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invitational



STUDENT VOICE

April 16, 2010 www.uwrfvoice.com Volume 98, Issue 22

Health Fair promotes wellness



Curves representative Connie Kastner shows off her display to UWRF student Melisa Beres. The Curves booth was one of several vendors who took part in UWRF’s annual health fair Wednesday April 14.

Hannah Lenius/Student Voice

Elwood Brehmer
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The 15th annual UW-River Falls Health Fair was put on Wednesday by Student Health Services in the University Center. Billed by Health Services members as a chance for students to improve their personal health awareness, the event consisted of 50 booths set up by businesses, clubs, and health care providers from UWRF and the surrounding area in the UC’s Riverview ballroom. Hearing screenings and HIV tests were given in the Trimbelle River room.

“The entire fair is free and open to the public,” Health Services intern and co-ordinator of the event Laura Krawczyk said. Krawczyk is also a junior at UWRF. Health Educator for Health Services Stacy Dekker said turnout for this year’s fair exceeded expectations.

“Typically we have around five to six hundred people,” she said. “This year is by far the largest crowd we’ve had.”

Total attendance for the fair was just

over 800.

While attendees browsed the maze of tables and booths a demonstrations and short seminars were given on a myriad of topics including yoga, proper use of prophylactics, eating disorders and muscle relaxation techniques. One of the more popular performances from the UWRF Glee Club had little to do with health topics.

“[The Glee Club] is new on campus and we wanted to get the word out about the club,” Krawczyk said. “They did a rendition of ‘Bad Romance’ from Lady Gaga. They did a great job and a lot of people seemed to enjoy it.”

While taking in the musical show, students and others took advantage of hair

styling from Hastings Beauty School, as well as free massages.

“I wanted a massage,” freshman Luke Anderson said. “I also came for the body composition analysis and for the toothpaste. There was a lot more stuff than I was expecting.”

Junior Cameo Lechner echoed Anderson’s sentiment. “I just wanted to see what it was about, and it was very informative. It had a lot more going on than I expected. I thought the biodots were really cool. They’re just a little dot they put on your hand that reads your temperature and tells you how stressed you are.”

As it has been for several years Greg Peters State Farm Insurance Agency and First National Bank of River Falls sponsored the fair.

“I wanted a massage. I also came for the body composition analysis and for the toothpaste. There was a lot more stuff than I was expecting.”
Luke Anderson
UWRF freshman

DOT works on major highway

Lezli Weis
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The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) began construction on Highway 35/65 in River Falls on March 29. The original start date was going to be in mid-April, but due to certain circumstances, the date was moved up.

“Because of the warm weather, we were able to get started a little sooner,” said Chris Ouellette, communications manager for the DOT Northwest region. “Part of this project is required to be done before the Farm Technology Days.”

The resurfacing and construction of the roundabout at Cemetery Road and the resurfacing of Highway 35 from Cemetery Road to County Road M are the parts of the project that need to be completed before Farm Technology Days.

According to a news release sent out from the Wisconsin DOT, during construction of the roundabout, Cemetery Road will be detoured. This project is expected to be completed by July 16. Also, single lane closures can be expected on Highway 35/65. The construction of this project was given to Trieweler Construction for \$1.9 million.

“Since Farm Technology Days showcases western Wisconsin, it was desirable to have the roadway work done before the event,” Ouellette said.

She also explained that there were some concerns with the safety issues with the traffic that will be coming for Farm Technology Days, so the Wisconsin DOT decided that some of this work needed to be done to make it safer.

Ouellette explained that because of the size of the project, the Wisconsin DOT couldn’t work around both Farm Technology Days and students commuting to UW-River Falls.

“Because that event is late July, we would have had to wait until August to do the work, and then we would have run into the same problem [of commuting] with the students in the fall,” Ouellette said. “This is an extremely tight schedule and the contractor will have to put in some long hours to meet the deadlines.”

The other part of the project is the new overpass on Highway 35 over Coulee Trail. Ouellette explained that this project just started April 5, and it is expected to be done in the end of August.

According to the press release, the overpass project was give to Mashuda Contractors for \$2.4 million.

UWRF Professor David Bonko explained that the construction hasn’t affected his commute.

“I get here early enough such that there is no traffic,” Bonko said.

UWRF student Kongmeng Vang explained that the

“Since Farm Technology Days showcases western Wisconsin, it was desirable to have the roadway work done before the event.”
Chris Ouellette
Communications manager

See DOT page 3

Local businesses contribute to small-town atmosphere, face challenges

Beth Bejcek
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Small businesses in River Falls have a generally favorable environment, but improvements could be made for economic growth. According to Glenn Potts, an economics professor at UW-River Falls, the town has a “relatively good Main Street.”

Lund’s Hardware has been a part of downtown for 137 years. Fred Benson, the owner, said the best part about having a small business here is getting to know the customers personally and building lasting relationships with them. He also said his business has lasted due to a good geographic location and a community that is doing well economically.

Pat Vocovich, owner of the Riverwalk Mercantile, said he decided to put his candy store in River Falls in 2008 also because of the geographic location.

Vocovich said the best part about owning and operating a small business is the repeat customers.

“Once they see it, they always come back. That’s the good part,” he said.

Both store owners cited variety as the most important aspect of their success. Benson said his hardware store has changed a lot over the years, offering services from woodworking and welding to auto repair supplies and the sale of major appliances.

“We find out what works well and what doesn’t,” he said.

With a business that has been operating well over 100 years, Benson said the store has had to “change with the times to stay in operation.”

Vocovich said his philosophy is similar.

“New and different items coming in seems to attract people,” he said.

Potts echoed both business owners.

“Being well aware of the commu-

nity is an important part of operating a small business,” he said. “Many small businesses here have a stake in the community, supporting local activities and providing the downtown area with an identity and sense of community.”

The House Committee on Small Business, in their 2009 forum “The State of the Small Business Economy and Assessing Policies to Promote Economic Growth,” called small businesses the “engine of our economy.” Unfortunately for the economy, small businesses face a laundry list of challenges, some before they even open their doors.

“Financing remains difficult for small business owners across the country, even those that are making a profit,” President Barack Obama said in the 2009 State of the Union Address.

The amount of debt entrepreneurs incur through running a businesses can also be a struggle, according to Potts.

See Business page 3



Taken from maps.google.com
This picture is an aerial photograph taken of downtown River Falls. The street pictured is Main Street.

VOICE SHORTS

Upcoming required password change
All UW-River Falls faculty, staff and students will be required to change their Falcon Account passwords by May 15. Failure to do so may result in loss of access to UWRF technology resources. For more information, visit the DoTS Web page at <http://uwrf.edu/dots/>.

Student Senate to accept applications, petitions
Election rules can be found at <http://sa.uwrf.edu/student-senate/committee-documents>.

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.

- April 1**
- John B Herman, 20, was cited for exhibition of power at the intersection of Main St and Cascade Ave after squealing the tires of his car.
 - Andrew S Nelson, 19, was cited for trespassing on the rooftop of the Rocky Branch School in River Falls.
 - Katie M Banaszynski, 20, was cited for trespassing on the rooftop of the Rocky Branch School in River Falls.
 - Rachel A Balow, 20, was cited for trespassing on the rooftop of the Rocky Branch School in River Falls.

- April 2**
- Donovan C Oliver, 22, was cited for loud and unnecessary noise on the 900 block of S Main St.
 - Michael S Low, 22, was cited for retail theft on the 1200 block of S Main St.

- April 3**
- Michael W Anderson, 20, was cited for underage consumption on the 1200 block of S Main St.
 - Matthew W Beyl, 20, was arrested and cited for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated and operating a motor vehicle with a PAC between .16-.24.

- April 4**
- Brian C Wolfgram, 21, was arrested and cited for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated and operating a motor vehicle with a PAC between .10-.15.
 - Ricardo M Yesue, 23, was arrested for disorderly conduct on the 100 block of S Main St.

- April 6**
- Jerome M McNamara, 24, was cited for possession of an open container on the 300 block of S Main St.

- April 8**
- Richard J Ingli, 20, was cited for underage consumption on the 500 block of Spring St.

- April 9**
- Gabrielle M Okray, 20, was arrested and cited for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated and operating a motor vehicle with a PAC between .16-.24.
 - Connar J Goetz, 19, was cited for underage consumption on the 100 block of W Cascade Ave.
 - Bradley M Berner, 18, was cited for underage consumption on the 100 block of W Cascade Ave.
 - James D Longhenry, 19, was arrested and cited for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated and operating a motor vehicle with a PAC between .16-.24.
 - Jenna M Hines, 19, was cited for underage consumption - 2nd offense on the 500 block of Spring St.
 - Lindley E Mattson, 21, was cited for public urination and defecation on the 100 block of E Elm St.

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of 15- Day Review Period & Public Meeting
Environmental Impact Assessment
South Fork Suites Addition Residence Hall
University of Wisconsin-River Falls
River Falls, WI

The Wisconsin Department of Administration’s Division of State Facilities has retained Cedar Corporation to complete data collection and an environmental analysis to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report related to the proposed addition to the South Fork Suites Residence Hall, in accordance with sec. 1.11 Wis. Stats. An EIA evaluates adverse and beneficial environmental, social, economic, biological, archeological, and other impacts a proposed action may have.

This project will provide for construction of approximately 55,000 Assignable Square Feet/79,000 Gross Square Feet of additions over four floors to the George R. Field South Fork Suites Residence Hall. The additions will accommodate 240 students and will consist of approximately 12 resident clusters, each including shared common areas and approximately 4 single bedrooms and 8 double bedrooms. The additions are also planned to include two large multi-purpose spaces for classroom, conference center, and student recreation and gathering uses.

The project will include a 120-stall expansion of an adjacent parking lot; relocated tennis court; walkways; activity, seating and gathering areas; extension of the access street to connect with an existing campus road; and related landscaping.

The estimated project cost is \$18,935,000, and will be funded using Program Revenue Supported Borrowing. The project is targeted to start in February 2011, with occupancy in July 2012, and project close out by August 2012.

Copies of the Environmental Impact Assessment will be available for public review beginning April 17, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the following locations during normal hours of operation:

1. River Falls Public Library, 140 Union Street, River Falls, Wisconsin.
2. UW-River Falls Chalmer Davee Library, 410 South 3rd Street, River Falls, Wisconsin.

An electronic version of the document is also available for viewing or downloading at:
<http://www.cedarcorp.com/links.html>
<http://www.uwrf.edu> (under “Items of Note”)

On behalf of the UW System, Cedar Corporation will facilitate a public meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4, 2010, in the Trimbelle River Room #231 at the University Center, which is located at 500 East Wild Rose Avenue, River Falls, Wisconsin. Parking is available in Lot F near the University Center.

Following a brief presentation of the project and potential impacts, the meeting will be opened to accept public input. Ample opportunity for both oral and written comments will be provided. You are encouraged to attend the public meeting and offer your support, inquiries and other comments. Interested individuals or groups who are not able to attend the meeting should submit comments by Noon on May 4, 2010, to:

Cedar Corporation
c/o Matt Taylor
604 Wilson Avenue
Menomonie, Wisconsin 54751
matt.taylor@cedarcorp.com

UWRF staff member committed to diversity

Kyle Toutloff

kyle.toutloff@uwrf.edu

In April, UW-River Falls Assistant Director of Upward Bound Tyra Nelson will be awarded the Outstanding Women of Color in Education Award. The ceremony will be held at UW-Whitewater on April 17. The award is given out by the Women’s Studies Consortium of the University of Wisconsin System.

“I am extremely honored to be a recipient of such a prestigious award. It feels good to know that the award I am being honored with has a lot to do with the impact I’ve made on students at UWRF,” said Nelson.

Since Nelson joined UWRF in 2004, she has served the campus in several capacities including: student support services advisor, multicultural student advisor and pre-college coordinator. As multicultural student advisor, Nelson received the Staff Diversity Award for her outstanding work and commitment to making a difference on campus.

“I feel like I have a voice on campus, and I’m comfortable enough with that voice to know that my perspective, as an African-American woman on campus, is valued,” Nelson said.

According to the Women’s Studies Consortium Web site, “In each position she has been a model of strength, courage, and inspiration for students, faculty and staff. Through her actions and words she has demonstrated her commitment to cultural diversity and expression in unique and creative ways.”

Nelson is also the campus’ unofficial poet laureate, which means she writes poems to encourage, inspire and that bring understanding to issues like white privilege, racism, sexism and inequality. For the past three years, she has welcomed first year students to campus with a poem, which has now become a tradition in the early academic day activities.

“I really enjoy working for UWRF. I am blessed in that I have been able to have multiple professional experiences here on campus,” said Nelson.

According to the Consortium, “Whether she is advising college students or facilitating workshops with high school students in her precollege programs, Nelson has an understanding of what will engage her audience.”

The UW System Women’s Studies Consortium, housed in Academic and Student Services, works to ensure the continued development of Women’s Studies in the UW System, to maintain their current national prominence in the field, and to create a unique inter-institutional model for educational innovation.



Lelzli Weis/Student Voice
Tyra Nelson will receive the Outstanding Women of Color award at the Women’s Studies Consortium on April 17.

The Consortium serves as the formal organization of the 14 campus-based Women’s Studies programs and UW Extension. The Consortium: focuses on initiatives in instruction, research, outreach, library resource development and international programs, encourages all the UW System Women’s Studies programs to fulfill central goals of the mission of the University, leading to the continued growth and development of education by, for, and about women in the State of Wisconsin, offers, through its Women’s Studies programs, approximately 300 courses to a total of over 8,000 students yearly and promotes communication and collaboration among the System’s Women’s Studies departments, programs, research centers, faculty members and scholars.

Since its permanent establishment in 1989, the Women’s Studies Consortium has made significant progress in strengthening ongoing activities and developing new initiatives in women’s studies, while collaborating with other efforts to ensure excellence through diversity in the UW System.

NEWS RELEASES

Pulitzer Prize winning composer to come to UWRF

UW-River Falls will host Pulitzer Prize winning composer Michael Colgrass for a three-day residency on April 27 through April 29. The residency is sponsored by the UWRF Commissioned Composer Project, a student organization that aims to bring the works of contemporary composers to River Falls’ campus. Colgrass will become the 44th commissioned composer in the Commissioned Composer Project’s historic legacy. The project, which began in 1967 by Professor Emeritus Conrad De Jong, is the longest standing program of its kind within the US, putting a national spotlight on the UWRF Music Department. Every year, the student members of the Commissioned Composer Project select and commission a composer to write a piece of music for the student body and arrange for that composer to come to the campus in the spring to interact with the students and take part in the premier performance of that work.

Michael Colgrass is a highly acclaimed and accomplished composer and percussionist of international renown. He began his musical career as a jazz drummer in Chicago. In 1954, he graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in performance and composition. His compositions are extremely diverse and written for a wide variety of instrumentation or ensembles, ranging from percussion ensembles to musical theatre. He has received commissions from individuals and ensembles, including the New York Philharmonic, The Boston Symphony, and the Minnesota Orchestra. He has received numerous awards for his compositions, including the 1978 Pulitzer Prize for music for his piece Déjà vu, which was commissioned and premiered by the New York Philharmonic.

Colgrass will begin his residency at UWRF on April 27 with a workshop called “Excellence in Performance” from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the band room of Kleinpell Fine Arts (KFA). The workshop addresses how to manage any form of performance anxiety and is free and open to the public. His visit will conclude with the Commissioned Composer Concert at 7:30 p.m. on April 29 in the William Abbott Concert Hall of KFA. The concert will feature many works by the composer, as well as the world premier of the commissioned work entitled “Zululand,” which is also free and open to the public.

Local counties to promote dignity for crime victims

From April 18 through 24, communities throughout the nation will rally to honor and support victims of crime. With the theme, “Crime Victims’

Rights: Fairness. Dignity. Respect.” 2010 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week will recall the ideals that inspired the decades-long struggle of the victims’ rights movement and challenge all Americans to honor victims’ rights.

As of 2010, every state has passed victims’ rights laws, and 32 states have constitutional victims’ rights amendments. All states have victim compensation funds, and more than 10,000 victim assistance programs exist throughout the country. Such changes have made victims participants, rather than bystanders, in the criminal justice system.

In 1980, Wisconsin enacted the nation’s first “Bill of Rights for Victims and Witnesses of Crime.” Throughout the years Wisconsin has continued to lead the nation by providing victims with special rights. Under Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 950 there are over 35 specific rights listed to ensure that victims and witnesses are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

“When a victim reports a crime because an officer treats her fairly, it enhances the safety of an entire community. When a court hears an impact statement or issues an order of restitution, victims learn the power of fairness, dignity and respect. Yet when our nation falls short of these ideals, we fail victims and dishonor the progress we mark this week.” Failures to ensure fairness, dignity and respect to crime victims harm everyone. With an increase in victim support, more crimes will be reported, more crimes will be prosecuted, and fewer criminals are then left to perpetrate again, creating a safer community for us all.

St. Croix County will commemorate National Crime Victims’ Rights Week with a reading of Victims’ Rights, and information on Victims’ Rights during the noon hour in the first floor Board Room at 1101 Carmichael Road in Hudson, Wisconsin on April 19. Pierce County will have a visual memorial in place at East End Park in Ellsworth, WI to honor victims’ rights throughout the whole week. St. Croix and Pierce Counties are coming together to celebrate Victims’ Rights at 7 p.m. on April 20 in Veteran’s Park. This event will include representation of victims served in 2009, the “Reading of the Rights” and other events to honor victims.

Turningpoint is hosting a Self-Defense and Self-Protection Seminar on April 21 at the Midwest Center for Movement in Hudson. Cost a suggested donation of \$20, but any amount is accepted; all proceeds are going to be donated to Turningpoint. Everyone is welcome. To register, call 377-1584. Community members are

encouraged to join in the week’s activities and get involved in helping victims of crime. For additional information about National Crime Victims’ Rights Week events and ideas on how to serve victims in your community, please contact Amanda Mollner at amanda.mollner@frontier.com. For more information on Victim/Witness Assistance in St. Croix County call 386-4666 or in Pierce County call 273-6749.

Math students awarded for excellence

UW-River Falls students Aaron Lemmer, Abby Pederson and Joseph Fredericks earned Honorable Mention in the 2010 Consortium for Mathematics and Its Applications sponsored Mathematical Modeling Contest held February 18 through 22.

They solved a problem about the “sweet spot” on a baseball bat, which is the part of the bat where maximum power is transferred to the ball when hit. They submitted their results in a paper entitled, “Explaining the Sweet Spot: Modeling the Mechanical Behavior and Performance of Baseball Bats with a Classical Physics Methodology.” They envisioned a solid wooden baseball bat sectioned into segments of equal thickness and modeled the bat as system of coupled simple harmonic oscillators. Next, they used matrix theory to solve the system, with the aid of Hessenberg matrices and a computer algorithm to compute eigenfrequencies and eigenvalues.

UWRF had a second team participate in the contest: Joleen Carlson, Jenny Wencl and Nathan Riley. They received the designation Successful Participant for their paper, “To Catch a Criminal,” which addressed the other problem posed in the contest: creating a mathematical model to predict crime locations based on past crime scenes.

Both teams dedicated a full weekend to researching their problem, developing a mathematical model address their problem, using appropriate technology to solve their model and presenting their results in a well-written paper.

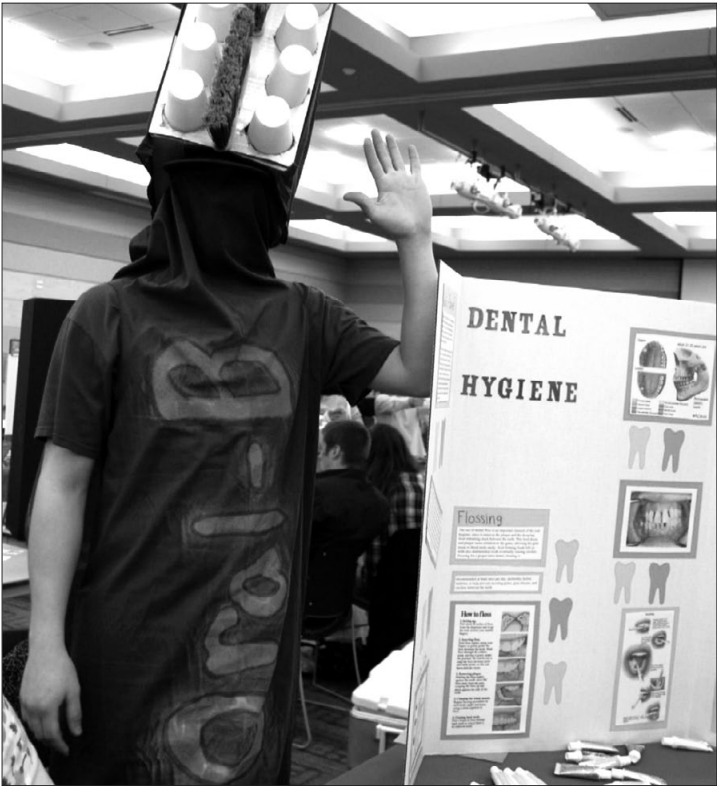
The students prepared for the contest by studying various issues surrounding mathematical modeling and technical writing with their advisors Kathy Tomlinson and Arunendu Chatterjee. This year, 2,254 teams representing 14 countries participated in the contest, which is a 35 percent increase in participation over last year’s contest.

News Releases are sent to the Student Voice and are not compiled by the staff.

Annual fair encourages physical, mental health



Hannah Lenius/Student Voice
One of the booths at the health fair offered henna tattoos for fair go-ers. The health fair is an annual event put on by UWRF Student Health and Counseling Services. Local businesses as well as student organizations showcased their booths.



Hannah Lenius/Student Voice
UWRF senior Storm Harmon stands by his display to inform health fair attendees about dental hygiene.

from page 1

sored the event.

Ashley Wentz, a sales associate for State Farm said their office often participates in these types of events. “Greg likes to be a big part of the community,” she said. “It’s not only for the students, but also for the entire community. We get involved in a lot of events like this.”

First National Bank’s goal was to help students become more knowledgeable about their money, UWRF Branch Officer Angela Schoettl said.

“We’re here to talk about financial health, which



Krawczyk

ties into a person’s stress level,” she said. “We’re trying to educate students on credit; how to use a credit card in a wise manner. We hope to help them with a little bit of everything money related.”

The fair was emceed by UWRF senior and WRFW Program Director Adam Lee. Krawczyk said Lee was a perfect fit for the job.

“It’s not only for the students, but also for the entire community. We get involved in a lot of events like this.”

Ashley Wentz
State Farm sales associate

Business: Committee addresses issues, concerns for local store owners

from page 1

“You can have tons of customers and still fail,” he said. “Often beginning business owners start out with too much debt and they think too far ahead.”

Business owners in River Falls have another issue to contend with: parking in the downtown area. Residents that live in River Falls subdivisions not directly beside downtown Main Street must walk long distances for their shopping, and the limited parking available downtown can be a deterrent.

Vocovich cited another issue, stemming from city regulations, which negatively affected his business from the start. River Falls has some strict guidelines in the use of signage in front of businesses.

Vocovich said more signage allowances along Main St. would have assisted him in attracting customers to his loca-

“You can have tons of customers and still fail. Often beginning business owners start out with too much debt...”

Glenn Potts
UWRF economics professor

tion. It took Vocovich six months to obtain one sign and he said he would appreciate more, but the city has a lot of restrictions on what sort of signs and awnings businesses are allowed to put up.

The Main Street Project, a committee created in 1989 to manage the Business Improvements District, provides fifty cents for every dollar spent on signs and awnings that meet the requirements.

According to the Main Street Project Web site, the committee’s goal is to “provide matching sign and façade improvement grants to business

owners within the BID.”

However, these improvements have to match the city’s guidelines relating to size, material and lighting.

“There are no guarantees when operating a small business,” Potts said, “and some issues can be controlled by the owners while others are out of their hands. New small businesses are the future of our economy, and every effort should be made to encourage their presence in River Falls.”

DOT: Construction creates nuisances

from page 1

construction also doesn’t affect him very much.

“[The] only thing that does [affect me] is being stuck behind someone who’s already following the reduced speed limit, and they go even slower,” Vang said. “Coming from Vadnais Heights, Minn., I do have to leave earlier.”

UWRF sophomore Chris Sundberg commutes from

Oakdale, Minn. two days a week. He explained that the construction affects him differently each day.

“I was late for class today (Tuesday) by 10 minutes,” Sundberg said.

He explained that the road construction doesn’t bother him too much.

“It’s typically only an extra few minutes,” he said. “I just moved from a city that was doing road construction

pretty much all over town, so I’m used to it”

UWRF freshman Brittney Boe commutes daily from Ellsworth. She explained that she has to leave about 15 minutes early in order to get to class on time.

“It (the construction) is going pretty smoothly,” Boe said. “I haven’t run into any problems.”

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EDITORIAL

As Earth Day approaches, students should contribute

Earth Day is April 22. After all the snow melted from winter, more and more trash resurfaced in yards all around town. Perhaps that’s one of the reasons Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson declared the first Earth Day in 1970. Regardless of his reasoning, the emergence of garbage after months of hiding under blankets of snow should be reason enough for students, especially, to take action.

UW-River Falls prides itself on being one of few green campuses in the UW System. Heading to the traditions of Earth Day seems to be an obvious task UWRF should tackle, and it can begin with students.

After the snow melts, scatterings of beer cans, nail clippers, cigarettes and socks reflect poorly upon campus, landlords and individual residents. They also lead to embarrassment for the community as a whole. The aesthetic experience when people come to River Falls should a be pleasant one, but that can’t be expected with random chunks of garbage decorating the town’s lawns.

In elementary schools across the nation, children and teachers team up to plant trees on Earth Day, and it’s not uncommon to have week-long events as recognition of this important time of year. As college students, it’s unrealistic to expect everyone to plant a tree, but picking up the trash in your neighborhood isn’t too much to ask.

In addition to resisting the urge to litter, as the weather is getting warmer and warmer with each day, it’s safe to assume students should take on the responsibility of walking to campus, instead of driving. Driving, as everyone knows, can be harmful for the environment.

UWRF hasn’t listed any specific Earth Day-geared events on its Web site’s calendar, but that doesn’t mean that students should shy away from getting themselves involved. A student can do their own, small part and still make a difference in the big picture. Even if the trash isn’t a result of their own littering, picking up garbage on the walk to class or informing a faculty member that a garbage can could be emptied are things a student can do to make a small but important difference.

The week of April 19 is considered Earth Week, and the April 22 is national Earth Day. Even though it’s important to keep Mother Nature in the back of your mind every day, Earth Day is an excuse for everyone to team up and prove that they support UWRF’s drive toward the green initiative.



By Jon Lyksett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Local citizen calls attention to Wisconsin Senate Bill

Missing adults, children may be closer than one thinks

Last week in the news there was information regarding Wisconsin Senate Bill 319, “Child Victims Act.” This is an important Bill. Bill 319 will help protect our children who are vulnerable to abuse and mistreatment. Call your State Senators to vote in favor of this Bill.

In the recent past, there has been other reporting I want to call attention to. In the April 7, Marshfield News Herald paper- Man guilty in 1990 assault case. The Wood County Sheriff’s Department did a great job in closing this case. The other case involved kids being sent text messages and using a computer to facilitate a child sex crime, exploitation of a child, child enticement, causing a child older than 13 to view, listening to sexual activity, using a computer to facilitate a child sex crime, and solicitation of sexual exploitation of a child. This is to name a few. All of us need to help protect our children and grandchildren from these predators. Every day you can hear about or read of these crimes happening- and yes, they are happening in our small little towns.

Everyone, this is so important! WI Senate Wisconsin Senate Bill 319, Child Victims Act will hold perpetrators accountable in court for sexual victimization of children. Call and ask your Senator to vote in FAVOR of Bill 319 Child Victims Act. (Senate Hotline # 1-800-362-9472) Please make the calls today.

Alice B Younger
C2204 State Hwy 153
Stratford, WI 54484
715-687- 2171

Gordon Page, Jr., was born on April 15, 1963, into a happy and loving home. He had somewhat of a tough time as a young adult, and was diagnosed as Autistic in his 20s. In May of 1991, shortly after his 28th birthday, he walked out of an Adult Group home in Grand Rapids, Michigan and has never been seen since.

Although no one denies the horror that families of missing children experience, families of missing adults can face the same anguish, particularly if the adults have special needs, such as Gordie. I urge everyone reading this to get involved. Pay attention to those around you. If someone looks out of place or confused, he or she may well be a missing person. Anyone wanting more information can visit the National Center for Missing Adults, at www.theyaremissd.org. Happy Birthday, Gordie. You are still missed and loved, and one day we will find out what happened to you.

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

UW-River Falls softball team to hold ‘Hit for Lupus’ benefit over weekend

On Saturday, April 17th, the UW-River Falls softball team will be hosting “Hit For Lupus.” This event will be held in order to raise awareness of the disease that affects an estimated 1.4 million people. The Falcons will take on UW-Platteville in a double-header with the opening pitch at 3:00. This event is being put forth by current Falcon softball player, junior shortstop Dana Book. The event takes on a more special purpose, as Dana’s mom, Lorri, has had the disease since she was 13 years old.



Ashley Goettl

If you are interested in helping the Lupus Foundation but can’t make the games there will be t-shirts sold for \$10 at the Knowles center beginning this week.

The event takes on a more special purpose, as Dana’s mom, Lorri, has had the disease since she was 13 years old.

According to the UWRF Athletics Web site, “Lupus is a chronic autoimmune connective tissue disease that can affect any part of the body. As occurs in other autoimmune diseases, the immune system attacks the body’s cells and tissue, resulting in inflammation and tissue damage. It most often harms the heart, joints, skin, lungs, blood vessels, liver, kidneys, and nervous system. The course of the disease is unpredictable, with periods of illness (called flares) alternating with remissions.

The disease occurs nine times more often in women than in men, especially between the ages of 15 and 50, and is more common in those of non-European descent.

There is also no known cure for the disease.” This special cause was headed by Dana to raise awareness and to inform more people about the Lupus Foundation. All funds raised during the event will be given to the Lupus Foundation of Minnesota.

This event will serve to help those who are currently living with Lupus, as well as to further the research to find a cure. It will also be a time to celebrate the struggles that Lorri has overcome. “The doctors had a hard time in the diagnosis,” explained Dana. “Mom has had two strokes, two heart attacks and several seizures. Because of the strokes she has lost the use of her right arm – but Mom taught herself to do things with her left arm.” Lorri has been forced to use her left arm since 2004. “Mom can’t always make it to the games – I wanted to do something to help fight the disease. I just want to raise some money for the Minnesota Lupus Foundation and help raise awareness of the disease,” said Dana. Studies show that nationwide there are over 16,000 new cases annually, according to the “Hit for Lupus” flyer. If you are interested in helping the Lupus Foundation but can’t make the games there will be t-shirts sold for \$10 at the Knowles center beginning this week.

Anyone who donates to the Foundation will receive a coupon for a free box of popcorn. Lorri will be tossing the ceremonial first pitch at the Ramer Field, which is located behind the Knowles Center. For more information about “Hit For Lupus,” the Lupus Foundation of Minnesota or to hear more about Lorri and Dana’s story, visit the UWRF Athletics Web site.

Ashley Goettl 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

Newly opened Target Field offers fans many benefits

For 28 seasons, the Minnesota Twins called the Metrodome home. That’s not the case anymore as the Twins moved to their new home, Target Field. The \$528 million ballpark made its debut last Monday in front of an announced sellout crowd of 39,715. Target Field has hosted three games before opening its doors officially last Monday against the Boston Red Sox. On March 27, the University of Minnesota played Louisiana Tech, and the Twins played two preseason games on April 2-3 against the St. Louis Cardinals.

I was fortunate enough to find tickets to go to the home-opener and witness the debut of the first regular season game at Target Field. I watched as the numerous groups of people experienced what Target Field had to offer. Target Field and its plaza gave Minnesotans something they have not experienced in the last 28 seasons unless they have visited other ballparks around the country: outdoor baseball.

The plaza had golden statues of Kirby Puckett and Harmon Killebrew, which had people lining up to take their picture next to. By Gate 34 there is a Golden Glove statue that people could stand next to or sit on and get their picture taken. The entrance gates are numbered after retired numbers worn by Twins players, except Gate 42, which is Jackie Robinson’s number. The other gates are no. 3 for Harmon Killebrew, no. 6 honoring Tony Olivia, no. 14 for Kent Hrbek, no. 29 honoring Rod Carew, and no. 34 honoring Kirby Puckett. The plaza also had different food and drink vendors lined up and the “Wall” which has the names of people who donated money to the Twins on the wall.

Once you enter the stadium, the biggest thing you’ll notice is the obvious, no roof. But also, the concourses are wider and the foot traffic is not as congested. The only time it got really congested in the concourse was about an hour before the first pitch when everyone was entering the stadium at the same time. But as game time got closer and throughout the game, the concourse had a lot of space and was easy to walk around.

The food selection became more diverse as well. In the Metrodome, the food selection was essentially limited to hot dogs, hamburgers and pizza mixed with some nachos and ice cream. At Target Field, the hot dogs, hamburgers and pizza are still there along with walleye on a stick, grilled steak sandwiches, chicken tenders, tacos, corn dogs, pulled pork, and the list goes on. And I haven’t even mentioned the snack foods like nachos, cheese curds, ice cream, pretzels, cookies, popcorn, cracker jacks, and that’s just a small sample of what is offered at the park. There are also two restaurants inside of Target Field: Hrbek’s sports bar

and Town Ball Tavern. The design of the stadium impressed me as well. Behind home plate and off where the left field seats and third base side seats meet there is a beautiful limestone design that gives the, ballpark its own unique design. In center field there are Minnesota fir pine trees, and while there is no roof there is a canopy above the top

deck. The stadium has a lot of bells and whistles, which is to be expected from a new ballpark. The scoreboard located in left-center field above the seats is the fourth largest in the MLB, and can be seen from practically anywhere throughout the ballpark. On the lower levels, there are TV monitors mounted above the seating, and they’re also mounted by all the concessions so no fan has to miss the game. I spent less than five minutes in line getting food throughout the game. Right next to the scoreboard is the signature Minnie and Paul shaking hands logo that lights up when a Twins player hits a home run.

I’ve been fortunate enough to visit other outdoor ballparks, Old Yankee Stadium and Shea Stadium, where the Yankees and Mets used to play before they moved into their new ballparks last year. So I was able to experience the outdoor baseball atmosphere before Target Field, but it was cool to see Twins fans for the first time experiencing the outdoor elements of the projected forecast of rain in which everyone brought umbrellas although not a drop of rain fell and it was mostly sunny the entire game. Also, the uncontrolled temp as when the sun beat down on us it felt really hot and when we got cloud cover it became cooler. Also, I watched people experience the outdoor elements of animals or rather birds flying around. We even saw a bat flying around in the top of the second inning. Even the opening ceremony was different then the days of the Metrodome, as right after the National Anthem was sung, four F-18s flew by, which is something that couldn’t happen with the days of a roof stadium.

For 28 seasons, from 1981-2009, the Twins and the fans only knew of indoor baseball unless they were playing in a different state. Now, the Twins and the fans are back outside in their beautiful new ballpark, Target Field. Oh, and I bet you were wondering about the huge home-field advantage at Metrodome critics seem to think the Twins will lose once moving to Target Field. If the 5-2 dominating win over the Red Sox is any indication, I’m thinking the Twins are in ready for its new home-field advantage at Target Field.

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

Summer travel agendas call for reflection on past trips

Oh, the places you’ll go. This summer, hopefully you have some sort of awesome trip to look forward to. This time last year, I was a mere month away from the most epic week of my life, and yes, it deserves the word “epic.” I did a semester at California State University-Monterey Bay in spring of 2009, and I’m thankful that I had the opportunity to see the things that I saw. I could write a book on my four months in California, but I want to share with you the road trip back to Wisconsin I got to experience with one of my best friends.

So, my parents were convinced that if I drove from Monterey, California to Wisconsin by myself, I would die. Fair enough, so they convinced one of my best friends to fly out and ride back with me. We could have taken the quick way home, which would have cut across the upper part of Nevada, through Salt Lake City, Wyoming, and then through God’s mistake (Nebraska and Iowa). Nay, we took the long, awesome way home. To start things off, I had to show my buddy Tom what greatness could be seen in close proximity to Monterey Bay. First, we did what I did on my first day in California, and that was cruise down CA-1. Truly, this is one of the most amazing things I have, and probably will ever, experience. Basically, just try and imagine every car commercial you’ve ever seen when they’re driving down a road that winds next water, but then amplify that by 100. I’m a little freaked by heights, but man-ed up drove the beautiful path down CA-1.

The next day, I looked at Tom and said, “Hey, San Francisco?” Yup. Since I had only been there twice before with my roommate, I was pretty proud of what we all did in just one day. We strolled up and down Haight and Ashbury, saw the Bay Bridge, Fisherman’s Wharf, Chinatown, and of course, The Golden Gate Bridge. Notably, one thing that was especially awesome about the day, was what an elderly couple told us while overlooking The Golden Gate Bridge. The couple told us that they had been coming to ‘this’ spot overlooking the bridge for thirty years, and they’ve never seen it as clear as it was the day we were there. Awesome.

After saying my goodbyes in Monterey, it was time to head south to LA. We only had one day, but our priority was the same, and that was to scope out and find the set of “The Office.” We were successful. They had already wrapped up filming on the season, but we able to stand in many spots that the workers of “Dunder Mifflin” had stood

before. We were rather excited. Oh, and um, we did plenty of other things like cruise Sunset Blvd, have a drink at Whiskey A Go Go, and see all of the ridiculous mansions of Beverly Hills. Sadly, though, it was now time to say goodbye to California and head to our next destination. Our next destination was something that everyone needs to see with their own eyes, The Grand Canyon. Seriously, no picture or video will ever justify the first time you lay your eyes on this natural wonder. Tom and I drove up and down the canyon stopping at every other “lookout point” taking hundreds and hundreds of pictures. This is a place I need to go back to, and if you’ve never seen it, plan on it.

After taking in as much of the Grand Canyon as we could, it was time to do a little backtracking, and head to Vegas. On our way, we hit up the Hoover Dam, but didn’t pay the ridiculous amount it would have cost to park and look over the edge. So we got our sweet shots on the move. About an hour after the Hoover Dam, we hit Sin City. Our first night was truly crazy, not “The Hangover” crazy, but crazy enough for two 21 year olds who had never been there before. Between getting a free limo ride around Vegas because we look like “good guys” to getting charged at by an insane taxi driver, it was a good night. The second night, though, we were in bed by midnight, because we did still have 30 hours of driving to do. Lastly, we had one more stop to make that was suggested by a random gentleman at a party in California, and I’m glad we listened. We headed to Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah. I won’t try and describe how wonderful it is, just Google search it. After we had taken in our last “natural wonder,” we ended up in Grand Junction, Colo. for some rest. Tom and I then agreed that once we got past Denver, we would “pull off the Band-Aid” and make the 24-hour trek to get back home.

All I can say is, by God, what I would give to do it again. Even if you have to wait until after graduation, you need to do something along these lines, because Kevin Spacey said it right: “there is so much beauty in the world.”

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

STUDENT VOICES

Would you support a \$5 increase in your segregated fees to prevent student organization budget cuts in the future?

Aune Anderson, sophomore

“Yes, because it’s only \$5, and it’s for a good cause.”



Timmy Wucherer, senior

“Of course, because I’m an athlete and have problems with funding. It would be beneficial to add the \$5.”

Brock Grewe, sophomore

“I’d say sure why not? It’s only \$5!”



Storm Harmon, senior

“I definitely wouldn’t mind adding \$5.”

Student Voices compiled by – Hannah Lenius

Traditions, tips for college students’ most popular recreational lawn games, sports

Aside from frisbee golf (frolfing?) and broomball, bean bags have to be the biggest summer time hit for the college age recreational athlete. While frisbee golf is often regarded as the pastime of hippy-like college students, the bean bag spans the spectrum. Everyone plays it, but few are good at it.

This game, known as “cornhole” is known as an American pastime and I wonder if it’s mostly because you can buy the stands with beer holders. For whatever reason, the game is rarely played anywhere else. In fact there is an association that monitors and states the official rules of the game, the American Cornhole Association. Tournaments take place in Ohio where the game is rumored to have originated.

Oddly enough, the exact origin of the game is unknown. Considering the original bags were from feed sacks filled with corn, I would assume it was somewhere in rural America, most likely the midwest. Wherever it originated, the game developed to have official rules, teams and a rather astute following. I have arranged a few selections of terminology to aid your summer cornhole-ing. It should be helpful.

Cowpie: A bag that lands on the board which is worth one point.

Blocker: A cowpie that lands in front of the hole, essentially blocking the hole from sliders.

Gusher, double deuce or catorce: Four cornholes by a single player in a single round.

Leprechaun: When a player lands all four bags on the board and none in the hole.

Shucker: When a player tosses a bag and it strikes an opposing players bag knocking it off the board.

Swish: A bag that goes directly into the hole without touching the board.

Along with cornhole, there are quite a few other games that can be played on the lawn. Some would be, bocce ball, an Italian game played with eight balls, two teams of players and one smaller ball often referred to as a tomato. The goal being to toss the balls nearest the tomato. The team that gets their bocces the closes wins that round. Once a team reaches 21 points, that team wins. The trickier the terrain the better!

Another game would be ladder golf, a game with tethered balls on a ladder like contraption. The goal is to throw the balls over the ladder rung, the highest of which is worth three points. Game sets for any of these games can easily be found at Shopko in town.

So, now everyone has plenty of reason to get outside and enjoy a few games. Cornhole is a very important game to American youth and is affectionately described by Colbert as a cross between “horseshoes and sodomy.”

Good luck in all your lawn game adventures and enjoy the warm weather that is headed, assuredly, towards us.

Chaia means life, 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

Good luck with all of your lawn game adventures and enjoy the warm weather that is headed, assuredly, towards us

Falcon invitational opens up UWRF track and field season



Sally King/Student Voice
Falcon track participants in the Falcon Invitational, which was held April 9 and 10 in Ramer Field. Events included in the photos are long jump, pole vault and steeple chase. The Falcons will continue their season on April 16, at the La Crosse invitational at UW-La Crosse.

Blaze Fugina
blaze.fugina@uwrf.edu

The Falcon Invitational, held April 9-10 at Ramer Field, was a success for much of the UW-River Falls track and field team as they began the outdoor track season.

The Falcons had many good finishes from athletes, and at least one qualified for the NCAA tournament as well, said Keven Syverson, the head coach.

"It was our first outdoor competition of the year, and first competition in over a month," he said. "We had some very solid performances, especially in the field events."

Syverson said that one of the most impressive performances was by a UWRF heptathlon runner, who qualified for the national competition by winning an event.

"Colleen Kopel won the heptathlon with a provisional qualifying mark for nationals," he said.

According to Syverson, another UWRF athlete was also close to qualifying for the NCAA tournament with a win in an event.

"Rebecca Ponick won the Javelin with a 125-04 toss, which is very close to a provisional qualifying mark," he said.

Sophie Lasko, also had success in the meet, taking first in the 100 meter dash and second in the 200. In her 100 meter run, she was less than a second away from a provisional qualifier to the NCAA tournament, according to results at pttiming.com.

"The meet went really well for me, though I felt very sore from all of the hard workouts," she said. "I placed first in the 100 and second in the 200."

Lasko also said that many of the coaches have high expectations for the team, after a successful indoor season.

"We had the most we've ever had go to nationals so I'm sure they're hoping for just as much or better for the outdoor season," she said.

Nick Zeien, a senior mid-distance runner, said the meet was a good preview of the conference meet, which will also be held at UWRF.

"It was a good meet," he said. "A solid set up for what conference is going to be, since it's being held there this year."

Chad Ernst, a senior distance runner, commented on distance runners, who also had some positive results.

"Timmy Wucherer won the 10 kilometer by breaking his

previous personal record by over a minute and a half," he said. "Scott Degner took 3rd in the 800 with a time of 1:56.92, and Scott Bowman took 6th in the 1500 with a time of 4:12.90."

The Falcons continue their season with a meet April 16 at UW-La Crosse, for the La Crosse Invitational. Both the men and women's teams have six meets left before the conference tournament, which is May 7 and 8 at Ramer Field.

Syverson said that the women athletes look good this year; however, the men's team is regrouping for next season.

"I think we have a very solid team on the women's side in most event areas and we are sitting out some of our better men this outdoor season hoping it pays off for us next year," he said.

Syverson set team goals this season using the indoor season as a benchmark.

"The women finished 4th at the indoor conference meet and I expect us to be in that area again at the outdoor conference meet," he said. "The men finished 7th at the indoor conference meet and we will have to work hard to duplicate that performance and some new guys will have to step up and make an impact."

The NCAA meet is scheduled for May 27-29 at Baldwin-Wallace College, Ohio.

Falcon softball team splits first conference series with UWEC

Cristina Brusoe
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The UW-River Falls softball team opened its WIAC season April 8 against UW-Eau Claire.

After being shut out the first game against UWEC, the Falcon softball team dominated the second game, 10-6.

The UWEC Blugolds started quickly, scoring a run in the first inning. A strong push was made by the Blugolds in the fourth inning, when they added two more runs after a hit by Bekki Kidnie. UWEC also scored a run in the fifth on a Falcon error.

The Falcons were near scoring in the first inning after Hayley Buchanan hit a single with two outs. Ashley Goettl followed with a double to left field. However, Buchanan was called out on a close play at home plate.

From then on, the Falcons would remain scoreless. The final score of the first game was UWEC 4 and UWRF 0.

"The first game was a tough loss, but we still hit pretty well, we just couldn't get the hits strung together and they got the bounces. It is rare that a team will completely shut-out a team like ours as we have so many weapons all through the order. Otherwise, we put forth a good team effort," Goettl, first baseman for the Falcons said.

In the second game of the day, the Falcons came out strong. Sarah Fern had an outstanding game. She hit a three-run homerun to left field in the third inning and a two-run home-

run to left field in the fifth inning. Fern was 3-3 in the second game and scored three times.

"As our first conference game I think we were kind of playing it safe, and as a team we knew we needed to just go out and play and bring our game in the second game, and that is exactly what we did," Fern said.

The Falcons scored four times in the third and sixth innings and two in the fifth. UWEC scored single runs in the second, third and fifth and three in the seventh.

Overall, the Falcons hit the ball much better in the second game. Buchanan

was 3-4 with three runs scored. Rose Tusa was 2-3 with two RBI, Goettl was 2-3 with a run scored, and Nicole Lubahn was 3-4 with one run scored.

After a rough first game pitching, Tusa picked up the win in a relief effort. She allowed five hits in the second game and four earned runs. Her record now resides at 9-6 for this year.

Head Coach Jody Gabriel says that she believes the team played well and the team is getting stronger as the season goes on. "Our pitching has been excellent this season, our hitting



Sally King/Student Voice
The Falcons lost to the UWEC Blugolds by four runs in the first game, but bounced back in the second to win 10-6. This puts the team's conference season record at 1-1. They play UW Platteville at home April 17.

is getting much stronger and our defense is making some big plays," Gabriel said.

The final score of the game was 10-6. The Falcons are now 14-8 overall and 1-1 in WIAC. The Falcons will play UW-Platteville on April 17 at 3 p.m.

"We have set a goal of winning the conference title this season, and we definatley have the talent for reaching it. In each game we have played we are improving our game and making big strides toward becoming a conference championship team," Gabriel said.

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A wholesome moral doesn't equal a good film

It's hard to hate a film like "Letters to God." When you adapt a true story about a boy with brain cancer whose heavenly correspondences change the life of an alcoholic mailman, you pretty much get a free pass from criticism. Yeah it's schmaltzy, and the production value is none too high, but when a movie is this wholesome and has such a positive message, does it even matter?

"Letters to God" is definitely a low-budget film. It has the appearance of a made-for-TV movie - like something you'd expect to see on ABC Family instead of the big screen. There are even brief pauses during scene transitions that would be perfect for commercial breaks.

Its shoestring budget is also apparent in the film's cast. The actors are largely unknowns, with many coming over from supporting roles on TV shows. Stars Robyn Lively ("Twin Peaks," "30 Rock") and Jeffrey Johnson ("CSI," "Burn Notice") are two such examples. Their performances are acceptable for this kind of production, but they're often marred by flat characters and stale

dialog. The most challenging role is played by 12-year-old Tanner Maguire ("How I Met Your Mother"). His enthusiastic performance as a young boy fighting cancer, while occasionally overdone, lends the film some much needed heart. "Letters to God" covers some pretty serious topics, and I think that it would be unbearably heavy if not for Maguire's bright-eyed innocence.

If you don't get choked up by the end of this film, then odds are good that you're not human. The plot is a textbook tearjerker, designed to play off your emotions and illicit a response. It's sappy and overly sentimental, but it's hard to hate it when its goal is to promote faith and foster hope for cancer survival.

So you can't hate it, but that doesn't mean you have to like it; and, frankly, I didn't. It's a wonderful story, but it's just not told very well. The film's pacing feels off. Its running time is

nearly two hours, but it's not until the last 20 minutes that things really start to click. The final act packs an emotional punch, but it's almost not worth the effort getting there.

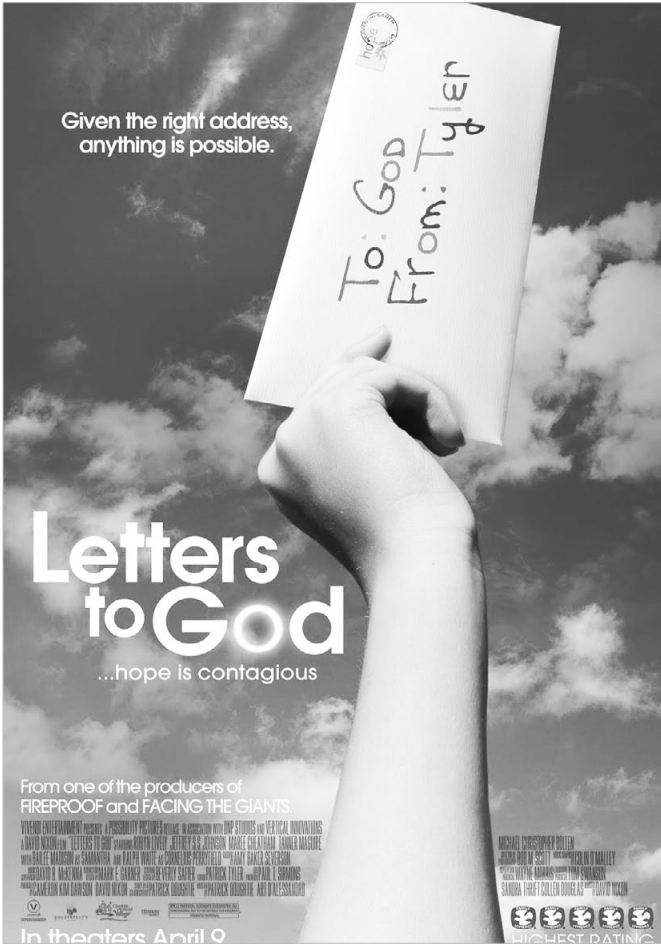
Director/producer David Nixon seems more interested in giving Bible lessons than telling a tightly-crafted story. Considering his past work includes two films produced for the Sherwood Baptist Church, it's not surprising that "Letters to God" has such a strong Christian slant. It's all good stuff - very uplifting and certainly powerful for anyone who has lost a loved one to disease - but such a strong focus on a single set of beliefs prevents

the story from being universal to the human experience.

The bottom line is

that "Letters to God" is a sub-par film. The story is obviously very personal for the cast and crew, but unfortunately the finished product comes off as tedious and clumsy. Go see it as a springboard for discussion or as an affirmation of your beliefs. Just don't go for the entertainment.

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.



Comedy entertains despite forced humor

"Date Night" is good for a fun, action-packed good time, but it could've been better, especially with actors like Tina Fey and Steve Carell at the helm. It was fun, funny and entertaining for what it was. The room for improvement is a result of the script, not the actors- they made the best of it. Then again, this isn't really a film expected to have much depth, so if taken as it is, it is pretty enjoyable.

Date Night is simply a light-hearted action comedy about a New Jersey married couple whose night on the town turns into a race for their lives. Fey and Carell are wonderfully delightful, as always, as Phil and Clare Foster, a couple desperately trying to maintain romance in their relationship despite the demands of work and family.

After a neighboring couple announces their divorce, Phil and Clare decide to add a little spice to date night and steal the reservation of absentee diners at a posh new Manhattan

restaurant. Unfortunately, they take the names of some folks who apparently are in possession of some contraband

materials, and soon find themselves on the run from corrupt cops (Jimmi Simpson and Common) who were sent to retrieve them by a cutthroat mobster (Ray Liotta).

Mark Wahlberg has an entertaining appearance as one of

Clare's clients, a charming, capable and shirt-deficient security expert who not only offers them some unexpected assistance, but helps them rekindle the excitement and romance of their marriage.

One of the downfalls of the film was that, at times, many of the elements such as humor and action seemed forced and not as effective as they should be. Sometimes the story wasn't moving along as it should, and it seemed off. Fortunately, this didn't ruin the film, it just hindered it a bit at times.

The reality is that Date Night is... well, it's not "good," according to just about any functional definition of that

word. It's also not really "bad," in the sense that it's unpleasant to watch. On the contrary, it's funny, although not shoot-milk-out-your-nose funny. "Cute" and "thinly amusing" might be better descriptors. Fey and Carell do a great job of managing to bring out the funny in a not-so-funny script. Still, whether it was scripted and directed to be funny, or whether it's funny just because the actors will it so, "Date Night" is still funny, and that's ultimately what counts. One can only hope that the delightful duo will be paired together again with a better script.

At least it's decent and amusing enough that it doesn't hurt to watch it. If that doesn't sound like praise, I guess that's because it's really not; but it's also not a condemnation, and at any rate, the film is undeniably a lot better than it easily could have been. If you want a deep film to discuss, this may not be the right film for you. But if you're looking for a fun date movie, it doesn't get much better than this. And after all, it's called Date Night. What more can you expect?

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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UWRF students speak out against sexual violence

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UW-River Falls students, faculty and staff along with River Falls community members showed their support for sexual violence awareness at the 15th annual UWRF Take Back the Night (TBtN) held Wednesday, April 7, in the Falcon’s Nest.

According to takebackthenight.org, the first mention of TBtN occurred at The International Tribunal on Crimes against Women on March 4-8, 1976 in Brussels, Belgium. Two thousand women representing 40 countries attended the candle-light procession through the streets of Brussels. In Rome, Reclaim the Night arose in 1976, a year in which 16,000 rapes were reported, fueling the event. West Germany followed suit and held their first Reclaim the Night on April 30, 1977. Next, Leeds, England held a Reclaim the Night event in November, 1977. Australia and India also held Reclaim the Night events in 1978.

In 1976, New York held the first North American march for women, but it wasn’t until 1977 that the slogan “Take Back the Night” was introduced by Anne Pride as the title of a memorial she read at an anti-violence rally in Pittsburgh, Pa., according to the Web site. Over the last 30 years in the United States, Take Back the Night has returned its focus to eliminating sexual violence in all forms, and thousands of colleges, universities, women’s centers and rape crisis centers have sponsored events all over the country.

This year, TBtN at UWRF held the first march down Main Street since 2007. The event ran in conjunction with the Clothesline Project and included live music, poetry and other readings, a resource fair, speakers and a free fajita bar. According to Nikki Shonoiki, third-year member of the planning committee and emcee for TBtN at UWRF, this year’s event was held differently than previous years. Shonoiki said there was a coalition working together for TBtN involving many different departments, and that it was bigger than ever before.

“I really feel like people are going to take a lot from this event,” Shonoiki said. “What’s cool is that we’ll be able to show the community, very loudly, that we’re passionate about the issue of sexual violence.”

Planning for the event began in February, according to Shonoiki, and a coalition was created outside of Rise Up for Women’s Rights. This year, TBtN worked with the Greek community, specifically the Sorority Pan Hellenic Council, as well as the Journey House, College Democrats, the Pierce County Democratic Party and the Women’s Studies Department. The focus this year was community building, resource acknowledgement, inclusiveness and victim empowerment. The planning committee wanted to bring back the march to this year’s event since that’s how TBtN origi-



Sally King/Student Voice
The 15th annual UWRF Take Back the Night featured live music, poetry, and other readings as well as speakers, resource fair and a free fajita bar.

nated.

“We really wanted to not only link students to the resources and link the community to the campus, but to include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and asexual (LGBTQA) communities because they’re always kept out of sexual

violence issues,” Shonoiki said.

Erin McNiff from the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) spoke at the event about the services offered by SART,

which helps victims by bringing healing and safety throughout the St. Croix Valley. SART serves victims, both male and female, over the age of 13 by offering free medical help and guidance within five days of a sexual assault incident. Police Investigator Chuck Golden from the River Falls Police Department also spoke about his role as an investigator specializing in crimes of sexual assault. Golden encouraged everyone to speak out to community leaders and legislators when a void in statutes is seen so that everyone can live in peace.

River Falls Mayor Don Richards congratulated everyone in attendance.

“You’re sending a strong message as you take a stand,” Richards said.

Richards said that as a public official he, too, must take a stand opposing sexual violence, and as a male, it’s even more important to take a stand. He said it is necessary for more men to join the ranks of those courageous women to rebel against the advice to stay in at night to avoid getting hurt.

Another guest speaker was Meredith Martyr, an intern from

the Aurora Center at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, who spoke about sexual violence in the LGBTQA community. The Aurora Center’s mission is “to recognize and reduce sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking on campus and to create an atmosphere where all members of the community can learn, work, and live to their full potential,” according to their Web site. The Aurora Center for Advocacy and Education (TAC) at the U of M was founded in 1989, providing free and confidential crisis intervention to victims of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking and harassment.

TAC also provides services for “concerned persons,” that is, people who are concerned about a friend

or loved one who has experienced these types of crimes. TAC serves approximately 300 people per year, according to the Web site, through its advocacy services. The center also provides education and training to U of M students, faculty and staff, as well as the Twin-Cities community.

Martyr spoke about the indifference of sexual violence between the straight and gay communities.

“It doesn’t matter if you’re a gay man, straight woman or trans individual,” Martyr said. “We are all affected by these heinous crimes.”

Katie Johnson represented the Justice Center at TBtN. The Justice Center looks at who has been harmed or impacted by sexual crimes and what can be done to

make things right. Johnson said they focus on victims’ point of view and how to help them. She said she hoped that TBtN would raise general awareness about sexual violence on the UWRF campus.

Tori Ruckle, the secretary of Rise Up for Women’s Rights, said the group was created last year since there was no women’s rights advocacy on campus. They are a pro-choice organization that works for women’s sexual health rights and are partnered with Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin and Choice USA.

“I hope the effect of tonight is to raise awareness,” Ruckle said. “I feel like it’s an issue a lot of people don’t think of until it happens to them, so our goal is to raise awareness so that it doesn’t happen to women.”

Ruckle said the event has special meaning to her, personally, as well.

“Even the littlest things are sexual assault, like being called a bitch or being grabbed at,” she said. “It happens to women, and it’s unfortunate.”

The Noble Scoundrels is a group that was created earlier this year with the plan to get more men involved in supporting women. Corey Phelps, the health education coordinator at UWRF, said the group wanted to focus on male students who were highly visible, so they started with athletes and moved on to male RA’s. Last week, the group was opened up to anyone and everyone who wanted to sign up to pledge “to boldly uphold the duty of the Nobel Scoundrels to honor and protect all women by not participating in physical or sexual violence against them.” Anyone who wants to pledge (and receive a free shirt) can stop by the Nobel Scoundrels’ office located in 211 Hagestad.

Mark Huttemier, a counselor on campus, said other schools have similar groups and that UWRF needed a group like the Nobel Scoundrels.

“We really want to stick around,” Huttemier said. “And there’s no reason for us not to.”



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