

Debate introduces candidates to students

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The three candidates running for UW-River Falls Student Senate president participated in a presidential debate on Monday, April 1, to gain votes for the primary election being held on April 8 and 9.

The debate was held at 7 p.m. in the Falcon’s Nest in the University Center following a meet and greet that was held at 6 p.m. where the UWRF community could speak with presidential candidates Sam Tauchen, Dominic Riel and Riley Haynes, along with other Senate candidates about their plans if they were to get elected into office.

“We had a great turnout, a lot of people came early and stayed through the debate,” said Elections Commissioner Hannah Carlson.

Carlson said she had never coordinated an event like this before and said it was a challenge but she enjoyed it. Figuring out how to get catering for the event, reservations, advertising and planning the questions that would be asked are just a few of the things she had to do to prepare.

“I did not give them [candidates] the questions in advance,” said Carlson.

Carlson explained that she created the questions by asking what the concerns are from her friends, other Senate members, current Senate President Bobbi O’Brien, and herself. She said the tuition questions that were asked were primarily ones that she was curious about because she feels that it is an important

issue among students due to the current economy and other life events.

“I think they did a great job of formulating some questions that were really relevant to the position of president and kind of what we are going to be doing next year, and issues that are really relevant to the students and the school as a whole,” said Haynes.

President O’Brien moderated the debate and asked the candidates five questions. She first asked the candidates to explain what qualities they think they possess that will make them a good president.

Carlson turned it over to the audience shortly thereafter so that they could ask their questions. Then each candidate was allowed one minute to explain why the UWRF community should vote for them.

“This campus has been a part of my life be-



Student Senate President Bobbi O’Brien (left) moderates a debate between the three candidates vying for the position of Senate president. Candidates Riley Haynes (middle) and Sam Tauchen (right) answer questions asked of them by O’Brien. Candidate Dominic Riel waits for his turn to answer the question while seated behind the podiums. The primary election begins at 8 a.m. on April 8, and ends at 12 p.m. on April 9.

fore I even knew it was part of my life,” said Tauchen. “My grandpa met my grandma here on this campus and he graduated with an ag. ed. degree, which I am very proud that I, too am going to be graduating with an ag. ed. degree,” Tauchen said.

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Active Minds strives to improve mental health

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Over 1,100 college students across the nation will die each year as a result of suicide, according to Active Minds, a national nonprofit organization that raises awareness of mental health issues among college students.



Briana Miranda and Jessica Banitt table for Active Minds, a student organization on campus that seeks to improve Mental Health.

UW-River Falls has not been immune to this number, as at least three students have died from suicide since the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year.

This is in addition to the approximately 130 UWRF students have attempted suicide one or more times during the last 12 months, according to the 2012 American College Health Association National College Health Assessment. In the assessment, it said that approximately 2 percent of UWRF students had attempted suicide one or more times while 42.5 percent, or a little more than 2,700 students felt things were hopeless.

While there is not a single reason why suicides happen, the UWRF Active Minds chapter is seeking to combat the stereotypes surrounding suicide and mental illness through an interactive and national event involving students, staff and faculty during April.

The event, titled UWRF Secrets, asks participants to share their stories of how they have been hurt by a mental illness or by something causing them stress. The group will hand out notecards with a booth in the University Center and all the dorms for people to drop off the notecards.

“The goal would be that if people see what others are going through by sharing their stories that people will then see they are not alone and they can get the help they need,” said David Romano, UWRF’s Active Minds’ president. “We hope this will create a feeling of unity as people see that other people are going through the same thing.”

On the notecards will be stapled ways to get help, such as through UWRF’s counseling services located in Hagestad Hall. A board with these notecards will be shown April 8, 9, 11 and 12 as part of a national event with Active Minds with both a student and faculty side.

Romano was the founder of the UWRF Active Minds chapter that started last spring. Currently, more than 120 people are on the group’s email list. During the meetings the group finds ways to create a positive environment, eliminate stigmas and educate people on mental health.

“We believe that if we put ourselves out there and are willing to talk about it, then we can change the conversation and what people think differently about mental health,” Romano said. “It has been really frequent on our campus, and our chapter has taken the responsibility to change that because that number (of suicides) needs to be zero,” Romano said. “Mental health just as important as physical health.”

The biggest stigma on college campuses, Romano said, is fear of getting help.

“They think it’s a weakness and that they have to be ashamed of it,” Romano said. “But it’s an injury, just like any physical injury.”

See Mental Health page 3

Twelve organizations receive no funding from AFAB

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Of the 68 UW-River Falls organizations that requested money from the Allocable Fees Appropriation Board (AFAB) this coming year, 12 of them did not receive any.

The AFAB chair, Kayla Edstrom, said that the reason different groups did not get money was because, “we don’t have the money to give to those groups.”

These groups include: Accounting Society, National Association for Music Education-Collegiate Chapter, Crop and Soil Club, Health and Physical Education Club, Math Club, National Band Association, Muggles United, Pre- Health, Pre-Pharmacy, Resource Management Club and UWRF Geology Society.

AFAB determines what groups get what amounts of money by having the board look at the proposed budgets with viewpoint neutrality and an open mind to what would best benefit students at UWRF. The

source of this money they divide up each year is the fee students pay each semester with their tuition.

Edstrom said viewpoint neutrality means that her board has to “look at the organization as a single unit, and we cannot compare it to any other organization or compare it to itself in prior years. So we have to look at that organization in that instant.”

She admitted that this was sometimes difficult.

“It’s really hard to not think of the organization because you see them around campus,” she said.

Another aspect that the board looks at is how the money being applied to each group will impact the community of students that the money is taken from. Edstrom said more community focused, social proposals will be favored over proposals that will benefit a few students.

Even though board members try to keep an objective standpoint and try to evaluate what would be most beneficial to the student body as a

whole, not receiving money in this process does impact clubs.

Catherine Queiser is the Minister of Magic, also known as president, of the Muggles United club on campus.

This is its first year as an “up and running” club and its first time asking for money from AFAB, Queiser said.

The club wanted to apply the event money to different activities like Wizard’s Chess, a Yule Ball, a Tri-wizard Tournament and a movie night.

“For a lot of them, we were trying to put them as charity events,” she said describing how Muggles United wanted to incorporate a book drive in with Wizard’s Chess and a toy drive potentially with the Yule Ball.

Since it did not receive funds to support these ideas, Queiser said it will continue its bake sales to support Wizard’s Chess, and apply for a budget again next year.

“Maybe someday we’ll end up

with a budget,” she laughed.

Another group that did not receive funding was the Resource Management Club, lead by President Danielle Peterson.

“It would have been helpful to get [a budget] just because we’ve been trying to start a firefighter crew,” she said.

This would be a chance for students to attend a class three hours away in Stevens Point that would train them how to fight fires in different wilderness environments, a job that is in high demand right now, Peterson said.

“River Falls is actually known as the third school for conservation so it’s a pretty big thing for students who are conservation majors,” she said. “It’s extremely important that we get our students out and about getting the experience they need.”

She said the club helps students build their skills, allows for them to make professional connections and makes it easier for them to attend classes like the one in Stevens Point with people they know.

Now if students choose to take that class in Stevens Point, they will be responsible for gas cost to get there, food, board and their \$100 plus registration fee, said Peterson. If its budget had been supported by AFAB, it would have alleviated some of that cost.

“Money is a huge thing and that’s why I understand why budgets got cut this year, but it hurts everybody’s pocket,” Peterson said.

When the budget season started, Paul Shepherd, the director of Student Life and a faculty advisor for AFAB, predicted the upcoming cuts when he said, “more orgs know about it [AFAB] which is good, but it’s difficult.”

Edstrom said the budget that AFAB has made will go before Student Senate to be approved during its weekly meeting at 7 p.m. on April 9, in the Willow River Room in the University Center.

News briefs

Public invited to “Give a Puppet a Hand” work sessions

The public is invited to join in “Give a Puppet a Hand” work sessions for the upcoming “Ancient Wings: A Crane’s Story” play featuring puppetry, dance and scenic projections to be performed in late April/early May at UW-River Falls. The work sessions are set from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, and from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday, April 7.

R.S.V.P. to robin.e.murray@uwrf.edu for the location of the sessions if you plan to attend.

Designers and crew will be adding wing decorations, making origami cranes, creating other creatures, decorating dancer hats and constructing flat cardboard puppets during the work sessions. Anyone age six and up is invited to come help out. Elementary age children must be accompanied by an adult. Come to either or both work sessions.

“Ancient Wings: A Crane’s Story,” will be performed by the University Theatre at 7:30 p.m. on April 25-27 and May 2-4 in the Blanche David Theatre in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building on campus. There will be an afternoon performance at 3 p.m. on April 27.

Admission is \$10/adult, \$8/seniors, and \$5/students and children. The original script was conceived by UWRF theatre professor Robin Murray and developed collaboratively with students, citizens and faculty from all over the St. Croix Valley watershed.

The story follows the parallel lives of a young girl, her grandmother and a Sandhill Crane. Puppets of multiple scale and type, along with dancers help tell their stories.

Rod Nilsestuen Legacy Event addresses sustainable land use

UW-River Falls will host the Rod Nilsestuen Legacy Event on Friday, April 5, featuring a keynote address by Jonathon Scholl, president of American Farmland Trust, on the best uses for rural land and water resources in the 21st Century. The address will begin at 1 p.m. in the Kinnickinnic Theater in the University Center. The presentation is free and open to the public.

As the world’s population continues to grow at a startling rate, the question of how we will feed the world is significant. The availability of natural resources to meet the needs of the heightened level of agricultural production is a challenge, and competing claims for those resources are contested. Therefore, the allocation of natural resources is a topic of increasing importance, according to the press release issued on the event.

Nilsestuen, who earned his undergraduate degree at UWRF, was the Wisconsin Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection at the time of his death in July 2010. He is remembered as a proud steward of sustainable agriculture and

a leader in the national cooperative movement who strove to balance the needs of sustainable land use with the maximization of agricultural production. The inaugural Rod Nilsestuen Legacy Event, “Feeding the World, Sustaining the Land, Inspiring Cooperative Action,” was held in March 2012.

The Rod Nilsestuen Fund was established by friends, family, and colleagues, and several land conservation and cooperative organizations, and is part of the Ralph K. Morris Foundation, an organization that shares Nilsestuen’s dedication to cooperatives and leadership development.

For more information, contact Jim White, assistant professor of Agricultural Economics, at james.white@uwrf.edu.

History and Philosophy Department to host spring banquet with speaker addressing ancient Greece

The History and Philosophy Department at UW-River Falls invites the public to its annual spring banquet beginning with appetizers and a cash bar at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, April 26, in the Riverview Ballroom, University Center.

Dinner and a program begin at 6:30 p.m. with the keynote address, “Being a Good Shepherd: Athens, Eleusis, Delphi and the Environmental Politics of Ancient Greece,” by Tim Howe, Ph.D., professor of history at St. Olaf College.

Paid reservations must be received by Friday, April 19, to join faculty, alumni, students and friends at the banquet. Cost is \$26 for the public and \$15 for UWRF students which includes door prizes and a signature buffet of roast beef, herbed salmon, roasted parsley potatoes, long grain and wild rice, fresh zucchini with garlic and basil, gourmet field greens salad, artisan rolls and tiramisu.

To reserve your seat, mail a check, payable to “UWRF Foundation” to Sue Voelker, History Department, UW-River Falls, 410 S. 3rd St., River Falls, WI 54022. For more information, call 715-425-3164.

UWRF hosts public astronomy talk, observatory viewing April 16

The UW-River Falls Physics Department is hosting its last free, public observatory viewing and astronomy talk of the semester on Tuesday, April 16. At 8 p.m., Physics Professor Eileen Korenic will present a talk, “Gas Giant 5: The Solar System’s Lost Planet,” in Room 271 of the Centennial Science Hall and then at 8:30 p.m. telescope viewing (waxing crescent moon) is available on the third floor observatory deck.

All observatory viewings are dependent on a clear sky. Call 715-425-3560 after 6 p.m. or visit www.uwrf.edu/PHYS/Schedule.cfm and click on “observatory” to verify that the sky is clear enough for viewing. The talk will go on as scheduled regardless of the weather.

A Physics Department faculty member and/or student will staff each telescope and be available to answer questions at each telescope session. Observers are encouraged to stay and look at as many elements as possible and feel free to request

personal observing targets. Objects seen in the telescopes may include planets, globular clusters, open clusters, nebulae, galaxies, moons, and double stars.

Since the dome is unheated and the observation deck is outside open to the elements, visitors are advised to dress appropriately for the weather. The viewings and talks are suitable for all ages.

For more information, contact the UWRF Physics Department at 715-425-3560.

Registration now open for 2013 Youth Horsemanship Academy

The UW-River Falls Falcon Youth Horsemanship Academy, under the direction of Associate Professor Kris Hiney is hosting summer day camps for youth ages seven to 18 at the UWRF Campus Farm.

From June to August, participants can choose from eight week-long camps held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Beginner, intermediate and advanced level camps are offered.

Get Ready, Get Set, Show! is an additional three-day camp available only June 24-26 focused on preparing youth for success in the show ring.

All camps are taught by experienced UWRF faculty and staff.

Daily instruction, a lab book, camp t-shirt, and the use of Western tack and a horse for the duration of the camp are included in the cost. Students are allowed to bring their own horse if granted prior approval. Youth participants are required to provide their own lunch and water. Facilities include an 85’ x 180’ heated indoor arena, heated 50 stall young horse training barn, and outdoor rodeo arena.

The primary goal of the Falcon Youth Horsemanship Academy is to emphasize control, softness, and response of the horse to basic aids, increase communication and trust between the horse and youth, and to develop youth not only as riders but as knowledgeable caretakers of horses.

The equine emphasis program is part of the animal science major in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences and is one of the strongest equine programs in the nation.

Students in the equine emphasis program choose from three plans, depending on their chosen career path, including science, management, and minor options.

The deadline for registration and fees is Wednesday, May 29. For details and to register, visit falconyouthhorsemanshipacademy.wordpress.com.

For questions, email kristina.hiney@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-3704.

CBE names Daniel L. Florness Executive-in-Residence at UWRF



Photo by University Communications

Daniel L. Florness, chief financial officer and executive vice president of Fastenal, Winona, Minn., has been named the Spring 2013 Executive-in-Residence by the College of Business and Economics (CBE) at UW-River Falls.

Florness will deliver a lecture, “Surround Yourself With the Best,” from 2-3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, in the Riverview Ballroom, University Center.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Florness joined Fastenal as CFO in 1996 after 10 years at KPMG, LLP, and the results of his

financial stewardship have been extraordinary enough to place him among the top 10 in The Wall Street Journal’s “best CFOs” list in 2012 of executives who both run top-performing finance operations and take a lead role in setting strategy at their companies.

Under his leadership, Fastenal’s earnings growth consistently surpasses sales growth and the company targets 51 to 53 percent gross margin.

“We are privileged to have Dan Florness on campus this spring,” said Glenn Potts, dean of the College of Business and Economics.

“Not only was he ranked nationally as one of the best by The Wall Street Journal, Florness was chosen the CFO of the Year for Public Companies by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal. The message he will deliver to campus comes from a very successful career that started at UWRF.”

A native of Ellsworth, Wis., Florness graduated from UWRF with a degree in accounting, and recently accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the CBE Business Advisory Board.

Florness is the 21st executive to bring his observations and experience to the UWRF campus since the Executive-in-Residence program was initiated in 2003.

The program is sponsored by the UWRF College of Business and Economics and WESTconsin Credit Union.

For more information, call Audrey Ternes at 715-425-3335 or email audrey.ternes@uwrf.edu.

Submitted by University Communications

Check out the Student Voice online at uwrfvoice.com

Follow the STUDENT VOICE on twitter at [uwrfvoice](https://twitter.com/uwrfvoice)

The Student Voice is hiring for all positions next semester.

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Circulation Manager

Applications are now available outside 304 North Hall. Applications for editor and assistant editor are due April 16. Interviews for editor and assistant editor will be April 17 at 8 p.m.

From page 1

He described how he is chair of the Facilities and Fees Board as well as working with the chancellor and provost. Riel also wants to continue

All three candidates thought the debate went well and although they were not informed of the questions that would be asked ahead of time, they all said they remained honest

Tauchen encourages voters to look at his campaign website sam-
tony.com which he and his running
mate Tony Sumnicht have been
working on since Thanksgiving.

"The biggest thing for my campaign is I really want to actually meet with students and see them face to face," Riel said. "I want to make sure that the students that are voting and the students that vote for

All students will receive an email on Monday, April 8 with a link to follow for voting in the primary election. Students are allowed to vote only once.

From page 1

“It’s an age group that might be going through difficult times such as moving away from families and with academics becoming more rigor-

For more information on mental illness, resources are available at Student Health and Counseling Services located at 211 Hagestad Hall or by calling 715-425-3884.

- 18 percent had received psychological or mental health services at UWRF
- 22 percent have been diagnosed with depression
- 22.6 percent of those diagnosed with depression are in therapy
- 35.8 percent of those diagnosed with depression are taking antidepressant medication

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Vote Dominic Riel for Student Senate president

On April 8 and 9 students will have a decision to make on who leads the student body next year. Each student will be sent an email with a choice on who they would like to be the Student Senate president.

In the last several Senate elections, approximately 10 percent of the student population has voted. That is giving a lot a power to a few number of students.

Given that there is no traveling, multiple days to vote, and can be done via email (that all students have), there really should be no reason why students do not vote on a position that will directly affect every single student.

Given the magnitude, responsibility and job the president has, we feel that students should not take this vote lightly.

One argument for not voting is that students do not feel they know the candidates. We understand this completely and commend the Senate for holding a debate to introduce these candidates to the students.

However, since many students did not attend the debate, the Voice would like to share our reasons for supporting a specific candidate.

We strongly urge every student to support Dominic Riel as the next Senate president.

Riel has demonstrated poise and leadership as the current Facilities and Fees chair on this year’s Senate.

This was no easy task as Riel had to coordinate, work and meet with over 15 different committees across campus and come up with a reasonable budget in order for those committees to function.

This experience, we believe, gives Riel the edge over the other candidates as the president will have to work with a wide-range of interests and groups.

Riel possesses the qualities one would desire in a president. During every Senate meeting he is composed, offers insightful thoughts and always makes the decisions by keeping the students in mind. His presence commands respect.

However, whomever is president, we issue this dire request: clean up the AFAB funding process and eliminate the waste in student organizations’ budget. Let the money be spent or find ways to make it spent more efficiently.

Every year, including this one, the candidates talk about how they want to make Senate more visible. However, we find no evidence of this as only 10 percent of the student populations has engaged in voting for this important position.

Reach out to students and let them know that their voices will be heard and that the Senate is looking out for their best interests.

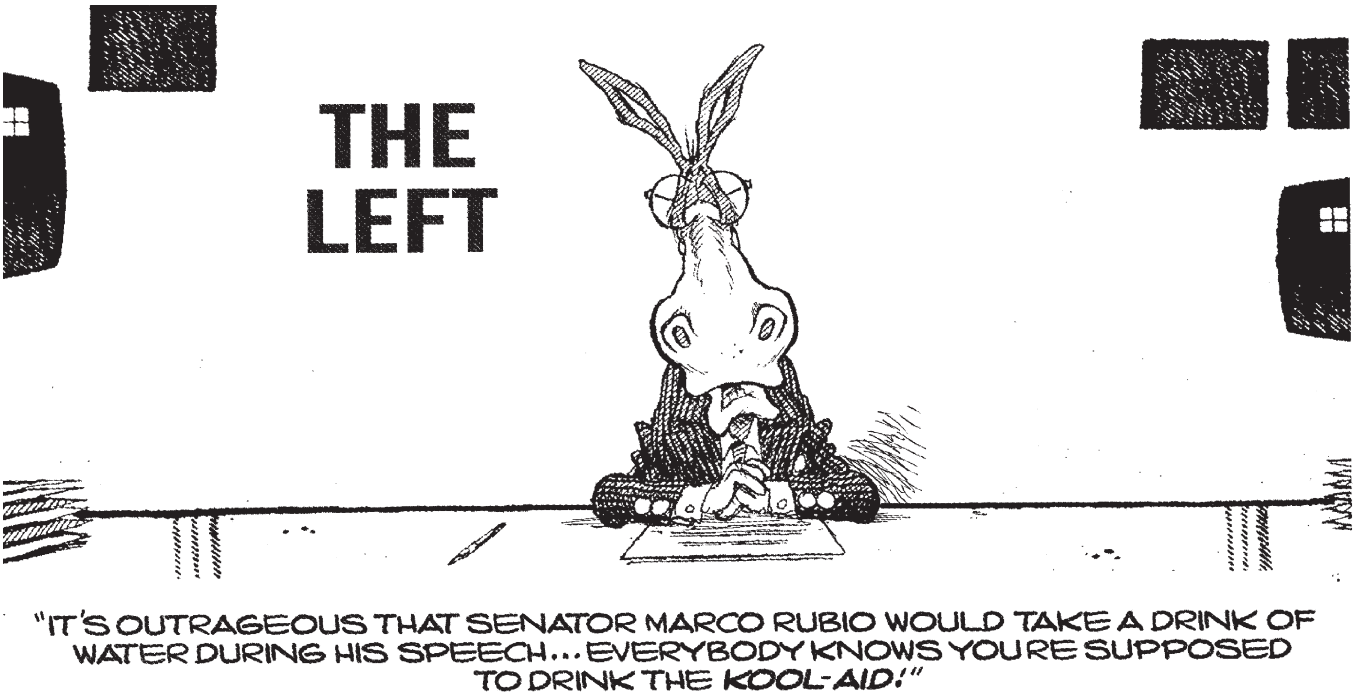
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USBICEF College Cartoons

Free speech can harm UWRF community

Maggie Clark and Shelby King
Guest Columnists

Almost a decade has passed since our journey at UW-River Falls first began. This campus and community have been near and dear to our hearts since we took our first steps on campus as undergraduates in 2003. In the past 10 years (wow, that makes us feel old), our lives have changed in some pretty significant ways – more than we could have ever imagined. At UWRF we discovered who we were, recognized our potential, met our best friends and made memories that will last a lifetime (good ones and not-so-good ones).

Our beliefs and values were challenged and re-affirmed, we found love and fell in and out of it, our hearts were broken and we may have broken a few along the way, too.

While attending UWRF we realized that our parents know more, and are a lot cooler, than we ever gave them credit for, and we realized our dreams, passions and goals and became comfortable knowing that they may continue change over time.

We chose to attend UWRF, like many of you, because of the way we felt when we first visited campus. It was a welcoming place, people were friendly, and something about UWRF just felt right. UWRF gave us so much as undergraduates that we choose to give back to this campus community as professional staff today.

As coordinators in the Department of New Student and Family Programs, we have the privilege of welcoming all new

students to the Falcon Family, helping them to become confident in their decision to attend UWRF. We are committed to providing new students with the information, resources and support that is needed during the transition to and through the college experience.

We do our best to challenge and support new students as they engage in UWRF’s intellectual, cultural and social climate. Along with many faculty and staff on campus, we put in hundreds of hours each month (and what feels like thousands of hours in August and September) to create a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment for students to learn and grow.

So let’s talk social media. We understand that Facebook is a social networking site. We know it’s where you stay connected with friends and be you. We respect that; we use it for the same reasons.

However, we’ve begun to wonder if you understand the impact of you are having on our community with your anonymous posts that are ‘just a joke’ on UW-River Falls Confessions, your Homecoming t-shirt slogans, etc. You seem to be OK with dividing the community we take pride in and work so hard to build, and we just don’t get it.

What are you trying to achieve by posting hurtful, hateful messages anonymously online? Do you consider how you might be isolating people or invalidating their experiences? Have you ever stopped to think that the person or people you are tearing down are someone’s sister, brother, daughter, son or friend? At the very least, do you realize how poorly you are representing yourself? By choosing to attend UWRF you are part of our community, right? If

that’s true, then what role are you currently playing in our community?

Talk may be cheap, but silence is unaffordable. And we cannot and will not remain silent. What you post online or wear around campus may be free speech, but as former students and current professional staff members, we don’t agree with it.

Let us be clear, we want you to have fun in college, laugh, joke, learn, grow, and make memories and mistakes. Doing these things however, should not come at the cost of our community or someone else’s identity.

In no way are we trying to attack who you are as a person, but if you’re willing to listen, we want you to know how your posts and slogans are impacting us and most likely many of your peers.

As a community, shouldn’t we be building each other up instead of breaking one another down? Life is hard enough as it is. If we are all products of our own experiences and the experience is our product, what are you doing (or not doing) to influence that experience?

We understand that the individuals we really hope read this letter probably won’t, so we challenge you to find your voice and be the change. We want you to have the same, life changing, challenging, incredible, transformative experience we did as undergraduates at UWRF but that experience is dependent on our community and the ways in which we support and encourage one another. So, what will it be? The choice is yours; your community depends on you.

Maggie Clark and Shelby King are coordinators in the Department of New Student and Family Programs.

Trip to Milwaukee emphasizes problem of social injustice

Ryan Tibbitts
Columnist

We live on a campus here at UW-River Falls that is predominantly white. In fact, 91 percent of the students here are white, according to numbers.

I grew up in a town that was almost all white, and grew up in a school where every student was white. I am now here in River Falls where the situation is about the same and I think a lot of people at school here have grown up with a similar experience as I have. This makes it easy to turn a blind eye to the social injustice that still takes place in our society today.

This semester my eyes started to open up to this problem in my journalism class: Race, Class, and News. The classroom can only show this problem so much, and the impact that has really made my heart heavy on this issue is a trip I took to Milwaukee over spring break with two other UWRF students.

The trip was through the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship chapter here on campus. On the trip, I had the privilege to attend a predominantly African American gospel church that welcomed all of us college students with open hearts.

I had the opportunity work at a youth outreach center that provides two meals a day to anyone who comes in, hosts a clothes drive, has programs for 18-35 adults and helps them to write resumes and learn how to find a job, and just provide a safe place for youth to be able to go to throughout the day.

I also learned about how Milwaukee is one of the most segregated areas in the country, and was able to walk through neighborhoods and live right in the middle of all the brokenness that the city of Milwaukee is facing.

One big fact that stuck out to me was that more African Americans in Milwaukee will go to jail at some point in their life than go to college. Where I grow up, I was never asked

if I was going to go to college it was always “where are you going to go to college?” I think that is the case for most of us at UWRF.

It was a shocking realization to see the pain and suffering many people are facing in Milwaukee. A city that is in the same state I grew up in, but have never taken the time to know what is going on there. It was even more uneasy to hear that there is social injustice happening right here on the campus that I have come to love.


After talking to Diana Hendrickson, a student here at UWRF who grew up in Peru and leads an international student Bible study for Intervarsity, it was easy to see many of the international students here do not feel welcomed. She believes that people are uneasy about talking to international students and say they do not know what to talk about with them. Hendrickson pointed out that for her and many other international students, when they come here they literally do not know anyone. If somebody comes up and talks to them they will be overjoyed by the kindness and be glad to talk with them. I cannot think of many things more nerve racking or scary than starting college or traveling to a new country and the international students that come here are combining them both.

Social injustice is an issue that has been going on in our country and world forever. The system we live in is a broken one and it is a problem bigger than any one person can fix.

Imagine if we all decided to make a difference. I urge everyone at the very least to step outside of your comfort zone here at a place where we are all fortunate to further our education. Step outside of the inclusive 91 percent white campus here at UWRF and spread awareness about the social injustice going on in the society around us.


Ryan Tibbitts is a sophomore majoring in journalism. He loves Jesus, the Packers and wakes up every day still chasing the American Dream.

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



**Congratulations to last week’s winner,
Megan Bohren.**

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



Service-learning gives meaning to spring break

Molly
Breitmün

Columnist

Tamarisk, or salt cedar, heavily lines the banks of the Colorado River in Southeastern Utah. The small, invasive tree is common in the desert Southwest of the United States, but it is not native to the continent. Originally from the Mediterranean, Tamarisk was introduced as an ornamental about 100 years ago, and was subsequently used as a riverbank stabilizer because of its long taproots and its ability to densely thrive along areas with saline soils. Tamarisk did prove to be an effective soil stabilizer, but its holistic effect has been devastating. It naturally causes the soil to become more saline, its sheer density chokes out native plants and hogs up to 200 gallons of precious water per day.

I had the privilege to go on the UWRF Destination conservation trip to Moab, Utah, this spring break. Learning about Tamarisk and the ecology of the Colorado Plateau while camping and exploring the region leaves me feeling I got to enjoy my break while partaking in meaningful service.

Our work site, Jackson Bottom, was on the Colorado River. Specifically, it was the property of Intrepid Potash: a company mining water-soluble potassium for use as an agricultural fertilizer. The deep orange shades of the sandstone cliffs that surrounded us against the brilliant blue of the sky affirmed this area’s popularity as a movie set backdrop. Except for the hum of the extraction facility in the distance, we were rarely distracted by signs of civilization. Though “Jeep Week” had begun, the safaris of loud vehicles, and the explosion of people in Moab didn’t destroy the serenity of Jackson Bottom.

Our group of 12 from River Falls was joined with fellow ‘Alternative Spring Break’ participants from University of Colorado-Boulder and University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Depending on the task, we would work collaboratively with the other schools or get our own independent project to complete. We all had the pleasure of removing Kochia (pronounced “co-sha”), a drought resistant annual that seemed to grow thick wherever the Tamarisk had been removed in past years. The Kochia we pulled was dry and prickly, causing sneezing, scratches, and our clothing to be inundated with its abundant seeds. Often, when the wind picked up, we witnessed a textbook display of ‘tumbleweed’ if we hadn’t gotten around to stomping down the brittle, yellowed weed.

The Tamarisks of Jackson Bottom have been purposefully defoliated by a leaf beetle introduced from Asia. This blow to the plant has been followed by a youth corps using the site as a chain saw training site, taking down paths of the resilient yet skeletal-looking trees to further open the land up for light,

water, and root growth for native species to thrive.

Since 1995, Michael Smith and Tamsin McCormick, our guides from Plateau Restoration, have been working to preserve the native habitat of the Colorado Plateau while engaging and educating students and tourists. Although they had never hosted three school service-learning groups all at once before, Tamsin and Michael made themselves available for our individual interests and questions about the project.

Hoping to learn more about the possible long-term affects of our actions, Tamsin took me and a friend on a 20 minute hike to show us the portion of riverbank that had been undercut and collapsed into the river. Since the site has no form of irrigation, all water for the plantings we put in were hauled in from town or brought up from the steep riverbank by a bucket brigade. The Tamarisks were less compact here and a few scattered willow transplants had successfully taken root in the water table. Of the slippery mud slopes to choose from, this was certainly the least precarious and had been the preferred river access for their operation.

Eventually the Jackson Bottom site will have semi-mobile water pumps leading from the river into the flood irrigation channels we dug out and planted with native grasses that can survive saline soils. The day after Tamsin gave us the narrated walk, UWRF students got to work on this specific site. It was so satisfying to plant the willow cuttings we had prepared into the soft bank that we had learned firsthand was vulnerable yet useful to the project’s outcomes.

Though we mostly used pit toilets throughout the week and awoke a few days to frost lining the inside of our tents, the beauty of the land and the friendships we made eclipsed the discomforts. The middle of the days reached a sunny seventy degrees and we had abundant free time to explore Moab and nearby Arches National Park. Destination is a highlight of my time at UWRF so far. Consider signing up next year so you can be a part of the experience, too.

Upcoming Sustainability Events:

The Thirst Project, at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, in the University Center’s Kinni Theatre.

Sherry Rehnelt, UWRF Bookstore Manager, has arranged for representatives from the Thirst project to visit campus.

“The Thirst Project is a nonprofit organization working to



Destination 2013 participants in Moab, Utah, worked on conservation of the Colorado Plateau over spring break. Pictured from left to right: Jake Bengtson, Tim Emahiser, Nick Stennes, Sara Stites, Candace Anderson, Haily Henderson, Gregg Heinselman, Josey Pukrop, Molly Breitmün, Darren Ward, Melissa Burton and Stacey Kunde.

raise awareness about the global water crisis - a problem that affects more than one billion people. Thirst helps build water wells around the world to generate and promote access to clean drinking water. A freshwater well in most developing nations costs as little as \$5,000 to build, and can change an entire community’s lives forever.” For more detailed information go to: <http://www.thirstproject.org/>.

UWRF Surplus Sale, from 9 a.m. to noon, Friday, April 12 at Rodli Hall.

Past items at the surplus sale have included lockers, wooden picture frames, computers, desks, chairs, wooden picture frames, shelving, lighting fixtures, and much more. By supporting this sale, you can help our Facilities Management divert surplus items from going into campus dumpsters.

Enter through the loading dock entrance across from Centennial Science Hall. If you have questions or would like to be added to the surplus lists, please contact Mark Klapatch, assistant custodial supervisor, at mark.klapatch@uwrf.edu.

To feature your sustainability events (two weeks notice), ideas, successes stories, gripes, etc., email: molly.breitmün@my.uwrf.edu.

Molly is a non-traditional student majoring in conservation with a minor in GIS. Her interest on campus sustainability was focused by becoming an undergraduate fellow for the St. Croix Institute for Sustainability Community Development as well as by her peers in Student Alliance for Local and Sustainable Agriculture.

North Dakota abortion law is infringement on womens’ freedom

Morgan
Stippel

Columnist

North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple recently passed a restrictive abortion law. The law states that a woman is unable to have an abortion after the first six weeks of pregnancy.

This is the earliest possible point at which a fetal heartbeat can be detected. In addition, if a woman in North Dakota wants to have an abortion, she is required to undergo a transvaginal ultrasound beforehand. If a heartbeat is detected in this ultrasound, she will not legally be allowed to get an abortion in the state of North Dakota. This new law tests the Supreme Court’s decision in the 1973 Roe v. Wade case, and there are many states that want this decision to be revisited.

When considering questions about abortion laws, it is important to revisit the landmark Supreme Court ruling in Roe v. Wade. When analyzed, it is apparent that the decision is truly a moderate compromise. The decision in Roe v. Wade allows women to get an abortion with virtually no barriers or restrictions during her first trimester.

North Dakota’s abortion law violates this portion of the Supreme Court’s decision. During the second trimester, however, the state can make it more difficult for a woman to get an abortion. The woman can be required to have an ultrasound, a meeting with a counselor or an alternative doctor’s visit before allowing her to get an abortion.

When a woman is in her final trimester, it is virtually impossible for her to get an abortion.

In light of Roe v. Wade’s moderate nature, the new North Dakota abortion law is completely ludicrous and should be overturned.

Many women do not know with any level of certainty if they are pregnant until they are further along in the pregnancy. By the time a woman visits her doctor to receive confirmation of her pregnancy, the six-week period easily could have passed, thus making abortion a nonexistent option for her.

Furthermore, even if a woman knows she is pregnant before the six-week mark, she will likely want a significant period of time to explore all of her options to determine if abortion is right for her. If the woman takes too long to weigh her options, the six-week period could expire, and an abortion would no longer be possible for her.

The requirement of the transvaginal ultrasound is also highly questionable. Each person has the right to makes decisions about his or her own body when it comes to organ donation, surgeries and other medical procedures. Abortion procedures are no exception. The right of a person to his or her body should not be violated by any state or federal legislature.

Mandating women seeking abortions in North Dakota to undergo transvaginal ultrasounds violates the basic right that women have to their bodies. No woman should be required to have a foreign object inserted into her body against her will to stop her from making a personal decision about her body.

While these reasons are valid and should be taken into consideration, there is a far larger motive for political elites to reconsider North Dakota’s abortion law. Making abortion illegal will not force women to stop pursuing this option altogether. Women will simply pursue this option through the use of alternative, and unhealthy, outlets.

According to the Orlando Women’s Center, one woman dies every seven minutes as a result of unsafe, illegal abortion. If strict abortion laws continue to be passed by state

governments, an increase in the mortality rate can be attributed to our government as a whole for ignoring the basic right that each woman has to make decisions about her body.

The most disconcerting part about North Dakota’s extremely conservative decision is that other states are already looking to follow in its footsteps. Wyoming, Kansas, Ohio, Kentucky and Mississippi are already discussing similar bills in their state legislatures- a terrifying thought.

It is painfully obvious that North Dakota has overstepped its boundaries with the passage of its recent abortion law. Not only does the law violate the Supreme Court’s decision in Roe v. Wade, but it also violates the basic right that each woman has to her body

This law will cause a significant amount of harm that will have devastating implications for our nation. Allowing this abortion law to stand gives our government the ability to infringe on our freedom without restriction. The only question that remains: what will be next?

Morgan is a junior majoring in political science and minoring in professional writing. When she graduates from UW-River Falls, she wants to attend law school and become a state prosecutor specializing in domestic violence cases.

Student
Voices

Complied by Maggie Sanders

What do you want
Student Senate to
do next year?

Ashley Meyer
Sophomore

"Try to fund organizations more because it's important."

Lindsey Sokol
Junior

"I feel that students don't know what they are and how they're helping the school."

Ben Jansen
Freshman

"More bingo nights."

Thomas Alessandro
Freshman

"Learning exactly what they do and what changes they bring about in the UW-River Falls community. Show us your results."

KC Stowe
Freshman

"Bring more celebrities to our school."

Athletes represent campus in all areas

Ryan Tibbitts
ryan.tibbitts@my.uwrf.edu

The athletics department at UW-River Falls is a perfect example of how being a Div. III athlete means more than just simply playing sports.

“It is very important to the NCAA to get student-athletes involved outside of athletics,” said Janae Baron, Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) president.

SAAC is a team of student-athletes with representatives from every sports team and its primary purpose is to enhance the image of student-athletes both on campus and in the community by engaging in campus and community service projects while serving as role models for peers and younger adults, according to UWRF Sports Information.

To show the accomplishments of all the Div. III athletes the NCAA will be observing the second straight Div. III week set for April 9-15. The celebration is an opportunity for schools and conferences to publicly demonstrate the ways in which they provide a well-rounded collegiate experience for approximately 180,000 student-athletes competing in the NCAA’s largest membership division.

“The concepts of Div. III week is to show how well the athletes are integrated into the campus,” said Crystal Lanning, faculty advisor of SAAC.

Baron said it has been a blessing to have been part of SAAC and being involved here on campus as a Div. III athlete the past four years.

“Crystal Lanning has been a great advisor and UWRF has been a great school to be a part of,” Baron said.

Div. III athletes do not receive scholarships to play sports. They play solely for the love of the game.

“Being a Div. III athlete is special because we are all playing from the heart without getting any money,” Baron said.

One area that UWRF athletes have been strong in is in the classroom. Over 200 student-athletes at UWRF earned a 3.0 grade point average or above in the 2012 fall semester, according to UWRF Sports Information.

“You can’t be an athlete unless you’re a student first,” Baron said.

Baron also said how much it helps to have the support of the coaches when it comes to putting school first.

UWRF athletes have also shown a strong commitment to serving the community. So far in the 2012-2013 academic year over \$9,000 has been earned in charity events done by UWRF Athletics. That includes the volleyball team’s annual “Dig for the Cure” and the first annual teddy bear round up this year.

UWRF Athletics also took part in a Polar Plunge where they raised \$4,000 for the Special Olympics. Forty-two Falcon athletes took part in this event.

“Every year the NCAA teams up with a charitable organization and this year they choose the Special Olympics,” Lanning said.



Photo by UWRF Sports Information
The UW-River Falls volleyball team has participated in breast cancer awareness month the past five years in their annual event, “Dig for the Cure.”

This year, to celebrate Div. III week, Lanning said that SAAC is encouraging students to come out and support the track and field team along with the softball team as both have home events scheduled on April 13.

A special event that SAAC has planned to

cap off the whole week is an outdoor viewing of the movie “Space Jam.”

“We are pushing for all students to come out and enjoy the event and movie and celebrate the success of the student-athletes at UWRF,” said Baron.



Photo by UWRF Sports Information
The UW-River Falls softball team volunteered at Feed My Starving Children by packing enough boxes to feed 52 children for an entire year.



Photo by UWRF Sports Information
Forty-two Falcon athletes took part in a Polar Plunge raising \$4,000 for the Special Olympics. Members of the football team are pictured above jumping into the water.

Football moves ahead with new defensive coordinator

Alexander Adami
alexander.adami@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls Falcon football team has hired a new defensive coordinator. The hiring is a result of the former defensive coordinator Greg Bower leaving UWRF for an assistant coaching job at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Many view sports as a personification of competition. While that much is true, the aspects of coaching directly influences the players on the field, and even the strategies that they rely on.

Even the pure execution of plays can be pinned on the coaches of a team. All of this has Ebner excited to be a part of the Falcons’ football team.

“I hope to bring a lot of enthusiasm and discipline to the team, but really I just want the guys to have fun. Get out there and play ball. We’ll be aggressive on defense,” Ebner said.

Ebner also feels that Head Coach Matt Walker has the team moving in the right direction, along with a great staff of

coaches that will help propel the team forward. Ebner was previously an assistant coach at UW-Eau Claire. During his tenure at UW-Eau Claire, Ebner spent one year as an assistant offensive line coach and two years as a the team’s defensive line coach. Ebner also coached at John Apangalook (Alaska) Memorial High School for the 2010-2011 school year for the school’s basketball and wrestling teams.

While a new face with new strategies is a great start for an aspiring coach, none of that really matters unless the players of the team back the new defensive coordinator in his efforts to coach his new players.

Ebner also has to meet the expectations that players and fans have to truly win them over for the start of a new season.

The Falcon football team’s safety Alex Adams is one of those players that will be on the field next season.

Adams will be a senior on the team next year coming off a season where he was tied for first in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) for most interceptions

with seven and earned honorable mention honors in the WIAC.

Adams has not had the chance to work with Ebner yet, since the season will not start until after the summer, but he does have high expectations for how next season will unfold compared to last season, especially in the WIAC.

“At times, we are the greatest defense in the WIAC, and I’m sure others would say the same thing. But if you come out and play like that every down and bring the same kind of passion and intensity, we’ll be just fine,” Adams said.

Adams would also like to see more consistency out of the defense compared to last season. Adams plans to rally around Ebner to help make that happen.

Ebner will be taking over a defense that had the second most sacks in the WIAC last season, was ranked fifth against the run, and fifth overall in the conference.

During the 2012-2013 school year season, the Falcons finished with a 2-8, overall record and 2-5 in the WIAC.

The Falcons’ sixth place record in the WIAC was the team’s best ranking since the 2008 season. Ebner and his new players look to keep building on that success from last season.

“I hope to bring a lot of enthusiasm and discipline to the team, but really I just want the guys to have fun,” Coach Matt Ebner said.

Softball performs strong on Florida spring break trip

The UW-River Falls softball team played 10 games over spring break on their trip to Florida. They went 7-3, ending on a four game win streak and are now 15-5 overall on the season. On the recent National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll they were ranked No. 25 in the nation. The team will now be moving into conference play this weekend with doubleheaders at UW-Platteville and UW-La Crosse. They have had all around team contributions so far this season. Some players to watch this weekend will be Hayley Buchanan, Sarah Bohlen, Shawna Middleton and Ashley Goettl.

Hayley Buchanan
Senior Second Base



Sarah Bohlen
Junior Third Base



Shawna Middleton
Senior Outfielder



Ashley Goettl
Senior First Base





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Spring time, end of school on horizon for students

Miranda Hammel

Columnist

Being brought back to square one, in a small way, with spring break being over and students, teachers and faculty members of UW-River Falls going back to their busy bee lives is tough. With only a month and a half left of classes (hard to believe time has flown by that quickly) we all know what those last few weeks truly mean for us all. Crammed study nights, ink stained finger tips and coffee overdoses due to the lack of sleep.

This is the time where we all tend to get excited for spring and being outdoors, we lose our focus and just want to be done for the year.

We can't let that happen though. We need to stay focused and driven to finish the year out strong.

With intramurals starting up next week, more people will become active outdoors, with the tempting pleasures of taking our study breaks outside with the nicer weather and fresh air. As one of those people who gets caught up in all the fun, I implore you to make sure you manage your time wisely within the coming days for

your own benefit.

Another fun, exciting, yet stressful process happening for us all would be registration for next fall. I remember the days where I would sit at my computer and have to fix my schedule over and over because classes would fill up so quickly.

Now it doesn't seem to be a problem anymore, since I'm older, which makes it more fun getting the classes at the times you'd like.

For those who do not need to sign up for classes, graduation celebrations will soon begin as well. All the long hours, hard work and stress over the years finally paid off, my friends, for you will soon receive your precious piece of paper with your degree finalization printed next to your name.

I must admit that I am secretly ready and excited

As one of those people who gets caught up in all the fun, I implore you to make sure you manage your time wisely within the coming days for your own benefit.

for that day to come, even though I'll miss all the friends I have made here at the University.

Whether you are ending your first year, third year or sixth year, you are finishing it. You are here bettering your future, it is truly one

of the best gifts you can ever give yourself. I know it seems cliché, but the time and money spent is worth the "big kid" job after college. It's hard work, more than people expect sometimes, but you should be proud of yourself for coming as far as you have and choosing to continue on with education, because, believe it or not, you are going to look back and say "I wish I were back in school."

It's just like when our parents told us in high school to slow down and enjoy where we were at, not to grow up too fast because one day we will miss it all. Even though I'm young, I've seen and experienced a lot, and I can even say I miss just last fall.

So as our time for this school year slowly comes to an end, remember to prioritize your time, and stay focused as best you can no matter how many distractions you have surrounding you. You'll have all summer to be outside and relax, even after a full day of work if you're lucky enough to have a job or internship this summer. I can promise you those bonfires and fishing trips aren't going anywhere.

Miranda is a junior majoring in journalism. She enjoys reading, writing, listening to music, and being active outdoors. On the weekends, Miranda can be found hanging around coffee shops in Hudson, or with her friends in the River Falls area.

Storied history, mystique surround month of April

Cristin Dempsey

Columnist



It is now April, even though the consistent cold temperatures and snow still on the ground show otherwise.

The fourth month of the year presents not only the hope that the weather in the upper Midwest will soon be warm and sunny, but it also presents many symbols, phenomenon and mostly unknown historical roots.

For students, April is likely a very stressful month, as the lingering cold weather starts to move out and professors prepare for the end of the semester. There is a lot to learn about and be aware of for the 30 days of this month among the pile of homework.

The term April comes from the verb "aperire," meaning "to open." It is supported by the word's Greek equivalent, "anoixis." This term is used as a metaphor for the typical weather and nature patterns, as leaves begin to bud once again on trees and flowers open up. It can also be used to describe getting fresh air after the long winter months of being cooped up inside. April is named for the goddess Venus, though it

could also have roots to Aphrodite, a name coming from Aprilis.

Every year, April and July both start on the same day of the week, while April and December both end on the same day of the week. April and January start on the same day of the week during leap years.

The month started out on Monday with the popular April Fools' Day. Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" of 1392 first suggested a correlation between the date and practical jokes, and the unofficial "prank" holiday has grown across the world ever since. Countries around the world observe April Fools' Day, playing popular jokes such as giving false information in newscasts, to friends, or disassembling the subject's belongings, such as the classic salt in a jar of sugar. Some countries, such as Denmark, celebrate the humorous day on the first of May, or around the time of New Years.

The month also has several different symbols. Each month has its own unique birthstone, and in April, the birthstone is the diamond. The birth flower is most commonly known to be the daisy, which is most commonly found in Europe, but also seen in the Americas, and sometimes it is known to be the sweet pea,

a Mediterranean flower. The zodiac signs in the month, signs that come just before the constellation is seen in the night sky, are Aries until April 20, and Taurus after April 20.

One characteristic of April that I was particularly interested in is the common phrase, "April showers bring May flowers," a phrase introduced in 1886. April Showers is actually a real phenomenon, not just a poetic device. It refers to common spring rains annually in parts of the Northern Hemisphere, particularly in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The jet stream around this time of year tends to move northward, causing heavy downpours and large winds in these areas from the Atlantic.

April is a busy month, especially for us students wrapping up the semester. Many of us hope to see warmer temperatures and melted snow very soon instead of cold. Sophomore Cara Szymanski agreed, "I can't wait for the snow and ice to melt; I have fallen too many times."

The nice weather is something to make the homework load more bearable, being able to go outside and knowing that a long break is not far away.

Cristin is an English major and music minor from Eagan, Minn. She enjoys writing, playing the flute and swimming. After college, she would like to pursue a career as an editor

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‘The Host’ disappoints in every aspect



Ryan Funes

Reviewer

“The Host” has come to theaters as the next in Stephenie Meyer novel adaptations, but this appears to be a film series that will not see tomorrow.

In the future, there is no sickness, no violence, no need for money as Earth has finally been made perfect. It has also been overrun by aliens that are taking over human bodies in order to live on our planet. One such alien is known as The Wanderer, and, after being put into a new body, it is finding the human hard to control, for its owner, Melanie (Saoirse Ronan) is fighting with the alien for control of her own body and mind.

The Wanderer is then tasked by her superior, The Seeker, to plunge into Melanie’s memories so that they can find more humans to indoctrinate, but The Wanderer is plagued by Melanie’s thoughts and urges, and is growing more sympathetic toward her. With Melanie trying to use her body to get back to one of the last human settlements and find her lover Jared (Max Irons), The Wanderer will have to go along and find out if co-existence between her species and the humans can be possible and if they can go beyond simply being hosts.

It’s a movie based off of a Meyer novel: that should be all I need to say on my expectations for this movie, as I have seen what “Twilight” became, and the various ups and downs it gave audiences. Likewise, “The Host” does not offer much in the way of any kind of story, intrigue or entertainment.

The plot of “The Host” is odd and confusing. The aliens that take over all of Earth have a mantra that violence is not needed, so it raises the question of how fast they were able to take over the Earth and how. We are even shown very early in the movie that they are fairly incapable in taking down a human when even the human can go up and smack the aliens in the face.

It really deadens the threat these aliens hold when they serve no physical way of hurting you.

Their whole invasion makes the plot of the aliens from “War of the Worlds” better thought out.

That was the sci-fi aspect of the movie, and it straight up fails at it.

The movie also has a heavy romance end to it, but it even fails in that respect as the relationships feel underdeveloped and unrealistic.

When you realize the love characters feel for each other is only due to the feeling of isolation felt by them it then brings the whole thing down.

Direction-wise, the movie isn’t all that great either. Music and camera work all fade into the background, but the handling of Melanie’s voice in her body’s head is the most baffling directorial choice in this movie. Since

Melanie cannot be seen in the movie, she has to relay all of her feelings and thoughts through voices in The Wanderer’s head. It demotes her role from woman whose free will was taken from her to annoying video game sidekick.

But even after all I can say about how bad the plot is, how the romance and sci-fi aspects don’t work, the worst sin this movie commits is that it is just boring.

There is no real suspense, no drama, no intelligence put into this story or movie, and it felt so pointless in all that it was trying to throw me that I was ready to just walk out half way through.

“The Host” is simply not a good movie. So much doesn’t work that I can’t say who this movie is for, because I believe even the fans of the book would not enjoy it.

It’s the kind of movie you can only just laugh off, and even then it didn’t deserve your attention to begin with.



Ryan is a lover of all things movie, TV, video games, and stories and wants to become a television writer someday. In his spare time he enjoys hanging with friends, tapping into his imagination and watching cartoons of all kinds

Bluegrass festival brings local, national talent to River Falls

Samantha Harkness
samantha.harkness@my.uwrf.edu

The Third Annual Roots and Bluegrass Music Festival will be rocking River Falls this weekend.

The festival will be held in various venues around the community and will take place April 5-7. Some of the venues

include Bo’s N Mine, Coach’s Bar & Grill, Mainstreeter Bar & Grill and Johnnie’s Bar.

Junior’s Bar & Restaurant will be highlighted as the “Main Stage” of the event. Every venue will also be in walking distance of each other.

In addition to the music, to

which event coordinator at the River Falls Chamber of Commerce Maranda Mahr (a UW-River Falls alumna) said, “We have national, regional and local acts,” there are plenty of other events going on throughout the day.

According to the Bluegrass Music Festival’s website,

there will be free mandolin and banjo workshops, a free “jam session” and a bluegrass themed lunch.

There will also be free carriage rides downtown, and an Antique Road Show type event at Riverwalk Art & Antiques.

On Saturday April 6, there will be both a singer/songwriter competition, which is new to the festival this year, as well as a flatpick guitar competition. Both events will be held at the Riverview Hotel & Suites.

In order to put everything for the festival together, Mahr said the committee in charge had to do a lot of advertising. The committee consists of people from the River Falls Chamber of Commerce, as well as Junior’s Bar & Restaurant staff.

Brickhouse Music also helped with the planning.

Mahr said that last year the audience at the festival was about 1,000 people. She added that about 500 people were from around the community and the other 500 people were from the surrounding areas, including

Chicago and Southern Wisconsin. However, she also said that the attendance has changed from year to year. Though she expects numbers to be about the same this year.

About 500 people were from around the community and the other 500 people were from the surrounding areas, including Chicago and Southern Wisconsin.

Newton had been contacted a couple of times before, though the timing never worked out. He said he is excited to play, though in regards to the festival he said “I can’t figure out why people haven’t gotten it on their radar.”

He also mentioned that the group had played a few gigs down at Junior’s before.

The band formed in 1991. The band got their name from a “Name the Band” contest, Newton said.

When they could not use any of the suggestions from the audience, the band found the Cajun French slang term ‘Gumbo Ya Ya,’ which meant that everyone is having a good time. They changed the “Gumbo” to “Jumbo” to keep the big fun mentality.

‘Jumbo Ya Ya’ will be performing at Bo’s N Mine from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 6. Other bands that will perform at the festival include The Greencards and Pert’ Near Sandstone. The Greencards performance is one that requires a ticket to attend.



Submitted by Maranda Mahr

The bluegrass band Dead Horses performs on the corner of Main Street and Maple Street in River Falls. The band will be playing from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Friday, April 5, at Shooter’s Bar.

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