

Apply to be a part of the Student Voice

The Student Voice is accepting applications for several positions. The deadline has been extended to Wednesday, May 5. Submit your application to 304 North Hall.

The following positions are open: page editors, proofreaders, photographers, columnists, reviewers, business manager, advertising manager and circulation manager.

STUDENT VOICE

April 30, 2010

www.uwrfvoice.com

Volume 98, Issue 24

Student Senate to redo presidential election



Hannah Lenius/Student Voice

Above: The UWRF Student Senate convened during a weekly meeting Tuesday March 2. The Senate recently held its spring elections in order to fill all positions for next fall's Senate. The election results for Senate president concluded that candidate Tyler Latz won. However, he withdrew his candidacy resulting in a new election which will potentially take place during finals week.

Right: Nikki Shonoiki is one of the candidates running for president. Shonoiki has recently had to defend herself against an ethics complaint brought against her.

Ken Weigend
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The election for Student Senate president has been overturned and a new election will need to take place. The candidates who will be on the ticket are Nikki Shonoiki and Lee Monson, and voting should hopefully occur finals week, according to Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Gregg Heinselman.

Candidate Tyler Latz had won the presidential vote, but withdrew from the race.

Heinselman was asked to review the elections in the wake of an ethics complaint filed against Shonoiki.

"Upon review of the Student Association election materials and issues, I have determined that... it is difficult to declare a Student Senate president," Heinselman said in an e-mail sent to Paul Shepherd, director of student life, and Chancellor Dean Van Galen. "I suggest that a new election be conducted this spring, the week of May 10."

The complaint against Shonoiki was filed April 12 by former Senate President Josh Brock and former Senate Elections Chair Rodney Hillskotter.

According to Shonoiki, the complaint claimed she was in violation of Student Senate Election Rules Section C, General Campaign No. 9: "Campaign material cannot be posted until the petition due date has expired. Violation of such rule will be subject to penalty." The petition due date for this election cycle was April 12.

The evidence used in the complaint were two audio files of a radio interview conducted by WRFW News Director Jamie Babb of Shonoiki from March 3; a written transcript of that interview; and an e-mail sent April 2 by Shonoiki to the student organization Rise Up for Women's Rights.

The Election Rules define campaigning as: "Any activity that is intended to influence voting at an election."

Shonoiki said neither her radio interview, which never aired on WRFW, or e-mail to Rise Up was intended to influence voter's decisions.

"There was no intent to influence anyone," she said. "[The e-mail] was directed toward potential candidates and it was intended to encourage students to run for Senate, not influence people to vote for Senate."

The penalty sought by Brock and Hillskotter was to remove Shonoiki from the Senate election ballot and to not allow her to run as a write-in candidate.

The issue first went to the Ethics Committee, which failed to uphold the complaint with a 1-1-1 vote; a unanimous vote against Shonoiki was needed to remove her from the ballot.

The case was appealed by Brock and went to the Senate. The Senate voted to uphold the ethics complaint in a 10-4-3 vote at the April 20 meeting. According to Senate bylaws, Shonoiki then had the opportunity to seek mediation between her, Brock, Hillskotter and the Ethics Committee Chair Cullen Pederson. That mediation session was scheduled for April 22. According to Shonoiki, only she and Pederson showed up.

According to Shepherd, since mediation failed, the next step was impartial, third party arbitration by a University staff member. Heinselman was asked to be that arbiter. The arbiter reviews the case, has the option to talk to all the parties involved and has the authority to issue a final decision.

While the appeals process was underway, the Student Senate general election was held. Shonoiki lost the vote to Latz with a final tally of 320-229. Before the polls closed on April 23, however, Latz officially removed himself from the presidential race.

"I am a University Center building manager," Latz said in an e-mail interview. "As the presidential race was drawing to an end, I was asked to meet with my supervisors and questions were asked about if I could truly do justice to both roles at the same time... we found compromise. I withdrew from the presidential race, but I am still able to represent the students as an at-large Senator."

This action made Shonoiki, by default, the president-elect.

However, at Tuesday's Student Senate meeting, Heinselman announced his decision to overturn the election results and force a second presidential election. In the meantime, Senator Jordan Harshmann has been appointed the interim student senate president for a period of two weeks.

"In an effort to make these presidential elections as fair as possible, after dealing with an ethics complaint against one candidate and the other withdrawing, I decided that the best way to proceed was simply to redo the election," Heinselman said.

Complicating the issue further is the fact that Hillskotter, the elections chair, was asked to step down from his position at Tuesday's meeting, also for violating Senate election rules. The new presidential election cannot happen until a new elections chair is appointed, something Shepherd said should be done at the May 4 meeting.

Once a new elections chair is appointed, that person can solidify plans and guidelines for the new election. According to Shepherd, an e-mail will be sent out to students instructing them on the details of when that election will be held and how they can vote.

VOICE SHORTS

Local artists to headline Finals Fest 2010

UW-River Falls will feature Minneapolis hip-hop artists Brother Ali and P.O.S. during Finals Fest 2010 at 8 p.m. on May 7 in the amphitheater. The event is free and open to anyone. For more information, contact Karyn Wells by phone at 425-4444.

Upcoming required password change

All UW-River Falls faculty, staff and students will be required to change their Falcon Account passwords by May 15. For more information about the password change, visit the technology services home page at <http://uwrf.edu/dots/>.

CORRECTION:

In the April 23, 2010 issue of the Student Voice, the article “Women’s softball hosts Hit for Lupus games” should be attributed to reporter Cristina Brusoe; the original publishing in- correctly identified the reporter as Christina Lindstrom.

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 Trimble 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

Shoot-a-thon raises money for orphaned

Lezli Weis
lezli.weis@uwrf.edu

In the time span of three hours, 750 children in Africa will be orphaned by AIDS.

This is why Brian Grove, 12, hosted an event called Hoops of Hope on April 17 at the St. Bridget Parish School gym in River Falls.

“I hope to have 750 free throws shot because that’s how many kids will be orphaned by AIDS in the three hours of this event,” Grove said about statistics he learned from the Hoops of Hope organization. “It doesn’t matter if you make the shot or not.”

Grove reached his goal.

The event was free, with a suggested donation, and allowed people to shoot free throws for a cause.

In a social studies class, Grove was given the assignment as a project for Gifts of Gold. For this, students had to come up with some way to volunteer their time. The students had to work five hours each quarter since second quarter started towards their project.

“I hope to raise around \$1,500 through this project,” Grove said.

At the end of the event, they had raised \$200. Grove explained that people are still able to donate at firstgiving.com/riverfallshoopsofhope. The money will go to Zambia, Africa, to be used for children who are orphaned by AIDS.

“The program is reaching out to more communities now,” Brian’s sister, Amanda, said.

Amanda originally heard about Hoops of Hope at a Revolve Tour, which is an event “designed to communicate to teen girls that God loves them, just as they are, and not to draw them into a life-changing relationship without him,” according to revolutour.com. This event was held in the Twin Cities a couple years ago. She hosted her own event a year later.

Austin Gutwein, founder of Hoops of Hope, is just 15 years old, and came up with the idea for this event when he was just nine years old.

CBS covered a story about Gutwein and his program, and they explained how AIDS affects the nation of Zambia.

“Today nearly 50 percent of Zambians are under the age of 15, many of them orphans,” Ashley Judd, actress and narrator of the CBS story, explained.

Amanda explained that Gutwein’s book “Take Your Best Shot” is a “big inspiration” for her.

There are many dates that national Hoops of Hope events are held, but people are encouraged to host events whenever it works for them, explained hoopsofhope.org.

When Brian was asked how he came up with the idea to host



Lezli Weis/Student Voice
Amanda Grove takes a free throw at Hoops of Hope at St. Bridget Parish Shool.

this event, his sister interjected.

“He came to me,” Amanda said.

Brian admitted that his sister gave him the idea.

“I knew she did it (last year), so that’s where I got the idea,” he said.

The kids’ parents helped by working in the concessions stand. Proceeds from all sales made went to Hoops of Hope.

In order to promote the event, Brian and Amanda hung brochures up at different businesses around town. They also had an article in the River Falls Journal promoting the event.

“We also e-mailed a lot of people,” Amanda said.

There were also posters that Brian created that he had on display at the event. These posters shared different facts about orphans in Africa.

“Hand in hand, orphaned kids would stretch from New York to California back and forth five times,” read one poster.

Another poster also explained that donations are currently going to build a third medical clinic that specializes in the prevention of mother-baby transfer of HIV/AIDS, as well as building a counseling center for the orphaned children.

Hoopsofhope.org explains that since 2004, every penny raised at Hoops of Hope events has gone to help orphaned children, and the administrative costs are covered by private donations.

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 16

- Alyssa B. McFarland, 18, was cited for underage consumption—third offense in Grimm Hall.

April 17

- Daniel W. Fuller, 20, was cited for underage consumption and loud and unnecessary noise on the 100 block of S. Fourth St.
- Michael P. Riggs, 22, was cited for loud and unnecessary noise on the 100 block of S. Fourth St.

April 19

- Jesse E. Van Allen, 20, was cited for possession of marijuana on the 800 block of Cascade Ave.

April 21

- Luke T. Nirmaier, 27, was cited for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.
- Gabrielle N. Upton-Howard, 18, was cited for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia in Parker Hall.

April 23

- A bicycle was reported stolen from outside Johnson Hall.

April 26

- A bicycle was stolen from outside the University Center
- Graffiti was reported in the first floor North Hall men’s restroom.

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Advertise with the
Student Voice
E-mail
advertising@uwrfvoice.com

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	Jared Fritz	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 Kyra Scanlan Jay Plemon	Jeff Knopps
10 p.m.-Midnight	Greg Klimowicz	Ken Weigend Grady Stehr	Joe Kelly Jared Fritz	Cyrus Kozub	Nathan King Will Larson	Ali Haifawi	WPR
Midnight-2 a.m.	WPR	Kyle McGinn	Andrew Hagemann Erik Gates	Kim Tri	Casey Wolford Alifa Momin	Abel Johnson	WPR

'Open mic' night spotlights talent, draws crowd

Kyle Toutloff

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Many bars along Main Street in downtown River Falls host open mic nights where people are allowed to come in and play their music at no cost to themselves or others. People are also welcome to recite poetry, spoken word and perform comedy sketches if they would like. The popularity of these events has been growing recently in some places more than others, but students seem to agree that open mic nights are a growing venture in River Falls.

“Open mic night is a good night to go out because its gives students and residents a place to socialize and hang out earlier in the week and watch talented performers free of charge,” said fourth-year student Dennis Gunderson.

Local bars such as Junior’s, located at 100 Spring Street and South Main Street, have been hosting open mic nights on Tuesdays for several months, starting at 8 p.m. every week. These events are MC’d by performers themselves and feature lineups usually ranging from about five to 10 performers, according to open mic performer Matt Mitchell.

“It’s definitely become more popular since it began” said Mitchell.

Last Tuesday’s open mic event at Junior’s drew a crowd of over 30 spectators, including many students and residents of the city and neighboring communities as well. Performers such as Mitchell and Joel Kachel, as well as many others, took the stage to entertain with acoustic guitar performances.

“My favorite part is when I’m playing a song and people in the bar start singing along; it gives me shivers every time,” said Mitchell.

The stage occupies the majority of a single banquet room and features a double speaker PA system. In addition, a lighting arrangement exists to create a concert feel, according to Best Western Operations Manager Dustin Hanson.

“Open mic night is my favorite night of the week. I don’t care if there’s not nearly as many people here, this is the funnest night of the week,” Hanson said.

In addition to the many musical performances, there was also a comedy sketch performed by fourth-year student Gary Klaput.

“Having my friends there is nice; it’s a way to get people out and have a good time,” Klaput said.

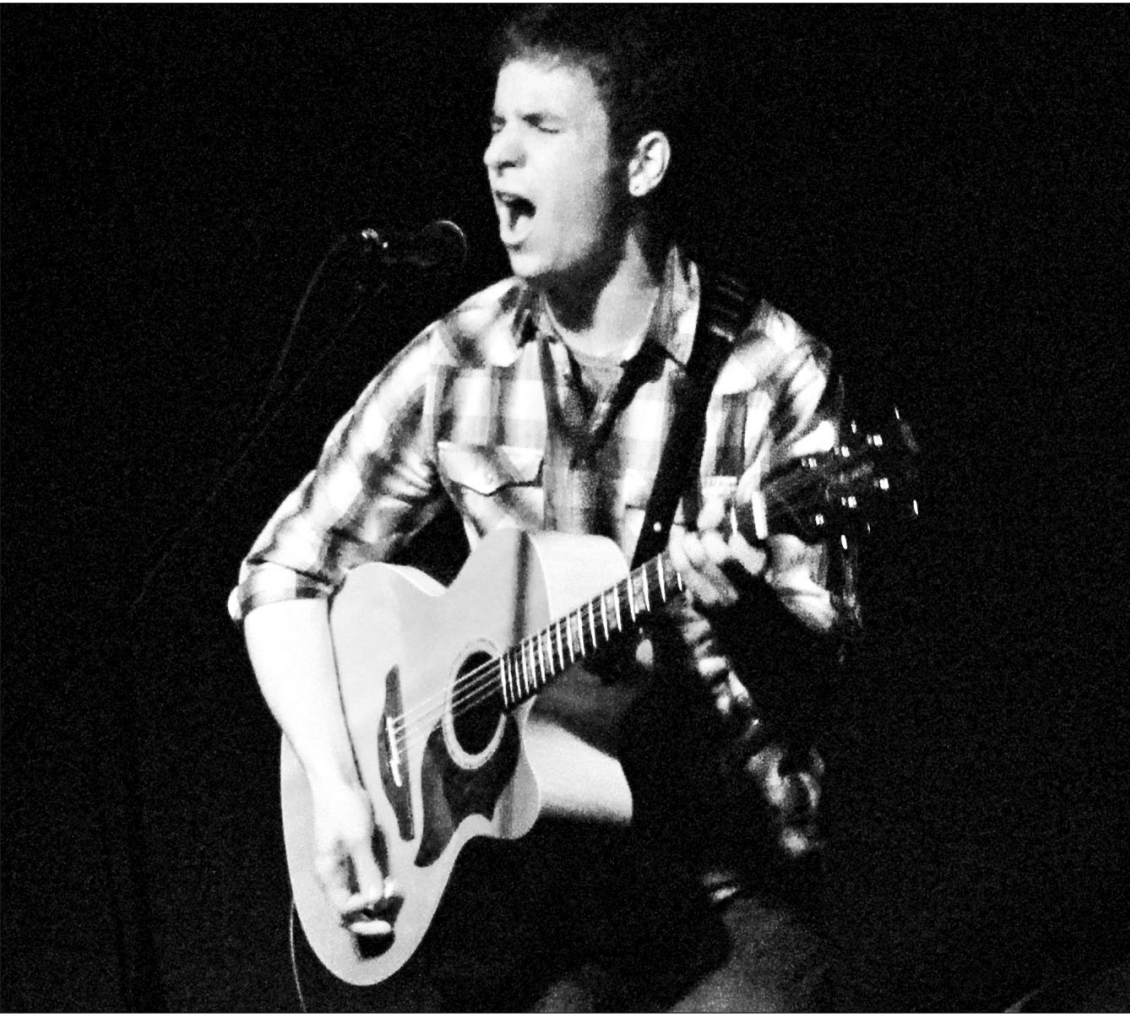
Some of the performers, such as Klaput, feel that the events that are hosted have grown but still feel there could be more people there. “It’s difficult, because it is a bar. There are legal issues with people not being able to go that are under 21. However, I do think they’re doing everything they can,” said Klaput.

This view is also shared by performer Matt Mitchell, but with a slight change in perspective.

“I think Junior’s so far has done everything right. If they wanted to be more popular they’d do more of what I hate, which is become more trendy, like they do on Thursday nights,” said Mitchell.

On Thursday nights Junior’s hosts a ladies night, which is also done by many other bars in River Falls on the same night.

Hanson said he is planning on making a bigger advertising push for music performances in



Sally King/Student Voice
UWRF student Matt Mitchell performs during an “open mic” night hosted by Juniors bar and grill. The venue also welcomes poetry rediting or comedy acts in addition to musical performances. Juniors hosts “open mic” night every Tuesday.

the near future and is planning an event featuring both Mitchell and Kachel in an all-night event on Friday, May 7. Both musicians will be playing all night, and Hanson hopes to draw a large crowd at a show which will charge no cover to people interested in watching the performances.

There are not many other bars in town that offer open mic nights, though the Corner Saloon and Emma’s Bar occasionally host live music performances. Locations such as Hot Spot and the Kinni Lounge used to host open mic nights before they closed their doors last year.

Res. Life implements strategy to handle alcohol violations

Kimberly Kuhens

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The re-evaluated alcohol policy in UW-River Falls’ residence halls has increased the residence life department’s ability to educate students about the harms of drinking.

“The new policy allows us to have more educational discussions with students and allows for follow-ups with them. Kristie Feist, assistant director of Residence Life said, “The new policy also helps the resident assistants build stronger relationships with the people on their floor. It reduces animosity between students and the policy enforcers.”

The new alcohol policy has not reduced the number of policy violations, but it has increased the resident life staff’s ability to provide an educational intervention with the students, according to Feist. During the fall 2009-10 semester, six percent of all students who live in the halls had a policy violation. Seventy-six percent of that six percent were alcohol related, according to Feist. So with 2,500 students in the halls, 115 students had alcohol violations. This number is extremely low compared to other UW System schools, according to Feist.

There are changes to the old policy in regards to who is notified first of possible viola-

tions in the halls. It used to be that campus police were called right away when suspicious behavior was happening. In the new policy, it is the resident assistant’s job to be first on the scene. If everyone in the room is cooperative and has identification, then the whole process can be handled through the residence life office. If the situation is beyond control, then campus police will be called in to assist, according to Feist.

The policy has repercussions set up for four policy violations, according to the Residence Life Conduct Guide. The first violation will result in the resident being required to complete an online alcohol education course, which they will have to pay for themselves. They will also sign a statement of understanding and have six months of residence life probation. The probation means that more severe consequences will result should another violation occur. This includes removal from the residence halls. This is only conduct probation; it doesn’t appear

“The new policy also helps the resident assistants build stronger relationships with the people on their floor. It reduces animosity between students and the policy enforcers.”

Kristie Feist
Resident life assistant director

on a student’s transcript and is not related to their academic career, according to Feist.

The second violation will bring the student a referral to Student Health Services for an assessment, for which the resident will be charged \$110. The resident’s parents or guardians will be notified, and their residence life probation will be extended to one year.

The third violation will result in residence hall relocation or ban, as well as going on probation for the tenure of being a student.

On the fourth violation, a student will be kicked out of the halls completely.

Students in the residence halls receive a code of conduct at the beginning of the school year. The code outlines policies and consequences, regarding alcohol, burning of candles, possession of drugs, pets, weapons and more. The information is also posted on the resident life’s Web site.

Ellie Bares, the Prucha Hall manager, likes the changed policy.

“It is a good policy; there is no way that Public Safety could handle all of it. There is some tension between the resident assistants and the students but the resident assistants can see everything that is going on. It is easier to pick up on the issue and deal with it,” Bares said.

Residence Life sends out a survey every year to students living in the halls. This survey, called the Educational Benchmarking Inc. (EBI), measures areas of satisfaction for students living on campus, according to Feist. The results from last year’s survey showed that 70 percent of students on campus either drank just once a week or not at all. That is a very high number of students refraining from drinking compared to the other UW System schools, according to Feist.

When asked if the Residence Life staff has accomplished what they set out to do with the new policy, Feist said, “We are well on our way to making a change. It is a long road to change the drinking culture of a college. There needs to be more education about the perceptions of drinking versus the realities. As the survey shows, there are 70 percent of students who do not regularly partake in drinking. There are students who don’t drink; they are just not as vocal about it as those students who do.”

New CBE program targets non-traditional students

Elwood Brehmer

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The College of Business and Economics (CBE) is implementing an Adult Degree Completion Program (ADCP) in an attempt to attract working adults who have yet to earn a bachelor’s degree back to college.

“Over time what we will build is a program of one particular format that will attract mostly adult students,” ADCP Director Michael Bilden said.

The program is currently in the planning stages, but Bilden said it will be up and running shortly.

“Right now we’re marketing the program with individual advising and counseling and we’ll be offering evening courses in the fall,” he said.

To start, Bilden said the program will be focused on helping those in the business administration program.

The program is advertised on its Web site as a way for parents or working adults to gain the, “professional advancement opportunities that earning a degree can provide.”

Bilden was hired by CBE earlier this semester specifically to head the program, CBE Dean Glenn Potts said. He was chosen because of his familiarity with the challenges non-traditional students face.

“Michael Bilden has tremendous experience in this area,” Potts said. “Not only did he work at Augsburg College [Minn.] with adult students as an admissions counselor, but he was an adult student at UW-Superior himself.”

Bilden said his time at Superior gives him a feel for what prospective ADCP students will be looking for.

“I was working full-time and in college full-time,” he said. “I needed to attend college during the day on a very traditional

schedule. I can understand how the program needs to be tailored for working students. We are trying to lessen the time they spend here during the day.”

ADCP will consist of evening courses to start, Bilden said. The program may add weekend and online courses if the need arises. Shorter, eight to 10 week classes may also eventually become part of the plan.

“For fall, we’re looking at September to December courses, but many adult focused programs have shorter, more intense and more condensed courses to get students through quicker,” he said.

Michael Bebault is a non-traditional UWRF senior who returned to school to finish his bachelor’s degree. He is seemingly the type of student that ADCP will be geared towards. Bebault said in an e-mail that for him catching up with technology has been a struggle at times.

“I have an associates degree in architecture and pre-engineering,” he said. “I got my first degree in my twenties; I am 52 now. The biggest challenge [has been] computer technology. I have been forced to catch up with the rest of the world in the computer age.”

Issues non-traditional students can have with technology as well as time management will be addressed as a part of ADCP, Bilden said.

Currently, plans are for the program to begin with approximately 40 students attending half-time and to increase that number to around 120 over a three to four year period.

Though no admissions criteria for the Adult Degree Completion Program have been established, Bilden said previous

college credits and time in the workplace will be helpful for prospective students.

“It’s best if they come in with a year or two of college under their belt but there are no hard and fast rules set,” he said. “Over the next few months those things will become clearer. We’re also looking at prior learning assessments and how we can tie work experience in to the program.”

According to Bilden, wherever the experience comes from it will help students complete their degree quicker.

“The bottom line is speed to completion; helping students reach their bachelor’s degree and get on with their lives,” he said.

Admission into ADCP will require participants to pay a fee for the program.

“It will be a self-funding program but there will be a slight premium on top of standard tuition,” Potts said.

The amount of the fee and payment times are still being determined, Bilden said.

“I’m waiting to see what the UW System sets tuition at and that will happen sometime this summer,” he said. “I’m also still learning about segregated fees and how they might tie in to the budget.”

Potts said he’s excited to see the results of the program once it’s fully established.

“It’s a pretty neat thing actually,” he said. “We’re looking forward to the graduation day when 30 of these students walk across the stage and wave to their kids in the audience.”

“We’re looking forward to the graduation day when 30 of these students walk across the stage and wave to their kids in the audience.”

Glenn Potts
CBE dean

EDITORIAL

Senate should not infringe on the right to a free press

In last week’s Student Voice editorial, the editorial staff criticized student media for failing to inform UW-River Falls’ students of upcoming Student Senate elections, the candidates to be represented at upcoming elections and general Senate proceedings. It is important that the press report on Senate news to keep the student body as informed as possible.

On March 3, WRFW attempted filling that role by interviewing Nikki Shonoiki. During the interview, Shonoiki said that she had plans to run for Student Senate President. This action spurred an ethics complaint that was filed against her for “posting campaign material before the petition due date” expired on April 12.

Never mind the fact that the interview with WRFW never aired, this ethics complaint is completely unjustified. A reporter’s job is to report the news. No one but the journalist controls what content they cover. Therefore, a possible candidate being asked if they intend to run for a Senate seat is in no way campaigning—it is a proclamation of fact. This interview is evidence of student media doing their job, and simply highlights a person being interviewed telling the truth. Is that person supposed to lie to the media? Now that would be an action worthy of an ethics complaint.

With this crackdown, the Senate is no longer attacking just candidates, but they are also attacking the right to a free press; a free press whose primary function is to inform the public. The American Public is guaranteed the right to a free press, one not interfered with by outside influencers, including governmental bodies. By upholding the ethics complaint, the Senate is setting a dangerous precedent: if you are a candidate, speaking with the press—even with no intent to influence others, even without the publication of said influential material—you could be subjected to a penalty.

Another issue, as alarming as the ethics complaint, is that Senate seems to have failed in fully understanding the Student Senate Election Rules. According to the Election Rules, campaigning is defined as “any activity that is intended to influence voting at an election.” Answering a journalist’s question truthfully about running for Senate cannot possibly be misconstrued as actively trying to influence voters.

This Editorial Board understands the need for rules regulating election proceedings, especially ones that govern campaigning. National election campaigns are bad enough; UWRF does not need a nine-month Senate campaign smeared across our lovely, scenic campus. What UWRF does need is a Senate that both understands those election rules and their definitions, as well as one that doesn’t attempt to block, interfere with or punish individuals who speak to the press. After all, a free press is Constitutionally guaranteed. Aren’t governmental bodies, no matter what size, supposed to uphold the Constitution?

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

STUDENT VOICE

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

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

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

The *Student Voice* reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters. All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon.

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



As run in Central St. Croix News
By Jon Lyksett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Organization encourages students to submit works for publication

The Pax Americana Institute would like to put your research, commentary and review in front of those who can and do make a difference everyday: State and National Political Leaders, The Media, and Institutes of Higher Education. We invite you to submit your term papers, research theses, book reviews, op-eds and letters to the editor for publication in the Midwest’s premier journal of conservative thought: The Collegiate Conservative (ISSN 2150-9778).

If your essay is accepted for publication, you will: Receive three free print editions of the journal for your records; Be offered final phase consideration for an internship position in our highly-competitive internship program in Madison, WI; and Receive Pax Americana’s Citizenship Declaration: A Citizen’s Call to Action (Available on Amazon). Submission Criteria at: www.paxamerica.org/the-collegiate-conservative/. Submission due May 15. May 2010 to submissions@pax-america.org. We look forward to reviewing your work!

Department of Policy Formation Analysis
Pax Americana Institute

Students, recent graduates can enjoy once-in-a-lifetime experiences

I’ve spent the last several months traveling across Africa, looking at innovations that are working to alleviate hunger and poverty, on a foundation grant. Most of what we hear about of Africa—in the classrooms or on the news—is negative. We almost never hear anything positive about the continent.

Yet, as we travel from rural villages to cities, we are seeing incredible innovations where African-led projects are lifting entire communities from poverty. For starters the people go out of their way to welcome us into their communities, genuinely opening up their homes, and sharing their stories with us. Everyday we are learning so much—far more that I ever learned in the classroom.

As spring semester slowly winds down, I urge you to consider seeing Africa for yourselves. Africa is waiting for you to discover her. It will not only change your lives, but connect you to a continent that feels so far away and is rarely understood.

Bernard Pollack
Travel Writer
BorderJumpers
(www.borderjumpers.org)

Critics of ‘organized religion’ too often attack Christianity, Christians

No “National Day of Prayer?” I’m ok with that, because people who believe certain things shouldn’t have to have a specific day put aside to pray to God. Oddly enough though, why is it that when something tragic happens, people who claim to not have religion hold certain people “in their thoughts and prayers?” One thing I’m not ok with, is this one-way street mentality that I’ve seen in many of the columns published here in the Voice this year. It’s something that I’ve seen so, so much ever since my first day here at UW-River Falls. Why is it, 99 times out of a 100, people discuss having a problem with “organized religion,” and then single out Christianity? Here’s what I think, my friends.

The “one-way street” mentality that I was talking about refers to people that claim to be “agnostic,” “atheist,” or perhaps have their Facebook religious views set to “All you need is love.” Honestly, I have no quarrels with people who choose not to be “religious.” That’s the beauty of our country. However, I’m sick of this category of people attacking Christianity. It’s a two-way street. If you fall under this category, maybe you should look in the mirror before you become so vocal. People over-generalize Christians so, so much. It’s offensive to assume that all Muslims are extremists and terrorists, right? Of course it is.

So why do you not think it’s just as offensive and unjust to do the same to Christians? It’s a sad thing, but people kill, steal and lie in the name of Jesus all the time. So, when a “Conservative Christian” politician ends up being anything but, or someone goes into a church and slays an abortion doctor, stop coupling these people with other Christians. When critics “discuss” Christianity, all too often it’s in either a hostile or condescending tone. I’ve said this in previous columns and it’s relevant here, too; people too often hear/see the loudest, most obnoxious person of a group, whether it’s political, religious, whatever, and generalize the entire cluster of people. Not to call her out specifically, but Ms. Lindberg stated last week “There seems to be a large contingent of people, especially in the rural Midwest, who don’t see how Christianity is already too large a part of our government’s workings.” Are you kidding me? That’s because this is where you live. I invite you to go live in the Carolinas, or “rural” Georgia for a year or two and compare the attitudes to this area. The “workings”



Matthew Torkelson

of Christianity in this nation are stifled constantly by different trends in the media, our schools and numerous other aspects of our daily lives.

I want to address the “separation of church and state.” Now, honestly, as a Christian, I don’t want the government to make Christianity an obligation in our country. It kind of would defeat the purpose of free will. However, I’m sick of people citing the SOCAS as being in the Constitution. It’s not. Yet, in two of my college classes, I’ve had professors say that it is. Why? It’s one of those things that people aren’t going to question, because it’s apparently a fact that doesn’t really need to be checked. The phrase comes from Thomas Jefferson’s letter to the “Danbury Baptist Association” in 1802. He refers to having a “wall of separation between church and state,” which obviously, people have made their own, but wrongfully cite it as being in the Constitution. People argue it’s implied, fair enough, but don’t get bent out of shape when people might argue that certain Christian principles are “implied” in our government.

What’s my overall point in saying all of this? Don’t get upset when people advocate for something such as a “National Day of Prayer.” Don’t like it? Don’t partake. When doctors can’t explain why a terminally ill patient is healed, or when someone else stares death in the face and survives, why is it so irrational for people to rely on prayer? It’s a powerful thing. Look at the people of Haiti. Exactly one month after the earthquake hit, 1 million people gathered for “3 days of fasting and prayer.” When a devastated nation and its leaders call on God, it’s obviously a government forcing their citizens in a certain direction, right? Wrong. Perhaps it should be called encouragement. It’s encouragement to look beyond ourselves. Remember, it’s all too true that “People often confuse religion with God, and end up walking away from both.”

It’s a sad thing, but people kill, steal and lie in the name of Jesus all the time. So when a “Conservative Christian” politician ends up being anything but, or someone goes into a church and slays an abortion doctor, stop coupling these people with other Christians.

New immigration law passed in Arizona promotes intolerance

Police officers in Arizona are now allowed to stop citizens they have “reasonable suspicion” may be an alien who is unlawfully present in the United States.” Wasn’t this one of the qualities we despised in communist states such as the Soviet Union, East Germany and arparthied-era South Africa?

In retaliation to this new immigration law, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenagger has issued a statement calling for a list of all Arizona businesses, threatening a boycott if the law isn’t changed.

Groups have formed to support boycotts of the state’s sports teams and conventions. Hotels and businesses have already claimed cancellations due to the new law and fear that their businesses could be even further effected by the attention the state is receiving.

San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera called on municipal leaders to launch a boycott of Arizona businesses. “Arizona has charted an ominous legal course that puts extremist politics before public safety, and betrays our most deeply-held American values,” Herrera said in a statement.

Groups have formed to support boycotts of the state’s sports teams and conventions. Hotels and businesses have already claimed cancellations due to the new law...

Mexico has issued a travel warning for the state of Arizona, stating that “It must be assumed that every Mexican citizen may be harassed and questioned without further cause at any time.” So that puts Arizona up there with the Congo and Afghanistan on Mexico’s “unsafe places to travel”.

The bill was signed by Republican Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer who said the law was necessary because the federal government has failed to address persistent illegal immigration.

Supporters of the law have stated that the law comes in reaction to the federal government’s lack of legislation on the subject of immigration reform. Once again, I shudder at the level of intolerance and forethought put into laws that have very serious effects on more than just citizens of Arizona.

Arizona, I would like to remind you of a little poem you may or may not remember. It’s inscribed in a place we thought was pretty hard to forget, but apparently has slipped the memory of your legislators. “Give me your tired, your poor. Your huddled masses yearn-

Supporters of the law have stated that the law comes in reaction to to the federal government’s lack of legislation on the subject of immigration reform.

ing to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

If you have trouble finding it in the future, it can easily be found on the Statue of Liberty. Please repeal the law that endangers lives both citizen and otherwise. Until you do, I wont be anywhere near your state or buying anything that comes from there. Be thankful that I didn’t bring up your earlier efforts to rid yourself of Martin Luther King Day. I can’t say there’s a strong pattern of intolerance in your state yet, but it’s getting close.

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

With strong start to season, Twins are fitting in with new ballpark

For many Twins fans, this season will bring about the first chance to see their beloved team play a home baseball game outdoors. The first month at the Minnesota Twins’ new ballpark, Target Field, is almost gone, and within the last month there have been some exciting moments that will go down in baseball history forever. The Twins are enjoying one of their best starts to any season, and set a team record by winning their first six series.

With this strong of a start, the Twins are sitting with a small lead over the Tigers, and although it is still early in the season, with a potent lineup, a defense that is the best in the majors, and a strong pitching staff that has been consistent throughout, Target Field will be the place to be this summer and fall. But as a Twins fanatic and a trivia nut, here are some key plays to keep in mind as a part of Target Field history according to Wikipedia: The first Major League Baseball game played at Target Field was on Monday, April 12, 2010, and the first pitch was thrown at 3:10 p.m.

With this strong of a start, the Twins are sitting with a small lead over the division Tigers...Target Field will be the place to be this summer and fall.

The first pitch was thrown by Carl Pavano and Marco Scutaro of the Red Sox was the first batter, as well as the first batter to get a hit at Target Field. Denard Span was the first Twins hitter to go up to bat. Hometown favorite Joe Mauer got the first double, and Denard Span scored the first run off of the first RBI which was hit by Michael Cuddyer. Justin Morneau hit the first triple, Jason Kubel hit the first home run, and David Ortiz was the first strikeout victim by Carl Pavano.

The first double play was turned by the Twins trio of Orlando Hudson, J.J. Hardy, and Morneau. For the pitching records, Carl Pavano got the first win, helped by the first save by Jon Rauch and Jon Lester took the

loss as the Twins defeated the Red Sox 5-2 for the first win at Target Field.

While most of this information will be lost or forgotten as the season plays on, it will still be a part of Target Field, and more importantly of Twins history. Other unique feature of Target Filed include spruce trees in centerfield, and to replace the infamous “Dome Dog” the Twins will offer a greater plethora of food including walleye-on-a-spike and Tony O’s Cuban sandwiches. Target Field has also been named the greenest ballpark in America.

This next month of Twins baseball might even be more exciting than the first, as the Twins have fit in nicely at Target Field and have performed well no matter who or where they are playing.

Target Field will hopefully be the site of some ALDS playoffs revenge when the defending World Series Champion New York Yankees come to town and the end of May.

Here’s to the many memories that have already come at Target Field, and to the many more that are to come. The Twins haven’t been to the World Series since 1991 and I could not think of a more fitting way to end the first season of Target Field than a game 7 ending much like in ‘91. There’s no place like (Target Field) home.

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

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STUDENT VOICES

How often do you utilize campus services such as career services and counseling?


Lauren Adamic,
sophomore

“Once every semester probably. Not often at all.”




John Gainey,
sophomore

“At least once a week. It is hard not to utilize all of them.”




Tyler Brietzke,
sophomore

“Not at all. I use the internet.”



Andrew Novacheck,
junior

“Twice a month at least.”



Green Bay Packers pleased with draft results, look forward to upcoming season

Welcome to Wisconsin. Land of the Packer fans. Although we are a border town, you’re still in Packer territory. Even though the stores here cater to both, don’t confuse where you are. You are still in Wisconsin after all. I have to admit I don’t know much about the sports world, and I don’t have a whole lot to say about acquiring offensive tackle Bulaga, even though anything to keep Aaron Rodgers from getting sacked so many times would be a blessing. I do, however, want to congratulate the Packer fans living on the fringe. With our backs up against the Minnesota border, we’ve had a rough year.

While the rest of Wisconsin may have felt the sting of Favre’s trade to the Vikings, no one has had to endure as much from those pointy hats and purple jerseys with the “4”. And aside from that strange incident with the goat and arguably booing Favre at Lambeau, I’d say we’ve handled it pretty well. It was

I do, however, want to congratulate the Packer fans living on the fringe. With our backs up against the Minnesota border, we’ve had a rough year.

a rough break-up. Now that we’ve shed a few tears, threw a few tantrums, it’s time to get back on track. We’re some of the best fans in the league and we still have a team to be proud of.

We’re turning over our offensive line and bringing a lot of heavy hitters. Next season we won’t be in the running for most sacks in a season. Aaron Rodgers could get the chance to show people he’s worth the Favre succession. I’m ready to see it.

I know the season doesn’t start for a while, but

I’m ready to get back out there. I’m ready to wear my jersey again, drink beer and watch the Green and Gold go after ‘em. Even if we’re picking linebackers that have a name that make me think of endangered mammals (“...baby ballllluuuuugaaaaa!!”) I’m still psyched.

So, yes, last year was rough, and we have a lot to make up for this year. But let’s keep in mind, Packer loyalists, those purple and gold cuties have had very little to be proud of up to this point. We can allow them to get excited just this once. We can sit back and watch their revelry, until they realize Favre is a dream very close to ending. He’s old, he’ll go eventually and they’ll be back to where they started.

The Packers appear pleased with the choices they’ve made and I’m happy to see some fresh faces. It’ll be game time soon enough...

The Packers appear pleased with the choices they’ve made and I’m happy to see some fresh faces. It’ll be game time soon enough, in the mean time, keep up the good fight, borderlanders! There’s no one in this state that loves the Packers the way you do. You’ve taken the most ridicule and now it’s just time to wait, watch and pray to see an amazing off-season.

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

Student Voices compiled by – Hannah Lenius

Falcon softball goes to 8-4 on season

Natalie Conrad
Natalie.conrad@uwrf.edu

The UW- River Falls softball team has been very busy with a recent slew of home and away games back-to-back during the last two weeks, according to coach Jody Gabriel. The team is currently 21-11 overall and 8-4 in the WIAC.

The Falcons hosted two home games on April 17 and April 18 against UW-Platteville and UW-La Crosse, respectively. UWRF won both games against Platteville, 14-0 and 8-5. They lost both games against La Crosse, 3-4 and 1-4.

“Our team has shown a lot of promise, and we’ve proven that with convincing wins over Platteville and Stout.”
Ashley Goettl
softball player

"Our team has shown a lot of promise, and we've proven that with convincing wins over Platteville and Stout," freshman Ashley Goettl said. "We also know we can compete with the best in the conference, as it took extra innings for La Crosse, who is undefeated in conference play, to beat us."

On Thursday, April 22, the team earned a WIAC sweep at UW-Stout. They won the first game, 7-2, and the second, 4-3. During the first game, pitcher Rose Tusa started on the mound and got the win. She worked the first six innings and allowed two earned runs and five hits. She walked three batters and struck out six. Dana Book hit her first home run of the season in the sixth inning. In the second game, Klein started on the mound for the Falcons and pitched the first 3.1 innings. She allowed three earned runs on six hits. She walked one batter and struck out four. Tusa picked up the win in relief. Nicole Lubahn scored a run in the top of the seventh to get the win in the second game.

Over the last few games, several players have had outstanding performances. Senior Jessica Lundgren has an eight-game hit streak and has had multi-hit games in six of those eight. Lundgren has had eight runs and one RBI total in the recent games against Platteville, La Crosse and Stout. Goettl has had three runs and eight RBI in the same recent series of games. Consequently the team has won all but three games in April.

"Our team has so many weapons, that coming into the final stretch of competition, we will look to be the team to beat," Goettl said. "This week and into next week, we look to gain some momentum and finish strong in our final games. We know we are capable of making it to the postseason; now we just have to prove it."

The home game against Ripon scheduled for April 24 was cancelled due to rain. The team will go on to play eight conference games in six days, starting on Tuesday at UW- Stevens Point, followed by two home games against UW-Superior on Wednesday, two games at UW-Oshkosh on Saturday and two games at UW-Whitewater on Sunday. The games at UW-Stevens Point are scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 25, have been postponed due to wet fields at UWSP and the forecast for more rain throughout the day. The two teams will play a WIAC doubleheader on Tuesday, with the first pitch scheduled at 3 p.m.



Lezli Weis/Student Voice

Ashley Goettl, first baseman for the Falcons, batting in against UW-Platteville. The Falcons are 21-11 overall, and 8-4 in the WIAC after a series split with UW-Superior April 28. The Falcons will then begin the WIAC softball tournament May 7-9 at UW-Oshkosh.

Milwaukee Bucks proving tough in playoffs

After missing the playoffs for three straight seasons, the Milwaukee Bucks find themselves back as a sixth seed. Their opponent? The third seeded Atlanta Hawks, a team that has made the playoffs for the third straight season, and right from the start in game one, showed the Bucks how quickly you lose that playoff experience when you're absent from the playoffs for a couple years. The Hawks, playing at home, opened up a 62-40 lead at halftime in game one. The Bucks settled down in the second half and even made a late rally to make a game out of the fourth quarter, but the early deficit was too much, and the Hawks took game one of the seven game series. The Hawks ended up taking game two of the series as the Bucks fell flat in the third quarter, opening up



Derek Johnson

the game for the Hawks to take. Milwaukee turned things around at home. Dominating on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball, the Bucks blew out the Hawks, 107-89 in the third game, and gave themselves some much needed confidence heading into Game Four of the series. Game Four of the seven game series became an offensive shootout with the Bucks prevailing, 111-104, which tied the series at two apiece. Game Five of this series is Wednesday night, which is being played the same day as I am writing this column. Home-court advantage has proven to be true in this series, as both teams have won their home game. Even if we were to include the season series between the two teams, the home

The initial storyline of the series looked to be a huge one-sided massacre the Hawks were putting on, but the Bucks made the series interesting and changed the storyline.

team has won six out of the seven times they have played this season. Each team has one more home game left, and if game seven is necessary, the Hawks would have two home games left, giving them the tie-breaking edge in this series. The initial storyline of this series looked to be a huge one-sided massacre the Hawks were putting on, but the Bucks made the series interesting and changed the storyline to be focused on home-court advantage. That has not been the case for the other three Eastern Conference Quarterfinal games as each of three series are over, with the top seed dominating the lower seed. The number one seed Cleveland beat up on number eight seed Chicago four games to one, and will play the number four seed Boston in the Eastern Conference Semifinals as Boston took care of the fifth seed Miami four games to one as well. The number two seed Orlando dominated the number seven seed Charlotte by sweeping them, and will take on the winner between Milwaukee and Atlanta.

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

A photographic year in review of Falcon 2009-10 seasons



Student Voice Archive

The Falcons 2009-10 sports season comes to a close in the month of May, after a year which featured many ups and down for university varsity teams.

Unique plot leads to typical ending

Artificial insemination, finding the man of your dreams, and a two legged dog. Oh my! All these things—and mor— make Jennifer Lopez’s new film, “The Back-Up Plan,” stand out from her other films. Lopez plays a single woman who opts for artificial insemination after dating for years and failing to find the right guy, only to see the man of her dreams breeze into her life just as she learns she’s pregnant. It seemed a realistic role for Lopez, as she is in her forties, but still could pass for much younger.

I have never really seen a movie about a single woman getting inseminated, so I found this film very interesting and unique. One can’t expect much from a Jennifer Lopez film, but I thought this one was pretty memorable and different from most of her other work. It was definitely a chick flick with some women empowerment undertones, although she ends up finding



Natalie Conrad

a man right away. It had a lot of humor, so guys might enjoy it to some extent as well, but could also be left terrified, especially if they’re expecting.

I also found Alex O’Loughlin quite intriguing as the love interest. His character is a goat farmer, who makes and sells cheese at the local market. I don’t think I’ve ever came across a goat farmer in any other film I’ve seen and I definitely wouldn’t expect it in a romantic comedy.

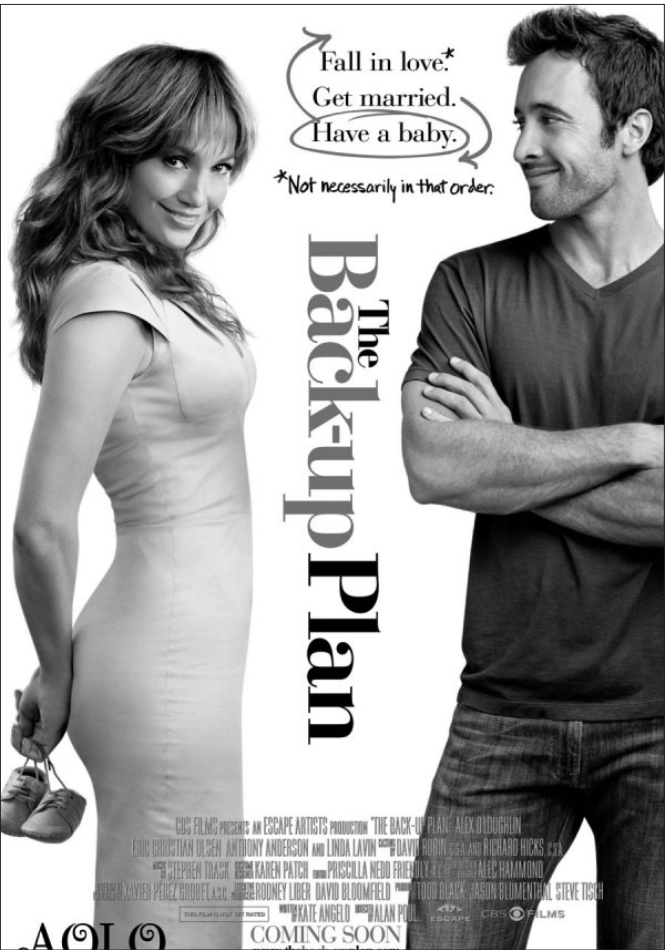
One of my favorite characters was Nutsy, Lopez’s two-legged dog in the film. Adding a cute and entertaining pet can’t hurt as long as it doesn’t get too annoying. Saturday Night Live cast member Michaela Watkins was funny and entertaining as Lopez’s sister Mona, a busy and unenthused mother of three. Linda Lavin also had a memorable role as Lopez’s fiercely independent grandma.

The funniest parts of the film are when Lopez attends a single mother

support group, with a very strange, but entertaining, group of women. The group is headed by Melissa McCarthy’s character, a hippie therapist with some pretty abstract ideas. I laughed harder than I’ve laughed in quite some time at a scene in which one of the members of the group gives birth in a kiddie pool while McCarthy bangs a drum and whales tribal chants.

All in all, it was an entertaining and unique film, but at the same time is just another romantic comedy. I have to give it credit for having some really unique elements to it, but to some extent it follows the same formula, except a little backwards. It could’ve proved a lot more by leaving Lopez on her own to take care of the baby she wanted in the first place, but like in nearly all romantic comedies, the man and woman need to end up together. In that respect, this movie really wasn’t that different at all. It had all the right intentions of adding something really different to a romantic comedy, but it definitely could’ve been better.

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



Cast, cinematography fail to deliver

With its sexy cast and vibrant style, “The Losers” feels like a bomb that’s primed to explode. It’s a volatile mix of action and comedy, needing only an imaginative spark to set it off. I kept waiting for that big explosion, but unfortunately it never came. Instead of sizzling up the screen, “The Losers” fizzled like a dud firework.

“The Losers” is adapted from a graphic novel about a squad of commandos that go into Third World countries and blow stuff up. Each member of the team has their own area of expertise. There’s Cougar, the sniper; Pooch, the driver; and Jensen, the techie. The group is lead by Clay (Jeffrey Dean Morgan), whose main talent seems to be hooking up with exotic women like “Avatar” star Zoe Saldana. Together they fight to bring down a psychopathic CIA boss before he detonates a weapon of mass destruction.

The cast is a likable group of actors that share genuine screen chemistry.



Michael Brun

Their personalities play off each other well, providing for some solid chuckles. The most enjoyable of the bunch is Chris Evans, whose performance as the team’s socially-awkward hacker frequently steals the show.

Watching “The Losers” is like looking through a fast-paced kaleidoscope. It’s a frenetic whirlpool of color and motion. If nothing else, this is a visually stunning film - both digitally vibrant and highly stylized. Sylvain White, the man that brought us 2007’s “Stomp the Yard,” directs “The Losers” as he would a music video. Many scenes are choreographed to a thumping dance beat, with a lot of freeze-frames and slow motion.

Although the style of the film is very hip and flashy, I didn’t much care for it. It would’ve been fine in moderation, but the film’s rapid-fire editing was so constant and overbearing that it quickly grows tiresome.

And if you’re prone to motion sickness, you’ll want to take a pass on this one, because the action scenes can be

quite dizzying. The opening shootout, for instance, is a nauseating catastrophe of quick cuts and extreme close-ups that is nearly unwatchable.

The action gets easier to watch as the film progresses, but it never amounts to anything special. Compared to the imaginative action scenes in last week’s “Kick-Ass,” “The Losers” felt ho-hum at best.

That’s pretty much the bottom line with “The Losers.” It has some interesting elements, but they just don’t add up to anything spectacular. The pieces are there, they’re just missing that last bit of inspiration to really explode on the screen.

If you’re looking for a couple hours of juvenile escapism, you could do worse than “The Losers” (I’m looking at you, “Clash of the Titans”). But with similar films like the “A-Team” remake or Sly Sallone’s “The Expendables” coming down the pike, I think you’d be better off waiting.

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

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Find Freddy’s Feather

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

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Be the first person to report the find on Friday, April 23, and win two free movie passes!

Last week’s Winner:
Mark Klapatch

Wainwright exposes listeners to an introspective, personal view of his life

The career of Rufus Wainwright has been filled with peaks and valleys, an incredible talent lauded by critics yet scarred from relations with his famous parents. He’s blessed with a once-in-a-lifetime voice, and some of his peers have described him as one of the greatest singers of his generation (Martin Scorsese referred to him as “a one-man Greek chorus”), but he has battled with a horrific meth addiction that got so severe, he temporarily went blind.

The openly-gay son of famed musicians Loudan Wainwright and Kate McGarrigle, There is no male musician who flashes more grandeur and the sheer extravagant flash of his soaring, classical arrangements is almost enough to make Louis XIV blush.

His latest album, “All Days are Nights: Songs for Lulu” scales back the grand opera and baroque pop sound of his 2007 LP “Release the Stars” and sees the singer offer a much more personal look into his life. The Wainwright we see here is certainly a much different and more open figure than what he showed us during his Judy Garland tribute concert series. The first part of the album title, “all days are nights” is lifted from William Shakespeare’s Sonnet 43, and the mysterious figure of Lulu is intended to represent “a dark, brooding, dangerous woman that lives within all of us,” perhaps a reference to the Dark Lady figure found in Shakespeare’s poems.

“All Days are Nights” mainly strips all the flair down to just Wainwright and his piano, evoking a quiet, reflective atmosphere in which we are alone with him, his thoughts and his music. The results are not necessarily

depressing, instead showing Wainwright at his most thoughtful and introspective.

There is strong evidence throughout the album that Wainwright had a difficult time coping with his mother Kate McGarrigle’s death this year. On the touching “Martha,” we hear Wainwright call to his sister for help. “Time to go up north and see mother / Things are harder for her now / And neither of us is really that much older than each other / Anymore,” he softly croons.

The opening track, “Who Are You New York,” is a flurry of arpeggios in which Wainwright reveals his full vocal range, and “Les feux d’artifice t’appellent” sees Wainwright sing for over five minutes in French.

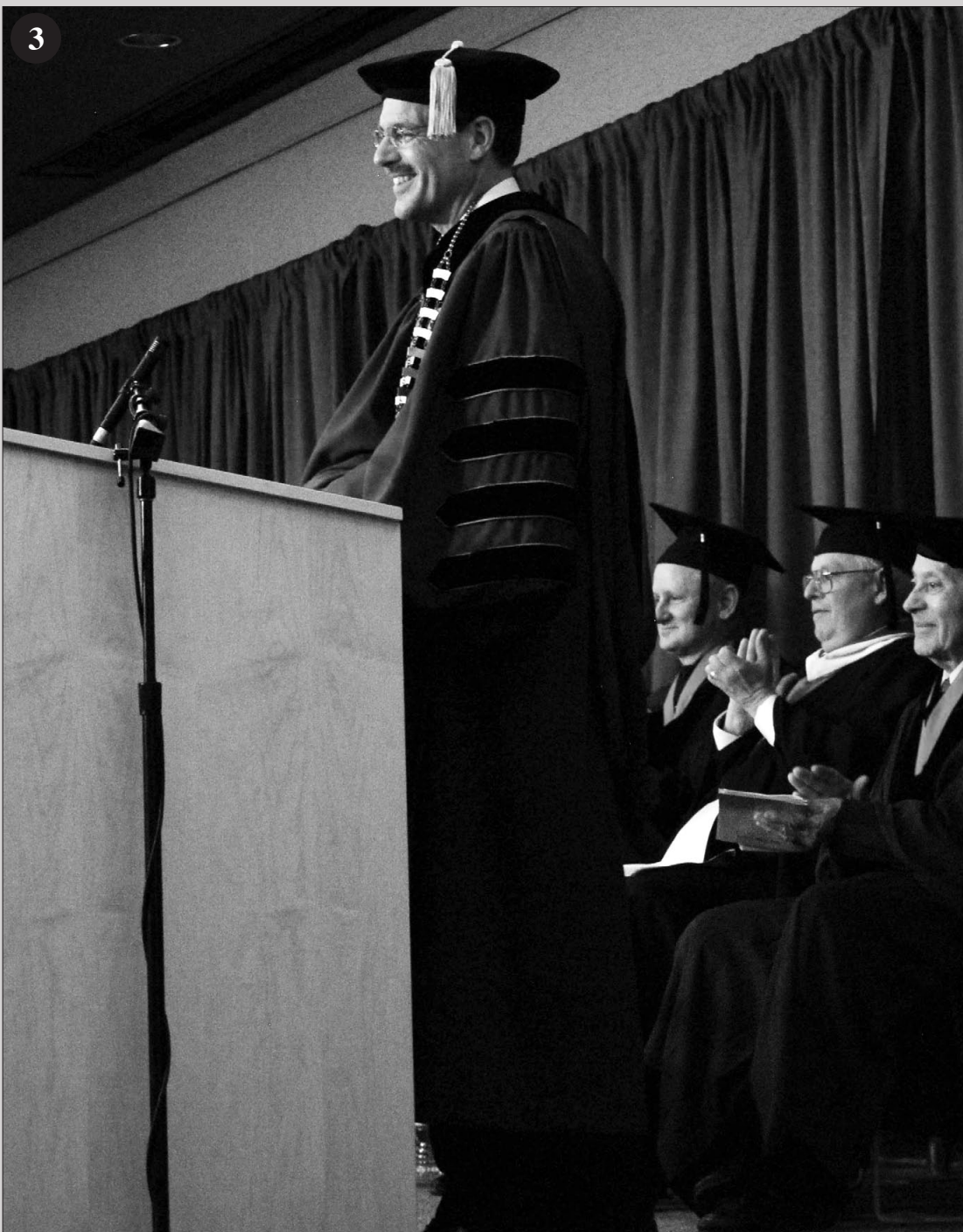
He even takes on the ambitious task of setting three of Shakespeare’s sonnets to music. At times, they can seem slow and laborious, but Sonnet 20, thought by many to contain openly gay themes, is particularly applicable personally to Wainwright.

This release is not an easy listen by any means. Due to the weighty subject matter, if the listener doesn’t make the effort to transport themselves into the very personal space of Wainwright’s recording studio, the depth of his emotions will probably go unfelt. Although he sometimes tries to be a showman above all else, Wainwright here opens himself up fully in a heartfelt, and as always, a pleasure to listen to.

Andy Phelps

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

A year in photographic review: Fall 2009- Spring 2010



- Sally King/Student Voice*
1. UW-River Falls student Tiffany Patterson receives the H1N1 vaccine during the campus vaccination clinic
 2. Break Sk8 showcases its talent at UWRF.
 3. The inauguration of Dean Van Galen as the new UWRF Chancellor was held on March 26 in the University Center.
 4. Racist graffiti found in the basement of the Davee Library evoked strong responses from students, faculty and staff.
 5. UWRF cheerleaders Ashley Emerson, Wendy Guerra, Katie Kusick and Brianna Jacques show their Falcon spirit during the Homecoming parade Saturday, Sept. 26.
 6. Nkauj Hmoob, a group within UWRF's Asian-American Student Association, performs during the 8th Annual Culture Fest.
 7. UWRF celebrated the 45-year anniversary of the Annual Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo, put on by the Rodeo Club.

