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STUDENT VOICE

November 20, 2009

www.uwrfvoice.com

Volume 97, Issue 10

Swim team’s fate left up to Chancellor

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The debate over whether or not to discontinue the swim and dive program at UW-River Falls is in its final stages after the Athletic Committee voted 6-1 to keep the swim team on Nov. 9.

In an e-mail sent to the supporters and members of the swim team, Head Coach Bill Henderson said, “this is a positive step, but not the final call. Keep your fingers crossed and continue to encourage your family and friends to write the chancellor and tell our story.”



Henderson

The recommendation made by the Athletic Committee will now go on to Chancellor Dean Van Galen, who will make the final decision. The decision is expected to be made just before Thanksgiving.

The Athletic Committee of the Faculty Senate issued their findings in a report after three public meetings were held to discuss the future of the swim and dive team.

“I have seen [the report] and I feel it is very favorable to the team, but I may be reading it the way I want it to go,” Henderson said.

The possibility of the discontinuation of the UWRF swim and dive team came after the Karges pool broke down in June. When it was determined by the executive council that the pool would not be repaired or rebuilt, the future of the team was up in the air.

The swim team was determined to fight against the possibility of losing their team. The first public meeting was held on Oct. 7, when the Athletic Council was met with concerns from members of the team, parents, other UWRF athletes, coaches and supporters.



Van Galen

At the meeting, Henderson explained how the team has benefited greatly from renting and using the high school’s pool facility as their temporary new home.

“The River Falls High School pool has proven to be a true blessing in disguise. Despite it being

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Campus draws interest in global community



Sarah Schneider/Student Voice

Three of four musicians perform during one of the International Education Week’s events. Each of the musicians are from a different country such as China, Mexico, Ghana and the United States.

Faculty Senate referendum causes heated debate among faculty, staff

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A referendum that redefines faculty status, making non-instructional academic staff ineligible to serve on faculty senate, has caused a divide between some faculty on campus.

The proposed changes that would redefine faculty as consisting of those whose positions are primarily instructional and excluding non-instructional academic staff were introduced when Faculty Senate received a petition. The petition was signed by 94 faculty and academic staff proposing an amendment question to the UW-River Falls Constitution on Oct. 21.

Under Article VII, Section B (Amending the Constitution), this is one of the methods that can be used to affect changes to the Constitution. Receipt of the petition by Faculty Senate automatically triggers a referendum on the question proposed by the petitioners.

Faculty, including senators and non-senators, distributed the petition. The petition had over 90 signatures collected from every college, according to Wes Chapin, UWRF political science professor.

Back in the 1970s, there was no council for staff. The faculty then voted to include the academic staff in the faculty senate and gave them faculty status for that purpose. In 1985, the State legislature chose to give statutory authority to staff to be involved in personnel for staff. At that time, most Wisconsin universities transitioned those who had a combined senate and redefined themselves. Most staff got their own staff council, but that did not happen at UWRF. Since 1985, there has been

discussion on and off about what should happen, Chapin said.

“There has been some level of concern for many, many, many years concerning the presence of academic staff service on Faculty Senate,” David Rainville, UWRF chemistry professor and Faculty

See Senate page 3



Sally King/Student Voice
Faculty Senate Chair David Rainville (center) leads the Faculty Senate meeting Wednesday in the University Center.

UWRF strives towards building exchange program with China

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After Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Terry Brown and Art Department Chair Randy Johnston’s recent trip to Beijing, China, UW-River Falls is currently in the process of beginning an exchange program with Chinese artists in the future.

Brown and Johnston’s trip was organized by Anne Kao, the wife of former professor Charles Kao at UWRF. The trip lasted a week, and was primarily meant to work towards a partnership between UWRF and the Shangyuan Modern Art Museum.

The museum houses around 20 artists at a time, Johnston said, who would be compared to a graduate level student at UWRF, and has a one-year residency at the museum.

One of the purposes of the museum is “organizing communication among different art fields: to recover the tradition of Chinese intellectuals in which regular communication was held among poets, printers, calligraphers and musicians. We want to improve the situation in present China in which artists are addicted to their own art fields and often

have little communication with people from other art areas,” according to the Web site.

“What Anne [Kao] is trying to coordinate is to get one or two of them [the artists] to come to our department and work in their respective studio for a semester, just to get in contact with American culture,” Johnston said.

The artists would work in their studio, and possibly take a class in another form of art that they were not yet familiar with, Johnston said.

Art student Thomas Fritchen commented on the possibility of having artists from the Museum in his studio in the future.

“I think it’s great to have other cultures incorporated within an already diverse program,” Fritchen said.

On their trip, Brown and Johnston each made presentations at the museum about UWRF. Johnston’s speech was about the art department, and showed slides of some of UWRF students’ work.

“This is kind of fun because Anne Kao invited us, and nothing exists at this point,” Johnston said. “[It’s] solely a sit-

“I think it’s great to have other cultures incorporated within an already diverse program.”

Thomas Fritchen
art student

See China page 3

VOICE SHORTS

Insurance verification forms deadline approaches
The “It’s Your Choice” enrollment period for Health Insurance is coming to a close. Dependent verification forms for children 19 and older were mailed and participants need to return the forms to current health care providers by Dec. 1. Changes for the 297 employees who submitted applications will take effect Jan. 1. For additional information, contact Deb Koehler at debra.koehler@uwrf.edu.

‘Student Voice’ applications near due date
The *Student Voice* is hiring for the spring semester of the 2009-10 academic year, and applications are due by Dec. 2 in the mailbox outside of the *Student Voice* office in 304 North Hall. Those interested in a position can pick up an application found outside of the *Student Voice* office. For additional information, contact Eric Pringle at editor@uwrfvoice.com.

“The House of Yes” to premier
“The House of Yes” will open at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 3 through 5 and Dec. 10 through 12 in the Blanche Davis Theatre of the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building. Members of Masquers, the UWRF student theatre organization, will produce, design and direct this next main stage show. For more information contact the University Box Office at 425-3114 or visit www.uwrf.edu/csta/season.html. The box office is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday one week before the show and one hour before each performance.

**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.

November 13
-Trevor J. Bevers, 19, was cited for deposit of human waste at 620 S. Third Street.
-Trevor J. Bevers, 19, was cited for underage consumption - 2nd offense at 620 S. Third Street.

November 14
-Ryan J. Clark, 21, was cited for prohibited dumping - littering on Cascade Avenue.

November 15
-Dustin M. Samplawski, 19, was cited for underage consumption - 2nd offense in Hathorn Hall.

November 17
-Tyler R. Breyer, 19, was cited for underage consumption on Cascade Avenue.

UWRF counselors ease stress

Angela Lutz
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With the anxiety and stress of the holidays and finals approaching, UW-River Falls students can find relief here on campus from Counseling Services. Student Health and Counseling Services encourage students to schedule an appointment with one of the four licensed counselors located in 211 Hagestad Hall. “[Our counselors] see students for common issues that we all struggle with,” Alice Reilly-Myklebust, director of student health services, said. “There is always something that can be done to help [students].” The personal counselors are available free of charge to all UWRF students and talk with them about everyday matters such as stress, anxiety, depression, relationships, alcohol/drugs, family concerns, sexual assault, major/career, self-esteem, body image, grades and grief. “Student Counselors are here to offer a fresh and professional opinion on something that a student is feeling stuck on. Our role is to work with the student to help them get unstuck. Counseling is very empowering for students because the counselor makes it clear that we are there to support the student in whatever it is the student wants to address,” Mark Huttemier, personal counselor, said. “[Students] don’t have to come in for big issues. They don’t have to feel like they’re stuck in a black hole,” Jennifer Herink, personal counselor, said. The counselors are here for all students, no matter how big or small their issue. “[Students] who simply want to feel better and happier should [speak with a counselor] to feel good,” Jennifer Elsesser, personal counselor, said. She said the benefits of talking with a counselor are the undivided attention a student receives, confidentiality and advice from an outsiders perspective that is unbiased. “The relationship between the counselor and the student is a partnership. We’re not here to label, diagnose or analyze them,” Elsesser said. Another benefit of talking with a counselor is the focus on the student. “[Counselors] don’t talk back,” Herink said. “We don’t turn the story into our own, like some friends may tend to do.” “The benefit of talking to a counselor over a friend or family member is simply that sometimes those other relations aren’t



Sally King/*Student Voice*
Jennifer Elsesser is one of four personal counselors available to UWRF students.

enough and you feel like what’s going on with you needs a fresh pair of eyes and the benefit that comes from the student counselors’ daily work dealing with student’s real concerns,” Huttemier said. When students were asked what they do for their stress and anxiety around this hectic time of year, Erica Swanson, a sophomore majoring in history, said she turns to exercise or vents to her mom. “I call my mom and complain to her,” Swanson said. “I wouldn’t be close-minded [about talking with a counselor] if I wanted the help.” “I would definitely [speak with a counselor],” Ashley Taylor, a senior majoring in history, said. Like Swanson, she said she also tends to complain to her family and friends about any issues she has. “The primary role of a counselor is to make connections that lead to insight...a way of looking or addressing an issue that the client comes to understand through the counseling process, is excited about, and feels like he/she wants to take ownership of that new way of thinking by putting it into action,” Huttemier said. Counseling Services is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 425-3884 or by visiting 211 Hagestad Hall. Counseling services always have at least one emergency walk-in appointment available for students who need immediate attention, Reilly-Myklebust said. She encourages students who are just starting to struggle to speak with a counselor. “The sooner the [student comes in], the better.”

CAFES internships in strong supply despite economy

Christina Lindstrom
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Finding a job is becoming a more difficult task for some students due to the economy, but the internship opportunities in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) are still reaching far and wide. The internship program in CAFES is a hands-on, practical experience in which students work with a variety of agricultural employers ranging from government agencies such as the DNR and municipalities to pollution control, the Environmental Protection Agency, and even non-profit organizations and private sectors. Students are placed in programs dealing with animal science, environmental science, plant breeding, engineering technology, nursery production and landscape design, to name a few. Director of the CAFES internship program Terry Ferriss

said she’s noticed a change in employers’ selections, but there has not been a decline in the number of internships offered. “Employers are being more thoughtful and deliberate in setting up an internship, but I haven’t seen a decline within the sectors,” Ferriss said. She added that one company that recently cut their internship program admitted that it was the biggest mistake they could have made. According to Ferriss, 99 percent of the internships offered are paid. The small percentage that are unpaid typically include zoos and some chambers of commerce. Students interested in internships in CAFES meet with one of the 11 faculty coordinators in their chosen discipline. The faculty coordinators determine the students previous experience and career goals and what areas need to be strengthened for graduation preparation. Some students stay local with their internships, others move out into the five state region, and some go throughout the United States or even overseas.

“After my internship I was able to narrow down what I wanted to do with my life. That was probably the most satisfying part of the summer.”
Jake Dums, UWRF student

Cheryl Dintemann, the internship program assistant, stated that the internship office posts opportunities, but they also look for new opportunities both on their own and at the request of students. “Faculty coordinators within the internship program are a great resource for finding internships because they have great industry contacts,” Dintemann said. Ferriss added that most of the internships last year were requested. “Of all interns placed last year, which was a little over 100 students, 80 percent were not posted as available positions,” she said. She said students identified companies they wanted to work with and worked to set up an interview. The faculty coordinators know of companies willing to take on an intern, even if the position is not posted. Ferriss also said she’s noticed that employers are inquiring about interns earlier than previous years. Companies are willing to take interns to fill temporary positions rather than hiring full-time employees. It gives quality support and an opportunity for a long interview process without a full-time commitment. Interns are given more responsibility than regular summer employees, according to Ferriss. They are given projects to complete as a requirement for the internship, and interns are allowed to demonstrate that they can follow through with the responsibilities. Both Dintemann and Ferriss said there is a lot of competition for internships, so students need to show initiative to get an internship.

“It’ll be the student who wants to be out there [that will be selected],” Ferriss said. “A good resume and interview skills are always helpful when applying for internships,” Dintemann said. “Interview experience is always helpful, and we have numerous companies that interview in the CAFES Internship Program office every year.” Jake Dums applied for two internships, and was accepted at Ohio State University to work in the tomato genetics lab. “I was assigned to find a gene that gave resistance to bacterial spots in tomatoes. The job involved a lot of PCR, gel electrophoresis and analysis. The whole point of the job was really a puzzle and I was trying to find where this one piece fit into the puzzle,” Dums said. Dums said he learned a lot from the internship, including what it was like to live 700 miles away from home. He said he met new people in the lab and gained a lot of work experience. The most important thing gained, according to Dums, was focus. “After my internship I was able to narrow down what I wanted to do with my life. That was probably the most satisfying part of the summer,” he said. Senior Nikki Beucler spent this past summer working as the Polk County 4-H summer intern in Balsam Lake, Wis. Her responsibilities included working with the 4-H agent in Polk County on different events over the summer such as 4-H camp, dog shows, plant science day, county fair and clover bud exploring day. She had one special project which was the music, drama and dance review that she set up herself. Beucler said she gained two main skills: organization and communication. “Without those two elements, I would not have succeeded. Being organized in an office environment is crucial to the success of the events that you plan,” she said. Both Beucler and Dums said they encourage students to apply for internships because of the work experience a student can gain. To apply for an internship in the CAFES internship program, a student must have completed 30 credits and maintain a 2.0 GPA. The summer after freshman year is typically the earliest a student will be able to meet these requirements. According to Ferriss, early internships help motivate students and help them find what they want to get out of their classes. “Be flexible in where you’re willing to go,” Ferriss said. “If you want a permanent job with a local company, getting experience elsewhere opens you up to a new set of ideas and you bring back more. You strengthen the local base.”

“Interview experience is always helpful, and we have numerous companies that interview in the CAFES Internship Program office every year.”
Cheryl Dintemann, internship program assistant

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Senate: Recent debate creates rift among faculty

from page 1

Senate chair, said.

There was an ad hoc committee on Faculty Senate that looked at the Faculty Senate government structure and recommend any changes that were thought to be appropriate. What was proposed was a “faculty academic staff senate.” That model was brought to a vote on the campus but, for a variety reasons, there were not enough votes to accept the model and the constitution was not changed. Therefore, the government structure that has been had in place since 1975 has remained the government structure with academic staff having faculty status for the purpose of governance, Valerie Malzacher, Chalmer Davee Library director and member of Senate, said.

“There appears to be what we’ve called a structural conflict of interest,” Chapin said. “When issues arise involving faculty pay and similar types of issues and the administration is opposed academics staff pretty much always vote with the administration or abstain. The only roll call votes we have taken show that all the academic staff has either voted against the faculty or they have abstained. That is going back to Nov. 28, 2007.”

Recently there was an effort made to create a measureable reduction in workload specifically in regards to something called a post-tenure review. There was a proposal to create a way to document a reduction in workload. Chapin said this would be consistent with the mandatory furlough.

“Clearly, I think any reasonable person would see that their interests aren’t the same. It was suggested earlier this year that academic staff abstain from participating on faculty personnel policy issues and some of them flatly refused,” Rainville said.

Another issue is that instructional academic staff have not had an opportunity to serve on senate, which is primarily due to many of them not having a contract by the time nominations are called for to serve on faculty senate or academic staff council. That was resolved last spring. Now instructional academic staff will get their contracts in a timely manner, and therefore be eligible to be nominated for either senate or the council, Gretchen Link, from UWRF career counseling and health services, said.

“I think that it is very necessary for instructional academic staff to have representation and a voice on this campus; our rates are growing all the time. I think we teach around 45 percent of class(es) on campus,” Jane Harred, UWRF English professor, said. “And up until now we have not had any effective representation in any government body on this campus.”

Some feel that the way the referendum is written presents a conflict because it accomplishes two things. One is removing the professional or non-teaching staff from senate, but also guaranteeing spots to instructional academic staff who are not currently represented in the senate.

“It seems to me like that creates a conflict because instructional academic staff who are currently underrepresented in senate, to obtain better representation in senate to vote for this referendum means simultaneously removing the non teaching staff from senate,” Travis Tubre, UWRF psychology professor, said.

The first part of the referendum defines who has faculty status and the second part identifies how elections are to be held and includes a definition for non-instructional academic staff, according to Chapin.

“The referendum calls for the redefinition as to who will have faculty status. It is as a matter of policy, a legal issue, and a constitution issue is necessary to change two parts of the constitution. If we only change one part and left the second part in place then we would have a contradictory constitution,” Chapin said.

Some are opposed because they feel the non-instructional academic staff will not have a voice in the future of the University if the referendum is passed.

“If you look at the staff that have been on the senate you can identify them by their title; the budget director has been on the senate, the associate vice chancellor, the assistant to the provost, a lot of directors have been on the senate. These are administrators who directly impact the future of the institution because of their institutional role,” Chapin said. “I think in practical terms the ability of staff who are administrators to impact the University will still be there. The academic staff council could also choose to take position on issues



Sally King/Student Voice
The Faculty Senate met Wednesday to discuss a referendum regarding changes that would prevent non-instructional faculty from serving on Faculty Senate.

which they have declined to do for the most part so far.”

If the referendum passes, academic staff would still have a say in personnel policies through the academic staff council but they would not have a say in the overall University issues, Tubre said.

“Some people think that the academic staff council have governing powers, but the council doesn’t—it is primarily a grievance committee; it has no power to do anything whereas the senate does,” Link said. “When you look at the values that the University has in terms of inclusivity and diversity, this doesn’t fit with those core values. I am [suggesting], as did others on Faculty Senate, to have an alternative, to create a different government structure for example a University Senate...to me that would seem like a much more inclusive and diverse governance structure.”

Link took part in setting up listening sessions to talk about the current referendum in order to encourage people to vote and to be well informed in terms of what they are voting on.

“I feel that the Faculty Senate should be looking out for the best interest of this University. In my role on the senate I have looked

at issues, I have thought about them very carefully and I have voted in ways that I have felt were in the best interest of the University,” Malzacher said. “Not everybody agrees on issues, not everybody always votes the same way on issues, but that’s the reason why you have a multiplicity of individuals who come to the table to debate something and I think that that process needs to be respected.”

The ballots for this referendum will be mailed out on Nov. 30, and will be due on Dec. 15.

“My main concern is that we’ve got a lot of issues that we are dealing with in higher education right now that are major concerns and it is not the right time to be engaging in a divisive process that creates more conflict on campus when you already have a lot of reason to be worried and

anxious,” Tubre said. “We’ve got things to deal with like rising tuition cost and a lack of increases, compensation, complex benefits issues, incidents of hate and bias on campus, and those are concerns we can address best in a unified way rather than in separate groups and voices.”

Swim Team: Athletic Committee voted 6-1 to keep program



Sally King/Student Voice
The Athletic Committee voted to keep the swim and dive team with a vote of 6-1. The final decision will be up to Chancellor Dean Van Galen. The decision is expected to be made before Thanksgiving.



from page 1

an off-campus facility, the team has embraced the move and it’s working out far better than we possibly imagined,” he said.

A second meeting was held on Oct. 19. Kathy Olson, women’s athletic conference rep to WIAC, and Kenneth Ecker, chair of health and human performance, agreed that “if the Karges pool were still up and running we would not be sitting here right now.” Craig Morris, assistant to the chan-

cellor for equity and affirmative action, disagreed.

The third meeting was held Oct. 26, when members of the swim team had an opportunity to speak their mind.

“The camaraderie on our team is unparalleled to any other team in our conference, and it would be a tragedy for the University to lose such a passionate team,” Tamra Knight, one of the women’s captains, said.

The final meeting was held Oct. 28.

For further updates and coverage on the swim and dive team visit
<http://www.uwrf.edu/sports/swimming.home.php>

China: Artists expected to come to UWRF in 2011

from page 1

uation of building from the ground up.”

The program is still in formative stages, while UWRF and the Museum continue negotiations.

As of right now, Johnston is expecting the artists to come to UWRF in 2011 for a semester.

“It would be a recurring thing, if we could establish an endowment,” Johnston said.

As the program would recur, UWRF

would also send students and faculty to the Museum, and the program would become an exchange. If the program were to grow, Johnston said there would be a potential for musicians or poets to become involved at some point.

“The music department has had more diverse students from places like Korea,” Johnston said. “They’ve set a standard for our students to aspire



Randy Johnston

to.”

Another issue UWRF faces in the formation of this program is language. While the University has some students and faculty who speak Chinese and English, there is no set program for translation.

“You realize if you only speak Chinese and I only speak English,” Johnston said, “this conversation doesn’t happen.”

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The Student Voice is now hiring. Pick up your application outside room 304 in North Hall. Applications are due Dec. 2.

Find Freddy’s Feather

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

E-mail the Voice at editor@uwrfvoice.com

Be the first person to report the find AFTER 10 a.m., Friday, Nov. 20, and win two free movie passes

Last week’s winner: Mitchell Whyte

EDITORIAL

Charitable giving should last beyond holiday season

The Student Voice Editorial Board would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy the break, visit people who make you happy, recharge your batteries, travel safely and return to campus ready to finish the last three weeks strong.

But as you polish off your second helping of turkey on Thursday, take a moment and reflect on how fortunate you are to be eating that dinner, to be inside someplace warm, to be surrounded by people who love and/or care about you. Reflect on that, and also on the fact that not everybody is as fortunate.

One of the staples of the holiday season has become the street corner bell ringer, complete with a donation jar. In the midst of a season in which we are bombarded with messages of ‘it is better to give than to receive,’ charitable organizations make the most of their opportunity to bank on our yuletide euphoria and collect some extra donations to help feed and clothe the needy.

It is a sad reality that donations of all kinds increase several fold during the winter holiday season. Although it is great that people give up their hard-earned time and money so that those less fortunate can have food, shelter and maybe even a gift for their holidays, once those holiday decorations get packed back up, the giving spirit seems to get boxed along with them.

People need to extend their helping hands past New Year’s Day. Volunteer your time, donate your spare change and do all you can to help those in need all year long, not just during the season of decorated trees and snowmen.

Students here at UW-River Falls are, as the future leaders of America, poised to adopt this year-round philosophy of giving and carry it out to the world. College is called the liberal arts because our time here is meant to liberate us, to give us the tools to think outside the box and break free from the norm. In the case of charitable donations, the norm is to give the absolute minimum, if giving at all, and to do so primarily during the holidays. The Student Voice encourages students to make the norm year-round donations and volunteering.

There are numerous chances just within the city of River Falls to give back and help out. Career Services is a great resource that will assist students and faculty in finding charitable opportunities.

So as the holiday season descends upon us, take a few moments during your three days off school begin to brainstorm New Year’s Resolutions that will better the lives of others, and in so doing, better yours.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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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.



By Jon Lyksett

Americans should adapt to reform

To say that our country’s government system is the best in the world is arrogant, yet is interpreted among some as patriotic.

Being patriotic doesn’t mean standing behind your president or supporting your government blindly. Real patriotism is supporting your country by being critical of our president, questioning, urging and changing our government in order to make our country better. Admitting that our country isn’t perfect, that it has made poor decisions in the past and is still making mistakes requires a certain amount of humility that is a part of patriotism.

Many current government policies are terrible, don’t work and need significant improvement. Some federal officials are corrupt. Many are bought off. But we’re working on making improvements, aren’t we?

America is about evolving, changing and implementing practices that work, throwing out the ones that don’t—and it always has been. America has had the opportunity to observe other countries’ systems of government and adapt parts of those systems we feel would work the best for us. Patriotism is being proud of this accumulation of ideas and makes us American.

A lot has been said about health care reform in the news and a lot of bicker-



Kirsten Blake

ing has ensued over it.

The reason I bring up the health care bill is because I have heard that many citizens fear this bill is too socialist for America.

I will not voice my opinion on the proposed health care bill because health care isn’t my point. I also feel I don’t know enough about the bill to sway others. I encourage others, before they decide how they feel or try to argue with their peers, to actually read the details of the proposed bill.

I particularly hope you avoid others’ opinions about it that have been written everywhere in blogs and newspapers. These reactions are often not thought through, are uneducated, and often lead to misunderstandings or misinterpretations.

Looking beyond the bill, what’s so wrong with incorporating a few little ideas from socialism? It works for some people. The point of trial and error, learning about our history and other countries is to observe processes that have worked elsewhere and that could maybe work for us.

We already have socialist practices in place in the United States. For example: Medicare. Medicare is a social insurance program provided to us by the United States government. Nixon (among others) opposed it back in 1961, but it turned out to be a very

popular program that I feel has been quite successful.

As much as some politicians will have you believe, we aren’t just going to wake up one day and magically have turned into a communist country. Because we instate some policies that are unfamiliar to us or try something that we haven’t tried before doesn’t mean that we will slide down a slippery slope into some kind of an un-free, captive nation.

Perhaps a government that is a little more socialist would be good for us. Maybe our strictly capitalist system is too inflexible. To be strictly one thing or another, black or white, is denying that there are places in the middle. There are gray areas, and those areas need to be addressed.

We ask other countries to turn their whole government systems upside down to become democracies overnight, so why are we so stuck on traditional practices whether or not they are working?

To stick to traditional American practices or ways of thinking for the sake of remaining true to what this country was founded on is close-minded and hinders our development.

America is an accumulation of all the different pieces of the world. Socialism has been one of those pieces in the past and can continue to be one in the future.

Kirsten Blake is a marketing communications major with a journalism minor. She pronounces her name “Curse-ten”... as if you were to sweat to the tenth power.

Concept of engagement ring dates back to Greek, Roman empires

Does anyone remember J.Lo’s ridiculous rock a few years ago? That huge ring of hers, wherever it may be now, was her and her then-fiancé Ben Affleck’s way of telling whoever read the tabloids that their love was bona fide, oh-so-very-real and forever.

After that crash-landed in the proverbial fail pond, Ms. Lopez found a new man and, more importantly, a new ring. What had ever possessed these men to give her a ring in the first place? I have nothing against Lopez or the men involved—it’s the ring that mystifies me. What is the reason that rings are even exchanged come engagement?

The idea of the wedding ring, some



Laura Krawczyk

The idea of the wedding ring, some historians say, can be seen throughout the ages. The Egyptians used reeds and other plants that grew along the Nile to fashion braided rings.

historians say, can be seen throughout the ages. The Egyptians used reeds and other plants that grew along the Nile to fashion braided rings to give to their lovers.

While these rings needed to be replaced often due to their flimsy nature, they communicated the symbol of eternal love.

The circle of the ring also indicated the sun and moon; the space where the finger slips through was regarded as a gateway.

Marriage was considered a gateway for many new experiences...like the in-laws. The Greeks eventually adopted this tradition.

The Romans accepted this practice in the agreement that it kept them cool, like the Greeks. Early Romans also adopted the use of iron to create the rings.

While this communicated the valor of the love shared, it also got rusty with time...as many marriages do. Silver and gold eventually replaced corroding iron, most likely lowering tetanus concerns among the betrothed.

Today, wedding and engagement rings are commonly worn on the third finger of the left hand. It was believed a vein was located in this finger that directly connected with the heart. The Romans referred to this vein as “vena amoris,” or “the vein of love.”

Other regions of the world wear engagement rings differently, sometimes adorning them on the right hand or the thumb.

The gemstone and diamond accents embedded in the bands did not rise in popularity until the Middle Ages, when sapphires, rubies and emeralds would speckle rings of the wealthy. Diamonds also gained importance with their durability.

Its resistance to damage symbolizes

the strength of the union of marriage.

The rarity of the mineral also made it restricted to the wealthy—giving a diamond ring showed how valued the recipient really was. Perhaps this is why the stereotype that girls dream of diamonds around their fingers is so prevalent. Who doesn’t want to be shown that they’re valued?

Perhaps the idea of value is what Mr. Affleck tried to get across when he presented his fiancé with that \$1.2 million pink diamond ring. Or did he want to tell J. Lo that his love for her was strong, eternal and of the heart?

The gemstone and diamond accents embedded in the bands did not rise in popularity until the Middle Ages, when [they] would speckle rings of the wealthy.

He didn’t choose an iron band, so at least he took care to reduce her tetanus chances.

He may have just wanted to get her a nice little ring, walked into a jeweler’s store, and was swiftly carted over to the high-roller section where he met the bill. At least, I hear, he is still happily married to Jennifer Garner. Wonder what her ring looks like?

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

Something on your mind? Write a letter to the editor:
Submit your letter to editor@uwrfvoice.com
or deliver it to the box outside 304 North Hall.

Neglecting ‘keep off grass’ signs creates problems for landscapers



Jon Lyksett

Several weeks ago, I drew a comic for the voice depicting a man being held up by a police officer for crossing a section of turf with a “keep off the grass” sign. Obviously it was a satirical statement about those of you readers who might just happen to “not see” the signs (even though they are plastered across campus).

Now I’m not the type of guy who wants my comics to shape the very foundations of our readers’ minds, I mean lets face it, they pay me to draw pretty pictures, which is, by the way, a kick-ass deal. But to be honest, this comic was one that I had felt had a statement I hoped people would hear.

While enjoying my Friday morning people-watching session, I noticed a number of individuals looking at the sign that says “keep off the grass” and blatantly crossing anyway.

Two summers ago, I worked as a landscaper for a small local business based out of the Twin Cities. Doing this job, I did reseeding, mulching; the typical landscaping jobs. I have an idea of the pain our landscapers go through here on campus.

While enjoying my Friday morning people-watching session, I noticed a number of individuals looking at the sign that says “keep off the grass” and blatantly crossing anyway. I figured I’d do something constructive with my rage, so I composed this column. It got me to thinking; maybe we need moreeffective means of preventing this “destruction of greenery”.

I realized my idea of having armed guards preventing crossing was both expensive and, as some might call it, “the dumbest idea they’ve ever heard of.”

I realized my idea of having armed guards prevent-ing crossing was both expensive and as some might

call it “the dumbest idea they’ve ever heard of.” My next thought was to print shirts that say “Prevent Grass Genocide,” and standing by the “Keep Off” signs, but a) I didn’t want to interfere with the current protest on campus, and b) I was my only supporter. Sometimes it’s hard to be an activist on campus.

The more that area gets trampled, the more the University has to spend on that patch of dirt, and the more they have to increase tuition to spot the bill. Think about the landscapers, too.

Then I thought, maybe UWRF should invest in fences to surround these areas which are trampled so much. That idea quickly faded when I remembered that we students are not dogs, although I am pretty sure I saw a freshman peeing on a tree last week.

It seemed that all hope was lost, until suddenly, a revelation! This is an issue that starts with students; students too, can solve it. When you see someone cross-ing an area that has signage informing people to stay off, say something. Remember, part of your tuition goes toward landscaping.

The more that area gets trampled, the more the Uni-versity has to spend on that patch of dirt, and the more they have to increase tuition to spot the bill. Think about the landscapers too.

They put in long hours and do back breaking work to keep this campus beautiful. Would you like it if they walked into your dorm while you were typing a paper and started slamming on your keyboard? Didn’t think so. Lastly, its your campus.

In the last few weeks we have heard a lot about Fal-con pride; show it in all that you do.

Jon Lyksett is political science major, and music director for WRFW. He enjoys updating his Facebook status an obnoxious amount of times daily.

Interested in writing for the *Student Voice*? Pick up an application in the box outside 304 North Hall and turn it in by Dec. 2.

Skin care becomes essential with cool weather settling in

River Falls, there are only three remaining issues of the Student Voice left, yet so many style tips and fashion advice still remain.

No worries though, as the fashion column can be anticipated into the next semester. For the graduating seniors, get your dose of necessary fashion tips or ask style questions at uwrfvoice.com by clicking on the Fashion tab.

The preceding weeks have been surprisingly warm-weathered, but don’t be fooled, as the cold winds are just on the horizon. The incoming waves of dry air and excessive temperature changes can wreck havoc on some people’s skin. What good is great fashion if the glow of a face isn’t present to compliment it even further?

The incoming waves of dry air and excessive temperature changes can wreck havoc on some people’s skin. What good is fashion if the glow of a face isn’t present to com-pliment it even further?

Even though this week’s item focuses on just one product to help with one’s skin, remember that a regu-lar and consistent skin regime is important. Various methods of purification and cleansing can help improve one’s mood, attitude, and thus confidence.

Item of the week: Tea Tree Oil

Tea tree oil is an essential oil that is obtained from a plant that is native to Australia called Melaleuca alternifolia. The oil extracted from said plant has been traditionally used to treat many skin conditions such as acne and other skin disorders.

This treatment is perfect for skin that is oily or com-bination, as it has oil-controlling properties. However, it can be applied just to the affected areas on dry skin, acquiring the same effective results without over-drying the skin.

As with any product, be aware that everyone has skin properties that are unique, so I would recommend testing out a small patch and expanding it to the entire face as the reaction and beneficial effects are self-analyzed.

An ideal time to apply this product would be before



Priya Kailash

going to bed, as the skin absorbs the most during sleep (why it is very important to wash off all impurities and makeup before sleeping).

To apply, wash your face with a mild cleanser and dry your face completely. Using a cotton ball, apply the tree tea oil to the entire face or to the affected areas. Be aware that it does have a slight smell, and a tingling feeling, which should dissipate eventually.

Even though skin is not completely accurate in re-flecting one’s inner health, eating healthily and drink-ing lots of water definitely have their benefits. Choos-ing items such as cucumbers, tomatoes and color-rich fruits over oily or overprocessed food is not only good for the skin, but also great for one’s body.

This week’s featured student is Martha Torning, one of the most stylish ladies on campus. This “hottie with a body” is an avid shoes shopper with over 30 pairs and a “little black dress” that can knock your socks off.

Torning’s unique eye for patterns and color coord-ination makes her an ideal feature. Read up on her style and check out her photoshoot by clicking “view” under Photo Gallery, above the small picture. The pictures, while highlighting her best features, also offer style and fashion hints. All of this can be found under the “Fashion” tab at the “Student Voice” Web site, uwrfvoice.com

Even though skin is not completely accurate in reflecting one’s inner health, eating healthy and drinking lots of water definite-ly have their benefits... not only for the skin, but also for one’s body.

Next week’s feature is Aly Meier, a girl with fashion and personality that is all her own. Meier’s unique style and “punk” fashion makes her an exciting and an interesting feature that is sure to add some spice.

Priya Kailash is a biology major and chemistry minor. She enjoys playing ultimate frisbee, as well as wearing four-inch heels.

Packers still in running for NFC playoffs spot



Matt Torkelson

Right now, it’s all about the NFC playoff picture. As a Packer fan, I can’t tell you how stoked I was about this past week’s win over the Cowboys. There were some areas in our offense that perhaps could have been better, but damn, did you see that defense? Dom Capers, you are a beautiful man! Tony Romo wasn’t able to stay comfortable for very long with the blitzes and pressure that was being brought by Green Bay’s defense. So many players shined on that side of the football. Charles Woodson proved that he is one of the, if not the most elite cornerback in the National Football League. Two forced fumbles, an interception, and one sack? That’s a pretty good day.

Now, coming into last week, I, unlike a lot of Packer fans and other sports fans, did not think our season was over. Sure, losing to Tampa Bay was inexcusable, but the Packers have way too much talent to be considered a “lost cause.” To me, all the Tampa Bay loss showed was that there is no such thing as an “easy game” in the NFL. Sure, there are teams that you should absolutely crush, but when you factor in momentum, home field advantage, among other things, these seemingly “crap” teams can surprise you. Need I remind Packer fans of our second Super Bowl season in the 1990s? We lost to the 0-10 Indianapolis Colts. I’ll never forget that loss, but we still went to the big game that year, and gave the Broncos a run for their money. Now, are we as good as the 96-97 Packers? No. Are we as good as our NFC North rivals, the Minnesota Vikings? Talent wise, I think Minnesota obviously has the better team. Now, can we beat them? That’s a different story. Two of our four losses came to the Vikes this year, but you know that there would be nothing sweeter than traveling to the Dome in January to hand the Vikings their season-ending loss.

Going into the next few games, the major concerns are still the of-fensive line, and making Aaron run for his life, and perhaps our “in-consistency” as a whole. Though I agree that a win is a win, I think with the way the Packer’s defense held Tony Romo and company, the Packers offense should have been able to put more points on the board. In the home game against the Vikings, we didn’t start playing until the second half, just as we did against the Bengals. Both games ended up being seemingly close, but if the Packers had played the whole game, I think we could easily be 7-2 right now. Now if you’re a Viking’s fan, you might say that there is no way the games were close, and that you dominated us both games. All I can say to that accusation is, it wouldn’t be an NFL post season without a Viking’s choke. Need I remind you of the 1998 season? Go Falcons!

Stay strong Packer fans, I know some people whined about my previous column about this being Packer territory, but I still stand by the notion that we are in Wisconsin, and you should respect the state line.

The full version of this column is on uwrfvoice.com.

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

STUDENT VOICES

Do you have any Thanksgiving tradi-tions? What are you doing for break?

Jen Terry, senior



“My fiance and I go to each of our family’s Thanksgivings. On break, I’ll be relaxing and working on my senior seminar presentation.”

Meredith Wachtendonk, freshman



“We play Bingo and we get prizes from the dollar store. During break, I’ll be working and spending time with my brother and family.”

Michaela McCoy, freshman



“I’ll be getting together with family. Over break, I’ll be working and hanging with friends.”

Laura Manion, freshman



“I’m going home and probably sleeping for five days.”

Kirby Tebeje, freshman



“Last year, my sister and I got out of babysitting and went to see Twilight.”

Football team loses final game of season, finishes 3-7

Blaze Fugina
blaze.fugina@uwrf.edu

The Falcon Football team lost its final game of the season to Eau Claire, 49-35, at Ramer Field on Nov. 14.

The team finished with a record of 3-7, making it the eighth season in a row with a final record of seven losses and three or less wins. The team also went 1-6 on the season in the WIAC.

The Blugolds finished with a winning 6-4 record on their season, going 4-3 in the conference.

The game was on a blustery Saturday afternoon, drawing roughly 500 fans for the team’s final game.

The game was a high scoring one, with River Falls leading at the end of the first quarter, 21-14. The Falcons took their biggest lead of the game, 28-14, in the middle of the second quarter. The Falcons took this lead on a one-yard touchdown run by Taylor Edwards.

Head Coach John O’Grady was impressed with the team’s early-game play.

“They looked good early,” he said. “The offense and the kicking game looked pretty good.”

However, the team could not hold their two possession lead, with Eau Claire scoring 35 unanswered points for a final score of 49-35. The Blugolds scored 21 points in the second quarter alone.

Eau Claire Quarterback Kyle Paulson picked the Falcons defense apart, going 26-35 and passing for 345 yards. Falcons starting Quarterback Ryan Luessenheide struggled, going 17-35 for 283 yards.

O’Grady said that the senior quarterback Paulson “looked very good,” after the performance.

Playing from behind meant that the Falcons had to throw the ball more. Senior receiver Eric Brewster led the team in reception yards, with 117 yards on five receptions, including one of 58 yards.

The Blugolds were led in receiving by David Goodman, who had seven receptions for 111 total yards.

Edwards led the Falcons in rushing, with 18 carries for 84 yards, while Cory Sartorelli led the Blugolds with 173 yards rushing.

Eau Claire had more offense overall in the game, with 70 more yards offensively overall than the Falcons.

O’Grady said that the team will build on its “good young players” for next season, and will meet in the upcoming week to start talking about the off-season.



Sally King/Student Voice
The Falcons took on UWEC at Ramer Field on Nov. 14 in the final football game of the season. The team’s 2009 season record was 3-7 overall, finishing 1-6 in the WIAC. Two Falcons were named to the 2009 All-WIAC first team, three were named to the second team and two made honorable mention.

Junior running back Ahmad Palmer said that the team will soon be doing off-season workouts to get ready for next season.

The game was also the last for the team’s 18 seniors, who are done with their eligibility after the end of the season.

Senior Daniel Wolf said that his last game was “disappointing,” and playing in his last game was “bittersweet,” after

playing football for most of his life.

The team used the game to have a Parents’ Day, to encourage parents to come watch the team’s final game.

Tammy Wolf, Daniel’s mother, noted how it felt to watch her son play in his last football game.

“It is bittersweet; I am proud of him giving 100 percent everyday,” she said. “We enjoyed watching him in the game.”

Fall sports come to end, winter sports begin seasons



Derek Johnson

As we get into the middle of November, the fall sports are starting to wrap up their seasons, and if successful enough, are playing in post-season ac-

tion. The winter sports teams are starting to become the main focus now as the men and women’s hockey, basketball, and swimming and diving teams kicked off their seasons. Last weekend was one of the weekends where one sport was wrapping up and another was beginning.

Last weekend, the Falcon football team wrapped up its season against Eau Claire. Suffering a loss to the Blugolds put the Falcons at a 1-6 record in the WIAC and 3-7 overall, failing to reach the four win mark since the 2001 season, when they went 4-5 overall. The 2000 season was the last time the Falcons ended the season above .500, when they went 6-4 overall.

The men’s and women’s cross country team went to Oshkosh last weekend for the NCAA Midwest Regionals. The men’s team finished 9th out of 39 teams. The women’s team finished 20th out of 39.

The men and women’s hockey teams had a successful weekend, as both teams went 1-0-1. The men’s team traveled to Eau Claire for their second NCHA match up of the year. The Falcons stole the victory on Friday night as Josh Calleja scored a short-handed goal with 30 seconds left in the game. The final score was 2-1. On Saturday night, the Falcons jumped out to a 1-0 start, with Justin Brossman scoring with

The men and women’s hockey teams had a successful weekend as both teams when 1-0-1.

11:45 left in the first period. The game became a defensive match up throughout the rest of the game. The Blugolds came storming back late in the third period, as they scored a power-play goal with 1:47 left in the, tying it up the game, 1-1. The game went into overtime and both teams looked to play conservatively and take the one point. The only downfall to Saturday night’s game was starting goaltender Bo Storozuk left about a minute and a half into the first period due to illness, but back-up goaltender Eric Babcock came into the game looking strong, saving 39 shots and only giving up the late power-play goal. It doesn’t sound like Storozuk will be out this weekend, but if he is out for any length of time, Babcock looks like a solid option, as he looked calm and collected behind the net Saturday night.

The women’s team stayed in River Falls last weekend, taking on No. 2 Gustavus Adolphus Friday night and Bethel Saturday night. Friday night was a battle of two of the top six teams in the nation, as Gustavus Adolphus was ranked number two last weekend and the Falcons were ranked sixth. The Falcons went up 3-1 early in third period against the Gusties. The Gusties came storming back late in the third period, tying up the score at 3-3 with 16 seconds left in the game. After the overtime was played, the game ended in a 3-3 tie. Falcon goaltender Cassie Campbell saved 36 shots on the night, and gave up the three goals. Saturday night was a little easier for the Falcons as they coasted out to a 5-1 victory over Bethel. Melissa Deardorff was the falcon goaltender in Saturday night’s action, saving 11 shots and giving up the one goal.

The men and women’s swimming and diving team was

The winter sports teams are starting to beome the main focus now.

successful last weekend against Lawrence. The men’s team won 120-75, and they are now 2-0 on the young season. The women’s team won 132-89 and are now 1-1 on the season.

The men and women’s basketball teams kicked off their season in dominating fashion on Tuesday night. The men’s team traveled Viterbo University, winning 66-49. The Falcons came out strong against Viterbo, going up 36-21 at the half, shooting 55 percent. Viterbo shot 38 percent in the first half. The second half wasn’t as smooth for the Falcons. They committed 16 personal fouls and allowed Viterbo to stay somewhat close in the game, despite shooting 29 percent in the second half. Viterbo’s second half success came from the free throw line, where they made 13 of 19. This weekend the Falcons travel to Crown College for the Crown College Tip-Off Classic.

The women’s basketball team host Crown College Tuesday night. Saying this game wasn’t even close would be an understatement as the Falcons pummeled Crown College 112-28. The Falcons put away Crown College early in the game, as the halftime score was 63-10. The Falcons shot 77 percent in the first half and 65 percent in the second half, making sure Crown College could not get back in this game. The Falcons committed only 11 personal fouls total. The Falcon defense gets a lot of credit for the win as well as the offense. The defense held Crown College to 21 percent shooting in the first half and 39 percent in the second half. Also, the defense was all over Crown College getting 27 steals in the game and making Crown College commit 40 turnovers.

Looking to this weekend, the Falcon Men and Women hockey teams have big NCHA match ups. On the men’s side, the No. 6 ranked Falcons host No. 1 ranked St. Norbert in a classic rivalry game. On the women’s side, the No. 5 ranked Falcons host Superior.

WEEKLY SPORTS WRAP

Volleyball

-Senior Kelsey Scheele was named to the 2009 American Volleyball Coaches Association All-Midwest Region team. She has been a member of the All-WIAC team for the past three years, and also earned honorable mention to last year’s AVCA All-American team. She finished her Falcon career as the record holder for career digs with 1,989.

Men’s Cross Country

-The Falcon men placed 9th at the NCAA DIII Midwest Regional meet on Nov. 14. Leading the way for the team was Abdi Hassan, who placed 28th out of 282 runners. He was also named to the USTFCCCA All-Region TeamA for finishing the race in the top 35. Placing second for the Falcons was senior Chad Ernst, who finished 41st, and third was Richie Mark who was 66th.

Women’s Cross Country

-The Falcon women finished 20th at the NCAA DIII Midwest Regional meet on Nov. 14. Senior Carly Eggert was the top UWRF finisher, placing 34th out of 273 runners and was named to the USTFCCCA All-Region Team. Four other Falcons the race, as well.

Football

-Ryan Hansen and Greg Klingelutz were named to the 2009 All-WIAC first football team. Taylor Edwards, Cole Lowell and Matt Guertin were named to the second team. Mike Larson and Ben Arata both earned All-WIAC honor-

able mention, while Connor Graves was named to the All-Sportsmanship Team. Overall, the team finished the season with a 3-7 overall record, finishing 1-6 in WIAC play.

Men’s Swimming and Diving

-The men’s swimming and diving team defeated Lawrence University Nov. 14 by a final score of 120-75. Mars Delgado won both the 50 free and the 100 free, while Kevin O’Brien took first place in the 200 IM and the 100 butterfly. Ray Carlos won the 200 free, and diver Dan Ehrenberg took top honors in the 1-meter diving event.

Women’s Swimming and Diving

-The women beat Lawrence University Nov. 14 by a final score of 132-89. Alyssa Adair won the mixed 100 freestyle and the 100 backstroke. Emily Stein took first in the 100 free, and Sarah Koch was dominant in the 200 IM. Tori Jambretz won the 100 butterfly. On the diving side, Becca Goldman took first in the 1-meter event.

Men’s Basketball

-Jontae Koonkaew had 18 points, and Brady Hannigan recorded 11 as the Falcon men won their season opener 66-49 Tuesday at Viterbo University. Aaron Anderson also had 11 points. The team takes on Crown College at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

Women’s Basketball

-The Falcon women won their season opener, defeating Crown College 112-28 Tuesday at the Karges Center. Tess Lardie had 17 points. Freshmen Lindsey Olsona and Nikki Guhr ended with 14 and 13 points, respectively. Also adding to the Falcon’s offensive front: Lauren Pellowski had 11 and

Melissa Carmody had 10.

Men’s Hockey

-The men’s hockey team finished with a 2-1 victory on Nov. 13 and a 1-1 tie on Nov. 14. Both games were against UW-Eau Claire. In game two of the road trip, Justin Brossman scored the team’s only goal of the game, assisted by Jamie Ruff and Nolan Craner. Goalie Eric Babcock had 39 saves in the win to put the Falcon men at now 5-1-1. The team faces St. Norbert College Friday and Saturday at Hunt Arena.

Women’s Hockey

-The women’s hockey team recorded a 5-1 win over Bethel University on Nov. 14 at Hunt Arena. Lauren Conrad had two goals in the game, while three others each added one. Goalie Melissa Deardorff made 11 saves in the game, helping the Falcons to a 3-0-1 record and a No. 6 ranking in last week’s USCHO.com poll. The team hosts UW-Superior Friday and Saturday at Hunt Arena.



CGI saves ‘2012’ from annihilation



Ken Weigend

I can’t help but wonder - what does director Roland Emmerich have against Earth? He stomped on it with “Godzilla,” at-tacked it with aliens in “Independence Day,” and sent it

into a deep freeze with “The Day After Tomorrow.” Perhaps his childhood left him bitter - or perhaps he’s still bitter that “10,000 B.C.” flopped - but whatever the reason, Emmerich has positioned himself as the official king of disaster porn. This time ariund he sets his sights on the ancient Mayan prophecy that the world will end on the winter solstice in 2012. Perhaps fueling some of the conspiracy theory fire, one sleazy White House politician even laments on screen, “It’s kind of galling, when you realize that the nutbags with the cardboard signs were right all along.” “2012” is the mother of all disaster movies and proves one thing conclusively: that despite his directorial deficiencies, Emmerich can’t be accused of dreaming small. He places Earth on the clearance rack here, and everything must go. Monuments fall like dominoes as natural disasters reach cataclysmic conclusions, and - as the mushy maniac that he is - Emmerich kills off billions of people so that a single family can reconnect. He may be the most genocidal softy ever... The film spends the first 30 minutes in exposition. Scientists discover that solar flares are slowly warming up the

Earth’s core, which will eventually cause the crust’s tectonic plates to begin shifting. As we watch the U.S. government, headed by a very old-feeling Danny Glover, begin apocalyptic preparations, we are also introduced to the Curtis family. The dad, Jackson (John Cusack), is a failed sci-fi novelist who moonlights as a limo driver. His ex-wife (Amanda Peet) lives with their two obnoxious children and a smug plastic surgeon (Tom McCarthy). This annoyingly clichéd fractured family, filling in for the bulk of humanity, finds a way to come together as the world falls apart. The whole premise reeks of soap opera, and the characterization is so laughable that the family becomes as disposable as the CG corpses that pile up in the background. And besides, if Cusack and Peet are the best metaphors the film can find to symbolize hope, perhaps we are better off succumbing to global annihilation... But let’s be fair here - any cogent filmgoer will walk into this film expecting little more than a brainless yet stunning formula disaster movie. And in that essence, “2012” delivers the goods. The CGI, a sure fire nominee for Best Visuals,



is simply stunning as Cusack drives a limo through LA as it literally falls apart around him; as the Yellowstone super-volcano erupts, covering the U.S. in a layer of ash; as the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy slams into the White House, driven by a 1,000 foot high tsunami. These scenes, and many more, although not convincingly plausible, are simply awesome to watch. But almost as quickly as it starts, the shameless carnage disappears, and we’re left watching the Curtis family embark on the most stupidly sensational and mind-numbingly improbable adventure imaginable - to get to the Himalayas and to the secret arks that have been built there to ferry a specially selected cross-section of humanity to survival. From this point on, “2012” gets into a foot race with itself, each scene desperately trying to outdo the last in terms of sheer spectacle and scope, but also in terms of impossibility and downright goofiness. By the end, the modern-day parallel to Noah’s Ark feels so heavy-handed and conceited that any sense of care free and fun is ripped out of us. But “2012” is destined for greatness. However that legacy will be as nothing more than the quintessential Blu-Ray tool to showcase the quality of your home theater system.

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, but statistical analysis has shown him to be 99.9 percent accurate.



place in the world that natural decimation hasn’t touched, and it is only there that we can all...rebuild (don’t worry I won’t tell you where, although I will admit it’s kind of nice to know we end back where we started). After that...well, I think you all know. While plot-wise, I was less than enthused, visually I was floored. The CG and disaster sequences for the film truly were remarkable in resolution and quality (which on occasion was a little unnerving) and at times definitely made you pull the confirmation look around like, “did that really just happen?” This, along with the great idea to make Wisconsin the new South Pole for the earth, allowed for me to give a few points away in kudos. Other than that, I’m sad to say that if you think you know the story already, then chances are you probably know the film too. Though it wasn’t the best, I will gladly admit it certainly wasn’t the worst either. Obviously the point of the film was not to capture the ultimate survival story but to highlight how Hollywood has upped the ante when it comes to graphic design and CG technology. For that, I say nice work to Roland and the boys. That being said, I say to you, my Falcon friends: how do you feel about the end?

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.



50 Cent converts into commercialized flop



Andy Phelps

There’s no denying that in the past decade, rapper 50 Cent (Curtis Jackson III) has evolved from the street-hardened thug who famously declared, “I been hit with a few shells,

but I don’t walk with a limp” in “In Da Club,” which quickly became an immortalized part of popular hip-hop and to this day remains a deeply ingrained staple of nightclub playlists. After all, how many true gangsters reside in lush Connecticut mansions? Jackson no longer even needs pretend to rely on his tough-as-a-brick, drug dealing, street king persona- he’s a brand name in itself, estimated to be worth over \$400 million. What’s left to motivate the superstar who knows that any random pop garbage (such as the vomit-inducing “Candy Shop” and “Ayo Technology”) he halfheartedly puts out will fly off the shelves? Apparently, he has stated that his intention for his latest release, ‘In Case I Self Destruct’, was something “more aggressive and darker.” But instead of the fresh-off-the-streets

boasting about getting shot nine times, Jackson offers yet another collection of dry and utterly trite rhymes that are sure to bore listeners to death. Apparently, Jackson’s idea of conveying darkness is an album cover featuring a facial close-up in which half of his boxy and always menacing countenance is burnt and scarred. Unfortunately, it comes off as hilariously absurd, as “Fiddy” ends up resembling Anakin Skywalker. After a whimpering flameout in his publicity-starved “feud” with Kanye West, Jackson is back with his fourth studio album, a selection of sixteen tracks that were actually recorded before the material that appeared on his 2007 LP, “Curtis.” Even with the production of the incomparable Dr. Dre and guest spots by Ne-Yo and Eminem, this effort is yet another watered-down failure. The violence-filled “Psycho,” is filled with bad intentions and dangerous weapons. “And where you rest, I’ll make a mess / The hollow tips’ll hit your chest / You cough up blood to EMS,” Fiddy tells us in a monotone voice over an angst-filled beat. But who is he so angry at, and why should we care? Jackson has never displayed any apparent lyrical skill or ability to follow a beat, but his voice is firm, gruff and always commands attention. The forceful and hard-pounding “So Disrespectful” features a number of sharp personal barbs

that never fail to hit their intended target. Here, 50 takes the time to completely rip onetime G-Unit buddies Young Buck and The Game to pieces, and is apparently a response to The Game’s claim that Jackson was sexually abused by his father as a child. “Come on Game, you’ll never be my equal, / Your homies shoot dogs, my niggas shoot people,” he boasts, managing to sound nonchalant and frighteningly sincere at the same time. The track, “Could’ve Been You,” featuring R. Kelly, is an atrociously sappy R & B effort which seems to be a random collection of semi-sentimental thoughts lacking any purpose or focus. Sadly, it actually resembles soft-core porn more than anything. Mercifully, this marks the end of the record-yet another thoroughly boring and tired attempt by Jackson to stay relevant in the world of commercial hip-hop that is now dominated by West and Weezy.

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.



UWRF professor volunteers at horse rescue farm

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A Refuge Farm for horse rescue and sanctuary is located in Spring Valley, Wis., only 19 miles from River Falls where UW-River Falls Professor Tracy O’Connell volunteers with the farm regularly. “I’ve been volunteering there since about 2005,” O’Connell said. “They rescue horses and they have a couple different missions.” The “sanctuary herd” is the group of horses that live on the farm, all rescued and taken care of, and can be found on the farm’s Web site: www.refugefarms.org The sanctuary herd visits various groups in the community, including retirement homes and camps, to spread the message of the farm, O’Connell said. The farm also has designated times in which the public can visit the horses. The refuge farm’s mission is to provide a home for mistreated, or unwanted horses, who will no longer face hunger, inhumane treatment, or be forced to move and re-adjust any-

more, according to the Web site. The farm is receiving more and more attention with an increase in horses needing homes, O’Connell said. “[This is an] extremely vital necessity in our environment. Lots of people have lost their jobs, their farms,” O’Connell said. There is no market for horses, O’Connell said. They are being sold at auctions in Canon Falls, Wis., for \$10, when they were sold for \$100 a year ago. “When they’re purchased at that price, it’s because they’re being fattened for slaughter and shipped to Canada or Mexico,” O’Connell said. The refuge farm has rescued 240 horses, according to O’Connell. “As the worsening of the situation you get this desperate feeling of needing to help the horses when you know that they’re starving, that they’re suffering,” O’Connell said. Volunteers are welcome at the refuge farm, she said. “[There is] no paid staff, they’re all volunteers. Everything is based on donations and fundraising events.” O’Connell said.

The farm raises funds with various events it plans throughout the year. Recently, on Saturday its annual “Fall Gala and Auction” was held at the University of Minnesota’s Equine Center, and had guest speaker Don Hoglund, a published veterinarian who spoke about the rescue of wild horses. Upcoming fundraising events include cheesecake sales and a breakfast hosted at Applebees in Menomonie, Wis. In the summertime the farm sends volunteers to Country Jam, an event where different non-profit groups can sign up to work. “We had probably 12 students last summer from here working Country Jam,” O’Connell said. The students each worked for four hours, and had the rest of the day free to explore, she added. “We have so many jobs. If students or faculty [are interested] we have a lot of opportunities: taking care of horses, writing grants, [and] serving breakfasts,” O’Connell said. “They don’t have to know anything about horses.” Anybody interested in volunteering for the refuge farm may contact the farm or O’Connell directly.

CBE alumni honor current faculty

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Every year the alumni in the College of Business and Economics have the opportunity to vote on faculty that have been outstanding.

This year CBE has recognized three faculty members in the areas of research, advising and teaching. This year’s recipients were Hamid Tabesh with the Outstanding Teacher Award, Dawn Hukai with the Outstanding Advisor Award and Joy Benson with the Outstanding Research Award.

In a press release earlier this month, CBE Dean Glenn Potts expressed his opinion about this year’s recipients.

“I am very proud of the faculty chosen for these awards,” Potts said. “The teaching and advising awards are chosen by our graduates from two and four years earlier, so it is a great honor to have been selected by our students.”

The award winners were announced at this year’s open day meeting in August. According to the recipients, the achievement reward comes as a welcome form of “thank you” from previous students.

“Anytime you win a reward that students have voted on, those are always most meaningful,” Hukai said.

“My research is in the areas of learning dynamics and decision-making,” Benson said. “I enjoy developing ideas that enhance student engagement in their learning as well as those that link academic and practitioner communities. Receiving this award helps to validate my role as a teacher-scholar and its contribution to the college’s mission and values.”

“It motivates me to work harder and keep up my good work. It’s always good to hear good things from your stu-



College of Business and Economics Professors Joy Benson, recipient of the Outstanding Research Award, Dawn Hukai, recipient of the Outstanding Advisor Award and Hamid Tabesh, Recipient of the Outstanding Teacher Award.

Sally King / Student Voice

“Everybody has a different story to tell to potential employers.”

Dawn Hukai, professor in the College of Business and Economics

dents. I’m glad to hear they think I’m doing a good job. But there are so many good teachers in this college. I’m lucky,” Tabesh said.

“It’s great to know you can make a difference in student’s lives,” Hukai said.

According to Hukai and Tabesh, the real credit is to the students themselves and the pleasure they take from helping them.

“When I teach the students every semester I feel good. That I feel proud about - it is a continuous feeling I have. I have this privilege to teach these young students. Their energy gives me energy. They give more to me than I give to them,” said Tabesh.

Hukai states that her goal is to help the students that have

already graduated. Helping them find jobs has been something she has worked on in the past few years.

“There is always improvement in every area that could happen,” Hukai said. “Everybody has a different story to tell to potential employers.”

“I want to continue to do my best,” Tabesh said. “I don’t want to slow down. I want to keep my research current. I want to keep the feeling of the first year, to maintain that energy until my last year [before] retirement.”

The College of Business and Economics has been developing new programs and ways of connecting with their students, from the Masters of Business Administration program to numerous internships located across the Twin Cities, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

UWRF professor nationally recognized for art

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UW-River Falls art professor Randy Johnston recently learned he will be presented with the Distinguished Educator Award for his work in ceramics this coming spring.

The award is given out by the James Renwick Alliance, which describes itself as a “national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing scholarship and education on contemporary American craft,” in a statement on its Web site.

Johnston found out about the recognition several weeks ago when he received a phone call from the chair of the alliance. For Johnston, the honor came as a complete surprise.

“I’d never heard of the award previously,” he said.

The award is given out biannually to a small number of art educators nationwide. This year two other individuals will be receiving the award alongside Johnston.

The ceremony will be held April 23, at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.

Along with giving a speech, Johnston will have the opportunity to showcase some of his work.

“They’ve asked me to do a presentation on my work, and I’ll probably brag up my students and the University,” he said.

Johnston was nominated by one of his former professors at the University of Minnesota, Warren Mackenzie. Mackenzie

was recognized by the Renwick Alliance for his achievements in ceramic work in 2009. Four of Johnston’s former students also wrote letters of recommendation supporting his nomination.

Current UWRF professor Rhonda Willers wrote one of the letters. Willers studied for her Bachelor of Fine Arts in ceramics under Johnston from 2000 to 2003. She went on to receive her Masters in Fine Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and returned to UWRF as a professor in 2007.

“[Johnston] and I continued to stay in touch,” she said. “They had a class that they forgot to schedule someone for and he asked me if I would be interested in teaching it.”

Willers’ path to teaching is common among his students, Johnston said.

“Percentage-wise, a large number of [UWRF art] students have been able to go on to grad school and continue the cycle as professors, here or elsewhere,” he said.

Willers’ first interaction with Johnston helped steer her in the direction of art studies.

“I wasn’t even an art major,” she said. “I came to him with an add card for Intro to Art and I remember him being very open. I had very little skill, but he was completely willing to help me along.”

Johnston provides a model for the profession that Willers said she tries to follow.

“He has an incredible discipline for his work and his teaching, and he integrates those so well,” she said. “That’s

something as a teacher I hope I can do as well.”

Terry Brown, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences reiterated Willers’ statements and added that Johnston’s personal recognition also serves as positive publicity for UWRF.

“National awards like this are always positive indicators of the strength of academic programs,” she said.

Both Brown and Willers also said Johnston is already known nationally and internationally for his work with ceramics, and that UWRF is fortunate to have a teacher with such a reputation in his field.

For his part, Johnston said he’s the lucky one.

“I feel really fortunate. I’ve always enjoyed the opportunity to work with what I feel are very talented students,” he said.



**Submitted by Randy Johnston
Recipient of the Distinguished Educator Award, Randy Johnston**

The Student Voice staff
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happy and safe
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