



KECK, PAGE 2
New Student Senate president looks to have strong semester

ELWOOD, PAGE 5
Columnist explores Nobel Peace Prize

TRACK, PAGE 6
Track and field prepares for Brooks Classic



STUDENT VOICE

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Grade inflation causes concern

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For the past thirty years, grades and grade point averages in private and public universities have risen significantly.

With that, inflation with the education system regarding grades has risen in even the past decade, says Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Fernando Delgado.

With a new semester in swing, students should be aware that the ‘A’ they are striving for may not be as big a deal as they once thought it was.

Delgado explains that it is not in the students interest to worry so much about the grade in the class.

“The reason why there is an inflation is because students today are focused on the number, not the learning outcome.”

John Bullis, a junior at the UW-River Falls campus majoring in Digital Films and TV Communications, said that in the past three years of college, he has learned a lot from the more difficult graders. Being an ‘A’ and ‘B’ student, he said sometimes it is easy to get good grades, but there are some professors that make the student work hard for their grade.

“I may have had a C in my English class from this harder teacher, but he made me a learn a lot,”said Bullis.

Delgado said that students desire to get a higher grade in order to have a better GPA. Grade inflation is caused by the increase over time of academic grades, faster than any real increase in standards.

He also commented that what may come about in the future may be more damaging to the education system in the long run if stan-

dards are not changed.

“There needs to be a balance between grade inflation and devaluation,” Delgado said.

At the UWRF campus, there is a minimum requirement of a 3.5 GPA to make the dean’s list. Within the last eight years, 1,215 students were on the dean’s list in 2003 with a student population of 5,423.

In the Fall of 2010, 1,316 students had reached this GPA with a student population of 6,373.

With more students receiving better grades and being able to reach the GPA requirement for the dean’s list, teachers and professors take notice and question whether students are getting smarter or if it is due to grade inflation.

Assistant Registrar Rich Kathan studied the effects of grade inflation back in the 1970s while finishing his degree in 1976.

Through his study for his thesis, which was a culminating project for a Master of Science in Education from UW-LaCrosse, he went into great depth to understand exactly what it is and what causes it.


He researched over 10 years of data and found that it was not really an issue at the UWRF campus, but today it may be.

“There was no significant grade inflation at the time here,” said Kathan, “but data now suggests that it has changed significantly over time.”

In the past 10 years, research has shown that here on campus, the average GPA was 2.875, with a standard GPA requirement of 2.25 this past year. Since Kathan has done his research, the average GPA in the 1970s up until 1980 was 2.745.

See Inflation page 3

Dancing with the stars of UWRF



Sally King/Student Voice

The UWRF dance team brings out athletes and professors with the fundraiser “Dancing With the Stars.” Basketball player Brady Hannigan dances to the song “Zuit Suit Riot” with dancer Sam Wickland. The Fundraiser took place Feb. 9 in North Hall.

UWRF plans to build storm shelters on campus lab farms

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The campus lab farms currently lack adequate shelter from dangerous storms, but in a couple of months, two tornado storm shelters will be built at the lab farms.

The Laboratory Farms Director Bill Connolly, said he has worried about the lack of storm shelters for a number of years.

At times there can be a lot of people at the farms, whether it be students, farmers or people attending colt sales or horse shows.

Connolly said it is a nice feeling to know that the farms will have shelter and thanks Special Assistant to the Chancellor Blake Fry for writing the grant and following through on the project.

UW-River Falls operates two laboratory farms that serve as educational tools that offer hands-on learning for several classes within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES).

Lab Farm One is located just south of campus off of Wasson Lane and Farm Two is 2.5 miles northwest of River Falls on county Road MM.

It was a long process to finally be at the stage of building the two storm shelters, said Fry.

Fry, who is also the emergency manager on campus, spearheaded the project.

In 2007, UWRF was the first college in the state of Wisconsin to receive a planning grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA.

The \$25,000 grant is part of a program called Pre-Disaster Mitigation.

This program helps identify what can be done to help reduce the loss of life and property from a natural disaster.

The grant paid for the cost of hiring an outside consultant who looked at all the different hazards that could affect the UWRF campus.

Based on the problems that were identified in the plan, the consultant recommended things the campus should do to help mitigate any lose of life or property from those types for natural disasters.

Once the plan was approved by FEMA, UWRF became eligible to apply for the projects that are in the plan, said Fry.

The main project that UWRF sought external funding for was the storm shelters because, “there is a risk if a storm comes through and students are out at one of the lab farms,” Fry said.

“There is no place for them to go right now.”

UWRF applied to the federal government to get funding for the shelters.

After an extensive cost benefit program that considers all the different projects across the country, the federal government agreed to fund the \$75,000 project, making UWRF the first college in the state to receive the project grant.

An architect is currently working on the plans of the 400-square-foot buildings.

They will be constructed of concrete and steel and built to withstand a projectile coming at 300 miles per hour.

The shelters will be able to hold around 50 people and will have restrooms, emergency lighting and weather radios.

The shelters will be maintained by facilities management, risk management and campus policy.

Construction should begin in April.

Student Senate votes for good of student body, not ideology

Ashley Julka
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The Student Senate is attempting to display a non-partisan viewpoint by casting aside their political beliefs, said College Republican and Senator Michael Leonard.

Prior to 2007, the race for Student Senator positions was a contest between the College Democrats and the College Republicans, said College Democrat and Senator Tyler Halverson.

When Halverson was elected to the Student Senate in the fall of 2007, he said that the groups both campaigned heavily to promote their candidates.

In the fall of 2007 to the spring of 2008 term, there were approximately eight to 10 College Democrats compared to three to four College Republicans.

“At the time, students elected the

senators to follow through on their political views,” said Halverson.

Although past Student Senators have been elected due to their political beliefs, this does not follow the Mission Statement.

“The Student Senate is a non-partisan organization that consists of 25 members. Individual Senators represent a designated constituency and collectively the Student Senate strives to represent the needs of the entire campus,” according to the Student Senate Mission Statement.

Davida Alperin, professor of political science, said it is healthy if there is less conflict over partisan issues.

“Although they are non-partisan, it doesn’t mean members don’t have a political preference. Most Democratic and Republican beliefs aren’t going to impact students and Student Senate,” said Alperin.

Student beliefs seem to match

that trend, as voting students do not always vote based on a political party promoted by the College Democrats or College Republicans as in the past, but rather based on other reasons.

“I voted because candidates asked me to,” said senior Brian Ahlm.

Nene Eze, a senior, votes for entirely different reasons.

“Different candidates warranted different reasons. Some of my votes were based on policy, but I believe everything needs to be voted on,” said Eze.

When Student Senate makes a decision, it has to think about their real role on campus.

“It’s not about you, but the students as a whole,” said Leonard.

Leonard said the Student Senate tends to be a mix of people on the left, on the right, and those that are politically apathetic.

However, this is not to say that

the students on Student Senate are not motivated by other causes.

“This year there isn’t a partisan competition, rather intercampus groups are hoping to gain representation and general students hoping to get involved,” said Halverson.

The committees are split up evenly as well.

“On the committees, a couple members on opposite sides of the spectrum work together to achieve a goal,” said Leonard.

“The committees rarely come up with partisan issues,” said Halverson.

Leonard said he expected the Falcon Promise to be a hot topic among the Student Senate members, but surprisingly it wasn’t.

“We were working for the good of the school and were not politically motivated,” said Leonard.

The Student Senate at times has issues where taking sides may arise,

but mostly it has to do with budget.

“Partisan-wise I don’t see it, but the manner in which we spend our money creates sides with those less willing and more willing to spend,” said Halverson.

Alperin said the Student Senate receives most of its budget from student fees and the parties don’t take a position on that.

“Most students in senate want enough resources for the university to provide students with what they need regardless of party,” said Alperin.

Halverson said that there are students with political views on Student Senate this year, but none of the students bring up their beliefs in debates.

“Student Senate tries to do its best by the students and put their best interests ahead of any political views,” said Halverson.

Interim president seeks student involvement



Tennae Maki/Student Voice

Former Student Senate Vice President Jason Keck will complete the semester as the interim president. Election planning begins in April.

Tennae Maki
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Student Senate President Leigh Monson formally resigned from his position at the Senate meeting on Feb. 1. Vice President Jason Keck accepted the position of interim president.

At the same meeting, Ashley Goettl was unanimously voted into the newly vacant vice-presidential position.

“I really value Leigh’s leadership,” said Student Senate Academic Adviser Paul Shepherd. “He accomplished a lot, even though it was a short period of time.”

During Monson’s brief tenure as president, the Senate revised their election rules and passed the Falcon Promise.

Serving as Senate president is not a difficult job, Monson

said. His decision to resign, however, came from a combination of increased personal and academic responsibilities.

Prioritizing is essential in order to be successful on the Senate, said Jayne Dalton, the director of Student Affairs and Academic Services. “You kind of have to be crazy to do this job.”

The position of president involves making sure the duties of the Senate are being carried out successfully, Keck said.

In addition to monitoring the senators in and away from meetings, the president manages the Senate executive board and meets with the chancellor, staff and faculty to understand their needs, as well as the students’, Monson said. “Essentially I worked as the faculty liaison to the student body,” Monson said.

Dalton and Monson said that they are confident that Keck will do a good job leading the Senate body.

The role of interim president was secured by the vice president as per the Senate bylaw, Shepherd said.

As for the replacement of vice president, applications were distributed among the Senate body. The executive board then made a recommendation for the remaining senators to vote on, Shepherd said.

Keck said that he plans to continue with Monson’s philosophy of taking student input seriously, rather than focusing on a personal

agenda. “If there are any issues that need [to] change or if everything is going good, we would like to hear about that,” Keck said.

Keck is not the only one with the priority of developing strong communication with the student body.

“I would really hate to see student relations go into a backslide,” Dalton said.

She added that the relationship between the student body and Senate has been improving, and that she hopes to continue to bridge the gap between the students and their government.

With the importance of student involvement in mind, Keck said that he is looking to get all of the student directorships filled.

In addition to encouraging student participation in the Senate, there are other issues that the Senate will address.

Even though the Senate passed the Falcon Promise, it continues to demand “a lot of behind-the-scenes work.” This includes working with Chancellor Dean Van Galen, because the Board of Regents has yet to pass the differential tuition solution, Keck said.

Springtime is also the time that the Senate has designated to fairly distribute campus organization budgets, said First Year Representative Charlotte Evans.

In April, the Senate will begin working toward the election of a new president for the next academic year, Keck said.

With the election revisions made, this process should run more smoothly, Monson said.

Until that time, Keck said that he is eager to continue with the spring semester.

The students working for the Senate do so in order to further the prospects of the students, Keck said. As well as to “make sure that the student voices are heard.”



Tennae Maki/Student Voice

President Leigh Monson’s term of office formally ended Feb. 1.

Senate Shorts

From the Feb. 7 Student Senate meeting:

- The budgetary committees have begun to allocate student organization fees for the 2011-2012 academic year. Budgetary decisions may be viewed on the Student Senate website.

Appointments:

- Senator Charlotte Evans was appointed to be the director of legislative affairs.
- Senator Michael Leonard was appointed to be the director of shared governance.
- Senator Tyler Latz was appointed to the position of parliamentarian.

River Falls Police/ UWRF Police Department

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

Jan. 29

- Aaron Richard Zimmerman, 20, cited for underage consumption outside Hunt Arena.

Jan. 30

- Matthew Kevin Waste, 19, cited for underage consumption in McMillon Hall.

Feb. 1

- Colin Michael Janilla, 21, cited for possession of drug paraphernalia in Hathorn Hall.

Feb. 5

- Daniel Thomas Roth, 19, cited for possession of marijuana in Grimm Hall.
- Laurie Rene Glime, 19, cited for possession of marijuana in Grimm Hall.

Do you have something to say?
Send your opinions to:
editor@uwrvoice.com
with the subject
“letter to the editor”

Voice Shorts

Barn Dance in River Falls

The Rush River Ramblers will play for a barn dance 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, in the gym of the River Falls Academy on West Maple Street in River Falls. There is no prior experience necessary and a caller will teach steps to newcomers and experienced dancers. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for 12 and under.

Do your part in making the best of your educational experience

Check your student e-mail account on Feb. 14 for a link to the National Survey of Student Engagement, NSSE. This survey will ask randomly selected first-year and senior students to participate in a survey to improve the educational experience inside and outside the classroom at UWRf. For more information about NSSE, check out: <http://nsse.iub.edu/html/about.cfm>.

Smithsonian Exhibit at River Falls Public Library

The travelling Smithsonian exhibit, Key Ingredients, America by Food, highlights the connection between Americans and how food is served, produced and preserved. Running from Jan. 28-March 11, the exhibit includes movies for adults and children, lectures, art, local history and artifacts. Some of the upcoming lectures include UW-River Falls alumnus and Emmy Award Recipient Boyd Huppert. Huppert will be speaking with Ed Janus, a freelance journalist 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13. Another notable speaker is UWRf history professor Kurt Leichtle, who will speak on the topic of food brand and the rise of a national cuisine on 7 p.m. Monday. For more information on the exhibit and other upcoming events visit the library’s website at <http://www.riverfallspubliclibrary.org/>.

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Ran by the
Student Voice Staff.

UWRF finds ways to save during state-wide cuts

Leila Hirsch
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With Wisconsin’s state budget deficit approaching an all time high, state wide institutions are starting to feel the need to cut costs any way they can.

At the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, department chairs are being asked to cut their spending in small ways with the hope that larger spending cuts won’t be needed in the future.

Wisconsin’s budget deficit increased 8.4 percent in 2010 from the previous year, swelling to \$2.71 billion from \$2.5 billion, according to the Associated Press.

Although academic institutions have not been forced to endure layoffs thus far the Legislative Fiscal Bureau of Wisconsin does not show positive reinforcement with their 2011 predictions for state and local employees.

According to the Bureau, in 2010 the number of state and local government employees fell by an estimated 208,000 positions and 2011 will see another 150,000 estimated employees added to that list.

Newly elected governor, Republican Scott Walker, has promised to spend time focusing on taking care of things that Wisconsin can afford.

His plans include creating new jobs, cutting back the \$3.1 billion budget deficit and putting Wisconsin on the map when it comes to business.

Instead of having his name placed on the “Welcome to Wisconsin” signs like past governors, Walker replaced the signs with ones that simply proclaim, “Open for Business.” The governor claims that this is his attempt to show people that there are, “...going to be substantive changes to the way our state government treats job creators,” according to a speech Walker gave at the sign unveiling in mid-January.

With the budget deficit looming on many academic institutions, some departments at UWRF are doing what they can to cut unnecessary costs in an effort to help.

One of the main things that department chairs are asking the staff in their department to do is to use Fast Copy for their classes instead of wasting department costs.

Fast Copy is an on-campus printing center that is open five days a week and available for students and faculty to use. “...for the first half of this school year (July-December), there have been about 500,000 fewer copies on the departmental machines compared to the same months last year,” said print technician Philip Olle-LaJoie.

The increase in copies saves both departments and Fast Copy money.

“Fast Copy jobs, while not perfectly comparable, had about 400,000 more copies during those same times year to year,” Olle-LaJoie said.

Many departments have found that cutting certain costs is easy when they find a way to do so. Biology department chair and Professor Mark Bergland found that outsourcing to Fast Copy has benefitted the department tremendously.

“Our department has saved considerable funds using Fast Copy instead of our departmental copier, as there is a difference of 2 cents per page,” said Bergland. “Considering how much copying is done in a large department such as ours, that adds up to a considerable savings.”

Another way that departments and the university are saving money is through the use of Desire to Learn or D2L.

The program was developed in 1999 as a tool to provide, “...innovative eLearning solutions to academic and other leading organizations around the world,” according to the program’s website.

The use of this program helps save money in each department’s annual budget because of the lack of printing involved in classes. In-

stead of supplying students with handouts of the vital material to the class, professors are able to post the material to D2L.

“The main thing that we can do and are doing is to use our supplies budget wisely. We try to limit the amount of hard copy course documents used in class by posting these items on D2L,” said Darryl Miller, department chair and professor of marketing.

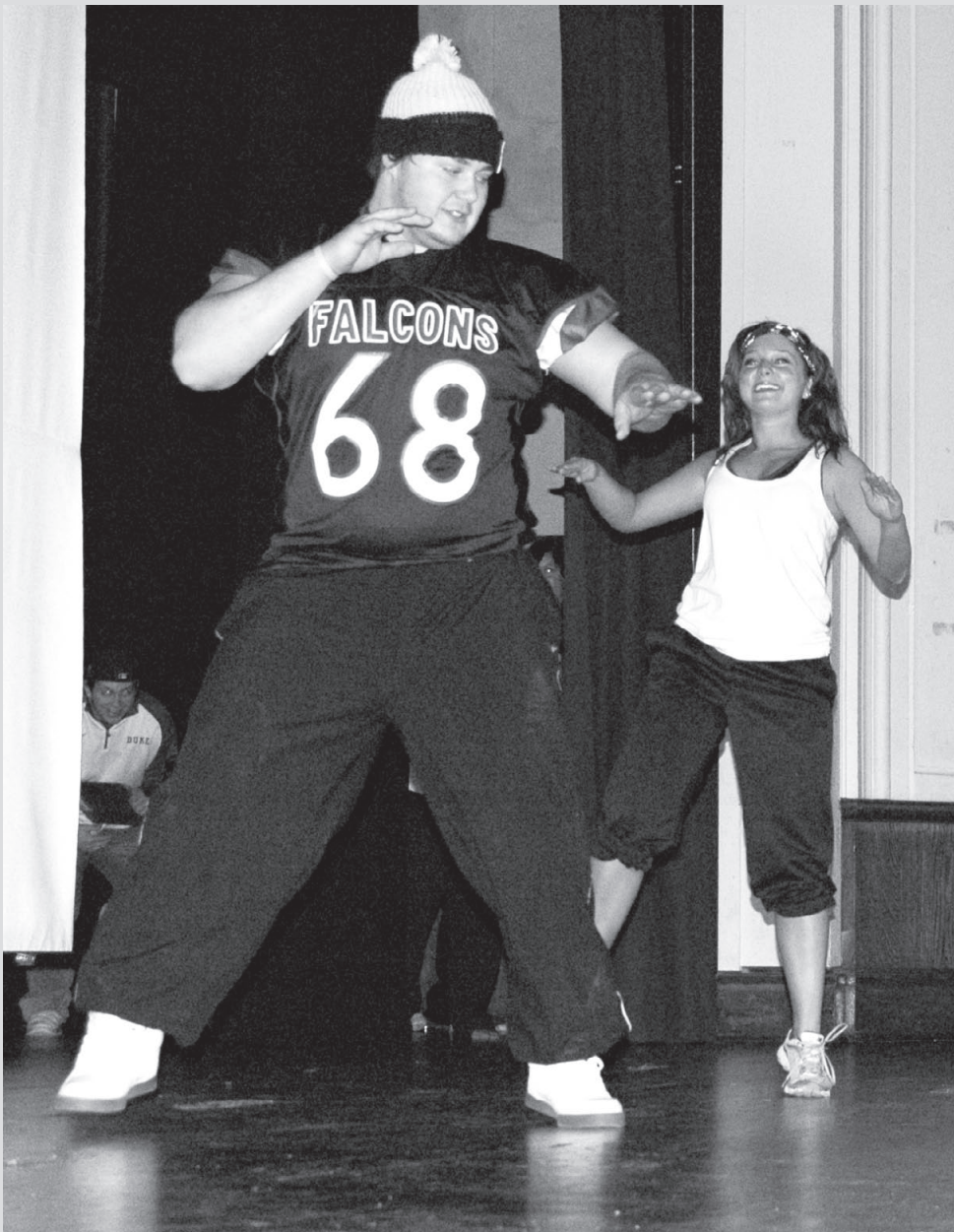
Professors aren’t the only ones who seem to enjoy the use of D2L although some students seem to have issues with the program as well. Many students find that the program is beneficial for their academic classes because of the availability of the program.

“I like that D2L is a great way to either study ahead or catch up on lectures. It allows us to have online classes which are very beneficial when you are taking many classes,” said sophomore Vivian Chen.

Some students find the program to be helpful but not always consistent throughout classes.

Each professor utilizes the program in their own way, some using it more than others. “I hate having to print off all my slides and syllabuses for certain classes and then some teachers don’t use it at all, kind of inconsistent,” said senior Ben Pirius.

UWRF professors, athletes perform with dancers



Sally King/Student Voice

The UWRF dance team hosts the Fundraiser “Dancing with the Stars,” with professors and athletes Feb. 9 in North hall. Above Left: The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Brad Caskey does a lyrical number with dancer Carlee Diggins. Left: Jontae Koonkaew and Danny Johnson do a hip-hop dance with dance captain Jenna Luekber. Above: Football player Joe Gotmer performs to the song “Outta Your Mind” with dancer Carlee Diggins.

Inflation: Research shows value of an ‘A’ grade in a class has fallen sharply over past decades

from page 1

After reviewing this data, there is a slight inflation on our campus, which means that the value of an ‘A’ grade in a class has minorly dropped since the 1970s, according to Kathan’s research.

What some colleges have done to reverse the inflation is to have no grades in their educational curriculum at all.

Alverno College in Milwaukee has no grading system.

What their curriculum is formed on is “ability-based education.”

This entails a student to gain learning experience through terms of abilities needed for ef-

fectiveness in the worlds of work, family and civic community.

Some of the abilities that they gain through this system is communication, analysis, problem solving and value in decision-making, as their website described.

What most colleges have done to avoid this inflation, rather than changing their entire curriculum, they have evaluated the system and have found techniques to keep encouraging students in their studies.

Teachers’ and professors’ ultimate goal is for the student to leave the class with something as Delgado explained.

“The real question that we, as teachers, ask is, ‘Are the students learning?’” said Delgado.

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EDITORIALS

Former president sets precedent for future

The Student Senate is under new leadership after Leigh Monson resigned on Feb. 1. When Monson was elected president last year, he had several goals and initiatives that he wanted to address during his term. As president, Monson said he wanted to initiate conversations with the student body as a way to gain a better understanding of their thoughts and opinions. This is something that interim president Jason Keck said he wants to continue doing.

Monson also stated that he wanted to remove the sophomore on-campus housing requirement. Although the Senate didn’t eliminate the requirement during the time Monson was president, the need to seriously look into the elimination of the requirement is crucial for this campus. Last fall, UW-River Falls saw record enrollment and although the Riverview Hotel did not have to be used to house students, student housing will eventually become inadequate. Instead of building a new residence hall, the requirement to live on-campus should only pertain to freshman.

Another goal that Monson wanted to achieve that did not get addressed when he was president was reviewing the Cascade Avenue renovation plan to try and find an alternative.

Looking back at Monson’s time as president, although it was brief and some of the initiatives were not solved, several issues were passed through the Senate.

The Falcon Promise, an issue that initially caused much debate within the senate, passed unanimously Jan. 25, the meeting when Monson informed the senate of his resignation. Even though differential tuition will increase over the next three years, the money will help support students and ultimately enhance the quality of education at UWRF.

The Falcon Promise will fund undergraduate research, student scholarships, support additional tutoring and classroom renovations. One of the primary goals of a university is to retain students and increase the graduation rate and we think that if tutoring is enhanced and student scholarships grow, the university will see an increase in graduates. Our economy needs more college graduates out into the work force in order to remain an innovative and competitive state and country. We applaud the student senate for coming together and voting in favor of the Falcon Promise.

The senate under Monson also revised their election rules, something that posed problems during elections last spring. The Senate amended the campaign rules which now clearly define what it means to campaign and eliminates the restrictions on when a candidate can begin campaigning.

We wish the best of luck to Monson in his academic career and we hope that the transition of leadership is seamless and the Senate continues to work closely with the student body in an effort to build a stronger campus.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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

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

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

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

Because of high production costs, UW-River Falls community members are permitted to collect one copy of the *Student Voice* per issue. A single copy of the *Student Voice* is valued at \$1, and additional copies may be requested from the editorial staff by e-mail through editor@uwrfvoice.com. Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

Nobel Prize strays from principles of peace

Elwood Brehmer

We’ve been taught the Nobel Prize is something to revere. In its various factions it has become the pinnacle of profession, the single biggest recognition possible of one’s work. That may be about to change.

Last week WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. When I heard this, I pinched myself repeatedly to assure myself it was not a nightmare. Assange became (in)famous for first publishing classified U.S. military documents concerning activities in Afghanistan that had been illegally obtained by his website. Since then he has continued to release cables about governments all over the world on WikiLeaks. Assange also has those pesky sexual assault allegations circling him regarding an incident in Sweden last August. For fairness in savagery he has yet to be charged with anything, but these types of accusations rarely fall on people with honorable character.

After hearing the news of his nomination, and after the initial phase of my blinding nervous confusion subsided, I set out to put this nomination in perspective. Assange is one of roughly 150 individuals nominated worldwide for the award, many of which are actually deserving, and the final selection is not made until December, so there’s still plenty of time for him to be cast off.

Let’s take one step further back. Regardless of how you feel about Assange’s character, political views, or whether or not he should publish the material he does; what qualifies him for a Peace Prize? According to the will of Alfred Nobel, a qualified recipient of the prize must “have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, the abolition or reduction of stand-

ing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses.”

Assange certainly has done little to solicit fraternity between nations, and all he has done in regards to standing armies is inflame the most potent military on Earth. Finally, no journalist, apart from his or her ethics, should be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. True journalistic integrity prevents a reporter from advocating anything. Reporting on injustice is how many journalists make their living, and the good ones would tell you they’re just doing their jobs, relaying what they observe. Pulitzer Prizes are for journalists. Peace Prizes are for philanthropists.

The acceptance of Assange’s nomination continues an unsettling trend regarding the prize. In 2009, President Barack Obama became a Nobel Laureate. True, his election was a major event in U.S. history, but all he wanted to do was be President. Two years prior he was just another junior U.S. Senator.

According to the award’s website, in 2007 Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change were jointly awarded the prize “for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change.”

An award from the Sierra Club or Greenpeace? Sure, but not worthy of a Peace Prize.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee, which is responsible for selecting the Peace Prize winners, needs to focus less on its political leanings and more on deserving candidates. Mother Teresa devoted her life to promoting peace and goodwill. Amnesty International protects the rights of the wrongly persecuted. Mikhail Gorbachev oversaw a peaceful end to the Soviet Union. These are actions deserving of a Nobel Peace Prize.

Elwood is a senior journalism student originally from River Falls. He tries to write about topics from a slightly offbeat perspective. Outside of school he typically dreams about fishing, then goes fishing, daydreams while he is fishing about what he is going to cook when he gets home, then cooks. That is, unless the Packers are on.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student warns pedestrians of River Falls traffic/ disapproves column

There are two things that need to be addressed. First, it is insane how college students on this campus don’t seem to even look up to notice if a car is going to hit them or not while crossing the street. Over half the time they aren’t even in a crosswalk. I am a student here and also have to drive the campus streets. I have almost hit two students who walked out in front of me, were 50 feet from a crosswalk and then yelled at me. Hey, if you’re not in a crosswalk and you step out into traffic and get hit, blame yourself. This is a college town but it is also home to many non college students. Try to be respectful and realize that you do not have the right of way all the time just because you’re walking along campus. Get yourself in a crosswalk, look up and cross when cars have stopped. Quit thinking that you’re so important that the rest of the world should stop for you.

Secondly, If you are the front page editor of this paper I think you should think twice before saying a ton of

cheeky comments about a football game. The fact that the front page editor continuously cuts down the Packers, and stated in no uncertain terms that they would lose, then proceeded to explain why and talk about the players hair.... I don’t know. I read this and I don’t even care about football and I thought it was a poorly planned out piece. Considering you were totally wrong and the Packers won and the talk about the hair.... you should have let someone else with little to lose write this. I think you totally discredited yourself as a writer for the paper. I guess I just think if you’re a triple major in English and front page editor you would have chosen something with more substance and not completely discredited yourself as a serious writer. Seems to me a serious writer for a paper wouldn’t give themselves the chance to then have to eat their words.

Maria Evans
student

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.

We must endure all things: love and sports



Ashley Goettl

There are two types of “love” that encompass my life. One is for my beloved professional sports teams, and the other is for family and friends. However, there is a gray area that connects family and friends, and passion for professional sports. What happens when you are forced to choose between one or the other? Between joy for your significant other that you have known for a short period of time or your beloved team that you have cheered for since you could walk? This dilemma may seem as an easy decision; after all, how could sports come between you and a partner who you have known for so long and have shared deepest thoughts and memories?

I find that there is a wrench that must be thrown into the fire. How do you “defend” a partner who cheers for a team you have grown to envy and hate; a team that you have despised, rejected and wish nothing but the worst for since childhood? The most obvious example, and most personal to those living near the Minnesota/ Wisconsin border is that of the Green Bay Packers and

Minnesota Vikings. What is it that attracts us to the opposite side (or team)?

If you truly claim to be a Vikings fan (which I surely do), shouldn’t there be an immediate red flag that rises when you find out that your “crush” is a die-hard Packer fan? Conventional wisdom would tell you that this relationship is doomed to fail. But as the age-old saying goes; what is mean to be will find a way.

For the true sports fan; you live, breathe and die with your team and let nothing stand in the way. Isn’t that the way that love is supposed to be too? Isn’t love defined as accepting someone for who they are, no matter what the circumstances may be? Isn’t it love that forces you to put down the remote during “the big game” to go to the in-laws or to a dinner party? However, isn’t love also part of sticking with your team through the good times and the bad?

Doesn’t that mean that we surrender all common sense and make bets such as wearing the opposing team’s jersey if they lose or having to deal with hours of shunning and bitterness at the expense of the other’s bragging right and glorious moment, if only for a brief moment?

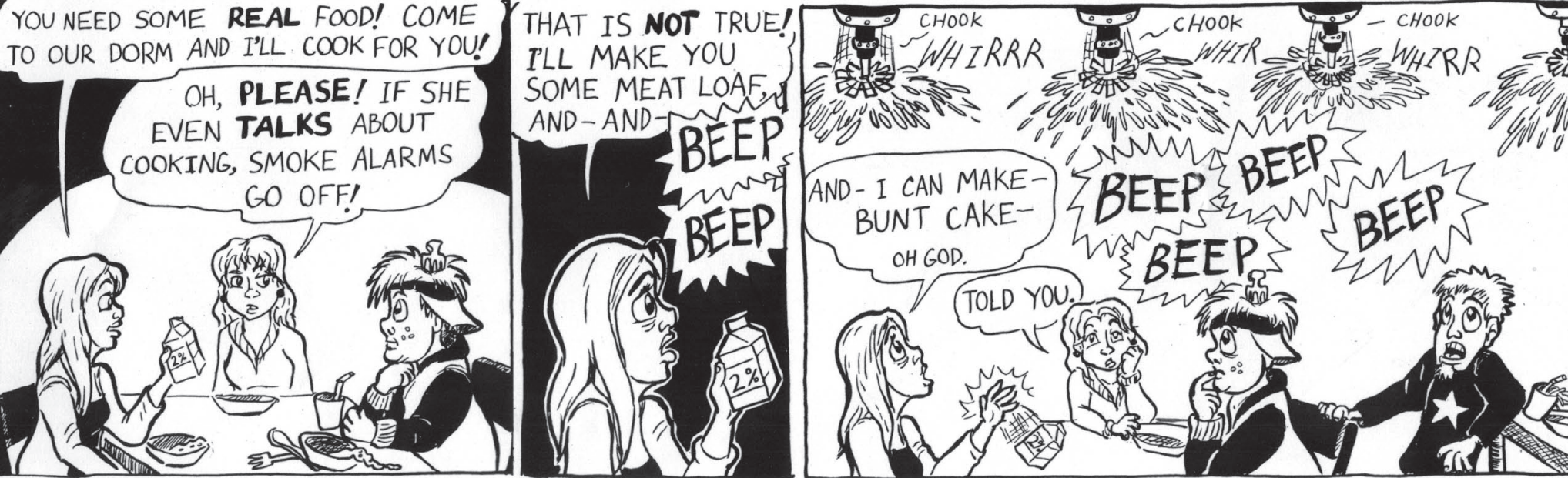
So the question I seek to answer is how do we, as passionate sports fans who are convinced that we are

the number one fan of our beloved team, balance a personal relationship with a person who believes in something we are destined to hate?

I always have to chuckle when I share the story of “bringing home” by my Packer fan boyfriend. The first question my dad asked him was not about his religion or background, not about his values or parents’ occupations, but what football team did he cheer for? Now, my dad may have been skeptical because I had already told him that he was from Wisconsin. Somehow, he did end up approving. There are many things that we as humans are capable of loving.

But as for me, I would rather stick needles in my eyes than cheer for the Green Bay Packers. The reasons? Well first and foremost; because they are bitter rivals with my Vikings. Second; although I will still love my boyfriend, even after the Super Bowl there is still a jealous love that makes me take pleasure in his despair, but only when it comes to sports. The answer to to the question if we can balance our love for sports and significant others; remain loyal to our team but also to our partners is not an easy one. Just know that love conquers and endures all things. Right, “pookie bear?”

Ashley is a sophomore, triple majoring in journalism, digital film and television, and political science. She enjoys watching the Twins and Vikings. She is also a member of the UW-River Falls softball team. She is the front page editor of the Student Voice, and is a sports broadcaster for WRFW.



David Racine/Student Voice

STUDENT VOICES

What are you doing for Valentine’s Day?

Andrea Scanlan, sophomore



“I dont know. I might sit at home and watch TV. Unless there is an ‘I hate Valentine’s Day’ party.”



Chris Aeschliman, junior

“I am cuddling with my dog, Cooper.”

Grace Adofoli, junior



“I am going to the cities to chill with friends and go to a jazz bar. I don’t reall celebrate Valentine’s Day, but I think it’s a beautiful event.”



Jason Anderson, senior

“I would be lying if I said I was going to be studying.”

Marshal Neubauer, senior



“My girlfriend and I are making a heart-shaped pizza from scratch.”

Melisa Beres, junior



“I am very anti-Valentine’s Day. Therefore, I am getting sloshed at Mugclub- so come join me!”

Situ Lawson, freshman



“Nothing, I’ll probably go shopping. It is Valentine’s Day and I am my own Valentine.”

Sarah Freiling, junior



“I am going to Sex World!”



Danielle Dahnke/Student Voice

Visit the Student Voice website at:
uwrfvoice.com

Do you have something to say?
Send in a letter:

editor@uwrfvoice.com

Track & field starts on promising note

Sally King
sally.king@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls track and field team has begun with a promising start at their first meets so far in their indoor season.

“So far we are looking strong. Our team is doing well with workouts and is starting to put up great times, distances and height when we compete at meets,” said captain Colleen Kopel. “Our coaches are making difficult workouts for everyone so that when it comes time to back off, we are ready to run fast, throw far and jump high. Overall, I think a large team goal is to get people to the NCAA nationals. We want to get as many athletes as possible on the provisional lists. On a smaller scale, we want to be competitive in the conference meet. The WIAC has one of the most if not the most competitive conference in D3. We want to be in the top three with conference and give LaCrosse a run for their money.”

UWRF placed third out of 12 teams at the Stevens Point Invitational Feb 5.

“The team has been great so far and always has been through the years I’ve been on it,” said Kopel. “Even though it’s an individual sport, we are all a team. We have got a lot of new athletes this year and in a year or two the team will be really impressive.”

Being a part of the track and field team has been a positive experience, said sprinters captain Lucas Mueller

“Track and field has really made my college career a more exciting and interesting experience,” he said. “I have met so many people and have gained a lot of friends on the team. They are like my family. Running for the Fal-

cons gives me something to look forward to each day and push myself both on the track and as a student. Overall, track has been an amazing time here at UWRF. I do not ever regret going out for the team, even on the hardest days of practice, it is all worth it. I believe we have two main goals for the season. One is to improve our conference standings on both the men’s and women’s side as well as send more athletes to the National Indoor Meet in March.”

With a new head coach, Aaron Decker, the track and field team hopes to achieve their season goals.

“This is our first year under our new head coach Aaron Decker. Our women’s team is also much larger than it has been in the past, which is very exciting for us as a program,” said captain Brittini LaFontsee. “Our goals for the season are to place in the top three at both the indoor and outdoor WIAC Conference meets. We would also like to produce several All-Americans again this year. We have a wonderful program with a wonderful bunch of people. We are a family. It has been one of the best experiences of my college career.”

Kevin Rengo, who does the pentathlon during the indoor season and the decathlon during the outdoor season, hopes to do well this season of track and field.

“I want to finish in the top five in the conference in the decathlon as well as top three in the javelin during the outdoor season,” said Rengo. “A lot of people worked really hard in the off-season and it is showing in the competitions. I’m excited to see how well we can finish at the conference meet and see how many athletes can get to the national meet.”



Sally King/Student Voice

Falcon track & field athlete Kevin Rengo practices for the upcoming season. Their next meet is the Brooks Classic, which starts 3 p.m. Friday at the Knowles Center.

Swim team prepares for upcoming WIAC Championships

Andy Moran
andrew.moran@uwrf.edu

The UWRF swim team is looking to use a season of preparation to prepare for their biggest meet this season.

The UW-River Falls swim team is in good shape and ready for the WIAC championships, said head coach Ryan Hawke.

Hawke, who took over the team last season on an interim basis said that the swimmers have all made drastic personal improvements over the course of the season.

“Everyone has either made or passed the times that they were at last year,” Hawke said. “So I think everyone is pretty happy.”

Hawke said that swimming, unlike other sports, is something that gradually improves over the course of a season, leading him to

believe the Falcons are in great shape for the WIAC championships.

“Swimming is a little bit different than most sports,” Hawke said. “Sports like football, when you start the season out you are in the best shape you are going to be in, with swimming you actually raise up.”

Competing against teams such as UW-La Crosse and UW-Stevens Point, both of which have larger teams, leaves UWRF fighting for their place in the upcoming tournament.

Hawke stressed that while the team is looking good, there is simply no way to compete against teams that have several more swimmers to choose from.

“With the size of our team, there are teams that we won’t even be able to reach,” Hawke said. “I am hoping that we can come closer to [UW]-Whitewater and [UW]-Oshkosh this

year.”

While the Falcon team may have its difficulties placing well at the meet, Hawke said that the individual performances are something to keep an eye on.

“Individually, I have no doubt that we will do really well,” Hawke said. “If you look at individual swims from last year to this year, I have no doubt that everyone will do very well.”

Senior captain Kevin O’Brien is one swimmer to keep a special watch over, Hawke said.

“It’s his senior year here, so I want to see if he can make a national cut in the 100 [butterfly],” Hawke said. “He currently has the 100 butterfly record at this school.”

Hawke commented that the team has had its struggles this season due to a number of factors, several of which he puts on his own

shoulders.

“Going into a season changing the coaching philosophy within a team is something that is going to lead to a lot of internal struggle,” Hawke said.

The internal struggles Hawke referred to were things such as practice times, length and intensity. He said that these things only benefited the team.

“I changed the practice requirements,” Hawke said. “I feel like I increased the intensity of the practices quite a bit, especially from the reports I have heard about last season, but with hard work comes mixed feelings.”

The Falcons head into the WIAC Championships 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, at Walter Schroeder Aquatic Center in Brown Deer, Wis.

Falcon men’s hockey surging; is it too little, too late?

For weeks Hunt Arena sat quiet and forgotten with the students off on break and no one to cheer, but on Friday the Hunting Grounds awoke to screams of 785 as the Falcons came from behind to win 4-2.

Two short weeks ago the Falcons were reeling; they had dropped six of their last seven games and were seen as after thoughts in the NCHA. But tough resilience held in the minds and hearts of players as they headed north for a two game road trip that could determine how their season was remembered.

On Jan. 28 at UW-Superior, the Falcons fought tooth and nail with the Yellowjackets. A loss for the Falcons meant they were destined to go on the road in the NCHA playoffs, a win meant they stayed alive one more night. Regulation couldn’t solve that heated battle, and it was with just seven seconds left in overtime that freshman Geoff Shewmake found the back of the net to give the Falcons a 1-0 win.

One night and a border later the Falcons entered Minnesota to take on the St. Scholastica Saints and a scoring frenzy ensued, as Justin Brossman (2), Ryan Goodmanson (2) and John Bullis tallied goals in a 5-3 win.

That brought the Falcons home Friday night on a two-game winning streak and back in the hunt for home ice in the opening round of the NCHA playoffs. As the clock ticked down and stands filled it became apparent that the student body had returned to campus and that Hunt Arena again was offering the greatest home ice advantage in the conference.

The Falcons quickly fell down 1-0 when Kevin O’Donnell scored at 1:58 if the period. Nearly 17 minutes later O’Donnell tallied his second goal of the game on the power play to make it 2-0 UW-Stout. For much of the season a two-goal deficit has spelled doom for a Falcons squad that has been anemic when it comes to scoring.

But on this night something was different, and it started not on the ice but in the Hunting Grounds, as the stands in the southeast corner of the rink are referred to. The student body was back and there was a buzz in the air throughout the first intermission. These fans weren’t going to go quietly and neither were their Falcons.

Just over five minutes into the second period Chris Salomone scored his first career collegiate goal, pulling the Falcons to within one at 2-1. Six minutes later Jason Yuel broke away short-handed to beat the goaltender and tie the game at two.

In the third the Falcons took the ice to a thunderous roar from the student section and the Falcons answered the call of their fans tallying two third period goals one by Alec Hageman, the other by Brossman. The Falcons and their fans had returned to Hunt Arena and put themselves back in the hunt.

“It was a great crowd. Everybody including the student section and par-



Robert Silvers

ents were into the game,” said men’s hockey player Justin Brossman. “It was tough being down early in the game but the crowd still supported us and cheered. They never seemd to lose interest no matter what was going on. It was great to see after some of the struggles we’ve had.”

That set the stage for the Falcons trip to UW-Eau Claire Saturday night. The Falcons entered the night one point behind the Blugolds in the standings. Again the Falcons fell behind early but again the Falcons were not going to go away quietly.

Chris Heineman scored at 5:04 of the first period to put the Blugolds up 1-0. But Brossman had an answer, registering his own goal at 9:37 to tie it at one. It was Brossman’s fourth goal in the last three games.

In the second, Geoff Shewmake threw the puck past Blugolds’ goaltender Brandon Stephenson putting the Falcons up 2-1, a lead they would never relinquish. Leading after two the Falcons came out in the third and widened the gap when Jason Yuel scored at 7:46 of the period putting the Falcons up 3-1.

Eau Claire pulled to within a goal at 3-2 on a power play goal by Andrew Wilcox, but they would get no closer. Scott Lewan shut the door from there on out saving every shot the Blugolds threw his way and Bullis served up the dagger with 8 seconds to go as he hit an empty netter to seal a 4-2 win.

With four straight wins it seems the Falcons season has turned the corner, but it seems too late. The Falcons have put themselves back into the running to host an opening round series in the NCHA tournament at Hunt Arena. But after a slow start and dawdling through the middle of the season, it seems the Falcons fast finish will not be enough.

The Falcons need things to fall in their favor or else they will travel in the NCHA’s opening round Feb. 18-19, a fourth place or higher finish would earn the Falcons home ice. The Falcons currently trail both Stout and UW-Stevens Point by two points for the third and fourth spots in the standings. However both teams hold the tiebreaker over the Falcons which virtually puts UWRF back by three points meaning that the Falcons need to finish the season with more points than at least one of those teams which.

That means the Falcons need to get at least one point from St. Norbert on Friday night, something that hasn’t happened since Dec 2, 2006 when the Falcons won 3-2. Since that time the Falcons have gone 0-9 vs. the Green Knights. If the Falcons do pick up a point from St. Norbert they will still need to pick up a win against Stevens Point on Saturday. The Falcons also need whoever loses Friday nights Stevens Point-Stout game to also lose on Saturday.

The Falcons could still finish as high as second but with the Falcons track record against St. Norbert it will take a special effort to even finish fourth in the standings. It is also very possible the Falcons could fall to sixth. Both the Falcons games are at home this weekend beginning at 7:05 p.m.

Rob is a senior majoring in communication studies-digital film and television with a journalism minor. He is the 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 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays on WRFW.

Conference Standings

WIAC Men’s Basketball		
School	WIAC	Overall
10 River Falls	12-1	19-3
8 Stevens Point	11-2	19-3
La Crosse	8-6	13-10
Platteville	7-6	14-8
Whitewater	7-6	14-8
Oshkosh	5-9	10-12
Superior	4-9	12-10
Eau Claire	3-10	9-13
Stout	3-11	8-14

WIAC Women’s Basketball		
School	WIAC	Overall
4 Stevens Point	13-0	20-2
La Crosse	11-3	18-5
23 Whitewater	9-4	17-5
River Falls	7-6	15-7
Eau Claire	7-6	13-9
Oshkosh	6-8	11-12
Stout	4-10	9-14
Superior	2-11	8-14
Platteville	1-12	5-17

NCHA Men’s Hockey		
School	NCHA	Overall
2 St. Norbert	13-2-1	19-3-1
Superior	9-7-0	12-10-1
Stout	8-8-0	13-10-0
Stevens Point	8-8-0	12-11-0
River Falls	7-9-0	11-11-1
Eau Claire	6-9-1	12-10-1
St. Scholastica	4-12-0	9-13-1

NCHA Women’s Hockey		
School	NCHA	Overall
2 River Falls	13-0-3	18-0-3
10 Superior	9-3-6	11-6-6
Adrian	10-3-3	12-6-3
Eau Claire	9-4-3	12-5-4
Concordia-Wis.	9-6-3	11-9-3
Stevens Point	9-6-1	13-6-1
St. Norbert	6-7-3	9-9-3
Lake Forest	5-8-3	9-8-3
St. Scholastica	5-10-1	7-13-1
Marian	1-14-0	1-19-1
Finlandia	1-14-0	1-19-0

Reviewer has high regards for new boxing movie

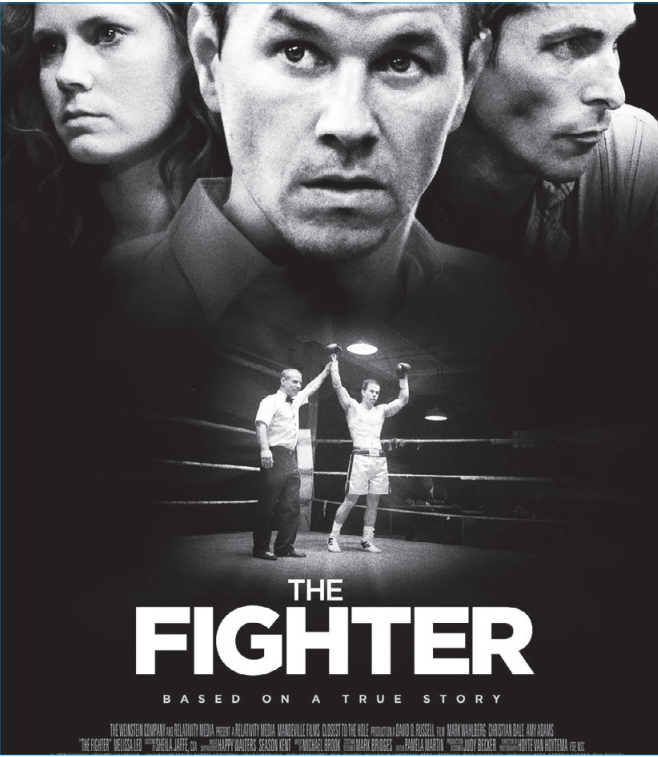
Elliot
John
Novak

I'm not a fighter, I'm a lover. Well, if I had to pick sides, that's what I would say. But picking sides just leads to fights, so I won't go that route. Micky Ward (Mark Wahlberg) has a similar time choosing a side in the recent release *The Fighter*, directed by David O. Russel. Throughout the film we watch Micky, the protagonist, get assaulted not only by physical punches, but emotional ones too. Micky is a semi-professional boxer trying to make it big, riding not only the success of his father and brother of Ward fame, but also their advice and training. His mother acts as manager. His whole family seemingly is dedicated to the sport. They taught him everything he knows, but a whole series of telling — and sometimes veiled — events make him start to question what's best for himself. Throughout the narrative, the audience is taken on a powerful journey of love, violence, hard decisions, hard drugs and hard work. If you think you have this "boxing movie"

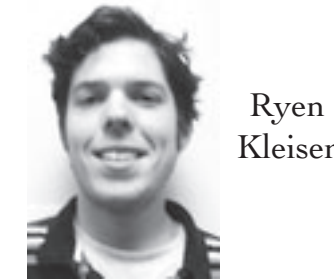
If you like character development, get ready to have your heart strings played, and played well. Or rather, punched.

pegged, think again. The *Fighter* is a well-written drama based on the true story of Micky Ward in the 1980s. You just can't make some of this stuff up; the plot twists and turn arounds will have you clinging to edge of your seat. Even if small parts are fictionalized for the sake of making a coherent story, it at least adds to the poignancy of this under-dog action-drama. If you like character development, get ready to have your heart strings played, and played well. Or rather, punched. Then upper cutted. Such is the nature of the underdog story. But what will knock you out is the number of characters and how closely and significantly they interact as the plot develops. If you like action, prepare for an old school diet of punching and lifting weights, with a side of running from the police and jumping out of the window a few times for dessert. Up until the final fight scene, this movie maintains a very realistic feel. The characters are real and believable, and the storyline isn't predictable to those unfamiliar with the history. Personally, I have never watched a boxing movie in my life; I have never seen *Rocky*. But I did walk away from this movie with a newfound respect for boxing.

Elliot Novak is a music major with a minor in communication studies. He currently enjoys bicycling around the Midwest, disc jockeying at WRFW, eating healthy and living simply.



Canadian band demonstrates master talent with its album 'The Suburbs'



Ryen
Kleiser

Yes, that's right, Canada! Believe it or not, over the last decade or so Canada has been exporting a great deal of modern musicians who are really taking the music industry by storm (not to mention Rock N'

Roll great Neil Young years ago). The Arcade Fire, one of the biggest groups in the indie music genre hails directly from our northern neighbor and sits atop the charts with nearly every new album release. That said, throughout their musical career The Arcade Fire has consistently put out solid album after solid album, and has seemingly been building on each prior album with every new release. Most recently, they released a monumental work of art with an album known as "The Suburbs." Almost every great band or musician has that one album which makes them skyrocket to "headliner" status, and for The Arcade Fire this is it. They say the sky is the limit, but despite a relatively short time on the scene, The Arcade Fire has reached and even surpassed it. The sheer amount of musical talent found within the group is mind boggling for any modern band, where most everyone in the band openly switches instruments throughout live shows, and surprisingly leaves nothing left to be desired, sounding absolutely stellar. A band like this is capable of revitalizing the music industry and inspiring new talent, new listeners, and giving that

"spark" of life needed lately within modern indie music. All it takes is just one listen to "The Suburbs" and I'm guessing you will find yourself speechless and blown away, left eager to hear more of the album. As expected, as the album begins, it starts off rocking with what most certainly is a single in the "The Suburbs." As the album progresses it just seems to get better song by song. Most albums aren't capable of this, having only a few good songs worthy of listening to again and again. Yet it almost feels with "The Suburbs" you're not doing it justice without listening to every track several times through. Even with that said, I do have some favorite tracks on this album. As mentioned before, "The Suburbs" is quite a fun and lively way to start off an album. A few tracks later, "Modern Man" also helps to reel in the music listener, and offers quite a powerful track awaiting its own radio prowess. Finally, my absolute favorite track on the album is known as "Sprawl II (Mountains beyond Mountains)," which seems to me a great final statement on the album. This song should really help to clarify any remaining doubts within the listener about the album; or the band for that matter, and help to leave them completely satisfied. Through and through, "The Suburbs" is truly a work of art and should be appealing to listeners' of all musical tastes. Give it a listen and see what you think, I would bet you won't be disappointed.

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



*For those readers interested in getting an great opportunity to learn more about music through radio broadcasting, opportunities to DJ for WRFW 88.7 FM are currently available. If interested in getting more information or DJ'ing, log onto www.pureradio887.com, or email the radio program director, Cory Heaton, at cory.heaton@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls offers English courses in St. Paul for international students

Alison Holmes
alison.holmes@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls offers English proficiency classes to international students who do not meet university English requirements through the English Language Transition Program (ELTP) at a UWRF location in downtown St. Paul. As soon as the students arrive from abroad, they are tested at the Global Language Institute, or GLI, in St. Paul, where the ELTP is currently located, program liaison Teresa Dettle said. They are given a series of tests, including the Test of English as a Foreign Language, or TOEFL. If the student does not meet the UWRF set admission standard, then they are admitted on conditional admission. According to the UWRF International Admission Language Standards website, "Conditional Admission means that you are academically qualified for admission to UWRF but that you have not met the English lan-

guage requirement." Based on their English speaking ability, they are then placed in the appropriate level of English courses, which range from immersion to accelerated. If the student is proficient in English when they arrive, they are free to start taking classes at UWRF. The students in the ELTP are evaluated every four weeks on their progress. Professors get together every Wednesday to discuss students' progress with each other, in order to fine-tune what each individual student needs to work on, Dettle said. The students are not just evaluated on how they score on the standardized tests, such as the TOEFL. Teachers sit down with the students individually and listen to them speak, interview them and review their papers and projects to get a full understanding of how well they are grasping the language, Dettle

said. If they are doing well they advance to higher levels. If there are particular areas they need to work on, such as vocabulary, the teachers focus on those areas to help them improve. In previous years, the ELTP was held on campus at UWRF. Students in the program lived in dormitories and were sometimes able to take other classes related to their degree in conjunction with the required English classes. Students all were taught in one classroom all day, which was not ideal, said Dettle. The program now runs out of the GLI. Students live with "home stay families" and attend full time English classes at the GLI. Classes there are small, around 10-12 students per class. This makes the classes "very, very personal," said Dettle. Students Naif Malaikah, from Saudi Arabia, and Dilek Pomak, from Turkey said they

are enjoying the classes they are taking. "It makes me feel comfortable...I am so glad to be here," said Pomak about the ELTP. Both Malaikah and Pomak have been studying at the ELTP for about five months and live in St. Paul. Currently there are seven students from UWRF studying at GLI. International students from other universities with similar programs, such as Hamline University and UW-Superior, take classes at the same location. Approximately 35 students from UWRF have gone through the ELTP and on to study on the UWRF campus, Dettle said. Eventually, Dettle said she would like to see the program back on the UWRF campus. "By not having them on the campus can make them feel very disconnected," she said. Malaikah and Pomak both said they had only been to UWRF twice, and said they feel separated from the "college experience."

It makes me feel comfortable...I am so glad to be here.
Dilek Pomak
Turkish Student



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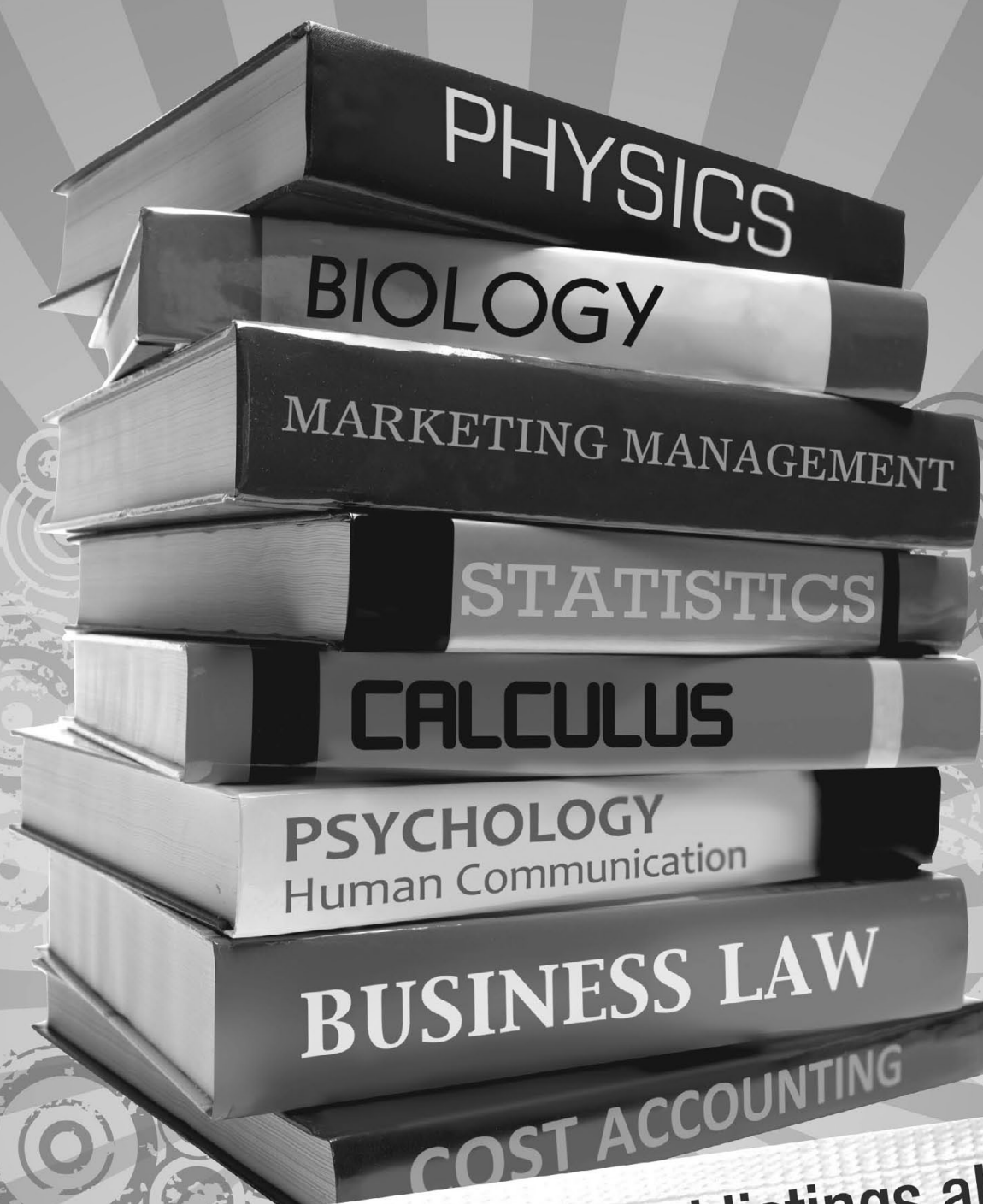
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