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STUDENT VOICE

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Board of Regents president visits UW-River Falls

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After visiting the UW-River Falls campus and the Hudson Center on Jan. 18 and 19, the President of the Board of Regents Charles Pruitt, said he was very impressed.

In an email, Pruitt said that UWRF is one of his favorite campuses in the system and he was struck by the quality of student and faculty and the great leadership being provided by Chancellor Dean Van Galen and his team.

The rest of the email he devoted to talking about the Hudson Center and the need to increase graduates in the state of Wisconsin.

Pruitt said he thought the Hudson Center was a great addition to the St. Croix Valley and said it will play a vital role in expanding UWRF's reach into new populations. Located

in the Carley Ponds office building off Hadley Avenue, the Hudson Center caters to non-traditional students and currently has 237 students enrolled. Most of the students enrolled are adults who may have had some schooling in the past but have not earned a degree.

"The St. Croix Valley is one of the fastest growing regions in Wisconsin, in large part because of the location within the greater metropolitan area of Minneapolis and St. Paul," Van Galen said.

The director of the Hudson Center, Blake Fry, said Van Galen chose Hudson as the location for a number of reasons.

According to the latest census data available, there are 6,000 adults 25 years and older within a five mile radius of the Hudson Center who have some college credit but do not have a college degree.

"If we are going to produce more graduates, it is going to have to be from non-traditional areas, because the number of high school graduates in Minnesota and Wisconsin over the next few years is taking a major dive," Fry said. Fry also noted that the Hudson center is conveniently located off Interstate 94, where 90,000 cars drive a day.

The Hudson Center is a way to increase the number of Wisconsin degree holders, an initiative that the UW System, and Pruitt in particular, have been working on.

Wisconsin lags behind Minnesota and the United States average in adults with a four-year degree. The per capita income in Wisconsin also is less than Minnesota and the U.S. average, according to a report written by Pruitt and former Board of Regents President Jay Smith.

The study states that if the number of Wisconsin residents with four-year degrees increases, 80,000 more by 2025, the state's economy would thrive.

In order to take on the additional students, the universities within the system need support in the form of funding from the state, Van Galen said. In a time of state budget deficits, state support for higher education has decreased and poses significant challenges, Van Galen added.

"If you look at the last 15 years, the percentage of the state budget devoted to higher education has decreased, as investment in other areas such as corrections has increased," Van Galen said.

See President page 3

Election set for faculty members to join teachers' union

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As a result of a survey given out in October, over 70 percent of the teachers on campus signed cards in order to move along with forming a union.

There will be an election to form a union in either March or April with sponsor from the American Federation of Teachers.

Geography and Mapping Science Professor John Heppen explained that they are moving along fast in the process since the survey. There will be an election to form a union in either March or April.

"If majority vote in favor, we will have a union," Heppen said. "Then we will write and vote on our own constitution."

Kurt Leichtle, History & Philosophy Department coordinator, explained that it is clear

that after the questionnaire, faculty members know much more about collective bargaining than before.

"The survey was meant to bring awareness of a union on campus and to ask questions like, 'Is this something we want to do?' and 'Are you interested or not?' The response was very positive," said Leichtle.

In June 2009, the state of Wisconsin passed the higher education collective bargaining legislation enabling UW System schools to have the option of unionizing.

The UW schools that have pursued the option include UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout, UW-Lacrosse and UW-Superior.

The American Federation of Teachers represents 17,000 professional public employees in the UW system alone.

On the AFT website, it explains all of the benefits that members would receive and it

would be hard for faculty to deny these advantages that they don't have without a union.

"You have the power to bargain; the power to negotiate; and the power to change things, win improvements, and achieve goals that matter to you and to the people you serve," as said by the AFT website.

Wisconsin Rep. Robin Vos agrees that a union can provide all of this, but faculty and staff should not have to be coerced into one.

"I'm a strong supporter of Right To Work, giving people the freedom to join a union if they want to, not forcing them to join one," Vos explained in an email.

What Vos does not agree with is for tenured faculty members to be able to join in a union.

"No private citizen should be forced to join and pay dues to any organization, no matter the purpose," Vos said.

"However, I don't support allowing already

tenured faculty members to become part of a collective bargaining unit. I don't think it's necessary."

In order for faculty members to join a union, the organizing committee collected cards that were signed by faculty who showed the interest in a union.

"After faculty who were interested signed these cards, the State will look at these cards and match signatures to who is eligible to vote and that may take some time," says Leichtle.

What is left to be done is for the committee board and the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC) to set up a few more meetings.

This will allow them to get back the responses of faculty before they decide on an election date come early spring.

UWRF participates in blood drive



Sarah Hellier/Student Voice
The campus blood drive was held in the Riverview Ballroom in the University Center. The blood drive was held on Wednesday, February, 2 from 12-6 p.m. by the American Red Cross.

Left: Student Lucas Knudson gives blood.

According to America's Blood Center, "4.5 million Americans will need a blood transfusion each year. 43,000 pints is the amount of donated blood used each day in the U.S. and Canada. Someone needs blood every two seconds. Only 37 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood - less than 10 percent do annually."

Equine program acquires nationally known quarter horse

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UW-River Falls' equine breeding program gained a very valuable, nationally known quarter horse stallion this December with the donation of Skeets Peppy.

Zimmerman Performance Horses, operated by Vaughn Zimmerman, of Springfield, Mo., previously owned and showed Skeets.

It was a "spur of the moment scenario," according to Zimmerman, which resulted in Skeets being donated.

"I wanted to get back to my roots, and the showing side of it," Zimmerman said. "I decided if I sell Skeets I want him to go to a really good home."

According to Zimmerman, he knew UWRF had interests in acquiring a stallion and knew he would be taken care of at the university.

It took less than 24 hours for the donation process to be completed once Zimmerman talked with David Solum, an old friend who also happens to help with the UWRF Colt Sale.

Solum contacted the university and Zimmerman said it "went from one to the other in a very short period of time."

"Skeets is going to be a real asset to the college," Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman bought Skeets, as he is affectionately called, back in 1997, when he was just a young 2-year-old.

Ken Eppers, a trainer out of Krum, Texas,

spotted the horse when the two were at a National Reining Horse Association's sale and helped train him.

Todd Bergen from Eagle Point, Ore., also trained and showed Skeet and helped contribute to his \$86,000 that he earned over the course of his career.

Skeets Peppy was primarily shown in reining, which according to the NRHA website, is often called "Western Dressage."

"It is a 'predetermined series of gaits and movements designed to test mounts' athleticism, obedience to the aids, and overall gymnastic development."

Offspring of Skeet have earned \$407,000, if you are counting in reining, cutting, and cow horse, according to Skeets' very own

website, www.skeetspeppy.com.

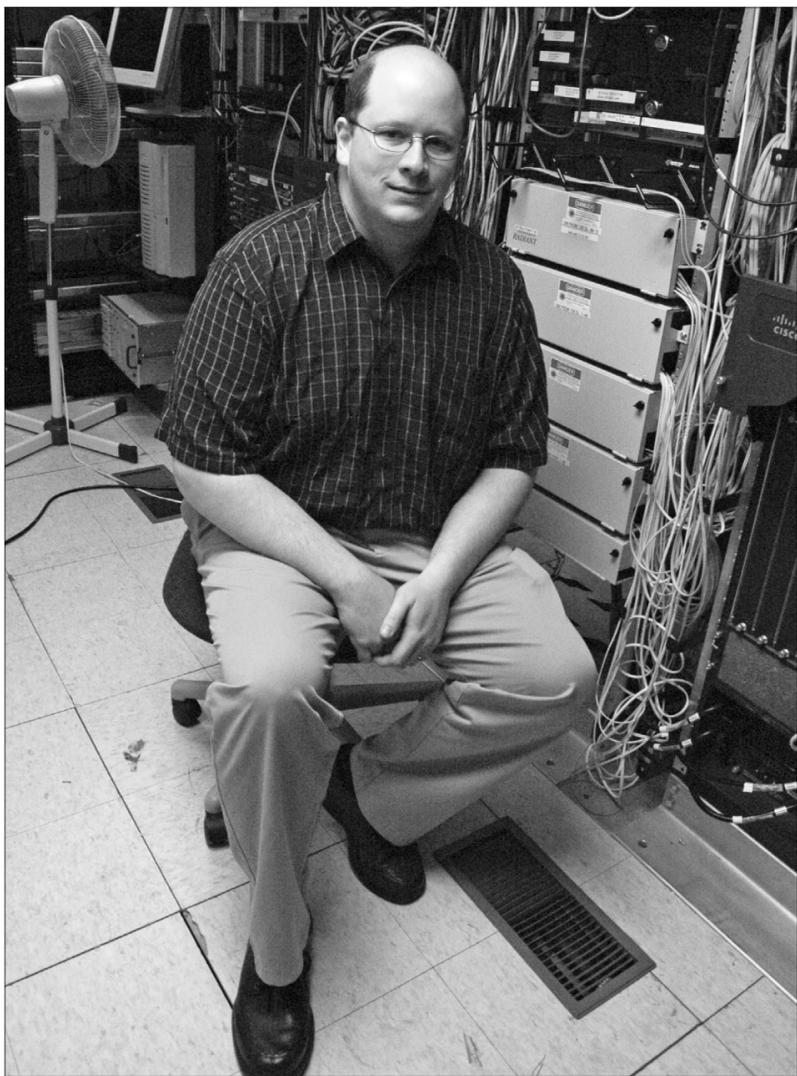
The website is now updated by UWRF's Kris Hiney.

Hiney is his breeding manager and also an associate professor in the Equine program who said he is very excited to have him at Campus Laboratory Farm No.1.

Acquiring the 15-year-old chestnut stallion was simple and sweet, according to Hiney, "We had to get the university to agree to accept the horse, and then it was pretty much just getting an appraisal and signing his transfer papers."

See Equine page 3

DoTS reschedules data center move



Jason Winget, manager of infrastructure and security technology, poses in the current university data center set to be moved over spring break.

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The Division of Technology Services (DoTS) data center was scheduled to move over winter break; however, due to a few mishaps, the move will have to be delayed until spring break.

“There were a couple of mistakes made by both the engineering and in the contractor’s building of the system that needed to be remedied and that would take approximately a week for them to do,” said Manager of Infrastructure and Security Technology Jason Winget. “There was also some dam-

age that occurred to some outside equipment due to the extreme cold that we had during the testing phase which has rendered that equipment useless. And that had a delay that would take us beyond the end of J-term so we had to cancel.”

The original date that DoTS had scheduled to move was Dec. 30 through Jan. 3, but found two problems before they could move everything into the new data center.

“We found out on [Dec.] 29 that these two major components were having issues. So we made the decision then that we weren’t going to do the move,” Winget said. “But essentially we do have a majority of the construction work complete, it’s just this chilled water system that needs to be finished.”

According to Winget, the data center move not only will affect the university campus, but will also affect off campus sites like the lab farms, the Hudson Center and Discovery Center at Pigeon Lake Field Station.

“The bids for the data center and office remodeling work totaled \$1,371,700,” said Senior Facilities Engineer Tim Thum. “We expect to spend approximately an additional \$25,000 for minor changes and unforeseen conditions. We have an additional \$190,000 budgeted for office furnishings.”

The data center move will now take place March 11-15. The service outages will begin Friday evening, March 11. Certain systems will shut down to get clean backups that will go through Saturday, March 12. The actual move of the majority of the equipment will start at 6 a.m. Sunday, March 13.

“Sunday morning is when most people will notice the wide scale outages for Internet from and to the campus. Some outages will continue through the early morning on Tuesday,” Winget said. “We do anticipate the access to the Internet to be back late on Sunday night through early Monday morning. This will primarily affect the residence halls and any staff that work 24/7 shifts.”

DoTS expects all of the construction that is required for the

move to be done by the end of February, and to be able to move in by spring break.

The new data center will provide a more reliable infrastructure and system. It is also expected to be more efficient with the new cooling pipes.

“The other thing that is going to be positive that is going to result from this is that we expect it to be a lot more energy efficient with the cooling systems. More reliable, more flexibility, better energy efficiency, reduced energy usage,” Thum said, “They are also doing the remodel of the space also to utilize the space a little differently and consolidate some of their staff and we’re going to be able to do that because of the machine rooms are going to be consolidated into one location.”

According to CTS Student Technician Emily Coulter, a new cooling system will keep the data center running smoothly, which will prevent the servers from going down.

“I think the move is a good thing,” Coulter said. “We need to keep all of these servers and all of that stuff in good condition to keep the systems in good condition and so we have a good place to put them.”

For more updates on the data center move, visit the DoTS website at <http://www.uwrf.edu/DoTS/DataCenterMove.cfm>



Two components discovered to be malfunctioning are partly to blame for the delay.

Senate Shorts

From the January 25th Student Senate Meeting:

- After serving a single semester as Student Senate President, Leigh Monson informed the senate that he would be resigning immediately from his post. Monson cited “academic and personal reasons” as the basis of his decision. Following his announcement, Monson declined to comment on the issue further.
- As part of the Falcon Promise, the proposal for differential tuition was unanimously passed. In the year 2011-2012, students will pay a differential tuition of an estimated \$100. This amount will increase to \$130 in 2012-2013 and to \$160 in 2013-2014.
- The ethics complaint filed against Senator Tyler Halverson was officially withdrawn.

Appointments:

- Chelsea Wehrman was appointed to the Student Affairs and Academic Serviced Committee.
- Allison Riske was appointed as an At-Large Senator on Student Association Student Senate.
- Partick Okan was appointed as College of Arts and Sciences Representative on Student Association Student Senate.

From the Feb. 1 Student Senate meeting:

- Senate had a visit from Steve Reed, Director of DoTS, who discussed the future of technology on the UWRF campus.
- Senate also received Viewpoint Neutrality Training, which was led by AFAB Chair Jordan Harshman.
- Senate approved Jason Keck to fill the vacant president’s position for the remainder of the 2010-11 school year.
- Senate also approved Ashley Goettl to fill the now vacant vice president position.
- Senate accepted Whitney Peissig to fill the student representative position on the UWRF Foundation Search and Screen Committee.
- Senate approved the following individuals to the Dining Services Committee:
 - Katherine Spevak
 - Stephanie Kempf
 - Rose Yackley
 - Anthony Sumnicht
 - Brittany Petznick
 - Jenny Harris
 - Hannah Champearu
 - Helen Sobczynski
 - Lisa Bowker

Voice Shorts

Sign up for a dorm and room of your choice

UW-River Falls Residence Life is offering the opportunity for students that will be living in the dorms next year to sign up for a specific hall and room. Students must first pay the housing deposit and fill out the contract. This can be done at <http://www.uwrf.edu/deposit/>. There is also an opportunity to fill out a roommate request. Once the deposit is paid and the housing contract complete, students can sign up for the hall/room of their choice on Feb. 28 at 9:00 a.m. at <http://www.uwrf.edu/Housing/ReturningStudentHousingSignup.cfm>.

Scholarship Deadline

Scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year are due Monday, Feb. 7. Students can apply for scholarships through eSIS.

Applications for Graduation

Graduating seniors who want to participate in the spring commencement ceremony must submit an application for graduation to the Registrar’s Office by Feb. 11, 2011. After the application is filed, a \$40 application fee will be added to the student’s eSIS account. This is a non-refundable fee and does not cover the price of cap and gown.

African Night

In honor of Black History Month, Friday Feb. 11 is African Night at UWRF. The event is free for UW-RF students and \$5 for the general public. A performance and Reception will be from 7-9 p.m. in the Abbott Concert Hall of Kleinpell Fine Arts. An African DJ Dance Party will follow from 9 p.m.-12 a.m. in the Falcon’s Nest of the University Center.

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UWRF remembers influential music professor

Tennae Maki
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In the corner of office room B46 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building is a coffee stained, blue cushioned chair with a solid wood frame. Currently a surface to hold boxes and files, it once operated as not only a chair but an occasional bed to one devoted Music Education professor.

The chair once belonged to Hilree Hamilton, 62, who died after a two-year battle with uterine leiomyosarcoma cancer on Jan. 2.

Having maintained her great sense of humor during her cancer treatment, many people were surprised to find out how serious it was, said Professor of Music Camilla Horne.

Hamilton began her professional career in 1971, shortly after graduating the University of Northern Colorado- Greeley with a bachelor degree in music education, according to her curriculum vitae.

It was during her time teaching elementary music that she decided that she wanted to pass on her love of teaching to university students, Horne said.

After obtaining her master's degree in 1983 from the University of Minnesota, in music education and music therapy, Hamilton served as an adjunct professor at several surrounding universities. During this time she also taught for the Chaska Public Schools district as a

music teacher and therapist. In 1999, however, she received her Ph D. from the U of M, according to her CV.

She came to the UW-River Falls Music Department in 1998 and remained until the end of the 2010 fall semester, Horne said.

The courses she taught included Elementary Classroom Music for Elementary Education Majors, World Music and Student Teaching Supervision, said Music Department Chair David Milne.

Within the department, she was valued for her work in the accreditation, assessment, curriculum, and music education committees, Milne said.

While music professors have varying pursuits, Hamilton was influential with the Orff instrument, said a colleague to Hamilton Richard Gaynor.

The instrument, which resembles a xylophone, integrates singing, playing, and movement into an elementary music lesson, said Horne.

Hamilton continued to spend time educating young children while simultaneously working as a professor. Twice a week she would answer to the name, Mrs. Hilree or the Music Lady, at the Creative Hours in Learning Development Center and Wyman preschool, said the CHILD Center Director Minda Matthys.

"You would not find many people to donate time every week like she did," said Matthys.

"Hilree didn't have any immediate tie with the children, yet she helped us for nothing in return but for smiles on the children's faces."

Spending time with the children on the UWRF campus was useful to Hamilton because she was able to relate it to her college courses, said Horne.

Horne added that some of Hamilton's students would join her with her volunteer time. She would encourage the students to get down on their hands and knees and physically interact with the children.

When Hamilton and her college students would come to visit the young children, they would bring with them unique instruments. Without this exposure, they may not have ever had the opportunity to learn about these different music makers, Matthys said.

Having no children of her own, Hamilton regarded her young and older students as her own children that she loved, Horne said.

It was through this care and generosity that she donated a considerable amount to the UW-River Falls Foundation, which was dedicated to the scholarships for Music Education Students and the CHILD Center, said Milne.

"She was incredible and the students respected her," said Gaynor.

Music education major, Jamie DeGolier said she was a fair, honorable teacher and a perfect example of what a good professor should be like.

DeGolier added Hamilton was humble about her accomplishments, despite the fact that she had many of them.

"She didn't just let her students coast by and get things done in a poor manner, but rather, challenged us to be the best we could be and to strive for perfection," said Katelyn Peterson, a music education major.

"Dr. Hamilton cared about all of her students equally and she knew us probably better than we realized," said DeGolier.

Matching student teacher personalities with appropriate classrooms was something that Hamilton worked hard at, said Horne.

"Because of my experience with her, I feel more prepared as a teacher," said DeGolier, "still, it is really hard to go on student teaching without her."

Hilree Hamilton, preceded by her mother Ruth, is survived by her husband Kyle Brokken, her father and brother Percy and Mark Hamilton, and sister Gayle Hamilton-Gill.

Gaynor said that her influence will be felt with the next generation, if not beyond that.

"So many music educators have been positively influenced from Dr. Hamilton's time in their lives and her unending support," said Peterson. "But for me she will always be the educator that not only confirmed, but showed that life was full of music."

Sally King/Student Voice

The UWRF equine program gained a nationally known Quarter Horse stallion this past December. The program obtained the horse through a donation of Skeets Peppy, the 15-year-old chestnut stallion that will help students and be an asset to the college.



Equine: Students have strong role in helping to develop and grow nationwide breeding program

from page 1

Arriving from Cedar Ridge Stallion Station in Whitesboro, Texas, with just a halter with his name on it, he has already made an impact.

"He is a nationally known stallion," said Hiney. "People have already contacted me about shipping semen to them. So far we have plans to ship to Connecticut, Oklahoma and Texas."

His addition will also be a great teaching aspect for the breeding program at the lab farm.

"Previously in the breeding program, students would practice shipping semen to themselves. Now with the addition of Skeets, students can actually ship the semen," said Hiney.

Zimmerman knew the history of the breeding program and how it started and said, "I felt it would be a really good fit and the horse would do really well."

All the money from Skeets' breeding fees and the colt sale are what fund the breeding program.

"Students have a huge roll.

It is really fun and students really like it. They can say-'I made that!'" said Hiney, the teacher of the program.

A maximum of ten mares will foal this spring at the lab farm and each will be bred to one of the now three stallions with more mares being bred to Skeets, according to Hiney.

Skeets' mind is kept sharp by getting turned-out in the day and exercised through the process of lunging him often, and also by occasionally riding him.

President: Board of Regents makes case that the UW System needs to be a priority when it comes to state budget, economy

from page 1

"I think the state of Wisconsin needs to reflect on the investment that higher education represents for the long-term good of the state."

Pruitt and the Board of Regents are making the case across the state that the University of Wisconsin needs to be a priority when it comes to the state budget.

"We are convinced that the university is a vital part in growing our economy and investing now will pay major dividends in helping Wisconsin get out of the current recession and

into stronger economic future," Pruitt said.

Until the 2011-13 biennial budget is announced, Van Galen said UWRF will continue to focus on making sure students are retained and succeed in receiving a college degree.

Said Van Galen, "If the next biennial budget severely cuts funding to higher education, the Hudson Center will continue to grow while not draining UWRF resources."

"The initiative such as the Hudson Center represents a new way to serve students that does not tax our on campus facilities and over time should provide the university with additional revenue," Van Galen said.



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EDITORIALS

The truth about the Egypt crisis

The arena of the most recent public protest has moved beyond Egypt and into the Middle Eastern countries of Yemen, Jordan and Syria. What sparked much of the recent discord was the protesting in Tunisia. College graduates, who used Facebook and Twitter to form a cohesive protesting force along with other discontented Tunisians, flocked to the streets. Taking a stand against the corruption and high unemployment that plagued the country, the protesters ultimately caused the authoritarian President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali to flee the country. He had ruled for 23 years.

People in other countries who were also experiencing years of repression from strong-armed rulers, looked to Tunisia in awe and wonderment. The protest movement in Tunisia proved that change could happen if the masses come together under a common purpose and it spread like a fever, rippling throughout the Middle East.

The degree of protesting in the Middle East mirrors only slightly to the anti-Vietnam protest movements in the United States in the late 1960s.

Since then, Americans' voice against our government, the war in Iraq and Afghanistan is barely audible and our actions against that which we disagree with are slow and delayed. Perhaps the complacency is because we live in America, a country that is truly great and one that allows her citizens alternatives and options.

In most Middle Eastern countries there are no alternatives. The religion is predetermined, the economy stifles any chance of an opportunity and the autocratic government's agenda is superior and goes unanswered, until now.

Americans therefore view the situations through a filter that keeps out true compassion. We can only hope with earnestness that peace replaces the hostility and that the governments relinquish their tight grip on the people. Only then can social equality, independence and opportunity flourish.

The disconnect that many college students experience with the protest movements in the Middle East should not be ignored. Instead, it should spark an interest to study the region and investigate why the protests began and the implications they will have on America and the global community.

There are several resources which can help in this fact finding endeavor. The university subscribes to the New York Times which can be found for free at various news stands throughout campus. Wisconsin Public Radio and Minnesota Public Radio, 88.7 and 91.1 respectively, are other ways to get information about the protest movements.

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

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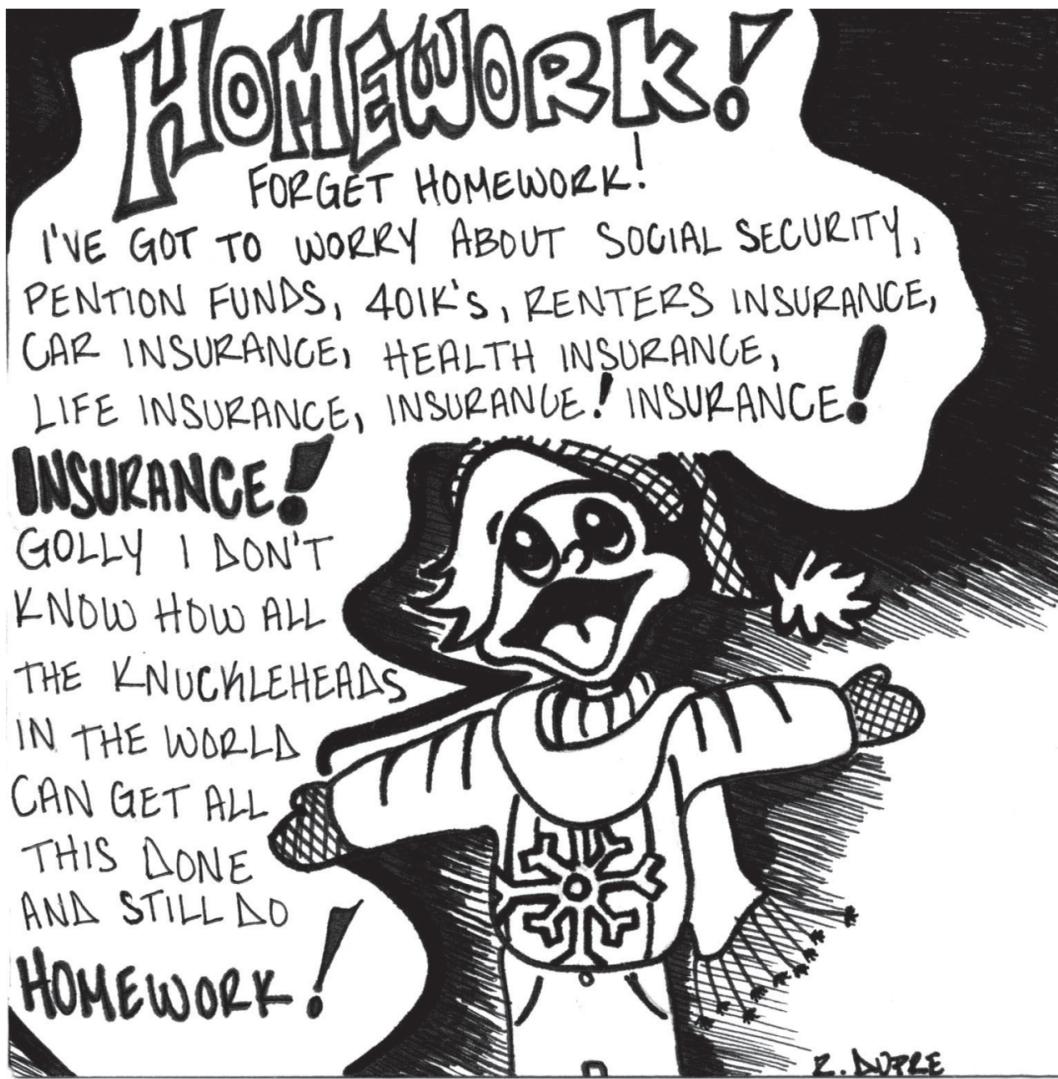
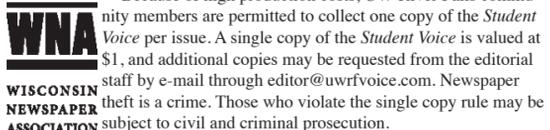
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Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall, River Falls, WI 54022 or to editor@uwrfvoice.com.

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Rachelle Dupre/Student Voice

Why the Packers will lose the Super Bowl



Ashley Goettl

There is some "game" that is to be played on Feb. 6. If you lived anywhere except in the state of Wisconsin (or Pennsylvania) you will know that life does go on. This will be a key lesson that the Green and Gold faithful may have to remember come Feb. 7.

But we do live in Wisconsin and there is not a day, or should I say hour, that goes by when there is not at least some chit-chat about this team called the "Packers." Unfortunately, (or laughably) the Packers will once again disappoint the land of cheese.

The most glaring issue that separates the Packers from the Steelers is experience. The Steelers have 25 players that have played in at least one Super Bowl. The Packers have just two, Ryan Pickett and Charles Woodson. Now experience is something that should not be underestimated, and will certainly come into play in the 'down to the wire' contest, which most analysts have predicted this game will be.

This brings up another critical argument to set up the Packers' failure. While Aaron Rodgers has been stellar during the postseason thus far, he has struggled in close contests. He is a dreadful 3-15 in games that are decided by four points or fewer. Now I know this hasn't been a factor in the playoffs because the Packers have literally dominated, but don't be so

certain that the Steelers will lay down for "belt-boy" Rodgers. Speaking of the belt, the Packers truly want to make Wisconsin seem like a far-off land with their obscure rituals that have caught the public's eye for their sheer oddness. Between Rodgers' belt flash, a fan base called cheese-heads, or B.J. Raji's end zone "dance," the rest of the nation must be wondering what is happening in the Badger state.

There is; however, one debate that has yet to be settled: who has better hair, Clay Mathews or Troy Polamalu? To me, Mathews looks like a scraggly man from the Stone Age, and Polamalu maybe from the late 1970s.

Although Packers fans think that Mathews is the next best thing since sliced bread; remember that it was Polamalu, not Mathews, who won the Defensive Player of the Year award.

Setting looks aside; there is also conventional wisdom as to why the Steelers will win. The Steelers had the No. 1 ranked defense in the regular season. And as the old adage goes, "offense wins games, defense wins championships."

The Green Bay Packers have made history by becoming the first No. 6 seed in the NFC to reach the Super Bowl. But look for the Cinderella story to end as Big Ben and the

Steel Curtain race to the endzone before the clock strikes midnight, as history will repeat itself with the winningest franchise in the NFL, bringing their Lombardi trophy collection to seven. The prediction: Steelers 24, Packers 14.

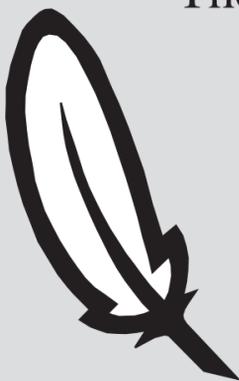
Ashley is a triple-major in Journalism. She is the front page editor of the Student Voice.

Unfortunately, (or laughably) the Packers will once again disappoint the land of cheese.

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, February 4 wins.



The world outside of Super Bowl 2011

Elwood Brehmer

There is a game Sunday. An important one. One for all the marbles. One that we've been told, "The whole world will be watching. Not this

Just because we're watching doesn't mean the whole world is able to.

ing." In years past that may have been true. Not this year. This year the world will be focused on a different arena; the Egyptian political arena.

As our football-crazed society debates whether Aaron can finally step out of Brett's shadow and pull the curtains on this real life soap opera, Egyptians are demanding freedom. They are tired of faux democracy and they are changing our world whether we care to take notice or not.

What happens in Egypt does not stay in Egypt. It will affect every one of us. Bold predictions are being made about what could happen if secular interests such as the Muslim Brotherhood take power. I do not know enough about the Brotherhood to make a statement one way or the other but I do know that whoever controls Egypt controls the Suez Canal and lots and lots of Middle East oil. If Egypt ends up in the hands of those

who aren't, shall we say, Western friendly, could \$4.00 for unleaded sound cheap? You bet it could. Will that happen? I hope not.

I don't like alarmists any more than you do but just because the Packers are in the Super Bowl does not mean the whole world revolves around Wisconsin, even

though we may wish it did. Universities can become dead-zones where the outside world is shunned. We

cannot let that happen this time.

As I write this the morning of February 1, the headlines from FOX, CNN and MSNBC all read the same:

"Chaos in Egypt," "Egyptians turning on each other," "Clashes in Cairo." When this is printed the news will hopefully be singing a different tune.

Regardless of the outcome Sunday, there will be a Super Bowl next year (unless they try to play it in the Metrodome, or the NFL really screws up its

labor negotiations). There will not, in all likelihood, be a revolution in one of the world's most ancient societies. So when you belly up to the flat screen on Sunday alongside me, please remember that just because we're watching, doesn't mean the whole world is able to.

Elwood Brehmer is a journalism major.

STUDENT VOICES

What do you think of the resignation of Student Senate President Leigh Monson?

Amy Aho, senior



"Whatever his reasons are for resigning is his business."

Bleeker Ayers, senior



"I know who Leigh is and I don't think he would have resigned if he felt he had been making a social dent or a progressive change in the student senate."

Brittany Beaudette, junior



"I didn't know Leigh resigned, but I think anyone who takes a position like that should finish out the term."

Courtney Brown, junior



"I think Leigh represented the school very well. He introduced himself to me last semester and I was impressed that he went out of his way to say hi. It's unfortunate that he felt that he had to resign."

Janae Lyon, senior



"As a student leader, Mr. Monson is entitled to his privacy, any discrepancies beyond social reasons will surface."

Kyle Blazek, senior



"Sounds a little fishy that there wasn't a reason for his resignation."

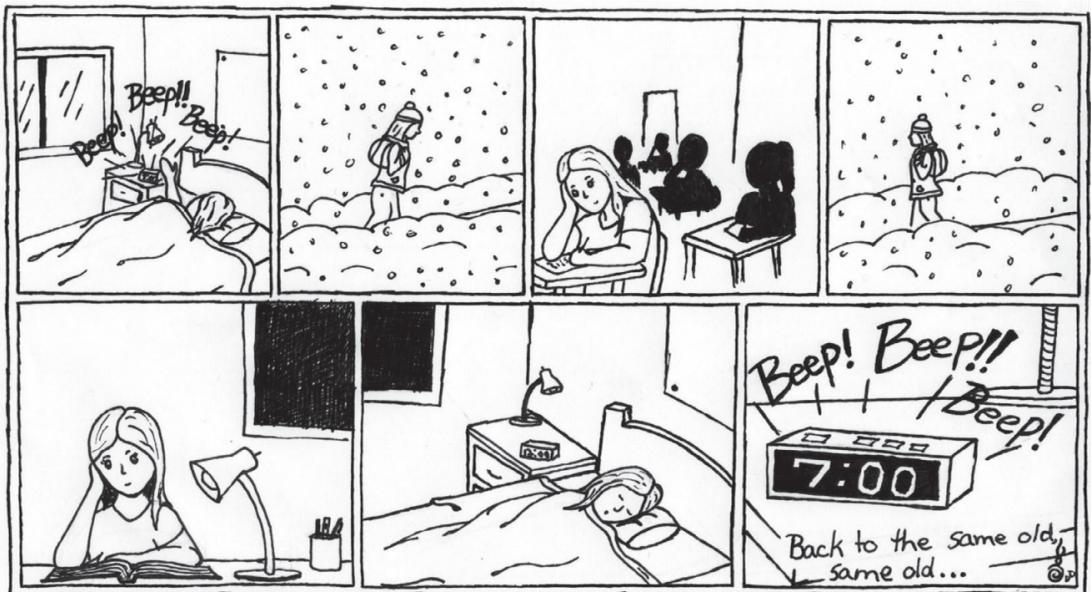
Katie Bobleter, junior



"It seems unexpected. I have no idea why he resigned, but I hope we can find someone that can commit for the rest of the year."



David Racine/Student Voice



Darielle Dahnke/Student Voice

Legendary groundhog sees no shadow



Cassie Swenson

Although this is a few days late, it is in my interest to inform you about Groundhog Day. Not only the history of the event but also the outcome of

the 125th annual Groundhog Day. Phil the groundhog was taken out just after dawn in rural Punxsutawney, Pa. The test of bringing the animal out from the ground is to find its own shadow. The objective of the day is that if Phil sees his shadow, there are 6 more weeks of winter. If Phil has no shadow to see, spring is forecasted

to come early. On Feb. 2 the legendary rodent had not seen his shadow; therefore spring will come early.

The history behind Groundhog Day is quite interesting. It comes from the roots of a German legend. Since 1887, the groundhog has been emerging from hibernation on the second of February and forecasting the spring season. Over the 125 years that the celebration has been around, Phil has seen his shadow a total of 98 times. This leaves only 16 times that the groundhog has predicted an early spring. Incredibly through the years, the animal has never failed to determine the coming of spring.

Cassie is a Marketing Communications major. She is on the Women's tennis team at UWRF. She is also the Viewpoints Editor of the Student Voice.

Visit the Student Voice website at:

uwrfvoice.com

Do you have something to say?

Send in a letter to the editor at

editor@uwrfvoice.com

Walker hired to coach falcon football

Andy Moran

andrew.moran@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls football team is under new guidance, with the retirement of former head coach John O'Grady after the conclusion of the 2010 season.

Matthew Walker was hired by UWRF on Dec. 29, 2010 beginning a new era of Falcon football. Walker said that the opportunity is something he could not be more excited about.

"I'm excited to move forward," Walker said. "I'm excited to not dwell on the past and see what we can do with what is in front of us."

For Walker, coaching is something that has sparked his interest for as long as he can remember.

"Even before I got to college, there was always something that intrigued me about coaching," Walker said. "Even as an athlete growing up, there was always something in my blood."

A three-sport athlete in high school, Walker excelled in collegiate sports, where he played baseball and football at DePauw University. Upon graduation from DePauw, Walker knew that coaching was something that he would want to pursue, not only as a hobby, but as a profession.

"Really quickly into college, I knew that I was going to be unhappy if coaching wasn't my profession," Walker said. "I knew that if I didn't make something out of it, I was not going to be happy with myself."

Walker enters his coaching era at UWRF with experience on his side. Walker was the assistant coach of the football team at DePauw University from 2000-2005 as well as the head coach from 2006-2009.

Walker furthers his resume by holding a head coaching position of the DePauw men's baseball team from 2001-2009, a position that he was thrown into as a 22-year old.

Walker said that experiencing the coaching aspect of athletics in a variety of sports has helped him gain perspective and valuable experience.

"It's different, weird, and unique," Walker said with a grin on his face. "So for three years I was doing a dual-head coaching thing."

Walker said he has one thing in mind as he steps into the spotlight replacing O'Grady who had been with the Falcon football program for more than 37 years, intent on changing a program that has been on a downward spiral in the recent past.

"I don't know any other way to do it in terms of the decisions I make, other than trying to win a championship," Walker said. "That sounds like a cliché, but I really don't know any other way."

Recognizing that the team has obstacles and challenges in front of them, Walker simply looks at the broader spectrum, taking each day as a new opportunity to learn and improve.

"Nobody is happy with what has happened in the past, but the approach we are taking is just moving forward," said Walker.

Athletic Director Roger Ternes said that Walker was the standout candidate in a strong pool of potential coaches, all of whom had their own personal strengths.

"The five candidates were really all first rate," Ternes said. "Matt was the one guy who had solid head coaching experience."

Ternes made the comparison of a student choosing a college when talking about the hiring of Walker.

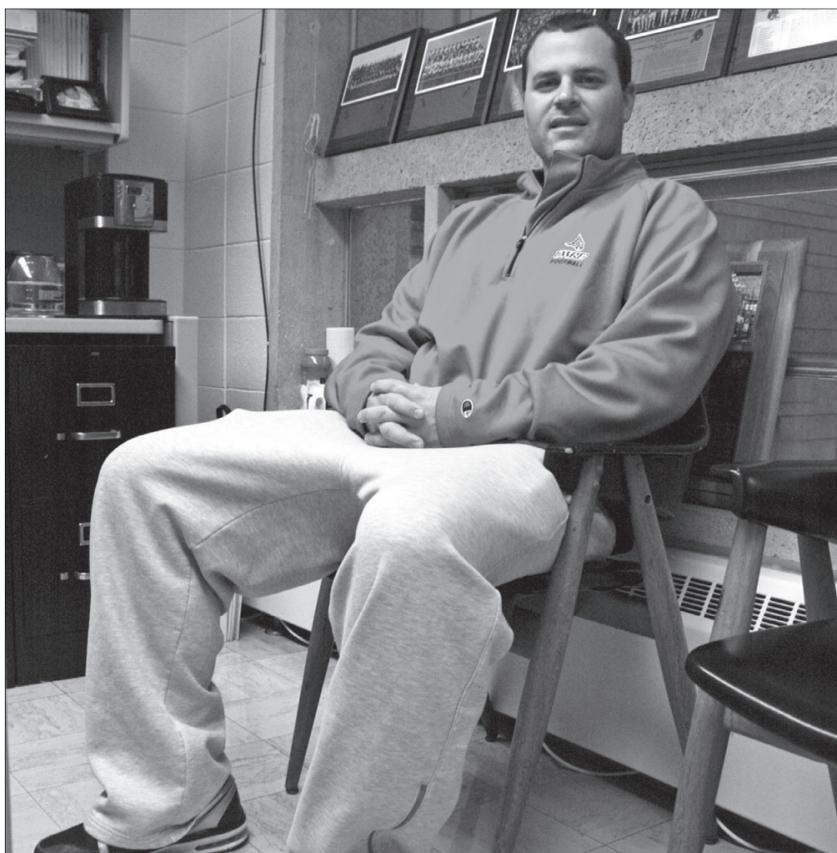
"When students select a college and are looking at three or four, at some point with all other things being equal it comes down to this gut feeling," Ternes said. "Matt just felt right for us."

Walker was quick to point out the rich tradition of football at UWRF, adding that being surrounded by that tradition makes his job very special.

"Long story short, there is a rich tradition of football here," Walker said. "I think it's a really neat thing and it's important for the current players to realize that."

Walker said he understands the admiration and respect that O'Grady held and continues to hold and strives for that same respect.

"I've learned very quickly the respect and the relationship that Coach O'Grady and Coach Farley have with their players, the community, and the alumni," Walker said. "In the very



Sally King/Student Voice

Falcon football Head Coach Matt Walker in his office at 123 Hagsted Hall.

limited interaction I've had with them, I know that they are a testament example of what I would like to become with this community, it's alumni, and the university."

Walker said that the opportunity to coach a program like this is something that he does not view as pressure, but rather a chance to work within a system to achieve a goal.

"I'm just the one who is fortunate enough to have the head coaching title," Walker said. "To me, I'm just a piece of the puzzle and I'm excited to be the one who gets to put those pieces together."

No. 2 Falcons enter season's final three weeks undefeated

Alison Holmes

alison.holmes@uwrf.edu

The Falcon women's hockey team is currently undefeated and holds the No. 2 ranking nationwide, according to the United States College Hockey Online poll.

With a record of 16-0-2 in the 2011 season, leading the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) conference and rank just under the Rochester Institute of Technology in the nationwide standings. The Falcon women, who are used to winning, tied for second in the conference last year and have been consistently ranked near the top in previous years.

Last year, their season ended with a devastating loss of their first round NCAA playoff game to Gustavus Adolphus College, who is currently ranked eighth in the nation.

"It's not really a surprise that they're doing this well," said Sarah Hellier, women's hockey announcer for WRFW. "In the past three years I've been here they've always been good."

Coach Joe Cranston said he isn't worried about moving up in the ranks just yet. "I'm not really interested in who's first or second right now...We still have a lot of hockey to play before playoffs," Cranston said.

With seven games left in the regular season, there is still time for things to change.

"The next four games will not be easy for the Falcons, Adrian and Superior will come ready to play," Cranston said. The Falcons took on Adrian College last weekend at home.

Holding on to their No. 1 ranking in the NCHA conference, the Falcons tied Adrian last

Saturday 2-2 in overtime and won 3-1 on Sunday. Their next challenge comes with two away games against UW-Superior this weekend.

Team captain Jessica Thompson said a big reason they have been playing so well is due to the quality of the freshmen on the team.

"I believe that the ability to roll four consistent forward lines and three consistent defensive pairs throughout an entire game is a strength over other teams," said Thompson. "Our team can rely on any forward or defensive player regardless of their age to score a goal as well."

After being appointed by her teammates to the captain position last season, Thompson said she has taken her role very seriously.

"It is a privilege to be apart of this team and I am motivated every game to play to my potential. I do my best to lead by example, and encourage the team to work their hardest every shift of every game," Thompson said.

With an undefeated record to uphold in order to maintain their ranking, the Falcons have their work cut out for the rest of the season. After this weekends series against UW-Superior, who is ranked second in the NCHA conference, the Falcons will play the University of St. Thomas, Finlandia University, and Marian University to finish out the regular season. If the Falcons are ranked in the top eight teams of the conference, they will proceed to the NCHA conference playoffs. The winner of the NCHA conference championship game, will receive an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

"It's not really a surprise that they're doing this well," said Sarah Hellier, women's hockey announcer for WRFW. "In the past three years I've been here they've always been good."



Sarah Hellier/Student Voice

Falcon women's hockey player Katie Flanagan moves the puck during Sunday's 3-1 NCHA win over the Adrian Bulldogs.

Sports Wrap

Women's Basketball

The Falcons shot just 11-62 from the field for 17.7 percent in a 45-32 loss to WIAC foe UW-Eau Claire Wednesday night. With the loss, the Falcons fell to 6-6 in the WIAC. The Falcons return to action Saturday, Feb. 5, at 6 p.m. vs UW-Whitewater.

Men's Hockey

Freshman goaltender Scott Lewan was named NCHA player of the week after making 60 saves in a pair of road wins against UW-Superior (1-0) and St. Scholastica (5-3). The wins propelled the Falcons back into the race for home ice in the opening round of the NCHA tournament. UWRF plays at home Friday vs UW-Stout at 7:05 p.m. before traveling to UW-Eau Claire on Saturday.

Men's Basketball

The UWRF men's basketball team beat UW-Eau Claire 76-70 Wednesday night behind a 20-point effort from Junior guard Aaron Anderson. With the win the Falcons improved to 12-0 in the WIAC and lowered their magic number to win the conference to three.

Boy's Basketball

The Wildcat boy's basketball team escaped Chippewa Falls Friday night with a 41-40 road win over the Cardinals. Brad Freeborn led the way with 9 points as the Wildcats retained their first place standing

in the Big Rivers Conference improving to 7-1 and 10-4 overall. The Wildcats played at home against Hudson Thursday, Feb. 3, after this issue went to press and will travel to Eau Claire Saturday, Feb. 5 to take on the Memorial Old Abes.

Girl's Basketball

The Wildcat girl's basketball team fell 40-33 to the Hudson Raiders Wednesday night in Hudson. It was the fourth straight loss for the Wildcats, who fell to 6-9 and 1-6 in Big Rivers play. The Wildcats host Eau Claire Memorial Friday night at the High School gymnasium.

Boy's Hockey

The Wildcat boy's hockey dropped two games early in the week in a 3-2 loss Monday to New Richmond and a 7-4 defeat Tuesday at the hands of Eau Claire Memorial. With the losses the Wildcats fell to 14-5 and 7-2 in the Big Rivers Conference. The Wildcats host Menomonie in Big Rivers play Saturday at the Wildcat Center.

St. Croix Fusion Hockey

The Fusion stumbled on the road Friday against Chippewa Falls, 3-2, losing for just the second time this season. The Fusion hosted Hudson Thursday, Feb. 3, after this issue went to print and will travel to Superior on Saturday, Feb. 5. As of print time the Fusion were 17-2-1, 3-1-1 in the Big Rivers Conference and are ranked first in the state.

Conference Standings

WIAC Men's Basketball

School	WIAC	Overall
9 River Falls	12-0	19-2
10 Stevens Point	10-2	18-3
Whitewater	6-4	13-6
La Crosse	5-6	10-10
Platteville	4-6	11-8
Oshkosh	4-7	9-10
Superior	3-8	11-9
Eau Claire	3-8	9-11
Stout	3-9	8-12

WIAC Women's Basketball

School	WIAC	Overall
6 Stevens Point	12-0	19-2
11 Whitewater	8-2	16-3
La Crosse	8-3	15-5
Eau Claire	6-5	12-8
River Falls	6-6	14-7
Oshkosh	5-6	10-10
Superior	2-9	8-12
Stout	2-10	7-14
Platteville	1-9	5-14

NCHA Men's Hockey

School	NCHA	Overall
2 St. Norbert	11-2-1	17-3-1
Superior	9-5-0	12-8-1
Stout	7-7-0	12-9-0
Eau Claire	6-7-1	12-8-1
Stevens Point	6-8-0	10-11-0
River Falls	5-9-0	9-11-1
St. Scholastica	4-10-0	9-11-1

NCHA Women's Hockey

School	NCHA	Overall
2 River Falls	12-0-2	16-0-2
10 Superior	9-2-5	11-5-5
Concordia-Wis.	9-5-2	11-8-2
Adrian	8-3-3	10-6-3
Eau Claire	8-4-2	11-5-3
Stevens Point	7-6-1	11-6-1
St. Norbert	6-7-3	9-9-3
Lake Forest	5-6-3	9-6-3
St. Scholastica	5-8-1	7-11-1
Marian	0-14-0	0-18-1
Finlandia	0-14-0	0-18-0

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Men's basketball team expects successful season

Ashley Julka
ashley.julka@uwr.edu

The UW-River Falls men's basketball team has used its undefeated conference record to gain national attention, including in Div. III polls.

The team is returning 11 players from last year's 9-16 team. The Falcons are currently 19-2 on the season and 12-0 in the conference. The team is placed first in conference and also ranked tenth in the nation in Div. III, according to the NCAA website.

Team chemistry is making a big difference for this year's UW-River Falls men's basketball team, according to senior Jake Voeltz.

"It seems more like a brotherhood," Voeltz said. "Everyone gets along."

The new brotherhood mentality could be attributed to several factors, noted Falcon teammates.

"Transfer students and our new assistant coach have helped out a lot," senior Brady Hannigan said.

Senior Danny Johnson said that a lot of the team's success is due to a different playing style.

Head Coach Jeff Berkhof said the team won games early in the season that gave them the confidence they needed to succeed.

"We also have four seniors that are doing everything possible to make sure we have a successful season," Berkhof said.

Berkhof also said the biggest challenge so far this season has been that the Falcons are seeing every team's best effort and they have to be ready to play every night.

Hannigan said that dealing with the team's success has been a good challenge to face this year. It's tough to be on top and stay on top.

Voeltz said the change has to do with the team's demeanor.

"We are a confident group, but we are not arrogant. We handle it nicely," he said.

The team set goals at the beginning of the season and are looking forward to seeing those goals met as the season wraps up.

"Our goals for this year are to enjoy the season and to make it to the NCAA tournament," Berkhof said.

The biggest game of the season so far was Dec. 4, when they played last year's Div. III national champions, UW-Stevens Point. Stevens Point was also ranked first in the nation at the time. The Falcons won at home 73-60.

"The game against Stevens Point was the best, but we still haven't put a full game together," Voeltz said. "Our best complete game is to come."

With only one home game remaining, the team encourages

students to come out and support them. "The crowd has been getting bigger and we appreciate it," Johnson said.

"We feed off the crowd's energy," Voeltz said.

"When they're excited, we are too," Hannigan said.

Dave Hanson, a Falcon basketball fan majoring in health and human performance said that he wants to see the team keep winning and improving, but also remain healthy.

"Their biggest strength is that their line-up goes deep, so they can sub in and out and still have a strong base and keep up the tempo," Hanson said.

Another Falcon basketball fan, Bryant Moore, majoring in economics, said that he thinks their greatest strength is pushing the ball up the court.

"I would like to see them continue to get better, improve their shooting percentage and continue their up-tempo play," Moore said.

Berkhof said that he enjoys the team's chemistry and looks to finish a successful season.

"We have a great bunch of guys that enjoy each other's company, work hard everyday, have a great coaching staff and we are looking for bigger and better things to come this season," Berkhof said.

The Falcons will finish the season with games on Feb. 5 at home against UW-Whitewater, Feb. 12 at UW-Stevens Point Feb. 16 at UW-La Crosse and Feb. 19 at UW-Platteville before heading into the WIAC tournament.

The team set goals at the beginning of the season and are looking forward to seeing those goals met as the season wraps up.



Sally King/Student Voice

Falcon Ollie White grabs a rebound next to Jake Voeltz. Jan. 26 the Falcons defeated UW-Superior 62-59 at the Karges Center.



Sally King/Student Voice

Ollie White shoots a free-throw in the closing seconds of the Jan. 26 game against UW-Superior.

Kanye West's newest album proves to be a musical masterpiece



Ryan Klieser

Kanye West. Some people may think he is just an arrogant rich rapper. Others may say a musical genius. With his most recent release of "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy," I must say West continues to impress me album

provides glimpses of West's relatively unseen 'darkside'.

Not many albums leave the audience wanting more, yet this one is quite the masterpiece and despite being just a touch longer than an hour in length, it truly seems that time flies when listening to this album.

If you follow West much at all, you may have noticed awhile back he released a 30 minute video known as "Runaway" on YouTube, telling a story to music found throughout this new album.

This was the manner in which I heard of "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" and found that

the video helped to set a precedent of what to expect upon a full listen to the album.

Needless to say, the video kicked ass and surpassed my expectations, only increasing my desire to obtain a copy of the album. Despite the entirety of the album being very good, several songs stood out to me as more of the "single" type of

its way back up the charts over the next few weeks.

Rick Ross and Jay-Z amongst others team up for a track known as "Monster" and a chilling, yet riveting tune ensues.

To be honest, with musicians of such caliber it is almost difficult not to have a great single in the finished product.

West really has proven himself time and time again as a top tier musician and just about anything he touches turns to gold, this album by all means is no exception.

West's outreach hits home

for most of us in locally when he teamed up with Wisconsin native musician Bon Iver. Normally, Bon Iver sticks within the realm of modern day folk/indie music. Yet on "Lost In The World," the perfect blend of West's rap and Iver's heartfelt singing results in a unique track, which leads into the concluding track pleading the

question "Who Will Survive In America"?

The progression throughout this album is evident upon just one listen, yet the story told keeps the listener thinking, dancing, and wanting more.

West really has proven himself time and time again as a top tier musician and just about anything he touches turns to gold, this album by all means is no exception.

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

after album. Despite his ego at times, he puts forth some damn good music. Being on top of the music industry people expect greatness from West, yet it seems he also expects nothing less of himself by placing a level of expectations on his shoulders not often found in today's music industry.

With that said, this new album reaches and surpasses these expectations, including guest appearances all across the board; from Jay-Z to Kid Cudi and even all the way to our own home grown Wisconsin musician Bon Iver.

As indicated in the album title, this new album really resonates as a darker side of West not truly heard on previous albums. This only helps to add more luster to the album and

Being on top of the music industry people expect greatness from West, yet it seems he also expects nothing less of himself by placing a level of expectations on his shoulders not often found in today's music industry.

tracks.

"Power" features West singing to sample from King Crimson's song "21 Century Schizoid Man" and is sure to make



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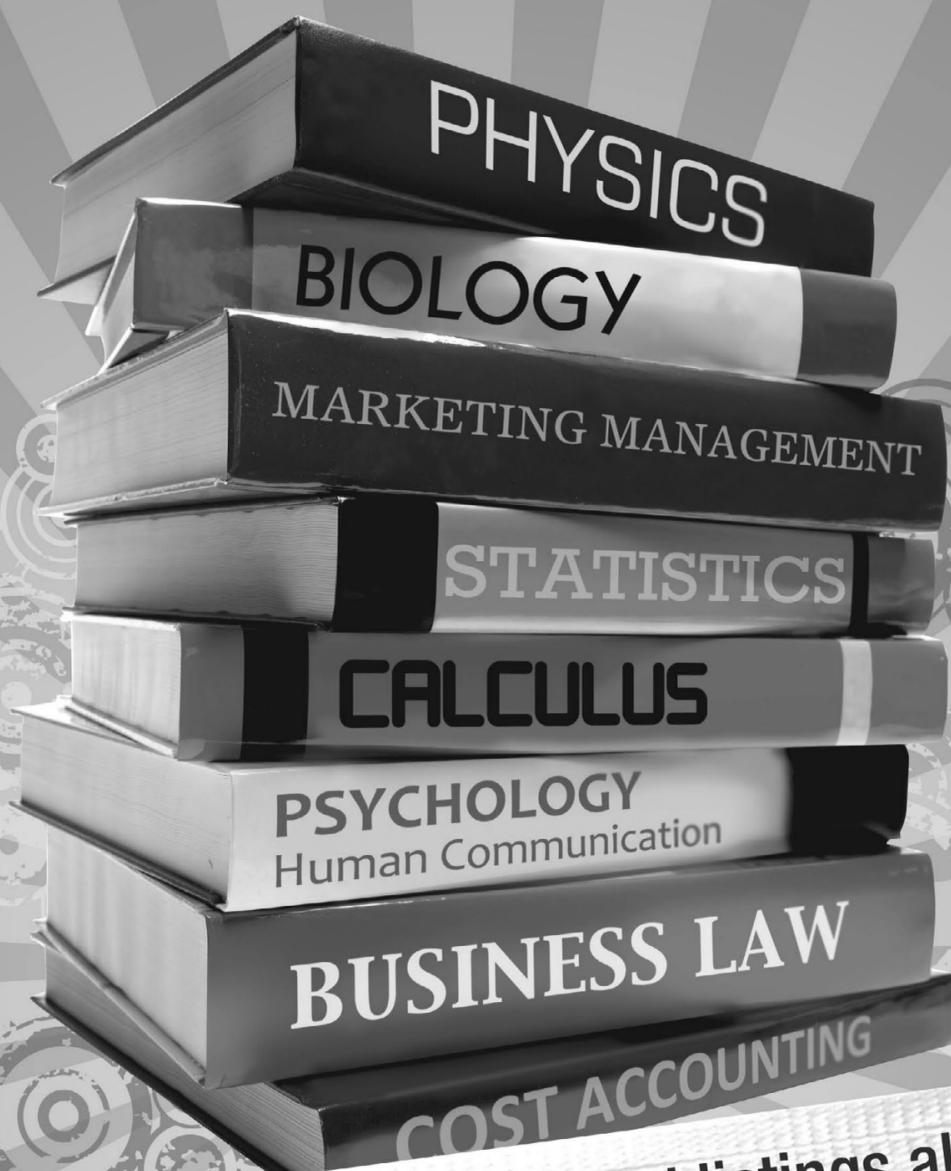
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