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# STUDENT VOICE

February 12, 2010

www.uwrfvoice.com

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## 300 student staff members attend conference at UWRF

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UW-River Falls played host to 300 student staff members from River Falls and the Twin Cities area in an all-day conference last Saturday sponsored by the Associated Twin Cities College Housing Administrators (ATCCHA). According to Kristie Feist, assistant director of Residence Life, the purpose of this conference was “To provide Residence Life staff the opportunity to develop leadership skills and to network with other Residence Life staff from nearby schools.” The student staff members participated in a number of activities and workshops involving community building, self-awareness, diversity education, how to promote events and how to be a better Residence Life staff member. Several students also presented their own workshops. Gina DeRosier, a senior majoring

in elementary education here at UWRF, presented a workshop about diversity. Her main message was that there is more to diversity than just race and ethnicity; diversity also encompasses religion, gender and social class. According to DeRosier, the purpose of her workshop was to generate ideas for programs dealing with diversity and how to cover the issue of diversity in unique ways. Kara Dennis, a sophomore and Chloe Mirzayi, a senior from Macalester College, teamed up to teach a workshop about sexual education. Their workshop titled “S.E.X.Y Training, Students Educating X’s and Y’s” is a program designed for freshman. This program informs students about the forms of birth control, sexually transmitted diseases and how to have safe sex. According to Mirzayi, this program was designed to enlighten and educate students who attended conservative high schools where they were only taught ab-

stinence. UWRF students Ellie Bares, Brandon Kesler and Rachel Tobias served on the planning committee for this event. According to Kesler, they worked with the professional Residence Life staff providing student input for the event and helped with the day-of activities. When asked what they wanted the participants of the conference to come away with, Tobias said, “We

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Hannah Lenius/Student Voice  
300 student staff members from UWRF and the Twin Cities area took part in a all-day conference put on by the Associated Twin Cities College Housing Administrators.

## Students congregate for Super Bowl festivities



Sally King/Student Voice  
Students gathered in the Falcon’s Nest of the University Center last Sunday to watch the New Orleans Saints take on the Indianapolis Colts in Super Bowl 44; the Saints won 31-17. This year’s Super Bowl was the most widely watched program in United States history.

## H1N1 vaccinations remain crucial, health officials say

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Though fears of the H1N1 flu are beginning to subside, Student Health Services officials at UW-River Falls said individuals on campus should continue to take preventative measures against the virus. “We’re still encouraging people to get vaccinated,” said Lori Otto, student health nurse at Student Health Services. Alice Reilly-Myklebust, director of counseling at Student Health Services said just because the flu isn’t in the news now doesn’t mean it’s gone for good. “We are still expecting a third wave of the H1N1 flu,” she said. Student Health Services held an immunization clinic on Feb. 3 in the University Center in conjunction with the Western Wisconsin Medical Association. Vaccinations for both H1N1 and seasonal flu were available. Seasonal flu shots cost between \$18 and \$35 depending on insurance and status as a student, while H1N1 shots were given free of charge. Despite the fact that the H1N1 vaccinations are free, Otto said she was disappointed with the number of people looking to get vaccinated during the two-hour clinic. “We might [have given] 30 or 40 shots-that’s it,” she said. Comparatively, nearly 500 individuals were vaccinated at the clinic held in early December. Still, these numbers fell short of expectations at Student Health Services. “We were hoping for 30 to 50

percent of students to come in,” she said. “But by the time we got the vaccine, the urgency had died down.” Before the H1N1 vaccine was available in early December, students were filing in to Health Services with flu-like symptoms. “I would see on average of 10 or 15 upper respiratory illnesses every day, about a third of those were influenza, for about three weeks this fall,” Otto said. The biggest challenge in getting people vaccinated is announcing that the shots are available on campus, Reilly-Myklebust said. “It’s really tough to get the word out,” she said. “We post announcements on Falcon Daily and there are posters in each of the residence halls. We rely a lot on word of mouth.” Word of mouth is how animal and dairy science professor Dennis Cooper said he heard about the Feb. 3 clinic. “For a long time [H1N1 vaccines] were in short supply so I didn’t get vaccinated,” he said. “I had a student tell me about this earlier [in the day], so I came in.” In the event of another and possibly more severe outbreak of H1N1 cases on campus, Blake Fry, who works on emergency preparedness plans in the chancellor’s office, said preparations have been made. “We do have a pandemic flu plan,” he said. “We have some recommendations from the provost on being flexible with attendance for students and staff.” For those who may begin to ex-

See H1N1 page 3

## Faculty votes against controversial constitutional referendum

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A UW-River Falls Faculty Senate referendum that has been an item of heated debate failed to pass on Dec. 9 by a large majority. The referendum dealt with whether or not non-instructional academic staff are eligible to serve on Faculty Senate and what their status as instructors implies. Faculty Senate members had been in heated discussion for months on whether or not the referendum was a good idea. Final tallies showed that 61 members voted to approve the referendum, 112 disapproved, 3 abstained and 41 ballots were improperly submitted, David Rainville,

professor of chemistry and Faculty Senate chair, said. Ballots were mailed out on Nov. 23 to give senate members enough time to make their decision based on discussion and debate that took place during the meetings. “One of the problems with this referendum was that it polarized faculty and staff on this campus,” Rainville said. “This is the third referendum that has taken place in 28 years but it has had the largest amount of debate tied to it.”

“One of the problems with this referendum was that it polarized faculty and staff on this campus.”  
David Rainville  
Faculty Senate chair

There were other voices that emerged from within the UW-system as well during this time. Patricia Brady, a general counselor for the UW-System and a member of the legal department, voiced her opinion to Faculty Senate when she said that all academic staff should be allowed to participate within Faculty Senate. According to chapter 36 of Wisconsin state law, faculty is defined as “persons who hold the



Sally King/Student Voice  
The Faculty Senate met to discuss and debate a referendum proposed that concerned non-instructional academic staff.

See Referendum page 3



# UWRF offers inclusive, purposeful orgs

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UW-River Falls held an involvement fair Feb. 1, filling the Falls Room in the University Center with students and organization representatives.

There are many ways for students to be involved on campus including Greek life, intramural and club athletics, student organizations and Falcon Programs. Many of the activities are very low cost, some free and others even pay. All of the organizations offer benefits to those involved.

On average, students who are involved have better grades than their uninvolved peers, according to the Student Affairs Web site. Research on college students has shown that if they are involved in at least one activity on campus other than classwork, their success in the classroom and after graduation is much more likely. A few of the benefits listed on the SA Web site include students showing more discipline and better time management skills due to the need to fit more things into their daily schedules.

By being involved, students also improve their leadership and interpersonal skills, meet new people, make new friends, make constructive use of their energy and free time and feel more connected to the university. Campus involvement is a great outlet for stress, and the organizations allow students to become part of close communities, according to the SA Web site.

Students have many different options for being involved on campus. If there is an organization or club that a student would like to see on campus, they can start it themselves. By getting at least five people together, a student need only follow the ten simple steps listed on the student life page of the SA Web site to create their own organization.

There are currently around 170 active student organizations on campus.

According to Matt Levine, student organization and Greek life coordinator, the groups range from five to over 100 members.

“I would say that a significant student population is involved with a student organization that is central to their academic learning,” Levine said.

He also stated that he thinks an incredible cause for getting involved outside of the classroom is for students to get an opportunity to take a break from the academic stressors of campus life.

These organizations range from agriculture-based clubs to break-dancing, gay-straight alliance to foreign languages, gamers to navigators and paintball to parkour. There are also many club and recreational athletics, along with three fraternities and five sororities.

Sophomore Jessi Beucler has given a few different orgs a try, including Poultry Club, Sigma Alpha, Ag Ed Society and the National Residence Hall Honorary.

“I joined the orgs that I am involved in because I love being involved and I especially love getting to know people that share the same interests as me,” Beucler said.

She also stated that being involved was a great way to gain leadership and communication skills. Beucler said she also enjoys meeting new people, and when a student happens to be in an organization and have common classes with her, it’s definitely a perk.

“You have an automatic study buddy, kind of a built in thing,” she said. “Another thing that excites me is that with being involved, you get to see other people develop their own sense of being and you get to see how a person can ‘find’

themselves, in a sense.”

Despite the wide array of offered opportunities, some students are not involved. Freshman Casey Dierks said she’s too busy to be involved, though she would like to.

“I work two jobs, and between the working and studying I don’t have much time for extras,” she said.

Senior Amber Olson said she hasn’t found an organization that interests her enough for the time commitment required by involvement.

“I already have a full class schedule, tons of friends to be with, work full time and family to see,” she said. “I found that I can do the things I love without the meetings or politics of a club or org.”

One of the clubs on campus is the Bushwhackers Club, which is focused on providing inexpensive and fun opportunities for students to experience different aspects of the outdoors. The organization has a list of approximately 200 people who are interested in the club trips, but junior member Emily Carlson says there are typically around 12 people on each trip.

“The people who would like to go on any given trip respond to the e-mails and come to the meetings preceding the trip,” she said.

Carlson has been a member of Bushwhackers since she was a freshman.

“A \$130 spring break hiking trip to the Smokey Mountains got me interested. What can I say? I’m a poor college student,” she said.

Charles Sowa, assistant director of recreation, said club sports are one of three recreational opportunities offered by Recreation and Sport Facilities at UWRF. There are currently 13 different club sports offered, and like all other student organizations on campus, club sports must be a recognized student org and follow the same criteria as the other clubs as outlined in the student org handbook.

“Recreation and Sport Facilities does not set the clubs that are offered. The club offerings come from the interest of the students,” Sowa said. “The clubs are student-created, and, for the most part, student run.”

Club sports offer a more structured environment than intramurals, with teams hosting practices and traveling for competitions with other institutions.

“In year’s past, Club Sports have operated on their own without much direction,” Sowa said. “Traditionally, our most popular clubs have been the sports that are not necessarily offered by varsity athletics.”

Research has proven that more and more high school seniors are considering the recreation opportunities offered at an institution before choosing it, according to Sowa. New this year to club sports has been the addition of the Club Sports Council. This council is comprised of the current club sports on campus and is designed to help club sports function more



Hannah Lenius/Student Voice

**Adell Hanson of the Phi Mu sorority encourages students to join at the Involvement Fair, held Feb. 1. The fair spotlighted numerous opportunities for campus inclusion.**

effectively. The council offers help in creating budgets, developing an organizational policy and anything else that clubs may need to become more successful.

“Being involved on campus is critical to the collegiate experience and the experiences gained from club sports are valuable for a lifetime,” Sowa said.

Recreation and Sport Facilities have also offered intramural athletics on campus for over 30 years. Students, faculty and staff are able to participate in a variety of competitive and recreational sports activities year round. According to the intramurals Web site, numerous students play on over 400 teams in 30 different men’s, women’s and co-rec team and individual sports every year.

“We offer a wide variety of sports in hopes of appealing to a wide variety of people,” Sowa said. “In the last few years our participation has grown by more than 20 percent.”

Another opportunity to be involved on campus is Falcon Programs. Falcon Programs is a student programming board of 15 students with the mission “to provide dynamic opportunities for the UWRF campus and community to enhance their educational experiences through inclusive and purposeful programming,” according to FP adviser Karyn Wells. Falcon Programs supports and manages many programs, including leadership retreats, ally trainings, concerts, service trips, bingo, comedians, etc.

Sophomore Jayne Dalton said she enjoys being involved. “I once heard the adage, ‘the world belongs to those who show up.’ I feel that by being involved I can make a difference and contribute something positive to the world around me,” she said.

Dalton is currently contributing to Children’s Miracle Network and the River Falls area.

“In the future I plan to broaden that scope. In today’s world of awareness, brought about by technology, it’s a travesty for someone to remain a spectator,” she said. “There is so much to do in so little time—why waste it?”

## 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.

### Jan. 29

- Jessica L. Schwinn, 18, was cited for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
- Leland D. Spohn, 19, was cited for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
- Joseph A. Harris, 19, was cited for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.

### Jan. 30

- Ryan K. McNamara, 27, was arrested for disorderly conduct on the 1400 block of Riverside Dr.

### Jan. 31

- Nickolas W. Paris, 21, was cited for possession of an open container on the 600 block of S. Main St.

### Feb. 4

- Five rolls of toilet paper were found stolen from the Davee Library basement men’s bathroom.

### Feb. 5

- Trent A. Sterry, 22, was cited for possession of an open container on the 100 block of Cascade Ave.
- James J. Mattsen, 18, was cited for underage consumption in Crabtree Hall.
- Travis I. Bue, 19, was cited for underage consumption in Johnson Hall.

## Prologue submissions are due by March 1

E-mail writings to  
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## VOICE SHORTS

### Vice chancellor to leave UWRF

Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance Lisa Wheeler has accepted a position at Normandale College as the vice president of student affairs.

Wheeler’s last day at UWRF will be March 12.

### Faculty Senate chair to step down

David Rainville announced that he will not be seeking another term in his position as Faculty Senate chair at the Feb. 3 Faculty Senate meeting.

### Comencement application deadline this Friday

The graduation application deadline for undergraduate degrees is Feb. 12 for those students participating in spring commencement.

Applications are available in the Registrar’s Office, 105 North Hall. A \$40 application fee will be added to the student’s UWRF account once the application is filed in the Registrar’s Office.

For more information, contact Linda Matzek at 425-3342 or check the commencement web site at [www.uwrf.edu/comencement](http://www.uwrf.edu/comencement).

### “Vagina Monologues” comes to UWRF

UWRF will be hosting “The Vagina Monologues” at 7 p.m. Feb. 13, 14 and 15 in the Falcon’s Nest of the University Center.

Student tickets for “The Vagina Monologues” will be \$5 in advance and \$8 at the doors. Community tickets will be \$8 in advance and \$10 at the doors. For more information, call 425-3911.

### New ambassador position available to UWRF students

The admissions office is accepting applications from current students who would be interested in becoming ambassadors for UWRF.

The position would require the ambassadors to lead two weekly tours, telephone call prospective students and upload blogs to UWRF’s Web site.

Applications are available in the admissions office and are due on by 4 p.m. on March 5.

### Student Voice recognized for its reporting

The *Student Voice* received two awards at the Wisconsin Newspaper Association annual awards banquet in Madison on Feb. 12.

Justin Magill received third place honors in sports reporting, and Ken Weigend received an honorable mention in sports reporting.

Check out the updated  
Student Voice Web site  
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you read

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# UWRF students implement breathalyzer at local bar

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The restaurant and bar in River Falls known as Bo’s N Mine is set to introduce a new student-run business by placing a breathalyzer in its building.

SampairPetersen LLC was recently started by Rory Sampair and Alex Petersen, two business management students at the UW - River Falls. Its first, and only, order of business is the inclusion of a mounted breathalyzer in Bo’s N Mine. The breathalyzer will be completely voluntary and will cost one dollar for those who wish to use it.

“The purpose of [the breathalyzer] is just to allow people the opportunity to know if they are okay to drive after leaving the bar,” said Sampair.

A built-in straw dispenser will present the user with a straw that they will use to blow into the machine. This will keep the breathalyzer completely sanitary but still present the user with an accurate reading of their blood alcohol concentration (BAC).

The breathalyzer has a special sensor in-

stalled that is accurate for 500 uses, according to Sampair and Petersen. After the machine reaches 500 uses, the built-in sensor can analyze that it will not be able to register an accurate BAC reading and will shut down.

“We will have back-up sensors in order to keep up with changes,” said Petersen. “Either Rory or I are here five days out of the week anyway, but our number will be available if we are not around in order to change the sensor and keep the breathalyzer running without a problem.”

Sampair and Petersen both bartend regularly at Bo’s N Mine. Sampair has worked for the bar and restaurant for approximately a year and a half while Petersen has worked for the company for over two years. Cedric Ellingson, the owner of Bo’s N Mine, granted his two employees the opportunity to implement the breathalyzer into his bar in confidence of his two employees.

Sampair originally thought up the idea of

the breathalyzer after a personal experience when he received a citation for driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI) and lost his driver’s license for seven months. Despite losing his license and always having to find rides wherever he couldn’t walk or ride his bike, Sampair said the financial costs also hit him hard.

“After my DUI I started looking for a personal breathalyzer I could keep in my car,” Sampair said. “No one ever knows exactly when they have had too much and I didn’t want to go through that again. I was actually at work one day when I thought that maybe instead of getting a personal breathalyzer, Bo’s [N Mine] could get one for everyone to use. I brought the idea up to Alex and that was basically how we started to get things moving.”

After Sampair’s initial idea, the two Bo’s

N Mine bartenders began working together to bring this device to the establishment. Ellingson allowed the two to use his restaurant and bar as a platform for their idea, and both Sampair and Petersen said they hope they are not only successful, but generate a reputation of higher safety precautions in drunken driving for their company and establishments that use their services.

The machine should help lower traffic accidents for those who leave the establishment under the influence of alcohol. With its accurate readings, users should be able to better judge if they should drive or not after leaving the bar. A disclaimer that will be placed next to the machine, however, will state, “the only legally valid measure of BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration) is obtained by blood testing or other evidential method of measurement. This device is for screening purposes and should be used as a guide for self-monitoring only.”

The purpose of breathalyzer, according to SampairPetersen LLC, is only to give potential users and extra reason not to get behind the wheel after a couple drinks.

**“I was actually at work on day when I thought that maybe instead of getting a personal breathalyzer, Bo’s could get one for everyone to use.”**

Rory Sampair  
UWRF student

## H1N1: University health services prepares for another potential breakout

from page 1

hibit signs of the flu, Otto has some very simple advice.

“If you think you have the flu, stay home and get better,” she said.

Symptoms of both H1N1 and the seasonal flu include a sore throat, consistent cough, body aches, chills and fatigue. While the seasonal flu is almost always accompanied by a very high fever, it may be absent from a case of H1N1 flu, according to the Center for Disease Control’s Web site.

In the event of a serious outbreak, Fry said he

recommends that people head off campus and go home. If that’s not possible, arrangements can be made for meals to be brought to students in the residence halls to prevent unnecessary contact between ill students and the rest of the campus population.

If the need arises, holding another immunization clinic is certainly a possibility, Reilly-Myklebust said.

“We’ll wait and see how it pans out,” she said. “If we see a third wave and the Public Health Department has vaccines left, we will hold another clinic.”

Reilly-Myklebust  
Director of sounseling

## ATCCHA: Conference allows students to network, learn leadership skills

from page 1

want them to get a sense of what River Falls is all about and to take what they learn here and implement it in their communities.”

Paul Shepard, the director of Student Life, was the conference’s keynote speaker. Shepard’s message revolved around the theme of the conference, developing yourself, your community and your world. He encouraged the participants to think about what they bring to their positions as student staff members, what their challenges

been involved with ATCCHA for about six years, according to Klein.

According to the ATCCHA web site, ATCCHA provides professional development opportunities, support and encouragement, and creates networking opportunities for housing professionals.

The ATCCHA’s member schools include Augsburg College, Bethel University, Carleton College, Concordia University, College of St. Benedict, Gustavus Adolphus College, Hamline University, Macalester College, Saint Cloud State University, Saint John’s University, St. Catherine University, St. Olaf College, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities,

the University of St. Thomas, and of course, UWRF. In order to be considered a member, a school must pay a \$60 membership fee and attend at least two meetings prior to any voting for elections or organizational initiatives, according to the ATCCHA Web site.

The conference proved to be an educational day, according to the student staff members. Shawna Fritz, a UWRF student, learned about new programs ideas and how to better manage time. Rachel Johnson, a student at Hamline University, learned to think more consciously about how to include individuals to create a stronger community. Sarah Theisen, a student at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, learned about diversity and that different types of identity need to be addressed. Theisen also realized the main message that this conference was trying to get across—that her job as a resident assistant is more important than she thought.



Shepard

## Referendum: Dispute amongst Faculty Senate determines voting

from page 1

rank of professor, associate professor, assistant professor or instructor of academic department.” These staff are appointed by the chancellor and faculty of the institution. Academic staff members are defined as professional and administrative personnel with duties, and subject to types of appointments that are primarily associated with higher education institutions or their administration.

Because these definitions are sometimes confusing to some on campus there is an uncertainty of who can actually vote on this campus when it comes to Faculty Senate, Rainville said.

There are academic staff members that believe that the instructional staff at UWRF need a voice within Faculty Senate because they are a part of what makes this campus run and believe that if the referendum would have passed then that voice would have been taken away.

Because of the challenges that faced Faculty Senate last semester, there will be a committee formed this semester to deal with the issues from the legal system. Rainville is suggesting that if necessary, the attorney general may be involved to help things run smoothly.

“This referendum was a completely contentious issue on our campus that really changed things on campus for now and the future.”

David Rainville  
Faculty Senate chair

“It is likely that this referendum will be appealed as early as April of this year and then another round of voting will need to take place which will hopefully run smoother than the first time through,” Rainville said.

This issue doesn’t just affect faculty and staff, however; UWRF students are impacted by the members of Faculty Senate and the decisions they make.

“I find that as a student, I think all instructors, administrators and faculty should have some kind of voice on campus,” sophomore Jesse Engen said. “Each organization is accurately represented for our Student Senate, why should Faculty Senate be any different?”

This semester may prove challenging for Faculty Senate, with a split assembly over this issue and a possible appeal looming on the horizon.

“This referendum was a completely contentious issue on our campus that really changed things on campus,” Rainville said. “For now and for the future.”

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EDITORIAL

Literacy too often neglected by students

In the United States, literacy is defined as being over age 15 and being able to read and write. If national standards say that by the age of 15 a person should be able to read and write, it is baffling that at the University level, it appears that so many people struggle with the basics of reading and writing.

It has become apparent to the Student Voice Editorial Staff that the comprehension of grammatical basics at UW-River Falls can be lacking sometimes. From students’ papers for classes to organizations’ signs posted around campus, errors in literacy can be found quite frequently.

With UWRF being visited often by potential students and families, prestigious visitors and other Universities’ officials, it is important that this University make a positive impression on these prospects. When signs are posted around the University Center with ill-placed commas, incorrect spellings and improperly capitalized letters, UWRF takes the heat, looking unintelligent and poorly educated. After all, what’s the point of being on this campus to receive a higher education when you’re not educated to begin with?

In addition to the public displays of poor English, students seem to be choosing to personally disregard the fact that strong reading and writing skills are the two most important talents they will need to possess when they graduate from college. Not only is it key to be able to throw together an impressive resume and cover letter, but it will be rare to find an employer who finds run-on sentences and lower cased proper nouns amusing and cute.

With several resources available on campus - such as the Writing Center, Academic Success Center and personal tutors - there really is no excuse for students to turn in papers that lack coherent thought. In addition to resources that help students with writing specific to courses they’re taking, Career Services offers help with professional documents, like resumes and cover letters.

With today’s technology-dependent world, acronyms are becoming more and more common in casual written conversation, thanks entirely to text and instant messaging. If ‘LOL’, ‘BRB’, ‘TTYL’ and any of their relatives are used in scholarly writing of any sort, it can be guaranteed that the brain power behind said writing will be heavily questioned.

Going hand-in-hand with poor writing skills, it can be said that college-aged students lack proper speaking skills, and again, heading into the ‘real world’ will require that professional speaking is natural and fluid. ‘Um’ and ‘like’ will not make an otherwise dull interview shine, and curse words casually thrown into sentences will for sure forfeit a second interview.

As college graduates venture into the world of ‘grown-ups’ and careers, basic skills they acquired in elementary school and sharpened throughout their higher education shouldn’t be forgotten. Reading, writing and speaking are key to proper and functional communication and always will be.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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Read the *Student Voice* online at [www.uwrfvoice.com](http://www.uwrfvoice.com)

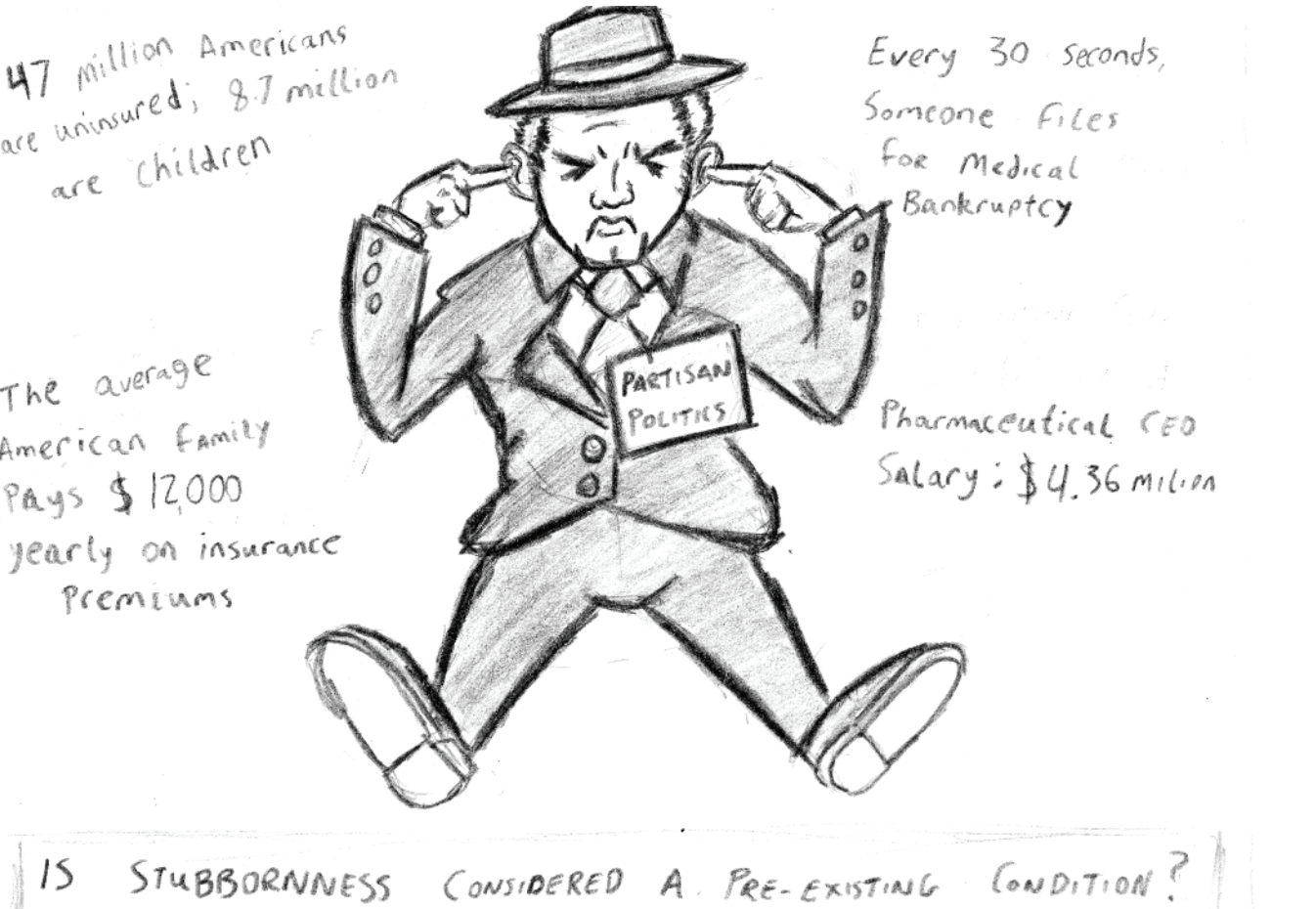
The *Student Voice* is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Thursdays during the regular school year.

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

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



As run in Central St. Croix News  
By Jon Lyksett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

City Council needs more active voice for student affairs

On, February 16 there will be a primary election for River Falls City Council. Running for district four is Bob Hughes. Bob Hughes is a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin River Falls, and has lived in River Falls for many years.

Bob Hughes has a passion for student rights and will work to defend our rights and interests on the City Council.

We need the City Council to make parking available instead of ticketing students who need to go to class. We need the City to defend renters rights and make sure that housing in the city is maintained and insulated.

Too many students are paying high energy bills because of poor insulation and old shoddy inefficient heating of rental housing.

We can no longer afford students wallets being used to make up for shortages in the city budget, and to satisfy the greed of absentee landlords.

A vote for Bob Hughes is a vote for students. Thanks, I look forward to seeing you at the polls on Tuesday Feb 16.

Charlie Guerin

Students should consider voting in this week’s primary election

On Tuesday February 16 there will be Primary Elections for local elected offices across Wisconsin. In River Falls there will be a Primary Election for Pierce County Judge and for City Council District 4.

In both of these elections the Primary will eliminate 1 out of 3 candidates, leaving the top 2 in the running for the general election on April 6th.

Students who are US Citizens and have maintained a residence in Wisconsin for 10 days by the day of the election are eligible to vote. Dorm rooms count as a residence, so students who live on campus may vote here.

You can register to vote at the polls on election day, to find out what information to bring with you call the River Falls City Clerk at 715-425-0900 extension 3408.

Check where you go to vote and your current registration status at: <https://vpa.wi.gov/>

A sample ballot with the candidate names and offices you will be electing is also available at <https://vpa.wi.gov/>

To keep up to date with upcoming election add “River Falls Votes” as a friend on facebook, you will get non-partisan updates on elections and registering to vote.

More and more Students are voting in local elections every year. UWRF Students know that the results of local election impact our lives, our liberties,

and our pocketbooks.

I look forward to seeing you voting at the polls on Tuesday February 16.

Ben Plunkett,  
Student

UW-River Falls Alumni runs for Pierce County Judge seat

I support Joe Boles for Pierce County Judge. Of the three candidates running in the primary election, taking place Tuesday February 16, Boles will be the best to make sure that everyone is treated fairly.

The County Judge will potentially be ruling on cases involving student rights, setting the rules for court appearances, and deciding what alternatives to jail exist for students who violate local laws.

Joe Boles will offer the best options to students in all of these cases. Joe attended school at UWRF, majoring in History with a minor in Business. He went on to study law at Wm. Mitchell College of Law.

He has worked as a clerk for the Honorary Charles Finn. He is a founding partner of Rodli, Beskar, and Boles in River Falls.

Vote Joe Boles on Tuesday, February 16.

Matt Stauner

Positive energy goes a long way

Hello River Falls, Love Doctor here, hope the weather hasn’t been too much of a downer. Valentine’s is here, and many would argue that this holiday has become too commercialized, and the expectations of a boyfriend or a husband has become too hyped up that it has started losing touch with what this holiday is really standing for - love.

So women, I encourage and challenge you not to focus on the material goods that Valentine’s Day promises. Instead, focus more on trying to connect energies and emotions back with your partner. Remember, it is the time spent, not the money spent.

Here’s the question as submitted by one of your fellow college mate.

Q. I have liked this girl for a long time, and I would really like to get to know her more. How can you tell that someone likes you. My sight of noticing such things has gradually become blind.

-Love Blind

A. Well, Love Blind, this is a tricky question because every woman is different; however, there are some universal signs which can indicate whether someone is or would be interested in you.

Those revolve around their smile, eyes, touch and vibe. If this girl you want to get to know better genuinely smiles and seems happy to see you, then she IS happy to see you. At the least, her smile is a sign that she enjoys and welcomes your appearance.

Second, women are well aware that their eyes hold a lot of power. Eye contact, even across a room full of people, can create a powerful connection between two strangers. Thus, if the woman maintains eye-contact, and continues to smile while you are conversing with her that is definitely a good sign. On the other hand, if she intentionally tries to look



Priya Kailash

away, or looks at the floor/ceiling when you’re talking to her, she is making it blatantly obvious that she would rather not be seen talking to you right now.

Third, does she brush her arm against yours or slip her arm into yours when you’re out on a walk? These are sure-fire answers that she definitely sees you as more than just friends. A simple touch can ignite a plethora of feelings and desires. A seemingly innocent touch to your thigh or your arm is something you should look out for.

Fourth, vibe, combines eye contact, body language, and touch - it is that unmistakable connection and excitement you feel with someone which is reciprocated back to you. If she seems to be happy, smiling, making eye-contact, and touching you - well, my friend, she be vibing! She is picking up on your positive energy and in turn giving positive energy back.

However, if she does not seem to be doing much of the things mentioned above, I’m afraid she is just

Focus more on trying to connect energies and emotions back with your partner. Remember, it is the time spent, not the money spent

not feeling you.

But all is not lost!

You can get her to act this way around you by conversing and talking to her more. The only way you can get a girl comfortable enough to touch your arm while talking to you is by being a gentleman, treating her with respect, and conversing with her on a daily basis. You need to remind her about your existence, and try to make yourself sound interesting. And remember to always leave her wanting more!

Each week the Love Doctor will be answering your questions, so make sure to submit yours! It can be submitted via email [love@uwrfvoice.com](mailto:love@uwrfvoice.com), or go onto [uwrfvoice.com](http://uwrfvoice.com) and click on the “Love” tab and leave a question in the query box.

Priya Kailash is double majoring in biology and psychology with a minor in business. She enjoys consuming large amounts of apple sauce, as well as wearing four-inch heels.



# Students should look into an exchange opportunity

This time last year, I had the privilege to be sitting on some of the most beautiful coastline in the entire world. At California State University-Monterey Bay, California Highway 1’s epic scenery is a mere 10 minutes away from campus. Rugged coastline meets the majestic ocean in what can only be justified by seeing it with your own eyes. I would not trade the months I had in California for anything. From a roommate and friends that became like family, to visiting everything from the Golden Gate Bridge to the set of “The Office,” my exchange semester in California was unforgettable. I want you



Matthew Torkelson

experience. I will specifically talk about the National Student Exchange, since that is the program I personally have experience with. Let it be known that applying for NSE, signing up for classes/applying for transfer credits is an extremely easy and smooth process. I figured it would be good to plug NSE right about now seeing as how the application deadline is March 1st. Though not every single school in the nation is applicable for exchange, there are schools in every state that you can apply for (including Hawaii, Alaska, and even Puerto Rico and Guam). For specifics, you can go and talk to the helpful, friendly, and informed Global Connections staff. Seriously, don’t be shy, get your butt in there and ask some questions. I feel like that’s the biggest thing that is keeping people from learning about these exchange programs, and it’s something that can be overcome so easily.

For one of my writing classes last fall semester, we had to do a survey pertaining to something that we thought should be promoted on campus, I again went with Global Connections. Almost across the

Let it be known that applying for NSE, signing up for classes/ applying for transfer credits is an extremely easy and smooth process.

to have an experience like mine, and though you may have some preconceived notions about exchange/travelling abroad, the least you can do is look into it. I can’t stress how important I believe a simple visit to our Global Connections office is here on campus.

What is Global Connections? I don’t doubt that most of you have at least a general understanding of what Global Connections is all about. In their own words, Global Connections wants you know that “you’ll never have a better opportunity for you to explore the world than now.” It’s true. Being in college, we have so many opportunities right in front of us. I’m surprised that Global Connections doesn’t constantly have a flooded office of people streaming out from their doors, because growing up in the Midwest, I’d think it’d be rather natural for most people to want to travel to new places and experience new things. Personally, I’m angered that I’m not some pompous billionaire who can throw his money to the wind (ok, that’s not entirely true, I don’t want to grow up to be a professional shmuck), because I truly want to see everything. I wish I could spend the afternoon in the Valley of Kings, and chill under the Northern Lights in Alaska at night. Though Global Connections can’t quite offer you deal along those lines, they sure can offer you something that will stick with you the rest of your life, and that’s an

# Super Bowl commercials fail to connnect with national audience

Another Super Bowl has come and passed. The emotions were running high as it was a classic battle of arguably one of the best quarterback’s of all-time in Peyton Manning, and the Cinderella story of the New Orleans Saints who represented a city and a state that was making a strong comeback from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. But in the end, the Saints were victorious through the arm of Drew Brees and the gutsy play calling of Coach Sean Payton.

But every year one of the highlights, besides the big game, is the millions if not billions of dollars put into commercial advertising as the Super Bowl draws the largest television audience of any night. This year was no different as there were a few that stand out in my mind, and there are some that made me wonder why you would ever spend money on an ad like that.

There was a wide variety, representing topics from pants (like the Dockers free pants give a way) the automobiles (the Volkswagen Slug-bug punch) the snacking essentials such as Snickers with Betty White and the controversial Focus on the Family story featuring Florida’s Tim Tebow, which was indeed a great commercial that featured family values.

This ad was deemed controversial as it had pro-life intentions. But after actually viewing the commercial, there was no reason to be angry at CBS or the Tebow’s, but should instead be seen as a triumph of the strong bonds of family. Yet, there were still some commercials that weren’t so serious, such as the continued joke to make fun of Brett Favre’s “waffling” when Hyundai shows him accepting the MVP award in 2020 at age 50.

Overall, I thought that Doritos stole the show. My favorite was the Doritos commercial that featured the



Ashley Goettl

little boy who told his momma’s boyfriend, “Don’t touch my momma, don’t touch my Doritos.” But Doritos didn’t stop there. I was also impressed with the

funeral Doritos, as the solemn friends recollect their friends dying wish to have a “casket full of Doritos.” But then of course there’s a miracle when he “comes back to life” after eating Doritos and watching football in his casket, all in an attempt to miss work for his love of Doritos and football. Others may have liked

the Doritos one submitted by kids from Minnesota, which showed two men who stole Doritos from the Doritos Samurai’s locker at the gym, only to be “assassinated” by taking a Dorito to the neck.

After Doritos, Denny’s had fearful chickens worried about the free Grand Slam day (sorry, they did that on February 9th), the “milkalcoholic” babies on E-Trade, and environmentally friendly houses made out of Bud Light.

There were the usual Super Bowl participants such as Coke and McDonalds, and the dull and repetitive ads of upcoming CBS shows (although the one with Oprah, Leno and Letterman was pretty good).

But to be honest, I was a little disappointed in the quality and humor to be found in the commercials that usually receive so much more hype, especially at the pricey dollar sign.

Another Super Bowl has come and passed and let is celebrate the triumph of a team and a city that has rebuilt to become stronger than ever.

Ashley is a freshman double major in digital film and television and political science. She is also a member of the UWRF softball team, WRFW radio, Forensics, College Republicans and Student Senate

# Working in retail leads to frustration, clever solutions

Throughout the past year or so, we have been bombarded with a barrage of “our economic illness is now terminal”-type news.

As a result of our frail, bedridden economy we are left with the prospect of not finding the jobs of our dreams upon graduation. Some of us might have to accept an internship or temporary position. Terrifying, I know - but what if you end up in retail? It’s obvious, the most painfully unbearable option would be to re-enter the world of retail as a low-level employee: full-timing at Dollar General, Petsmart, or maybe even Target. But dear readers, I am here to guide the way. Fresh off the two-week notice, still piping hot, I’ve survived yet another stint in the boiling fires of the retail business. And I am here to lead you, just in case.

Wisdom Nugget #1: Always Look Busy. Every bruised and battered soul who has emerged from a job in retail knows this bluff. If you keep your hands and feet moving, you look busy. And if you look busy, no one will bother you or complain about your inherent apathy. If you take a break to lean on something, make sure that you rub your shoulder or your lower back. This move persuades any onlookers--be they customers or co-workers-that you have been working hard and are only pausing to wrestle out the knots that have built up in your muscles from all the hard work you’ve been doing.

Wisdom Nugget #2: Arch Your Eyebrows to Convey Serious Intent. Employees that can master the “arched eyebrow” look will go far in a retail position. The look may be different for you, but in many cases just looking slightly angry will suffice. This look conveys serious intent. This look will simultaneously impress your boss and scare away needy customers jumping to ask you time-wasting questions.

Wisdom Nugget #3: Avoid Eye Contact. Eye contact forms a special bond between two human beings. In most cases, the connection is fleeting and almost immediately forgotten. But in retail, the customer often exploits the bond of eye contact to his or her immediate needs. “Where’s the canned soup?” he asks. I respond “Aisle 4.” And I wonder, how did our species go from hunting in the forest with sticks

and stones to a point of helplessness where we can’t even find soup in a store anymore? I suppose we can’t smell out the scent of

canned soup. Just avoid eye contact and these questions will answer themselves.

Wisdom Nugget #4: Perfect Fake Laughter. In retail, the fleeting interaction between a customer and a cashier can grow awkward. Humor is

a good antidote for this feeling of social awkwardness.

Instead of resorting to uncomfortable silence while the receipt scratches out of the machine, one or the other may slip out a joke (frequently regarding the weather, I’ve noticed). It’s too bad that in most cases, any customer attempt at humor will result in a terribly unfunny joke. Your job is to laugh at that brainless remark and the kicker is, it has to sound genuine. So perfect it. If your fake laughter doesn’t sound real, the customer won’t come back, and then what?

Wisdom Nugget #5: The Clipboard Look.

Always Looking Busy; it makes you look professional, task-oriented, and perhaps financially prosperous. In this sense, it’s also a sexy look.

I’m asking you to try yet another personality while clock-watching the day away at work. This is a standing look and it too will drive

away any customers or begrudged bosses. Simply hold a clipboard, examine things or scramble around a pile of random papers, and check things off on the notepad. The Clipboard Look is sort of a by-product of Always Looking Busy; it makes you look professional, task-oriented, and perhaps financially prosperous. In this sense, it’s also a sexy look.

What’s better than checking off a freshly-finished task while glancing from the brim of the clipboard at the cute girl just walking in? Nothing. The Clipboard Look will enhance your retail talents as well as your sales floor flirting skills.

By mastering these skills kung-fu style before rallying forth into the pitfires of retail hell, you will survive and thereby guarantee yourself another chance at landing that busted dream job. Best of luck in 2010!

Joe is a marketing communications major with a creative writing minor. He is interested in movies, religion, politics, culture, and people

# STUDENT VOICES

Do you think comedy shows such as ‘The Daily Show’ or ‘The Colbert Report’ should be considered legitimate news shows and why?

Kaitlin Hofman, sophomore



“I find it fun that they make fun of politics. I get news from it, but it’s not there for the facts.”

Aaron Anderson, junior



“Yes, they could be. Mainly it is all sarcastic, humorous material though.”

Amanda Leeman, sophomore



“They do talk about legitimate issues, but it purely is for comedic purpose. If you are getting all of your news from this, you should consider a different source.”

David Herdon, sophomore



“You get the news, but it isn’t necessarily news worthy.”



# Falcons sweep Warhawks in WIAC conference games



Sally King/Student Voice  
**Guard Tess Lardie shoots a jump shot over defenders. The Falcons beat the Warhawks 64-48 to make them 9-4 in WIAC play this season.**

## Track team looks ahead to upcoming season

Cristy Brusoe  
cristina.brusoe@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls' men and women's track and field teams opened the 2010 season on Jan. 23 at the UW-Stout Open.

After being crowned NCAA National Champions in 2008, the women's team was looking for a strong start.

Leading the women's team in the first meet with a first place finish in the 400 meters, was Natasha Arnold. Arnold finished in 59.99. Other top performers included Sophie Lasko, who placed second in the 200 meters; Jennifer Aronson, who placed second in the long jump; and Carlin Bunting, who placed second in the triple jump.

Mid-distance senior runner Leah Korf holds the UWRF women's 1000 meter record by five seconds. She believes the team has been setting a lot of personal records so far this year and expects the team will continue to improve.

"I expect our team to do very well and to see continual improvement on both the women's and men's teams," Korf said.

The leaders of the men's team included Chad Ernst and Clai Catto, who each had first place finishes. According to UWRF Sports Information, Ernst won the 5,000 in 15:19.46 and Catto won the high jump with a leap of 6-5 1/2.

Other top performers included Nick Zein, who placed second in the 800, and Jared Brandenburg, who placed second in the mile.

Sophomore distance runner Scott Bowman also believes the teams will continue to get better as the season goes on and that this years men's team is one of the best of all time.

"Compared to only a couple years ago, the depth of the team has improved. Both teams have worked really hard to get where we are... from early morning lifting to grueling workouts. I foresee major results at the end of the season," Bowman said.

The Falcon's second invitational was held Jan. 29 at St. Olaf. Top performers for the men's team included Kyle Staff, who placed third in the 55 meter hurdles with a time of 8.37 seconds. Greg Klingelhutz and Wade Schlichting finished second and third in the 55 meter dash.

Leading the women's team was Lasko, who finished second in the 55 meter dash and second in the 200 meters. Other top performers included Arnold, who finished first in the 400 meters, and Carly Eggert, who finished third in the mile.

Arnold sees this year's team really coming together. "The biggest difference, aside from performances,

this year that I personally see within the team is team effort when it comes to cheering each athlete on while they compete in their individual events," Arnold said.

It's the coaches, Arnold says, that brings the most out of the teams. "The coaches have also been very optimistic for this year and the extra push is leading to some really outstanding performances on the track, which I think will take both teams extremely far in both the indoor and outdoor competitive seasons."

At the UW-Stevens Point meet on Feb. 4, two school records were set by the women's relay teams. According to UWRF Sports Information, the 4x200 meters team of Lasko, Kali Meurer, Alys-sa Rasmussen and Samantha Nyre ran 1:45.48 to place first. They broke the previous record of 1:45.83 set in the 1999 season.

The other record was broken by the 4x400 meters team of Meurer, Arnold, Leah Korf and Rasmussen, with a time of 4:00:39. This broke the 2007 record of 4:00.5.

The men's and women's teams' continue their season on Feb. 12 at the UWRF Brooks Classic. The outdoor season begins April 6 with the Falcon Invitational.

Blaze Fugina  
blaze.fugina@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls swept UW-Whitewater in both men's and women's basketball, including an upset of a ranked opponent in conference play Feb. 6 at the Karges Center.

The Falcon women defeated the UW-W Warhawks to take sole possession of second place, and the men won in overtime, defeating the number six ranked team in the nation.

The women Falcons, who were a half game behind the Warhawks before the game, are now a half game ahead, with a 9-4 record in the conference. They are only a half game behind 9-3 Stevens Point.

The first half of the game was close, with a halftime score of 26-22 in favor of UWRF. Early in the second half, the Warhawks pulled within two points. However, the Falcons held on for a final score of 64-48.

Maranda Dohrn led the way for the Falcons with 18 points; Brittany Gregorich followed with 14. The Warhawks also had two players scoring in double digit points: Nicole Bundy with 15 and Cortney Kumerow with 10.

Coach Cindy Holbrook said that the team played together well, which led to the victory.

"It was a great basketball game," she said. "The kids

showed up."

The win also helped the team's chances for a bid in the NCAA tournament. The team is looking ahead to a chance at finishing on top of the WIAC.

"There is no reason we couldn't finish on top," Holbrook said. "We just need to take care of business."

The players feel positive about the end of the season as well.

"We're definitely going to the conference championship," junior guard Tess Lardie said.

Junior Kelli Hilt also commented on what the end of the season could bring for the Falcons.

"We are peaking at the end of the season," she said. "Hopefully we get an NCAA bid."

Hilt also said that the next three games are key for the end of the season and an NCAA berth.

The Falcon men, who played after the women, defeated the sixth-ranked Warhawks in an overtime thriller, 68-67.

Before the game, the players walked on the court with their families in celebration of parents night.

The Falcons started out

hot, with a 24-2 run to start out the game. The Warhawks rebounded, and the first half ended at 33-20.

The Warhawks caught the Falcons with 10 minutes left, and the second half ended with both teams tied at 63. The Falcons pulled out the game in overtime, with the Warhawks hitting only 50 percent of their free throws.

Three Falcons scored double digit points, Jon-tae Koonkaew led the team with 19 points, Wade Guerin had 16 and Jake Voeltz had 15.

Koonkaew said that the win was a good indicator of how the team could have played, and how the season could have looked very different.

"I have mixed feelings [tonight], we played outstanding," he said. "We have underachieved. We went out and proved ourselves against one of the better teams in the conference."

Both the men and women will play Feb. 13 at UW-Stevens Point, with each team only having three more games before the start of the conference tournament.

## Warm weather causes concern for Olympics

When we think of Canada, we often think of bitter cold weather and snowy conditions. Usually in the winter months that is the case, but one area of Canada is not experiencing the cold temperatures and snowy conditions. In fact, according to an article on espn.com the city of Vancouver has just experienced the warmest January in history, with temperatures hovering in the 40s and 50s for majority of the month. The Winter Olympics is now upon us for the first time since 2006, when the Olympics were held in Torino, Italy. This year, however, Mother Nature isn't cooperating very smoothly, making the Vancouver Olympic Committee scramble at the last minute to get ready for the Winter Games.

Olympic organizers have started moving snow from one end of Cypress Moun-

tain to the other, where the competition site is being held. Snow transportation is moving around the clock and helicopters been operating consistently in the daytime hours to get the competition site on Cypress Mountain ready for when the Olympics begin. The only time the trucks and helicopters are not running is when skiers are training. The Vancouver Olympic Committee might be breathing a slight sigh of relief as temperatures fell into the 30s this week with some snowfall; this should help harden the snow pack and creating more ideal conditions for the skiers. Vancouver may not be out of the woods yet, as the temperatures look to rise back up

in the 40s with some rainfall this weekend. Organizers and committee members have to hope the temperatures in the mountain area stay near freezing point so the rain doesn't melt the little snow they have at the competition site.

This isn't the first time the Winter Olympics have faced a lack of snow. Startribune.com reports in 1998, the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan saw lack of snow in the months leading up to the Winter Games as well. Only a few events were cancelled as a snow storm swept through during the games. In 1988 in Calgary, Alberta, the bobsled competition was postponed because the ice on the track melted. According to the International Olympic Committee, the 1964 Innsbruck games also faced a lack of snowfall. The Austrian Army had to carve out 20,000 blocks of ice from the mountainside and transport it to the luge and bobsled tracks. Also, they had to carry 1.4 million cubic feet of snow to the Alpine ski slopes.

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



Derek Johnson

“Vancouver has just experienced the warmest January in history.”

## Falcon sports wrap Feb. 4 - Feb. 10

**Women's hockey**  
The Falcons hosted Concordia in a series on Feb. 5 and 6. In both games, UWRF prevailed, winning 4-1 both nights. On Feb. 9, the Falcons beat Bethel on the road, 6-3. The team travels to Lake Forest for a two-day series on Feb. 12 and 13.

**Men's hockey**  
The Falcons pulled out a win at UW-Stout, 3-2 on Feb. 5. On Feb. 6, UWRF hosted UW-Eau Claire. The Falcons beat the Blugolds, 6-3. On Feb. 12, the Falcons travel to UW-Stevens Point, and on Feb. 13, they'll take on St.

Norbert on the road. Tyler Czuba was named WIAC, NCHA Hockey Player of the Week.

**Men's basketball**  
On Feb. 6, the Falcons beat nationally ranked UW-Whitewater in overtime, 69-68. On Feb. 13, UWRF will travel to UW-Stevens Point to take on the Pointers.

**Women's basketball**  
UW-Whitewater traveled to the Karges Center, only to fall to the Falcons, 64-48. On Feb. 13, UWRF will head to UW-Stevens Point.

**Swimming & Diving**  
The swimming and diving team will participate in the WIAC Meet in Minneapolis on Feb. 11 - 13.

**Track & Field**  
On Feb. 6, the men and women's track and field teams went to UW-Stevens Point to participate in the Stevens Point Invitational. Two women's relay teams set records, and Jenny Aronson qualified for this year's national meet in long jump. On Feb. 12 and 13, the Falcons will host the UWRF Brooks Classic.

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WEDNESDAY

KIDS EAT FREE

Texas Holdem Tournament

Every Wednesday

Starts at 8pm

cash prizes awarded

THURSDAY

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Ladies Night

Ladies Drink Free from 9pm-2am

FRIDAY

All You Can Eat Fish Fry

Live Music every Friday

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Shrimp Bucket

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8am-Noon Brunch & Bloody Mary Bar

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# Clooney flick offers a breath of fresh air

Being a workaholic with no real sense of family, friends, or romance is certainly not anything that one dreams of. But for Ryan Bingham (George Clooney), it's the only world he knows, and what he prefers. "Up in the Air" shows a portrait of a man who is constantly in the air traveling from place to place and lacking emotional attachment to anyone. After seeing film upon film about family-oriented people, I found it refreshing and realistic to see something about someone who is completely ensconced in their work and with no desire to get married and have a family. After all, in modern times it seems that people like Bingham may be even more common than the traditional.

But how on earth could a man enjoy a job where he simply travels to different businesses to fire employees, because their bosses are too cowardly to do it? Well, I don't really think he enjoys his job as much as he enjoys the consistency and safeness of it, which

is something we can all relate to. He is so busy with his own life, that he is very disconnected with his family and at one part in the film says, "It's not like I know her," about his own sister. And sadly, to some extent some of us can relate to that too.

Clooney portrays a character who is so stubborn in his own ways that he won't even allow himself to get close to a fellow business woman (Vera Farmiga). He cannot step beyond strictly casual relationships. A new employee (Anna Kendrick) joins Bingham's company and turns his world upside down proposing a computer program that would allow them to fire employees without even leaving the office. Bingham is appalled that his whole life could be changed, grounding him to one place.

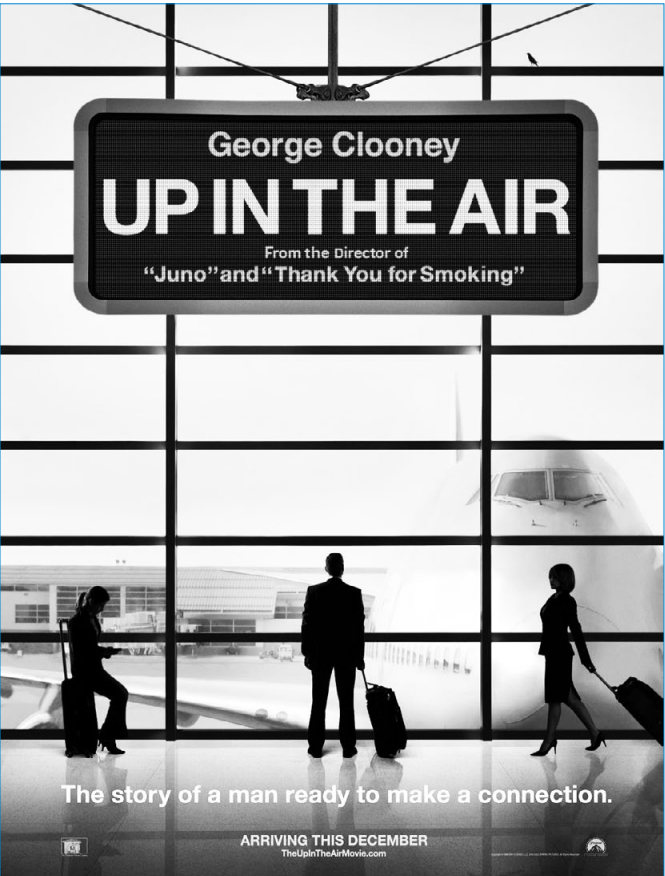
This film could be looked at in many ways. It shows the horrible economy of America, with people getting laid off left and right. It gives support to nontraditional lifestyles. It shows the detrimental effects of narcissism and

disregard to forming or maintaining any sort of relationships. It's strange, it may be one of the most depressing movies I've seen, not even remotely close to a feel good film, but it left me feeling good. This is a movie for the realist in all of us.

“...fresh, inventive and unlike anything I’ve seen before”

The story is fresh, inventive and unlike anything I've seen before. It's important to not know exactly where a film is going, especially in an age of endless sequels and ridiculously predictable films. It has a stellar cast and I was certainly not disappointed by their performances. Clooney's performance clearly led the film to greatness along with brilliant performances by Vera Farmiga and Anna Kendrick. This film deserves all of its nominations for superb performances and bringing a great and refreshingly original story to the big screen.

*Natalie Conrad is a junior journalism and marketing communications major and French minor. She enjoys running, reading, writing, playing guitar, and traveling.*



# Film’s emphasis on action distracts from a disappointing plot

Rated R action movies are becoming an increasingly rare commodity nowadays. The stylized violence and relentless swearing that once defined the action genre has been systematically watered down by profit-minded studios seeking a PG-13 rating. Whenever an R-rated action movie is released, I feel obligated to go see it. Someone needs to prove to the movie studios that there's still an audience for the old-school actioner.

Rated R for strong violence and pervasive language, it sounded like director Pierre Morel's "From Paris with Love" had everything I was looking for in an action movie. But is it a return to the golden age of action cinema? Not quite. "From Paris with Love" is a mostly fun, yet ultimately forgettable, action/comedy saved only by the performance of its biggest star.

In "From Paris with Love," wannabe secret agent Reece (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) teams up with seasoned vet Wax (John Travolta) to bring down a terror cell operating in the City of Light. Although he is initially excited

to work as a field agent, Reece soon discovers that the life of a spy is not as glamorous as he had imagined.

In many ways, "From Paris with Love" is similar to last year's Liam Neeson vehicle "Taken." Besides sharing the same director, both films were the work of screenwriter Luc Besson. Famous for films like "The Fifth Element" and "The Transporter," Besson is no novice when it comes to action screenplay. However, as with "Taken," "From Paris with Love" fails to contribute anything new to the action genre. As I sat watching, I couldn't help but feel that I had seen this all before.

The most enjoyable aspect of the film is Travolta's gleefully over-the-top performance. Nearly unrecognizable with a shaved head and goatee, he steals the show with his crass language and twisted sense of humor. It's obvious that this was a fun character for him.

The same can't be said of co-star Rhys Meyers. In contrast, he seems generally disinterested in his role. He's adequate as a straight-laced foil to Travolta's goofiness, but his lack of enthusiasm brings down the film's

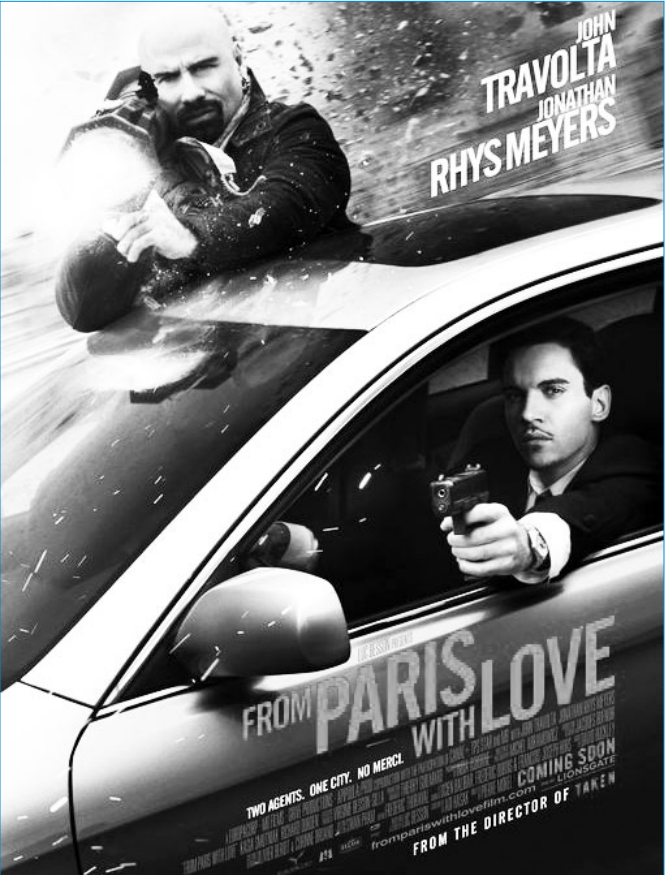
mood far too often. You don't go to an action movie expecting Oscar-caliber performances, but it should at least feel like the actors want to be there.

As far as the plot is concerned, it's almost nonexistent. It has something to do with cocaine dealers financing terrorists, but it quickly takes a backseat to the action. Devoid of any larger meaning, the plot is concerned less with telling a story and more with providing situations for Meyers and Travolta to blow stuff up.

Such a strong emphasis on action isn't necessarily a bad thing. However, as I mentioned previously, the action is mostly standard fare. There's a car chase, a few shootouts and some hand-to-hand combat, but it rarely feels fresh. Additionally, many of the action scenes are filmed in the oft-maligned "shaky cam" style propagated by the "Bourne" series of films.

Except as a cheap matinee, it would be hard for me to recommend "From Paris with Love." Although Travolta's performance is a treat to watch, the laughs just aren't worth the full price of admission. You're better off saving this one for a rental.

*Michael Brun is a journalism major with a minor in film studies. Although he is a self-professed gorehound, he can also be emotional - he cried like a child at the end of Terminator 2.*

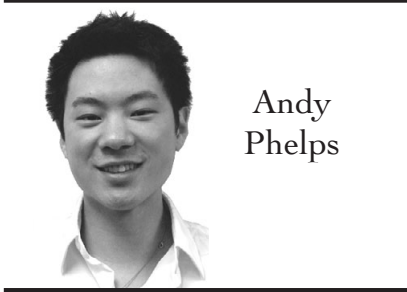


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# Rapper's attempt at rock fails



Andy Phelps

For the past decade or so, there have been two distinctly different categories of what critics and fans deem "bad music." Falling into the first category are songs and albums that make no effort to take themselves seriously. The second category is filled with inevitable disappointments from massively over-rated performers decades past their prime, and, worst of all, lazy. Unfortunately, but perhaps not surprisingly, Lil Wayne's "Rebirth" falls into the latter group. Although Wayne's previous LP, "Tha Carter III" sold more than three million copies, "Rebirth" dives headfirst into completely new territory—his first full-length foray into the genre of rock. If you think this unusual recipe will result in anything resembling his duet with Kevin Rudolf, the fist pumping, ubiquitous anthem "Let It Rock," you couldn't be further from the truth. We know relatively little about the self-proclaimed "greatest rapper alive," except that his zest for consuming purple drank and candy

is rivaled only by his tireless ability to churn out song after song, mixtape after mixtape. It soon becomes painfully clear that Wayne has absolutely no idea what ingredients combine to make a rock album successful—if you even want to call it that. The twelve tracks he has offered to us contain a healthy dose of his scratchy raps and hideously screechy Auto-Tune over misplaced, third-rate rock backdrops. Seemingly little more than a horribly misguided vanity project, he trudges through tracks such as "Prom Queen" and "Drop The World," in a lackadaisical manner, the whole performance begins to resemble an ugly and surreal karaoke nightmare. There's even a track entitled "Da Da Da," which should tell you all you need to know about the lyrical content. Perhaps the lone semi-bright spot on the record is, logically, Wayne's reunion with Rudolph on "One Way Trip." Over a heavy and muted riff that circulates in the background, Wayne muses, "If I die today I bet the world ends tomorrow." However, he isn't able to progress through more than a

few bars without reminding listeners of his monumental wealth: "And I got blind money, money you ain't never see / And only in the mirror is where you find a better me." "When I play sick, I'm like Jordan with the flu," Wayne boasts, referencing His Airness' legendary performance in the 1997 NBA Finals while stricken with the stomach flu. If Wayne has so little control of his ego that he can't resist making the blasphemous comparison between himself and MJ, than at least he could have the decency to realize that this unapologetically awful effort evokes more comparisons to Jordan's feeble, pointless and disappointing return for the Wizards. Wayne will soon go behind bars for a year after pleading guilty to gun charges, so this is presumably his last studio album until his release. "If I fall, I fall up and let the clouds hug me / And if I fall down, I bet I hit the ground runnin'" he says on "Runnin." Here's hoping he snaps out of his codeine-induced stupor and runs as far away from this garbage as he can.

*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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Natalie Conrad  
natalie.conrad@uwrf.edu

Student Health Services  
intern

"We aren't just here to help students with mental illnesses," Elessner said, "It's important to find ways for students to have many different opportunities to manage stress and relax in order to prevent problems in the future."



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*Lezli Weis/Student Voice*  
**Yoga, an exercise that increases flexibility and balance, is a popular SHAC wellness program for students who wish to improve both mind and body.**

stress from school,” Kline said. “It’s a fun workout and it’s free.”


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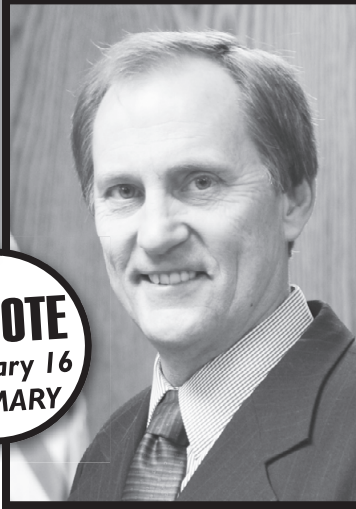
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