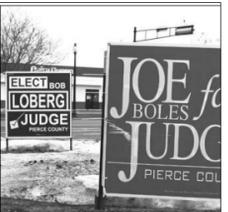




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Local men offer
experience, promises
for upcoming election



STUDENT VOICE

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ROTC cadets participate in military skills challenge

Elwood Brehmer
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Four UW-River Falls Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets qualified for the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency in Bloomington, Ind., Feb. 9-12.

"Cadets from 26 campuses participated," Major Tab Benzinger from the UWRF ROTC said. "There were about 500 cadets."

Freshman Eric Henrichs and sophomore Taylor Lau received gold medals, and sophomore Hailey Myren and senior Dan Grove earned silvers for their performances.

The cadets were timed in sprints, distance runs, a 200-meter swim and a road march. They were also measured in high or long jump and shot put events and were required to complete first aid and pistol shooting qualifications.

"They started out [the first day] with a swim," Benzinger said. "The next morning the cadets took part in a five-kilometer run."

Grove said the runs were more manageable when compared to the other events because of the training the cadets receive.

"Some of the events like the high jump or long jump are things we normally don't do," Grove said. "It makes them harder to prepare for."

Though practicing for the track and field style events is not usually a part of the cadets' routine, Grove said they trained for the events for roughly a month prior to the challenge.

While each cadet UWRF sent to Indiana received a medal, Benzinger said cadets from other UW System schools did not fare as well.

"Of the 12 cadets from Eau Claire and Stevens Point, four earned medals," he said.

Requirements for the events depend on a participant's age and gender. Male cadets under-29 must complete the 200-meter swim in six minutes, while female cadets in the same age class must swim the distance in seven minutes. All of the UWRF competitors were in the under age 29 group. The five-kilometer run requires young male cadets to finish in under 23 minutes and females to finish the same distance in less than 32 minutes, according to information provided for a similar event held at Fort Knox, Ky.

If the cadets are able to meet the qualifications in the events that present the biggest physical challenges, Myren said medals are then determined by how well one performs on the shooting range.

"You get five shots from 25 meters with a nine-millimeter pistol," she said. "Three out of five targets is a bronze, four out of five is a silver, and five is a gold."

While Lau successfully hit all five targets, her biggest challenge came in the 24-kilometer road march.

"[Lau] got blisters on her feet that bled through her boots,"



Submitted photo

UWRF sophomore Taylor Lau qualifies with a pistol in one of the many events held for cadets last February. Four UWRF cadets competed in a number of events such as sprints, distance runs, long jump and shot put.

See ROTC page 3

New speech tutoring center helps students with phobia

Christina Lindstrom
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UW-River Falls added a new tutoring center March 1, specializing in helping students with speeches.

According to the University Web site, there are currently help rooms on campus for physics, chemistry, math, writing, reading and speech,



Sally King/Student Voice
UWRF student Jubilynn Hanka works in the new tutoring center. Hanka has pioneered the majority of the plans for the center.

with speech being the most recent addition. Student Jubilynn Hanka brought the idea for the speech center to professor of Communication Studies, Kathleen Olsen, in November. Hanka had noticed students struggling with speeches, and Olsen agreed that help was needed.

"People, in general, are more afraid of public speaking than they are of death," Hanka said, quoting a statistic. "I find that fascinating."

Professor Olsen said her role has been simply to guide Hanka along and to help her with roadblocks in the process of opening the center.

"We've needed a place where students who don't want to come to faculty because they'll look stupid can go to get help from their peers," Olsen said.

Students will be able to go to the speech tutoring center for help with just about anything they need related to speeches or presentations. Olsen said the tutors offer help that isn't threatening and that will not be critiqued as it may be by faculty. Both Hanka and Olsen said everyone is welcome at the center; it's not just for speech majors. Students can go for help with composition, outlining, visual aids, PowerPoint, delivery and even choosing a topic. Anything students need help with for their speech or presentation, the tutors at the speech center will be able to provide assistance, according to Olsen. The tutors are able to record the students' speeches and play it back on a big screen TV and walk the students through them. Even professors that have a presentation to give can come in and have it assessed.

See Speech page 3

UWRF celebrates 50th annual Agricultural Technology Contest

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The 50th annual Agricultural Technology Contest is being held at UW-River Falls on Saturday, March 27.

"This year we are very excited to be celebrating the 50th Agricultural Technology Contest, and in addition to our contests, we will also be hosting a program for past student coordinators and individuals that have been involved in the contest throughout the years," Agricultural Technology Contest Coordinator, Kellie Claffin said.

The Agricultural Technology Contest consists of 16 various agriculturally-related contests for middle and high school students. The contests this year range from Ag Communications to Middle School Plant Science and Livestock Evaluation and Wildlife.

"The scope of the contest broadened over the past 50 years to match changes to the agriculture courses taught in high schools," said Tim Buttles, faculty chair for the Agricultural Technology Contest. "We have maintained the original areas such as dairy and livestock evaluation while adding events for students with interests across the spectrum of agriculture, food and natural resources."

Two of the contests are set up for the middle school students and 14 are set up for the high school students. According to the Agricultural Technology Contest press release, "This year, UWRF coordinates the Wisconsin FFA state contests for agricultural communications and

food science and technology. The first-place teams will advance to compete at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. this October."

Six of the contests will also be qualifying contests for the Wisconsin FFA Association Career Development Events (CDE), which is being held April 30 in Madison, Wis.

The first event, which was initiated in 1961, hosted 600 students from 17 high schools. According to the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) history group, "The Agricultural Technology contest was initiated for the purpose of providing an opportunity to Wisconsin vocational agriculture students to test their skills and knowledge in agriculture."

Since then, the contest has grown from 10 events to 16, and almost 1,000 students visit the campus for the contest each year. The middle school contests were implemented in 2007.

"More than anything, this contest serves as a great recruitment tool for the University. It gives these students an opportunity to see what it's like on a college campus. For most students, it's a new experience and gives them a picture of what college is going to be like," Claffin said.

The event is being run by 150 student volunteers who help with proctoring the tests and serve as group leaders for the students.

"We start preparing for the contest over a year in advance. Students, faculty and staff from all CAFES departments vol-

See Contest page 3

'Dress Drive' gives to most deserving

Kirsten Blake
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Attention ladies: Still have your high school prom dress buried in your closet? Or perhaps a bridesmaid's dress collecting dust? It could be put to better use as a donation to Ever After Gowns, a Minnesota-based non-profit dedicated to providing young women with new and gently used formal gowns for their high school prom.

Donations of new and used formal wear for Ever After Gowns can be dropped off at the University Center in Heritage Hall the week following spring break. Items accepted for donation include dresses, shawls, handbags, shoes, unused cosmetics, jewelry and other accessories.

Candidates for receiving the dresses are pre-selected based on financial need by their high school guidance counselors, according to the Ever After Gowns Web site. Young women from the Twin Cities and nearby Wisconsin areas (including River Falls) are eligible.

There are other organizations that collect and sell used formal wear, but Ever After Gowns is different because they give their dresses away for free to deserving girls, said Jeanna Breeden, one of four University of Wisconsin-River Falls students organizing the "Dress Drive."

Breeden, Megan McGivern, Amber Pechacek and Charissa Squire learned about Ever After Gowns through their nonprofit marketing class. As they learned more about it, McGivern said the group became attached to Ever After Gowns and decided to promote the organization as a class project.

Ever After Gowns was founded in 2004 by a group of friends who were looking for a service they could provide to the community that wasn't there already. Maggie Harris, co-founder and president of Ever After Gowns, said she went through her closets and realized she had lots of dresses and wanted to put them to use in an eco-friendly way.

Collecting dresses, then giving them to young women in need, began as a service project but grew into a nonprofit organization because of a large response in terms of need and support from the community, said Harris. "We owe a lot to the generosity and commitment of our community."

The number one challenge for the organization is financial organizational costs such as insurance for volunteers and storage, said Harris. Ever After Gowns is financially supported by corporate and personal donations. All staff and board members are un-paid volunteers who lead full lives and careers, said Harris, so time can also be a challenge.

As prom approaches, Ever After Gowns is preparing for their boutique event on April 17. The event is a part of the experience offered by the non-profit where eligible girls are assigned personal shoppers to aid them in picking a dress then are able receive make-up application, hair styling and beauty tips by beauty professionals and cosmetologists.

"We want them to feel special and pampered," said Harris. "It's not a handout. It's an event."

Currently, 700 girls are signed up for this year's boutique. Ever After Gowns is in particular need of jewelry and full size dresses. In order for gowns to be a modern style, Harris said she encourages dresses for donation be five years old or less.

"A lot of people are excited and say they have a lot of dresses to bring in," said Breeden, "and that gets us excited."

Approximately 120 dresses were collected last year at

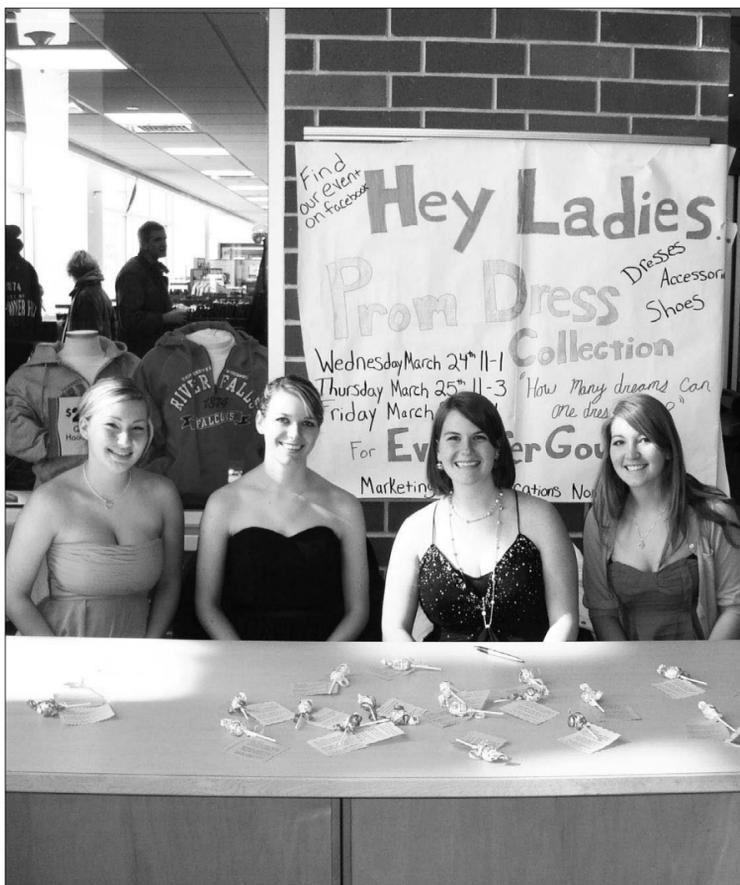


Photo courtesy of Amber Bakeman
Jeanna Breeden, Amber Pechacek, Megan McGivern and Charissa Squire promote and accept formal wear donations for Ever After Gowns in the UC.

UWRF, said Breeden. This year she said she hopes to reach a goal of 150. So far, 27 dresses have been collected for Ever After Gowns, which collects approximately 2,500 total gowns yearly.

Some of the dresses have some very important memories attached to them and could be hard to let go, said Harris.

McGivern, one of the students organizing the collection who's own dress has been sitting in her closet for five years, encourages students who may be feeling sentimental about their dress to "take a picture and send it off."

UWRF student, Kay-Lee Pearson, said she plans to donate at least two of her dresses and a pair of shoes.

"Prom was a good experience for me," she said. "I don't think any girl should not get to be a part of it because of money reasons."

Breeden said others may think they are not doing something great because the event is "just prom," but prom could be seen as a rite of passage.

"We're not saving the world," said Harris, "but we're giving some sunshine."

Once the dresses are collected, they will be sent to St. Croix Cleaners, a dry cleaning company that cleans and stores dresses for Ever After Gowns free of charge. Donations can also be made year round to any St. Croix Cleaners location including those in Hudson, Woodbury and White Bear Lake.

Collection times at the University Center are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 25 and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 26 in Heritage Hall. This is the second year that students from UWRF have worked with Ever After Gowns. Harris described the students as "enthusiastic, driven and hardworking." "River Falls has produced the best results of any college I've worked with," she said.

For more information and a full list of drop off locations, look for Ever After Gowns on Facebook or visit <http://everaftergowns.org>.

Destinations students focus on social issues during spring break

Kimberly Kuhens
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Fifty-three UW-River Falls students and staff members are traveling across the United States during spring break to partake in service projects sponsored by the Destinations program.

All service groups are student led and focus on diverse social issues.

Two service groups are headed to Atlanta, Ga. The first group, led by Hannah Wortz, will be dealing with urban issues and the state's public education system. The other group, guided by Jake Benesh, will be helping with disaster relief from the floods in 2009 in that area. The group traveling to Cincinnati, Ohio, led by Christa Hoel, will be dealing with poverty and homelessness.

Tiffany Lay will be taking the fourth service group to Bolder Creek, Calif. to Camp Campbell, an environmental science camp where the group will serve as camp counselors to fifth and sixth graders from

"In the summer we were researching what kinds of issues we should be serving with," she said. "We wanted to really focus on the social issue, not where we go but who we are serving. We want to really make sure we have a variety of issues within our destination trips so people have a variety in choosing who they want to serve."

The Destinations program has been at UWRF for five years. The national program, Break Away, has been present since 1991, according to Hoel. Break Away was founded by Michael Magevney and Laura Mann, two Vanderbilt University students, according to the Break Away Web site.

According to its Web site, Break Away is a national "nonprofit organization that supports the development of quality alternative break programs by providing training and information primarily to colleges, universities, and nonprofit organizations interested in creating lifelong active citizens through these intensive service-learning programs."

Break Away currently has a network of over 100 chapter schools, more than 400 nonprofit partners and hundreds of individual members worldwide, through which constituents have access to the newest ideas and a broad range of support in the national alternative break movement, according to their Web site.

The group leaders have some desired outcomes of their participants of these service trips. Benesh hopes his participants gain a new outlook on life and a new drive

"We also hope that they will live their lives with a passion to serve others."

Christa Hoel, Destinations programmer

the San Jose area. The fifth and final group, led by Kayla Rasmussen, will be traveling to Kiln, Miss. to volunteer at a therapeutic riding center, Gaits to Success, where people with disabilities get to ride horses as a means of therapy.

Christa Hoel, the Destinations programmer, believes these trips are important for UWRF students to experience.

"These trips provide a great opportunity for students to get involved and learn about social issues that are happening all over the United States," she said. "It's really important because we educate people on issues and we help them connect that the issues that are happening in Cincinnati, like poverty and homelessness, are right here in River Falls too. It really helps students gain a bigger perspective of social issues and help them to become more active members in our community."

According to the Falcon 411 news flyer, these trips are designed to provide students with a challenging and fun opportunity to lead and learn through active service experiences. The flyer also states that participants will learn about the host community's assets and how to build on those strengths, make new friendships and bring their experiences back to campus to share.

The planning for these trips started this past summer, according to Hoel.

"These trips provide a great opportunity for students to get involved and learn about social issues that are happening all over the United States."

Christa Hoel, Destinations programmer

Lay's main goal for the week is for her participants to be positive influences on the campers and provide a fun and safe place for the campers.

Rasmussen's goals include educating her group on assisting people with disabilities by using a form of animal therapy and expanding their horizons as well as her own by stepping out of their comfort zones.

Hoel also has a goal for all the participants, leaders and staff members involved in the Destinations program.

"We would love to have 53 active citizens by the end of the year, meaning they are active within their community," Hoel said. "We also hope that they will live their lives with a passion to serve others."

WRFW's Spring 2010 Broadcasting Schedule

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2-6 a.m.	BBC	BBC	BBC	BBC	BBC	BBC	BBC
6 a.m.-1 p.m.	WPR	WPR	WPR	WPR	WPR	WPR	WPR
1-3 p.m.	Ben Lee Jonathan Hedeem	Aaron Bergman	Jason Kenison	Pat Lynch	Wes Campbell	Brian Wegner	Kyle Bereswill
3-5 p.m.	Erik Altmann	Brian Wegner	Cory Heaton	Nick Niewinski James Scott	Steven Linzmeier Adam Vircks	Amanda Leeman	Patrick Okan Jeff Schafer
5-6 p.m.	Erik Altmann	Hip Hop Hourglass	Stay Alive	ACT on AG	Let's Talk	Finally Friday	WPR
6-8 p.m.	Erik Altmann	Laura Krawczyk Katie Heaton	Jon Lyksett Pat Lynch Pat Bakker	Adam Lee	Chris Schad	WPR	Jon Stefonek
8-10 p.m.	Ashley Goettl Nathan Riley	Matt Torkelson Kevin Duzynski	Natalie Conrad	Jon Lyksett Cory Heaton	Sara Helm Katie Hudson	Nathan King	Jeff Knopps
10 p.m.-Midnight	Greg Klimowicz	Ken Weigend Grady Stehr	Joe Kelly Jared Fritz	Cyrus Kozub	Nathan King Will Larson	Ali Al-Hanooti	WPR
Midnight-2 a.m.	WPR	Kyle McGinn	Andrew Hagemann Erik Gates	Kim Tri	Casey Wolford Alifa Momin	WPR	WPR

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.

- Feb. 25**
- Graffiti was found on the lid of a garbage can along the Northeast corner of Chalmer Davee Library.
- Feb. 27**
- Stephanie J. Nelson, 23, was cited for loud and unnecessary noise on the 300 block of N. Fourth St.

ROTC: Contest draws in cadets from 26 different campuses



UWRF sophomore Hailey Myren competes in the high jump. In this photo, the bar is set at five feet.



UWRF student Eric Henrichs runs the 30k march.

from page 1

Myren said. The German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency is a challenge the Army ROTC borrowed from the German military, according to the event's Web site. The badge is one of few foreign awards allowed by the U.S. military. "The medals are something the cadets will be allowed to wear on their uniforms in the future," Benzinger said. "It allows them to show off what they've done." Lau said that once a cadet receives a medal, they are ineligible to compete again. "Though it's only a one-time thing, we strongly encourage other people to go for it," Lau said. "It's something to be proud of. Normally cadet awards aren't worn after you [graduate]." Myren said was able to take more than just a medal home from the test. "I decided to do the GAFPB to challenge myself," she said. "I hadn't done a march that long before and I saw it as a personal challenge to complete it. I also gained a lot of self-confidence from the experience."

Contest: Annual event reaches out to middle, high school students

from page 1

unteer their time to set up the different events," Buttles said.

For Assistant Student Coordinator Michelle Heeg, the experience volunteering for the event years before col-

lege influenced her decision to attend UWRF. "The contest gives the students a point of reference. It gives them a taste of what they could do in college and provides them with skills they could potentially use in their future ca-

reers." Anyone interested in volunteering or learning more about the event can e-mail michelle.heeg@uwrf.edu or get information from office 324 in the Agricultural Science building.

Speech: Tutoring center gives opportunity for teaching majors to gain experience

from page 1

According to Hanka, the center had originally been set to open prior to finals in December, but due to funding complications, it was pushed back to this month. Hanka said that once realization of everything that was needed for the center set in, she was happy that it opened as soon as it did. Rooms, tutors, a payroll, hours and appointment set-up had to be determined before opening the center, and a Facebook group, "UWRF Speech Tutoring Center," was created to reach students.

The center currently employs six tutors, all of whom plan on being teachers, according to Hanka. The center benefits not only students, but also the tutors who are gaining job experience. The tutors are mainly speech communications or English majors, having earned their spots with proven skills. Olsen said that she and professor of Communication Studies, James Pratt, hand picked students for the tutoring positions. Each student went through an application process and interview to be sure they had the needed skills for tutoring students. One of the tutors, Lydia Kiminski, is optimistic about the center.

"With the experience that the tutors have in the center, I can say that, without a doubt, students who use this new resource center will succeed in their speech-giving skills whether it is for writing them or presenting them," she said.

According to Olsen, the center's success will be measured by the number of students who use the service and whether or not it helped them. Sheets similar to those used in the writing center will be given to professors

of those students that use the service. Hanka said some professors are offering extra credit to students who use the service. Olsen said she believes the center will be successful and will help students solve problems before their presentations.

Hanka said she thinks this semester may be rough for the center, as she has noticed the writing center is usually empty. She added that she thinks the center can be successful if students are thinking ahead. Students in a particular class waiting until the last minute can overwhelm the tutors, and they may not be able to help everyone. Kiminski said she believes the tutors will work one-on-one with students and focus on their needs based off of the assignment for the speech.

"I believe that with enough promotion and positive examples of successful tutoring sessions, we can be a large help to students," she said.

The speech tutoring center will be open Mondays in 119 KFA from 4 to 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays in B19 KFA from 4 to 9 p.m., and Wednesdays and Fridays by appointment only. Hanka said the tutors do prefer appointments for the convenience of the tutors, but walk-ins are welcome Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students can make appointments via the Facebook group, or they can go to the communications studies office in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building with questions regarding tutoring.

Check out the other events that are happening on campus

Monday, March 22: River Falls Idol at 6:30 p.m. in the Falcon's Nest

Tuesday, March 23: 900 Women showing at 3 and 7 p.m. in the Kinni Theatre

Wednesday, March 24: Lisa Diamond: Sexual Fluidity, New Perspectives on Female Sexuality at 2 p.m. in the North Hall auditorium

March 24-27: Dance Theatre Spring Concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Blanche Davis Theatre in KFA

Friday, March 26: Freddy's Friday Night: Rock the Nest Unplugged at 8 p.m. in the Falcon's Nest

Tuesday, March 30: Codes of Gender showing at 3 and 7 p.m. in the Kinni Theatre

Wednesday, March 31: Passover Seder (Lecture and meal) at 6 p.m. in the Newman Center Chapel

Wednesday, March 31: Open Mic night at 8 p.m. in the Falcon's Nest

March 31-April 1: Campus Blood Drive Register online at givebloodgivelife.org

Sunday, March 21, 2010
River Falls Area High School | 818 Cemetery Rd | River Falls, WI 54022
Doors open at Noon
Fashion Show starts at 3pm
Tickets - \$6 in advance | \$8 at the door

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EDITORIAL

Student media needs own funding source

As inflation drives up costs on everything in the US, it cannot be forgotten that these spikes also negatively influence operating costs to efficiently and effectively run various campus media. At UW-River Falls, there are four main campus media outlets: The Student Voice, "Prologue," Focus on U and WRFW. As budgets get cut and costs of printing, broadcasting and publishing go up, the Student Voice Editorial Board proposes a possible solution.

The Board proposes tacking on an additional \$5 to students' fees for help in keeping UWRF's campus media afloat. In light of the amount of tuition, living and other fees, \$5 shouldn't be viewed as too high. Figuring about 5,500 students pay \$5 a piece, each semester, around \$27,500 could be collected for respective distribution to each of the four media on campus. That is \$55,000 a year.

The Student Voice could use \$24,000 of the amount to cover printing costs, office supplies and to provide to the fund to cover newsworthy event admission costs each year. WRFW could redeem \$17,000 to cover payroll and operating costs, and "Prologue" could use about \$3,000 of the money for printing and staff's pay each year. Focus on U currently uses around \$2,500 a year, but with the proposed fee, they could receive around \$5,000 to upgrade their techniques, ultimately bettering their productions.

With all of the proposed amounts in place, there could be an extra \$6,000 each year in the campus media pot. This money could be used to produce another print publication, an alternative to the Student Voice. The additional publication could allow UWRF to match other UW-System schools, who publish more than one paper each week.

The idea of an entirely Web-based radio broadcast could also be pitched around and funded by the media fees. In addition, an expansion in the television broadcast division of the campus media could be possible. Allowing for more news-specific broadcast hours could benefit the UWRF campus and community.

Not only would the media fees benefit UWRF media, other organizations would also see positive effects as a result of this addition \$5 fee. With the money from the media fees being the only funding for campus media, other organizations would be able to use the money that is currently funding the Student Voice, "Prologue," Focus on U and WRFW for their own benefit.

An additional \$5 to each students' tuition and fees each semester could greatly change the course of campus media at UWRF, ensuring that it will never disappear.



By Jon Lyksett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Professor believes student missed major details in theatre production

In response to the letter last week (March 5, 2010) decrying the UW-River Falls Theatre production of "Our Country's Good", I completely disagree with the negative descriptions of the adult themes. The story portrayed a brutal harsh reality, based on real events, that people survived in any way they could. The actor's characterizations were carefully detailed, with exceptional versatility since all of the actors took on at least two roles, creating complexities within relationships of the play within the play.

The stunning accents from cockney to aristocratic English to Irish to Malagasy were spot-on and consistent. The play was moving, alternatively heartbreaking and hilarious, as well as challenging to our imaginations. I applaud this latest production from the Theatre Department. I am grateful that the department pushes itself to take on adult themes, giving their actors opportunities to do the sophisticated plays they may be called to do in the professional theatre, giving us the chance to see how transforming theatre can be of our perceptions. I am especially pleased that the Theatre Department trusts its patrons to appreciate an intelligent, imaginative, theatrical experience that allows us to consider the cruelties of reality (in this play that of the earliest Australians) from the safe vantage of the theatre.

To last week's letter writer, if you missed the "Adult theme" note on the program cover, or the ticket ordering form, or the Web site description of the story, perhaps this is a good reminder to not judge a book by its cover or a play by its title. You might want to avoid something like "Romeo and Juliet" (murder, drugs, suicide, oh my... - hey, the title didn't give me any of that!).

Eileen Korenic
Physic Professor
UWRF

Senate member corrects errors from United Council article

This letter is in response to last week's Voice article regarding United Council. First I want to say that I'm glad that Mr. Billingsley chose to write this article - the students deserve to know the story.

At the same time, there are some errors in the article that I feel need correction for the whole story to be truly understood by the public. This is nothing against Mr. Billingsley; it's difficult for a spectator to try to enter into a situation such as ours and understand it completely, not to mention try to write an article about it.

First, the mandatory buy-in hasn't occurred yet. The meeting at UW-Oshkosh was simply to draft and sign a Memorandum of Intent to be sent to the Board of Regents, in which the various UW schools support the idea of a buy-in. Under the buy-in, schools that join United Council (UC) would be required to stay in UC forever. This was one main aspect of Student Senate's opposition to the proposal - basically, students at UWRF would have no way to assert their possible displeasure with UC. Currently the Board of Regents requires UC to be placed on student referendum every two years.

The Mandatory Refundable Fee rate for UC member schools is currently at \$2 per term, or \$6 for a full year, per student. The proposal to increase the MRF from \$2 to \$3 a term (\$9 a year) is accompanied by a proposal to the Board of Regents to allow the fee to automatically increase every year. Currently, increases to the fee level must be approved by the Board of Regents whenever proposed.

Finally, the actions of United Council in this event should not be ignored. One incident that occurred at Oshkosh is especially noteworthy. There, one of UWRF's student representatives was told by a representative of United Council that the UW system might close UWRF, and that if UWRF were not a part of United Council, they would not be able to protect us. It is blatant lies like this that have radically changed my stance on United Council.

Patrick Okan
UWRF Student Senate Member

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

STUDENT VOICE

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Small towns can offer affordable, entertaining spring break option

Spring Break is finally here, and I, like most of you, am very excited about this wonderful time off in the semester. Unlike many people, I won't be traveling to a coastal city, or even leaving the state of Wisconsin. I will be spending my budget spring break in my home town of Merrill, and I couldn't be happier. Let me tell you, friends, about the happenings of this home town of mine, and how I will be having an incredibly satisfying Spring Break on a tight budget.

At 22, this will be my first Spring Break home being "of age," and that means plenty of boozing. Now, I'm not one to be flashy about my consumption, but this next week will call for some drinking with good friends. Merrill is filled with townie bars, but yet they retain some class. You have your regulars, and luckily, generous bartenders. It's a pretty sweet deal when you pay 10 dollars for a whole evening of endless Spotted Cow and pool. Not to mention, it's rather nice when you have a few friends that are technically at "hustler" status in pool; LMFAO wrote that song just for us.

Merrill, especially amongst my group of friends, is a solid place for some competitive moderate stakes poker. Obviously, we can't be shelling out 30 dollars for a single buy in, but there are often times when you can pitch in 10 dollars and have a chance at taking home 70 or 80 bucks. Not bad at all. This has been the case ever since sophomore year in high school when we, like many people all across the nation, first saw poker broadcasted on ESPN. Occasionally we'll go and try our luck at a casino, but most of us prefer a social game. Everyone brings their own six packs, cash, and stories. Merrill being a quiet town, this is definitely at the top of the list of activities in an evening for us. Hell, some of us consider

ourselves to be solid enough players that we want to try our luck living in Vegas or Reno for a couple months. I'm sure when I'm living in my box someday on the street I'll look back and say "That was a good idea."

If you have ever seen the movie "Dazed and Confused," you will understand and perhaps appreciate these next things I will tell you. In the movie, the guys live in a town where there isn't a whole lot going on, so they come up with their own unique ideas for an interesting night. Sometimes, all there is to do is drive around, over and over again. We've driven around our town so much on certain nights that I could probably get to River Falls and back home to Merrill (somewhere around 300 miles).

We never did anything too stupid or dangerous, although when we would be in that territory, we always came out of it with good stories. If you're greatly intrigued (because I'm sure you're at the edge of your seat), I will gladly tell you a "pizza chucking" or "snow-time" story.

What would a break be without grilling out? OK, to many of you, I guess it's not commonplace, but where I come from, everyone brings something, whether it's chicken, burgers and even shrimp. I'm lucky enough to live out on the Wisconsin River, so that when we do grill out, we can have up to 10, 15 or even 20 people all mingling, hanging out and enjoying themselves.

Booze, gambling, cruising and grilling out. These are the things that I greatly look forward to on my tight budget spring break. I wish you all a safe break, wherever you will be spending it, and don't forget that you don't have to spend a ton of money to have a memorable break.



Matthew Torkelson

I'm sure when I'm living in my box someday on the street I'll look back and say "That was a good idea."

Matt Torkelson is a marketing communications major in his senior year. He enjoys listening to The Beatles, and playing piano whenever he has some free time.

Minnesota Twins fans look forward to promising season

Spring is in the air and in about a month, Minnesota Twins fans will get to experience the outdoor baseball with the grand opening of Target Field scheduled for April 12. But Twins fans have much more to be excited about. The Twins are coming off their thrilling run to a Central Division Title in which they beat the Detroit Tigers in a one game playoff.



Ashley Goettl

of the lineup to provide potential RBIs for the M & M boys (Mauer and Morneau). The Twins were in dire need of a consistent second basemen, so they acquired the veteran Orlando Hudson from the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Although Hudson is known primarily for his defense, he will also provide quality at-bats to complement an already impressive Twins lineup. As for the pitching staff, the Twins are looking for break-out seasons for the likes of Kevin Slowey who was the top pitcher for the team before season-ending surgery early last year.

He will be joined by opening day starter Scott Baker, who has been one of the most consistent and strongest pitchers for the Twins. Carl Pavano will also be looked to for another impressive season and Francisco Liriano will be looking to be more consistent throughout the year.

The one main concern I have for the Twins is their bullpen. Although we have one of the best closers in baseball with Joe Nathan, Matt Guerrier was the only reliable set-up man to connect the bridge to Nathan.

This year should be an exciting year for the

With a new ballpark, new additions with Hardy and Hudson, and veteran sluggers Mauer and Morneau, the Twins will undoubtedly be a force to be reckoned with.

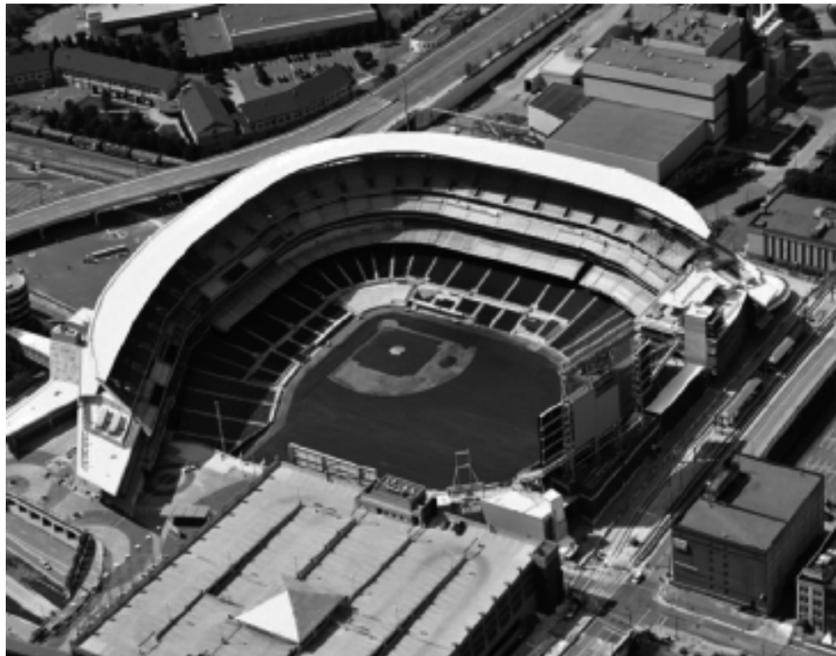
Twins. With a new ballpark, new additions with Hardy and Hudson, and veteran sluggers Mauer and Morneau, the Twins will undoubtedly be a force to be reckoned with.

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



Bobak Ha'Eri/Wikimedia Commons

Target Field construction began over 2 years ago; doors open April 2nd for exhibition



Minnesota Ballpark Authority

The Twins are coming off their thrilling run to a Central Division Title in which they beat the Detroit Tigers in a one game playoff.

an increased payroll jumping from around \$65 million to about \$90 million, the expectations may be even greater for my beloved Twins. The Twins of course return reigning American League MVP and St. Paul native Joe Mauer, who hit an outstanding .365 on his way to a third batting title, and became the fifth player in Twins history to be named MVP (joining current teammate Justin Morneau who was the 2006 MVP).

Morneau missed the last month of the season due to back injuries, and many would argue that with him and Mauer both healthy, they could be one of the deadliest combinations in the game.

Add in right fielder Michael Cuddyer, who had a tremendous season filling in for Morneau at first base, the breakout season on outfielder Denard Span fitting comfortably in the leadoff role, the new look of Delmon Young (who lost 29 pounds this offseason) and the Twins have the potential to tear up the baseball realm. Although shortstop Orlando Cabrera will be missed, the Twins traded for J.J. Hardy from the Milwaukee Brewers who will provide the defensive swagger that the Twins rely on.

The Twins will look to Hardy near the top

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STUDENT VOICES

What do you plan to do on your Spring Break?

Melisa Beres, sophomore

"Going back to Mazomanie, WI. Working at Subway and babysitting my brother."



Matt Haesoy, junior

"Going to Hastings, MN, back home."



Kirk McGinley, freshman

"Finding a big, comfy bean bag chair and staying on it for the rest of the week."



Emily Thompson, sophomore

"I'm going to Chicago to meet with some friends."



Student Voices compiled by - Lezli Weis

Columnist offers numerous suggestions for improving UWRP campus, community

Not everyone looks like you. Not everyone believes what you do. Not everyone wants the same things that you want. Basic concepts and yet they seem to escape the grasp of the University's programming. With last semester's demonstration of the campus' surviving problem of racism, I would hope the University would have stepped up to challenge this mentality. However, lukewarm festivals, classes taught by uninterested teachers and ambiguous speakers still plague the university's attempt to teach tolerance. Why not institute more direct approach or at least something that's a little more interesting?

Here's some of my ideas:
Teachers who aren't soapbox hippies and have actually experienced prejudice.

There isn't one diversity class I've taken or heard of that features a really passionate teacher who has experienced the burns of prejudice. Instead there seems to be a prevalence of card carrying liberal minded graduate students carrying the message of injustice on behalf of the country's minorities. I would like to learn about prejudice from someone who knows what it feels like. Maybe someone who has escaped the country and doesn't refer to the minorities they're teaching about as "them" and the class as "us."

Holiday recognition.

This has bothered me. As hard as the University may think it's trying, it has a long way to go to recognize other holidays of minority religions. It's true that you will not find "Merry Christmas" anywhere on campus during the month of December, but paper Christmas trees with the words "Happy Holidays" doesn't really fool anyone. Instead of making a mockery out of inclusiveness, how about just including all the holidays. Light a menorah next to the Christmas tree, offer meal choices for Ramadan and Passover, celebrate the Chinese New Year. These are things other campuses have done, ones that have

moved away from the the amibigious "Happy Holidays" while playing Christmas music in the Falcon Shop.

Class reform.

We have a class that teaches the philosophy of the Bible, and then we have a class called "Eastern Religions." Every other religious study in the history of the world is put into this "other" class. In the same amount of time the University teaches, thoroughly, the message of the Bible, students are expected to learn about the REST of the religions on Earth. Seems a little unfair, don't you think?

More Music

Our generation is pretty keen to listening to music. Not only that, but we react very strongly to music we enjoy. We are the most open to education if it comes in the form of creativity and modern culture.

Actual festivals

Fire dancers, drummers, belly dancers, parties in the style of another country and another culture. By way of recognizing other holidays that happen on campus, the Univeristy could spread the message of different happenings around the world and around the nation.

This is a university that has a very real problem with racism, a univeristy that battles a mentality prevalent during the years of segregation. We need to hit the problem head on. First, maybe we need to set a fire under the butts of the administration and faculty. It's up to the students to start a movement, a real and tangible effort to bring about change. These "festivals" we set up with fold out tables and post-cards from foreign lands aren't cutting it. We can't wait until the next incident of racist bigotry before we, again, become impassioned towards change. But, hey, I'm leaving after this semester. It'll be your University, you decide how you want it to be.

Chaia means lifel and she tries to live it to the fullest. Writing is what she loves. Spanish, Hebrew, Portuguese and English are the words she uses. Tel Aviv is where she is inspired



Chaia Lindberg

Falcon softball starts season at Rebel Games in Florida

Blaze Fugina
blaze.fugina@uwrf.edu

The Falcon softball team starts its season on March 14, with two games. The games are not played in the Midwest, but instead 1,500 miles away in Kissimmee, Fla.

The Falcons start the season playing the Rebel Spring Games, a collection of games being played to give teams from across the country a warm-up to the regular season.

According to the Rebel Games Web site, the games are played at three different areas in Kissimmee: The Osceola County Complex, the Fortune Road Athletic Complex and Oren Brown Park.

Falcon outfielder Dana Book said the games are a good way to help the team prepare for the regular season.

"It's good practice to get ready for the season," Book said. "Our conference is a tough conference, so it is a great experience to come together as a team before our conference games."

According to the Rebel Games Web site, there are 65 teams in Div. III softball competing in the games, including UW-River Falls.

The reason the team starts their season in Florida is to get an early start to a season that is otherwise difficult in the climate of Wisconsin, said head coach Jody Gabriel.

"In Wisconsin it is very difficult to get 40 games scheduled by the first week in May with the weather we have, so we are forced to go south to begin our season," said Gabriel.

The Falcons will play 10 games over the course of the games in the span of six days. Gabriel said that there are a lot of tough match-ups that the team is scheduled to play.

"One of the biggest [games] is on the first day [against] Illinois Wesleyan," she said. "They have been picked to win their conference for a third straight season and have been to postseason play the last three years."

According to the NCAA Web site, Illinois Wesleyan is

ranked no. 12 in the nation in the preseason poll.

Players also said the travel and games are good for the team to get together and become more comfortable as a team.

"It allows us to see how each of us plays, help us know the boundaries to be able to push each other and a good team bonding experience," Book said.

The games are also good for helping the team learn the pieces to the puzzle the team needs.

"We are able to experiment more into who plays where," said Book. "We're a very versatile team, making the options endless to who plays where, so it's a

great opportunity to be able to try girls at different positions before we take on our conference."

The Falcons will play Milikin University in the first game March 14, followed by Illinois

Wesleyan.

The other schools that the Falcons will play in the games includes Endicott college, Fontbonne University, Simpson College, Transylvania University, Nichols College, Springfield College, Framingham State College and Ramapo College of New Jersey.



Sally King/Student Voice

A Falcon softball player hits during a regular season game. The Falcon softball team will get a start on the new season March 14 against Milkin University and Illinois Wesleyan during the Rebel Games in Florida.

After the games in Florida, the Falcons play in the Augusta tournament March 27-28. Their first conference game is April 8 against UW-Eau Claire.

March Madness soon to begin for Div. I basketball teams

As we head into the middle of March, it can only mean one thing. Yes, March Madness is upon us. High school hockey for Wisconsin wrapped up last week, as University School of Milwaukee won. High school hockey for Minnesota starts up this week. Both the boys and girls high school basketball state tournament is approaching us within the next week or two.

But when we hear of March Madness, we tend to think about the Big Dance, also known as the Div. I Men's College Basketball NCAA Tournament. Championship week is playing out, as teams play in their conference tournaments to see who gets an automatic bid and who has to sweat it out, hoping the NCAA committee picks their team as an at-large bid. Well, some teams don't have to win their conference tournament to make it to the Big Dance. Some teams like Duke, Kentucky and even Wisconsin are already locked into the tournament, having an impressive regular season résumé.

This year there are three teams that traditionally go to the NCAA Tournament, but will miss, if they don't win their conference tournament. North Carolina, Connecticut, and Arizona are the three teams that need to win their conference tournament to make it to the Big Dance. North Carolina of the Atlantic Coast Conference, (or ACC), went 5-11 in their conference, and 16-15 overall. The Tar Heels won the national championship last year, but losing some key guys to the NBA Draft have left them young and inexperienced this year. Connecticut of the Big East Conference went 7-11 in conference play, 17-15 overall, and struggled with consistency all year, and have lost their last four games. Arizona of the Pac-10 Conference went 10-8 in their conference, and 16-14 overall. Arizona has made it to the NCAA Tournament 25 consecutive years, but this streak looks to be broken unless the Wildcats can somehow win their Pac-10 Conference.

While these three teams have had struggles all year long, there are four teams that have stood out and have become the favorites to win the national championship. These four teams will most likely be the number one seeds in the tournament: Duke, Kansas, Kentucky, and Syracuse. Other teams that could make a case for a number one seed but would need to make a deep run in their conference and have one of these four teams lose out

in there conference tournament are: Ohio State, Purdue, and Kansas State.

The number one seeds are the teams everyone is likely talking about to win the championship this year, but there are teams that won't be number one seeds that could make a deep run in the tournament. Since the NCAA started seeding teams in 1979, only once have all number one seed teams made it to the final four, and only six times have there been two number one seeds, playing against each other in the championship game. However, only twice has there not been at least one number one seed in the final four, in 1980 and 2006.

I have come up with five teams to look out for in this year's NCAA tournament that won't be one of your top seeded teams. The first team to watch is Louisville out of the Big East Conference. The Cardinals went 11-7 in conference and 20-11 overall. Their notable win was beating Syracuse twice; once at home and once at Syracuse. Louisville finished the regular season 7-3 in their last ten games and is projected to be between a 7 and 10 seed.

The second team to watch is Texas out of the Big 12 Conference. The Longhorns at one point were considered to be the best team in the country, making a case to be a number one seed in the tournament. After struggling in the second half of the year and losing quite a few games in conference, they have dropped out of the top seeded discussion for the tournament. They went 9-7 in conference and 23-8 overall. Their notable wins were against Pittsburgh and Michigan State. They are also projected to be between a seven and ten seed.

The third team to watch is Northern Iowa out of the Missouri Valley Conference. This is a mid-major team that has made its way into the top 25 national polls. The team went 15-3 in conference and 28-4 overall. This is a small school that has beat up on some teams from the power six conferences (ACC, Big 12, Big 10, Big East, SEC, and Pac-10) like Boston College, DePaul and Iowa. The Panthers have also beaten Siena, another mid-major team that is going dancing in this year's tournament. The Panthers have already won their conference tournament and are projected to be an 8 or 9 seed.

The fourth team to watch is Butler out of the Horizon

Conference. The Bulldogs went 18-0 in conference and 28-4 overall. The Bulldogs are riding a 20 game winning streak at the moment and have been winning majority of their games by double digits. This is a team that could upset a number one seed depending on who else is in their bracket in the tournament. Butler has already won the Horizon conference tournament earlier this week and will be projected a five or six seed.

The fifth team to watch is Wisconsin out of the Big Ten Conference. The Badgers went 13-5 in conference and 23-7 overall. Wisconsin has many notable wins against teams that will be dancing in this year's tournament, such as Maryland, Duke, Marquette, Ohio State, Purdue and Michigan State. The only ugly loss was an overtime loss to UW-Green Bay. Depending on who they play in their conference tournament and how other conference tournaments go, if the Badgers win the Big Ten Tournament they could see themselves with a two seed

in the NCAA Tournament. Usually a two, three or four seed makes a deep run in the tournament and this year the Badgers are my pick. This team has been overlooked for majority of the year, having Ohio State, Purdue, and Michigan State ahead of them in the standings, yet the Badgers have beaten all three of those teams at some point in the season. The Badgers are projected to be between a two seed and a five seed.

Every year there is always one team that is seeded in the double digits that becomes the Cinderella team of the year. This year my pick for that team is the Siena Saints of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. The Saints went 17-1 in conference and 27-6 overall. The Saints are projected to get a 12 seed in the tournament, and recently at least one 12 seeded team has beaten a five seed in seven of the last nine tournaments. The only two years this decade where all five seeded teams advanced to the second round was in 2000 and 2007. Siena has upset teams before, advancing to the second round three times (1989, 2008, and 2009) in the five years they have appeared in the tournament. The Big Dance is only a week away, where all the drama of March Madness will unfold. 65 teams will enter the Big Dance and have dreams of winning it all, but only one will come out the champion.

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

"While these three teams have struggles all year long, there are four teams that have stood out and have become the favorites to win the national champions."

Falcon sports wrap week of March 8 through March 12

Track & field

On March 6, the Falcon men's and women's track & field teams managed to set several records at UW-Stevens Point in the Last Chance meet. Jenny Aronson set a school record in the high jump, leaping 18-10. Sophie Lasko set a school record in the 55 dash with a time of 7.29. The distance medley relay team, consisting of Leah Korf, Alyssa Rasmussen, Brit-

tany Nordland and Carly Eggert, also set a record, finishing in 12:14. Two of the men's relay teams set school records. The 4x400 team of Dan Rodewald, Paul Schreiner, Indy Liljevall and Nick Zeien set a record with a time of 3:17.94. Scott Degner, Liljevall, Alex Zeien and Jared Brandenburg, the Falcon distance medley relay team, set a record, finishing in 10:09.42. Nine members of the men's and women's teams will compete in the NCAA National Meet at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind., this weekend. Aronson, Natasha Arnold, Kali Meurer, Rasmussen, Samantha Nyre, Nick Zeien, Liljevall, Rodewald and Schreiner are the qualifying members.

Women's hockey

On March 5, the Falcons beat Adrian in the NCHA semifinals, 4-1 at Lake Forest. Alyssa Black, Jessica Thompson, Judy Daleiden and Abby Sunderman were the Falcon scorers on the night. Goalie Cassi Campbell got the win, making 28 saves. UWRF was headed to the NCHA finals to take on UW-Superior. On March 6, the Falcons won the NCHA O'Brien Cup playoff championship, beating UWS, 2-1. Jamie Briski scored

both Falcon goals in the win, and goalie Melissa Deardorff made 34 saves to get the win. The victory allowed the team to tie the school record for most wins in a season, with 20. They tied the 2003 and 2009 teams. The team will travel to Gustavus Adolphus for the first round of the NCAA tournament on March 13. In addition to play-off commotion, five Falcons were named to the NCHA All-Academic team: Sunderman, Briski, Brittany Erickson, Thompson and Bailey Vikstrom.

Men's hockey

After Jordan McIntyre, Sean Pettinger, Bo Storozuk and Jason Yuel were named to the NCHA All-Academic team, the Falcons traveled to St. Norbert on March 6 to face the Green Knights in the NCHA Finals. After trailing 2-0 at the end of the first period and 4-0 at the end of the second, UWRF went on to lose the game 7-1. It was Tyler Czuba who scored the only goal for the Falcons. Goalie Storozuk took the loss. UWRF finished their season 18-9-2.

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Strong performances bolster film's emotional impact

Imagine that you were locked in a dark room for a month, forced to watch nothing but news stories about gang violence and street crime, and then asked to write a screenplay for a movie. I'm betting that the finished product would be pretty close to "Brooklyn's Finest."

Movies don't come much grittier than this. The latest from director Antoine Fuqua ("Training Day," "Tears of the Sun"), "Brooklyn's Finest" is a bleak crime drama set in the titular New York borough. It's oppressive, it's melancholic, and, if you're into this sort of thing, it's about as good as it gets.

The film uses a unique narrative structure, periodically switching between three main characters with unrelated plot lines. Each covers a wide range of themes, but they are unified by a single underlying concept. As explained by Vincent D'Onofrio in the opening scene, there is no right and wrong, only righter and wronger.

Don Cheadle plays a cop deep undercover in a powerful drug syndicate. To get promoted to a cushy office job, all he needs to do is bust an infamous

gangster (Wesley Snipes in his best role in more than a decade). The only problem is that this "bad" guy saved his life and shows him more respect than his fellow officers do. Where would your loyalties lie?

Ethan Hawke is a troubled father, struggling to provide for his ever-growing family on a meager cop salary. His moldy house is killing his asthmatic wife, but he can't come up with the down payment for a clean one. Is it wrong to steal money from drug dealers to save your own family?

Richard Gere takes on the role of a veteran beat cop with only a week before retirement. He's doing his best to ignore the evil around him, counting the days until he can move away to a peaceful cabin in the country. But if you have the ability to help, isn't the omission of action just as evil?

These aren't original characters; heck, it's almost laughable how clichéd they are. And yet their unoriginality hardly detracts from the film's emotional impact. Part of this can be attributed to the strong performances by the core cast, but it's mostly because of the

film's pervading sense of tension. The characters are all living on the brink, torn between their lives and their morals. They're so desperate that you can't help but feel for them.

With so many main characters involved in such elaborate plot lines, "Brooklyn's Finest" is epic in scope. You'd think that it would be hard to follow, but I never once felt lost in the story. These gripping tales are sure to keep your attention until the very end.

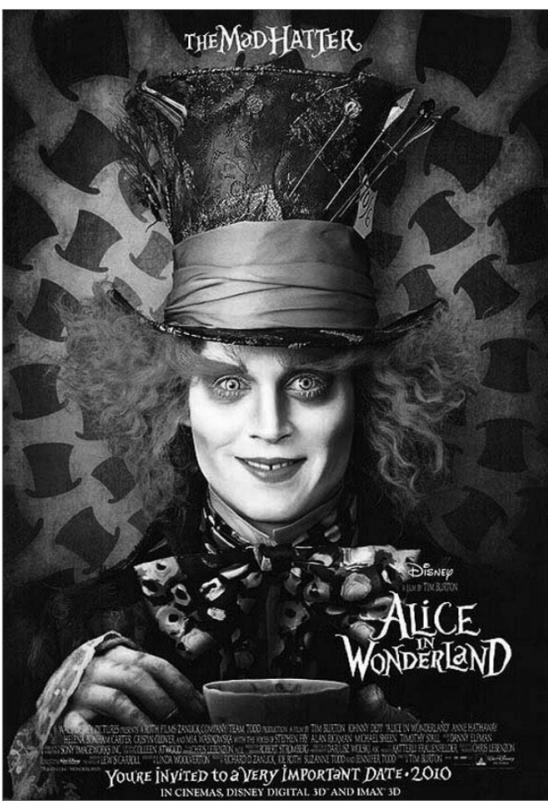
This is no holds barred filmmaking, shockingly violent and unabashedly graphic. And it's not the humorous kind of violence, either. It's all incredibly heavy, without so much as a hint of comic relief. It definitely won't appeal to a wide audience, but there's a lot to like if you're a fan of the genre.

If there's one thing I can't stand, it's movies that you start to forget as soon as you leave the theater. This is certainly not the case with "Brooklyn's Finest." This gripping crime drama will stay with you for days. It paints the world in such an unglamorous light that it makes reality seem just a little bit darker. Don't be surprised if you feel like taking a shower when you get home.

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.



Michael Brun



Enjoyable, creative 'Wonderland' may be too graphic for children

Many viewers had such high expectations for this film that it either could never live up to them, or it had to because any other option was inconceivable. I didn't really know what to expect, except that it would be a strange and interesting visual adventure. I was worried that it would be a little too strange, if anything.

I had the privilege to see the movie in IMAX 3D, so I got to experience the adventure from all angles. The visuals were stunning and brilliantly inventive, but if you don't like lots of crazy CGI graphics, then this film is not for you. For anyone who enjoys the great stories of "Alice in Wonderland," the digitally created wonderland is a treat.

For the most part, the classic characters such as the white rabbit, Tweedledee and Tweedledum, the Queen

of Hearts, the Smoking Caterpillar, the Cheshire Cat, and several others were adapted to CGI with respect to the original characters. I also really enjoyed the contrast with Alice's reality,

especially how there were real people in her life that shared the qualities of various characters from wonderland.

Anne Hathaway and Helena Bonham Carter were perfect as rivaling sister queens, the White Queen and Queen of Hearts, respectively. Alan Rickman was great in his small roll as the infamous smoking caterpillar. Johnny Depp was delightfully strange as the rambunctious Mad Hatter. Tweedledee and Tweedledum were delightfully hilarious. I even enjoyed the smaller characters such as the March Hare and the Doormouse.

There were only really two things that disturbed me about the film. First,

the relationship between Alice and the Mad Hatter was very strange. At times it seemed like a normal friendship as it should be, but other times it seemed like a romance, and I was halfway expecting them to make out or something. I also didn't like that Alice was completely oblivious and ignorant of the fact that she had been to Wonderland before as a young child. It made sense at the beginning, but I can't imagine that it would take her that long to figure it out.

It was definitely an enjoyable and creative film, although some scenes were quite graphic for young children. It showed some darker aspects of Wonderland that have not been seen in versions targeted at children. It's definitely worth seeing, especially on the big screen, for its visuals alone and the acting isn't too bad either. If you're up for an adventure, this is the movie for you.

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



Natalie Conrad

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American VI tributes Cash's final days

American legend Johnny Cash spent the final years of his life working closely with producer Rick Rubin, and the product of these studio hours are still yielding authentic results. The vast library of posthumous albums—from Tupac Shakur to Elvis Presley—is littered with skeletal wreckage bearing no fingerprints of true artistry, yet the latest in his American Recordings sees Cash's piercing vocals still carrying the same weight and importance as they did a quarter century ago.

One might expect these 10 tracks to scrape the bottom of the barrel in terms of quality, but this is simply not the case.

Released on Feb. 23, 2010, three days before what would have been Cash's 78th birthday, American VI: Ain't No Grave is filled with

emotional elegies, gospel tales and a country backbone. Fully aware that father time was looming and the clock was ticking down on his long and storied career, Cash mystically conjures an

atmosphere of mortality that he wears as comfortably as the color black.

The tracks on American VI were recorded shortly after the death of his lifelong lover, June Carter Cash, and this collection serves as a deeply emotional goodbye from a grieving widower, as well as an un-regretful look back at a long and storied career.

The covers are beautifully

arranged in this extremely minimalistic collection, which places even more emphasis on Cash's deep, methodical croons. The title track, which opens the album features little more than a few acoustic strums here and there, and although he claims that "There ain't no grave that can hold my body down," the following tracks sound like the last words of a man who is very much at the end of his rope.

Sheryl Crow's "Redemption Day" highlights the strength of his own faith. "There's a train that's heading straight to heaven's gate," sings in a plain and matter-of-fact tone. It's stunning and beautifully powerful in its sheer simplicity.

The Man in Black remained a commanding presence up until his very final days—an unwavering spirit with a weakening voice. If anyone deserves to go out on a high note, surely it's

him. "Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream," originally recorded by Ed McCurdy, sees Cash looking towards a utopia in which men decide they've had enough war and sign contract of peace, "while swords and guns and uniforms were scattered to the ground."

The final track in what looks to be the final release under Cash's name is the 19th century Hawaiian song, "Aloha Oe," is a whimsically lightweight, carefree touching send-off from one of the greatest American voices we've ever had the privilege of hearing. When he calmly tips his cowboy hat and says, "Until we meet again," it seems as if he leaves this world fully prepared to meet his maker.

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.



Andy Phelps

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Loberg, Boles run for Pierce County District Court Judge

Lezli Weis
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Bob Loberg, of Ellsworth, and Joe Boles, of River Falls, are both running to be the next Pierce County District Court Judge.

Loberg has served as the Pierce Family Court Commissioner since 2001, and he has represented 23 towns and villages in Pierce County, according to electlobergjudge.com.

He explained that he vows to show respect to everyone in the courtroom and that this can be done in many different ways.

"The cornerstone of my campaign, and my guide through life, is respect," Loberg said.

He said he will respect students' schedules, should they have to appear in court.

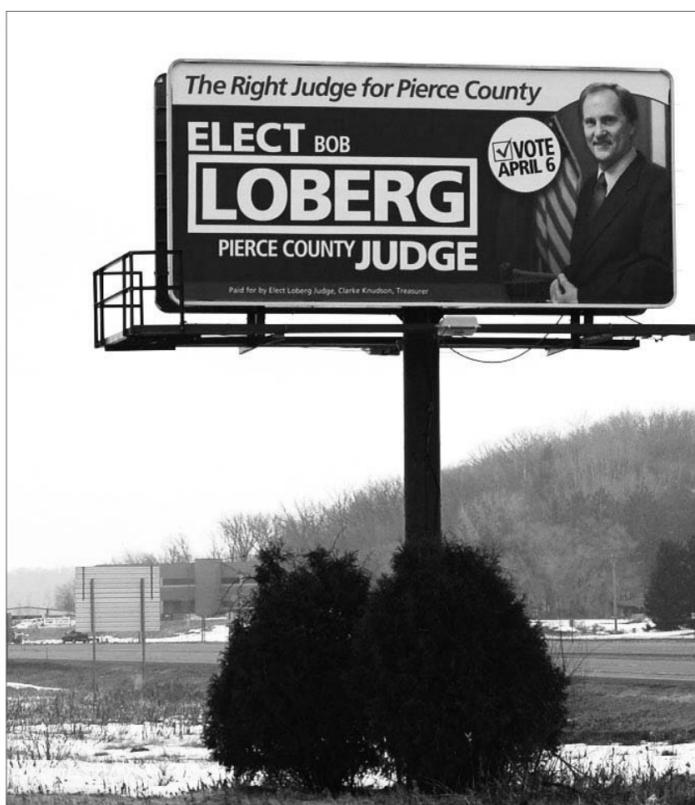
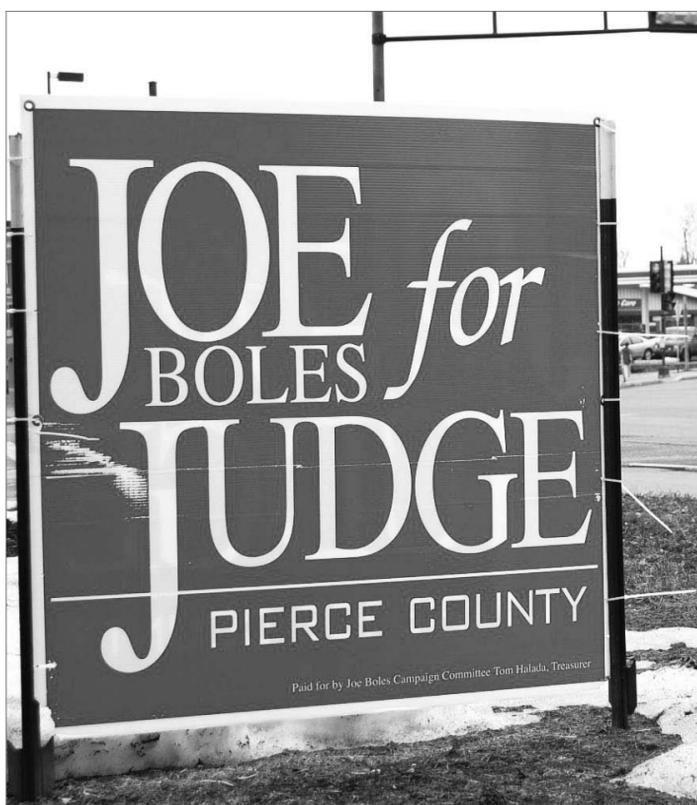
"I will also work to eliminate the need for students who are contesting a matter from coming to court as many as three times," Loberg said.

Loberg explained that another goal of his is to establish a diversion program for first-time traffic and similar offenses in order to keep people out of court when possible. He also wants to establish a community service program to enable creative sentencing techniques.

"Instead of the typical 30, 60 or 90-day jail sentence for minor offenses, which result in our county being over-budget on jail expenses to the tune of \$400,000 annually," Loberg said, "we could issue shorter sentences combined with community service tailored to the offender."

He explained that instead of offenders sitting in jail, they could be doing something rewarding for themselves and the community.

In order to reach the students at UW-River Falls,



Joe Boles and Bob Loberg compete for votes in the upcoming County District Court Judge election on April 6.

Loberg has spoken to both the College Democrats and the College Republicans.

"I also intend to go on campus and meet with some of the students and faculty

at some time," Loberg said. Joe Boles is currently an attorney and handles all kinds of cases in the criminal and civil realm.

"I've tried jury cases, personal injury matters, property line disputes, and I represent two cities - River Falls and Hudson - prosecuting in their municipal courts," Boles said.

Boles explained that because it is a non-partisan election, the candidates can't

run as any party affiliate. "When you're judging cases, you don't want to make a decision in a Republican or Democratic type of way," Boles said.

This is such important work; it starts with good, fair, honest, impartial judges."

Boles is running for this position because he said he feels that it is such an important job as a public service, and he has 29 years of experience.

"I really feel the need and desire to do public service," he said. "I'm putting myself out there as a candidate and basically saying to the citizens, 'If you think I'm

the best person for the job, you're going to tell me.'" It is very important for college students to vote, Boles explained.

"First of all, it's your civic duty; we get the kind of government that's voted in," he said. "I think if students looked at my record, my history, my background and the type of person I am, I think they'd be interested in voting for me."

Boles has served as the Chairman of the board at the Kinnic Halfway House and the UW-River Falls Foundation. He has also served on the Free Board Clinic, and he spent four

years in the US Air Force.

He explained that students should take into serious consideration who they're going to vote for if the decide to do so.

"You never know when you're going to be a witness, a juror or be sued in a case," Boles said. "As a student, I would say, 'Who is going to be fair to me and listen to what both sides have to say before they make a decision?'"

Students, as well as the general public, can vote on April 6. All of the students that live in a residence hall can vote in the University Center, and they can regis-

ter the day of the elections, explained director of Legislative Affairs, Alex Nelson. If they have lived in River Falls during the school year, even if it is off-campus, they are also able to vote. Other polling places are at the middle school and armory.

Tanya Wilson, senior at UWRF, has not seen any signs around town. "I commute, so that might have something to do with it," Wilson said. "I don't vote here so it doesn't affect me."

Jeremy Swain, sophomore at UWRF, also has not seen or heard anything about the two candidates.

"I would be interested in hearing what the candidates' points of view are," Swain said. "If I know more details, I would vote."

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Sally King/Student Voice

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Bob Loberg

"...[voting is] your civic duty; we get the kind of government that's voted in"
Joe Boles

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Paid for by Joe Boles Campaign Committee, Treasurer Tom Halada