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Columnist urges students to attempt cooking, eat healthy

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Homecoming lacks events, not enthusiasm



STUDENT VOICE

October 2, 2009 www.uwrfvoice.com Volume 97, Issue 3

Students work showcased at Conference

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The third annual Undergraduate Academic Conference at UW-River Falls is scheduled for Oct. 2 and will host Scott Russell Sanders as keynote speaker for the event.

The conference is being held in the UC Ballroom and is sponsored by the Literary Society and the English department. The conference will be divided into hour-long sessions beginning at 9 a.m. where students will present critical academic papers in the discipline of English literature and also creative work of their own.

From 10 a.m.-noon, Sanders will present his keynote address in the Kinni Theater. After that, the students will resume presenting until 3:50 p.m.

The sessions run in sync with the usual Monday, Wednesday, Friday class schedule.

“We are hoping that the turn-out is as good as last year, or even better... last year, we had hundreds of students attend sessions, and we expect the same this year,” English Assistant Professor Michelle Parkinson said.

One of the student speakers is junior and active gardener Madeline Page. She will be presenting a piece, titled “Progressive Planning: Community Gardening in Prison.”

“I’m a gardener and I think eating seasonal, local foods is cost-effective, healthy and rehabilitating for some. I attended the conference last spring and I’m excited and nervous to present this year,” Page said.

Another student speaker is senior English major Kelly Bryant. She will be reading a paper on one of the adventures she had while studying abroad in Scotland.

“I decided to speak at the conference because I wanted to get more involved with my major, and also have the opportunity to read my work,” she said.

Past student and graduate Ronald Francis will be presenting a piece, titled “Getting Away with Murder: Cultural Criticism in the Works of

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UWRF Homecoming riled up school spirit, big game win



Sarah Schneider/Student Voice

Left to right: UWRF cheerleaders Ashley Emerson, Wendy Guerra, Katie Kusick and Brianna Jacques show their Falcon spirit during the Homecoming parade Saturday Sept. 26.

Health care raises concerns at UWRF

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Health care reform has become a major issue on the top of Washington’s agenda lately, and as the debate rages on, college students are forced to look to the future.

“Most students are covered by their parents and never have had to worry about health insurance, but I think students need to pay attention to this issue because it’s huge,” Director of Student Health Services Alice Reilly-Myklebust said. “It would behoove us all to get educated and to learn about other healthcare plans in the world, to research and to make sure it is accurate information...it is something that effects everyone.”

It is becoming more common for students to not have insurance or to not be covered in preventive care, according to Reilly-Myklebust.

“During my senior year I was more worried about not having health insurance after I graduated than not finding a job,” Erin McDermott, a Chalmer Davee Library staff member, said. “In order to stay on my parents health plan I have to pay four hundred dollars a month—and that is for minimum coverage.”

The overall goal is to increase health insurance coverage to near-universal levels and to stop the annual cost increase that is making health care out of reach for low-income families and small businesses.

“Something needs to be done to reign in costs a little bit, and we need to work together to make it better. There is something wrong with working full time and an entire salary going towards insurance. Healthcare is getting so expensive and the economy is getting worse,” Reilly-Myklebust said.

Many proposals would subsidize insurance for people with low incomes and create government regulated insurance markets for people without coverage provided by their employers. The most controversial proposal includes a publicly-run insurance plan that requires individuals to buy coverage, according to Marcia Clemmitt, author of Health

See Health care page 3

Social Justice Series returns to campus

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The Social Justice Series returns from September through December this semester to UW-River Falls to educate students, staff and faculty on social justice issues facing society today.

March 2009 was the series’ first debut to the UWRF campus, and because of its success, it returns to campus this fall to highlight other issues that were not addressed in the first series.

“I think that it is very important for social issues to be highlighted on campus. There are so many things that students are unaware of that can benefit every aspect of their on-campus experience,” sophomore Katie Sheehan said.

The series’ mission statement states that, “... the purpose of the Social Justice Series is to educate and create awareness around social justice issues so that students, faculty, and staff might have

the ability and knowledge to take social action.”

Some of the series’ goals include allowing students to understand the importance of social justice issues, be able to identify social justice issues, recognize their own areas of privilege or disadvantage, increase self-awareness and learn more about their own biases, fears and comfort levels. Also, they learn to identify resources necessary to take social action responsibly toward and with others, and the society as a whole.

“We, as the Social Justice Committee, feel strongly that the Social Justice Series brings an educational opportunity to our campus that may have not been available for students, faculty and staff before the Social Justice Series,” Social Justice Program-

mer Kristin Canan said.

Each month of the series highlights a different justice issue facing society today. September’s focus was on education issues, highlighting issues in general social awareness. October focuses on gender issues and the deconstruction issues of gender identity. November educates on environment and waste issues, with a focus on creating a sustainable campus community and social equity, while December highlights disability issues and shows how to choose ability over disability, and to educate others on establishing an inclusive world.

“I think that it’s a good idea to have this series. If we are having these types of issues on campus it would be nice to have them brought up so people become more aware

of them. How can we work together and improve our campus community if we are ignorant about [these issues] going on?” senior Jackie Howlett-Albrecht said.

The series started on Sept. 21 with a presentation on the “Lessons Learned from the Holocaust” by Todd Savage, a UWRF professor of psychology.

Presentations vary from speakers, non-profit organizations, movies, discussion circles and demonstrations to highlight different aspects of the overall series.

“Our events provide education about different social justice issues that we, as a society, are dealing with everyday, and all of our events provide unique, valuable information,” Canan said.

The Social Justice Series is tri-sponsored by the University of Minnesota Transgender Commission, the River Falls chapter of Habitat for Humanity, and the Courage

See Conference page 3

Volleyball team promotes breast cancer awareness

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Falcon Volleyball players are asking fans to show up to their game on Oct. 3 wearing pink to promote awareness for breast cancer.

“Think Pink” is an event hosted by the women’s volleyball team that involves volleyball teams across WIAC teaming up to raise money and awareness for the Madison Area Susan G. Komen Foundation.

The team’s “Think Pink” event is in its second year. Last year, Falcon volleyball players raised approximately \$4,000 for the foundation.

Each volleyball player has a collection goal of \$500. Donations can be a flat donation or a pledge for each

“dig” the Falcons collect throughout the match. A dig is a way of passing the volleyball back from a down low position, and is used to prevent someone’s spike from hitting the ground.

“The Falcons are honored to have the opportunity to partner with all the WIAC institutions and the Susan G. Komen Foundation to raise awareness for breast cancer,” Patti Ford, head volleyball coach, said.

Senior volleyball player Gina DeRosa said she thinks “Think Pink” is a great event because she experienced a family member who has been affected by breast cancer, and feels this is a great way to raise awareness and money.

“My grandma is a breast cancer survivor and was able to come to the game

See Think Pink page 3



Patti Ford

VOICE SHORTS

Nomination deadline for outstanding service is closing in

The 2009 Outstanding Service Award recipient(s) will be recognized at the UWRF Commencement in December 2009. Nominations for the award are due by Wednesday, October 14. The nomination form can be found at <http://www.uwrf.edu/alumni/Alumni-Achievements.php>. For more information, contact Melissa J. Wilson at 425-3505.

The Outstanding Service Award recognizes the accomplishments of individuals and organizations outside of the University community that have made exemplary contributions to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls through their support of its goals and their volunteer efforts on the school’s behalf.

Intent proposals for funding due next week

The deadline for an intent to propose funding for research projects through the Wisconsin’s Focus on Energy Environmental and Economic Research and Development Program (EERD) is October 8; full proposals are due November 11.

The funding will be coming from a total of \$860,000 in grants set aside for studying environmental, economic impacts of electricity and natural gas use in Wisconsin. For more information, visit the Focus on Energy webpage at http://www.focusonenergy.com/Enviro-Econ-Research/Environmental_Research_Program.aspx, or contact Bill Campbell by email at wm.e.campbell@uwrf.edu.

Eggroll sale is approaching

An eggroll sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on October 7 in the Mall in front of the University Center. For more information contact Bhao Nhiang Thao by email at bhao-nhiang.thao@uwrf.edu.

CORRECTION:

Last week’s issue of the *Student Voice* did not properly give credit to staff photographer Sarah Schneider. Both the “Active shooter scenario tests UWRF campus preparedness” and the “Planning underway for Rodli Hall, Ramer Field upgrades” photos should be attributed to Sarah Schneider.

The Fall 2009 Student Senate election took place Monday and Tuesday. The results are:

- CAS Representative: Lee Monson
- At-Large Representatives: Beth DeLong
- Jordan Harshman
- Cullen Peterson
- First Year Representative: Brittany Williams

Listen to WRFW’s Talk Block from 5 to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday:

MONDAY: Diana Vang and Kong Meng Vang

TUESDAY: “Falcon Sports Wrap” w/ Adam and Steve

WEDNESDAY: “ACT on AG”

THURSDAY: “Let’s Talk” w/ Jamie Babb

Falcon Newscast @ 5:30 p.m.

Tune in to 88.7FM or stream live at pureradio887.com

Hmong radio show debuts, shares heritage on WRFW

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Amid the many new programs that debuted on WRFW 88.7 on Sept. 14 was an hour-long program done with nearly no English spoken. The show, hosted by UW-River Falls students Diana Vang and Kong Meng Vang, will air every Monday from 5 to 6 p.m., according to the station’s Web site.

The students are Hmong-American, and their radio show reflects their heritage.

“It’s a news block so we’re trying to inform people about the culture,” Diana said.

She said Hmong is the primary language used whenever the guests or situations allow.

“It’s gonna be a variety of stuff,” she said. “I’m going to interview a Shaaman, and that will be done in Hmong.”

When non-Hmong speaking guests are a part of the show, the primary language will revert back to English.

The show’s primary purpose is to connect to the local Hmong community. Though both she and Kong were born in America, Diana said this is her way to keep Hmong traditions alive.

“I’m hoping with me getting a hold of the people I’m inter-

viewing, [the audience] will tune in to hear the language.”

Diana Vang, host for WRFW talk show

viewing, [the audience] will tune in to hear the language,” she said.

Listeners fluent in the Hmong language can also hear some variations in speaking style.

“I’m White

Hmong and [Kong] is Green Hmong because we speak different dialects,” Diana said.

WRFW News Director Jaime Babb said the hosts have found ways around the language barrier for their non-Hmong speaking audience.

“The last 10 minutes of the show they recap the gist of the show in English for those of use who don’t know Hmong,” she said.

Babb said she also thinks the music on the program will be



Sally King/Student Voice
Diana Vang and Kong Meng Vang debuted their Hmong talk show during the news-block hour, Monday on the campus radio station, WRFW-FM.

well received.

“The music they play is very cool and unique,” she said. “It’s not something you need to be Hmong to appreciate.”

WRFW Program Director Adam Lee and Babb wanted a way to increase cultural diversity on the station, so they came to Diana with the basic idea for the show, Babb said.

Though Diana was excited about the proposal, she had reservations about doing the show.

“I also help Jaime [Babb] with her show on Thursdays,” she said, “I wasn’t sure if I wanted to do all the work.”

Now that the show is off the ground, Diana and Kong are going to try to get other Hmong students involved.

“We’re trying to get students from campus to come on and share their views,” Diana said.

Jon Lyksett, the station’s music director, said he likes the distinct idea for the show.

“I think its really great that we know have more of a multi-cultural aspect [at WRFW],” he said.

Journalism Professor and department Chair Sandy Ellis said the show reflects trends in the student body at UWRF.

“In recent years we’ve seen more minority and international students on campus,” she said. “[The show] should be well received.”

Ellis has had the opportunity to observe Diana and her work in journalism.

“As a student in journalism she’s very enthusiastic,” Ellis said. “She’s really passionate about it.”

International student initative creates culture of understanding

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Macedonia. Indonesia. Taiwan. These are only a few places where international students on campus have traveled from.

About 1 percent of students are international students this semester at UW- River Falls. This percent is part of a little known initiative in the Global Connections Office, called “Living the Promise.” The goal of this initiative is to make the UWRF campus 5 percent international by the year 2012.

“We have very intentionally set out to grow the international student body,” Global Connections Director Brent Greene said.



Greene

The plan includes getting the University’s colleges to recruit international students as well.

“We’ve made it a part of our policy to have an international campus. That gives the colleges the license to support, put pressure [on] and grow the global campus,” Greene said.

This initiative was started by former Chancellor Don Betz and Greene in 2007. The goal was to raise awareness of international cultures, as well as to simulate the real world after college, and it seems their plan may be working.

“You can feel it—the difference it makes on campus,” senior Ashley Burbul said.

This semester alone, the program has grown by twelve students, and continues to grow every year.

“When students have had a good experience, it brings in more and more [students],” International Student and Study Abroad Advisor Katie Oenga said.

Oenga’s views mirror the feeling students get on campus.

“I had five choices, I wanted to go to a cold place and my

friends said it was great here,” Mexican exchange student Veronica Sanchez said.

She’s not the only one. Jennifer Jakab, an exchange student from Frankfurt, Germany, came to UWRF after hearing good things from her peers.

“I like everything—the people, the campus, the town; there’s nothing I don’t like,” she said.

The initiative contains ten goals that include creating a culture of understanding, modeling sustainability principles and expanding global literacy and engagement. Each one of these goals have sub-goals, or initiatives, of their own that the campus is hoping to accomplish.

“If UWRF were to do nothing over the next several years, we would change because of the forces impacting our future,” Betz said in the “Living the Promise” pamphlet. “But we have an opportunity to mold that change. A key will be to execute this plan.”

The mission statement of “Living the Promise” reads “to help students learn so that they are successful as productive, creative, ethical, engaged citizens and leaders with an informed global perspective.”

Oenga said she understands this statement as a greater mission with a greater purpose.

“I’ve traveled the world myself and understand the importance,” she said. “Cultural understanding - it’s the key to world peace.”

For more information about “Living the Promise,” visit the Global Connections Office located in Hagestad Hall.

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 16

- Megan E. Davis, 18, was cited for retail theft at 303 S. Main Street.
- Megan E. Davis, 18, was cited for underage drinking at 303 S. Main Street.

September 20

- Travis P. Eid, 18, was cited for underage drinking at 620 N. Main Street.

September 25

- Christopher L. Plummer, 23, was cited for disorderly conduct at 106 N. Main Street.

September 26

- Rachael L. Hitchcock, 18, was fined \$249 for underage consumption.
- Emily M. Harper, 19, was fined \$249 for underage consumption.
- Alexa R. Sturz, 19, was fined \$249 for underage consumption.
- Rachel A. Patnode, 19, was fined \$249 for underage consumption.

Health care: Debate over nationwide issue forces students to prepare for future

from page 1

Care Reform.

People opposed to the plan argue that a universal health care plan would be too expensive and would give the government too much control in health care. Extremists accused the outcome of the plan would be established “death panels” to determine treatment to elderly and disabled patients. Others who oppose this plan are uninsured young people who believe to be healthy and think insurance is too expensive and not worth it.

Advocates of universal coverage believe the plan will increase savings and benefits and will make low-cost preventive care available to everyone so the uninsured are not forced to wait until their illness reaches the critical stage.

“A lot of families don’t go to the doctor because they can’t afford it,” UWRF student Alyssa Eder said. “I have insurance right now, but I still have thousands of dollars in medical bills [that is not covered by my insurer].”

Other advocates for a universal health plan are pushing for a single-payer coverage plan where the government would act as the insurer in a tax-based system, much like Medicare, a public single-payer insurance plan for elderly. Supporters for a single-payer coverage plan believe it will cause private insurance companies to improve, according to Clementt.

“I think it will hold [private insurance companies] accountable,” Eder said.

Most proposals include a government-run insurance plan as a choice for the insurance buyers, but conservatives and insurers are against this because they are worried it would put private insurance companies out of business.

“It’s going to be impossible to create a plan that makes everyone happy, but I don’t think it can get much worse,” Reilly-Myklebust said. “It’s going to take time and patience and everyone working together.”



Reilly-Myklebust

UWRF issues newly designed ID cards for security purposes

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Over the summer, UW-River Falls invested in a new card reader system to govern residence hall access, and has issued new campus ID cards to all on-campus students. The cards, which were also aesthetically redesigned, represent a security update for campus.

“The holographic plastic surrounding is used for security reasons so that you can’t duplicate the card,” UWRF Chief Information Officer Steve Reed said.

Christine Finley, a UWRF student, thinks that the new cards are a good idea, as well as convenient.

“I really like the new cards,” Finley said. “You can keep the card right in your pocket and it will open the door. It’s really convenient when you have your hands full.”

The residence halls on campus went from having “meg strip” ID card readers to “proximity” ID card readers.

The difference lies in how the card is used for door access. With magnetic strip IDs, users must slide the card through a wall-mounted reader, whereas the proximity IDs require the user to simply hold the card near the reader for the door to unlock.

All students living on campus received their new ID card this year, free of charge. The cost to replace lost IDs has increased, however, from \$10 to \$15.

“The proximity reader in the card is really why it costs more,” Reed said. “It’s the technology.”

The University used the previous card readers for eight years.

“The old card system was outdated,” Reed said. “The longevity of the new system is greater than our old one. The card is more secure—it’s a lot more difficult to compromise. From a fiscal and a student fee [standpoint] it has a longer life span.”

Sandi Scott-Duex, the director of Residence Life, said she thinks that the new ID cards are a good idea from a residence life standpoint.

“For us, I think it’s an excellent financial



Sally King/Student Voice
A student uses his new University ID card to get into Hathorn Hall.

Think Pink: UWRF volleyball team fundraises for breast cancer research

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last year, which was really special,” she said.

Andria Vetsch, also a senior on the team, said the event was a big success last year and is looking forward to it again this year.

“[This game is] special because my teammates and I have worked so hard to promote the event and raise awareness for a disease that affects many people we know,” Vetsch said.

Jack Dunn, a student at UW-River Falls, said he hopes to attend the event.

“I would like to go,” he said. “I love volleyball and think it is a great way to raise money for the cause.”

The game had a great attendance last year, and they are hoping for similar numbers this year, Ford said.

The Falcons will wear pink warm-up shirts, pink shoelaces, and pink ribbons during the match. “Think Pink” t-shirts will be for sale and all proceeds will go to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, but the first 100 fans through the door wearing pink will receive one for free.

“Last year some fans were dressed entirely in pink,” DeRosa said. “It was fun to see people get really into it to show their support.”

“I love volleyball and think it is a great way to raise money for the cause.”

Jack Dunn
UWRF student

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©2009 Treasure Island Resort & Casino

Conference: 3rd annual event to highlight speakers, UWRF students

from page 1

Gabriel Garcia Marquez.”

“I think it will be great experience to put on my résumé, and I’m looking forward to hearing what other students have written... I’m especially looking forward to listening to (and meeting) the keynote speaker, who I believe was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Literature,” Francis said.

According to Sanders’ Web site, he was born in Memphis, Tenn., in 1945. He studied physics and English at Brown University, graduating in 1967. He completed his Ph. D. in English at Cambridge University in 1971. He is recognized as a Distinguished Professor of English at Indiana University. He taught there until his retirement in 2009. Sanders has written over twenty books including “Staying Put,” “Writing from the Center,” “Hunting for Hope” and his latest, “Private History of Awe,” a piece nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Sanders has received the Lannan Literary Award, the Associated Writing Programs Award, the John Burroughs Essay Award, the Indiana Humanities Award and the Mark Twain Award.


“I agreed to speak at the Undergraduate Conference for Critical and Creative Engagement because I hope to encourage aspiring youth writers, because I wish to share my concerns about our need to take better care of our earth, and because I am interested to see efforts underway toward greening the UWRF campus,” Sanders said.

As keynote speaker, Sanders will be reading from his latest piece, “A Conservationist Manifesto,” which envisions a shift from a culture of consumption to a culture of caretaking.

Find Freddy’s Feather

Find the lost Freddy the Falcon Feather in this issue of the Voice!

E-mail the Voice at **editor@uwrf.edu**



Be the first person to report the find AFTER 10 a.m., Friday, Oct. 2, and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theater

EDITORIAL

Respecting others goes a long way

Forty-one years ago, in 1967, Aretha Franklin sang the words “All I’m asking, is for a little respect...” Her version was a landmark for the feminist movement and was considered a desperate plea for men to view women as equals. Now, in 2009, we can look on her song and view it in a different light. Once again her words are a desperate plea, but this time we interpret them in a much broader spectrum: common respect towards other humans. The *Student Voice* feels that UWRF students are becoming increasingly disrespectful to their peers and professors.

Every 50 or 75 minutes, depending on the week-day, the hallways of every academic building become clogged with students trying feverishly to get to their next class, to the cafeteria or to their individual rooms. This sudden surge of bodies leads to inevitable traffic jams in every stairwell, especially in KFA. But the bulk of these congestions could be avoided if students would simply cool their jets and wait until they got outside to bust out their cell-phones and start texting their friends. Far too often, members of the *Student Voice* editorial board staff observe a person walking aimlessly down the hallways, or on the sidewalks outside, heads hung low with their phone brought close to their eyes, texting. These walking accidents swerve around the walkway, cutting people off and causing everyone around them to move out of the way or risk getting hit. Students need to pay attention, keep moving and step off to the side if they intend to slow down or stop.

Students also need to turn off their cell phones in class. We have all been in a classroom sometime when a random, muffled ringtone pierces the lecture, deflating it like a Firestone tire. Unless you are waiting to hear back about a cancer test or a relative who is on their death bed, there is nothing that is so important you need to have your phone on and answer texts in class. You are here to learn. Stop wasting your tuition dollars by not paying attention. Our professors have all reached an admirable level of accomplishment. They deserve our respect. So respect their cell phone policies, and their decisions about how to run their classes.

As the technology age pushes forward, it seems that human interaction is the first casualty. A culture of drive-thrus, online shopping and texting has deprived newer generations of the necessary socialization tools to interact with other humans. As a result, respect is becoming a history book term, not a standard code of conduct.

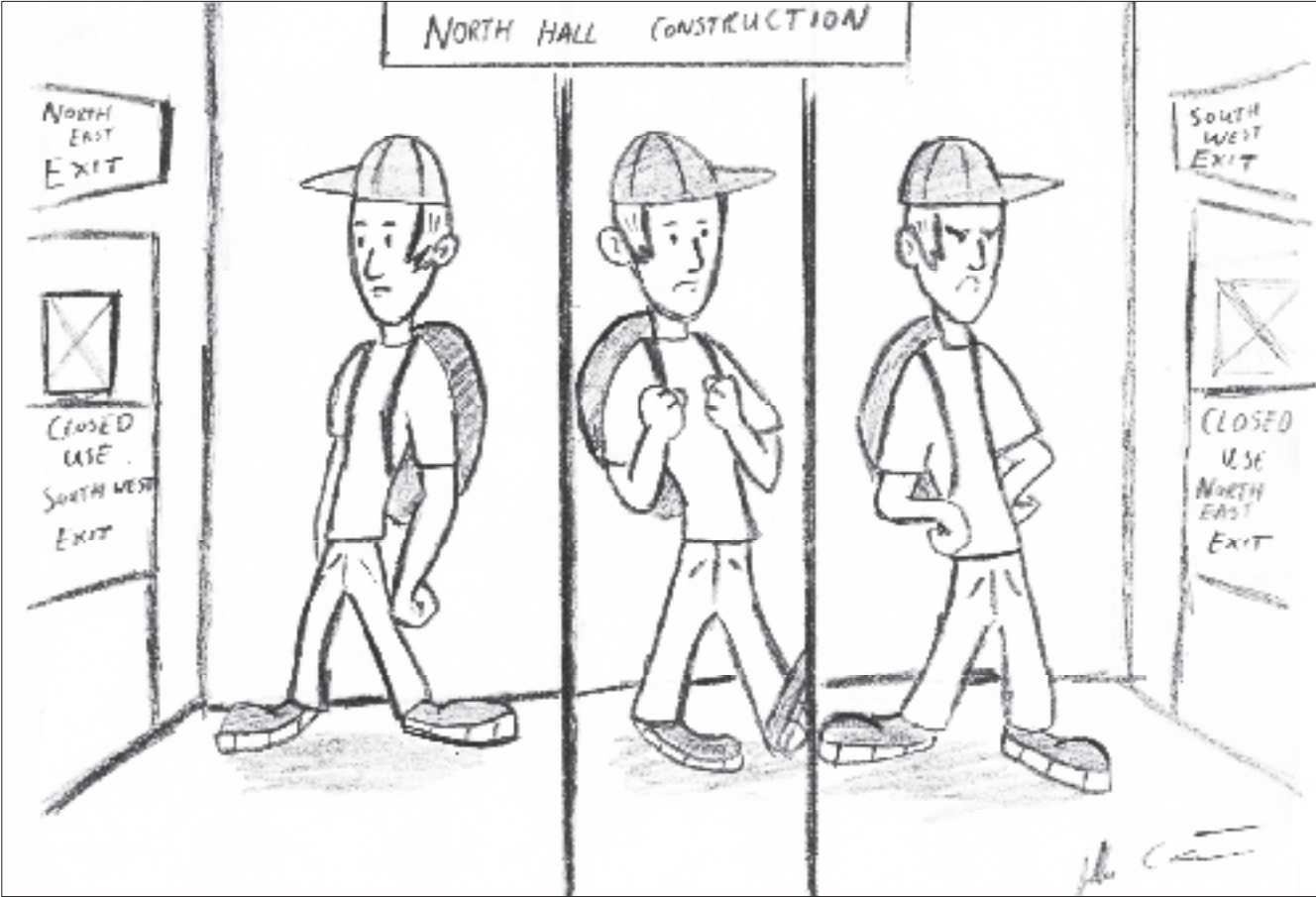
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By Jon Lyksett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student Voice fails to showcase Senate

Many have observed the necessity of a free and independent press in America. Indeed, for the proper functioning of a democracy, the public must have access to the information required to be an informed citizen. One of the best mediums for conveying this information is a quality newspaper. Our government on campus recognizes this need, allocating tens of thousands of dollars each year to the *Student Voice* newspaper. Unfortunately, the *Student Voice* has not responded in kind, and has failed to provide value and coverage in return for the tens of thousands of dollars in public investment. Basic information that members of our campus need to be informed about include: the actions of our government, the students' potential role in government, when and where elections are held, who is running for office, when meetings are held, and the roles and duties of various committees. In fact, in the recent Student Senate elections there was no mention of the candidates for office, and the only mention of where to vote was found in a paid advertisement from the Student Senate. I have heard from members of the Student Senate that the *Voice* has declined to cover actions of our government, and said that they would cover information in the form of paid advertisements. With this attitude it is no wonder that newspapers on campus and across America are failing at an increasing rate. There will be many actions undertaken by our student and local government in the coming year that have the potential

for large impact on student lives. I hope that the *Voice* can find the space to notice the public the information they need to be informed citizens in a democracy. Please note that for the information to be useful we need to know before an event happens, not after. Thomas Jefferson once stated, “Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate for a moment to prefer the latter.” Unfortunately, today we seem to be moving to the former.

Ben Plunkett

Editor’s Note:

The *Student Voice* does have a reporter, Aaron Billingsley, covering the Student Senate this semester. In addition, the *Voice* printed numerous articles relating to the Senate last year, and ran an article about the Senate elections in last week’s issue. Due to time, space and budget constraints, the *Voice* is limited in what it can print each week. The “tens of thousands of dollars” that the paper receives each year is quickly diminished after paying printing costs. With these costs rising each year, it is not uncommon for the *Voice* to spend more than \$1,000 each week on printing alone.

Flying beach ball most interesting part of homecoming football game

RIVER FALLS, WI -- Students gathered at Ramer Field on Saturday, September 26th for the annual River Falls homecoming football game against Alma College from Michigan.



primary activity. “They almost always fall on a different page of the book,” said Charlene Tisdale, a psychologist at the River Falls medical clinic. With each strike against the massive beach ball came excessive laughter, giggling, and at least one “oh snaps!” as the ball was sent higher and higher into the air. The large crowd of students occupying the northern section of the bleachers almost erupted into a riot whenever the beach ball was knocked over the front of the bleachers, completely out of reach.

With each strike against the massive beach ball came excessive laughter, giggling and at least one “oh snaps!” as the ball was sent higher and higher in the air.

The last person to touch the ball before sending it over the edge was immediately labeled “[expletive]hole” over and over and over. When the ball was retrieved, usually by an attractive cheerleader taken out of her dance routine or a disgruntled line coach, the crowd cheered, thanked the retriever, and forgave the incident instigating culprit with a pat on the back. “We just told him or her that it was ‘all good’ and continued with our little volleyball game,” said Johnny Samson, a bro living in Johnson Hall. At the same time, the Falcons were scoring points, which was a surprise to most who were actually watching, and attentive to, the game. At one miraculous point during the

game when the beach ball had been knocked out of the hands of playful onlookers, the Falcons made a break away for the endzone with the football, scoring a touchdown that put them ahead of Alma.

At one point, the crowd became especially concerned when a student grabbed the somewhat deflated ball from the air... “IT NEEDS MORE AIR.”

This didn’t stop student Jesse Fredrickson, whose attention to the game was only momentarily captured, from hopping the fence of the bleachers, jogging to the lonesome ball, and tossing it back into the crowd before screaming something unintelligible. At one point, the crowd became especially concerned when a student grabbed the somewhat deflated ball from the air, hoisted it into the air and shouted “IT NEEDS MORE AIR,” before withdrawing the tube, and pumping it back to health in front of a gasping audience. Again, the crowd erupted in applause when he sent it back into the air. Most of the northern section of the bleachers emptied after the first half, and researchers are linking the sudden lack of student body to the second half of the game to the fact that the beach ball had either been destroyed or stolen. “Whatever, we were just havin’ fun, tossin’ the ball around at the football game and some jerk had to take it away from us,” Chris Brinkmeyer, a first-year senior, told the paper. “Whatever, we’re gonna go get drunk now,” he finished.

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

Researchers call the phenomenon Attention Deficit Disorder, or ADD, where the affiliate falls victim to a short attention span, regardless of the primary activity.

Researchers call the phenomenon Attention Deficit Disorder, or ADD, where the affiliate falls victim to a short attention span, regardless of the

Oil company responsible for health, environmental damage

Are you sick of hearing about oil companies screwing over (scamming) communities? I am for sure, but it seems like a habitual pattern of multi-billion dollar, multi-national companies that don’t take responsibility for environmental catastrophes done by their hand. Or, in the case of Chevron corpora-

tion, purchased liabilities of another multi-billion dollar oil company (Texaco) that caused horrific environmental harm through the oil extrac-tion process.

Perhaps you’ve heard of the disaster in the northern Amazon corridor in Ecu-a-dor, which many environmental groups are calling “Amazon Chernobyl.” 30,000 Ecuadorians, includ-ing five indigenous tribes, are suing Chevron in a precedent-setting class action lawsuit for com-pensation for environmental damages and health problems. A court-appointed scientific expert has recommended a fine as large as \$27 billion, which would be the largest award given for environmental damages in history. Originally filed in 1993, the trial has yet to be resolved.

This debacle began back in 1964 when Texaco discovered oil in a secluded region of the Amazon rainforest in northern Ecuador, known as the Oriente. People of the area lived accord-ing to ancient traditions with little influence of the modern world, depending on the forest and the river for survival. Texaco set up operation with the bless-ing of the Ecuador government, who assumed the company would use the same standard of operation as in the United States.

Unfortunately for thousands of residents and the ecosystem, Texaco set up an oil extraction system that was cheap and sub-standard. Over the next 15 years, the oil extraction process created 18.5 billion gallons of toxic produced water that went directly into the waterways, they operated 916 unlined open-air toxic ponds on the jungle floor and released numerous chemicals into the air through production processes like gas flaring. Texaco only put a thin layer of dirt over the toxic ponds in their “clean up” efforts, which probably isn’t the correct procedure when handling toxic waste. 100 percent of areas (an area the size of Rhode Island) inspected have illegal levels of toxic hydrocarbons.

Texaco sold their oil operation to the Ecuadorian state oil company Petroecuador in 1990. Petroec-uador is also guilty of dumping toxic water and chemicals into waterways and the forest, but it was Texaco that set up the infrastructure and executed the oil operation for the longest period of time.

As a result, thousands of Amazon residents are suffering from cancer, rashes, miscarriages and children are born with severe birth defects. The Ecuadorians claim that hundreds have died of cancer in their communities due to the pollution.

None of the communities in the vicinity of the Texaco operation have indoor plumbing and rely on the waterways or rainwater for drinking, bathing and cooking wa-ter. Some residents said they could see oil floating on top of the water, but they had to use the water out of necessity of survival.

Ecuadorians originally filed their lawsuit against Texaco in 1993 in a New York court for severe environmental degradation. Texaco petitioned the court to move the trial to Ecuador for a “fair” trail. I think it’s obvious they took this ac-tion to evade the stricter US laws that would surely convict them of culpability of the damage. The case was moved to Ecuador in 2003 and has not been resolved yet. The case is in the final stages, with a dollar amount assigned to the damage.

Chevron corporation purchased Texaco in 2001 and inherited the liability of the environmental dam-ages of this case. Chevron claims they are not liable for damage in this case, and the lawsuit has become a media circus. Though they originally petitioned to get a trial in Ecuador, they now claim they will not get a fair trial. They even went as far to get the judge removed from the case because of his “bias towards the de-fense,” releasing a video (that is probably doctored, according to environmental groups) that implies the judge accepted a bribe to rule against the company.

Interestingly enough, two Chevron lawyers and seven former government officials have been indicted for criminal fraud in this case. Chevron lob-byists also pressured US trade officials to pull trade agreements with Ecuador during the trial, to punish the Ecuador government for allowing the trial to happen (<http://www.newsweek.com/id/149090>).

Chevron is playing dirty and trying to weasel their way out of giving proper compensation to the thousands who have suffered and continue to suffer the impacts of pollution every day.

Chevron’s Web site states: “Our community en-gagement programs are an integral part of our com-mitment of human rights and focus on improving ac-cess to basic needs, supporting education and health care and promoting economic livelihood.” Maybe they’ve forgotten what’s going down in Ecuador.

Tracey Pollock is a UWRF student who is currently studying in California through the National Student Exchange program.



Tracey Pollock

A court appointed sci-entific expert has recom-mended a fine as large as \$27 billion, which would be the largest award given for environmental dam-ages in history.

Composter reveals dirty secret

Dirty little secrets. Everyone has them. I’ve been contemplating get-ting my dirty secret out of the closet for a long time, but I’ve decided the closet is the best place for my dirt. Well, it’s compost really.

I’m a closet composter. In techni-cal terms, a vermicomposter.

Vermicomposting is, in simple terms, keeping pet worms in a box with shredded newspaper and feed-ing them banana peels. Like other types of com-posting, the idea is to re-cycle food waste into usable material and keep scraps out of landfills.

In landfills, food waste undergoes anaerobic decomposition (because it decomposes buried beneath all our other junk without oxygen) and pro-duces methane gas. If you thought carbon dioxide was a bad green-house gas, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, methane is 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide and 34 percent of all methane emissions in the United State comes from landfills.

Not only does composting keep waste out of landfills, it creates a fabulous, non-synthetic fertilizer. In a worm composting system, worms eat decaying organic material and excrete what is called worm cast-ings, humus or manure (all very polite names for worm shit.)

Worm casting can do wonders for plants by adding nutrients, and because of the properties of the worm’s mucus, castings improve the soil’s capacity to hold water. Warn-ing: worm castings are NOT dirt. It’s poop. Most plants can’t survive being planted in pure fertilizer so it’s best to mix castings and soil with a ratio of no more than one part cast-ings to three parts soil.

Because worm bins are small and versatile enough to be kept under a kitchen sink or in a closet, vermi-composting has become a viable option for many apartment dwellers who may not have access to a yard or a composting facility. Vermicom-post systems can also be very large, shed-sized commercial operations.

Contrary to popular belief, a properly maintained a worm bin

doesn’t smell like rotting food. If it did, I would know and I would by no means keep my own bin in my closet.

Worm composting systems need only a few things to be successful. The number one thing is a bin, such as a plastic Rubbermaid container, preferably dark colored.

Another crucial piece a vermicom-post system needs is worms. Believe it or not, there is a large difference in worms. Regular earthworms found in garden soils don’t do well in small spaces like a plastic bin. They get over crowded and don’t actually eat that much organic mate-rial. The most popular composting worms are Eisenia foetida, aka red wigglers. These special worms are really good at eating rotting food (about half their body weight in one day), like crowded places and love to make babies.

Worms need some form of bed-ding, such as shredded newspaper or cardboard (which they will eat) and they also need food. Worms love things like bananas and coffee grounds, but don’t eat meat, oils, or anything with salt.

The tricky part about food is only giving the worms as much as they can eat at a time. If worms are overwhelmed with food, or their home gets too wet or dry things start to smell, or the worms start to die. Keeping a worm bin is all about bal-ance, but it’s easy enough to figure out.

In a couple months, a worm bin will have a harvestable amount of castings. The uses are endless. Castings can be added to potted plants, vegetable gardens, lawns, given as gifts to gardening friends or sold. The worms themselves can be used to feed turtles, other pets or used as fishing bait.

Vermicompost is my method of choice, but whether it’s tossed in the woods, composted in the back yard or in a worm bin, food waste has no right rotting and creating methane in landfills. By encouraging compost-ing in any form among our friends, families, local restaurants, grocery stores, and cafeterias we can help the earth be a little greener.

Kirsten Blake is a marketing communications ma-jor with a journalism minor. She pronounces her name “Curse-te”...as if you were to swear to the tenth power.



Kirsten Blake

Cooking in college beats eating quickly

Cooking. Just the word makes me think of good old Martha Stewart with a rigid smile slit across her face,

lean-ing on a Formica counter covered in dry in-gredients. Some-times Ms. Julia Child

lets out a belly-laugh and smacks the counter with a raw chicken. Both ladies have proven themselves very able, genuine chefs. They possess the artful pa-tience needed to decipher a recipe and eventually make their own. Lucky for us, it’s all on tape, too.

College. Enter classes, involvements and social ac-tivities. While students nev-er forget about food, we do remember time constraints better. Martha can pretty much keep to her damn self unless she plans to feed us by the end of 30 minutes. There does not need to be an explana-tion why college students do not always eat a balanced diet: just peek into our backpacks. There might be a candy bar smashed between the books we cram in there.

So when a person creates the equation “cooking+college=?” what

replaces the question mark? Plainly, it varies by student. There are those that can miraculously look at a slab



Laura Krawczyk

of chicken and produce something so amazing we can’t even pronounce it. Then there are the others, the ones who try, who read the recipe, meticulously measure the ingredients to a point where it hurts, and anxiously take that first bite, then spit it out. The drama ensues: what went wrong? What do I do now? What’s the number to Jimmy John’s? It’s a vicious, discouraging and financially

The rice was so scared it cooked to puffy perfection and it was me who made the onions cry.

challenging cycle. Yet there’s hope. We can learn from those that feel bad for us or are sick of feeding us. I’m learning every day, and boy, is it enriching. Did you know chicken likes to be eaten in white

sauce, while beef enjoys red? Or that Mac and Cheese no longer consti-tutes an actual meal and no one is impressed? It’s true; not even chopped hot dogs save us now. I learned that good cooking takes even more time.

There are those that can miraculously look at a slab of chicken and produce something so amazing we can’t even pronounce it. Then there are the others...

Well, with not much time to share with the skillet, am I and others like me (I know you exist, and don’t be ashamed) doomed until graduation? No! Don’t let hope slip through your hungry, unusually skinny fingers! There is even more help than the roommates! There are cookbooks for college students, and more conveniently, online sources for quick, easy meals. Go ahead and Google it. Type www.yumyum.com into your browser. It has a whole section dedicated to students who want to cook food they can actually eat.

The other weekend, my parents came to visit. The apartment was clean and everything was in order. I just had to cook-and I was ready. My weapon of choice

was soy sauce and chicken breast was my victim. Using appropriate cutlery I made sure that chicken became bite-sized and learned to like it. The rice was so scared it cooked to puffy perfection and it was me who made the onions cry.

When my par-ents knocked on the door, I had cre-ated Kung Pao Chicken. It was so fantastic in appearance it had its own soundtrack cre-ated by Danny Elfman.

Once the food was dished up, I felt the anxiety Britney Spears must feel when pass-ing a brownie. My father took a hearty bite, my moth-er a little more cautious... she did share a kitchen with me for many years. Nod-ding and grunting happy noises as they chewed, my parents confirmed it was a success!

I was so happy it was all I could do to not do the 80’s movie freeze jump and let the credits roll. In theory: Cooking+college=possible.

Laura Krawczyk is a junior majoring in marketing communications and com-munication studies. She enjoys the smell gasoline.

STUDENT Voices

Do you like to cook?
What is your favorite dish?

Amanda Aakre, junior

“I love to cook; really love to cook lasagna.”



Carol Lehman, junior

“Yes, I like to cook... I like to grill chicken and corn.”



Suzy Laska, junior

“I love to cook spaghetti and meatballs.”



Jess Walters, sophomore

“I do enjoy cooking... steak



Hue Lo, senior

“I love to cook.”



Falcons crush Alma in Homecoming game

Blaze Fugina
blaze.fugina@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls football team celebrated their Homecoming with a 40-27 win against the Alma Scots at Ramer Field Saturday. A crowd of roughly 1500 students, staff, faculty, parents and alumni was upbeat and energetic throughout the game.

The win was highlighted with an effective running game and big plays on defense. Defensively, the Falcons had five interceptions, and running back Taylor Edwards rushed for 251 yards.

“It feels good to come back from injury and have a career game,” Edwards said.

Overall, the Scots had much more total yards with 630, compared to the 389 yards the Falcons accumulated.

Alma gained almost all of its offense passing the ball, ringing up 567 yards passing with only 84 yards rushing.

Scots quarterback Mackenzie McGrady completed 52 of his NCAA Division III record 84 passes. His 84 passing attempts broke a 17-year-old record set in 1992 by Jordan Poznick of Principia College. McGrady also threw five interceptions, which was a contributing factor in the loss.

McGrady completed passes to nine different receivers; two Alma receivers had more receiving yards than the entire Falcon team. Andrew Schaar had 155 yards receiving and Tyler Wise had 123 yards receiving for the Scots.

Falcon quarterback Ryan Luessenheide attempted 19 passes for nine completions and one interception. The Falcons had 122 total yards passing. Individually, receivers Michael Woodward had 33 yards receiving on three attempts and Wade Schlichting had 32 yards on one attempt to lead the Falcons passing game.

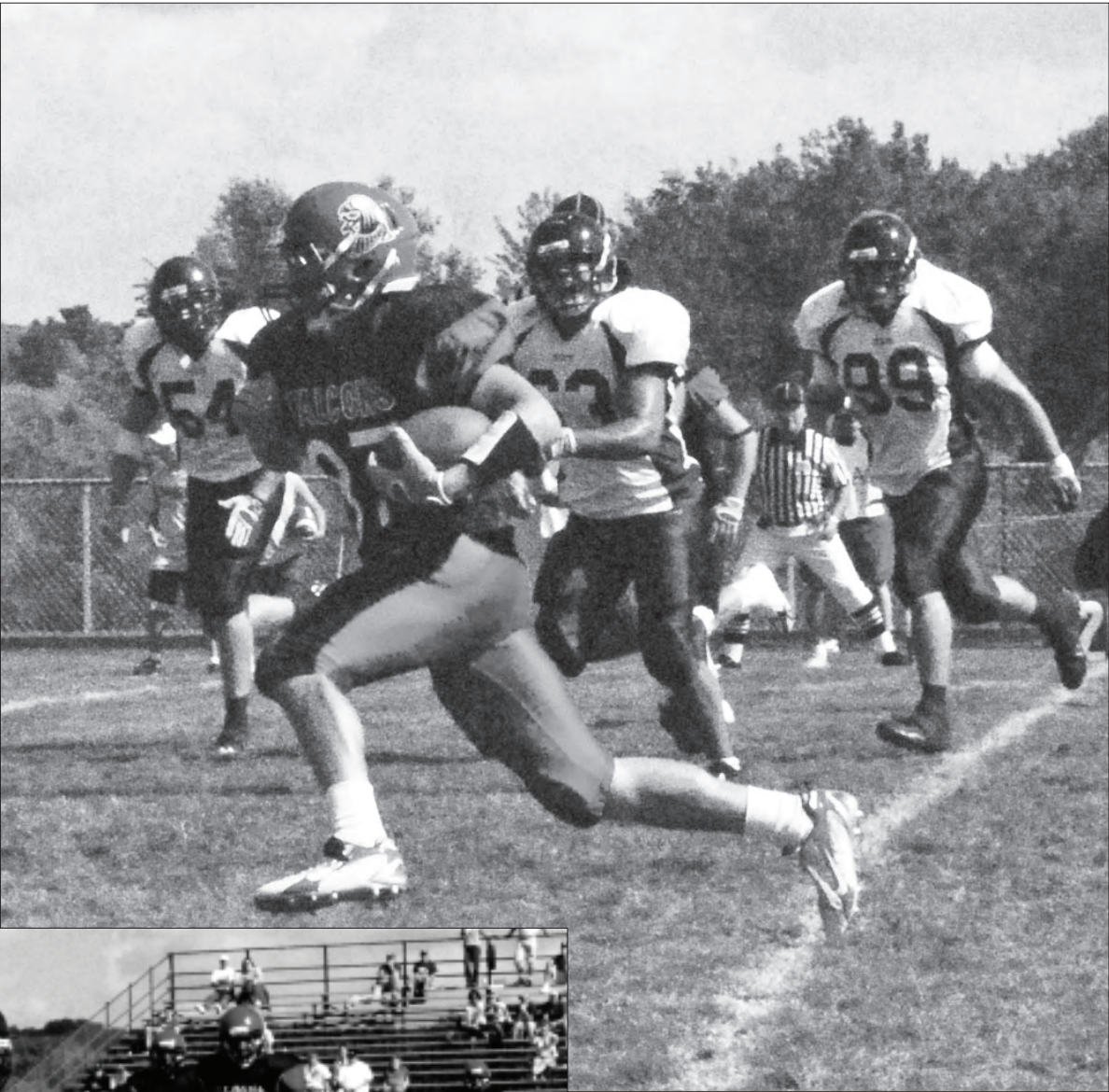
The Falcons offensive totals were largely produced on the ground, with 227 total yards rushing. Most of the rushing yardage was produced by Edwards, who also had two touchdowns. Ahmad Palmer also rushed for 22 total yards.

Matt Gajewski, Matt Guertin, Ross Potter, Steve Marich and Ben Arata all had interceptions for the Falcon defense. Marich and Arata both ran the interceptions back for touchdowns. Nolan Fick had the lone Scot interception.

Falcons Head Coach John O’Grady said there were some disappointments, stating that too many three and outs, or not achieving a first down, was one of them.

The Falcon football team will use this game to prepare for the upcoming conference schedule.

“The real games begin [soon],” O’Grady said. “We have never won at Stout since they built the new stadium.”



Sally King/Student Voice
Above: A Falcon tight end runs past the Alma defense during the Homecoming football game Saturday, Sept. 26. Left: Several Falcon defenders look to make a big tackle on an Alma receiver. UWRF ended up with a win from the game, 40-27. The Falcons begin their conference schedule on the road at UW-Stout Oct. 3 at 1 p.m. Their next home game is Oct. 17 versus UW-La Crosse at Ramer Field. The Homecoming win puts the team at a 2-1 overall record.

Favre is key component in Monday’s Vikings, Packers game

Christmas has come early this upcoming Monday. Well, that’s how will seem to football fans, especially fans that live in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The Vikings will meet for the 106th regular season game, with the Packers leading the all-time series 49-45-1. Also, this will be the seventh time the two teams have met for Monday Night Football with the all-time series tied up at three wins apiece. Last year, the two teams met during the season opener on Monday Night Football with the Packers winning it 24-19.

But, let’s throw out all the numbers and statistics these two teams have compiled up against each other for a minute. This will be arguably the most anticipated Monday Night Football game since 1970, when the first game was aired. The reason? One name: Brett Favre.

That is also the one name this area is sick of hearing, unless you’re a Vikings fan. In that case, the name has brought hope this

season for a deep playoff run and possibly a Super Bowl bid. But before we get to this Monday’s monumental game, let me give the background events that have led up to what will be a highly anticipated

historical event. He had become the face of the Green Bay Packers for 16 seasons before he decided to retire on March 4, 2008. By time summer rolled around he wanted to be re-instated back onto the Packer roster. On July 11, 2008, after talks between Favre, Packers Head Coach Mike McCarthy, and Packers General Manager Ted Thompson resulted in Favre becoming a back-up to Aaron Rodgers,

Favre wanted out. He sent a letter to the Packer’s organization asking for his unconditional release.

The Packers caught wind of the Vikings interest in Favre as the Vikings were in need of a legit quarterback. News broke out on July 16 that the Packers filed tampering charges against the

Vikings alleging improper communication between Favre and the Vikings. Under NFL rules a team cannot contact a player about joining their team while under contract, and since Favre was still a member of the Packers, although retired, it would be against the rules. After an investigation, league commissioner Roger Goodell ruled there had been no violation of tampering rules.

Because the Packers did not want to see Favre in a Vikings uniform, the Packers traded Favre to the New York Jets on Aug. 7, 2008, in exchange for a conditional fourth round draft pick in the 2009 draft with performance escalation. By week 12, Favre and the N.Y. Jets rushed out to an 8-3 record, including a victory over the Tennessee Titans, who were undefeated at 10-0. In the last five games, however, the Jets went 1-4, finished with a 9-7 overall record and missed the playoffs. Favre took the majority of the heat on why the Jets failed the last five weeks of the season in which fans later found out he was playing with an injured shoulder.

Favre told the Jets General Manager Mike Tannenbaum he would retire after the season

and on Feb. 11, 2009, he retired for a second straight year. It did not last, as rumors heated up again this last summer that he wanted to make a comeback for a second straight year. In May 2009, his wish to be released from the Jets was granted. This time he

needed to have arthroscopic surgery to complete a tear in his throwing arm and was unsure if he could come back healthy enough to play football. On Aug. 18, 2009, he signed with the Minnesota Vikings.

Former face of the Green Bay Packers franchise, Brett Favre crossing the border refueled the fire between the Vikings and Packers rivalry. Two teams that love to hate each other, two fan bases that love having the bragging rights, and two teams with high

expectations this year. Add it all up and it makes one highly anticipated football game in the national spotlight that could be possibly one of the highest rated Monday Night Football games of all time. The question is, will it live up to the hype?

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

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‘Fame’ remake breaks a leg

If Bob Fosse were to mate with a carnival - and I mean the whole damn thing - and



Ken Weigend

the resulting bastard offspring were to be abandoned to grow up on the streets, it would grow up to be “Fame.” All the sights, sounds, colors and movement are there, but its lack of discipline and predilection towards attitude over intelligence means that the whole package is woefully less than the sum of its parts.

Based on the runaway hit 1980 film of the same name - which, on its own merit, spawned two musical adaptations and a six season TV show - “Fame” centers around New York’s highly prestigious High School of Performing Arts and the academic careers of one of its graduating classes. The film opens on audition day with a montage introducing the principle characters, their talents bolstered against a sea of under-talented hopefuls that all seem destined to star on the American Idol bloopers reel one day.

What follows can be best described as the next High School Musical - a structureless, virtually plotless tilt-a-whirl aimed at overloading the senses to the point of confusion. It is only then, when the synthesized back beats have our ears ringing and the frenetic dance-offs have our heads spinning, that this sanitized and water-downed remake begins to hold its form.

The first, and perhaps most devastating, error is that

far too many characters are introduced to keep track of, and even the few that director Kevin Tancharoen zooms in on

are so poorly underdeveloped that it’s impossible to share in their desperate dreams and fears. One aspiring actor storms out of class after the professor tells him there was no emotion in his monologue recounting the murder of his baby sister; another attempts suicide on the subway platform after being told he’s not good enough to become a professional ballet dancer; so many others are framed as suffocating under the unbearable weight of their parents’ expectations and projected visions of successful futures. Each one of these stories could ground the audience in some sense of emotional connection, yet each and every tidbit of actual storytelling is tied to a string; every time I felt invited to come a little closer, the story is yanked further out of reach.

“Fame” seems content flirting with its adult themes, but never gives in to them. Bad things happen to these kids, and we should feel sorry for them, but every time some shit hits the fan, a contrived and manipulated deus ex machina is conveniently dropped into their laps, simultaneously fixing their problem and depriving them of any sort of life lesson. Well, that’s not entirely accurate. “Fame” does teach some lessons, to be sure, but those lessons are that all of your problems will magically be fixed for you (usually through breaking

out in dance) and that high school, further learning and academics in general are pointless for artists, as long as they can find a job worthy of dropping out for.

As I left the theater, I felt cheated. I, along with the American populace, have been lied to. “Fame” isn’t a film; it’s not even a movie (yes, there is a difference) - it’s an overblown performing arts piece disguised by its gritty, documentary-style filmmaking. The talented ensemble does their best highlighting some fantastic singing and incredible dancing, but go into this expecting nothing more than a cheesy high school production that plays out like a TV pilot, not a self-sufficient motion picture.

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.

This week Falcons, we pretty much had it all- singing, dancing, friendship,



Katie Heaton

heart-break, loss, emotional outbursts, teen-ridden angst and near sudden death. I know, right? Katie, what does this mean? What could you have possibly seen that carried such humanism, such down to earth emotional material?! Well friends, I’ll tell you. While it’s something many of us would love to have, it appears only those living around or in Manhattan can really attain it. That’s right, I’m speaking of none other than fame.

Based on the original movie, “Fame” is the story of

nine east coasters looking to strike it big in the entertainment world by attending the

prestigious Performing Arts Prep Academy. Starting as freshman, we follow the ethnically eclectic cast through all four years

of school, each attempting to follow their own dreams of either singing, dancing, producing, directing or acting. While our teen protagonists are mostly played by a group of first timers, our teaching crew stars some oldies,

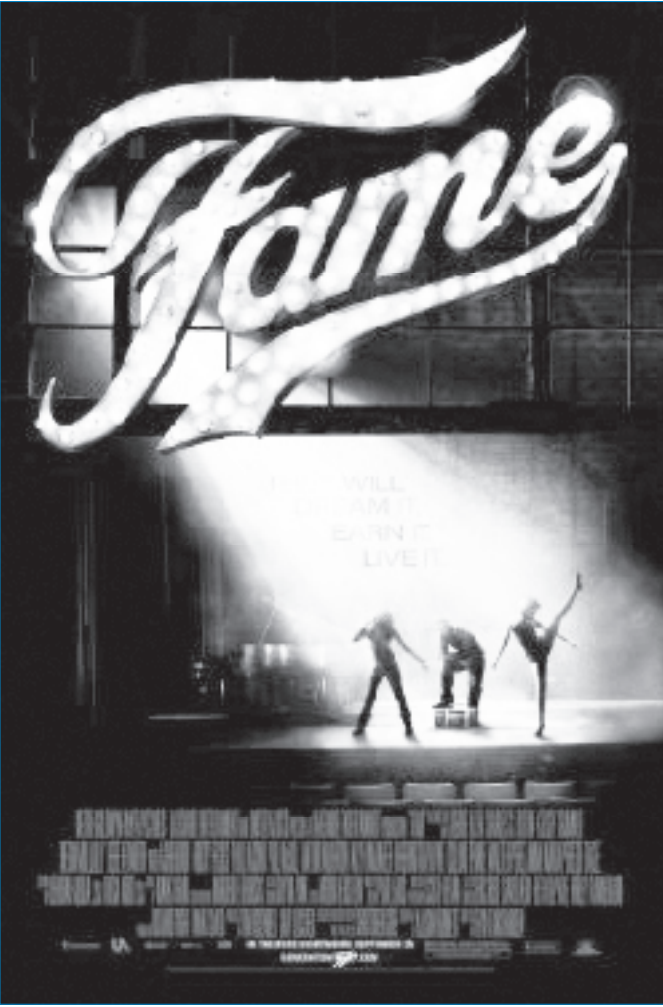
including Bebe Neuwirth, Kelsey Grammar from “Frasier,” and “Will and Grace” star Megan Mullally. Sadly though, even some old faces and a cast of new hopefuls can’t quite bring this feature together. Yes, I will gladly admit that the music was hot, the dancing sexy, and the singing beautiful, but let me ask you, where does all that lead to with no storyline? Weak and unorganized, the idea behind this screenplay obviously came at three in the morning after one too many at the karaoke bar earlier that night. Hardly any of the cast is developed enough to bring about empathy, and the messages that both teacher and student send are pretty much that if you can land a job on Sesame Street before you graduate, it’s OK to drop out. While I give the writer props for even attempting to cre-

ate a nutshell of “Step Up,” “Rent,” and “Center Stage,” I would also have to wag my finger for trying to do so. Successes are successes-so leave them be. Still, not all was lost. As I said before, the dance numbers were plentiful, the singing lovely, and I give props to whoever decided that the slow motion, Matrix-esque format would be good for a song and dance film. While none of the characters really stuck out as truly relatable, what can definitely be seen as accurate is the melodrama that takes up these students’

lives. Wow, were we really like that in high school? Needless to say, I called my mother to apologize, just in case.

So, my friends, there you have it. If the dancer/singer in you just has to let loose for a couple of hours, then go ahead and buy the ticket, but know this: as far as character reciprocation goes, you won’t get much. While it may look like this movie will emulate the positives of all the creative arts films past, tragically it does not. Instead of a pirouette into stardom we have a de crescendo into the same old, same old. Unfortunately, it’s going to be a meager two stars for this reviewer, and I think were going to have to skip out on that letter of recommendation too. Trust me Julliard, this is one film that should not be required viewing.

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.



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Long-awaited Raekwon sequel delivers

Dormant, anonymous and seemingly forgotten for



Andy Phelps

the better part of the decade, New York rapper Raekwon has returned with his fourth solo album, “Only Built 4 Cuban Linx... Pt. II.”, a follow up to his critically acclaimed 1995 release of the same name. Although the razor-sharp lyrical and rhyming skills that have characterized the Wu-Tang Clan member’s career have never dulled, “Cuban Linx... Pt. II” serves

as a well-needed return to top form after a somewhat

disappointing record in 2003 that barely registered a blip on the hip-hop radar. Delayed and hyped since it was first announced in 2005, the project is something Raekwon made clear he put his heart and soul into. “I’m not letting the industry control my destiny on this record,” he said in 2007. “People have been wanting this record for the last 10 years, so I gotta make sure that this shit is bulletproof.”

This long-awaited sequel immediately conjures up nostalgic images of 1990s Brooklyn-a period in time where the city was still the rap Mecca-ruled over by street deities by the names of Biggie Smalls, Jay-Z and Nas. Basically beginning right where the prequel left off, this is an album that comes close to matching the genius of the Wu-Tang Clan’s greatest hits. Dark, grainy and hard, it is a fitting wrap-up of unfinished business that “Rae The Chef” left untouched for fourteen years.

While the protagonist of the “Cuban Linx... Pt. I” expressed feelings of despair and desire to escape the criminal life, the narration provided

by Raekwon on this record shares a proud and embracing attitude-one that glorifies a life of hustling and crime, yet spares no rough details.

The track “Gihad” at once jumps out as the creative high point of the record-a witty and explicit mish-mash of criminal motifs and sexual boasting-that would be hilarious if it wasn’t so

unapologetically gruesome. The final track serves as a fitting conclusion to the album; at 40, Rae is no longer a young man, and a sampling of the lyrics paints a portrait of the sun setting on a gangster edging closer to retirement: “Now he’s an old Mafia don, back when / He managed to survive the game, ducking fame / It’s how he maintained, the state of grace, leapt his lab laced, ladies of a fine taste.”

Raekwon is supported by a stellar cast of able and recognizable guests who offer outstanding verbal insight, as well as unique complimentary outlooks on the street life. “My crack spot is still portable / Funerals are still afford-

able...” Jadakiss brags on the track “Broken Safety.” “Fuck saving hip-hop, we bringing the streets back, what?” The criminally underrated Beanie Sigel offers a dark introspective verse on the song “Have Mercy,” that (although not unique) stands as one of the emotional center points of Raekwon’s 70-minute ghetto storybook. “My days are

getting shorter, my nights getting longer / My cell getting smaller, my son getting taller,” he broods. After so

many delays in production and postponements of release dates, “Cuban Linx... Pt. II” had to be an extraordinary work of art in order to not be labeled as anything but a disappointment. While it doesn’t quite fall into the “classic” category, the record provides a wide view of the world that Raekwon sees, feels and breathes-a vivid collection of urban life snapshots that should leave listeners tantalized from beginning to end.

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



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UW-River Falls Homecoming successful despite fewer events

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UW-River Falls Homecoming took place this year with many participants and events allowing students, faculty and alumni the chance to show off their school spirit.

Compared to previous years, this year's Homecoming did not have as many events taking place.

"We kind of scaled back a little bit in order to focus on getting attendance increased in these main [Homecoming] events," Student Organizations and Greek Life Coordinator Matt Levine said. "We want students to feel like they're invited and included."

Homecoming week started off on Sept. 20 with window painting on Main Street businesses. Eight groups participated in this event, painting tributes to their organizations, Greek life and to the University.

The next event did not take place until Sept. 24, where Falcon Programs Traditions Coordinator Maranda Mahr planned a cornhole (bean bag) tournament that was open to the entire University.

"Cornhole is considered a really old game," Mahr said. "It's a different entertainment that came before video games and that kind of thing, which can fit well with our theme."

The tournament took place outside the University Center and had more than 30 groups of people participating in the event and hundreds of spectators, according to Mahr.

"I like it because anyone can play," Tyler Flynn, a participant of the cornhole tournament, said. "It's nice to get outdoors and meet some new people. It's good old-fashioned fun."

Homecoming week continued on Sept. 25 with the popular Lip Sync contest and comedy show night, featuring comedian Dan Cummins.

"It was really fun, I had never been to a lip sync before. The comedian was hilarious," Rachel Lewis, a spectator of the event, said. "I will definitely come back to it next year."

Lip Sync was pushed back later in the week this year compared to previous Homecoming weeks in order to allow more people to be involved.

"The lip sync was usually showcased on a Wednesday night but we figured why not put it on a Friday night so that alumni can come and participate," Events Coordinator Karyn Wells said.

The Homecoming parade, which included floats from the sororities, fraternities, student organizations and more-as well as the Homecoming tailgate party, which included live music,

food and games-wrapped up the week before the Falcon football game against Alma College.

In addition to the events, student organizations and Greek Life participated in a canned food drive to be donated to local food shelters like the Ronald McDonald House and Turning Point, a local shelter for victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault.

"As a sorority and member of the Greek Life community we are trying to send the message that we are proud of the University and community which is why we pushed to have the numerous drives brought back this year," Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority member Danielle Boyum said. "We are excited about all the events this year, but especially the drive."

Something else that was different this year was the Homecoming royalty, or lack thereof. Traditionally, Greek sororities and fraternities compete against each other during Homecoming week in order for their group to win Homecoming. This year, Greek Life has worked together to compete in the events instead of competing against each other.

"Whether or not there was royalty this year, Greeks are here to stay. We love Homecoming and we love being Greek," Alpha Omicron Pi President Lauren Chapman said. "We missed the royalty as all Greeks did [though]."

Although previous years included more events, the events that took place this year were highlighted more and organized in a different way.

"There [were] less things happening but there [were] more resources being put forth to the three main events," Levine said.

Many people participated in the Homecoming events this year, and it was right on track with the estimated participation levels, according to Levine.

"We're trying to build a framework," Wells said, "and try



Sarah Schneider / Student Voice

Top photo: Falcon fans cheering on the football team during the Homecoming game.

Bottom photo: Members of the swimming and diving team walking in the parade.

new things so that we can make Homecoming more successful for the future."

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