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STUDENT VOICE

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AFAB releases budget

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To mixed reviews, UW-River Falls' Allocable Fees and Appropriations Board, or AFAB, has released its proposed budgets for student organizations for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Every spring, AFAB meets and allocates student organization funds based on their submitted applications. The board has three priorities set when determining the appropriate amount to be distributed to the given group, said AFAB Chair Jordan Harshman.

Purposely set to be vague, the priorities are based on an organization's engagement in the River Falls community, engagement in UWRF's community, and level of student inclusivity, said Harshman.

"These priorities are broad and can be met in a variety of ways," Harshman added.

AFAB works hard to maintain viewpoint neutrality, said Student Senate Vice President Ashley Goettl.

This year, the board received 54 requests from a variety of campus student organizations, said AFAB member and First Year Senator Charlotte Evans.

There was \$400,090 placed in request of student fees. This amount was nearly cut in half as the board allocated \$208,548.11, said Harshman.

In addition to the amount allocated from AFAB, Student Senate has reserved roughly \$195,000 for Falcon Programs, said Director of Student Life and Student Senate Adviser Paul Shepherd.

This is the first year that Falcon Programs has not been included in AFAB's budgetary decision because it demands so much money, said Evans.

Student activity fees provide all of the money for both programs. The amount allocated was based on a university-projected number of students set to attend UWRF in the next academic year. A minimum of 6,000 students are expected to attend the university next fall, said Evans.

On Nov. 30, 2010, UWRF student activity fees were raised to \$68 per student, which is below the UW- System average



Sarah Hellier/Student Voice
Members of the Student Senate vote on proposals at the Feb. 22 meeting in the Willow River Room of the University Center. The AFAB board introduced its proposal for the 2011-2012 academic year.

of \$91. Each Student at UW- Parkside pays \$144.07, while students pay \$30 at UW-Milwaukee, said Shepherd.

Shepherd added that Student activity fees at UW- System universities, however, may include other components. Allocating student activity fees is done meticulously and hard decisions are made, said Evans.

"Funding in the past has not been a pretty one," said Harsh-

man.

The Crop and Soil Club president Tryston Beyrer said he requested \$5,550, and that he was satisfied with the \$4,914 provided. It is more difficult to determine the appropriate amount to allocate similar organizations, such as College Republicans and College Democrats.

See AFAB page 3

Online class attracts various students

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UW-River Falls students and alumni who have taken online classes have different opinions on the quality of education they have derived from taking a class in the online format.

Marketing communications junior Janie Hanson has taken three online courses at UWRF. She said she does not feel like she receives the same quality of education as she does in traditional classes.

"I feel like if I would have been in the classroom I would have learned far more," Hanson said.

In one particular online class Hanson took, the "Desire2Learn" or D2L, discussion plat-

form was used for students to share their thoughts with each other.

Hanson said she felt this made communication with her peers difficult, because not all students would be online at the same time.

She added that sometimes, she forgot to check back to see other student's comments who had posted after her.

Elementary education freshman Megan Stedt said that she liked the online class she took last semester. The ability to work at her own pace was a positive aspect of the course being held online, Stedt said.

She added that the lack of immediate response from the professor, something you would get from sitting in the classroom, was something that she disliked about the course.

"It's hard to get the teachers opinions,"

Stedt said.

Recent Business Administration-Finance graduate Caleb Feyereisen said he would have taken more online classes at UW-River Falls if he had gotten the opportunity to.

He said the class he took, MNGT 340 Ethical Leadership, was easier than a traditional in-class course, "but also more difficult because I needed to be self-directed in terms of homework and scheduling."

He added that the level of discussion in the online course was more than what he experienced in an in-class setting.

Despite how much students feel they have learned in their online classes, they still are receiving passing grades.

During the course of the 09-10 academic year, including winter and summer terms,

3,764 students took online classes, according to the Office of Integrated Planning.

Of all the grades given out, 49.4 percent were A's, 21.2 percent were B's, 10.8 percent were C's, 3.2 percent were D's, and 4.3 percent were F's.

That means of the 3,764 students, about 161 students over the course of the whole 09-10 school year received an F in their online course. The remainder of students either ended up dropping the course or received an incomplete.

Professors are not just left on their own to develop a quality online class.

The Online Teaching Institute is a course offered to UWRF professors, to help them transform their traditional in-class courses into effective online courses that provide the

Theater production opens this weekend

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The first theater production of the semester, "The Shape of Things" by Neil LaBute, is opening this weekend and the director Meg Swanson, who has been a part of UW-River Falls Theater since 1980, is getting ready to retire this year.

"This is my first time working with Meg, the director, and that has been really fun. It has been fun, stressful but fun," said senior Mark Bradt, an actor, "She is a great director, and its sad that no one else will be able to have that experience, I feel pretty lucky especially because I'm not even in the theater department."

Swanson said, although her retirement is going to be bittersweet, she looks forward to her future plans.

"I have been here for a long time, and I am a little sad about retiring too, actually, because I like my job and I love what I do and I love working with students. But it's time to move on to something new and different," said Swanson. "It will be a bittersweet departure. Immediately after I retire, my husband and I are going to do a little traveling. And

then I don't know what I'm going to do after that, but I'm not ready to start playing bridge all the time. There is lots of stuff that I want to learn. I want to learn how to throw pots, become a good photographer, and I want to learn Italian."

Andy Hanlon took the position of stage manager for this theater production to experience Swanson's directing skills.

"Meg Swanson is retiring this year, and I never got to see how she directs a show," said Hanlon. "It's been fun actually, this has been the first time that I have been stage manager for the university."

Swanson cautions people to be aware that this performance contains strong language and adult material.

"This play is unique because there aren't a whole lot of serious plays about the lives of college students. And that's an important thing about it," said Swanson. "And we are doing it in the studio theater, which is a very small intimate theater so people will be very close to what is going on, they will see it intensely and personally, and not at a distance. If people come, they need to know that

the play is very rough, language-wise, so they should be prepared for that, and know that there are some very adult situations in it."

Bradt said the performance is a drama about four college students and their relationships.

"I actually legitimately think that people are going to be very surprised with this show, the script, and how it will probably not be what they are expecting at all," said Bradt. "Its kind of a dark romance and the characters deal with some very uncomfortable things that I think everyone does but that no one likes to admit. And as an audience member you get to see the way people lie to themselves, and I don't know how to describe it, just see it, it's good."

"It's a great student cast in this show. That's another thing that makes the piece special, the actors are really top notch," said Swanson. "I hope people come, its good to come out and see some stuff when you're in college. Leave your dorms and get out and see what's going on around campus."



Sally King/Student Voice
"The Shape of Things" is set to open Thursday night at 7:30. The play features (from right to left): Kelsey Miller, Daniel Vopava, Mark Bradt and Dana Clause.

Senate Shorts

From the February 22 Student Senate Meeting:

- The Club Sports Allocation Board’s proposed budget was passed for the 2011-2012 academic year.
- The Allocable Fees and Appropriations Board introduced its budget proposal for the 2011-2012 academic year.
- The Facilities and Fees Board introduced its proposal to increase segregated fees for the 2011-2012 academic year.
- It was resolved that AFAB will review its policy with regards to allocating future funds to organizations that require dues for its members.
- The Differential Tuition Oversight Committee is looking for student members.
- The Chancellor’s Award Committee is looking for student members.

Appointments:

- Allison Riske was appointed to the Inclusivity and Diversity Issues Committee.
- Asher Heer was appointed to the Inclusivity and Diversity Issues Committee.
- Tyler Halverson was appointed to the Legislative Affairs Committee.
- Nicholas Toellner was appointed to the Legislative Affairs Committee.
- Timothy Morris was appointed to the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Task Force.

Voice Shorts

UWRF student receives scholarship

UWRF agriculture education student John Nelson was awarded the \$500 Whitmore Memorial Scholarship by the Wisconsin Pork Producers Association. Nelson is the student swine manager and cares for 400-500 hogs. Nelson was awarded the scholarship because of the influence Nelson can bring to the hog industry.

Gardening and farming certification course

A Permaculture Design Certification course will be held over spring break for students and the UWRF community. The course is offered by Midwest Permaculture, UWRF and the St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development will be over spring break. The course, which can be taken for college credit has an emphasis on urban gardening and farming. For more information contact Cynthia.wells-omalley@uwrf.edu or visit <http://www.uwrf.edu/ContinueingEducation/PDCCourse.cfm>.

Symphony Orchestra Concert

The St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra Concert, directed by Giselle Hillyer, will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Abbott Concert Hall. Admission is \$2 for students, \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors.

Two-time Grammy Award winner Ernie Watts will be joined by UWRF for a cabaret event at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Falcon’s Nest. There will be hors d’ oeuvres and a cash bar. The event is free and open to everyone.

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Student receives award for involvement in community

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Nikki Shonoiki, a senior majoring in intercultural communications studies, has been selected as a recipient of the University of Wisconsin System’s 2011 Outstanding Women of Color in Education Award, according to the UW System award letter.

Shonoiki received the award based on her extraordinary campus and community involvement in diversity.

“Over the years she has studied at UWRF, her leadership and vision have inspired others to take action for social and environmental justice,” said Rise UP Advisor and Professor of English Greta Gaard.

Shonoiki has had a huge impact on the campus, said Rellen Hardtke, faculty advisor for the Gender Sexuality Alliance.

Shonoiki has been involved in numerous activities on campus. She co-founded Rise UP for Women’s Rights in 2008 along with Tracey Pollock, a former student. This is an organization that works to bring women’s rights into legislation, and takes care of reproductive health by working with Choice USA. The group has organized campus events, which include Take Back the Night, a Reproductive Justice Flag Demonstration and the Vagina Monologues.

Shonoiki also served as the Diversity and Women’s Initiatives Director on the Student Senate, where she helped facilitate diversity awards that worked to further inclusivity.

In addition, she also served as a Pierce County Board Supervisor, where she was the youngest and first African-American, woman to be elected into such a position.

Shonoiki is currently serving as the co-diversity programmer with Falcon Programs. She works to help manage the Diversity Organization Coalition, according to Shonoiki’s resume.

“UWRF has come alive with the vitality and leadership of Nikki Shonoiki. She richly deserves this award,” Gaard said.

On March 26, Shonoiki will receive the award during the Women and LG-BTQ Studies Conference luncheon at UW-Madison as a representative of the UW-River Falls campus, said Shonoiki.

At the conference, Shonoiki will be one of 16 recipients representing the UW System’s four-year universities, along with a representative from UW Colleges and UW System Administration, according to the Women’s Studies Consortium website.

According to the website: “The UW System Outstanding Women of Color in Education Awards were initiated in 1994 to acknowledge the ties and shared concerns among administrators,



Jens Gunelson/University Photographer

The UW System selected senior Nikki Shonoiki, pictured, for the 2011 Outstanding Women of Color in Education Award.

faculty, staff, and students within Women’s Studies and Ethnic Studies, and to uphold a continuing commitment to Plan 2008: Education Quality through Racial and Ethnic Diversity.”

In order to receive the award, Shonoiki had to first be nominated and selected among other UWRF students, staff and faculty.

“In October, the UW System contacts the Chief Diversity Officer on every campus, who happens to be Andriel Dees. The college is then given until December to select who receives the award by contacting those who work with diversity. I was nominated by Greta Gaard,” Shonoiki said.

Once She was nominated, she also had to submit a resume, a letter of her achievements and a recommendation letter from faculty, said Shonoiki.

“It was an interesting process because it doesn’t involve the whole campus,” Shonoiki said.

Grace Adofoli, a junior majoring in psychology, said that the award is something to be respected because it acknowledges women of color who work hard.

“The award means that Nikki is a phenomenal woman and a phenomenal black woman. It also means that UWRF is raising up a great generation

of young philosophical black women,” said Adofoli.

According to Shonoiki, the award means that her hard work is paying off and being recognized.

“To be honored by the UW System is very important to me specifically because of my work within the UW System. I just love it so much,” Shonoiki said.

UWRF is better place for having these exceptional people on our campus, Hardtke said.

“The award reflects the importance of having a diverse body of students, faculty and staff,” Hardtke said.

Shonoiki said she is honored to be receiving the award on behalf of UWRF.

“The award has only been around for 15 years, which means it is fairly new,” Shonoiki said. “It is very significant to know you’re one of the women receiving it.”

“Nikki is a good representation of what women can be and can do,” Adofoli said. “Her receiving the award says be who you are, own yourself, own your body, own your diversity and your ethnicity. It speaks to a lot of women on campus who are working hard and standing up for their rights.”

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AFAB: Budget causes concern by student organizations

“I think that College Republicans and Democrats should have an equal amount of requested money,” said Goettl, who is also active in College Republicans.

These two organizations do not hold the same type of events or go to the same destinations. Traditionally, the Democrats have more events. These differences can account for varying amounts of allocated money, said Harshman.

Avery Hildebrand, president of College Democrats, said that he felt AFAB was pretty fair with his organization, with the exception of its decision to deny funding for contraception distribution.

In order to fund the remainder of a necessary budget, organizations are left to find its own source of income. Some organizations have events, ticket sales and others have co-sponsors, said Evans.

“We do fundraisers and sell soil classification kits, which are really popular,” said Beyrer.

Beyrer added that he thinks students should pay dues in order to join an organization.

AFAB is different at UWRF than other UW- System schools because it does not allow organizations to charge student dues.

“If organizations do that, they are on their own,” said Harsh-

man. “This way, anyone can join a group for free.”

Considering the size of an organization has been controversial when distributing funds. Under viewpoint neutrality, no size of an organization can dictate an allocated amount of money, said Harshman.

“With a certain activity, you can’t control who is involved,” said Shepherd. “For some 20 students, it could be the most important thing in the world.”

Last year, Falcon Programs was separated from the rest of AFAB due to this very issue. It requires more money than other organizations and affects the entire campus community, said Evans.

This year, there are other organizations that said that it feels targeted because of its size and funding needs. Two of these organizations are WRFW-FM and University Theater.

“It feels like there is a message being sent and I don’t know what it is,” said University Theater Adviser Kenneth Stofferahn.

With over 350 students involved a year and providing to the campus and River Falls community, University Theater requested around \$20,000 and were granted \$8,150. This is a considerable deficit when it can cost up to \$4,000 to gain

production rights to a musical, said Stofferahn.

University Theater strives to produce three plays a year. With the limited funds provided, next year they have been permitted to produce two, added Stofferahn.

WRFW, which broadcasts reach parts of the Twin Cities metro, requested \$18,755 and were allotted \$9,518, said the radio station’s director, Cory Heaton.

“My biggest concern is that we will have a hard time operating,” said News Assignment Editor for Falcon News Brian Wegner.

Stofferahn and Heaton both said that they are in the process of making an appeal against their budgets to AFAB.

When an appeal occurs, AFAB asks Student Senate to reject their budget proposal until an organization’s appeal is reviewed. If the board sees fit, the budget is redistributed, said Evans.

“They do have a hard job,” said Heaton. “I wouldn’t want to do it.”

“We have done our best to make a fair budget process,” said Harshman. “AFAB has done an awesome job. They did good.”

Online: Class gives professors chance to learn program

highest level of learning possible to students.

Instructional Designer Scott Wojtanowski helps professors develop courses for the online format through the Online Teaching Institute.

Through this semester long course, professors work on developing an actual course that is being offered online. Wojtanowski leads group discussion, where professors can share

with each other the struggles and successes they are dealing with. Wojtanowski also provides one on one assistance to professors to help work out the kinks.

“We are trying to accommodate students needs while providing a high quality learning experience,” Wojtanowski said. He added that the quality of the online learning experience has come a long way since the first online

class was offered, where the student received a book to read and took an online test on the material.

Discussion topics covered in the Online Teaching Institute include, “How are online interactions different than face-to-face interactions?” and “How can my class collaborate online?”, according to a schedule for the Fall 2010 Online Teaching Institute.

Professors involved in this program not only develop their online course throughout the term of the institute, they also get the experience of being a student by taking online quizzes and going through the course themselves.

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EDITORIALS

Falcon fans should embrace team success

With the start of playoffs for UWRF winter sports, it has began to come full circle how lucky UW-River Falls athletics fans have been with their teams this season.

There are few schools in the country that can boast two top 25 ranked teams, both who have good shots of making the NCAA tournament in their respective sports.

The Women’s Hockey team is bringing an undefeated record into the NCHA playoffs after they were crowned Division champions. Now ranked first in the nation, they will begin their playoff run Saturday against St. Norbert in Hunt Arena.

The team is looking to make a run at the NCAA playoffs, which they have been to in each of the past two seasons, including the frozen four.

The Men’s Basketball team has also spent much of its time this season as a nationally ranked team. The team, which is currently ranked 22 in the nation, has been ranked every week since week two.

The team played against UW-Platteville in the WIAC semifinals last Thursday, and the winner of that game will be in the championship game between the winner of UW-Platteville and UW-Stevens Point.

Despite inconsistent seasons by the men’s hockey team and women’s basketball team, both are currently alive in both of their conference’s playoff tournaments.

The women’s basketball team finished fifth in the WIAC with a 7-9 record, and are still alive in the WIAC tournament after a win at UW-Eau Claire 66-44. The Falcons are playing in a semifinal game Friday at UW-Stevens Point, with a win putting them in the WIAC championship game.

The men’s hockey also survived a first-round away series in the NCHA tournament, winning a series at UW-Stout. Despite losing their first game, the team bounced back with an OT win and a mini-game win.

The men’s hockey team will play an away game Saturday at St. Norbert, with the winner of that game playing in the conference tournament.

With all of these UWRF sports in the playoffs, Falcons fans should be thankful for the opportunity to follow these teams. Athletics that gain national recognition allows our campus to gain respect from those outside of the St. Croix Valley.

Fans should pay attention to what is happening in university athletics, because it is not often when so many teams experience as much success.

As the playoffs unfold, fans, athletes and faculty have the chance to enjoy something big.

Guidelines for a successful hitchhiking experience

Christopher Pagels

ity because he has taken a cornucopia of drugs. Having hitchhiked myself, I now know that New Englanders love donuts and drive terribly. Yet, these extroverted people are hospitable and are more likely to play twenty questions with you rather than storing your rigid body neatly into their chest freezer. For me, the decision to hitchhike was born out of necessity (at the time I was hiking the Appalachian Trail) as I bravely stuck out my thumb for the first time in Pawling, New York.

My virgin hitch, I later found out, was in bad form. With no hitchhiking experience, this lacking skill did not help the part of me that was shy, and so it was that I began to walk forward with my back to traffic and my thumb stuck out. In certain social circles, this way of hitchhiking is considered rude and even bad etiquette. It is proper to face the oncoming vehicle so that both players can see each other’s faces. Before this shameless act, I had refused to debase myself to hitchhiking. Now I found myself being passed by drivers who probably had the same suspicions about me as I had about them.

After several cars, my anxiety began to exfoliate my mind, but to my amazement, a Hummer slowly eased over onto the shoulder 50 feet ahead of me. I did that slow-fast walk; walking fast to both get the ride before they left, and slow-walking to see that the driver has a trusting face. The slow-fast walk is usually associated with someone that needs to go to the bathroom quickly, but doesn’t want to seem too eager.

I peered through the window and saw a woman who

Sticking your thumb out is a risk more people should take. Not everyone that picks you up is Hunter S. Thompson, floating in the spirals of insanity

looked like she was in her early fifties. She wore an “I’m not crazy” smile and gestured for me to hop in that hulk of an SUV. This might work, I thought to myself as I opened the door.

“Hi I’m Bard, and I was wondering if I could get a ride to the grocery store?”

“Well, Bard, I’m Angela and I would love to bring you to the store. I’m on my way home and can spare the time.”

Bard is my trail name, it’s a name on the Appalachian Trail that you either self-proclaim or is given to you by another hiker and there is no escaping this fate. If you say that your name is just Tim, then your trail name will become JustTim. An alter ego is just something that comes with the role you take when you radically change your life for six months by hiking a trail over 2,200 miles long, or when you get on that stage and start stripping for money.

Angela brought me, as promised, to the grocery store and said she would wait for me until my shopping was done. Although she built up some trust with me up to that point, when she said that she would wait for me, it felt like one of those vague niceties of claiming “we should hangout sometime,” but never specific about it. However, after fifteen minutes of shopping the jet black Hummer was still parked out front. This hitchhike was becoming interesting.

When I got back into the car she gave me a piece of small memo paper with instructions to visit her and her husband at their vacation cabin in Eastport, Maine, in the second week of August after I finished up the trail. She then asked if there was anywhere else I needed to go. I milked that opportunity by having her bring me to the gas station for stove fuel, stopping at a deli for a sandwich that she highly recommended, pulling over so I could say hello to my hiking friends Moonpie and Doozy, and finally to the town park where public camping was permitted.

My first hitchhike was a success, maybe yours will be too.

Bard is my trail name, it’s a name on the Appalachian Trail that you either self-proclaim or is given to you by another hiker and there is no escaping this fate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student voices opinion on Budget Repair Bill

Dear Editor,
“Hands off my teachers” is a protest sign that I would gladly hold high... so long as it’s directed towards the unions. I’ve never bargained my own contract or fought to enforce good working conditions so it’s naïve of me to say, but I’d rather speak for myself - and so long as Governor Scott Walker’s bill doesn’t physically remove my vocal chords, I will have a voice.

I think it’s time that we come to terms with the reality of the modern union; it is not so much a noble, representative body of the workers as it is a third party separate from the workers with its own interests.

My opinion doesn’t really matter and I certainly can’t state my case in 300 words which is why I’d like to speak to the more pressing issue. There have been a lot of legitimate concerns that Walker and other legislators are not being democratic through all this. I absolutely agree, but hypocrisy in desperate times is not easily avoided. At the town hall meeting held this past Monday, February 14, one of the panel members stated that

discussions like this (the meeting) was what democracy was all about.

In a run-on description of Monday’s meeting, a democratic discussion is apparently when you have a panel of community members that either cannot or will not even consider the opposing side of an issue “moderated” by a similarly convicted teacher not afraid to advertise her own bias to a crowd eager to ask dead-end questions in order to receive mocking, sarcastically scathing, fallacious answers in order to initiate a rewarding and resounding applause so that everyone can feel good that other people think like they do.

Here’s what democracy looks like: The people cannot be ignored. Their arguments are credible, passionate, and based in logic. Listen, analyze, and open yourself to them, for a belief can only ever be shallow if you alone comprise it.

Jordan Harshman student

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

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David Recine/Student Voice

The Food Network provides life lessons



Elwood Brehmer

Catching a ride on the reality TV wave along with the Bachelors, the Survivors, and the Snookies has been the celebrity chef. Bobby Flay was an extraordinary chef, but not a famous one until Food Network unveiled “Iron Chef.” Until he won Food Network’s reality competition “The Next Food Network Star,” Guy Fieri was a nobody. Now he is hosting a game show endorsing everything from cookware to insurance, and he is also popping up on bland talk shows every other morning. My ultimate hope is that the celebrity chef will do for food what Guitar Hero did for older rock, introduce and excite a new generation to cooking as well as truly good food. I think it’s fair to say most collegiate freshman have had limited experience in food preparation, and those who have worked in the food service industry may have

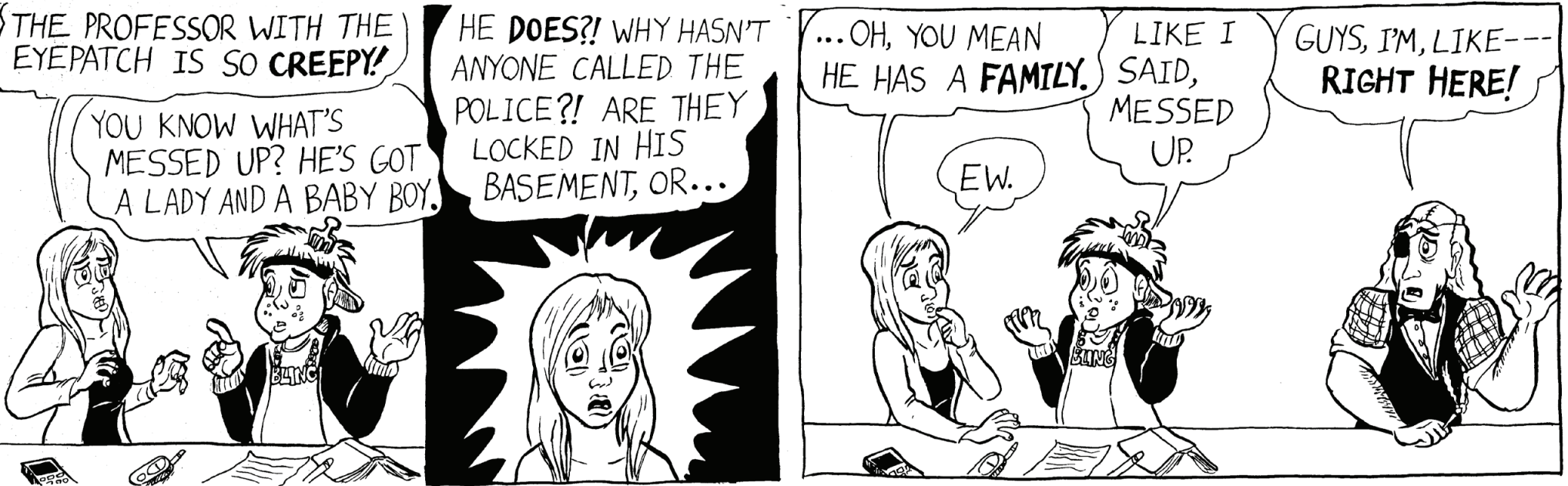
a jaded view of cooking. Learning the basics to a good meal goes a long way towards saving money, a healthy lifestyle and executing a good first date.

For those who have never thought about perfecting a fire-roasted garlic peppercorn sauce, much less picking up a wooden spoon, hear me out. Watch a few episodes of Fieri’s original show “Diners, Drive-ins and Dives.” Afterwards, if you’re not dead from the perceived boredom of a food show, watch a traditional food-prep show. It doesn’t matter which one; you’ll like and very quickly you will find innumerable similarities in the cooking of nearly all the dishes. Inspect the simple art of sautéed vegetables. Get a sharp knife and chop up an onion and a couple celery stalks. Throw them in a bit of hot oil, no need for olive or butter, and listen to them sizzle. If they start to blacken, turn down the heat. It’s simple. From here you can go anywhere. Sautéed vegetables are the bases of soups, stir-fries, even good sloppy joes and most likely the beginning of three quarters of the dishes

The beauty of cooking is that no matter how slick you are with a sauté pan or a paring knife, you will make mistakes.

you watch being prepared. If your onion and celery mixture burns, so what? Onions and celery are cheap and you’re learning. The beauty of cooking is that no matter how slick you are with a sauté pan or a paring knife, you will make mistakes. However, the more you cook the fewer mistakes you will make and the less drastic they will be. The learning experiences will be overshadowed by the superb dishes you create. Don’t worry about getting a perfect dice. Don’t worry if your gravy is a little lumpy. Are your potatoes a bit under-cooked? No big deal. I began college and my independent life not knowing much besides how to over-fry an egg. After a few years and learning experiences, cooking has gone from a nuisance to a hobby, and now is a passion for me. Even if you don’t get the same out of it as I have, you can certainly appreciate spending five bucks on a homemade spaghetti dinner for two. Oddly enough, your spaghetti is just as good as the one at any Italian joint for twice the price.

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.



David Recine/Student Voice

STUDENT VOICES

How did the recent snowstorm affect the start of your week?



Kyle Lechleitner, senior

“I got off work and I couldn’t park anywhere.”



Alyssa Jackson, sophomore

“It didn’t, because none of my classes were cancelled.”



Jami Weiss, freshman

“It was hard to get to class and hard to drive.”



Amy Hitner, junior

“It made me not want to do anything.”



Megan Rinke, junior

“None of my classes were cancelled, so I was bummed.”



Darielle Dahnke/Student Voice

Sarah Novak, junior

“It moved my test to Wednesday and 2 of my 3 classes were cancelled on Monday.”



Alex Radtke, junior

“Two of my classes were cancelled, but I still had Bio-Chem.”



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

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Rated: R
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Sat & Sun 2:00 pm

www.fallstheatre.com

The first person to report the find to editor@uwrvoice.com AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins.

Falcon hockey hits NCHA postseason play

Andy Moran
andrew.moran@uwrf.edu

The men’s and women’s hockey teams finished their regular seasons last weekend with sound victories, and now prepare for the postseason.

The women’s team enters the postseason with a flawless 20-0-3 overall record, and a 15-0-3 record in the NCHA.

Ranked number one in the nation by uscho.com, the Falcons carry a senior-heavy team into the first round of the NCHA tournament with

“In the playoffs, X’s and O’s don’t change very much,” Freeman said. “You pretty much stick with what you have been doing all year, now it becomes of a matter how much mistakes get magnified.”

one thing on their mind according to head coach Joe Cranston: a national championship.

“Our goal all year has been to play at the national level and get to the NCAA tournament,” Cranston said. “I think that we have done everything possible up to this point to give ourselves that chance.”

Coming off of a regional loss last year, a loss that denied the Falcons a birth into the Frozen Four, Cranston said that motivation could not be higher.

“I’m keeping the kids where they need to be,” Cranston said. “I have been working all year on not being distracted and not thinking that we are better than we actually are.”

Cranston stressed that entering the playoffs as the number one team in the nation while boasting an undefeated record at the same time will not distract the team from their goal.

“We are not going to be distracted by any of that stuff,” Cranston said. “Not a chance.”

Senior captain Jessica Thompson said that, distractions aside, the team still thinks about the disappointing end to a successful 2010 season.

“We feel a pressure on our shoulders, not doubt about it,” Thompson said. “But at the same time, we are doing our best to ignore all of the hype and just take each game as it comes.”

Thompson added that an extra motivation factor comes into play when she thinks about her career at UW-River Falls.

“Being that it is my last season as a senior, it would be amazing to end it on a high note,” Thompson said. “Hopefully we can pull something out here, we really think we can.”

The men’s team finished the regular season with a record of 11-12-2 overall, with a conference record at a lowly 7-10-1.

As the first round of the NCHA tournament approaches,



Sally King/Student Voice
The Falcons Justin Brossman (21) works his way through a defender to the puck during the Falcons recent 1-1 tie with UW-Stevens Point.

head coach Steve Freeman said that the regular season is in the past.

“Obviously everyone starts out 0-0 in the playoffs,” Freeman said. “It’s a fresh start and we feel like we have a pretty good draw to start out.”

The men traveled to UW-Stout and came away with a win in the mini game after splitting the first two games of the series.

The first round match-up with the Blue Devils, is a series that had Freeman intrigued given the season woe’s between the two teams.

“Over the years we have had a lot of success over at Stout,” Freeman said. “This year early on, we lost a couple of close games over there, and just a few weeks ago we beat them

when they came here.”

Freeman said that entering the postseason is a test of whether or not a team can stick to its regular season tactics.

“In the playoffs, Xs and Os don’t change very much,” Freeman said. “You pretty much stick with what you have been doing all year, now it becomes of a matter how much mistakes get magnified.”

The men enter the 2011 postseason after making a run all the way to the NCHA championship last year, a game that handed the team a tough loss to St. Norbert College.

The women begin the O’Brien Cup Playoffs Friday, Feb. 25,

The men will now travel for a game at St. Norberts 7 p.m. Saturday.

Columnist thinks Twins might actually compete with NY



Ashley Goettl

Up until this past weekend, spring was in the air. But as the world of Major League Baseball descends south, the countdown has begun for the boys of summer to return.

The Minnesota Twins head into Spring Training on a quest for their third straight American League Central Division crown. The pieces of the championship puzzle are there, but they key question surrounding the Twins is: how will these pieces fit together?

The first unknown surrounds All-Star and

2006 MVP Justin Morneau. Morneau has not seen action in the field since July 7 when he suffered a concussion against Toronto. While Michael Cuddyer did an admiral job filling in Morneau’s absence, the Twins suffered from lack of power and run production. Twins’ General Manager Bill Smith has high expectations that Morneau will be ready to play come Opening Day.

The second unknown encompasses second base. With the departure of veteran Orlando Hudson, the Twins will turn to Alexi Casilla or the new arrival of Tsuyoshi Nishioka from Japan. Nishioka comes to the Twins after a successful career in Japan where he won Gold Gloves at both second base and shortstop. He is also being compared to Japan’s version of Joe Mauer, as Nishioka was Japan’s batting champion in 2010. While American baseball is a whole other ballgame

than Japan’s, (no pun intended) the Twins scouting department is known to be one of the best in the business- they don’t just throw money at players unlike the Yankees. Look for Nishioka to be a demon on the base paths and a run-scoring machine with Mauer and Morneau hitting behind him in the line-up.

The pitching staff has always been a strength for the Twins, especially the bull pen. The departure of Matt Guerrier and Jesse Crain will certainly be missed, but the Twins have every reason to be excited with the return of All-Star closer Joe Nathan from Tommy John surgery as well as key set-up man Pat Neshek.

While there may be many unknowns surrounding the Twins season, I firmly believe that the Twins have every reason to be the favorite for the AL Central. But what may excite me the most, is that the Yankees are

in shambles with the loss of starting pitchers and an aging team. And as play-off history has shown, the Twins do fairly well when they are at home or playing a team other than the Yankees. And with the Twins, you can never count them out- and it sure would be fun to see baseball played at Target Field during the middle of October.

I may just be opptomistic when trying to convince myself that the Yankees will have a down year, but the Twins have put together a mighty impressive effort in years past, and may have solved the Yankee problem by either experience through Mauer and Morneau, speed in Denard Span and Nishioka, a solid bull pen, an ever stronger closer, and a pitching staff that continues to keep the Twins in contention.

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

WIAC men’s and women’s playoffs

Men’s Basketball

Semifinals

Thursday, Feb. 24

#5 Platteville @ **#2 River Falls**, 7 p.m.
#6 Superior @ #1 Stevens Point, 7 p.m.

*** Completed after paper went to print

Finals

Saturday, Feb. 26

Semifinal Winners @ Highest Seed, 3 p.m.

Women’s Basketball

Semifinals

Friday, Feb. 25

#3 La Crosse @ #2 Whitewater, 7 p.m.
#5 River Falls @ #1 Stevens Point, 7 p.m.

Finals

Sunday, Feb. 27

Semifinal Winners @ Highest Seed, 2 p.m.

* WIAC Winners recieve an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Sports Wrap

Falcon Women’s Basketball

The Falcons defeated UW-Eau Claire 66-44 Feb. 23 in the opening round of the WIAC Tournament. The win advanced River Falls to the WIAC semifinals on Feb. 25 at Stevens Point. The Falcons are now 16-10 on the season.

Falcon Men’s Basketball

Despite losing their last four regular season games the Falcons earned the #2 seed in the WIAC Tournament and recieved a first round bye. The Falcons hosted UW-Platteville Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. after this paper went to print. If the Falcons won the Feb. 24 game they advance to the WIAC Championship game which will be held at either UW-Stevens Point or River Falls depending the outcome of the other semifinal. The WIAC Championship game is scheduled for 3 p.m. Feb. 26.

Falcon Men’s Hockey

The Falcons upset the third seed UW-Stout in the quarterfinals of the NCHA Peters Cup Playoffs. Down one game to none, the Falcons fell behind early in game two 2-0. The Falcons scored twice in 28 seconds in the second period to tie the game at two. But a defensive miscue lead to a Blue Devils go ahead goal with one minute to go in the game. The Falcons again fought back to tie it at 3-3 with eight seconds to go on a goal by Josh Calleja. In overtime Sean Roadhouse buried the game winner to force mini-game. In the mini-game Martin Sundstedt and Justin Brossman scored, the later sealing the game with 45 seconds to play as the Falcons won 2-0. The Falcons travel to De Pere to face St. Norbert Feb. 26 in the Peters Cup semifinals. The Falcons have lost their last 10 games to the Green Knights, a streak that dates back to Dec. 2, 2006 when the Falcons won 3-2.

Falcon Women’s Hockey

The Falcons completed the regular season as the only undefeated team in the country with a 22-0-3 record. The Falcons have been on a tear over their last four games outscoring their opponents 34-2. River Falls opens the NCHA O’Brien Cup Playoffs with a two+mini-game series against St. Norbert Feb. 25-26.

St. Croix Valley Fusion

The Fusion won their Sectional 1 semifinal game Feb. 22 3-0 over the Chippewa Falls/Menomonie Co-op to advance to the section final. St. Croix Valley, the first seed in the section, will take on the second-seeded Hayward/Spooner Co-op Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Chippewa Area Ice Rink in Chippewa Falls. The Fusion are the two-time defending state champions in girl’s hockey.

Wildcat Boy’s Basketball

The Wildcats recieved the number two seed in Division 2 Section 1 and will open the post-season at home Friday, March 4 against the winner of Rice Lake/Ashland.

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Film has little to offer aside from occasional tawdry laugh



Elliot John Novak

Adam Sandler floods the market with his craftful jokes, diluting the movie to the “cheap mental vacation” category on the outermost fringes of good films. If you live in the Cities where films cost \$10, maybe you should just go bowling.

Sandler’s character takes on the same persona as in Spanglish; so if you like him as the big-hearted wise cracking every-guy you will enjoy him in this film.

Jennifer Aniston plays a single mother and Sandler’s secretary. When middle aged Sandler falls for a twenty something blonde, Aniston and her kids get caught up in a big game of deceit to explain Sandler’s fake wedding ring.

When the web of lies grows as shamelessly, as each character’s hidden shame, the story collapses under its own weight. The comedic exploitation of the situation where no one wants to fess up is skillful in a very one dimensional

This film isn’t going to win any Oscars; it’s more of a feel-good thing.

way.

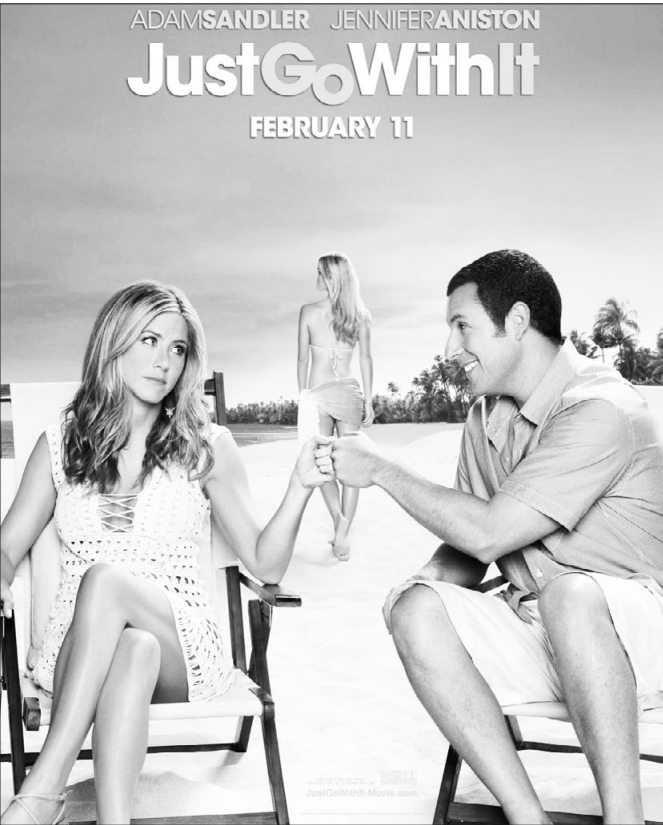
The preteen audience gets their fair share of humor; making this film family friendly did not mean removal of constant sexual material, but rather the insertion of G-rated children with bad attitudes.

The main plot device was suspension of disbelief. That is when a film writer is “asking” the audience to not let the impossibility of a movie bother them while they are viewing it. It is arguably common to every movie, however, “Just Go With It” takes ridiculousness a little too far.

This film isn’t going to win any Oscars; it’s more of a feel-good thing. To be fair, the theater was sold-out and the audience that came out for “Just Go With It” readily offered up laughs to most jokes. In fact, all of the show times Saturday were playing “Just Go With It,” so it must be doing something right.

While I would never take a date to this movie (my girlfriend would kill me, both if I took her or anyone for that matter), I hope you can decide for yourself after reading this review. Just remember to put jackets down on all of your reserved seats (I feel sorry for the person who I noticed sitting on the floor halfway through).

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.



Daft Punk’s newest album manifests an aptitude for music



Rylen Klierer

A name synonymous with electronic music, Daft Punk has yet again proven their superiority with their release of the Tron Soundtrack. With Tron being a Disney movie, normally I would be quite apprehensive towards jumping on board with it, let alone a Disney soundtrack. Yet after one glance at noticing Daft Punk got the score, no questions were left in my mind; I decided I must hear this soundtrack.

It seemed destined that this soundtrack was made for Daft Punk, as their sound, image, and personas all matched the film perfectly.

Being kings of the electronic music industry for years, the French duo has consistently set the industry standard for dance/electronic music, and offers live shows so exciting even if those fans entirely closed off towards dance music would find themselves in a musical wonderland. You simply don’t find light shows, energetically eager fans, or let alone music like this, anywhere. Period.

For those of you readers unaware of the French duo, you may find it rather odd to know that they dress up as full out robots when in public. This at first was simply to remain anonymous to the general public and maintain their mysterious personas, but it’s grown into their musical identity. It almost seems that they established a theme in the DJ culture to have a costume of some sort to help add to your status and persona amongst the community and music industry.

Deadmau5, Daft Punk, The Bloody Beetroots all exemplify

With such amazing teams of Disney and Daft Punk coming together for this musical score, it’s truly hard to imagine anything less than a masterpiece.

this ideology, and have one hell of a dedicated fan base in some degree due to this. Besides, adding the aspect of mysteriousness to a show it can only help to mystify an audience.

Back in the 80’s, the original Tron had been released with a relatively mediocre response, being far ahead of its time and audience. But now being released again with a refreshed vigor amongst it, and a great soundtrack, success was the only viable option for this remake.

As mentioned before, Daft Punk ultimately could not have been a better option for this album. Electronic music artists that dress up as robots? And mix the best material in the industry, HELL YES! Disney has struck gold here! The albums mixes Daft Punk’s unique styles with a surprisingly awesome Disney flick.

The Tron soundtrack seems as if it could be borderline iffy, as any movie soundtrack runs that possibility. Yet, despite a relatively new chill relaxed sound on this album, track after track Daft Punk reassures listener’s that this isn’t just any soundtrack.

Highlights on the album include “Derezzed,” “The Son of Flynn,” “End of the Line,” and despite not being on the album, an amazingly special unreleased track simply known as “Fragile.” For any Daft Punk fans out there, make sure to check it out. Both “Derezzed” and “End of the Line” offer glimpses inside the “robot world” and flow perfectly within the album sounding rather mechanized. Whereas, both of the songs “The Son of Flynn” and “Fragile” bring resonating melodic harmonies equating to a heavenly bliss to the listener.

With such amazing teams of Disney and Daft Punk coming together for this musical score, it’s truly hard to imagine anything less than a masterpiece. Disney has reassured my faith in their films yet again, and Daft Punk has left me anxiously wanting to hear more of their albums.

Besides that, I’m pretty sure if you looked up the word “cool” in any dictionary, there would only be a picture of Daft Punk as the definition. These guys are the epitome of cool, and not to mention musical geniuses of our generation.

Regardless, they have proven themselves again, and it begs the question, “How are they capable of doing this time and time again?” For the time being, who cares? Enjoy the brilliance of Daft Punk while you can and keep on dancing!

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



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Repair bill triggers concern regarding retirement

Jordan Langer
jordan.langer@uwrf.edu

Since Gov. Scott Walker’s budget repair bill was announced Feb. 11, several UW-River Falls classified staff are questioning whether they should retire this year, said Director of Human Resources Donna Robole.

Classified staff are employees who are not considered faculty or academic staff and who provide support to the university. Classified staff are comprised of administrative support staff, maintenance and grounds staff, custodians, information technology staff, financial specialists, purchasing, payroll and supervisors.

The primary reason why some classified staff in particular are thinking about retiring is they are worried that the sick leave hours that have accumulated over the years may be taken away from them, Robole said.

Employees who have worked for at least 15 years of continuous state service earn sick leave credits through the Supplemental Health Insurance Conversion Credit (SHICC) program. The accumulated sick leave is multiplied by the employee’s highest basic pay rate and converted to credits that help pay for health insurance during retirement.

Most of the staff and faculty who retire still have a couple of years before Medicare kicks in so the credits help bridge that gap, Robole said.

The budget repair bill states that the secretary of administration, the director of the Office of State Employee Relations and the secretary of employee trust funds will evaluate the SHICC and make modifications and recommendations to the governor no later than June 30, 2012.

According to a document that UW System sent to all employees explaining the implications of the budget repair bill on benefits, changes to the SHICC program before June 30 of

this year are not anticipated. However, the document states it is unknown if there will be any changes to the program after June 30 either through the 2011-13 budget bill or through any other means.

This has led several UWRF staff to speculate and anticipate changes that may occur to their retirement benefits.

UWRF custodian Brad Bergeron has worked for the university for more than 30 years and is strongly considering retirement because he said he doesn’t want to lose more than 2,740 sick leave hours. Translated into a dollar amount he said he has between \$50,000 to \$60,000 in credits.

Kathy Svoboda, program assistant in the College of Arts and Sciences Deans Office has worked at UWRF for 25 years and said she is also thinking about retiring. She has a meeting with Deb Koehler in Human Resources next week to look over her retirement benefits. Koehler, who retired in December, has been hired back as a limited term employee, and has had 12 people make appointments with her so far.

Sherry Reis, program assistant in the Mathematics Department has worked at UWRF for 34 years and said she is also thinking about retiring. Like Svoboda and Bergeron, she is worried and stressed out about losing her retirement benefits.

“Everything I worked for might go down the tubes,” Reis said.

Reis said she was planning on working another year but may be forced to retire in four months.

“I have too much to lose, said Reis. Never in a million years did I think I would end my working career at the hand

of someone else.”

Biology professor E. Katherine Miller has worked for UWRF for 18 years and said she will be retiring at the end of the next school year. She said she is tired of working for a state that continually disrespects the work she does.

Even though the UW System stated that it doesn’t perceive threats to staff benefits before June 30, the union that represents many of the staff at UWRF and other UW schools, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, will be null and void by March 13, said Director of Human Resources at UW-Eau Claire Donna Weber.

The SHICC program is not authorized by state statute and is provided for in the compensation plan and collective bargaining agreements, according to a UW System document.

Weber said that she has seen a huge number of people inquiring about their retirement package in the last week. Nine classified employees are retiring and will work their last day March 11, Weber said. They are all retiring because of the fear of losing their

benefits, Weber added.

Currently only one unclassified employee is retiring because of the repair bill, Weber said.

Robole said she is worried about the anxiety that staff and faculty may be internalizing. The threat to their retirement is something that is out of their control and is not about performance and the staff members who decide to retire in the coming weeks and month are doing it for peace of mind, Robole said.

The threat to their retirement is something that is out of their control and is not about performance and the staff members that decide to retire in the coming weeks are doing it for peace of mind.

Black History Month in action at UW-River Falls



Sarah Hellier/Student Voice

Nikki Shonoiki, left, serves food to Phuong Le at the Soul Food Dinner Feb. 23 at the Journey House. The dinner was part of UWRF’s activities to celebrate Black History Month.



Sarah Hellier/Student Voice

Speakers gather for the Civil Rights Reflection Panel Feb. 22 in the Kinnikinnick Theatre. The speakers include (from left): Nekima Levi-Pounds, director of the Community Justice Project, Duchess Harris, author of Black Feminist Politics from Kennedy to Clinton, and Jeffrey D. Martin, president of the St. Paul NAACP.



Sarah Hellier/Student Voice

Jeffrey D. Martin, president of the St. Paul NAACP, speaks at the Local Leaders Reflect on Civil Rights, part of the UWRF activities for Black History Month.