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Country Runners build
bright future



STUDENT VOICE

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Committee lobbies for teachers union

Jordan Langer

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The organizing committee of around 20 faculty at UW-River Falls have been working for several months on getting other faculty to support union representation through the American Federation of Teachers-Wisconsin.

The organizing committee is collecting a showing of interest from the faculty, said Organizing Committee member and Geography and Mapping Science Professor John Heppen.

The faculty are showing their interest in a union by signing an authorization card. By signing the cards, faculty indicate they wish to have a vote approving AFT-Wisconsin as their representative for collective bargaining, added Heppen.

The cards are sent to the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission to verify that at least 30 percent of the faculty have signed the cards.

"I'm confident we will get a strong showing of support for AFT-Wisconsin on campus,"

Heppen said.

If at least 30 percent out of 230 faculty approve a union, an election administered by WERC would occur on campus sometime next semester, added Heppen.

It is state law that 80 days must elapse before there is an election to allow other unions to get on the ballot, said Organizing Committee member and Math Professor Don Leake.

Faculty at UW-LaCrosse are also working on getting a union to represent them. Authorization cards were signed by 70 percent of the faculty, well over the 30 percent minimum by WERC.

Students at UWRF may benefit from faculty being represented by a union, while also helping in faculty retention, said Heppen.

"Students will probably experience a better education," said Heppen. "When faculty feel more engaged and have a greater say, the educational quality goes up, and they are less likely to leave. That's a problem I think we are starting to see. A lot of good faculty members here are thinking about leaving."

Faculty at UW-Eau Claire voted on a union in May, and campus-wide communication has improved, said Economics Professor and candidate for president of the union Thomas Kemp.

"People are talking about the issues that affect their ability to ensure student success more openly."

Leake said the reason for unionizing isn't necessarily about compensation issues.

"We've been told we are not going to get any raises and it's easy to imagine an increase in furlough days, she said."

The impulse to join a union is more about giving faculty a stronger voice in their fate, added Leake.

"Unionization isn't a fight with local representatives; it's a fight with UW-System," he said. "You wonder how much Madison considers our unique challenges; System isn't always fair to smaller campuses."

Leake said an example is the health and human performance project, which, he said, has been delayed for years even when the need

has been obvious for at least a decade.

Faculty and academic staff were granted collective bargaining rights in the 2009-11 State Budget and since then, faculty at UWEC and UW-Superior have voted for a union.

The unionized faculty at the aforementioned universities may not be included in the proposed pay raise that was requested by UW-President Kevin Reilly on Monday. The board of Regents met yesterday and today to discuss the request that would give university faculty a two percent pay increase, according to the Associated Press. The recommendation would go into effect on July 1, 2011 and cover the next two years.

Leake said that faculty at UWRF should take advantage of the opportunity to have collective bargaining rights.

"Now that we have a chance, might as well give it a chance."

University holds winter concert



Sally King/Student Voice

The annual Winter Band Concert, hosted by the Music Department, took place Dec. 7 in the Abbott Hall of Kleinpell Fine Arts. The annual winter concert included both the UWRF symphony and University bands.

Senate passes election rules

Kirsten Blake kirsten.blake@uwrf.edu

Student senate passed new senate election rules Nov. 30 with an 18-1 vote.

The original rules were "quite a mess," said Student Elections Reform Ad Hoc Committee Chair Aaron Bergman. The old rules lacked complete definitions of campaigning, non-traditional students among other things.

generally satisfied with the new legislation.

"It's definitely a step in the right direction," he said. "Legislation like this always needs to be looked at and worked on progressively."

Some of the main changes to the rules are the elimination of restrictions on when a candidate can begin campaigning and a more concrete definition of what it is to campaign.

The previous definition was "any activity that is intended to influence voting at an election." This could be interpreted many different ways as it was during elections last spring when an ethics complaint was filed against presidential candidate Nikki Shonoiki for campaigning early. Much debate was about whether or not she was actually campaigning and had indeed violated election rules.

"You can see that something small such as a start deadline and the definition of what it means to campaign and what is considered campaigning can cause a nightmare when it comes to the elections," Bergman said.

He said it was one of his main goals as a senator to solve the issue by reforming the elections into a smoother, more defined process.

The new definition of campaigning is divided into two categories: active campaigning and passive campaigning.

Active campaigning is the distribution of materials, chalking or electronic materials by a candidate or representative of the candidate. Shaking of hands or verbal communication — including broadcasting — from a candidate with the specific intent to influence voting for a specific candidate or referendum in a Senate election is also considered active campaigning.

Passive campaigning is any campaign activity not initiated by a candidate or representative of the candidate or any activity reasonably likely to be considered campaigning that does not fall under the definition of an active campaign.

The distinguishing fact is whether or not the candidate initiated the message. Since campaigning on election day is against the rules, these definitions of active and passive campaigning protects candidates from a situation such as being approached by a person on election day who inquires

See Election page 3

Finals Fest plans include Quitedrive concert in Falcon's Nest

Tennae Maki

tennae.maki@uwrf.edu

Deep within each of the members of a certain Minneapolis band, there has been a constant drive for success in the music industry.

This force has resulted in the coming together of five musicians to form the band Quietdrive. The band named themselves afer this modest determination, said one of the band's guitarists Will Caesar.

Quietdrive will perform at 8 tonight in the Falcon's Nest of the University Center as a continuation of Falcon Programs' Rock the Nest and to celebrate Finals Fest, said Concerts Programmer Amy Aschenbrener.

Aschenbrener said she has found that

UWRF students have a broad interest in their preferred types of music. Quietdrive should meet the interests of many students.

"Our songs cover songs for different walks of life," Caesar said. "For us, a good song is one with a good story."

one with a good story."

The band's lead vocalist, Kevin Trucken-

miller, writes many of the songs, said Caesar.

Truckenmiller said that the band's main focus is the song.

"That's the only real goal of our band," Truckenmiller said. "To write and perform the best way we possibly can."

Quietdrive's shows are high in energy,

Truckenmiller added.

Caesar described their band as a fusion be-

tween rock and pop with catchy upbeat music.
"Our goal for the audience is just for them to have a good time," Caesar said.

"They are super good and every time I listen to their music, I want to get up and dance," said Quietdrive fan Charissa Squire.

Aschenbrener said that the band is extremely talented and that each member is gifted.

"They put on an absolutely awesome show," said local musician Taylor Young. "It's cool to see a Minneapolis band make it in the way that they have."

Caesar said that the band's success can be attributed to their strong friendship and mu-

tual love for music.

Truckenmiller said the band has been lucky

with the public's reception and with their international work.

Two days after Quietdrive's performance at UWRF, the band is flying to Iraq for a second time to perform for the troops, said Caesar.

Upon their return they are going to perform in Green Bay, added Caesar.

Last September, the band played at a similar to be supplied to to be supplied

Last September, the band played at a similar venue to UWRF: UW-Whitewater.

UW-Whitewater Student Events Activities League Manager Luke Schalewski said that the 500 students who attended seemed to have

thoroughly enjoyed the show.

Nearly 500 tickets recently became avail-

See Finals page 3

VOICE SHORTS

Annual Art Sale benefits students and Art Society

The Annual Scholarship Sale features one of a kind artwork for sale that benefits scholarships for continuing art students, the student organization Art Society and a fund for visiting artists. The sale will during gallery hours from 9-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 2-4 p.m. Friday Dec. 10 through Dec. 12 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building Gallery 101.

Masquers present 'How I learned to Drive'

The Masquers will be putting on "How I learned to Drive," Paula Vogel's 1998 Pulitzer Prize-winning play that exposes a taboo subject that has been living in the shadows for very long. The play mixes realistic drama with surrealistic comedy for a tension-filled portrait of abuse. Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Blanche Davis Theatre in the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building. The box Office opens at 6:30 p.m. on performance nights.

Accounting Society puts on **Toys for Tots Drive**

The Accounting Society has partnered up with Toys for Tots to bring toys to kids in need. The collection is for children of all ages up to 18, but there is a special need for toys for teens. The collection goes from now until Dec. 17. Collection boxes are located in South Hall, the University Center, the Agriculture Building, Science Wyman Education Center and the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building.

Grammy-nominated singer joins Music Department

Sally King sally.king@uwrf.edu

Anthony Holt is a new voice instructor who has been teaching in the Music department this fall semester. Holt has an extensive musical background.

Holt was selected to sing at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953. He was also a choir member of Christ Church, Oxford and Chichester and St. Paul's Cathedrals. He sang as a soloist and chorus member in the Monteverdi Choir and the BBC Singers. Holt was also the first baritone with the Grammynominated King's Singers who he spent 18 years with.

Holt contacted the UW - River Falls music department because he was in the process of moving from Northfield to Star Prairie.

"I was grateful that he contacted us, apparently he did so because he had heard of our voice and music program," Music Department Chair David Milne said, "He met with us over the summer and gave us his credentials, which he had all kinds of great experience."

Although Holt has been teaching voice for 20 years at St. Olaf, he wanted to see what teaching opportunities there were closer to his home.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for our music department and someone with that kind of performing experience," said Milne, "Literally having had performed all over the world with one of the most famous vocal ensembles of all time is a great credential for our department."

Besides teaching voice lessons, Holt has been a guest in some of the other faculty's music classes. He is one of six faculties who teach studio voice.

"I have greatly enjoyed working with Tony, he is a pleasure to work with," Assistant Professor of Music



Anthony Holt (back center), a former member of the King's Singers, has joined the UWRF Music Dept.

lessons and my students enjoyed having him there so much that they asked if he could come again next

Holt has been teaching four students

week."

each week on

Fridays for this fall semester. "Tony is a wonderful person, he exudes a professionalism and a sense of

quality and grace that is very inspir-Lesa Jacobson said, "I have actually had him come into one of my music ing to those who either work with him as students or

"I have actually had him come faculty," said into one of my music lessons Milne. "He is a high qualand my students enjoyed ity person and having him there so much that it is great to have him. He they asked if he could is very humble come again next week." and its one of the good qual-

Lesa Jacobson, assistant professor of music

> makes very approachable. So it seems to be

> a great fit." According to Holt, he first moved

to Minnesota when his wife got a job at WCAR radio and he started to teach at St. Olaf.

"I have been teaching in Minnesota at St. Olaf, but I am moving." Anthony Holt said, "It was a last minute job. I'm really enjoying it. In the future I would like to do more choir."

Besides teaching classes at St. Olaf and UW - River Falls, he also teaches

"I also teach privately to a large range of ages," said Holt, "but I love teaching college students. I am hoping that my teaching will increase at UW-River Falls. It has been a wonderful experience."

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Event encourages students to volunteer

ities of a great

teacher

Kimberly Kuhens kimberly.kuhens@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls students had an opportunity to give back to their community and the world at the Pay it Forward event on Dec. 8.

The event, which took place in the Falcon's Nest of the University Center, had informational tables about how to get involved with the UWRF Habitat for Humanity, sign-ups to become an organ donor and about Ewing's Sarcoma which is a rare disease where cancer is found in the bone or in soft tissue. Students will also be encouraged to donate to Toys for Tots, write a letter to a soldier and create door decorations for children in hospitals.

"We are so privileged to have the opportunity to get a great education. This is a way for students to do something to benefit other people who are not as fortunate. It is just a small way to pay it forward," said Community Service Programmer Courtney Haas.

This event is the result of five months of planning, said Haas. The event is the first of its kind, and Haas said she is hoping is hoping for a good turnout.

The idea for the Pay it Forward committee started to form last year between Amy Lloyd and Ali Funk, Haas' predecessor. Haas took on this committee which has eight members: Jessica Ching-Chich (Yeh), Elise Elliott, Amber Rosenwinkel, Nicole Stage, Regina Johnson, Laura Pochardt and Kirsten Goodroad. Special Events Coordinator Mandie Lombardo has also been working closely with Haas for this event.

On Dec. 4 the committee collected food items at the men's and women's hockey games.

The Pay it Forward committee is planning many more activities for the coming semester. The committee plans to work with Locks of Love, have a garage sale to benefit local flood victims, send students to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children, participate in Bike to Uganda and then set up boxes around campus and in the residence halls for Don't Throw It, Donate It.

As event poster said, "If you have much, give your wealth, if you have little, give your

SENATE SHORTS

From the Dec. 7, 2010 Student Senate Meet-

An official grievance of impeachment against Student Senate Chair Tyler Halverson was present to the Senate Tuesday. Due to Halverson's absence, discussion on the impeachment was postponed until 7:00 p.m. Monday in the University Center Willow River Room at an emergency Senate meeting. The motion of impeachment is based on grounds that Halverson was in direct violation of Student Association Bylaws. The grievance also states Halverson engaged in behavior such as: moving motions with no merit or meaning; threatened to vote down legislation as a form of revenge; using sexual and profane language, jokes, and behaviors in the senate office in a threatening and aggressive manner; and exploiting loop holes in AFAB policy to attempt to achieve additional funding for a student organization that he holds a personal gain.

Appointments:

Rachel Ryan was appointed to the position of Faculty Senate International Programs Committee

Pick up a Student Voice application for the Spring semester outside of **304 North Hall**

Quietdrive: Ticket sales Election: New rules define, continue at University Center outline campaign guirdelines



Submitted Photo

The band Quietdrive will be performing in the 'Rock the Nest' part of fall finals week at 8 tonight in the Falcons Nest. The band includes (back) Brandon Lanier, Brice Niehaus, Will Caesar, and (front) Justin Bonhiver and Kevin Truckenmiller.

from page 1

able to the UWRF campus community and public.

"Five-hundred people sounds like a lot," Aschenbrener said. "But it is going to be a much more intimate setting in comparison to their sold-out 1st Avenue performances."

Opening for Quietdrive is Young's band, Dirty Blonde.

"We are a blues, rock and roll, melodramatic, fun party band," Young said. "We want people to get up and have a good time.'

Aschenbrener said this is the chance for an audience to see a well known band that started off in a local college setting.

"Five-hundred people sounds are on sale like a lot, but it is going to be informa-

"We are looking forward to coming to River

Falls and having a good show," Caesar said.

Tickets desk tion in the UC. ting in comparison to their The cost sold-out 1st Avenue perforis \$5 for the UWRF community, and they are limited to two tickets.

The fee for

admission

from page 1

about the elections or certain issues while the polls were open.

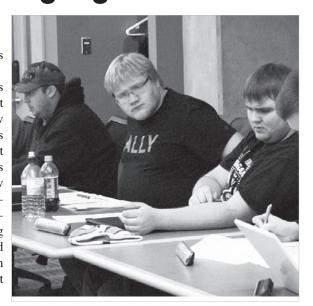
"I think the ethics grievance that was filed against [Shonoiki] would be a lot harder to be successful with the new election rules on the fact that there is a lot more clear definition of what it means to post something, what it means to be campaigning, and with these new rules, you can start campaigning whenever you want," Bergman said. "Basically the question of her campaigning before the start of the timeline would never have been brought into question and would never have been an issue at

Another change made to the rules was the definition of non-traditional students.

The definition was the cause of much debate during the Nov. 30 meeting. Undefined in the old rules, the new rules define a non-traditional student that meets one of the following criteria: is 25 years of age or older; holds full-time employment; has at least one dependent other than a spouse; or has been outside of formal education for at least one academic year.

Several senators voiced concerns that the definition of full-time employment was loose and would make it too easy for a student to classify themselves as non-traditional. The Senate seat for non-traditional student last election was uncontested. An easier classification of who is considered to be a nontraditional student might make it easier for someone to win the election if they also ran uncontested.

The new rules also simplified the process of resolving grievances by leaving most of the decisions and determination of penalty with the ethics committee.



Sally King/Student Voice Student Elections Reform Ad-Hoc Committee Chair Aaron Bergman (center) is one of several authors of the new senate election rules, which passed 18-1 in the Senate meeting on Nov. 30.

> Bergman said that — although he is very proud of the work and accomplishments of the Student Elections Reform Ad Hoc Committee - the new rules still might contain some hic-

"Of course they are going to find new problems as technology changes and as the campus changes, but I really hope that with this piece of legislation and with the rest of these rules that things will continue to grow and become better with revisions and amendments," Bergman said. "Ultimately I'm very, very pleased with the new rules, and I really hope that they become better and stronger as people find more issues with them and correct them."

Swanson, John

Swenson, Emily Jean

for the general public is \$10.

a much more intimate set-

mances."

Amy Aschenbrener

concerts programmer

Student Voice congratulates the UWRF Fall 2010 graduating seniors

Aamodt, Brian Thomas Abel, Linda Marie Altmann, Erik Joseph Ament, Tori Anderson, Katie Lynn Anderson, Kelsey M. Apel, Cori Sue Arata, Benjamin John Arens, Colin M. Arnold, Natasha M. Asher, Michelle Lee Baehler, Rachal Ann Baker, Alissa Rae Bakker, Patrick Jay Barnum, Anthony Joseph Bartlett, Paul M. Bartulovic, Ivana Batterman, Stephanie Rose Becker, Erin Christy Belt Jr., Richard David Bendickson, Marissa J. Berg, Alisha Joy Bergman, Aaron Robert Bergman, Troy Eric Bethell, Ted James Bethke, Danielle Marie Beucler, Nikkole Marie Friendly Biagi, Beth Ann Biss, Jenifer Evelyn Blake, Kirsten Ashley Bluhm, Claire Elizabeth Blum, Megan Katherine Bock, Lucas Robert Boersma, Jenika Lynn Borchardt, Blake James Borndale, Matthew Gregory Boumeester, Christian M.J. Boyle, Tracey A. Bradac, Emily Jo Brage, Nicholas Jae Breeden, Jeanna Marie Brehmer, Ryan Thomas Brenna, Allison Marie Breuer, Jennifer Lynn Brigman Austin D. Broeffle, Alexander Royce Bronk, Christine Elizabeth Bryant, Kelly Marie Burce, Daniel James Burns, Leigha Rae Cady, Johnathan Michael Calkins, Cherish Elizabeth Calzavara, Randi Elizabeth Caradine-Walker, DeMarcia Cardinal, Cary Lee Carley, Michael Bernard Carpenter, Shelly Ann Casanova, Joseph A. Cavalier, Pearl Anne Chang, David Long Cooper, Shannon Lee Corbett, James Thomas Cordes, Amber L.

Cornelius, Rachael Rae

Dallmann Andrew David Davidson Brittany N. DeGree Jennifer Helen DeRosa, Gina Maria Dietsche, Aaron Mark Dodge, Amanda Jo Doornink, Annaliese Elisabeth Dougherty, Jane Marie Douglas, Eric Michael Drager, Kurtis Lee Duzynski, Kevin Michael Edwards, Robert Francis Egan, Michael J. Ekegren, Alicia Elin Ruth Engel, Travis Collin Engh, Dustin Michael Epp, Samantha Lee Erling, Vanessa Rae Farooq, Farzeen Binte Fennema-Hengeveld, Gerritt Fisher, Eric William Fitzsimmons, Paul Robert Flanagan, Sara A. Foeller, Tom Foley, Brittany Ryan Foley, Elliot John Foss, Kristen Lynn Frans, Michael Raymond Frischmon, Katie Elizabeth Gaiovnik, Rebekah Elyse George, Kristen L. Gilbert, Linda R. Gordh, Kelly Marie Gordon, Robert James Graber, Stephanie Marie Graef, Ashley Jo Graf, Jacob Richard Graham, Tyler David Granger, Kelsey Marie Green, Heidi Roseanne Gunn, Amanda Catelynn Gutzwiller, Bryan Joseph Haines, Kayla Anne Halbach, Nathan Michael Haley, Megan Carlson Hall, Kathryn Lillian Halstenson, Jon Thomas Hangge, Nicole Gina Hanlon, Kelly M. Hanson, Adellmarie Avellana Harmon, Robert Allen Hartman, Kathleen M. Haubenschild, Derek Paul Hauser, Tara Shea Hawkins, Samantha Amily Heberlein, Eva Joy Heft, Angela Louise Heins, Shilo Marie

Held, Whitney Erica

Helgeson, William D.

Hewitt, Cullan James

Hinrichs, Jason David

Hoffman, Jesse D. Holger, Nicole Ellen Holmes, Eric William Horsch, Ashley Marie Howard, Megan Joy Howard, Ronda J. Howe, Liza M. Howlett-Albrecht, Jacqueline Paige Hurst, Cheryl Sue Huschle, Mary Lila Ingman, Katheryn Marie Jackson, Anthony Phillip Jackson, Ryan James James, Lisa Ann Jensen, Elizabeth M. Jerry, Casey K. Johnson, Brittany Ann Johnson, Derek Robert Johnson, Jared Ross Jordan, Caitlin Jade Jordan, Thomas William Joski, Andrew Wayne Jugovich, Tamara Christine Kantrud, Katie Elizabeth Karwoski, Kaitlyn Marie Kasprzycki, David Kurt Kawalek, Katherine Lynn Kave, Dana M. Keller, Daniel John Kendall, Jamie Lynn Kent, Levi Patrick Kettenacker, Caleb John Kiecker, Brianna Rae King, Molly McIntire Klinkner, Marisa Ann Knuteson, Chelsea Rebeka Knuth, Sarah Lynette Knutson, Brent Allen Kobylinski, Daniel Joseph Koepke, Joseph George Kohlwey, Jolene Lindsey Kolodzienski, Andrea Joy Kolpanen, Angela Cathryn Kopp, Lisa Ann Koskiniemi, David John Kowalski, Corinne Elizabeth Krishnan, Ram Kromrey, Brian Mark Kuen, Reid Hilary Kuhens, Kimberly Ann Kuhl, Kara Jean Lackey, Gregory Bracht LaCount, Ryan J. Lalande, Marc-Andre Lappen, Michelle Elizabeth Ross LaRose, Ashley Marie Larson, Bryan Lee Lassen, Nathan Alan Lay, Tiffany Nicole

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Lindstrom, Christina Joy

Lenzen, Jonna Rae

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Pearson, Kay-Lee Jo

Pechacek, Amber Marie

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EDITORIALS

Voice supports Falcon Promise

The Chancellor came to the Student Senate asking for its support on The Falcon Promise: a student investment through differential tuition. The proposal would increase differential tuition for students over a period of three years from \$72 to \$160. At \$160, UW-River Falls would have the third lowest differential tuition in the UW-System.

The Falcon Promise would give these funds to support additional tutoring, undergraduate research, student scholarships and enhanced learning spaces. Supporting this increase would mean that, as Falcons, you are promising to make commitments to help each other learn and grow at this university. As their promise to us, UWRF would match dollar for dollar what students pay in differential tuition.

The Student Voice hopes that as students, you will give the chancellor your support in the implementation of the Falcon Promise, as it was first proposed to Senate

Senate embarrassed itself Tuesday when several senators felt that they had done enough research over the past few weeks — or felt they had enough personal experience — to counteract months of planning by Chancellor Dean Van Galen, Provost Dr. Fernando P. Delgado and Interim Executive Director of University Advancement and Interim President of UW-River Falls Foundation Dan McGinty.

The Senate became caught up in that what they thought had to be perfectly fair and equal. Certainly not every student needs tutoring help, uses labs for research or wants to study abroad; that doesn't mean, however, we should deny students who could benefit from those experiences the opportunity.

As Van Galen mentioned at the Tuesday meeting, "Don't let perfect be the enemy of good."

At a university where students are taking their exams perched on a spare stool in the corner because there are not enough desks, where students miss out on chances to study abroad or even finish college because they lack the financial means, the Voice has no objections to student money being spent on classroom renovations, tutoring or scholarships.

As a symbol of support from the student body, the Chancellor requested the help of the Senate on this

But Senate has been inefficient in its representation of the student body, and any backing by them would be considered a detriment rather than an asset.

By making this promise and helping each other, students are also helping themselves, and their university, to better serve future students as it has served this current student body.

Dear readers, we encourage you to contact your Senate representatives and tell them that you support your roommates, neighbors, friends and classmates and The Falcon Promise.

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Andris Straumanis

Read the Student Voice online at www.uwrfvoice.com

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

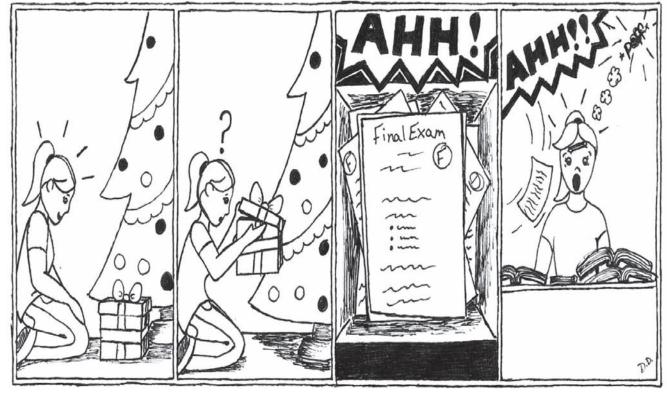
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Darielle Dahnke/Student Voice

Columnist shares a jovial poem



Ashley Cress

mester comes to a close, your thoughts may be drifting toward winter break. Unfortunately, before you head home for the holidays, you

As the se-

must first endure the dreaded finals week. Here is a festive finals week poem to help alleviate the stress:

'Twas the night before finals, when all throughout campus, Not a student was sleeping, not even Miss Janice. The books were stacked on the table with care In hopes that good grades would answer some prayers.

The students were slouched to work at their desks, While visions of winter break danced in their heads. And some in the dorms, and I in the library, Wished for more time, for which there was nary.

When out in the lobby, there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my seat to see what was the matter. Past the computers I flew like a flash, Right past the front desk, as I made my dash.

Florescent, the lights, of the ceiling above, Blinded my eyes, an event not to love. When, what to my adjusting pupils should look, But a man with a formidable pile of books.

Holding a backpack, heavy and thick, He threw down the bag, just like a brick. Reddening anger appeared on his face As he named all the texts at a frightening pace.

"Now calculus, then physics and English too, Then history and Spanish, and oh who knew? Taking so many classes would be my demise, And of course they're all subjects I really despise!"

I said, "Don't worry, you have some time." And his face crumpled up like he swallowed a lime.

"Some time?" he stammered, and then, "Are you mad? I have much to do; it's really quite bad!"

Helping him pick up the books from the floor, I gestured for him to go through the door. As we arrived at my small little table I said "Just relax, and complete what you're able."

He was dressed in pajamas, from his head to his toe. Clearly exhausted; his movements quite slow. He opened a book, history, I think And began taking notes in a pen with blue ink.

His eyes soon were closing, but he awoke in a hurry. His brow became furrowed, wrought with much worry. He said, "I'll never remember this all for tomorrow. But I can only blame myself for all of my sorrow.

You see, procrastination is one sneaky chap. He thieves all your time, suggesting a nap. I have learned my lesson, but I fear it's too late. It seems naught but failure is to be my fate."

Defiant, my new friend continued to work, When at the next table, sat two girls with smirks. Only minutes had passed when these two girls' smiles, Transformed into laughter, the kind heard for miles.

I could tell by his face, that my friend was annoyed, And was shocked by the reserve he neatly employed. When with much volume one girl loud confessed, "I have much to study; Ha, for only one test!"

Finally succumbing to immense irritation, My friend turned around to avenge such vexation, I heard him announce, with a phrase quite terse, "Complain all you want, but it could be much worse!"

Thankfully, silent the two girls had stayed, And back to his reading he continued unswayed. Remember his story, and without time don't get stuck, Happy Finals to all, and to all some good luck!

Ashley is a history major who loves to travel, but has yet to leave the country.

Are you interested in opinion writing for the Student Voice?

Send in a minimum 500-word sample to: editor@uwrfvoice.com

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, Dec. 10 wins.

Recent Korean artillery attacks concern several nations



Jason Larson With the recent artillery attacks adding on to an impressive list of provocative behavior by the reclusive nation, the question of what will happen on the Korean

peninsula is becoming more and more pertinent. Frankly, it is about time that this conflict--one of the last remnants of the cold war--gets resolved. But what will this resolution look like?

Most of the analysis in the aftermath of these events were focused on North Korea: Why is North Korea exhibiting this behavior? Does this mean North Korea is about to collapse? Is this Kim Ill Sung proving himself in front of the military? The problem with these analyses is that North Korea has exhibited static behavior. They are only doing what they have been doing for the past 50 years. We can also dismiss the question of North Korea's collapse. North Korea will never collapse from internal problems. The government has proven that they are willing to make extremely tough decisions for the sake of their existence. Time and again they have exhibited aggressive behaviors in order to force other nations to give them aid necessary for their survival. There are also reports that--given a lack of food--the government created a lottery system in order to choose a province which they starved completely so the rest of the nation could have enough food. This type of dedication does not lend itself to simply puttering out.

If one really wants to understand how this conflict will be resolved one must look at South Korea. This is what is really interesting about what has been going on recently. The rhetoric coming out of South Korea is becoming increasingly hostile, which makes sense. They have had to suffer through provocation after provocation which is usually against the South Korean military. This latest strike was against civilian targets, making it extraordinarily intolerable to South Korean's democratically elected government. I would not be surprised if North Korea's next provocation is met with military action from South Korea. The South Koreans have basically said as much themselves. Since the latest attack, their defense minister has stepped down and there have been strategic conversations with China about a possible war in the Korean peninsula.

China plays a huge role in this conflict. They are the reason why North Korea exists today. During the Korean War, the United States and South Korea were about to land the finishing blows to the North Korean communists when China--out of fear of a United States invasion--counterattacked. The result was a restoration of the 38th parallel separating the two countries and the uneasy "peace" we have today. There is definitely concern that if a war were to break out between the Koreas that China would take the side of their long time ally, North Korea; however, look at it from the Chinese perspective. China gains nothing from the existence of North Korea except for a rather small market to exploit. Every time North Korea does something aggressive, it reflects poorly upon Beijing and North Korea has a habit of doing aggressive things quite often. China is also plagued by refugees fleeing North Korea and flooding into the southern parts of the country which already has population issues. China, unfortunately,

is stuck in their relationship. If China was to remove support from North Korea then North Korea--faced with existential crisis--will likely launch their nuclear arsenal, targeting not only South Korea and Japan, but possibly China as well. That is a risk China is not willing to take. China stands to gain should the United State or South Korea remove the North Korean regime, which would make it likely that China will refrain from becoming involved in the conflict.

The ideal solution would be North Korea participating in the six party talks, ridding themselves of nuclear weapons, and opening up their economy to foreign trade and investment. This, unfortunately, is not likely to happen. What is likely to happen is that when North Korea provokes South Korea again, South Korea will respond militarily. The United States should aid them in this endeavor, lending not ground troops, but air support, bombing every potential military and nuclear facility in the country. There will be much destruction and there will be collateral damage; however, we cannot let a nuclear warhead detonation over Seoul, Tokyo or Beijing. The United Nations should then create a peace building coalition between South Korea, China and Japan to help reunify and rebuild the Korean peninsula once and for all. This would give China an opportunity to exercise their regional dominance in a positive manner, working with their neighbors to rid the region with its biggest threat to stability. It would also give the United States an excuse to avoid another costly occupation which would likely not end well. This way, the only "losers" are the North Korean government.

Jason is an International Studies major. He is interested in the Middle East and Asia, and enjoys intramural athletics.

STUDENT Voices

Will you be attending Finals Fest?

Cole Sandstrom, freshman

"I won't be, because I will be cramming for finals."





Samantha Hopkins, freshman

"No, because I will be studying."

Carissa Glodiwski, junior

"I saw a couple of posters for Finals Fest, but I don't think I will be attending."





Scott Bowman, junior

"No, but I know of a lot of people who are going that are excited about it."

Max Dalton, sophomore

"Yes, I don't know when though, but it should be fun."





Courtney Haas, senior

"I am attending Finals Fest and Quietdrive, because I am working for it through Falcon programs and will enjoy it."

Student Voices compiled by Hannah Lenius

Visit the Student Voice website at uwrfvoice.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UW-River Falls resident opposes Scott Walker's public transportation plans

It looks like our Governor - Elect Scott Walker wants to derail planned development of high speed passenger train service in our state. Federal funds have already been granted to Wisconsin to fund this project, and I urge our state government to proceed with this great opportunity.

Development of high speed rail is an investment in our future. As part of extended train service which also includes Illinois and Minnesota, it will keep Wisconsin in the loop of development of our Upper Midwest region in this new century.

The high speed rail project will generate jobs in our state, both now and in the future. Construction of the train system will provide jobs in the short run. In the long run the trains and ancillary activities, plus businesses that situate along train lines, will provide jobs.

Trains will provide an additional means of transportation, serving a diverse range of citizens including commuters,

students, vacationers, elders and youth, plus those who simply prefer to travel via public transportation.

This service will enrich the "social capital" of our state. In most places where trains have been introduced, train ridership has exceeded planning estimates.

The already allotted federal funds to Wisconsin for train development have given us the start we need. To say no to this opportunity now, I fear, runs the risk of isolating Wisconsin in an era when increased connections are vital. Plus, the allotted federal funds would need to be returned.

I look forward to living in a state and region where public train transportation is a workable travel option. Let's say yes to the train.

Krista L. Spieler River Falls resident



The fall 2010-2011 Student Voice editorial and business staff.

First row: Assistant Editor Kirsten Blake, Chief Photographer Sally King, Editor Kevin Duzynski.

Second row: Etcetera Editor Ashley Goettl, Front Page Editor Blaze Fugina, Sports Editor Emily Van Ort.

Third row: Viewpoints Editor Kara Johnson, Circulation Manager John Buechel.

Fourth row: News Editor Natalie Conrad, Chief Copy Editor Christina Lindstrom.

Not pictured: General Manager Charles Korenchen, Advertising Manager Matthew Torkelson, Staff Photographer Hannah Lenius

Do you have something to say?
Send in a letter to the editor at

editor@uwrfvoice.com

Falcon cross country team runs in right direction

Andy Moran andrew.moran@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls cross country team wrapped up its season in mid November with a pair of middle of the pack finishes at the NCAA Midwest Division Three Regional Meet held in Rock Island, Ill.

Men's cross country finished 14th out of 39 teams, while the women finished 19th.

Coming off of a season in which the Falcons graduated a pair of obvious frontrunners -runners who lead the team statistically— this year's team was highlighted with youth, something that Head Coach Keven Syverson said looks positively towards the future.

"We had a few really nice freshman this year," Syverson said. "We had three that actually made our varsity, which hasn't happened in a few years."

Syverson said that perhaps one of the biggest strengths of this year's team is the team chemistry.

"The team gets along," Syverson said. "They gel, they hangout together, they have really good team cohesiveness, so that's a big positive."

Assistant Men's Coach and Head Women's Coach Scott Sekelsky agreed with Syverson, and he said that the strength and depth of the team looks good for the upcoming

"We had one junior, three freshman, and the rest were sophomores in our top seven," Sekelsky said. "So strength wise we look really good for the years coming up."

Ironically, while youth is one of the biggest strengths of the Falcons, the coaches agree that it is also a weak spot.

"We are a young team," Sekelsky said. "So in this conference, which is one of the best in the nation in division three, period, it's hard to be competitive without veteran leadership."

"One of the weaknesses this year was that we just didn't have frontrunners," Syverson said. "By the end of the year, we only had one guy on this years region team who was on it last year.

Senior captain Kevin Rengo said that the season was interesting, adding that considering the youth of the team, he was pleased with the overall performance.

"We graduated a lot of really

good talent," Rengo "Therefore, we said. had a lot of freshman runners on the team and we also had some guys who were on the team last year that didn't come out this year so that they could rest for track."

Rengo said that the team was actually more talent-heavy than he can remember in years past.

"We didn't have that top frontrunner as we have had in years past, but we actually had a lot of depth," Rengo said. "Probably more depth than we have had since I have been here."

Junior Charles Col-

lins said that the team Falcon cross country members celebrate the end of their season at their annual things considered. He said he was particularly happy with the regional performance.

"At the regions meet, everyone took it to a whole new level," Collins said. "Seeing that young potential really come out at that meet was cool, and it looks good for us next season."

In his fourth season as the head coach of the men's cross country team and his ninth season as the track coach, Syverson said that despite graduating a handful of senior

and fifth-year talent this year, he could not be more pleased with the outlook of next year.

Natalie Conrad/Student Voice

"Next year we should really be able to build on what we have, so that's going to be nice."



performed well, all banquet ceremony. Next year, they anticipate building on past accomplishments.

Winning teams struggle for fans



Robert Silvers

A couple of weeks ago, Sarah Hellier wrote about the lack of fans for women's hockey, and I am about to beat that same path again. It's not just women's hockey I'm worried about, but also men's and women's basketball. I would love to call the UWRF community the Falcon Faithful, but as the numbers show those don't exist; it's more like the Falcon Faithless.

To start with women's hockey, the Falcons are currently ranked 3rd in the nation in the latest U.S. College Hocky Online poll. The Falcons have spent 30 consecutive weeks ranked in the Top 10 and have made two straight appearances in the NCAA Tournament. The Falcons have started fast at 8-0, yet they are averaging just 250 fans per game. That is 486 fewer fans per game than the unranked men's hockey team that is just 5-5-1.

The Lady Falcons have also only ever had two games that drew more than 300 fans. The first one was Nov. 4 2006, against Hamline when the attendance hit an all-time high of 340. The second was Nov. 13 2009, against Gustavus when the Falcons drew 339.

The men's basketball team also struggles to draw fans. Now, part of that could be attributed to Falcons hoops struggling the past few seasons. They have gone just 39-63 over the past four years. But as is the nature of college athletics, things go in cycles and the Falcons are cycling up once again. They are ranked 18 in the country.

Despite the early success, the only 450 people per game are attending Falcon men's basketball which is still nearly 300 fewer than the 736 attending each men's hockey game. Take away the shared attendance game with the women's team from the Stevens Point game, in which the day's total attendance counted for both teams, the team is averaging just 256 fans per game. What do the hoopsters have to do to draw the fans? Apparently playing the No. 1 team in the nation at home in a big time conference show down wasn't enough.

Falcon women's basketball is also ranked coming in this week at No. 25 nationally. If one takes the attendance numbers at face value it would seem that the women's hoopsters are fairing much better than their hockey counterparts.

Through four home games the Falcons have averaged 269 fans. That number should be adjusted, however, to reflect the shared attendance day with the men's team against Stevens Point on Dec. 4. The attendance figures were for those entering the Karges Center over the course of the day, not just for that individual game. Over the course of the day 645 people entered the gym. However it is pretty fair to say the majority of those were there for the men's basketball game.

Take away that game and only count the three dates the Falcons women's basketball team was the lone team playing at the Karges Center and the team is only drawing just 144 spectators per game. Not a very good average for a team that is nationally ranked.

So men's basketball is averaging 450, women's hockey 250, women's basketball 144 and all three teams are nationally ranked. Meanwhile, men's hockey is unranked yet has drawn 736 fans per game. It would appear that the River Falls Community and UWRF students are biased towards the men's hockey team. I'm not calling for a boycott of men's hockey, heck I'd like to see the average attendance eclipse 1,000. It makes the atmosphere even better when calling the game on the radio. But we need to make a commitment as a school and as a community to support our nationally ranked and very talented student-athletes in other sports as well.

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.

Falcon winter athletics reveal early, positive improvements



Ashley Goettl

The Falcon athletic teams have been mighty impressive thus far. What could arguably be the most exciting game ever played at the Karges Center, the Men's Basketball team upended the No. 1 team in the country and defending national champion, Stevens Point,

The Falcons were nearly flawless and proved that they will be a force to be reckoned with in the WIAC. Jontae Koonkaew led the Falcons in scoring with 20 points in the thriller. Jacob Voeltz finished with a double-double, scoring 17 points and grabbing 11 rebounds. After the game, the Karges faithful flooded the

court to express their excitement as witnesses to history in the making. The latest poll has the Falcons ranked 18th in the country.

The women's basketball team is back and stronger than ever. After failing to make the NCAA playoffs a year ago, the Falcons returned a core group that has started the season very strong. The Falcons are currently 5-2 on the season and ranked 25th in the country. The Falcons five-game winning streak ended after falling to the defending WIAC champions and No. 8 Stevens Point. Junior Tiffany Gregorich has led the Falcons in scoring, averaging 13 points per game. She will be one of the favorites for WIAC Player of the Year.

The No. 3 ranked women's hockey has started the season 8-0, which is the best start in school history. This should be a huge confidence booster for the Lady Falcons who host a pivotal match-up against No. 7 Gustavus Adolphus College on Friday. A year ago, the

Gusties knocked the Falcons out of the NCAA playoffs. Senior goalie Cassandra Campbell has led the Falcons between the pipes, allowing a mere four goals in four games. She is 4-0 on the year.

The men's hockey team has also proven that they can compete with the best in the country.

The Falcons only lost by a goal to No. 3 ranked St. Norbert's. The Falcons are coming off a sweep of Lake Forest. The Falcons will head to UW-Stout for a critical series over the weekend. Justin Brossman and Josh Calleja lead the Falcons in points, each scoring four goals and accumulating seven assists.

Last weekend, the Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving team hosted the Falcon Invitational.

The winter sport's season has just begun, but already our Falcon athletic teams have proven that they are the best in the conference and country.

Kevin O'Brien finished strong for the Falcons. He placed in the championship finals, finishing fifth overall in the 100yard fly. The senior's time of 54.38 ranks the fourth fastest time in school history. O'Brien has three of

the four best marks in the River Falls record books as he finished in 54.33 earlier this year and posted the all-time best score last year of 51.72, according to the UWRF Athletic's website.

For the women, Tamra Knight, Caitlin Gargulak and Angela Tholen each placed in the top 22 in the 1650 freestyle event, with Knight leading the way at 14th place overall, according to the UWRF Athletic's website.

The winter sports season has just begun, but already our Falcon athletic teams have proven that they are the best in the conference and country. There have been many exciting match-up thus far, but the fun has just begun. Look for more key matchups as the Falcons compete for postseason berths and WIAC championships. Go Falcons!

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

Weekly Sports Wrap

Women's Basketball

UWRF women's basketball took Wednesday night's game to the edge by claiming victory 65-64 against UW-Eau Claire. Falcon Maranda Dohrn finished the game with a three-pointer in the last minute. Next, they play the Blugolds 6 p.m. Saturday in Oshkosh.

Men's Hockey

The Falcon men's hockey team won 5-1 against Lake Forest Saturday. Freshman goaltender Scott Lewan is tied for 5th in the nation with his save percentage. Tonight, the Falcons take on the Blue Devils at 7:30 p.m. in Stout.

Women's Hockey

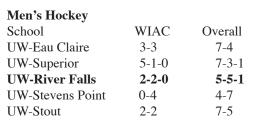
The Lady Falcons beat the Blugolds 3-2 as Katie Flanagan stuffed one between the pipe and goalie's pads. Freshman forward Brook Story scored all three goals. They play Gustavus Adolphus College at 7 tonight in Hunt Arena

Men's Basketball

UWRF men's basketball beat UW-Eau Claire 75-51 Wednesday night. Falcon Jacob Voeltz contributed seven points to the game. Next, the Falcons travel to Oshkosh to take on the Titans. The game begins 4 p.m. Saturday.

WIAC Standings

Men's Basketball			Women's Basketball		
School	WIAC	Overall	School	WIAC	Overal
JW-Whitewater	1-1	3-2	UW-Oshkosh	0-1	5-4
JW-Stevens Point	1-1	4-1	UW-Eau Claire	1-1	4-3
JW-Oshkosh	0-1	2-3	UW-Whitewater	2-0	5-1
JW-Platteville	0-1	4-3	UW-Platteville	1-0	4-4
JW-Stout	1-1	4-3	UW-Stevens Point	2-0	6-1
JW-Eau Claire	2-0	5-2	UW-River Falls	1-1	5-2
JW-La Crosse	0-2	3-6	UW-La Crosse	1-1	7-1
JW-River Falls	2-0	6-2	UW-Stout	0-2	3-5
			UW-Superior	0-2	3-3





Film tears human soul to pieces | Rapid-action elevates violent film



Anthony Orlando

This is the best movie I've reviewed this year. Here's why: In April of 2000, Mark Hogancamp was dragged out of a bar in New York State and beaten so severely that he suffered irreversible brain damage and spent more than a week in a coma.

Upon regaining consciousness, Hogancamp faced the loss of his social skills, motor function and most of his memory.

Unable to afford proper rehabilitation therapy, he began building a model WWII-era Belgian village in his backyard as a means to re-hone his motor skills, concentration and imagination.

Hogencamp and his village are the subject of filmmaker Jeff Malmberg's debut documentary, "Marwencol."

The film explores Hogancamp's life and his immersion into the Marwencol fantasy world.

Many of the dolls that populate the village are representations of Mark's friends, neighbors and co-workers, which he arranges

into scenes and photographs as documentation of the multiple storylines that he constantly invents for the characters that "live" in Marwencol.

Eventually Hogancamp receives an invitation to display his photographs in a big time art show in NYC, and faces a test of courage when he must decide if he will travel to the big city and return to the real world.

Many people have lauded this movie for its depiction of the resilience of the mind and spirit, and the human capacity for creativity. While all those things are definitely present and appealing, there is way more to this film.

I think it's safe to assume that most of us have spent our entire lives cultivating our existence according to the way we imagine ourselves to be, or the way we wish others to

In other words, we've each been working on ways to cope with our humanity since

Hogancamp's ability to cope with being alive was taken from him; his brain was essentially "reset."

With no control or understanding of all the needs, wishes and confusion that go with being human, Hogancamp created Marwencol as a kind of safety net to collect all the hu-

(1888) (1884) (1886) (1886) (1886) (1886)

manity that was spilling out of him unchecked.

Marwencol isn't just a model village, but it's also the incarnation of a human spirit; totally raw and unfiltered.

The charac-

ters in Marwencol fall in love with each other and protect each other and kill each other in breathtakingly vivid scenarios and storylines, all constructed in extreme detail and documented by the "braindamaged," yet unsettlingly insightful,

Hogancamp. While the inhabitants of the village are made of plastic, they radiate all

the raw soul and emotion that Hogancamp didn't know what else to do with.

"Marwencol" is certainly an inspiring story, that is totally touching, funny and entertaining.

The film's real and almost overwhelming power lies in that it's the most compelling argument for the existence of a human soul that I've ever seen.

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.



Michael Brun

Sngmoo Lee's "The Warrior's Way" is the surprise action hit of the year.

It is an operatic masterpiece of style and tone that will keep your eyes wide and your mouth agape.

With hints of "300," "Kill Bill" and "The

Fifth Element" at its core, this taught actioner is undeniably cool.

It's east meets west in this tale of a ninja forced into exile after refusing to kill the last member of a rival clan -- a cute baby girl with an adorable laugh.

Now hunted by his own clan, the ninja flees to America where he is taken in by a band of misfit carnival folk in a dilapidated Old West town.

But after a sadistic outlaw attacks the town for rape and plunder, the ninja must return to his murderous ways to protect his new friends.

You would not suspect it, but "The Warrior's Way" is actually the theatrical debut for writer/ director Sngmoo

He may not have much experience, but his eye for action is as sharp as a ninja's blade. Even in a year dominated by big-name action movies, "The Warrior's Way" stands out as a remarkable piece of action cinema.

The fight choreography is like visual poetry, and Lee captures it with the precision of an old pro.

Making his stateside debut is star Donggun Jang.

The seasoned South Korean actor is among the most successful in the world, but until now has been a relative unknown in the land of Hollywood.

He brings a quiet confidence to the role of the ninja, Yang.

Although he has only a handful of lines throughout the movie, he never loses the eagle-eyed stare of a trained killer.

They say actions speak louder than words — when you see Jang in action, you will believe it.

The first thing you will notice watching "The Warrior's Way" is its style.

The movie was shot using a green-screen/ CGI fusion technique akin to "Sin City" and

The actors perform with a minimal amount of props, while the rest of the set and back-

> ground are filled in with computer graphics.

It gives the movie a surreal quality; like a halfway point between live-action and animation.

For a movie about a threeway battle of ninja, cowboys and carnies, such a surreal visual style is certainly fitting.

The second thing you are likely to notice about this movie is how expertly paced it is.

From its opening battle to its absolutely epic finale, "The Warrior's Way" is a rapid-fire spectacle.

It has enough expository elements to get you invested in the cast, but won't

bore you with trite melodrama or meaningless side stories.

There is not a single wasted frame to be found in this compact action feast.

With its harmonious mix of action, comedy and heart, "The Warrior's Way" is an extravaganza unlike anything you will see at the theater this year.

It is definitely too violent for the little ones, but this imaginative tale is sure to bring out your inner child.

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 Robo-

Beatles' iTunes arrival transforms music downloads



Jon Lyksett

Just about a month ago, Apple finished a deal that would bring the biggest band of all time to iTunes.

The Beatles discography is finally available in the iTunes catalogue. This is huge news. Massive news. Why? Because it's the freakin' Beatles, that's

It's an argument we've heard before: they are the best band of all time, no one will ever be as influential to rock music, or maybe to music in general.

I don't want to spend the next few paragraphs telling you why The Beatles were the best thing since sliced bread.

What I do want to explain is what an impact this will have on MP3s, because with the release of The Beatles on iTunes, CD producers should pretty much throw in the towel.

Digital music has humble beginnings. Back in the late 1970s, a German company began looking into the idea of creating digital music.

That company, Fraunhofer-Gesellshaft, now holds the patent to the MP3 or its full name, the MPEG 3—the most famous of digital recordings.

In 1987, Fraunhofer-Gesellshaft began what is now called "The Eureka Project," a project that, in 1996, would result in the first ever MP3 recording.

So what's so special about an MP3? Fraunhofer-Gesellshaft explain it this way: "Without data reduction, digital audio signals typically consist of 16 bit samples recorded at a sampling rate more than twice the actual audio bandwidth (e.g. 44.1 kHz for compact

So you end up with more than 1.400

Mbit to represent just one second of stereo music in CD quality.

By using MPEG audio coding, you may shrink down the original sound data from a CD by a factor of 1, without losing sound quality."

In laymen's terms, MP3 files are smaller, digitized versions of pieces of music, only they have not lost sound quality.

In addition, one of the biggest drawbacks of converting music from format to format has essentially disappeared by converting to MP3.

When you wanted to transfer a song from record to record or tape to tape, you would lose some of the sound quality each time you removed it.

Transferring an MP3 from computer to computer generally does not impact the quality of the file.

The first MP3 player was also built by Fraunhofer-Gesellshaft around 1997.

These first MP3 players were not very successful and could only hold a handful of

songs. The first hard-drive based MP3 player was sold by Compaq in 1998.

Today, almost all MP3 players are hard-drive based, which means that they are built to function as a portable hard drive.

Compaq's Personal Jukebox boasted a 4.5 GB hard drive and could hold up

Several other companies began to produce their own MP3 portable music players, but then, the big man on campus showed up.

In 2001, Apple released the iPod. For the almost unthinkable price of \$400, and the measly size of 5 GB, the iPod had a rough start.

But by 2003, with the release of iTunes, the iPod started to take control of the MP3 market.

iTunes really started a revolution. Sure, Napster, Rhapsody, and some other music downloading sites showed up, but none of them had the support, or, ahem, the legality that iTunes had.

The first decade of the 21st century has been littered with debates about the legality of MP3 downloads and a crackdown on illegal downloading of media.

Torrent sites and illegal downloading sites still exist, but the music community and the government are finding ways to protect and enforce copyright infringement: and the prices on many online downloading sites are becoming far cheaper than buying CD copies of albums in store.

> Digital media is so close to rising to the top, and now, iTunes may have found a way to drive a nail into the CD coffin: getting The Beatles into a digital format.

Now that The Beatles have made it onto iTunes, the next logical step is for other online music providers to gain the rights to

their music as well.

"They are the best

band of all time, no

one will ever be as

influential to rock

music, or maybe to

music in

general."

Soon enough, The Beatles will be available everywhere online, and let's face it, if we can get The Beatles, we should be able to get every band online.

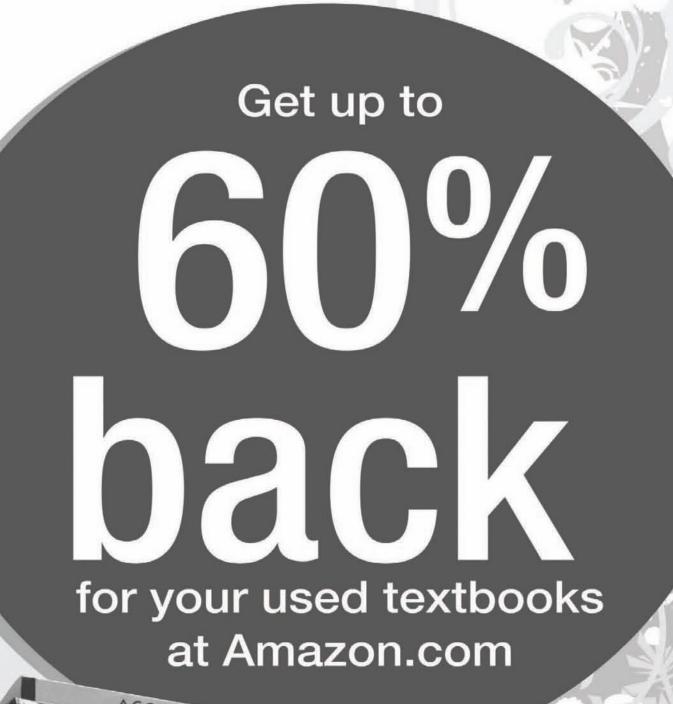
There is no doubt that The Beatles are the most influential band of all time.

Millions love them, and billions have listened to them. They changed the way we look at rock 'n' roll, and soon, I think they will help fully usher in a new way of listening to rock 'n' roll.

Jon Lyksett is a political science major and music director for 88.7 FM WRFW . He enjoys updating his Facebook sta-

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