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Research finds that college students are more religious

BRUN, PAGE 7
“My Soul to Take” does not live up to hype as a horror film

SOCCER, PAGE 6
Soccer team hits first half with winning record



STUDENT VOICE

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Rare flower blooms in greenhouse

Sally King
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One of the world’s largest and most unpleasant smelling flowers finally bloomed after nine years Monday afternoon in the UW-River Falls greenhouse.

“It smells like something rotting,” said freshman Leah Dykhoff while she visited the flower Tuesday afternoon.

“It’s kind of ugly, but cool,” student Lisa Bowker said. “I think it smells like a dead mouse.”

“It smells like a gross fish,” said freshman Jon Atwell.

The *Amorphophallus Titanum*, which originates from Sumatra in Indonesia and that is currently in the UWRF greenhouse came from UW-Madison’s campus as a gift.

Director of the greenhouses at UW-Madison Mohammad Fayyaz distributed the seeds of the Titan Arum, which had bloomed in Madison June 2001, to conservatories and other greenhouses including UWRF.

“I was fortunate enough to be on his short list of people who got one,” said Greenhouse Manager Dan Waletzko.

Since fall of 2001, the flower has been growing in the greenhouse on campus and had sent up a leaf for the first eight years. This is the first year that instead of sending up a leaf it sent up a flower.

“I didn’t realize it was going to flower until about two and a half weeks ago,” Waletzko said. “I kind of snuck a peak at it when it was around 20-24 inches and saw the tip of the flower.”

Waletzko said the flower had been growing at two and a half inches a day.

“We had to move it once because the flower got too big for the location we had it in,” Waletzko said. “We had it in the hallway and had to move it to the head house so that it had more room to grow.”

According to Waletzko the flower grew to be about two feet five inches wide, and about five feet 10 inches tall.

“It didn’t really spread out as I hoped it would. It probably got to the maximum around one or two o’clock or so at night,” Waletzko said. “So even when I came in this morning it began to shrivel up. We barley got 24 hours out of it, so it was a very short window.”

Students who work in the greenhouse got to have an opportunity to help grow the Titan Arum.

“I came back this year and Dan told me it was going to flower this year,” said senior greenhouse crew worker Rory Martyn. “So these last two weeks I have been making sure its been watered and just this past week I have been helping out informing people about the plant. I’ve been waiting for it to flower and I’m just happy it decided to flower today.”

According to Waletzko the greenhouse had about 700 visitors in the past week and over 600 people last weekend. There was also a live web camera set up so that people off campus could also see the rare flower bloom.

“There have been lots of people coming in to see the flower and a lot have been coming back to keep progress,” Waletzko said. “Today it has just been a constant blow through here. Students, community, professors and everybody have come by to take a look at the flower.”

According to Waletzko the *Amorphophallus Titanium* typically stays open for a day to a day and a half.

“Right now [the flower] is like the star of the greenhouse,” Waketzko said. “Hopefully in another nine or ten years it will go ahead and bloom for us again.”



Sally King/Student Voice
The *Amorphophallus Titanum*, or commonly known as the corpse flower, in bloom at the UWRF Greenhouse. Greenhouse Manager Dan Waletzko has overseen the flower since arriving in 2001.

Faculty Senate still needs to fill 41 student seats

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Despite the necessity that the positions hold, there are vacancies in both Student and Faculty Senate committees, said Student Senate President Lee Monson.

There where three Student Senate positions available until Oct. 5.

There are also 41 seats on all of the committee’s of Faculty Senate, said Executive Committee Vice Chair Dawn Hukai.

According to the Sept. 28 Student Senate minutes, there have been two positions filled

on Faculty Senate.

Hukai said the faculty do not actively seek out students, instead they receive them from Student Senate.

“We are trying not to be parent-like figures. Otherwise it ceases to be a Student Senate and that is not the intent of what Student Senate should be,” Hukai said.

Students sent from Student Senate to Faculty Senate is a process conducted by the Shared Governance Committee. Individuals apply to the committee, the application is approved by the committee. Following the approval, the application is directed to Student Senate, Monson said.

Shared governance—adopted in 1974—is unique to the UW System: powers are distrib-

uted between student, faculty and administration. Student Senate advisor and Director of Student Life Paul Shepherd said UW River Falls is obligated to get students involved in the decision making process.

“Having students involved is critical to help determine what we are doing is good,” Shepherd said.

In years past, student senators were required to sit on two faculty committees. That requirement was abolished last year, said Patrick Okan, who formerly served on both Student and Faculty Senate.

This requirement was removed because it proved to be too hard to enforce. As a semester would progress, student commitment to the given committee would diminish, accord-

ing to Okan.

Faculty committees, which include an Athletics Committee and Diversity and Inclusivity Committee, are eager to have students actively involved in faculty senate according to Hukai.

“The students come to us sharing a student’s perspective,” Hukai said.

She said that their involvement is an important factor for faculty committees. Some of the students impact students almost directly, for example decisions concerning suspension and probation.

Opinions expressed on faculty committees are encouraged and considered.

“You do put some work into it, but it does

See Senate page 3

New forms of video rental take growing market share



Kirsten Blake/Student Voice
The Econofoods movie store is one of the remaining four left in the Nash Finch Company of grocery stores. The rentals could leave during a store re-modeling.

Kirsten Blake
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Despite the availability of alternate movie rentals and viewing options, local video rental shops are holding steady for now, but look forward to a bleak future.

Econofoods video rental faces the possibility of being terminated during a re-model of the store potentially happening in December, said Customer Services and Video Rental Manager Stacy Martin.

Martin said that only four in-store video rentals are left in the Nash Finch chain of grocery stores— which includes Econofoods and Family Fresh. Martin added that Econofoods has been considering discontinuing its video rental for several years.

The number of options for video rental for college students and members of the community has increased dramatically in the digital age. Over the summer, River Falls gained two more movie kiosks including one by Holiday on the corner of

Cascade Avenue and Spring Street, a Blockbuster Express outside of Shopko in addition to the Redbox outside of Walgreens that is now double sized.

Renters also have the option to subscribe to Netflix and receive their movies in the mail or stream instantly online. Other companies, like Hulu, offer online streaming for free. While Hulu is legal, video pirating and illegal online viewing are also ways for students for watch movies. A free way to view movies on campus is through the university library.

During the summer months when business was slow, Econofoods lowered their rental price from \$1.49 to 88 cents. Martin said that they were unable to cover their costs of purchasing DVDs at that price and reinstated their higher price at the beginning of October.

During the Summer, Econofoods saw as low as \$30 worth of video rentals a day, but more recently college student business has increased and

See Video page 3

VOICE SHORTS

UWRF volleyball hosts ‘Dig for a Cure’

The UW-River Falls Falcons will again hold a “Dig for the Cure” game at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 20, versus UW-Eau Claire in the Karges Center. The “Dig for the Cure” campaign was originally started in 2003 by Charlotte Head Coach Lisa Marston whose mother was a breast cancer survivor, and the campaign has spread to volleyball programs in all three divisions across the country. The goal of the WIAC “Dig for the Cure” campaign is to raise both money and awareness for breast cancer. The first 50 fans wearing (visible) pink will receive a gift. Pink WIAC T-shirts will be on sale for \$12 at the game or can be purchased from one of the current volleyball players. Pink lemonade will also be available for purchase in the Karges Center lobby.

Semester Abroad: Europe fall 2011 to hold meetings

An informational meetings for a Fall 2011 Semester Abroad: Europe study program will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 19, in 103 (Banks Center) of the Davee Library and on Monday, Nov. 1, in room 152 of the Centennial Science Hall. Contact Dr. Magdalena Pala at magdalena.e.pala@uwrf.edu or Dennis Cooper at dennis.p.cooper@uwrf.edu for more information.

Family day brings various events, activities

UW-River Falls Family Day is coming up on Oct. 23. The event features a variety of activities including a football game, screening of “Toy Story 3”, ice skating, campus block party and much more. The cost is \$12 per family member. For more information contact First-Year Experience at 425-4444 or fye@uwrf.edu.

Deadlines set for holiday mail to deployed troops

Family and friends have just under one month to get those holiday care packages mailed out to ensure they reach deployed service members before Christmas. According to the U.S. Postal Service, Nov. 12 is the recommended deadline for packages addressed to Army/Air Force Post Office and Fleet Post Office ZIP codes, if those packages are sent by regular mail, or parcel post. The deadline extends to Dec. 4 for packages sent by priority mail to APO addresses in contingency areas such as Iraq and Afghanistan, and Dec.11 for all other APO addresses. First-class mail cards and letters must be sent no later than Dec. 18 to be received by Dec. 25.Contact Lt. Col. Jackie Guthrie at 608-242-3050 or 608-516-1777 for more info.

Outdoor adventure program to increase involvement

Andy Moran
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The Campus Recreation Department at UW-River Falls has added a Kinni Outdoor Adventures program to its ever-expanding repertoire of activities. Advisor to the program Ryan McCallum said that this is something that has been in the works with the Campus Recreation Department for some time.

The program, designed to offer students a variety of outdoor activities, held its grand opening on Friday, Oct. 1.

“The grand opening went really well,” McCallum said.

The program, which offers everything from golf clubs to propane-powered stoves for camping, is a way for campus recreation to offer another side of sports seldom experienced by students during the school year.

“We want the students to know that we have this center on campus, and we want them to utilize it,” McCallum said. “We have a bunch of brand new toys, so come play with them.”

McCallum stressed that the Outdoor Adventures program is more than a way to offer students camping gear for the weekend and rock-climbing on a Wednesday night.

The program works in close collaboration with the Health and Human Performance Department to achieve common goals of reduced student costs.

“We work with HHP to help them out with some of their classes,” McCallum said. “We’ll hopefully be able to reduce their cost and reduce student cost for taking an HHP class.”

In recent years, UWRF has been home to a student-run organization known as Bushwhackers. This program, similar to Outdoor Adventures, was a way for students to plan and organize camping trips and other outdoor activities.

McCallum said that Bushwhackers was disbanded just a little bit too early.

“Its too bad that they aren’t around anymore,” McCallum said. “Now we have all this stuff and finally have the resources to back a club like that, and they aren’t here.”

McCallum made one thing very clear: this is a program for the students. What the students want is what the students get.

“The more involved the students are,



Sally King/Student Voice
Junior Chelsea Coddington and senior Mark Kosanke take part in many activities and sports offered by Kinni Outdoor Adventures.

the better off everyone is,” McCallum said. “The students make the program what they want it to be.”

With the students clearly on his mind, McCallum said that the ultimate goal is to keep students coming back.

“Studies have shown that as an involved student, you have higher grades, which lead to you coming back as a student, which lead[s] to graduating,” McCallum said. “Everybody wins through retention and campus programs.”

Outdoor Adventures is simple: any student who wants to rent outdoor equipment or explore other outdoor opportunities simply walks up to the desk at Knowles and chooses their flavor.

For a small fee, with the maximum price of rental generally no more expensive than \$5, students can rent anything from tents to rollerblades, and anything in between.

Promotion of the program is something that McCallum says is going to be a challenge, yet students around campus

say that they have already heard good things about it.

“I think it’s a great way to get people active and experience the outdoors,” said sophomore Tanya Steinhoff. “It sounds like a chance to get in touch with yourself and meet a bunch of new people at the same time.”

Still, McCallum realizes this program is a work in progress. Keeping that in mind, he looks optimistically towards the future.

“This is a program that will evolve over the next five years,” McCallum said. “It will be what the students want it to be; we are here for them.

Outdoor Adventures is open for equipment rental 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Friday 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. The climbing wall at Knowles is open Sunday, 3-7 p.m. and Wednesday, 7-11 p.m. Equipment can be checked out at the Knowles Center.

Check out the updated
Student Voice website

-Photo galleries

-User movie ratings

-Comment on the articles
you read

Visit
uwrfvoice.com

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In the Oct. 8 issue, in Tennae Maki’s article “Chalk writing targets UWRF minority groups,” the Gender Sexuality Alliance was incorrectly named “Gay Straight Alliance” and Co-Chair Joanna Schanno was misnamed “Joanna Reagan.”

Also in the Oct. 8 issue, the updated version of Jordan Langer’s article “Committee forms to unionize University faculty members” was not printed. The most updated version can be seen on the Student Voice’s website at uwrfvoice.com.

RIVER FALLS POLICE/
UWRF POLICE DEPARTMENT

Editor’s note: Information for this section is taken from River Falls Policeand UW-River Falls Police Department incident reports.

- Oct. 5**

 - A car antenna was reported stolen at E-lot.

Oct. 6

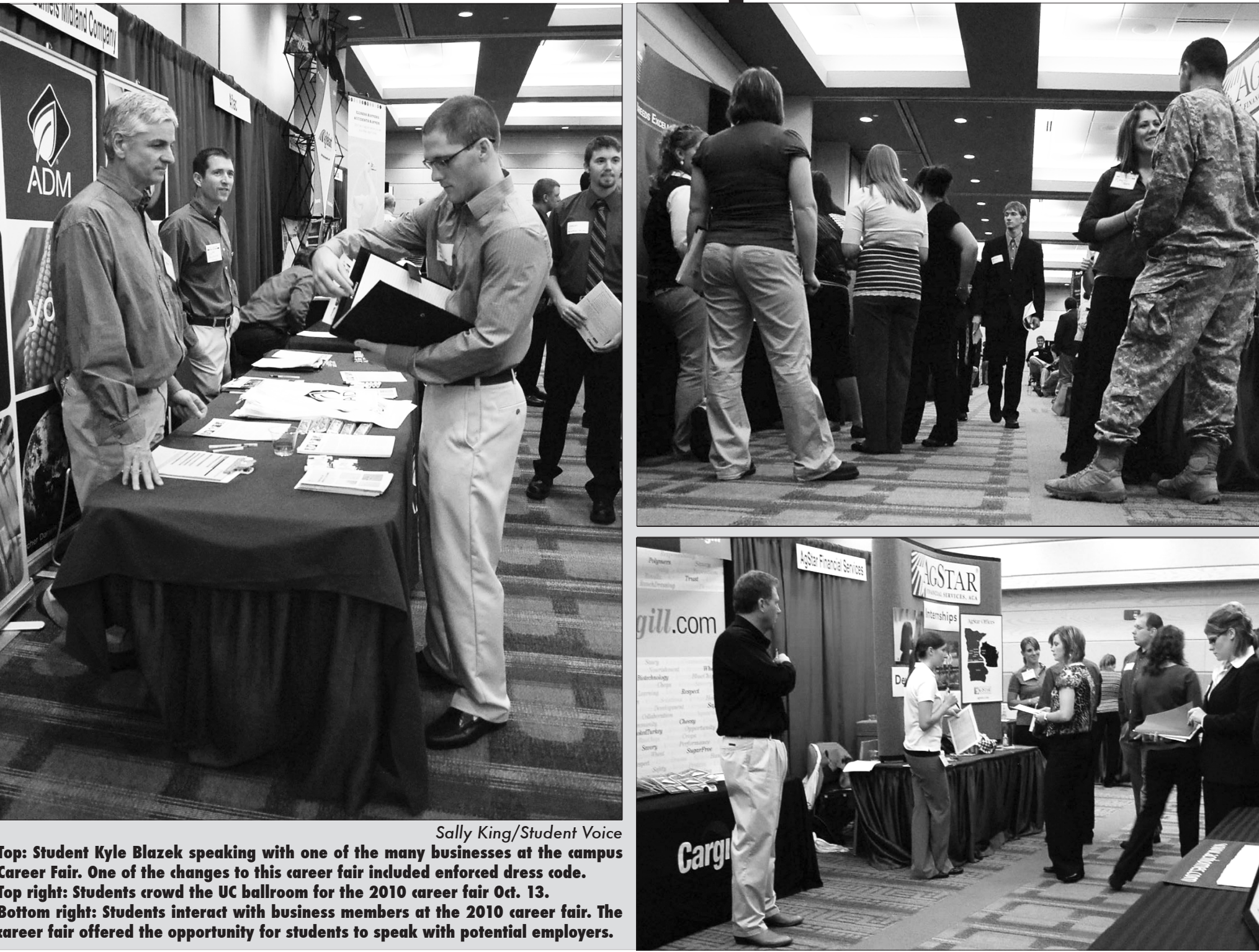
 - A chalk project posted was reported vandalized in front of
- the University Center.

Oct. 10

 - Drekal Hollins, 20, was cited for underage consumption in front of the Karges Center.

<div>WRFW's Fall 2010</div> <div></div> <div>Broadcasting Schedule</div>		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2-6 a.m.	<i>BBC</i>	<i>BBC</i>	<i>BBC</i>	<i>BBC</i>	<i>BBC</i>	<i>BBC</i>	<i>BBC</i>
	6 a.m.-1 p.m.	<i>WPR</i>	<i>WPR</i>	<i>WPR</i>	<i>WPR</i>	<i>WPR</i>	<i>WPR</i>	<i>WPR</i>
	1-3 p.m.	Erik Altman	<i>WPR</i>	Aaron Bergman	<i>WPR</i>	Pat Okan Jeff S.	Sarah Hellier Bleeker Ayers	Ashley Goettl
	3-5 p.m.	<i>WPR</i>	Elliot Novak	Rob Silvers James Scott	Adam Lee	Jack Chien	Katie H. Laura K.	<i>WPR</i>
	5-6 p.m.	<i>WPR</i>	Jordan Simm	Rob Silvers	ACT on AG	Amy Graham	Amanda Leeman	<i>WPR</i>
	6-8 p.m.	Ryan Kleiser	Brian Wegner	Cory H. Jon L.	Jon L.	Matt T. Kevin D.	Ben Lee Jon Heeden	Briana Samson
	8-10 p.m.	Jessie Behrman	Jacob Boet Dan Adams	Greg Klim	Jason K.	Natalie Conrad	Nathan King	Nathan King
	10 p.m.-Midnight	Megan Bohoren	Mike Svoboda	Joe Kelly Jared Fritz	Andrew H. Erik G.	Kim Tri	Abel J.	Collin Bendt
	Midnight-2 a.m.	Jennifer Hageman	Kyle McGinn	Casey Wolford	<i>WPR</i>	<i>WPR</i>	Ali H.	Jordan Gamache

UWRF hosts 2010 campus Career Fair



Sally King/Student Voice
Top: Student Kyle Blazek speaking with one of the many businesses at the campus Career Fair. One of the changes to this career fair included enforced dress code. Top right: Students crowd the UC ballroom for the 2010 career fair Oct. 13. Bottom right: Students interact with business members at the 2010 career fair. The career fair offered the opportunity for students to speak with potential employers.

Senate: UW-Stout Senate offers look into campus wide recruiting

from page 1

have a strong impact,” Okan said.

“There is a great deal of time commitment to be able to serve at an even greater capacity,” Jirel said.

Time commitment can be an issue when serving on Faculty Senate, but, it depends on the committee that is being served upon. Hukai said the current job market has also translated onto certain demands on a students availability.

“Involvement on Student and Faculty Senate also correlates with how strong the underlying Student Senate is,” Hukai said.

With elections ever year, Student Senate positions change, and the Student Senate reinvents itself.

“This year, Student Senate wants to improve student involvement,” Shepherd said.

Student Senate operates in a different manner in comparison to other groups, meetings are held in parliamentary procedure. There are many polices that govern the way the Student Senate operates; for newcomers, the practices may seem odd, Shepherd said.

The Student Senate at UW-Stout has had great success in recruiting students by publicizing. They brought attention to themselves by participating on campus wide activities and visiting with particular majors that were less represented in the senate body, said Director of Senate Communications at Stout Melissa Krueger.

Okan said that students should get more involved on Student Senate because, at present, it is predominately occupied by like minded people.

“Diverse ideas is not something that we’ve seen a lot of,” Okan said.

Monson said that he sincerely hopes people will care more about Student Senate as it is an opportunity for student voices to be heard.

“Your government can’t give an output, if you don’t give an input,” he said.

Video: Econofoods in River Falls one of four chain stores left with movie rental

from page 1

saw almost \$400 worth of movie rentals near homecoming. Martin noted that the number of rentals relies heavily on weather and events.

Blockbuster—once an in-store movie rental giant—filed for bankruptcy in September after being in business since 1985. Meanwhile, Redbox celebrated its one-billionth movie rented on Sept. 5 after being in operation for only eight years.

“I [rented from] Mr. Movies once, and the price for the quality wasn’t worth it to me,” said UW-River Falls student Patrick Jones, who worked for three years at his hometown video rental store, Video Vault in Milltown, Minn.

Instead, Jones said he uses Redbox and watches Hulu because it’s convenient and cheaper.

Owner of Mr. Movies, Laurie Henn, said that since they moved locations to be closer to the campus on Main Street that they have had more business from college students. Previously, she said students mostly came into the store if they were looking for a specific film for class or a vintage film that they couldn’t find elsewhere.

Henn said now more students come by to check out new releases and browse.

Henn said that while Redbox and Netflix aren’t great for her business, Mr. Movies employs local people who are available to help customers when they have a problem with a DVD, rather than calling in to an 800 number to get an answering machine.

Henn said that she doesn’t see the local movie rental business fading away in the near future, but several years from now it’s unclear. She said that it will be sad when people choose to stay in their houses and only connect through the internet or by mail rather than going outside into the world.

Women students find support, comfort in religion

Tennae Maki
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Chipped and weathered on a ring of keys is a small wooden memento that belongs to Gloria Meyer, a senior majoring in psychology at UW-River Falls. Inscribed on the worn keepsake is one of her favorite mottos: “It’s not about me, but about Him.” A small cross separates the two phrases.

She is one of 10 children, all of whom were raised Roman Catholic. Meyer accepts the sect as one that is strict, which has helped her remain focused on her relationship God.

Earnest about her religion, Meyer considers Jesus to be her best friend.

“If I get excited or scared I check in with him,” she said. “I don’t make any decisions without him because I know that he is everywhere.”

Meyer is a mother of one, has been married twice, and is 53 years old. It was her faith that brought her back to college.

The Higher Education Research Institute found that in 2003, 83 percent of college students identified themselves with some type of denomination or religion.

Lauren Hanson, a senior and president of the Newman Club, a Catholic organization on UWRF’s campus, relates that a student’s faith grows because there are new challenges to be faced.

Yvonne Wilken, Journey House’s campus minister, has found that the challenges may come from something beyond academia.

“Students come to find that what they had been taught is only one way among many different spiritualities,” Wilken said.

Researchers have different theories as to why there has been an increase in religion among college students. According to HERI, the rise in religion comes from a variety of factors, including an increase in women, students’ ages and higher fertility rates among Catholics.

Under the circumstances of religion, young men have the lowest religious affiliation than any other demographic, according to a study done at Illinois University.

According to the University of Wisconsin Office of Policy Analysis & Research, the UWRF campus is made up of 3,694 female students, making them represent 59 percent of the student body as of spring 2010.

“At least on a college campus it is more socially acceptable for women to be religious, while men are still encouraged to be adolescent,” said the UWRF religious club InterVarsity’s advisor, Timothy Prince.

It’s not just on a college level that women are more religious. The PEW Research Center found in 2008, one in five men claim to have no religious affiliation, a stark contrast to the 87 percent of women who said that they did.

A large part of how men and women respond to religion is based on how society has distinguished the difference between masculinity and femininity. It’s a function that plays a role in an individuals life starting from a young age, said the University’s sociology and women studies professor, Paige Miller.

“Men have to be independent, tough and alone, and for some, religion is seen as a crutch,” said Patrick Houlton, a junior and vice president at Newman House.

“We still see women in more domestic roles than men. They often want to express more religiosity upon their children,” said Miller. “Stereotypically, women also tend to seek out others in times of trouble they tend to rely on

See Religion page 7

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EDITORIALS

Career Fair succeeds in student participation

One complaint the Student Voice has issued in the past is the lack of student participation and spirit at UW-River Falls. However, the Voice tips its hat to Career Services for its presentation of the Career Fair and to all UWRF students who attended.

Career Services offers a wide array of support for UWRF students that goes far beyond resume and cover letter critiques, and this year’s Career Fair proved that.

The fair offered a turnout of roughly 80 employers, which presented various recruiters and encouraged students of all majors to attend.

While some of the businesses represented at the fair were lesser known, others — AFLAC, Mary Kay and Wisconsin Public Radio to name a few — were household names; additionally, almost all of the recruiters supplied interested students with intricate details about their businesses and job opportunities.

For some, a ballroom filled with dozens of employers may be intimidating, and it is for that reason that Career Services offered a prep session to help students feel better prepared for the fair.

It goes without saying that events like this at UWRF are hard to come by, which is why the Voice was pleased to see a solid student turnout.

Of course, the number of students in attendance was down from last year’s Career Fair. The fair’s coordinator, Kirsten Blake, said that there were just over 500 students in attendance this year; that number is dwarfed by 2009’s turnout of roughly 800 students.

This does not mean that the event was not a success.

On the contrary, the quality of students in attendance, with regards to preparedness, was much higher.

In previous years, employers at the Career Fair paid witness to some students networking in sweatpants, while other students looked idly on without direction. This year, the appearance of students in terms of attire was much improved and their personal presentation was better practiced.

Approach any student who attended this year’s Career Fair, and they are likely to assure you that the overall feel of the fair was a far more professional than former years.

Career Services deserves our praise for its efforts to provide students with an event that is not only well attended but helpful in getting students started with their careers.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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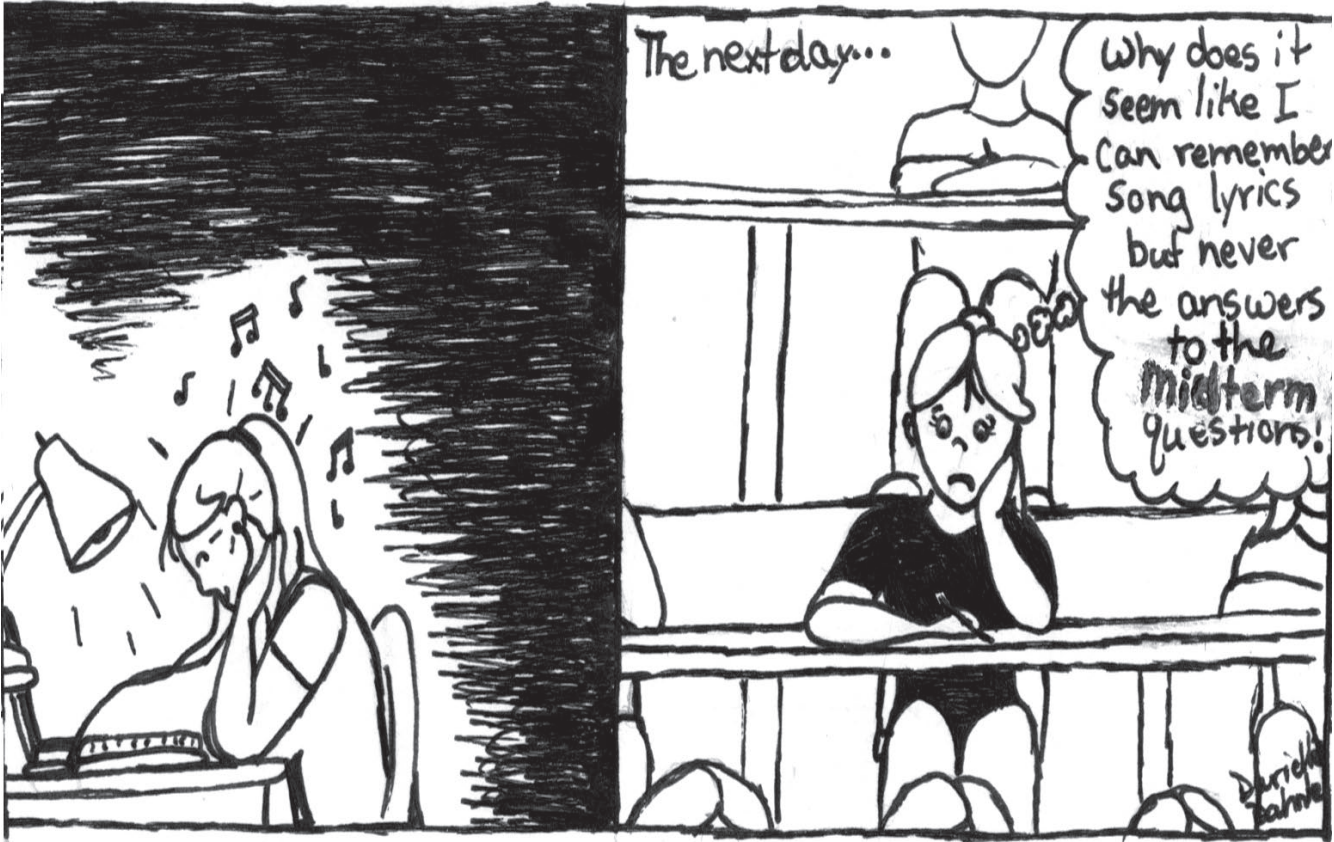
The *Student Voice* is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Fridays during the regular school year.

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.



Darielle Dahnke/Student Voice

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Feingold not ruled by big money

The other night I listened to the broadcast debate between Senator Russ Feingold and his Senate challenger Ron Johnson in Wausau. Seldom have I heard arguments as insubstantial as those Johnson put forward against the Senator. While Johnson did nothing but regurgitate broad-stroke right-wing talking points, Feingold made informed and specific replies to the questions asked by the panel.

Johnson is a millionaire, while Feingold is one of the few members of the Senate who is not a millionaire. In a time when it has become increasingly clear that the influence of big money in Washington is one of the gravest threats facing American democracy, why would we want to elect yet another rich man?

As a senator, Johnson would be another lockstep Republican with no ideas of his own, in contrast to Sen. Feingold, whose voting record has defined him as a genuinely independent-minded public servant. In his book “Aftershock: The Next Economy and America’s Future,” the economist Robert Reich describes how money buys the typical Washington politician. Most listen so continually to the concerns of the rich and powerful that they tend to keep the voices of ordinary constituents at a distance. This “access to the network of the wealthy does not necessarily buy a politician’s vote. It buys his mind,” Reich said.

Feingold’s mind is his own. He is an extraordinary senator. He travels to each of the 72 counties of Wisconsin to listen to constituents every year. Let’s not lose our heads when it comes time to vote. It would be a shame if in the heat of the present anti-incumbent fever we threw away one of the best friends the people of Wisconsin have ever had.

Thomas R. Smith

Candidate for sheriff encourages students to vote

I have been campaigning at UW-River Falls for my write-in candidacy for Sheriff of Pierce County over the last week, and it has been such a wonderful time. I have gotten to speak with so many students and have been reminded of how much I enjoyed my time as a student at UWRF. It is such a pleasure to see how engaged the students here are. And while I hope that every one writes in “Oake C. Gregory” for Pierce County Sheriff this coming Nov. 2, the important thing is to get out and vote, no matter who you vote for, as being civically engaged is what makes our country work. My thanks to all the students at UWRF for their warm reception and friendliness.

And remember, no matter who you vote for, vote on Nov. 2.

Oake C. Gregory

Student expresses himself through verse

School of Thought
We are taught to think
In uncertainty and in disbelief
We are taught to pursue curiosity
And embrace “intellectual uncertainty”

Teachers are unsure of what they teach
We revel in our imperfection
Unsure of our independence
Doubting our intelligence

School of Thought
We are bribed to question
We are forced to listen
We are rewarded for following

As Prisoners of the school
we ourselves becomes teachers
we teach about our own disappointments
shackling our students in our chains

School of Thought
A Paradox of learning
a silhouette of education
a shadow of information

We control our reality
warping actuality
creating insanities
causing abnormalities

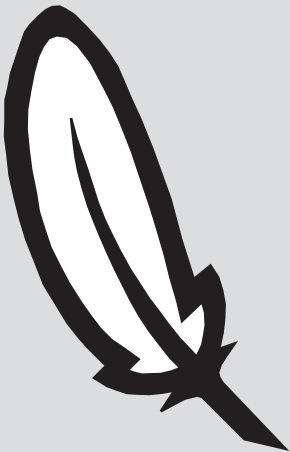
School of thought
Institution of Imagination
Remember we are students
teach us Teacher.

Abel Johnson student

Do you have something to say?
Send in a letter to the editor
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Find Freddy’s Feather!

Be the first person to find the lost Freddy the Falcon Feather in this issue of the Voice and win two free movie passes!



The first person to report the find to editor@uwrfvoice.com AFTER 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 15 wins.

Religious debate emerges in light of recent suicides, persistent homophobia on campuses



Sarah Hellier

In the last month, more than five teenage boys have died from taking their own lives. Why? Because homophobia is and always has been an intentional attitude that harms people in more ways than one. Clearly, in the last month, this type of attitude has proven to be deadly. The abuse has been happening in schools, general public areas and at home. Even at UW-River Falls we are seeing this kind of hate and discrimination. I'm sure you all have heard about the "chalking" incident that happened last week. For those who haven't, the Gender Sexuality Alliance group decided to write nice, inclusive messages on the sidewalks around the University Center. One message in particular said, "it's okay to be gay." The next morning, an anonymous person or people wrote in blue chalk underneath the GSA's message "on a bridge" and then drew an outline of a body. This message was referring to a death of a teenage boy who jumped off a bridge after being

How does someone become so hateful and threatened by a certain group of people? No one is born hating gays, blacks or any other kind of minority group. This type of vulgar behavior is learned. It is hard to say when and where this type of hate begins, but there are a couple of obvious environmental factors. The first and most obvious factor is religion.

secretly videotaped by his roommate while having a homosexual encounter. It is obvious to say that the person who wrote this disgusting and hateful message is homophobic. How does someone become so hateful and threatened by a certain group of people? No one is just born hating gays, blacks or any other kind of minority group. This type of vulgar behavior is learned. It is hard to say when and where this type of hate begins, but there are a couple obvious environmental factors. The first and most obvious factor is religion. Leviticus 20:13, "If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads." Obviously, this passage states that homosexuality is not only wrong, but homosexual individuals should be put to death. However, before we start slaying all the homosexuals on campus, should all the fathers start selling their daughters to slavery? Exodus 21:7, "Whenever a man sells his daughter into slavery, she will not go free the way male slaves do." Or I guess maybe the fathers should just inform their daughters that they "will not go free the way males do." Bummer. Maybe after that we should ban all shellfish from the cafeteria. Leviticus 11:10, "But all creatures in the seas or streams that do not have fins and scales-whether among all

the swarming things or among all the other living creatures in the water- you are to detest it." I guess I don't have to worry about that since I've learned that I am highly allergic to shellfish. Certain members of the Christian faith try to justify their hate for homosexuals because of one passage in the bible. Yes, Leviticus 20:13 very clearly does not favor gays (to say the least) but why do these other passages get overlooked? Why did men stop selling their daughters into slavery? Why did our society decide eating shellfish wasn't an abomination and actually a delicacy? Simply because those rules are completely outdated and ridiculous just like the passage about homosexuality. Also, there are passages in the New Testament that contradict the Old. John 3:16-17, "God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him." However, it seems that the homophobic people tend to overlook these kinds of passages and focus solely on the ones that promote hate. People need to realize these books were written thousands of years ago and using the bible as an excuse to be homophobic is just another form of finding a scapegoat. I know this may sound harsh, but as a member of the gay community and of the Christian faith, I find it outrageous and disrespectful to the Christian faith to use the faith as a reason to hate and, in some cases, kill.

Sarah is a journalism major who plays lacrosse for UW-River Falls. She is involved with 88.7 FM WRFW, and she enjoys long walks on the beach.

STUDENT VOICES

Do you consider this campus to be inclusive?

Adam Sumser, senior



"Over the four plus years I've been here, I believe that inclusiveness has been way up. So I think we are heading in the right direction."



Brandon Meyer, junior

"I feel that this campus goes above and beyond. I think that this campus overall has the most inclusivity of all the UW systems."

Annie Parenteau, junior



"Yes, because there is the GSA campaign going on right now so we seem very inclusive."



Sam Ainsworth, freshman

"For only being here for a little bit, I'm really surprised how inclusive everyone is."

Phoung Le, junior



"Yes, very inclusive. GSA inclusiveness, many campus groups help everyone feel welcome."



Sam Powell/Student Voice

Community offers ways to stay fit, avoid the freshman fifteen



Amanda Ogle

fifteen." Many students' transitions between the comfort and convenience of home to the stressful and demanding life of college could take a large toll on the body. Between lack of exercise, unhealthy cafeteria food, and the late night fast food runs, freshmen seem to put on the most amount of weight in the shortest amount of time. If you are not a freshman, that doesn't necessarily mean the freshman fifteen doesn't apply to you. Exercise and healthy habits are for any age to avoid unwanted weight gain and stress. As easy as the weight is to put on, it's just as simple to take off and keep off. UW-River Falls offers a variety of activities to meet new people

Many students' transitions between the comfort and convenience of home to the stressfull and demanding life of college take a large toll on the body.

If stressing out about new college experiences and reaching academic goals aren't enough, another thing to think about is the excessive weight gain known as the "freshman fifteen." Many students' transitions between the comfort and convenience of home to the stressful and demanding life of college could take a large toll on the body. Between lack of exercise, unhealthy cafeteria food, and the late night fast food runs, freshmen seem to put on the most amount of weight in the shortest amount of time. If you are not a freshman, that doesn't necessarily mean the freshman fifteen doesn't apply to you. Exercise and healthy habits are for any age to avoid unwanted weight gain and stress. As easy as the weight is to put on, it's just as simple to take off and keep off. UW-River Falls offers a variety of activities to meet new people on campus as well as have fun exercising off the unwanted pounds. Here are a few options that I have personally enjoyed along with many other students on campus. On Mondays in the University Center ballroom, the college puts on a 45-minute yoga session that is known to reduce stress and tones key muscles. Tai Chi which reduces anxiety and improve sleep quality, is available on Tuesdays in the Falcon's Nest. Moving into the middle of the week, UWRf offers a fun zumba class that releases toxins from the body and aids in toning abdominal muscles. Zumba is offered on Wednesdays in the Falcon's Nest. To finish out the week, make your way over to the sporting facilities for open skate on Thursday. Although it is good to attend programs on campus, not all of the programs fit perfectly into busy schedules. The River Falls area has many close options to exercise with many fitness clubs to join such as Anytime Fitness, the YMCA, and Snap Fitness that make membership affordable to students. Even if none of these options seem like the perfect fit, a simple walk around campus can be just as enjoyable and relaxing as the programs mentioned above.

Student Voices compiled by – Hannah Lenius

Visit the Student Voice website at uwrfvoice.com

Women’s soccer team wins support

Jordan Langer
jordan.langer@uwrf.edu

The women’s soccer team has a winning record of 9-5, despite the difficult schedule the team is up against, said Head Coach Sean McKuras. With only five games left in the regular season, the team will have to win the next few games to secure a spot in the conference playoffs, McKuras said.

The talent of the players, the fans and the leaders on the team are some of the reasons why the team is doing so well this season, McKuras said.

In the last three weeks, two players, Cassie Stang and Shaunna Joyce, were awarded the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference player of the week. Carlin Bunting, who plays midfield, is leading the WIAC in assists, according to WIAC statistics.

Last Saturday, the Falcons had their sixth shutout of the season against UW-La Crosse. The team record for shutouts is 10 and occurred in 2003, according to UW-River Falls sports website.

There are plenty of fans on the sidelines when the Falcons are on the field and they are an added component to the teams continued success, McKuras said.

“It is great to look over and see our fans cheering louder than the home team.”
Sean McKuras
Head Coach

The fan base includes a group of parents who bring more than just support; they also bring food. At one of the recent games, parents brought four different kinds of buffalo wings and five trays of desserts, said defender/midfield Jackie Rosenholm.

Even when the team is playing away games, the fans follow. Some of the parents drove all the way to Ripon College, which is around four hours away, to watch the Falcons, said McKuras. The Falcons won 9-0.

“There have been away games where we have more fans than the home team. It is great to look over and see our fans cheering louder than the home team,”

said McKuras.

Other fans include young men who paint their chest to show their support for the team, McKuras said.

“[They] have made a real difference in our sideline feel and started to really learn about the game,” McKuras said.

One reason why the season has been so difficult is because of the schedule. Recently, the Falcons played a stretch of four games where three of the teams were ranked in the top 25 in the country, McKuras said.

The skill levels of the nine teams that are in



Hannah Lenius/Student Voice
UWRF’s women’s soccer team faces the UW-Whitewater team at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

the WIAC also contribute to the difficult season. The WIAC, which is commonly referred to as the conference of champions, is considered one of the toughest conferences in the country, said McKuras. WIAC has captured more NCAA national championships than any other Division III conference in history, according to WIAC’s website.

There are only two WIAC games and three non-conference games left in the regular season. McKuras said he hopes the team finishes

with 10 or more wins and a top four finish in WIAC. This would give the team home field advantage in a WIAC conference play-off game.

The Falcons are currently in third place in conference play, trailing behind UW-Eau Claire and Stevens Point with a 4-2 record.

The next game is away against UW-Whitewater (6-6) on Saturday at 5 p.m. If the team makes it to the WIAC playoffs, the first round is Nov. 2.

Volleyball team hosts breast cancer benefit



Ashley Goettl

This is the third annual event hosted by the Falcon volleyball team. The cause supports and raises money for breast cancer awareness. According to the UWRF athletics’ website, “Events at this year’s River Falls-Eau Claire match include a silent auction, a guess the digs contest and a pink lemonade stand. Proceeds will go to the Susan G. Komen Foundation which is dedicated to education and research about causes, treatment and finding a cure for breast cancer.”

Other WIAC schools are also participating in this event

The UW-River Falls volleyball team will be hosting “Dig for the Cure” on Wednesday, Oct 20. The game starts at 7 p.m. when the Falcons take on UW-Eau Claire.

and according to the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference’s website, “Over the past two seasons, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference teams have raised \$33,751 in support of Breast Cancer Awareness.”

Last year Dig for the Cure events raised \$4, 147 according to Falcon’s athletic website.

Students attending the event are encouraged to wear pink to support of breast cancer’s symbolized awareness. October is breast cancer awareness month.

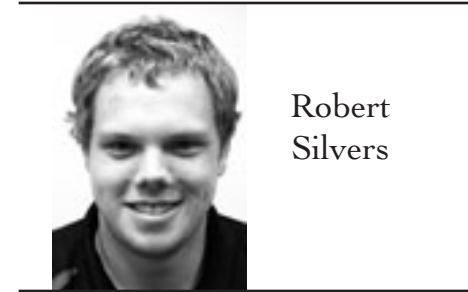
According to the Susan Komen foundation for breast cancer research, “About 207,090 new cases of invasive breast cancer will occur among women in the United States during 2010. And an estimated 39,840 women will die from breast cancer this year. Also, about 1,970 men will be diagnosed and 390 men will die of breast cancer during 2010 in the United States. In 1975 the incidence of breast cancer was 107 per 100,000 for white women and 94 per 100,000 for black women. Thirty years later in 2005, the number of new cases per year had risen to 126 per 100,000 for white women and 114 per 100,000 for black women.”

One of the main goals for breast cancer awareness and research has been targeted for women to have early detection to be diagnosed at an early stage. According to the WebMd website, “Early breast cancer usually doesn’t cause symptoms. But as the tumor grows, it can change how the breast looks or feels. The common changes include: A lump or thickening in or near the breast or in the underarm area, a change in the size or shape of the breast, dimpling or puckering in the skin of the breast, a nipple turned inward into the breast, discharge (fluid) from the nipple, especially if it’s bloody, scaly, red, or swollen skin on the breast, nipple, or areola (the dark area of skin at the center of the breast). The skin may have ridges or pitting so that it looks like the skin of an orange.” They also recommend that you should see your health care provider about any symptom that does not go away.

This October help the Falcons and the Susan G. Komen foundation find the cure for the cancer that has affected so many men and women in our lives.

Ashley is a sophomore double majoring in journalism and digital film and television with a political science minor. She enjoys watching the Twins and Vikings, and she is a member of UW-River Falls’ softball team.

Play selection contributes to another Falcon loss



Robert Silvers

The Falcons football team dropped yet another game this past weekend against formerly winless UW-La Crosse by a score of 37-20. The Falcons offense moved the ball well early in the game, but after falling behind 21-14, they were unable to get much going.

The glaring story on the day was the offensive game plan and play selection. From the opening kickoff until the Falcons fell down

21-14, the Falcon offense ran 19 rushing plays and 18 passing plays. Once they fell down 21-14 until there was 6:42 left in the game—a span of nearly two quarters—they ran 19 rushing plays to 11 passing plays.

Running the ball 63.3 percent of the time when a team is trailing is not a winning formula. There is no way when losing by as many as 23 points in a game that the Fal-

cons should have been running the football so much. When you take into consideration how great Quarterback B.J. LeTourneau was

Anybody who follows football knows that when you are down you need to throw the ball more, especially when you’re down big.

playing, 20 receptions, 29 attempts, 0 interceptions, with a 230 total yards gained and 1 touchdown, by far a career day for the young

quarterback.

Anybody who follows football knows that when you are down you need to throw the ball more, especially when you’re down big. It also goes without saying that when the

Falcon’s number one running back, Taylor Edwards, is out with an injury, they need to lean more heavily towards your passing game.

LeTourneau had a 68.9 percent completion rate, and he threw for over 200 yards. Those numbers don’t lie; the passing game was effective. Running the ball and eating up the clock is not.

All running the ball does is waste time, and last Saturday’s game was a waste of time. Not trying to win wastes the time of all who came down to support the team.

Rob is a senior majoring in communication studies-digital film and television with a journalism minor. He is the assistant sports director at 88.7 FM WRFW and covers River Falls High School football, Falcon football and Falcon men’s hockey and women’s hockey. Rob also hosts a weekly sports talk show, “Just a Bit Outside,” from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays on WRFW.

Weekly Sports Wrap

Soccer

Shauna Joyce was named WIAC Soccer Defensive Player of the Week for her part in the Falcons 3-0 win over UW-La Crosse and 2-0 loss to the 22nd ranked team in the nation, St. Olaf. She is the second Falcon to earn the reward this season following teammate Cassie Stang who won the award the week of Sept. 28.

Volleyball

The Falcons are hosting a Dig for the Cure event Wednesday, Oct. 20 at the Karges Center. The Falcons host UW-Eau Claire that night and have special events going on to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Last year UW-River Falls raised \$4,147 during its Dig for the Cure events.

WIAC Standings

Football			Women’s Volleyball		
School	WIA C	Overall	School	WIAC	Overall
UW-Whitewater	2-0	5-0	UW-Oshkosh	4-0	19-3
UW-Oshkosh	2-1	2-3	UW-Whitewater	5-1	18-5
UW-Eau Claire	1-1	3-2	UW-Eau Claire	5-1	14-5
UW-Platteville	1-1	3-2	UW-Platteville	4-2	18-3
UW-Stevens Point	1-1	3-2	UW-La Crosse	3-3	9-10
UW-Stout	1-1	3-2	UW-Stevens Point	2-2	15-9
UW-La Crosse	1-1	1-4	UW-River Falls	1-4	13-9
UW-River Falls	0-3	0-6	UW-Superior	0-5	7-15
			UW-Stout	0-6	2-19
Women’s Soccer			Women’s Tennis		
School	WIAC	Overall	School	WIAC	Overall
UW-Stevens Point	6-0	11-1	UW-Whitewater	4-0	8-1
UW-Eau Claire	4-0	10-2	UW-Eau Claire	4-1	6-3
UW-River Falls	3-2	8-5	UW-La Crosse	3-1	8-2
UW-Platteville	2-2-1	9-5-1	UW-Oshkosh	2-2	6-3
UW-Whitewater	2-1	5-6	UW-River Falls	2-3	3-8
UW-La Crosse	1-3-1	7-4-1	UW-Stevens Point	1-4	4-6
UW-Stout	0-3-1	6-6-1	UW-Stout	0-4	3-7
UW-Oshkosh	0-4-1	4-6-1			
UW-Superior	0-3	2-10			



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Horror season begins with dud



Michael Brun

The first 10 minutes of “My Soul to Take” are hilarious and absurd – and intentionally so. The rest of the movie is just as funny, but I am not so sure it was supposed to be. Horror movies tend to have some pretty far-out plot lines, and “My Soul to Take” is no exception. A serial killer with multiple personalities is killed on the same night that seven babies are born. Each baby inherits one of the killer’s personalities. Sixteen years later, the seven kids attend the same high school. After one of them is killed on the date of their shared birthday, the six that are left must discover who got the bad soul before the killer can strike again. This movie was written and directed by Wes Craven, the legendary horror icon behind such genre milestones as “The Last House on the Left,” “The Hills Have Eyes” and “A Nightmare on Elm Street.” In 1996, he wrote and directed the horror masterpiece “Scream.” Not only is “Scream” among the best slashers out there, but it essentially made any future slasher movies unnecessary. Craven brilliantly poked fun at genre conventions with “Scream,” playing off the audience’s comfortable familiarity with the slasher movie formula. That was 14 years ago. Now, for reasons I cannot understand, Craven has decided to make just another formulaic slasher movie. Craven making a movie like “My Soul to Take” is like that masked magician putting on a magic show with tricks that he had already spoiled. The plot of “My Soul to Take” is full of the tired clichés that “Scream” dissects; everything from the vapid teenagers to the relentless murderer who always gets in one

last stab before finally keeling over. In a post-slasher world, who even like this stuff anymore? Slasher movies are one of those guilty pleasure genres. Let’s face it: A lot people see them solely for the nudity and gore. “My Soul to Take” has neither. Craven is certainly no stranger to movie violence. Remember when Johnny Depp gets liquefied in “A Nightmare on Elm Street?” I’ll never forget it. But “My Soul to Take” is completely forgettable. What little gore the movie does have consists mostly of computer-generated blood splatter. Inventive and shocking makeup is one of the main things that initially attracted me to



the horror genre, so it is depressing to see a legend like Craven ditching traditional gore effects for lazy CGI. This movie is available in both 2-D and 3-D versions. I saw it in 2-D, and at no point did it feel like a scene would have benefited from the extra dimension. It is also worth noting that it was not filmed with 3-D cameras; rather, the stereoscopic effects were added during post-production. File this one under pointless.

There are a lot of potentially interesting horror movies getting released this October, but “My Soul to Take” is not one of them.



I’m not sure who “My Soul to Take” is aimed at. It will be intellectually insulting for those old enough to buy the R-rated ticket to see it. For younger

folk who have to sneak in, I imagine they will feel insulted as well. It is just not worth all that hard work for some cheap scares and a few f-bombs. There are a lot of potentially interesting horror movies getting released this October, but “My Soul to Take” is not one of them. Wes Craven is still a genre icon, but I fear his relevance as a filmmaker is coming to an end. It is time for him to step aside and let the next generation prove their worth.

Michael Brun is a journalism major with a minor in film studies. When he grows up, Michael would like to be a film critic or RoboCop. Or both.

Revenge film shakes audience



Anthony Orlando

You know that feeling you get when you trip and fall down a flight of stairs, or spectacularly crash on your bicycle, or catch an edge on your snowboard and fly head over heels down the slope of an honest-to-goodness mountain? And you just lay there dazed for a bit before you realize that you’re somehow completely fine? That’s kinda how I felt as I wobbled out of the movie theater last Friday night. This week’s review is somewhat off the beaten path, as a friend extended an invitation to attend a special screening of the cult classic Korean movie, “Oldboy” at the Uptown Theater this last weekend. “Oldboy,” directed by Chan-wook Park, is a thriller-mystery that takes place in modern day South Korea. The film follows the story of Oh Dae-Su (Min-Sik Choi), a seemingly hapless middle-aged average Korean-Joe, who is inexplicably kidnapped and locked away in a faux one room apartment with no windows or door, and deprived of human contact for 15 years (apart from a television set, whose news broadcast informs him that he is wanted for the murder of his wife) then released just as mysteriously as he was captured. He is given a new set of clothes, a fat wad of cash, a cell phone and five days to figure out who has done this to him and why. He sets off on an adventure to track down his captor, discover the truth behind his imprisonment and exacts his own revenge on those who have done him wrong. The thing that sets “Oldboy” apart from other revenge films like “Machete” or the

“Kill Bill” movies (whose plot may seem strikingly similar to one Quentin Tarantino), is that it sets us up to expect the same kind of “high-style violence and danger, all from the comfort of a reclining theater seat” entertainment these other movies provide, but instead, just as you get settled and are about to dig into a bucket of extra butter popcorn or box of sour patch kids, it turns around on you and kicks you square in the groin (or if you’re female, punches you in the boob, which I’m told is quite painful). Don’t get me wrong, it certainly has its share of outlandish blood and action, including one of the best shot fight scenes of the decade and an old-fashioned hands-over-your-eyes “teeth-torture” scene, but actually takes the time to allow you to understand and care for the characters, which is what makes the horrible things that happen to them feel so real. I was definitely not prepared for how intense a movie I was seeing with my first viewing of Oldboy, and frankly I was too busy deciding whether or not I needed to vomit afterwards to know if I had enjoyed myself or not.



It’s fun and exciting in its own way, but only if you’re the type of kid who got up after flying head first over your handle bars yelling, “Again! Again!”

directed, exceptionally well-acted, fast-paced and totally unpredictable movie that was unlike anything I had ever come across before. But be warned, “Oldboy” is not a movie for everybody. It’s fun and exciting in its own way, but only if you’re the type of kid who got up after flying head first over your handle bars yelling, “Again, again!”

Tony is a math major and physics minor. He currently runs for the UW-River Falls cross country team. He once met Dan Auerbach and is a minor celebrity in Malaysia.

Album takes inspiration from dance nightlife



Rylen Kleiser

Upon first glance at any Chromeo album, a casual listener may question just what exactly to expect. Quirky, sexual, and classy all describe what may seem to be just another “spoof” band. But the reality of the matter is that Chromeo is much more than that. As a suit and tie represent the standard business casual attire, one can easily say Chromeo represents just that standard for dance music in the music industry. A relatively new group on the music scene, Chromeo had released a couple albums but none more hyped than their most recent release last month, Business Casual. With the new album, the Montreal based duo exhibits the classic dance vibes fans have come to expect, opening up strong with the songs “Hot Mess” and “I’m Not Contagious.” Contrary to the relatively risqué title “I’m Not Contagious,” the song actually brings a lot to the table in exhibiting classic funk along with hints of disco, nearly certain to get listeners dancing. If that wasn’t enough to get you dancing to the tasty jams, “Night By Night” features Dave 1(the lead singer in the group), singing falsetto to some of the best synthesizer and keyboard rhythms in the industry. It seems destined that these aforementioned songs hit the charts, as more and more people are beginning to recognize Chromeo in the music industry. Just a few weeks ago, they played David Letterman’s “ The Tonight Show” and offered the audience an experience like none other, integrating the funkiness of their typical synthesizers and guitar rhythms with a live string section. Needless to say, these guys are headed nowhere but up. Upon digging a little deeper into “Business Casual,” some very catchy pop and 80s vibes are overly evident. “Don’t Turn The Lights On”, and “You Make It Rough,” feel nearly misplaced in today’s music industry, but offer songs more catchy than the common cold.

Just a few weeks ago, they played on David Letterman’s “Tonight Show” and offered the audience an experience like none other, integrating the funkiness of their typical synthesizers and guitar rhythms with a live string section.

An early 80s vibe blended with disco is found in “When The Night Falls” along with rhythms so melodic, your body just naturally moves to the beat. It seems kind of ridiculous that the entire album is pretty much one big dance party, yet Chromeo has seemed to perfect the art of blending their playful lyrics with instrumental variety and true inspiration. With the lyrics being as playful as they are, they still speak from the heart, highlighted with “J’ai Claqué La Porte” sang completely in French touching on Chromeo’s roots in Montreal, Canada. ‘Business

Casual’ finishes strong with “The Right Type” and “Grow Up” which are both exclusive in very distinct ways. “The Right Type” brings back the perfection of the 80s intertwining traditional social commentary with mind-blowing riffs. Finally, “Grow Up” offers what seems to be destined for a theme song on the daytime family shows. The song is so classically perfect, mixed with the catchiness exhibited by any good

television show theme song from the 80s and early 90s. All things considered, “Business Casual” should be on the play list of anybody looking for a fun, funky album ready to dance the night away.

Rylen Kleiser is a laid back biology student at UW-River Falls. He is hoping to become a well known marine biologist and teacher.

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Millennial generation embraces faith over practice

Stephanie Oss
stephanie.oss@uwrf.edu

With college campuses being such a common area of Bible distribution for The Gideons International, some wonder what makes them such a common target.

The Gideons International is an evangelical Christian organization dedicated to distributing copies of the Bible. In the recent weeks, members of The Gideons International have been handing out Bibles to students on UW-River Falls' campus.

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion and Public Life, one in four members of the millennial generation (persons born after 1980), is unaffiliated with any particular faith. Research shows that Americans ages 18 to 29 are considerably less religious than older Americans.

The Pew Research Center also found that 64 percent of young adults say they are absolutely certain of God's existence compared to the 73 percent of those ages 30 and over.

With these statistics, it would seem that college campuses shouldn't be a very sought after audience for religious advocates,

but according to a Gallup poll, 40 percent of millennials said religion is very important to them. This is similar to what the baby boomers and generation x's said at a similar point in their life.

According to the Gideons International website, "We focus on distributing complete Bibles or New Testaments. These copies of God's Word are printed in more than 90 languages and are either given directly to certain individuals or placed in selected public locations where large numbers of people, who may be searching for answers, will have the ability to encounter the Word of God."

"As a Christian, I understand trying to get the word out there, but the people handing out the Bibles don't say anything as they give them to you," said senior Sonja Lee. "It kind of turns me off from wanting the information."

Research indicates that church attendance is lowest for those in their early 20s, and a recent nationwide study by the Higher Education Research Institute shows that even though traditional religious practice has decreased for many college students, spirituality has not.

The Journey House Campus Ministry, is an ecumenical campus

ministry at UWRF supported by the United Methodist Church, the First Congregational United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church. According to Journey House's Campus Minister Yvonne Wilken, those who attend the campus ministry can be of any religion or of none at all.

With Journey House being right across from the UWRF campus, Wilken has witnessed the distribution of Bibles by members of The Gideons International.

"I don't think that it is a very effective way for them to connect with students or to share the gospel message," Wilken said. "I think the biggest thing that is getting in the way of sharing their message is that they have no relationship with the students. Why would someone care what someone has to say when they don't know them? They need to make a connection to campus and be a part of the community to get people to care. Another reason it's hard to get the students on campus to take a Bible is because if they're Christian they most likely have one already, and if they're not Christian, they don't want one."

Wilken added that he thinks a relationship is built with those who attend Journey House.

"We believe that we can learn

something from everyone, but we don't believe it's our job to convert anyone. Journey House is here to support the campus in any way that we can. We do have worship studies on Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. that anyone can participate in. It is very conversational and gives everyone an opportunity to ask questions and participate in the discussion at whatever level they're comfortable with."

When the Gideons members were distributing Bibles to students here on campus, it was common to see one of two things: students taking the Bible and continuing on their ways, or students politely declining.

"I don't mind them being there as long as they don't push the Bible on me when I tell them no," said senior Randal Westergard. "I think it's kind of pointless because our generation seems so un-religious."

According to The Gideons International website, Bibles and New Testaments are distributed by members of The Gideons International; students in the fifth grade and above; prisoners; and police, fire, medical and military personnel; and anyone else Gideons witness to individually. Bibles and New Testaments are also placed in hotels, motels, hospitals, medical offices, convalescent

homes, domestic violence shelters, prisons and jails.

There are over 290,000 Gideons members in more than 10,000 local groups worldwide, according to The Gideons International website. Since 1908, approximately 1.8 billion Bibles and New Testaments have been distributed worldwide. More than 700 million Bibles and New Testaments were distributed in the last 10 years, and 79.8 million copies were given out last year. On average, more than two copies of God's word are distributed every second and over one million are distributed every 4.5 days.

"I feel that the way they're going about getting their message out to students gives Christianity a bad image. For the money they pay for the Bibles, they could do something far better," said Wilken. "Perhaps their intentions are good but their way of distributing is ineffective."

For more information about The Gideons International, you may contact their International Headquarters at 651-564-5000 or visit their website at www.gideons.org.

Religion: Gender expectations likely to persuade men from faith

From Page 3

one another and a church can be a place for people to find someone to listen to them," Miller said. According to HERI, 69 percent of Americans see religion as something that serves to help provide strength, support and guidance.

People are always looking for a deeper meaning in life, and religion can offer a purpose, said Houlton.

There are nine religious organizations on the University's campus for

students to find "deeper meaning" and "purposes." Journey House is one organization where conversion is not the goal; rather the goal is community, said Wilken.

This is Meyer's final semester at River Falls. She remains optimistic about what God has planned for her after graduation.

"The wind is a lot bigger than me," she said. "I set the sail and let the wind direct me. I do get blown into unknown places and I don't fight it."



Hannah Lenius/Student Voice
Deacon Thomas Weiss conducts group Bible studies on Wednesday nights at the Newman Center.

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