done over the summer was merely patching of the street to keep it reasonably drivable until the major reconstruction can take place," River Falls City Engineer, Reid Wronski, said.

Along with that, a preliminary study was used to design where exactly the road will be placed and also determined that a marked crosswalk was needed for a crossing between Cascade Ave. and Spruce Street.

The \$245,000 used to prepare preliminary plans for a Cascade redesign was approved by the River Falls City Council on Nov. 11, 2008. On March 23, 2007, River Falls hired the engineering consulting firm Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH) for preliminary design services for Cascade Avenue.

"Preliminary design takes the concept plan that was endorsed by UW-River Falls and WisDot, and adopted by the City Council, and puts engineering into it by obtaining surveys, researching land records and refining geometric design," Wronski said.

As of now, the final design includes roundabouts at three locations: Wasson Lane, Sixth Street and Second Street. The section that runs between Second and Sixth Street will consist of a single lane running each direction, separated by a median. There will be no parking allowed on Cascade Ave. between this section.

According to the final plan laid out on the River Falls city Web site, to compensate for the removal of parking lots west of North Hall, Cascade Ave. and Spring Street will be reconstructed as a single lot. There will be a net loss of two parking spaces after the renovation is complete. However, the number of on-street spaces interfering with traffic will be reduced from 232 to 48.

Mike Shanley, a UWRF student and commuter, believes the renovation will have no affect on him.

"Later on when I come to visit the campus it will make it look very prestigious, but at the cost

Active shooter scenario tests UWRF campus preparedness



Sally King/Student Voice

An active shooter scenario took place at UW-River Falls Monday Sept. 21. The University tested both the campus' and the city's ability to respond to emergencies and a potential school shooting.

See Cascade page 3

Pool closed due to costly maintenance



Sally King/Student Voice

Numerous problems regarding maintenance have resulted in the closing of the Karges pool.

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After 52 years of continuous use, UW-River Falls officials decided earlier this summer to close the Karges Center pool indefinitely.

The pool was closed as a result of continuing maintenance issues, according to the University's Web site.

Ken Ecker, recently hired as the new head of the Health and Human Performance Department, learned of the pool closing shortly after starting at UWRF.

"I started here July 1, and I learned that it was decided that the pool would be closed until further notice at a meeting that day," he said.

The cost of maintaining the pool

was the overriding factor in the move to close it.

"The filtration problem in the pool would cost \$12,000 to fix," Ecker said.

Without the additional cost of repairing damage, Ecker said yearly maintenance costs for the pool would be over \$40,000 simply to keep the facility running.

"It's like an old clunker," Ecker said. "Fixes are temporary and it isn't worth the new parts."

For Bill Henderson, head coach of the UWRF swim team, safety became an issue with the Karges pool.

"Rust is literally coming up from the rebar and into the tile in the bottom of the pool," he said. "We started to worry the structure would just collapse into the space below it."

Eventually, UWRF officials determined upkeep on the current pool wasn't cost effective.

"What we need is a new pool," Ecker said.

Initial brainstorming for a new facility has begun, but no plans have been put in place.

The current cost of the new HHP facility that is in the works is \$60 million Ecker said. A pool would add nearly \$13 million to that.

"The new HHP building will be designed in January," Ecker said. "A pool isn't a part of the plan."

UWRF officials have asked Henderson for his opinion.

"The state is just not going to approve [\$13 million]," Henderson

See Pool page 3

Planning underway for Rodli Hall, Ramer Field upgrades

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UW-River Falls students, faculty and visitors will soon be seeing some much-needed and welcomed changes to facilities on campus.

David "Doc" Rodli, of Albert Lea, Minn., was appointed to the Board of Regents in 1959 and was president of the Board at the time of his death in 1965. According to the UWRF Web site, "Gov. Gaylord Nelson saw the State Colleges as regional institutions and

broke with tradition when he appointed a regent who was not a resident of the community in which the college was located." Regent Rodli led a sort of movement to bring the journalism major to UWRF in 1962.

Regent Rodli died of a heart attack at age 53. Rodli Commons was dedicated to him on Nov. 17, 1968. After the completion of the new University Center in 2007 and food services was moved out, Rodli Commons was renamed David Rodli Hall and sat vacant until this year when Fast Copy was moved into the lower level of the building. Fast Copy is

accessible by only one door, while the rest of David Rodli Hall is inaccessible to those who enter. Some of the space is used for general storage.

Senior Collin O'Brien feels it is a waste of space.

"I think it should either be used for classes, or somehow transformed into a dorm for all the kids who get stuck into overflow housing," he said.

With the building sitting relatively vacant, questions arose amongst students as to whether it was costing the University a signif-

icant amount of money to do nothing with David Rodli Hall. According to Director of Facilities Management Mike Stifter, it's not.

"The cost of the current utilities is generally offset by Fast Copy," he said. "Since the building isn't being used, there aren't a lot of lights being used, very little water, and not nearly as much heat as if the entire building were being used. It's thousands of dollars we're spending compared to tens of thou-

See Upgrades page 3

VOICE SHORTS

Commencement app deadline approaches

The deadline to apply for Fall Commencement is Friday, September 25. Applications are available in the Registrar's Office, 105 North Hall. For more information contact the Registrar's Office at 425-3342. Information regarding graduation and commencement may be found at <http://www.uwrf.edu/commencement/>.

English Dept. Conference shows student works

The UWRF English Department presents "An Undergraduate Conference for Critical and Creative Engagement," Friday, Oct. 2, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Ballroom A of the University Center. Co-sponsored by the UWRF English Department and the UWRF Literary Society, the event gives students a chance to present and preform their work in public. Award-winning author Scott Russell Sanders is the keynote speaker this year, and he will give his speech at noon in the Kinni Theater. For more information, contact Dr. Michelle Parkinson at 425-3537 or michelle.parkinson@uwrf.edu.

Art viewing comes to a close

The viewing of UWRF Art Department alum and photographer Brett Kallusky's works closes October 2. Awarded a Jerome Fellowship in 2002 for an Artist Residency in New York Mills, MN, Kallusky went on to receive a Fulbright Fellowship and Fulbright Travel Grant allowing him to study Italy 2005 – 2006. Kallusky's exhibit is located in Gallery 101 of the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building. For viewing hours or additional information, contact the UWRF Art Department at 425-3266.

UWRF to host upcoming Study Abroad Fair

The Study Abroad Fair is Friday, October 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Falcon's Nest of the University Center. The Fair gives students an opportunity to learn about the various programs offered at UWRF, other campuses and outside organizations. Students will get a chance to interact with study tour leaders, past participants and global connections staff. Information on passports and financial assistance will also be provided. For more information, contact Global Connections at 425-4891.

CORRECTION:

Last week's editorial, "University facilities struggle under record enrollment," misquoted the enrollment figures. UWRF undergraduate enrollment has not increased 10% in the last year, but increased 8% in the last two years, increasing from roughly 6,000 to 6,500 students.

UWRF graduate, professor write Nugget Lake guidebook

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A UW-River Falls graduate and professor have collaborated to create a guidebook featuring Nugget Lake's meteorite impact structure.

Geology Professor Bill Cordua worked with Amy Nachbor, a spring 2009 geology graduate, as a senior project. They performed research, tested directions and received help from editors and park staff in creating the guidebook.

"It was an area I'd been doing research on for a number of years," Cordua said. "A lot of people wanted me to take them out and show them...[and] Amy was looking for a senior project in the fall."

Nugget Lake Park is the impact site of an asteroid from 450 million years ago, according to the guidebook. Now it is a four mile wide crater that is mostly covered with sediment and growth. Most of the visible evidence of the impact has been slowly covered up and eaten away by erosion, according to the guidebook.

"If you don't have somebody pointing that out, people would never see it or understand it. . . most people say it just looks like farmland," Cordua said.

The guidebook gives a walking and driving tour of the geologic features in the park, including stop-by-stop latitude and longitudinal instructions with pictures and maps printed in color.

The specific locations, Nachbor said, were chosen to best show the hiker and actual effects of the meteor.

"The field sites were chosen based on the clarity of the geologic features present, proximity to major trails and, whenever possible, sites were picked that would allow visitors to actually touch the rocks they were learning about," she said.

The guidebook is a casual tour of the park and avoids using many scientific terms, Cordua said.

"This is for the general public; the family out on a hike or the people interested in the natural history of the earth," Cordua said. "People can see just about everything walking or on a short drive."

The guidebook explains in detail the importance of the sci-



Photo by Jens Gunelson

Geology professor Bill Cordua and former student Amy Nachbor hold the guidebook the two developed in conjunction over the summer.

ence of geology.

"Geologists are the crime scene investigators of planet Earth. By looking at the rocks and soils around us, geologists begin to put together a picture of what the world we live in looked like thousands, if not millions, of years ago," according to the guidebook.

Scott Schoepp, the park superintendent for Pierce County Parks, assisted Cordua and Nachbor in creating the guidebook.

"[Schoepp] was really interested in the project and would come out when he knew I was there and ask questions about the project," Nachbor said. "Quite a few of his questions actually helped me figure out how to present the information about the park's geology."

The guidebook has been on sale at the park since this summer. "We've sold quite a few this summer," Schoepp said in a news release.

The guidebook is being sold for ten dollars at the park office, and is currently in its second printing. "The proceeds go to the park," Cordua said. "Neither Amy or I make a penny off it."

Nugget Lake Park is located in Plum City, Wisc., off County Road HH.

ITS, FredNet merge, consolidate into DoTS

Cristy Brusoe
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Over the summer, FredNet merged with IT Services to form what is now known as the Division of Technology Services (DoTS). Chief Information Officer Steve Reed described the merger as more efficient, cohesive and a better utilization of employee skillsets.

The University conducted an IT review and redesign project approximately four years ago. Out of this project, the recommendation to look at the merger of FredNet and IT Services arose.

The past issues with the separation of these two entities included duplication of services and no single point of contact for students [faculty] and staff. It is this single point of contact "that enables Technology Services to provide the best customer service," Reed said. "You're getting a one-stop-shop type of service where all questions students, faculty, staff and the community have are getting the same answers."

Reed also believes that this merger creates a more efficient work place, increased quality of work and an increased response time. This, in turn, creates a more cohesive service.

DoTS is organized into an administrative group with four teams and currently employs the same number of students. The teams are broken down into Information Systems and Services, Customer Technology Services, Infrastructure and Security Technologies and Teaching and Learning Technologies.

According to the DoTS Mission Statement, "Division of Technology Services (DoTS) will provide a coordinated, cohesive and integrated service to the campus. DoTS will provide a single point of contact for problem res-

olution and service acquisition for campus constituents. DoTS will provide its services to the campus community with equality, efficiency and a spirit of helpfulness."

DoTS supports everything including ResNet appointments, walk-ups and phone calls.

Customer Technology Support Team Coordinator Emily Hagstrom said she thinks that the students won't see many changes from previous years, and the merger is a step in the right direction.

"Having a centralized technology services allows for the possibility of faster responses and no confusion on who supports what piece of technology on campus," she said.

Technology Services sends out random evaluations to customers once their issue has either been resolved or closed. According to Hagstrom, "there are some very different opinions about the merger and changes, but the overall reaction is positive."

The merging process for the student staff involved two weeks of training before the semester began. Customer Technology Support Team Coordinator Joe Kelly was one of the leaders who worked over the summer to create the training session.

"... [We] worked over the summer to create a training session that would best inform the student staff on how the merger would work and what they will be doing. We are all very excited to learn what it will take to make this merger a smooth transition for everyone," Kelly said.

The project planning portion of DoTS has improved through the merger as well.

"Project planning is a lot more effective, not only from a staff efficiency, but also from a fiscal efficiency," Reed said.

Annual contest creates conservation incentive

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UW-River Falls residence halls will once again compete in an annual energy conservation contest in efforts to reduce consumption of electricity, water and steam in each hall.

"For each category, the hall with the greatest reduction is awarded a \$250 prize, for which the hall can use as they see fit," Kristie Feist, assistant director of community development and education department of Residence Life, said in an e-mail interview.

Some halls have used these prizes in the past for a hall catered banquet or to purchase equipment like a Nintendo Wii for the hall residents to check out, according to Feist

"I feel like energy usage and the control of it is more of a habit or life style, either you do it without realizing it, or you don't," Alyse Good, Crabtree resident and former resident assistant (RA), said. "To be honest, I pay less attention to the contest as a resident than when I was an RA. The contest itself is not that extremely important to me even though saving energy is. [I do] simple things such as shutting off lights and appliances that aren't needed [and] being conscious of how long my shower is."

The contest began in the spring of 2006 and continues to be effective.

"Total electrical savings [of last year's contest] for all ten residence halls equaled almost 9 percent," Feist said. "Four halls were able to reduce their steam use and five were able to reduce their water usage."

Students can control their consumption by using natural light instead of room lights, shutting down computers, taking shorter showers and filling the washer when they do

laundry, Feist said.

"I'm not a leave-the-lights-on kind of girl and I don't take long showers," Amanda Kogle, a South Fork Suites resident, said. "[My roommates and I] recycle anything we can and I keep my windows and blinds closed during the winter because I feel the windows leak a lot of the heat."

The contest will run from September through March.

"We are going to try to do some creative marketing in the halls to kick off the program and also to highlight the campus sustainability day on October 21," Feist said.

UWRF is also taking sustainability initiative by making other changes to improve energy efficiency in the halls.

"We try to update facilities each year and do a little in every building to help make fixtures more efficient," Feist said. "We have installed [water-saving] shower valves in Prucha Hall and are still determining if that is a cost-effective program."

Two years ago, the Residential Living Committee and Student Senate voted to increase the cost to live in the residence halls to help cover the additional cost of purchasing green blocks of energy.

Green energy blocks are generated from non-carbon-based renewable sources such as wind, hydro, solar and biomass. Green energy helps to improve the environment by reducing pollution and consumption of non-renewable resources.

"Personally [being conservative of my energy consumption] is all part of my upbringing," Kogle said. "It's part of being responsible."

RIVER FALLS POLICE/UWRF POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

September 12

-Kristen R. Kaminski was cited for retail theft at 1777 Paulson Rd.

September 16

-Jordan J. Schultz was cited for underage consumption at 107 E. Elm St.

September 20

-Bjorn J. Carlson, 18, was cited for possession of drug paraphernalia in Crabtree Hall.

Find more information and polls online at the *Student Voice* Web site at: www.uwrfvoice.com

New Web site coming soon!

Upgrades: Rodli, Ramer share need for multiple changes

from page 1

sands.”

The University hopes to utilize the building soon, whether it is within this next year or the next couple of years. According to Stifter, there are many ideas being considered, such as utilizing the space for classrooms or labs, possibly renting it out as an academic setting for Chippewa Valley Technical College, or for possible retail ventures such as a hair salon or other business that would cater to the student body. Officials are waiting to make a conscious decision on how to utilize the space after the results of a feasibility study are known.

The initial plan is to utilize the old meeting rooms as soon as possible once the restrooms are repaired. The next plan is to use the building as a whole, possibly for labs or classes. The University’s concerns are how to fund any remodeling, what the overall cost will be, how long it will take and ultimately what resources are needed for the long-term operation of the building.

Another change to come to UWRF is the approximate \$4 million renovation of Ramer Field. UWRF, as well as UW schools in Platteville, Eau Claire, Oshkosh, Stout, Whitewater, LaCrosse and Stevens Point, share their stadiums with local high schools. However, UWRF is the only one that has not recently updated their stadium, the turf, or both.

Built in 1967, Ramer Field, in its current condition, is in need of multiple upgrades. The stadium project is planned

to be completed in four phases starting in 2010 and be totally dependent upon fund-raised dollars. The plan includes enclosing the existing bleachers, building a new concession stand and restrooms, replacing the existing lights and moving them behind the bleachers and installing new landscaping around the field.

Athletic Director Rick Bowen said he is passionate about the project.

“Go to the other schools we compete against. While everybody else has made improvements, we’ve sat on our hands,” he said.

Currently, the project has raised \$1.3 million. Phase one, the installation of the four energy efficient light poles, is expected to be executed in 2010. Phase two should follow in 2011, and phases three and four will be completed as soon as the money comes in. Synthetic turf is replacing the natural grass at Ramer Field to allow an increased amount of activities to be held at the stadium, such as intramural sports. Sophomore Joel Yogerst has mixed feelings about Ramer in its current condition.

“Playing at Ramer is bittersweet,” he said. “It is always nice to have a home game, however, when compared to all



Sally King/Student Voice

Rodli Hall has underwent several changes in order to complete necessary remodeling.

the other schools in our conference, it is ancient.”

Sophomore Kyle Holmes feels the renovated field would increase interest in UWRF.

“I do feel it is in a dire need of a renovation and should switch to field turf as soon as possible, not only for the fact of having a new stadium, but it would help a tremendous amount with recruiting and getting kids to come play at River Falls,” he said. “Plus, it is a lot safer and you can use it’s for multi-purpose such as soccer with little maintenance.”

Junior Joe Ganske agrees UWRF absolutely needs to renovate Ramer Field.

“We probably have the worst field in the conference,” he said. “The new field will be a great addition to this already great campus.”

Cascade: Construction plans soon to be implemented in 2011

from page 1

of convenience for all students for a long time. I’m glad that I’m not one of the many students that will have to fight to get to class,” he said.

The actual reconstruction of Cascade Ave. isn’t set to begin until 2011 at the earliest. A major factor in determining when the construction will actually begin is the agreement that must be reached between the City of River Falls, UWRF and WisDot. This agreement will consist of how exactly the \$5-8 million project will be funded and covered.

According to the River Falls city Web site, the final report for the renovation included an anticipated project funding section which stated that funds from UWRF were expected to be somewhere between \$700,000 and \$3 million. Those funds are expected to come from the State of Wisconsin’s general fund and from the cost of parking permits and fine revenue.

The construction will take two summers, and during that time there will be detoured routes for com-

muters. Parts of Cascade Ave. will be detoured for up to six months during the construction season, which runs anywhere from April 1 to December 1.

“The project will be broken down into two phases, one spanning the distance from May Hall to Centennial Hall and another from Rodli Hall to Moody’s dealership,” UWRF Campus Planner Dale Braun said.

Braun emphasized the greatest positive effect of the project as the road being “safer” for students, staff, bicyclists and those crossing the street.

“Safety was one of the main purposes of doing the project,” he said.

The next step in the renovation is to have additional public meetings where the refined preliminary design will be presented.

“These meetings will be taking place over the coming two months. Notices will be published in the River Falls Journal, Student Voice and on the City and University Web sites,” Wronski said.

The Cascade Ave. renovation is set to be completed by 2013.

Pool: Students, swim team forced to share River Falls High pool

from page 1

said. “I’m trying to think outside the box and figure out how we can make the facility happen.”

Until a new facility is built, physical education classes have to join the swim team in using the River Falls High School pool. With the absence of a facility on campus, the

swim team moved its practices, to the RFHS pool.

“So far it’s worked out well,” Henderson said.

Practice times were adjusted to accommodate the move. At Karges, swimmers were split into practice times at 6 a.m., and 2 and 4 p.m. At RFHS, those times are now 5:30 a.m., and 8 and 10 p.m.

The practice location changed, but meet locations have not.

“We’ve been swimming our meets [at RFHS] since it opened in 2002,” Henderson said.

The agreement has worked for both sides.

“We continue to receive positive feedback from those at the high school,” Henderson said.

The RFHS pool also has features the Karges facility did not offer. Henderson said the Karges pool hadn’t been up to NCAA standards for nearly its entire life. It only had five lanes compared to the eight the high school pool offers and lacked a one-meter diving board that the RFHS pool provides.

“It was a real hit-and-miss situa-

tion,” Henderson said. “I had to tell our divers to find their own facility and train on their own time.”

Despite the uncertainty surrounding the future of the swim team’s facilities, Henderson and his team make do.

“It’s lemons and lemonade for us,” he said. “I call us the little red engine that could.”

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN **River Falls**

Fall 2009

Student Senate ELECTIONS

Polls are open from 8:00 AM Monday, September 28 to 4:00 PM on Tuesday, September 29

VOTE AT ★★

sa.uwrf.edu/student-senate

Positions Available:

- 3 At-Large Senator
- 4 First-Year Students
- 1 CAS Representative

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EDITORIAL

Voice ad policy seeks impartiality

“The advertising manager and business board of the Student Voice reserve the right to refuse any advertisement in the case of possible liability or offensive content. The Student Voice does not knowingly accept advertisements that discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, disability, military status or sexual orientation, nor does it knowingly print ads that violate any University, campus, local, state or federal laws.”

The Student Voice advertising policy was developed by the Student Voice’s Business Board, a body comprised of the Editor, Assistant Editor, Business Manager and Advertising Manager. The purpose of said policy is to have working criteria for accepting or denying incoming advertising requests. Without it, the advertising manager would have to decide on a case-by-case basis which ads are appropriate to run. The Student Voice undergoes a personnel changeover every semester. Because of that, the personal ethics, biases and belief structures of the advertising manager change every semester. By placing the burden of decision squarely on the ad manager, the criteria for acceptable ads is constantly in flux. This could lead to inconsistency in what ads the paper accepts, eroding the paper’s professional integrity.

In the coming weeks, the Student Voice will be running some ads that could be perceived as offensive or controversial, most notably in the tobacco and abortion sectors. It is important for readers to understand that the advertising that appears in the paper in no way reflects the personal beliefs or ideologies of the Voice staff. Ads, and opinion columns, for that matter, have nothing to do with the political stance of the paper or its employees.

The advertising policy was developed intentionally to be very broad in terms of what the paper accepts for advertising. The Student Voice has a policy of enacting as little censorship as possible, and that idiom has extended to advertising content, as well. By accepting all ads, unless they have libelous or offensive content, the Voice is practicing non-discrimination. It is also important to note that the money the Voice will receive from accepting an ad has no bearing on whether or not that ad is accepted.

There exists a wall between advertising and the news content of the paper. There will never come a time when the news content of the Student Voice is driven by the advertisers, or the ad content. The Voice has an ad policy in place to ensure consistency across the board, and to maintain non-discrimination towards what ads we accept.

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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Read the Student Voice online at www.uwrfvoice.com

The Student Voice is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Thursdays during the regular school year.

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

Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall, River Falls, WI, 54022 or to editor@uwrfvoice.com.

The Student Voice reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters. All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon.

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



WISCONSIN NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



By Jon Lyksett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Study abroad options abundant, money possible

Last week, Alayne Hockman wrote a wonderful piece about her study abroad experience.

As a new peer advisor for the Global Connections office on campus, I would like to take the time to follow up and add to Alayne’s remarkable article.

The article, “International Programs Offer Students Unmatched Opportunity,” was a great introduction for any student considering study abroad as a future educational experience.

The excitement that she expressed in the article is something that other students who have studied abroad also feel, and those that have not, should envy.

Over a year ago, I studied with the Wisconsin in Scotland (WIS) program, and like everyone else will tell you, it was an amazing experience.

Since my return, I have been dreaming of the day that I will return, not only to Scotland, but also to the many places I traveled.

The entire experience has left me speechless and in awe. You can only learn so much by sitting in a classroom. Imagine what is beyond those four walls waiting for you!

As a new peer advisor for Global Connections, I have the privilege of promoting these wonderful opportunities to the rest of the student body.

The study abroad opportunities are endless. From Spring Break, Summer or J-Term, to a full semester (Fall or Summer) or even a full year, the Global Connections office is willing to work with you so that this possibility can become a reality.

As Alayne mentioned, finance is a major issue for college students. However, money issues should not be holding you back.

Many assistance programs are out

there—scholarships, grants, loans. There is always something available; you just have to look for it.

When I went on WIS last year, I received a \$800 grant just for being a Wisconsin resident! Money should not be the reason holding you back from the experience.

Most of us just want to take the classes we need, graduate and get a job. However, it seems almost fair to say that international programs have become almost a requirement for any real-world job.

Employers look to see if you have what it takes and that you are fully prepared for the future. If you have noticed, our country is made up of millions of people who are from other countries.

Employers want to know that you are adaptable to different situations and that you have been exposed to other cultures, customs and perspectives different from your own. This experience could be the one thing that puts you ahead of everyone else.

As a shameless plug, I would like to invite you all to check out the Study Abroad Fair, which is going to be held on Tuesday, October 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Falcon’s Nest.

The Study Abroad Fair is a great opportunity for students to learn about the various programs offered through UWRF, other campuses and outside organizations. Students will be able to interact with study tour leaders, past participants and Global Connections staff.

Furthermore, students will discover information on passports, financial assistance and answers to any questions they may have about studying abroad!

The Study Abroad Fair is a convenient opportunity for students to explore the many abroad possibilities that exist!

However, if you can’t visit us then, stop by our office (102 Hagestad).

We’d love to help make your dreams of study abroad a reality!

Ashley Iehl,
Global Connections Peer Advisor

Student disappointed by columnist’s complaints

I just wanted to thank Kristen Blake for writing such a compelling column in the September 18th, 2009 edition of the Student Voice. Not very many people can take up half a page on such an important issue as people complaining about various events.

Are you one of those people who see the glass as half empty? Maybe you should open your eyes and get your hearing checked, because there are people on campus who write thank-you notes to professors who have made an impact on his or her life.

Also, when I hold a door open, anywhere on campus, most people will at least say “thanks,” if not flash a smile while doing so.

As a final note, you should take some of your own advice, which can be found in your article. Examples include:

1. “Most anything is more useful than bitching. Whining gets you nowhere.”
2. “Temper tantrums and the silent treatment won’t get you anywhere if (you’re) trying to instill change.”

From my observation, the majority of your column was you complaining about people complaining.

My hat is off to you for having the guts to want to have that in a public paper, but next time, skip the drama queen act and find a topic that won’t waste anyone’s time.

Hope you start seeing the brighter side of life.

Katrina Konrad,
student

Character is lost when self entertainment erodes

Wood sorrel. It looks kind of like clover, only droopier and with yellow flowers. I’ve been yanking it out of my vegetable garden and mowing over it in my lawn. One day I discovered you could eat it—zesty and kind of lemony, I showed it to my grandpa when he said, “Oh yeah, we used to eat this all the time when we were kids.”

Well that’s cool! Old people know all kinds of cool things. So why didn’t my grandpa ever bother to show me that you could eat these things out of your lawn? Maybe because when I was a child I had an endless supply of peanut butter and crackers in the kitchen and would never need to eat parts of my yard.

I don’t know how to make a whistle out of a willow stick or a rubber band gun like my grandpa does. But I do know how to order a plastic whistle or Nerf gun online.

Maybe grandpa never showed me

how to make a whistle because he knew I wouldn’t be entertained by one. It would have taken three seconds for me to get bored, then I would have whined that I wanted to play with my deluxe Barbie convertible with working windshield wipers, lights, candy dispenser and turbo-hyper-overdrive.

It makes me sad to think that the ability to entertain ourselves vanished with the mass producing of sing-and-play-along princess sets, learn to count with Elmo talking books and box sets of Barney on DVD. There just isn’t any character in that.

Knowing how to entertain yourself, being creative, and making discoveries may be one of the best character-building skills in life.

But once parents got lazy and figured out that Disney movies kept their kids quiet, clean and safe, I feel that desire for learning has become a lost value.

Leave kids to their own devices and

they’ll figure out what the inside of acorns look like, the consistency of rock-ground mushrooms, how to build a sturdy fort with bed sheets, 53 different uses for laundry baskets and the tensile strength of grass.

Old people know this kind of stuff. I guess my point is that just because the knowledge the old people in your life have is about something you will never use doesn’t mean it’s useless.

My mother (not that she’s old) picked a flower from her garden and showed me how to pull certain parts of the petals and stems in a way that disassembled the blossom into a doll-sized tea set complete with cups, spoons, and forks. The only thing missing was the tea and cake.

Today, whenever I see this flower I pick it and show my friends the same trick my mom showed me. They’re always pretty impressed. Listen to old people.

Kristen is a marketing communications major with a journalism minor. She pronounces her name “Curseten” ... as if you were to swear to the tenth power.



Kristen Blake

Media manufacture swine flu anxiety into unnecessary hype

It seems that people should ask themselves the question “What else should I be scared of?” every time they turn on their local television news, or even browse through the latest edition of “The New York Times.”

This last spring was no different with the emergence of the H1N1 virus, more commonly known as the dreaded “swine flu.”

Major media vehicles wasted no time getting the word about how devastating the relatively unknown flu could be. “Yahoo!” went all out by running a headline “Is Swine Flu the Big One? Experts Have Long Feared an Epidemic that Would Kill Millions.”

Now, there is a fine line between creating awareness and generating unnecessary hype. So the question is, where exactly does the attempt to educate the public about something like the swine flu become too excessive?

Unknown to many, there are cases of swine flu in the U.S., as well as around the world, each and every year. As of September 18th, the CDC (Center for Disease Control) reports that there have been 4570 hospitalizations from swine flu in 2008-2009, with under 1000 deaths. The CDC also reports that on average, 36,000 people die from seasonal influenza in the U.S. alone each year.

Seemingly, which of these facts should be more alarming? The average person should be able to understand that anyone who is already in poor health, elderly, etc. should be concerned about something like the swine flu, but why not be equally concerned about the seasonal flu, common cold, or pneumonia?

That’s where this excessive media coverage becomes a catalyst for national anxiety and fear. People do need to be informed and reminded, especially with the upcoming winter months, to take precautions on staying healthy, but they do not need to be told day in and day out to look over their shoulder because they could be next.

Unbeknownst to people, the swine flu is very treatable, and basically as dangerous, if not less so, than the seasonal flu.

That’s where this concept gets pushed way beyond the fear of the spread of swine flu. The idea of “if it bleeds, it leads” is often an accusation of news organizations all over the nation. Referring back to the article on “Yahoo!,” why, when at the time, there were only 10-15 cases of the swine flu, would a major media source post an arti-

cle that is basically meant to cause a widespread panic?

Hypothetically, one can expect the same response with an article titled “Well, You’re All Probably Going to Die.”

Some people have to wonder if they would just be better off quarantining themselves in their households as to avoid all of the dangerous things in this world.

Why doesn’t the public hear about the advances that are being made in our hospitals around the country to further prevent and treat diseases like cancer, diabetes and heart disease? Why isn’t the obesity epidemic at the top of Google searches, and Swine Flu is almost at number one?

The point of all this is not to say that the nation is being thrown into an unnecessary frenzy, but rather to address the clear implications of pessimism and the avoidable build-up of certain stories that circulate in our media.

Over the past ten years, there have been plenty of “scares,” beyond health issues, that got excessive coverage. Some of these include SARS, the Avian Bird Flu, HPV and other honorable mentions.

It makes sense to build up stories like these from the media’s point of view, because if you just simply inform the public that something “exists,” they aren’t going to turn many heads since it’s not exciting or dangerous.

So in order to get exposure and circulation of a story, they need to make it seem like a major threat. Now, is this to say that if something like the swine flu does become an epidemic that it wouldn’t be devastating? The answer is absolutely not.

The world can be a dangerous place, but to live in fear isn’t really living at all.

The main idea can be summed up as originality. All too often when forming an opinion, a person will hear about a recent event, and take someone else’s words, and formulate it as their own.

If everyone is saying that the swine flu is a serious threat, and you have no idea what it is, chances are that person will consider it a serious problem.

One of the greatest things about this country is that someone can believe whatever they want, so the best thing to do would be to take advantage of that. Don’t fall victim to the swine flu anxiety.

Matt is a senior majoring in marketing communications. He loves playing piano in his free time and often frequents area Bed and Breakfasts, playing piano tunes for customers.

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Matt Torkleson

Head colds stem from imagination, weak will

Okay, well, it’s week three and a half and everyone’s already sick. Good for you, especially if you’re a freshman who “isn’t ready for real class work to start.” I imagine there’s more than one of you out there right now not going to class because you had the sniffles. I don’t get sick much, and though I’ve been sneezing my ass off—and that’s it!—all day, I don’t plan on letting it get me down. I can see through the media BS that is reporting on H1N1, and it doesn’t scare me at all.

It’s all a load of fear induced, maniac freakage, and I’m not backing down. The only reason, and I mean ONLY reason, I’ll attempt to get a flu shot is because it’s free. I’ll usually try anything once—especially if it’s free. Yes, that includes swine flu because it’s free, but the problem is getting my hands on that stuff ... can’t seem to find any of it anywhere.

Can you imagine the horrors our government would have to deal with if we had to pay for health care AND swine flu? Now that might be something worth writing about next week ... Anyway, I won’t get the flu because I haven’t had it since I was in middle school, and even that was coupled with a particularly nasty side of Salmonella poisoning.

I indulge in some not-so-healthy methods to college life like eating raw eggs (only on rare, overly aggressive days), drinking cheap beer out of a thirty pack, choosing a cholesterol-fattened candy bar over a banana, but I do know how to take care of myself.

Every time I feel a cramp in my stomach, an ache against my lower back, or a sweat breaking out on my forehead I take precautionary measures to stop whatever’s rummaging through my body.

Ninety percent of the time it’s my imagination, but that doesn’t stop me from chugging two liters of boiling bleach, injecting pure alcohol into my Femoral artery, practicing Tai-chi for three hours, then taking a nap.

One time the doctor told me I had something I care not to remember, and that I only had three weeks to live. Did that stop me from productivity? I think not—I gave myself a temporary blood transfusion.

When my body was fully drained, I sifted through my infected blood in search of hostile, unnecessary and harmful bacteria cells, ridding them from me forever.

When I was finished, I un-transfused my blood from the wolverine blood I replaced mine with and was back to normal. If that’s not a success story, then I don’t know what is.

On a side note, I don’t think I rid myself of all the wolverine blood, and have noticed my hair taking striking resemblance to Hugh Jackman’s.

Here’s the deal: the media is blowing this way out of proportion. Just look at the symptoms of the swine flu—God forbid you

get it and have to quarantine yourself under warm blankets all while dealing with diarrhea, vomiting, headaches, sore throat and grouchiness. Hmm ... they sound A LOT like the regular, annual flu!

What’s this year’s real flu season going to bring us? Or is this the flu season? Did last year’s flu season have a furlough year to stimulate the flu’s economy, only then at the last second decide to work twice as hard this year? God damnit. This is just ridiculous.

Yeah. It’s the regular flu that came from pigs. Big deal. Get your ass to class. I don’t think you want to spend the rest of your life living in fear of disease and cleanliness when everyone who’s reading this has probably had the flu multiple times and survived. Go and flourish in crowded classrooms and take a chance every now and again.

Brad is double majoring in digital TV & film and creative writing. He enjoys challenging people to games of full-contact checkers.



Brad Brookins

Fair Trade products prohibit child labor

When you chomp into a bar of chocolate, gulp down a coffee, or sip some sophisticated tea, how many times do you think about where it came from? More likely, you’re thinking of your next class, your irritating hunger or your un-tied shoelace. And that’s fine, you’re obviously a very normal student that should avoid the stairs until you tie that knot a little tighter next time. In reality, industry in these foods such as chocolate, coffee, and tea is surprisingly bitter.

When I hear “blood diamonds” I can’t help it when Leonardo DiCaprio leaps across my mind before the horror of it hits me. Yet when I hear “blood chocolate,” I don’t have a handsome buffer ... just the stark reality of malnourished children brimming with tears and bearing the scars of abuse.

There are an estimated 6,000 unpaid child workers with no family ties in the chocolate industry today, and the number is growing. Most are located in rural areas surrounding the west of Africa and the Ivory Coast.

Child trafficking rings kidnap children or buy them from impoverished families for an average of \$35 US dollars. For the price of a tank of gas, these children are thrown into a life of hard slave labor.

Blood chocolate is encouraged by big cocoa corporations such as Hershey’s, M&M/Mars and Nestle. With greed leading decisions, big corporations such as those mentioned are buying cocoa from a seller that purchases their cocoa from several small

farms (too small to sell directly to Hershey’s and the others) for less money than it takes to grow the crop then combines the cocoa beans into one large lot.

This forces farmers to be continually working themselves into debt. As a way to stay afloat, some farmers look to child labor for a cheap alternative to adult paid workers. If these large, popular companies were to buy Fair Trade, these farmers would instead rise out of debt, purchase proper equipment and develop their communities.

These children would not live in fear but rather attend school, eat properly, and stay with their families. A Fair Trade symbol represents that certified company’s dedication to fairly-purchased goods. The farmers were paid justly; there was no trace of child labor, and the quality of the products high. The seal is usually displayed on the wrapper or carton. Dagoba, Ithaca and Divine chocolates are all Fair Trade and can be

found at the Whole Earth Grocery Co-op located on Mainstreet here in River Falls. There you can also find Fair Trade coffee and tea.

It’s easy to shrug some of this grave detail off since it’s not in America, not right in front of our face.

Instead, we see a delicious chocolate bar with a familiar name. Yet we cannot really agree that that moment of sweetness is worth an eight-year-old’s starving frame, can we?

While I focus on the matter of Blood Chocolate in this column, we cannot ignore the similar tragedy of coffee bean and tea growers also face.

There’s something we can do to help make things right, to make things safe, to make ourselves stop cringing at the blood products in the convenience store. Just don’t buy it. Buy Fair Trade items instead.

The feeling you get is completely worth the effort. The next time I gulp my coffee, you better believe it’s Fair Trade. And you can bet that chocolate bar is too. And my tea time is as Fair as it can get. Trust me. It’s a cause to know about. Be aware.

Laura is a junior majoring in marketing communications and communication studies. She enjoys the smell of gasoline.

Child trafficking rings kidnap children or buy them from impoverished families for an average of \$35 US dollars.

A Fair Trade symbol represents that certified companies’ dedication to fairly purchased goods. The farmers were paid justly; there was no trace of child labor, and the quality of the products high.



Laura Krawczyk

STUDENT VOICES

Are you afraid of H1N1? What are you doing to protect yourself from it?

Kyle Holmes, junior

“I’m kind of nervous about it because some of the guys on our football team had symptoms of it ... just using basic hygiene.”



Taylor Evans, sophomore

“Not really, I’m making sure that I’m washing my hands often and monitoring my own health.”



Ellie Wiechman, freshman

“No, not really scared. I’m getting a shot and I use hand sanitizer a lot.”



Bailey Boron, freshman

“No, I’m not scared. I’m getting the shot wash my hands a lot.”



Tryston Beyrer, junior

“No, I try to refrain from spending much time around sick people; wash my hands, get more sleep.”



Student Voices compiled by Christie Lauer.

Falcons volleyball experiences tough start to conference season

Blaze Fugina
blaze.fugina@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls volleyball team started the season on a difficult note, opening at home against a top-five ranked team, UW-Oshkosh, at the Karges Center Sept. 18th.

The Falcons lost all three sets; however, they finished all three of the sets within six points of the Titans.

"We played really well," Falcons Head Coach Patti Ford said. "[Oshkosh] is third in the nation and picked to win the conference."

The Titans were ranked third in the nation by the Division III volleyball coaches' poll.

The Falcons and the Titans experienced a close back-and-forth battle in the first set. After being down most of the set, the Falcons tied the score at 23-23. The two teams exchanged leads for the remainder of the set before the Titans won the set at 30-28.

The Titans won the second game 25-19, the biggest final score out of the three sets played on Friday.

The third set, like the first, included many lead changes between the two teams. The set score was tied at 24-24 before Oshkosh won the last two points to finish the match 26-24.

The crowd of roughly 200 fans stuck around for the entire game to witness the back and forth points between the two teams.

Senior Kelsey Scheele led the Falcons with 12 kills overall; the team had a total of 36 kills compared to the Titans 27. Freshman Danielle Gibbemeyer and senior Gina DeRosa also had eight kills each.

Kills in volleyball are returns that directly result in points.

Both teams finished with four aces and nine blocks. Sofia Sanchez lead the Titans with 12 kills.

With the win, Oshkosh improved their season record to 13-0, while the Falcons dropped their record to 2-9.

The Falcon volleyball team is relatively inexperienced, with few veteran seniors.

"We have a very young team, with quite a few freshmen," Ford said. "Andria [Vetsch], Kelsey [Scheele] and Gina [DeRosa] are our [only] three seniors."

With all of the young players on the team, the future is "extremely bright," Ford said.

"We have a very young team, with quite a few freshmen."

Patti Ford, volleyball coach

The Falcons look to do much of the same they did in this game the rest of the season.

"Our goals are to compete as hard as we can in every match," Ford said. "That will convert to wins."

The Falcons continued their conference play against UW-Whitewater Sept. 19, a team ranked ninth in the nation. The Falcons upset the Warhawks in four sets.



Sally King/Student Voice

Outside hitter Danielle Gibbemeyer attacks the ball against the tough Oshkosh net defense. Senior middle hitter Gina DeRosa (5) and freshman setter Mackenzie Suda (13) prepare with tight hitting coverage.

Twins playoff push looking similar to 2006



Derek Johnson

If you were to look closely at this year's A.L. Central race, you might find how similar it is to the 2006 season. It all starts with the team the Twins are chasing, the Detroit Tigers.

Detroit led the division for most of the year, only to lose it in the final game of the season. This year the Tigers have led the division for most of the year and are starting to falter losing nine of their last 14 games, letting the Twins come from being seven games back from the division lead to only two and a half.

Catching a division opponent late in the season isn't anything new for the Twins. In both '06 and '08 the Twins started off the season slow and heated up after the All-Star Break. Last year, the Twins reeled in the Chicago White Sox late in the season and tied on the last day of the regular season, only to lose the tiebreaker.

Also, the Twins are no stranger to winning the division since Ron Gardenhire was hired in 2002. They won the division four of the seven years he has been manager. If the Twins were to catch the Tigers this year it would be his fifth division title with the Twins and first since the 2006 season.

This year, the Twins and the Tigers have easy schedules the rest of the way, but play one more series against one another. It is a four-game series that is played at Comerica Park in Detroit. It looks to be the deciding series on who wins the A.L. Central.

The story developing between these two teams is quite different. While I mentioned earlier about the Tigers suddenly going cold - losing nine of their last fourteen games - the Twins have heated up, winning eight of their last nine games and took two out of three games against the Tigers last weekend at the Metrodome in Minneapolis.

The division winner in the A.L. Central will most likely have to play the A.L. East division winner - the New York Yankees, who clinched their division title on Tuesday this week. The Twins and Tigers did not fare well

against the Yankees this year; the Tigers went 1-6 while Twins went 0-7.

A little over a week of regular season baseball is left. What we know is the division winner will have the worst record of all the division winners in both the American League and National League. What we also know is no team has ran away with the division this year and it is the only legit pennant race this year, as the rest of the divisions and wild card race look to be locked up and ready to go for playoffs in October. What we don't know is who wants the division more - the division-leading Tigers, who haven't won the division in 22 years, or the chaser, the Twins, who have been in this position before three times in the last four years.

Derek is a journalism major. His interests include: playing/watching sports and writing music. Derek also spends his time broadcasting sports for WRFW.

STANDINGS

Football

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

Volleyball

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

Soccer

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

Tennis

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

Cross Country

WIAC Standings W L
No cross country standings available.

Golf

WIAC Standings W L
No golf standings available.



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

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Corporate crime film pays off

Americans have undergone a paradigm shift. Whether willingly or not, we no longer look at big city sky-rises with starry-eyed wonder, relishing in the fact that US big business is providing a utopian breeding ground of economic prosperity and power. Instead we see cesspools of corporate greed, money laundering and multi-million dollar white collar theft. So what do we do as a jaded American populace whose schema has replaced corporate with cartel? We make a comedy about it...



Ken Weigend

Matt Damon plays Mark Whitacre, a four-eyed biochem grad from Cornell, and an up-and-coming VP at Illinois-based agribusiness firm Archer Daniels Midland. But Mark is also the highest ranking exec to ever have blown the whistle on an international corporate fraud case. In between hocking the corn byproduct Lysine and hustling food additives to his children at dinner, Mark becomes implicated in his company's global price-fixing scam. Reluctantly (at first) agreeing to help the FBI, Mark quickly enters into his own game of fraud, attempting to pawn ADM and the FBI around his own self-delusional chessboard as he bumblingly embezzles \$11 million. He sees himself the next James Bond, even calling himself 0014 - he claims to be twice as smart as 007.

Director Steven Soderbergh expertly whittles down a 3-year quagmire

into a concise 100 minutes, cutting down to exposing Whitacre's double-dealing far quicker than the feds did. But "The Informant!" is not content with being simply another biopic. Soderbergh creates a film that is simultaneously true to the actual events it was inspired by, but also a carefully constructed cognitive experiment. The narrative is purposely sprinkled with a seemingly random string of stream-of-consciousness voice overs from Whitacre, both providing a rare window into his mind and exposing that his mind has long since checked out.

"I'm the good guy in all of this," Whitacre repeatedly tells Agents Shepherd (Scott Bakula) and Herndon (Joel McHale). The joke is that Whitacre actually believes it, twisting such a convoluted tangle of lies, not only to himself but everyone around him, he nearly chokes himself. Even ignorant housewife Ginger (Melanie Lynskey) falls prey, choosing to turn a blind-eye towards her husband's deception and desperation.

Damon's performance is nothing short of deranged, and I mean that in the best way possible. Between the mild midwestern accent, the upper-lip hair and rug, and the 30-pounds-heavier beer gut, you'll forget you're watching a blimped-up Bourne, and really believe in the performance. Damon presents a real human on screen, not a stylized Hollywood interpretation. Both he and

Soderbergh play this one pretty close to the chest, never attempting to overshadow the deadly serious subject matter with laugh-out-loud lunacy.

You'll laugh at "The Informant!" to be sure, but it's the kind of laughter that serves only to stifle tears. The jokes aren't the kind suited for water cooler retelling, but serve as stinging reminders of the post-Enron world we now live in. Perhaps the cruelest irony of the film - and it's the joke that has me laughing the hardest - is that not only did Whitacre serve a sentence three times longer than the criminal execs he exposed, but less than three years after his release for corporate embezzlement and fraud, he became the COO and President of an international corporation. I guess crime in America does pay...

Ken Weigend is a senior marketing communications and journalism double major. His minor in film studies gives him the authority to arbitrarily assign star rankings to represent film quality.

After seeing this film I've got to admit to you all, this has been just a little trickier than I anticipated. While the just right/in between stage worked beautifully for Goldie Locks and her minor case of breaking and entering, it unfortunately has not carried over into review writing so swimmingly. Needless to say, I'll do my best to try and capture your attention with an "ehh" movie.

Our viewing pleasure for this week was dropped into the hands of Matt Damon as "The Informant!" Sounds ominous, doesn't it? Intriguing perhaps? Maybe even beguiling to the senses of sight and sound? One could only wish. Unfortunately, what started as a curious storyline turned around into a rather long-winded, albeit, funny version of narcissist

Michael Clayton. A true story, Matt Damon portrays Mark Whitacre-embezzler, compulsive liar, and an all-around easy going family man who gets all too caught up in the



Katie Heaton

Enron-esque behavior of the corporate manufacturer he works for. When asked by the FBI to turn informant and put the company away, Whitacre is all too eager and willing to help bring injustice to its knees. However, after years of planning, taping and collecting evidence, the case against the company is put into jeopardy when Whitacre's own mistakes catch up with him. The result is a feeling of madness and frustration, seeming to make the audience ask the question: will it ever end? Fortunately for us, unlike Mark, it does.

While Soderbergh does have a knack for finding humor in almost any subject (corporate greed included), the film itself doesn't have enough to carry it through to hilarious proportions. Damon has a strong role and fits the character well, perfecting the "I'm just a nice guy trying to do right thing for the family" type, but lingers in that annoying oddball category that makes you as the audience just want to say, "leave me alone already!" In addition, Damon also narrates for his character throughout the movie, enabling the

viewer to listen in on Mark's personal thoughts and to gain understanding of the way he justifies certain actions over others. Though this component of the film was one initially I took to be a nuisance, I now would have to disagree, thanks to my fellow reviewer Ken Weigend, who pointed out that it is helpful in developing Whitacre's thought process throughout the film. In this respect I do feel that Soderbergh and Damon worked well to give the audience the real guy with real issues perspective. Apart from Whitacre and his two FBI handlers I don't feel that the other characters seemed helpful, but unimportant, only in

"...the film itself doesn't have enough to carry it through to hilarious proportions."

the story so as to throw in moments of sanity to baance out Whitacre himself.

While this certainly won't be a favorite piece of mine by Soderbergh, I do give him credit for taking on a story that in normal perspectives, many of us wouldn't find funny, and turning it into a comical life-run-amuck feature. With that being said, I will advise you all that if you're dying to see it, wait and put it in your Netflix queue because chances are you might not think those eights buck you spent were worth it after all.

Katie Heaton is a junior with a major in psychology and a minor in women's studies. Dreams of Hollywood stardom fell to earth when Audrey Hepburn hit the scene, but still hopes for that second marriage to George Clooney.



Flamboyant artist matures with new album

When London-based singer Mika released his debut album, "Life in Cartoon Motion," in 2007, it was immediately recognized as a creation never to be equaled, let alone exceeded - a flamboyantly over-the-top celebration of joyousness that would make Lady Gaga blush. Though it was the fifth best-selling album in the world during that year, few records in recent memory have been greeted by such a spew of vitriolic hate.



Andy Phelps

"When you look like a diseased Leo Sayer, life is hard enough," wrote critic Gareth Dobson for Drowned In Sound. "You don't need to release an LP stacked to the rafters with benign saccharine filth that your coyote-ish features become a welcome distraction." "Seriously, fuck Mika in the eye with a knife," said another. Yikes.

Unfortunately, all of this malicious venom probably has less to do with the singer's trademark effeminate power pop ballads (which, admittedly, will make many people's stomach's turn) and more about his sexuality, a subject he refuses to address directly.

Unable to stay outside of the spotlight for long, Mika has returned for round two, with his sophomore effort,

"The Boy Who Knew Too Much." This new release once again draws upon the likes of Freddy Mercury, Elton John and the Pet Shop Boys. Despite turning down the volume a few notches for his second release, the sight of the British pop crown is inching ever closer to the singer's crosshairs. Although it's a bit less fun, it's more organized and mature, moving beyond carefree childhood musings and into the conflicted world of adolescence.

Born in Beirut, the 25-year-old possesses one of the most extraordinary vocal ranges on the planet-rumored to span as many as five octaves. At its highest, one must wonder if Mika injects helium into his vocal cords before each recording session. He wastes no time putting it to use on the first track, "We Are Golden." Effortlessly jumping between a remarkable, ear-piercing falsetto and buttery-smooth tenor, it's clear that Mika is back - as extravagant, colorful and charming as ever.

To describe the average Mika track as infectiously catchy would be a gross understatement. The track "Rain," an audacious pop melody, juxtaposes a bubbly beat and childlike, high-pitched vocals with a downtrod-

den, frustrated lyrical offering. "This ordinary mind is broken / You did it and you don't even know," he calmly bemoans.

There are few genuinely interesting spots on this album, but Mika's magical talent speaks for itself. "Boy Toy," featuring classical infusions as well as a piano/flute sampling that sounds like it was lifted straight from a Fantasia, is a somewhat touching adult fairy tale. And, of course, there is his frequent tendency to switch between his usual howling deliveries and a more conversational style-almost like rap verse, where he speaks to listeners directly instead of singing at them.

Listening to a Mika album from start to finish is akin to eating candy. Listening to thirteen tracks or gobbling down three bags of Skittles will both result in a much-needed visit to the dentist. However, in most cases the disco-pop choruses he belts out are simply too irresistible to stay away.

Andy is an English major with a journalism minor. He enjoys gambling and Korean soap opera. He possesses a deeply-rooted dislike for Nickelback.



Senate elections set for Sept. 28, 29

Aaron Billingsley
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The Student Association Student Senate of UW-River Falls will be holding new elections on Sept. 28 and 29 for their remaining seats this fall semester. With such a low turnout though, there is not even a need for the elections.

Applications and petitions to be part of the Student Senate were due Friday, September 18. With little to no advertising though, not many people even knew about the elections before the deadline for applications.

Student Senate President Josh Brock was disappointed with this years turn-out for the elections. "We definitely had a lack in advertising on our part but I also think general student interest in the Student Senate has gone down quite a bit," he said.

Before the deadline, only one position on senate still remained - the representative for the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), which must be a student of CAS. The senate

is also looking for four first year senators, a student enrolled in their first year at UWRW, and three at-large senators, which can be any other student wishing to join the Student Senate, Brock said.

"It's difficult to get the word out so early in the semester when a lot of people still don't even know we have a student senate," Shared Governance Director Patrick Okan, who is also head of the elections committee, said. "We sent out campus-wide emails and wanted to put something in the Student Voice and WRFW but the campus media starts too late and we need to fill these seats as soon as possible."

The turnout for these elections only brought in one petition for a first year senator and all three for at large senators. Even though the elections have not past yet these four students are pretty much guaranteed to be on senate, Brock said.

Okan and a committee of students working with him are responsible for organizing the Senate elections and making sure they run smoothly.

According to the Student Senate election rules, "The Elections Committee will be composed of no less than two and no more than six currently enrolled students that are not running for election to Student Association Student Senate, and or Student Association Student Senate President or Student Association Student Senate Vice President. The Executive Committee will select the Elections Committee members."

The elections committee must follow certain bylaws, otherwise they can be terminated or not recognized as being part of the committee and therefore not paid for their work.

"All members of the Elections Committee will receive a stipend of seventy-five dollars for their time. The Ethics Committee may decide not to pay the members of the Elections Committee if they find that the committee has not done what they are required to do" according to the Student Senate election rules.

The senate elections for president and vice president will be held next semeseter in April.

UWRF Rodeo celebrates 45 years

Angela Lutz
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On September 18 and 19, UW-River Falls celebrated the 45-year anniversary of the Annual Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo, put on by the Rodeo Club. The stands were packed with cheering fans as they watched events such as bareback bronc riding, saddle bronc riding, breakaway roping, calf roping, team roping, steer roping, steer wrestling, goat tying, barrel racing and bull riding.

"The rodeo is put on by the rodeo club team and club members which is the only rodeo in our region that is ran by the students. We take great pride in this and strive to provide the best entertainment possible for our community members along with faculty and fellow students who give us a great deal of support throughout the year," said Dana Kaye, vice president of the Rodeo Club.

The ground vibrates and gusts of sand sweep into the air from the horses' hooves as they thunder around the lit up outdoor arena located on Lab Farm 1. Anticipation is felt in the crowd as they scream "Yee haw," applauding the courageous college competitors from UWRF, South Dakota State, Dickinson State University and Black Hills State University.

The announcer, who is also riding a horse, encourages the audience shouting "What do you think, River Falls?" during the events. The upbeat music, country tunes and rodeo clown also work to rouse the crowd of cowboy hats and silver spurs.

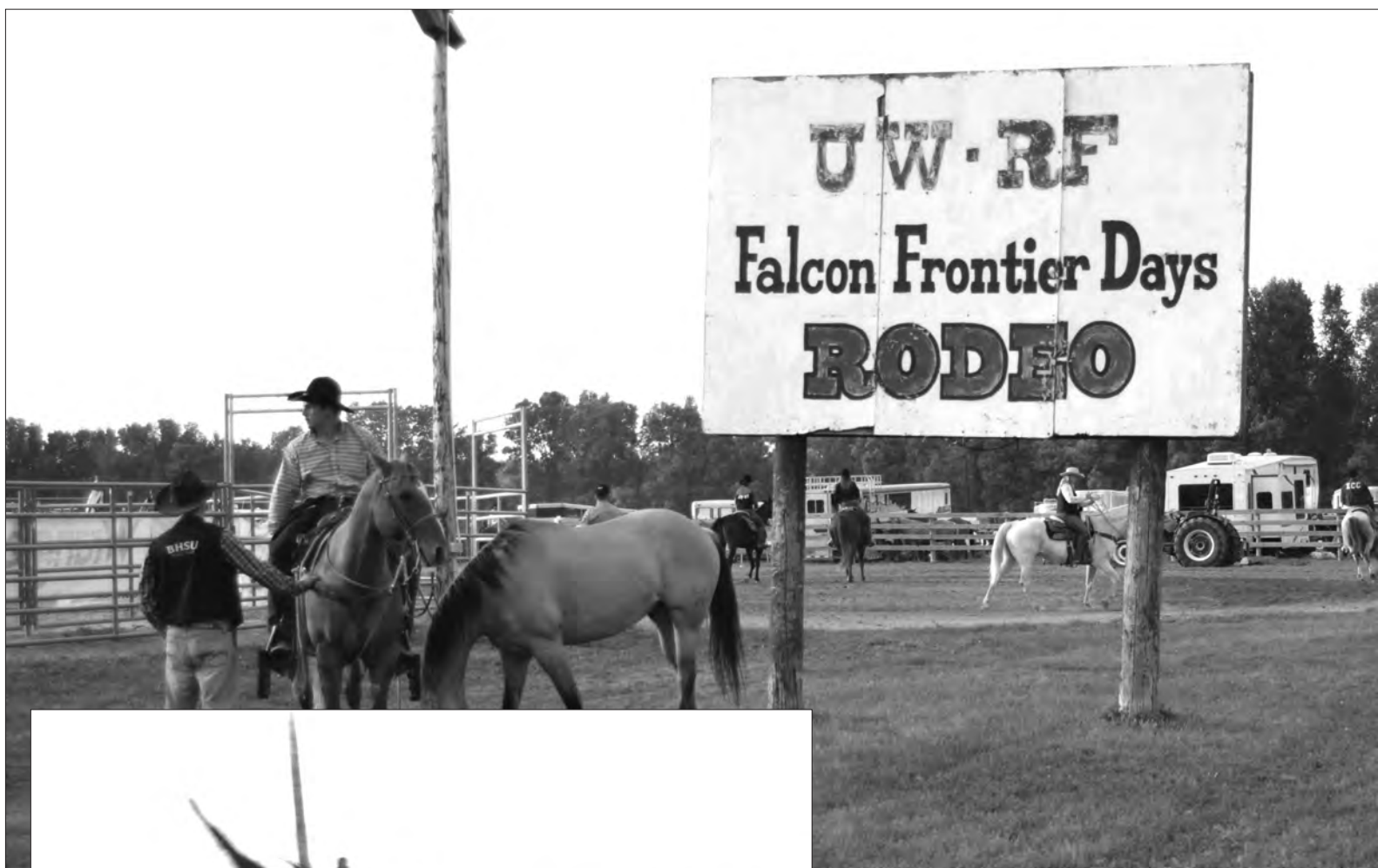
The bucking broncs' eyes bulge wildly as they ram into the thick metal fences overpowering the blaring speakers, stirring the crowd as they watch potential close calls, like when a male rider is dashboarded over the front end of his horse.

The fierce bulls snort while drool streams from their mouths. They stomp their ton of weight into the sand while narrowing in on their chosen target, whether it be the chained metal fence or even the announcer. The audience watches every move clapping and shouting in excitement for what is to become of the bulls dangerous and unpredictable behavior.

"The rodeo was a huge success again this year," said Professor Nathan O'Connor, advisor of the Rodeo Club. "The community has always been a strong supporter of the Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo. Attendance this year was close to 3,000 spectators, which is comparable to years past."

"This year's rodeo went very smoothly to ones in the past. Our crowds were outstanding supporters both days. Overall, I had a great time," said Ashley Horsch, president of the Rodeo Club.

"The one thing that stood out this year was the hard work and dedication that our UW-RF students demonstrated in preparing for the rodeo. 99 percent of the work that goes on to conduct this event comes from student volunteers. I was extremely proud of their effort this year," said O'Connor.



Sally King/Student Voice

Images from the 2009 Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo. There were three shows in the event, which celebrated it's 45th anniversary this year. The event was sponsored by the UW-River Falls Rodeo Club, and is the only rodeo in the upper Midwest region that is run by students.

"The rodeo... is the only rodeo in our region that is ran by the students. We take great pride in this and strive to provide the best entertainment possible for our community members along with faculty and fellow students who give us a great deal of support throughout the year."

Dana Kaye,
Rodeo Club vice president

Families are also encouraged to get involved in the rodeo. "This year we dedicated Saturday performances to families. We had mut-ton bustin' (kids ride sheep and try to stay on as long as they can)," said Horsch. The Rodeo Club also put on a kids event called the "boot scramble" where they mix up the children's shoes and the first three boys and girls to retrieve their original shoes win a prize.

The UWRF Rodeo History began in 1964 by David Stafford who organized the UWRF Rodeo Club. According to the college rodeo history, in less than one year, the club included over 50 members and the plan began for the First Annual Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo. Every year following, the Rodeo Club has worked hard to put on college rodeos for the fans in the River Falls area.

According to Kaye, "The River Falls Rodeo Team will be traveling

to Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska throughout this academic year to compete at other schools that are hosting college rodeos, in hopes of becoming a better athlete and making it to the College National Finals Rodeo in June held in Casper, Wyoming."



"The rodeo was a huge success again this year"

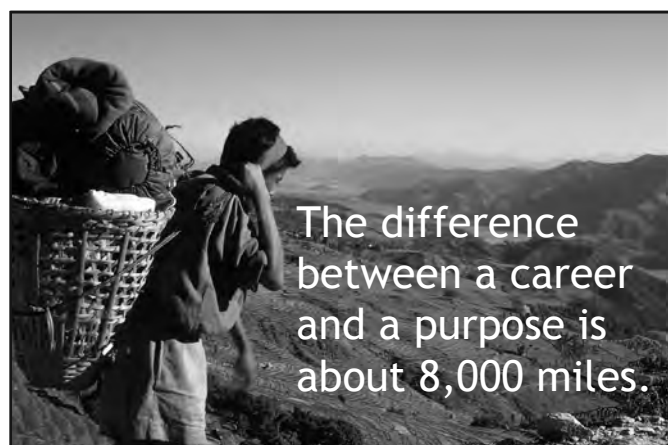
Nathan O'Connor,
advisor of the Rodeo Club

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