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University of Wisconsin

River Falls

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Gallery 101 presents expressive veterans art exhibition

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Through March 4, in Gallery 101 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building, the UW-River Falls art department and UWRF Veteran Services office is presenting the “Veterans, Active Duty and Reserves Art Exhibition.”

The exhibition features 22 pieces of art from six different artists. Art student veterans Mike Vance, Harley Hotchkiss and Katie Powell organized the exhibition along with having art pieces of their own in the exhibition.

Vance is a senior at UWRF majoring in photography, and is currently serving in the Minnesota National Guard. He brought five different photographs and an edition of woodblock prints to the show.

“They are all images I made while I was on deployment to Afghanistan in 2012 with my unit,” Vance said. “They are all photos basically describing what life with a Medevac unit is like. What we are actually out doing, on a call, picking up a wounded soldier.”

The powerful images show a multitude of things. One is shot from inside the cockpit of a Black Hawk helicopter looking out at another helicopter.

Two more show one of Vance’s colleagues connected to a rescue hoist about to be lowered to the ground to retrieve a patient.

During his deployment to Afghanistan, Vance took over 2,000 photographs. He said it was hard narrowing down his collection to the five that are currently hanging in Gallery 101.

“These images I thought ex-

plained the best things I saw, and the things I did during my deployment to Afghanistan, so that’s why I chose these images,” Vance said.

Art has long been a major interest for Vance.

“I’ve always been interested in art. In high school, in my barn, I did graffiti spray-painting, I was terrible at it,” Vance said. “I always walked around with a crappy digital camera in high school taking pictures of different street art I’d find, and from there it led to actually making

images of things that weren’t street art and that’s what kind of led me to photography.”

Fellow student coordinator, Hotchkiss, has also long been interested in art. Hotchkiss said he always liked to draw when he was younger and pointed out his obvious love of art with the tattoos that were on his arms.

Hotchkiss is a senior majoring in glassblowing. Hotchkiss is currently in his 15th year in the military and is currently with the Wisconsin

National Guard.

Hotchkiss supplied examples of his glassblowing, photography and more to the exhibition. His photos have a very special theme.

“The photo series, it just started with veterans in general and then I took it a step further and I wanted to find someone who had lost a limb and difficulties; fellow veterans that’ve had more troubles or harder times than I had overseas,” Hotchkiss said.

Both Vance and Hotchkiss made

it clear how they feel about the relationship between UWRF and veterans. Both said that the campus community greatly supports veterans.

Twenty percent of the proceeds of any sales of the artwork will be donated to the Veteran Services office at UWRF and 80 percent will remain with the artist.

The exhibition is open to the public from 1-8 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and 2-4 p.m. on Sunday.



Jack Haren/Student Voice
UWRF student and veteran Mike Vance stands in front of his photographs at the “Veterans, Active Duty and Reserves Art Exhibition.”

UWRF anticipated to protest proposed UW System cuts

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Gov. Scott Walker has proposed a \$300 million budget cut to the UW System, and that has a number of UW System campuses hosting rallies in protest, and UW-River Falls may be next.

UW-Eau Claire held a rally on Feb. 13 with hundreds of students, staff, and community members turning up for the event. Eau Claire Chancellor Jim Schmidt said that he’s glad that students are getting involved.

UW-Whitewater held a rally on Feb. 20, and this news is causing other UW System schools to hold rallies to protest the budget cuts, and UWRF may be joining in.

If the budget would pass as it is proposed, \$300 million would be cut from the UW System over the course of the next two years.

Chair of the College Democrats Amanda Young says that these bud-

get cuts will hit students where it hurts.

“We’re university students and we need our university to be as cheap as possible, so with budget cuts we aren’t going to have enough money to fund programs,” Young said.

“I’m scared to lose all the opportunities that will be lost with the budget cuts,” said Taylor Hall, UWRF student.

Young also said that there is a lot of interest in students to hold a rally here on the campus. Students are afraid of what could be lost if these budget costs get pushed through. There is potential that there will be fewer classes to choose from, and fewer members of faculty to teach those classes.

“I’m scared to lose all the op-

portunities that will be lost with the budget cuts,” said Taylor Hall, UWRF student. “It can potentially make people change what they want to do with their lives, because there isn’t a program offered anymore in their field of choice.”

UW System schools are currently in a tuition freeze, which ends after this semester, but the proposal would extend the freeze for two more years.

After the two years are up, UW System students could see a drastic hike in tuition. Out-of-state students could potentially see an increase in tuition as early as next year.

“I think that it is important for the campus to have a rally to protest,” said Laura Orris, UWRF student. “It would raise more awareness and hopefully change the decision of the budget cuts.”

According to chapter 18.11, under section four of the state legislature, there are standards regarding

rallies on campuses in the UW System. In order to keep UWRF a free university accessible to members of the community, students, and staff, it is unlawful to obstruct access to any university building.

“Any picketing, rally, parade, demonstration, other assembly, or congregation of spectators to such activity may be declared unlawful,” says chapter 18.11 under the con-

“We’re university students and we need our university to be as cheap as possible, we aren’t going to have enough money to fund programs,” said College Democrats Chair Amanda Young.

duct on university lands.

Participants of the potential rally should know that they aren’t al-

lowed to block fire exits, entrances, regular exits of buildings, stairways, nor are allowed to disturb any class or any university event that is taking place.

“I also recommend that those planning a rally on campus contact campus reservations to ensure that the rally does not interfere with any already scheduled campus events,” said Blake Fry, director of communications and external relations.

Young said that there is not a specific date set yet for the rally, but it is in the works.

Also, the College Democrats would like to have a table set up in the University Center to show how the budget cuts will be affecting UWRF specifically.

“It sounds like rallies are going well on other campuses, and we would [like] to get involved with it,” Young said. “We are thinking next week is too early, but within the next couple of weeks.”

UWRF alumnus teaches rare petroleum geology course

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Fifteen UW-River Falls geology students recently took an applied petroleum geology course over J-term, taught by 1978 UWRF alumnus Dave Stone.

The 18-hour course focused on petroleum geology, specifically the business side of it. Something that Stone has a lot of experience with. Stone has been in the petroleum geology field for 34 years, holding positions across the country, including positions like vice president and executive director.

Petroleum geology, in layman’s terms, is looking for energy sources, like crude oil and natural gas-

ses. This can be done in a number of ways, almost all of which involve drilling into the earth.

Kerry Keen, professor of environmental science and geology, had the idea for the class and said that Stone was more than happy to teach it. Keen also said that popularity with this field has been growing.

“Over the last few years, we’ve had some of our students going off and working in [petroleum geology] in Wyoming or North Dakota,” Keen said.

The recent student interest in petroleum geology may be due to the recent uptick in silica sand mining. Silica sand mining is the process of extracting sand and is used for numerous things, such as sanding icy

roads and being used as an abrasive. With dozens of mines and processing locations in the surrounding area.

Keen says that there is plenty of work in this industry if this field is something that interests you.

“This field is an interesting type of work, because there are years when it’s really strong, and there may be times when it is not as strong,” Keen said. “So, when it is strong, it draws a lot of people in. Everyone is looking for a job and you can go out an get a job in this field if you desire it.”

UWRF senior Danielle Currier is hoping to get into petroleum geology once she graduates, and said that the class was very beneficial.

“It brought real world aspects into the classroom, it was more of an applied skills class rather than a lecture class and I really enjoyed that aspect of it,” Currier said.

UWRF junior Brett Lacoy also hopes to go into this field and he thinks that this class provided him with a very valuable experience.

“We have a lot of classes about geology, but we don’t get much on the industry and business side of the field,” Lacoy said. “It was very applicable, and very enjoyable to learn about.”

Dave Stone currently resides in Oklahoma and occasionally comes back to UWRF to talk about his career. Keen said that he is grateful for all of the work that Stone put into

the course.

“He did a super job creating a overview of petroleum geology,” Keen said. “Students come out of this having a sense of all the different aspects of what goes on.”

Keen went on to say that the class was a great success and he hopes that the class will happen again.

“[Stone] would love to teach it again, if we have another crop of students in a couple years,” Keen said. “I imagine it will happen again.”

Once the class concluded, Stone provided the geology program with a generous donation so the program can purchase petrographic microscopes.

News briefs:

Professor debuts new award-winning rose

UW-River Falls associate professor of horticulture David Zlesak has a new rose debuting this spring. The rose, Above and Beyond, is being released through Bailey Nurseries First Editions program and it is already an award winner.

Judges gave the rose one of the top pick awards at the New England Grows event in Boston, Massachusetts earlier this month. The First Editions program is for exceptional plants that Bailey’s will market internationally. Zlesak is excited about this new release, noting that this is his most favorite seedling in all of his 30 years of rose breeding.

Zlesak made the original cross in 2000 with the goal of beginning a line to incorporate yellow flower color and strong repeat bloom from commercial roses with hardiness and health from species or wild roses. Surprisingly, this special hybrid was identified in the first generation rather than taking multiple generations to accomplish the goal.

What separates Above and Beyond from other roses is that it combines exceptional cane hardiness, large plant size, disease resistance and warm apricot colored blooms, a color difficult to achieve in hardy recurrent roses.

In January, Zlesak was one the National Earth-Kind Rose Team members honored with the Texas A&M University AgriLife Vice Chancellor’s Award for Collaboration. He was selected to be one of the team members on stage for the ceremony in College Station, Texas, because of his help to expand the range of Earth-Kind efforts to the north. The team has designated 23 rose cultivars as Earth-Kind roses that perform well with little maintenance, minimal irrigation and limited use of fertilizers and pesticides.

In October, Zlesak was also honored with the ARS Silver Honor Medal for his years of dedication to roses through not only his breeding and educational programs promoting landscape roses, but also collaborative research to characterize new rose viruses, understand rose blackspot disease, and service to the industry and the ARS.

‘Shark Tank’ star to speak at benefit dinner

Daymond John, founder and CEO of the global lifestyle brand FUBU and star of ABC’s “Shark Tank,” will headline the fourth annual Scholarship Benefit Dinner on Friday, April 24, at UW-River Falls.

An award-winning entrepreneur, John founded FUBU in the basement of his mother’s house and built it into a celebrated brand with more than \$6 billion in product sales. A highly influential and sought after consultant and motivational speaker, John has been part of the cast of ABC’s entrepreneurial business show “Shark Tank,” seen weekly by millions of viewers, since 2009.

The UWRF annual Scholarship Benefit Dinner has been raising funds to support student scholarships since 2012 and has helped UWRF earn second place among comprehensive universities in the UW System for scholarship dollars awarded annually. All net revenue from ticket sales and event sponsorships goes directly to support student scholarships. Previous scholarship benefit dinner speakers have included Green Bay Packers legend Bart Starr and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Bob Woodward.

Tickets for the April 24 event are \$60 each and include a buffet dinner and a reserved seat at John’s presentation on personal branding. Event sponsorships begin at \$5,000 and include a private plated dinner, followed by a question and answer session with John. Ad-

ditional benefits, including a dessert reception and book signing, are offered to members of the UWRF donor societies, the Chancellor’s Circle, 1874 Society and Legacy Society.

Tickets for the event are now on sale. For ticket or sponsorship information, call the UWRF Foundation office at 715-425-3505 or visit www.uwrf.edu/risingtodistinction.

Observatory viewing sessions set for spring

The UW-River Falls physics department began its spring season of free, public observatory viewings and astronomy discussions on Feb. 24.

The first stargazing session on Tuesday, Feb. 24, began with a talk, “Cosmographics: Images of the Cosmos Over Time” by physics Professor Eileen Korenic in 271 Centennial Science Hall. A telescope viewing session followed shortly thereafter on the third floor observation deck. Jupiter is usually visible as well as a waxing crescent moon.

A faculty member or student staffs each telescope and are available to answer questions. Objects seen in the telescopes include planets, globular clusters, open clusters, nebulae, galaxies, moons and double stars.

To verify that the sky is clear enough for viewing, call 715-425-3560 after 6 p.m. or visit www.uwrf.edu/PHYS/Schedule.cfm. The talks, set for 8 p.m., will go on as scheduled regardless of the weather.

Since the viewing dome is unheated and the observation deck is outside, visitors should dress appropriately for the weather. The viewings and talks are suitable for all ages.

- Other viewings this spring include:
- 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25: “‘Interstellar: Did Hollywood Get it Right?’ presented by Korenic in 271 Centennial Science Hall, followed by an 8:30 p.m. telescope viewing on the third floor observatory deck, if the sky is clear.
 - 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14: “Pluto by July 2015: New Horizons Spacecraft Update” presented by Korenic in 271 Centennial Science Hall, followed by an 8:30 p.m. telescope viewing on the third floor observatory deck, if the sky is clear.

For more information about the observatory, email glenn.spiczack@uwrf.edu or for more information about pre-observatory talks, email eileen.korenic@uwrf.edu or call the UWRF physics department at 715-425-3560.

UW System recognizes student transfer influx

The UW System hosted a symposium named “Unwrapping the Orthodoxies of Transfer” on Thursday, Feb. 26, in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, to examine current practices as well as new ideas and solutions to support student transfers across Wisconsin’s higher education sectors.

“At a time when more than one-third of college students nationwide transfer at some point before earning a degree, the UW System is committed to help these students be successful in achieving their educational goals, whether they start at a two-year or four-year institution, or whether in the UW System, the Wisconsin Technical College System, or elsewhere,” said David J. Ward, UW System’s senior vice president for academic and student affairs.

In 2013-2014, more than 14,000 new students transferred credits from another institution of higher education into or within the UW System. Ward said higher education institutions in Wisconsin find themselves at a pivotal moment as they confront changing student demographics, shifting student enroll-

ment and transfer patterns, uncertain budgets, new statutory requirements regarding credit transfer, transformations in the ways curricula are designed and delivered, and robust discussion on what the future workforce needs to know and be able to do.

The symposium will also address outcomes- and competency-based transfer, in addition to the more traditional transfer of credits, courses, and seat time.

The UW System Transfer Symposium is funded by an Association of American Universities and Colleges grant, through the financial support of Lumina Foundation for Education, and the UW System Office of Academic & Student Affairs.

Student health survey sent to UWRF students

A randomly selected 4,000 UW-River Falls students received an email on Feb. 22 regarding a Student Health Survey from Student Health Services.

March 8 is the closing date. The survey, created by the National College Health Assessment (NCHA), asks students questions about their health behaviors, beliefs and perceptions. The information is used to help develop and tailor services and programming to meet the needs of UWRF students, making it important that selected students complete the survey.

Students are encouraged to look for this email and complete the survey, if they were selected.

The comprehensive health survey is being administered across UW System campuses so it will give the NCHA information about students here at UWRF and also information about students in the UW System.

The survey is confidential and there will be no names associated with the data, just group data will be shared. For questions, email alice.m.reilly-myklebust@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-3293.

Lecture series to feature UW-Madison professor

The UW-River Falls Working Journalists Lecture Series presents “ImaginATIVE Communities: Indigeneity and Communication in the 21st Century,” a free journalism lecture at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, in 120 South Hall.

UW-Madison professor and author of “Indian Nations of Wisconsin” Patty Loew will explore the issue of environmental coverage and other significant issues reporting in tribal newspapers, radio and online new operations.

The lecture is open to the public, and is sponsored by the UWRF journalism department and the UWRF Women’s and Gender Studies Program. For more information, call the journalism department at 715-425-3169.

Business students to compete on March 4

The UW-River Falls New Venture Competition Exhibit Hall will feature start-up ideas from business students from 2-5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, in the Riverview Ballroom in the University Center.

Finalists will utilize the “Business Model Canvas” for their poster presentation of their business start-up idea and may include any exhibits they wish in their booth space.

Finalists will be judged by a group of business and community leaders on how well they have adapted their idea to feedback received from potential customers. The competition is free and open to the public. For more information, email blake.fry@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-3711.

Memorial Blood Centers seek donors

Memorial Blood Centers invites all eligible blood donors to roll up their sleeve and give blood.

Right now, your local nonprofit Memorial Blood Centers are facing a serious challenge

in maintaining an adequate supply of life-saving blood needed by patients at local hospitals in Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin communities.

Every two seconds someone needs blood, from a heart transplant and cancer patients to accident victims. The need for blood is constant, but the supply is not. Only volunteer blood donors can make a life-saving difference to someone in need. One in three people will need blood. And there is no substitute. Only volunteer donors can help save the lives of people in need, like those featured on our website under recipient stories.

Step up to give blood at a blood drive in your neighborhood and help save lives. Donating blood is convenient and safe when you are: in good health; free of antibiotics for 24 hours, unless taken daily for skin condition; symptom-free for at least three days following a cold or flu; and 17 years or older.

While walk-in donors are always welcome, Memorial Blood Centers encourage appointments to be made in advance. To register for a blood drive, go online to www.MBC.org or contact the sponsoring organization directly.

Patients in local hospitals depend on Memorial Blood Centers to be there with the right blood type they need to survive. All types are needed, especially O-negative and O-positive.

Memorial Blood Centers has been saving lives for over 65 years as an independent nonprofit supplying life-saving blood to area hospitals and other partners throughout the U.S.

Operating 11 donor centers and conducting hundreds of blood drives each month, Memorial Blood Centers also provides comprehensive testing and expert technical services as a national leader in transfusion medicine.

For more information, call 1-888-GIVE-BLD (1-888-448-3253) or visit www.MBC.org.

Harvard recognizes state’s assisted living

The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University has recognized the Wisconsin Coalition for Collaborative Excellence in Assisted Living (WCCEAL) as part of its 2015 Bright Ideas program.

The distinction is made for programs in all levels of government that are at the forefront of innovative action. WCCEAL is a collaboration that includes the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), the state’s ombudsman programs, assisted living and residential provider associations, and the Center for Health Systems Research and Analysis (CHSRA). The group is collaborating on the implementation of a comprehensive quality assurance, quality improvement program.

“Collaboration is the key to success in any endeavor, and for WCCEAL to be recognized for its collaboration toward improving the quality of assisted living in Wisconsin is a great honor,” said DHS Secretary Kitty Rhoades.

“The Bright Ideas program demonstrates that often seemingly intractable problems can be creatively and capably tackled by small groups of dedicated, civic-minded individuals,” said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in Government Program at the Ash Center. “As exemplified by this year’s Bright Ideas, making government work better doesn’t always require massive reforms and huge budgets. Indeed, we are seeing that, in many ways, an emphasis on efficiency and adaptability can have further-reaching effects than large-scale reforms.”

According to the Ash Center, the Bright Ideas program is an initiative of the broader Innovations in American Government Awards program. For consideration as a Bright Idea, programs must currently be in operation or in the process of launching and have sufficient operational resources, and must be administered by one or more governmental entities.

Bright Ideas are showcased on the Ash Center’s Government Innovators Network, an online platform for practitioners and policymakers to share innovative public policy solutions.

River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

Wednesday, Feb. 18

- A medical injury incident occurred in the Wyman Education Building at 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 20

- River Falls Police arrested an 18-year-old woman for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia after stopping her for having a headlight out. The officer described the odor as “pungent and skunk-smelling.”

Monday, Feb. 23

- A local 23-year-old woman driving a car with a severely damaged bumper was arrested for drunk driving at about 1 a.m. River Falls Police said the woman may have crashed the car into the side of the Lazy River Bar. The crash left behind broken car parts, which would explain why her car bumper was damaged.

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

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Local organizations offer students a chance to give back

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It’s no secret that volunteer work looks good on a resume.

It could even be the one thing that sets someone apart from another candidate in a job hiring process one day.

In addition to volunteer work looking good on paper, it’s even good for one’s mental and physical health.

According to Harvard Health, volunteering helps people to feel more socially connected, thus warding off loneliness and depression. Volunteering can even lower blood pressure and lead to a longer lifespan.

“Volunteering: you don’t need to have money, you just need to have an able body,” said UW-River Falls senior Zac Russell.

With so many benefits it may seem like a no-brainer that UWRF students should get involved with volunteer work at some point in their collegiate career. But trying to balance school and work can be a challenge and adding volunteer work on top of that may seem impossible.

Luckily though, there are various organizations around the River Falls area for students to get involved in that don’t require major time commitments.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin (BBBS) and Turningpoint for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence are just two of many organizations in the River Falls area that provide volunteer opportunities to students.

According to Harvard Health, volunteering helps people to feel more socially connected, thus warding off loneliness and depression. Volunteering can even lower blood pressure and lead to a longer lifespan.

Big Brothers Big Sisters provides mentoring friendships by matching an adult with a child and helping them form an enduring friendship. Students have the opportunity to serve as volunteers to mentor youth in the community.

“Students are well received by the children and their families as mentors,” said BBBS Program Coordinator Lisa Thompson.

By volunteering with BBBS, students will work with a professional team that is nationally recognized for making a difference in the life of a child.

“There are many ways to give to the community and few are as rewarding as the friendship that develops with a child,” Thompson said.

In order to volunteer with BBBS, one must submit an application, interview and complete training. Volunteers are asked to spend an hour a week and continue in the child’s life for at least a year from the time they are first introduced.

One student that has been actively involved with BBBS is sophomore Kamyn Peterson-Rucker who currently serves as the president for “Friends of BBBS.”

“Part of the reason why I chose to volunteer with BBBS over other organizations is I like to work with students, knowing that my time is really all that I have to give in order to make a difference,” Peterson-Rucker said.

Another organization that students can get involved with is Turningpoint, which has been providing services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in Pierce and St. Croix counties for over 30 years.

Volunteer opportunities for students within the organization include: client services, assisting with support groups, cleaning, maintenance, office work, baby-sitting, stocking food, helping with donations, outreach, and working at “Second Chances.”

Second Chances, a second-hand store located on Main Street, is an extension of Turningpoint where 100 percent of the proceeds benefit the organization.

“Turningpoint needs student volunteers because we value the skills and talents students have, as well as their commitments to education and community,” said Volunteer Services Coordinator Javin Hintz.

By volunteering with Turningpoint, students can learn valuable information related to domestic and sexual violence along with taking pride in knowing that they are giving back to the community and helping those in need.

“It is easy to get lost in the busy

life of a student between classes, homework and the many other demands from life in general, however, volunteering enables students to share their skills with others in a way that is truly meaningful,” Hintz said.

Time requirements to volunteer with Turningpoint depend on both agency needs and volunteer schedules.

Turningpoint will work with students to try and match their interests with the agency needs in a schedule that works for both parties.

In order to volunteer, a student doesn’t need to give money or have a certain set of skills, they just need to be willing to give their time and provide goodness to the community.

“As far as River Falls, you’re going to school here, they’re providing you an education and helping you get through school, so why can’t you help give back to them?” said junior Tara Schrauth.

For more information about various volunteer organizations in the River Falls area, go to tourism.rfchamber.com/list/category/non-profit-organization-54.

Inaugural visiting professorship series to begin in March

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University of Kansas Professor Donald Worster will lecturing at UW-River Falls in early March as a part of the inaugural Walker D. and Helen Bryant Wyman Endowed Visiting Professorship series.

Worster is a Hall Distinguished Professor of American History Emeritus at Kansas, and he is also a internationally renowned scholar.

“This is actually something that came up two years ago when Bry Wyman, who is a graduate of [UWRF], then a long-time successful physician, became the first living donor to donate \$1 million to [UWRF], and he specifically donated this money in the name of his dad and his mom,” said College of Arts and Sciences Dean Brad Caskey.

Walker D. Wyman, Bry’s father, was a long-time history professor at

UWRF and eventually went on to be the chancellor at UW-Whitewater.

“What [Bry] set up is called the Walker D. and Helen Bryant Wyman Endowed Visiting Professorship, and [Bry] divided it between the departments of history and art,” Caskey said. “The goal of this is to every year bring in at least one visiting professor in each of those areas and hopefully, probably, two, one each semester, who will be able to meet with our students, specifically to offer some hands-on experience and then do a public presentation.”

Worster will be meeting with students on March 5. He will meet students from “U.S. Environmental History” and “U.S. History Since 1865.”

“[The students are] getting a chance to meet someone who may be one of the biggest people in their field,” Caskey said. “A chance to

talk about what it was like to be in that area, what kind of opportunities there are and who else who they might talk with.”

“[The students are] getting a chance to meet someone who may be one of the biggest people in their field,” said College of Arts and Sciences Dean Brad Caskey.

Worster will also present two lectures. The first lecture, titled “Wilderness: The Higher Altruism in American Environmental Values,” will take place on Wednesday, March 4. The presentation starts at 4 p.m. in the Kinnickinnic River Room in the University Cen-

ter after a public reception that begins at 3 p.m.

“I know we are going to bring in people who are really excited about working with students and that is something different,” Caskey said. “We’re going to bring in professionals both in the history and art field that are really interested in learning with students, meeting with students and helping them grow as people.”

The second presentation, titled “Shrinking the Earth: From an Age of Abundance to an Age of Limits,” will take place on Friday, March 6. The presentation will be at the River Falls Public Library starting at 7 p.m. after a public reception that starts at 6 p.m.

Our impact on the Earth, over time, has changed and there have been many things that have caused it. According to Eric Sanden, professor of environmental science at UWRF, some of the major things

that have happened in the past include the Industrial Revolution and the 1930 Dust Bowl. Three of the big issues now are climate change, habitat loss and water scarcity.

“Just by sheer magnitude, the numbers, with seven billion people on earth, we have what they call a ‘multiplier effect,’ where even small issues when you multiply by seven billion become major issues, like recycling paper or plastic bottles,” Sanden said. “On the other hand, you can also look at that as a positive. Any positive effect we can have multiplied by seven billion makes great change as well. So if each one of us pitches in and does our part then we can see substantial changes in those issues.”

The visiting professor in art will be coming at the end of April. More information can be found at: www.uwrf.edu/HIST/Events/Wyman.cfm.

Chinese New Year Gala to take place at UW-River Falls

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A Chinese New Year Gala will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, in the North Hall Auditorium to help celebrate the Chinese New Year.

The Chinese New Year Gala is an event that was inspired by the “New Year’s Gala,” a television program that is shown in China during the New Year celebrations, according to Alex Hatheway, liaison to the students from the Zhejiang International Studies University (ZISU).

“Basically it’s a four, maybe five, hour program of musical, variety and comedy acts,” Hatheway said. “It’s a really, really big spectacle.”

When Hatheway heard that UWRF was having a Year of China he thought the Chinese New Year Gala would be a good way to ring in the Chinese New Year. The Chinese New Year Gala will be a scaled down version of the television program that is usually show in China, according to Hatheway.

“We’ve been showing a lot of Chinese culture here.

We’ve had calligraphy; we’ve had paper-cutting and stuff like that,” Hatheway said. “I wanted to show people something that was a fairly recent addition to Chinese culture.”

The Gala is a free event, open to the public, and it will be a night of singing, dancing and comedy. Hatheway said that people who attend the Gala can also learn about the history of the Chinese New Year.

The Chinese New Year is one of the most important holidays in China, according to Alex Peng, a graduate student from Guangzhou, China. According to chinesenewyears.info, the date of the New Year is determined by the lunar calendar and the start of the New Year was Feb. 19. The start of the New Year is different each year.

Peng said some people celebrate the New Year for seven days, and according to chinesenewyear.info, the New Year celebrations can last for 15 days. Peng said people are usually off from work and school so it’s a time for families to gather together.

“It’s sort of like, in comparison to the Western cul-

tures, it’s easier to understand the Chinese New Year as like Christmas and New Years all together,” Peng said.

Peng said the animals of the Chinese zodiac, for which the years are named after, don’t really play any other specific role in the New Year but he said there is some folklore that is tied to animals of the Chinese New Year.

“We do have a saying, that if you are born in the year of the sheep and it’s the year of the sheep, you may be less fortunate than others,” Peng said.

Other Chinese New Year traditions include cleaning the house before the New Year, having a Chinese New Year’s dinner and setting off fireworks at the start of the New Year. Peng said married couples also hand out “lucky money” to children during the Chinese New Year.

This year also happens to be the Year of China at UWRF, so there are multiple events that will be happening throughout the semester. A calendar of the Year of China events can be found at: www.uwrf.edu/YearOf/China.cfm.

Students give thanks to UWRF financial donors

Rebecca Meidl
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On Feb. 24, the UW-River Falls Foundation and the Chancellor’s Student Ambassadors teamed up with Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) to host the third annual “National Student Engagement and Philanthropy Day.”

This year the Foundation decided to do “Thank a Donor Day,” where students could come and write a thank you card to alumni who donate money to UWRF.

“It is a way for us, as a campus community, to reach out to our alumni and friends who have supported the university,” said director of Alumni Relations Daniel McGinty.

Last year, National Student Engagement and Philanthropy Day consisted of a YouTube video having students say thanks to all the people who helped UWRF move forward in furthering student education.

The event was created to remind students about philanthropy on the campus, and to give a simple thanks to peo-

ple who have helped UWRF financially.

“All students are encouraged to participate but we are targeting alumni donors who have written a gift to the university,” McGinty said. “Then our students will actually complete a thank you card and that card will be then mailed to our alumni.”

These donations help with school events, international travel programs, building projects such as the Falcon Center, undergraduate research programs and grants to improve classroom instruction. Every student is affected by these donations whether they know it or not.

There are over 5,000 donors that support UWRF, but the donors chosen for the thank you cards were individuals who are non-scholarship. The final tally of recipients is 500.

A worker in the Foundation office, Sarah French, explains her excitement about the amount of students participating: “This is awesome; great turnout is never a surprise. It’s always reassuring. The students on this campus are very gracious. We have

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Make sure to look for Freddy’s Feather in every issue of the Student Voice!

EDITORIAL

‘Leo Night’ is great example of student involvement

The Student Voice would like to take this opportunity to commend the 702 UW-River Falls community members who attended the Feb. 14 women’s basketball game against UW-Whitewater on “Leo Night.”

While the Falcons lost the game by seven points, the 702 spectators helped raise money for assistant women’s basketball coach Mike Babler’s grandchild, Leo, who has a rare form of dwarfism and a lethal form of skeletal dysplasia. It was a record-breaking night as the previous attendance record was 681.

While it’s unfortunate that it took an extremely ill child to get more students to attend a UWRF basketball game, the support from the athletics department and all student-athletes was nothing short of amazing. The Voice would like to see more crowds of this size more often at not only sporting events, but all on-campus events happening right under our noses seemingly every day of the week.

We recognize that students are busy with school, work, student organizations and extra-curricular activities, but there’s something special about having over 700 people attend one single event on the UWRF campus.

Certain events are always going to draw larger crowds than others, which has more to do with lack of funding, commuter students, and less to do with student involvement. Instead of harping on students for not getting more involved on campus, we would like to bring special attention to those who supported the women’s basketball team on Valentine’s Day.

The Voice is seeing a distinct effort by the athletics department to garner more student attendance. Whether it be “Leo Night,” or “Pink the Rink,” or a “white” or “red out,” there is progress being made. It’s important to support Falcon athletics and to support the UWRF community. Each event is special to at least a handful of people, so don’t be afraid to promote campus events to fellow students whenever possible.

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

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

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

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

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

Because of high production costs, UW-River Falls community members are permitted to collect one copy of the *Student Voice* per issue. A single copy of the *Student Voice* is valued at \$1, and additional copies may be requested from the WISCONSIN editorial stall by e-mail through editor@uwrfvoice.com.

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Proposed UW System budget cuts could soon deflate UWRF art department

Molly Kinney

Columnist

Four weeks after Gov. Scott Walker’s initial proposal to cut \$300 million from the UW system, \$4.2 million from UW-River Falls, many students still aren’t aware that massive changes will take place on our campus within the next year, though talk of the proposal has already reached the far corners of faculty offices, Kleinpell Fine Arts (KFA) bathroom stalls, and even the “UWRF Confessions” Facebook page.

The final numbers will not come out for at least a few more weeks, but students in some departments are already holding their breath a little more than others.

I attended the first Gallery 101 opening of the semester in the art department last Friday in the lobby of KFA. Currently featured are pieces by veteran and active duty military members of the university’s art department. Photographs by Mike Vance depicted his experience in Afghanistan, with stunning photos of medics on the battlefield.

Harley Hotchkiss had a number of glass-works displayed, along the theme of military service as well. I found an abstract porcelain sculpture most aesthetically pleasing, though a fauvist style colored pencil drawing came in a close second.

I’ve been trying to attend more events like this on campus this semester, one of which was the town-hall style meeting chancellor Chancellor Dean Van Galen held on Feb. 4. It highlighted what the cuts could possibly entail for our campus. Speculation is that there will be a large reduction in faculty and professor salaries, and possible reciprocity reform.

The UWRF mission statement includes all the colleges, but a PDF summarizing the budget makes clear what the priorities of our campus are: “Many of our programs produce graduates who have high employment rate in critical industries in the state, such as the agriculture/dairy industry. We are also continuing to prepare a large portion of the region’s k-12 school educators. We are focusing on areas that the nation has identified as critical needs for future economic prosperity, such as [strong STEM] education and undergraduate research opportunities, and focusing on global education.”

The humanities, let alone fine arts, are not mentioned at all in this document. Van Galen stated at the Feb. 4 meeting: “Everything is on the table, but if some areas get cut less, others get cut more.”

Statements like this have art students worried. The ability to craft Venetian style vases, express personal emotions through watercolor, or knowing folk yarn dying techniques are not sought after skills in the “critical industries” of our state. However, while not extremely marketable in the modern, consumer based world, they are skills vital to the very essence of the human experience.

This has been widely studied by philosophers, anthropologists and historians. The general consensus is that art is perhaps one of the most natural things we do as humans; we need visual expression of humanity that can be interpreted and understood through the ages. The oldest known cave wall paintings show how societies were organized; art is still considered a reflection of society to this day.

It is odd that such a vital aspect of civilization isn’t a mandatory area of study; you don’t have to take Art 100 to fulfill your general education requirements. Perhaps UWRF should

take notes from Washington College, whose president said in an interview that there is a heavy emphasis on art for students in all areas of study, as visual art “helps us make sense of our world, broaden our experience and understanding. Art enables us to imagine the unimaginable, and to connect us to the past, the present, and the future, sometimes simultaneously.”

It would be a shame, to say the least, if the budget cuts proposed by Walker resulted in more cuts to the art department of UWRF than are already planned. UWRF has arguably the best Bachelor in Fine Arts (BFA) program in the UW System. This may change with decreased funding to provide art students with the instruction, tools, and resources necessary to create art. Art students I talked with said they already feel that the art department doesn’t hold a very esteemed place outside of KFA.

Tyler Pelton, who is pursuing a BFA in Glass, said: “As an art student, I feel like there is a huge disparity between how good our art department is and how much it is valued on this campus.”

Pelton said he would highly consider transferring to an art school if the inevitable cuts result in lower quality facilities.

Lines can be drawn between the budget cuts proposal and an attempt to edit the heart of what the UW System stands for, the “Wisconsin Idea.” Walker proposed striking language about public service and improving the human condition, and deleting the phrase “basic to every purpose of the system is the search for truth.”

I would agree with UW-Milwaukee journalism professor James Baugham, who said in an interview with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: “It’s a very materialistic definition of knowledge that’s very off-putting.”

In the deliberation of this legislation, it will come down to what officials believe the purpose of a university education is supposed to be. The governor has made it clear what he believes: college is merely to produce graduates ready to enter the workforce and become diligent consumers.

In a press conference, Walker stated: “Learning’s important, but ultimately it’s most important for people to get the chance to get the education that they need to succeed in the workforce.”

Yes, the main reason I’m here is to learn how to practice journalism. But, after deeply contemplating my education, I also believe that higher education should be a “search for the truth” like stated in the “Wisconsin Idea.”

This means something different to each student. For me, it means learning how to think analytically, how to consider a spectrum of perspectives on any issue, and how to generally become a more enlightened citizen, rather than consumer, of this nation.

In an educational system designed for the industrial revolution, art is always the first to go when it comes to budget cuts.

Everything is still speculation at this point, but I hope for posterity that a drastic defunding of the art department will not be a major solution. We need to keep creating mindfully educated graduates who are able to beautifully convey the experiences of modern human society to future generations.

Molly Kinney is a journalism student with a political science minor. Molly enjoys writing, reading, camping, art, music, and exploring new cities.

Gov. Walker’s budget proposal could suck blood from UWRF student body

Jack Haren

Columnist

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and his \$300 million UW System cut, which would take away \$4.2 million from the UW-River Falls campus, is part of an overall state budget proposal, which is a balance attempt to solve the entire state’s deficit.

The budget proposal has the university questioning its future in a major way that Chancellor Dean Van Galen called “historic.” Planning for the worst is logical, even when the proposal has yet to pass through legislature. Taxes, too, needs a final count. On July 1, the new fiscal year, the budget proposal will be decided upon, and things will be different. We don’t know what it will look like yet in detail.

Walker’s proposal shows an obvious lack of value for education. In or out of school, education is incredibly important for an individual and society. It has climbed high on my political priority list. The more minds surviving, making a living, dedicated to furthering the overall human understanding, the better.

The professors are vital. Their roles vary as teachers, mentors, and the pushers of human thought. They conduct research and maintain service. Walker’s solution to “just have them teach one more class” is an absurd notion; the first and worst solution I’ve heard. Van Galen’s description of his former roles as a chemistry professor in a guest column in the River Falls Journal in early February quickly squashed it.

If the students are the so-called “body,” then professors would be the “heart,” pumping blood, fueling our brains, making students run with wide-open eyes. Like a vampire, Walker is standing next to the body, breathing down its neck, ready to bite and suck its blood, and a presidential run might have him transforming to a bat and flying away.

A week before school started, I had the pleasure of using saliva to adhere the “Welcome Back to UWRF” sign to the Falcon’s Nest windows, suctioning them to the glass as a new worker for the school. The Falcon’s Nest is spot to have an eye over much of the school grounds. People from down

below would look up at the tall, wide sheets of glass at the sign, and then at me.

The start of the semester annoyed me with the influx of traffic. My street was at full capacity parking. I won’t have these thoughts again because I’d rather have the business and bustle of the crowd and have the school not just survive, but remain healthy. For the third time, I will witness the absence of the college crowd, leaving River Falls in a state of peaceful desolation.

While taking down the sign weeks later, I overheard a joking comment: “Well, apparently we aren’t welcome anymore.” Realizing that some people walking in and seeing “welcome back” might not be welcomed back next year makes this true, at least according to Walker.

I have a job at the school and I too am afraid of losing it. I feel incredibly lucky to have gotten the opportunity to get paid work. If it’s lost, I will still feel lucky to have gotten a stint.

For how cheap UWRF has been, I feel as if I owe them. Currently, I’m taking the money, but I would work for free, simply because I want to be good at the things that I do.

I am surprised the Republicans have publicly stayed silent on a landmark issue, although it’s my job as a student journalist to ask. As fellow students, I would hope they aren’t looking up to Walker in this situation, or standing by him because Walker is labeled a Republican. These actions aren’t solutions.

For current students, this situation requires not saying “screw politics.” It’s a time to lobby and rally resources for individuals studying something they hopefully turn passionate about doing for a living.

It’s one thing to know the issue and another to get up and take physical action. Walker is playing with fire with \$300 million, or about a third of a billion dollars to spin it to sound worse. Students, community members, and the state should protest this negative chunk of money so it doesn’t weaken our coveted accessibility and quality of Wisconsin education.

Jack Haren is a junior journalism student who spends free time snowboarding, skateboarding, reading, writing, designing, listening, experimenting and living minimally.

Check out the Student Voice online at uwrfvoice.com.

Wisconsin in Scotland program changes UWRF student’s life

Jenna Newman
Columnist

I had never been so nervous, sad and excited at one time in my life.

I sat in my window seat, glancing up at the billions of stars as we flew through the night to Amsterdam, Netherlands from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Opening my bag, I grabbed the stack of letters that my friends had written for me to read on my flight. With each one, my eyes burned more thinking of how long it would be before I would see them again.

I thought about what lied ahead of me in Scotland. I had no idea what to expect, where I was going to travel or who any of the other students were. I asked myself over and over why I had decided to do this and began to formulate an escape plan in the back of my mind.

Suddenly, I could see a web of lights on the new continent below; and within an hour, we landed. It was 3 a.m. and I was wide awake. I met up with a few of the other program

participants, and we chatted while waiting for our next plane. Five hours later, it was 8 a.m. (Scotland time) and I was landing in my new home. We descended through the clouds and into a verdant landscape below. The program director was there to meet us and arrange for our passage to the Dalkeith House. I spent the entire taxi ride glued to the window, looking at the new and different landscape of Scotland. Finally, the taxi pulled into Dalkeith and the palace came into view.

My mouth fell open in surprise at just how big and amazing this palace was. This place looked like it fell out of the pages of a fairy tale. The palace was surrounded by a 1,000-acre estate, completely separate from the urban world just a quarter mile down the road. I thought to myself that maybe this wouldn’t be so bad after all.

To be honest, those first few days were rough. I missed my family and friends, but eventually I became so busy it was impossible to even have time to miss them. Every day was a new adventure, and I tried to take advantage of as many opportunities as I could. I took Scottish cooking classes, danced at a ceilidh (Scottish folk dance), went on a spring break

Mediterranean cruise, listened to Jane Goodall speak about her experience with chimpanzees, drank fresh Guinness in Ireland, hiked the highest part of the Munro Mountain, visited castles, attended rugby and football matches, traveled through the highlands in Scotland, and met a lot of great people.

Now, more than a year later, I think about that semester almost every day. Sometimes, it feels like I never actually left and the whole semester was merely a dream. The only proof I have is the pictures that now fill my computer. I am incredibly glad that I went and cannot express how much a semester abroad taught me. There are a lot of great experiences to be had and lessons to be learned from studying abroad. If not through the Wisconsin in Scotland program, then perhaps a different program that the Global Connections office offers. There are so many opportunities out there that are waiting to be had. All you have to do is take that first step by saying yes to a new adventure.

Jenna Newman is a senior animal science student from Somerset, Wisconsin. Jenna plans on attending UW-Madison next fall for veterinary school.

‘Day on the Hill’ garners much needed attention on politics

Gregory Mathews
Columnist

On Feb. 2, UW-River Falls student and fellow Environmental Corps of Sustainability (ECOS) member Greg Brown and I made a trip to the Minnesota State Capitol for the Clean Energy & Jobs “Day on the Hill” lobby event.

Hundreds of Minnesotans met with their respective district lawmakers to pressure them into supporting a vote which would raise the Renewable Energy Standard to 40 percent by 2030.

My state representative in the town of Hastings, Minnesota, is Republican Denny McNamara, a small business owner who has been holding office since 2002. Rep. McNamara is on a first name basis with my father and grandmother, and recently I have been fostering my own working relationship with him.

Both Rep. McNamara and my District Senator Katie Sieben, a Democrat, were both out of office for the day. After meeting with their legislative aids, I quickly received emails back from both elected officials. They thanked me for taking

time to meet with them and apologized for being out of office. They then shared their views on renewable energy and where renewables are headed in the state of Minnesota.

A little over one week later, on Thursday Feb. 12, more than 100 students from five different schools within the University of Minnesota System met with legislators in support of a tuition freeze.

“Student voices aren’t often heard at the capitol,” said Minnesota student Kristen Anderson. “I advocate for the tuition freeze for all the other students who are in class or at work. A tuition freeze would be long-term investment in the workforce and short-term financial help.”

In a participatory democracy, these types of events create change in our society. If there’s a cause that means a lot to you, whether it is education reform, subsidies for farmers, environmental action, or legalization of marijuana; you have a voice, and there are elected officials who want to hear it.

You don’t need experience in politics, belong to the Democrat or Republican party, or earn a college degree to take a position and be a part in the political process. When election time rolls around, I often hear my peers talk about why they do or do not vote. In my experience, it’s been the latter. Many

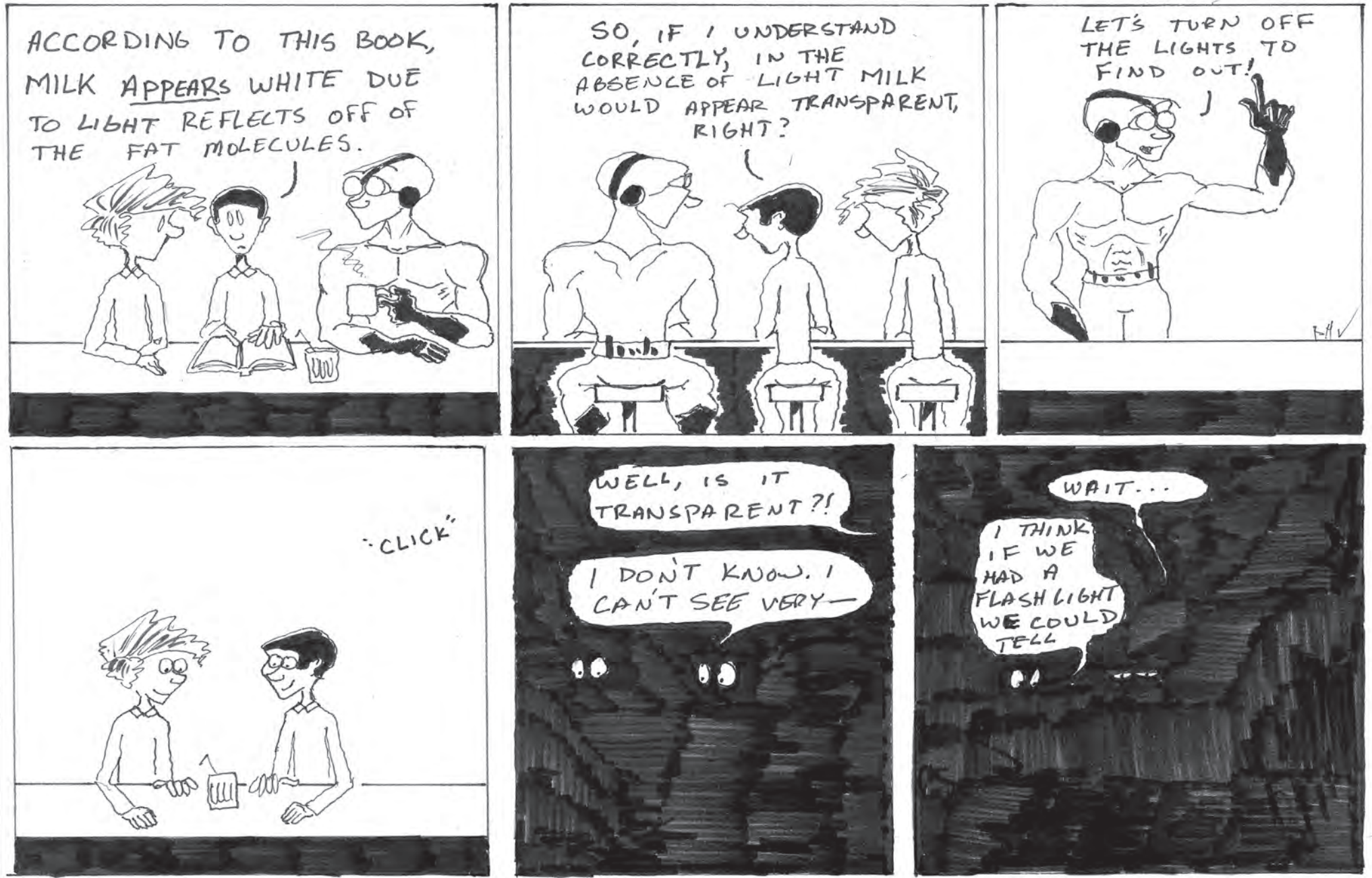
feel they aren’t informed enough to make a proper decision, others have stated: “All politicians are corrupt, so what’s the point?”

People on college campuses do not vote because they don’t care about who is in power. They just want to live in their own little sphere of life. Some people would continue on as if government decisions won’t effect them.

It’s important to take the time to learn who your representatives are. Complaining about corrupt politicians only adds to the problem of corrupt and unfit individuals who get elected. The truth is that we are very fortunate to not only have the right to vote in the U.S., but also having elected officials who are readily available and willing to sit down and discuss issues with any constituent, like you and me.

The most important part of a democracy is a well-informed electorate, a community of people who have values and ideas they want represented in government. Find a cause or movement you can get behind, pick up a phone, write a letter, and take advantage the power to enact change in your community.

Gregory Mathews is a senior double major in history and political science. Gregory is also an environmental activist.



Cartoon by Benjamin Heer

Find Freddy’s lost feather in this issue of the Student Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theatre!

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Do you have something to say?

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Men’s hockey earns third seed for WIAC playoffs

Bryan Tester
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It was a tough weekend for the UW-River Falls men’s hockey team, as the Falcons lost its final two WIAC games of regular season against UW-Stevens Point 5-3 and UW-Eau Claire 3-2.

The Falcons earned the third seed in the WIAC tournament, which starts this weekend. UWRF entered the weekend with first place on its mind,

Going into Friday’s game against UW-Stevens Point, the Falcons were one game out of contention to win the WIAC regular season title for the second straight year. Going into game three of the series, the Falcons and Pointers were tied at one game a piece with a split series out in Stevens Point earlier this season.

The first period started out in Stevens Point’s favor, as Kyle Gibson scored a goal quickly in the first period to give the Pointers a 1-0 lead. The Falcons would answer halfway through the period after a tic-tac-toe passing play from freshman defenseman Terry Leabo and senior captain forward Huppert to set up a goal in front of the net for sophomore forward Christian George, his ninth of the season. The period would finish in a 1-1 tie going into the second.

The second period started out very similar as Pointers wasted no time scoring a goal 84 seconds into the period. The majority of the second period was controlled by the Stevens Point defense, making it difficult to get any type of play set up.

The Falcons were able to get something going as sophomore forward Ryan Doner scored his ninth goal of the season after Pointers goalie Brandon Jaeger was unable to get a handle on the puck. Freshman forward Kyle Gattelaro and sophomore forward Mike Fazio were in on the assist, helping make the score 2-2 going into the third period.

Period number three started out very slow for both teams, but the



Jack Haren/Student Voice
From left to right: sophomore defenseman Matt Wurst, freshman forward Kyle Gattelaro, freshman defenseman Caleb O’Brien, and sophomore forward Christian George celebrate with fellow Falcon teammates after a first period goal. The men’s hockey team is set to play its first WIAC playoff game at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, against the Blugolds.

Pointers got into a rhythm by scoring three unanswered goals in the period. Eight minutes into the period, Falcons junior goaltender Tanner Milliron was beat glove side by a shot coming from the top of the circle making it a 3-2 game. The Pointers wouldn’t stop there, scoring a goal at 13:44 to give Stevens Point a two-goal lead.

It would be 44 seconds later, and Stevens Point would answer again scoring another goal making it a three-goal game.

The Falcons would answer right back, scoring a goal of its own from Leabo with assists from Huppert and Gattelaro.

The Falcons would ultimately fall 5-3 and would finish in third place

in the WIAC behind Eau Claire, who the Falcons faced on Saturday night.

Head Coach Steve Freeman and the team would travel to Eau Claire to take on the team the Falcons will play in the first round of the WIAC playoffs this weekend. As soon as the puck dropped at the start of the game, the intensity between both teams came out.

The first period would be a physical one as neither team was able to put anything in the net. Five minutes into the period, two players from both teams went into the box for roughing, and seven total penalties were assessed in the first period alone.

The second period was a differ-

ent story as the Falcons were able to take its first lead of the weekend on a goal scored on a tip by junior forward Mike Williams from junior captain defenseman Alex Murphy. The Falcons would quickly score again and take a two-goal lead after a power play goal scored by George with assists from Leabo and Gattelaro.

Eau Claire was able to come back in the second by scoring a short-handed goal at 9:26. That goal was followed by a goal scored by Jack Callahan at 12:26, which would tie up the game.

The third period was played evenly until another shorthanded goal was scored by River Falls native Ross Andersen to give the Blu-

golds the 3-2 lead and eventually the win.

Freeman said the Falcons will need to make some adjustments this upcoming weekend.

“We need to create a lot more on our fore-check. We gave them too much room to come up ice and we didn’t engage very well physically,” Freeman said.

This weekend the Falcons will travel back to Eau Claire for the start of the WIAC playoffs. The series will be an important one, as both teams will need to win out to have a chance to reach the NCAA tournament. The drop of the puck for Friday’s game is set for 7 p.m. in Eau Claire.

Men’s basketball loses in playoffs after strong season

Trenten Gauthier
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The UW-River Falls men’s basketball team went into its final week of the season needing two wins to secure the third seed in the WIAC tournament, which would be its highest finish since 2012 when the Falcons finished second.

The Falcons played and defeated both the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds and the UW-Platteville Pioneers en route to a surprising third place WIAC finish. Both games, which were at home, favored the Falcons’ strengths as the Falcons finished with a 7-3 home record in the regular season. The Falcons then were matched up in the first round with the Blugolds, a team they had defeated twice during the regular season.

This Falcons team was one of its youngest ever, during the non-conference schedule the Falcons had just two wins out of the WIAC. This Falcons team also struggled with close games this season, losing eight out of its 14 games by three points or less.

In the WIAC tournament game against UW-Eau Claire, the Falcons led by seven at halftime before heading to overtime and falling to the Blugolds by a score of 81-79. Head Coach Jeff Berkhof had nothing but praise for his team.

“We had a bunch of new guys, coming off a real not-so-good season, you know, I had a really good feeling we were going to be pretty solid, but we didn’t know until we started meshing these guys together, they did a super job, winning games in our conference isn’t easy to go 10-6 in the WIAC,” Berkhof said.

The Falcons players indeed bought into Berkhof’s system, as the team slowly meshed throughout the season. Players like sophomore point guard Grant Erickson, who led the WIAC in assist-to-turnover ratio, said the Falcons knew all along, even in the rough patches of the season, that the team was going to be impressive.

“It wasn’t really a shock to us how we preformed this season, we were bringing in a lot of good recruits and transfers, we didn’t have the best start to our season but we battled through it, it is not easy winning games in the WIAC,” Erickson said. “We are a tough group, we battled, we are close, which helps. It has been a great experience and I wouldn’t change it.”

The Falcons finished the regular season on a tear, winning five of its last seven games in the WIAC, its only two losses to the teams who finished first and second in the WIAC respectively. The Falcons in the regular season were led by junior forward Jon Christensen in scoring at 13.8 points per game and Erickson at 10.2 points per game.

Christensen led the team in double-doubles as he notched four and Erickson also led the team in assists and had almost double the amount of free throws, 134, than the second player at 70.

The Falcons’ off-season now begins. UWRF hits the court again in November in the 2015-2016 season, with higher expectations this time around.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
CJ Lewis (right) searches for a teammate while a UW-Eau Claire opponent blocks his vision. The Falcons lost to Eau Claire 81-79 in overtime in the first round of the WIAC tournament in the Karges Center on Feb. 24.

Record crowd supports women’s basketball

Derin Loe
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Over 700 people showed up to support Assistant Coach Mike Babler’s grandson, Leo, and the UWRF women’s basketball team during “Leo Night” on Feb. 14 at the Karges Center.

A total of 702 people attended the game between UWRF and UW-Whitewater, on a night that helped raise money for Leo. The 702 people in attendance is a new record for the women’s basketball program, surpassing the previous record of 681.

Leo was born on May 5, 2014, with a rare genetic disorder called Rhizomelic Chondrodysplasia Punctata (RCDP), a form of dwarfism and a lethal form of skeletal dysplasia. The major features of this disorder include: skeletal abnormalities, distinctive facial features, intellectual disability, and respiratory problems.

Before the game, Babler wanted to break the women’s basketball attendance record, and he got what he wanted and more. The atmosphere in the gym was electric.

“When the gym fills up it is a different environment,” Babler said.

Babler and the players were overwhelmed by the turnout and response by the community. The whole experience was humbling and very emotional, according to Babler.

“I was ecstatic,” said sophomore guard Randi Mehus. “Our coaching staff and everyone behind the scenes worked so hard to put the night all together and it turned out perfect.”

Shirts were sold for \$15 during the event and there also was a silent auction in which many local businesses donated items to be auctioned off. The family created the “Leo Lionhearted Fund” on gofundme.com where all donations made go to the family for medical expenses and anything else Leo needs. Over \$14,000 has already been raised on the gofundme.com page.

“Gratitude for all the people that took time out of their Valentine’s Day and busy schedules to come support such a great cause,” said sophomore forward Kate Theisen. “Especially all the students that showed up, getting that much support from campus as well as other student athletes was amazing.”

Leo and his family still have many struggles ahead but the donations should help. Leo recently had his fifth eye surgery to remove protein build up, but Babler said he is doing well after the surgery.

As far as the basketball game goes, the Falcons were energized at the start but were unable to close out the game, losing 74-67 to Whitewater. The loss brought the women’s record to 9-14 overall and 4-10 in the WIAC. The game was also the Falcons’ last home game of the year.

Babler thought the team played well even though the result was a loss and is proud of how the team has played all year.

“I thought we played well all year,” Babler said. “They work hard all the time.”

The average home attendance for the season is 232 people. The season high for home attendance before “Leo Night” was 250 back on Dec. 3 against UW-Superior. With a crowd that was almost three times larger than the previous high, the game had a different atmosphere.

“It’s always nice to play at home and have a good crowd,” Theisen said. “With a higher energy in the gym, it’s hard not to feel more energized.”

Babler did not know yet how much was raised during the event as some donations still needed to be confirmed. He also said they have raised enough money for now and at the moment has no plans for another Leo Night.

Donations can still be made to the Lionhearted Fund however, to donate you can visit: www.gofundme.com/cfgmts.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Part of the record breaking crowd cheers on the UWRF women’s basketball team. “Leo Night” helped draw the largest crowd in the history of Falcon women’s basketball with 702 people in the Karges Center.

UWRF celebrates National Recreation and Fitness Day

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Feb. 22 is the day when the National Intramural Recreation Sports Association (NIRSA) celebrates “National Recreation and Fitness Day.”

NIRSA is an organization that helps to regulate various sports through the collegiate systems across the U.S. NIRSA helps students at both the varsity and club level, but does not participate in any NCAA or NAIA activities.

NIRSA was established in 1950, and its mission is to provide the education and development of professional and student members, and to help develop and expand on recreational programs, facilities, and services for students.

National Recreation and Fitness Day is the day where NIRSA promotes living a healthy lifestyle. This, of course, includes physical health, but also mental health and sportsmanship.

NIRSA helps promote this day by asking people to submit their recreational plans through various social media platforms. In this way, NIRSA ensures that colleges are spreading the word about campus recreation all across the U.S.

UW-River Falls also celebrates this day. On Feb. 23, campus recreation held some promotional tables in the Knowles Center.

These tables were designed to not only let students know about upcoming recreational events, but also to see what students enjoyed about recreational activities on campus, and to get extra feedback.

“The biggest thing is meeting people,” said senior computer science major Randall Pfeifer. “Second off, is just having fun, I mean most games don’t last more than half an hour, so it’s nice to just get away from everything and just play a game for a while, and have some fun.”

Pfeifer has been in virtually every intramural sport available at UWRF. This includes: volleyball, sand volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, broomball, soccer and softball. The only sport Pfeifer has not been in is flag football.

Campus recreation has also held giveaways and freebies for the students, as a thank you for using campus recreation and supporting the organization. Campus recreation also gave out updates on the construction and operation of the Falcon Center.

This includes an upcoming student referendum on whether

or not there should be an additional segregated fee for the operational costs of the Falcon Center.

Around 68 percent of the entire student body at UWRF are involved with at least one campus recreation program, this includes intramurals, outdoor adventures, and open recreation. Even with decreasing enrollment these percentages have remained steady overall.

“We believe that campus recreation provides an enormous amount of benefits to students,” said assistant director of recreation Tiffany Gaulke. “Everything from physical activity to the whole social aspect, it allows for people to release some of that competitive energy.”

Now the Recreation and Sports Facilities department is looking forward to many events and competitions in the near future.

These events include a one-day indoor soccer tournament, a month-long bike maintenance clinic, and an annual spring climbing competition that invites students of any level to participate.

For more updates on campus recreation visit the Recreation and Sports Facilities web page on the UWRF website.



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WOMEN’S HOCKEY FRIDAY, FEB. 27 HOME VS. EAU CLAIRE PUCK DROPS- 7:05	WOMEN’S HOCKEY SATURDAY, FEB. 28 HOME VS. EAU CLAIRE PUCK DROPS- 2:05 P.M.
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‘Citizenfour’ visually reveals monumental Snowden events

Jack Haren

Columnist

“Citizenfour,” the 2015 Oscar-winning documentary, provides invaluable visual historical detail of key moments between whistleblower Edward Snowden and journalist Glenn Greenwald that became publicly announced government secrets in 2013.

The actions led to domestic and international debate still being fought today, with security versus privacy being the core hinge point.

Initial reporting was done by Greenwald and Ewan Macaskill. They sat in a Hong Kong, China, hotel, where Snowden traveled to hide, and listened to Snowden explain each document that he acquired. Special care was taken by Snowden to choose material that would not harm others.

The settings were the hotel room, conference rooms, and courthouses. Laura Poitras’ editing makes “Citizenfour” watch like a feature film with suspense. The challenge was the audience already knowing the outcome. Seeing individual clips before viewing the feature means nothing.

Key moments often rolled for long periods, showing Snowden’s varying emotions as the situation developed. His hands shook while thinking of his girlfriend and family the day after Greenwald published the initial story. His family had no idea what he was doing until the initial stories broke.

Poitras’ entrance to the operation began with highly secured emails. The title of the film, “Citizenfour,” is because Snowden signed his emails with that code name to Poitras. Snowden chose her to come film mainly because she had firsthand experiences with high powered government and its fraudulency, which landed her on the secret watch list.

“Citizenfour’s” interviews and production were done in secret over two years and became the last part of Poitras post 9/11 trilogy. The preceding were in 2006 and 2010



Jack Haren/Student Voice

St. Anthony Main Theatre shows “Citizenfour.”



on the topics of the Iraq War and Guantanamo titled “My Country, My Country” and “The Oath.” Poitras has won numerous awards for her films and journalism.

Greenwald was working for the Guardian, based in the United Kingdom, when he broke the initial stories. Macaskill was called in to assist Greenwald with reporting and act as an extra set of eyes to observe. He sits with crossed legs in a chair, not looking particularly comfortable, taking hard-core notes with an extra wide j-pad, while he nods his head in complete concentration and understanding to Snowden’s responses. Greenwald got the thicker cushioned chair.

Snowden, the former Booz Allen Hamilton Infrastructure analyst contracted by the NSA, turned into a self-imposed whistleblower upon discovering the NSA’s expansive mass surveillance and data collection of private U.S. citizens.

A major theme throughout the film was that he wanted the story to be about the documents and information and not about his character.

Snowden described how information in every electronic device is potential for NSA collection. Because Snowden is so technical and familiar with the practices, he became paranoid. When speaking on the telephone, he disguises his voice. When entering passwords, a hood goes over the head.

Snowden avoids the decisions of publishing himself by “running the documents through journalists.” Snowden describes the issue as state power versus the people’s power to oppose that power. Snowden used his conscience to prove all

allegations about the subject of domestic spying true by others, including William Binney, the former NSA veteran of 30 years that pioneered some mass collection and analysis practices.

In the film, Binney said “downstairs in a parking garage, physically” is still the safest way to communicate, alluding to Deep Throat in the Watergate scandal.

Julian Assange, founder of WikiLeaks, makes a brief appearance amidst his own political predicament, offering only a few comments.

WikiLeaks is an entity for whistleblowers to safely and anonymously dump information.

A group of international lawyers and the ACLU get involved to represent Snowden and see to his defense. Snowden was sentenced in June 2013 under the 1917 Espionage Act, which is described as broad and used for foreign offenders, not whistleblowers.

One lawyer said it will be resolved with “95 percent politics and 5 percent law.”

The lawyers also saw to Snowden’s safe travel from Hong Kong to the United Nations. Eventually, Snowden stays in an airport for 40 days until Russia granted him one-year asylum in Moscow, where his girlfriend started living with him again.

The aftermath is Greenwald writes a book, “No Place to Hide,” and co-founds “The Intercept” news project with Poitras. Its goal, according to part one of its short term mission, is to “provide a platform to report on the documents previously provided by NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden.”

The film started premiering all over the world since the Oscars. “Citizenfour” is now finally digitally available with the On Demand Xfinity service until March 24. This documentary deserves five stars because of how dangerous the revelations can become if the large government apparatus turns the key.

Jack Haren is a junior journalism student who spends free time snowboarding, skateboarding, reading, writing, designing, listening, experimenting and living minimally.

Smartphones create anti-social campus

The other day I was eating breakfast in an emptier side of the Riverside Commons when I witnessed a sight that has become too familiar.

Matthew Clark

A few minutes after I sat down, two men filled the table next to me. After a brief minute of small talk, the two quickly buried their heads into smartphones and said very little to each other for the rest of breakfast. That moment of every day modern life opened my eyes to the severity of our society’s addiction to cell phones.

Columnist

You’re thinking I’m just another guy writing about how cell phones are bad and how we’re missing so much in the world...yada yada yada.

But I’m not because I too was on my phone. Most people with smartphones are addicted to them—and that’s not going to change. Personally, I have tried to detox myself from my phone several times, and with no success.

I have had nights when I plan to put my phone in airplane mode and shove it in the drawer only to drag it out 10 minutes later because I just had to know some pressing information on Wikipedia. I mean, come on, we have all been in situations when you just have to know if Steve Buscemi went to college.

My point is that our addiction is killing our social lives. I often wonder if people really know their friends and significant others as well as others did in the past because now there are two screens between them.

On any day in the University Center, groups of friends will be huddled around tables with nobody saying anything noteworthy because social media feeds have captured them.

The lack of dialogue and social interaction is destroying our ability to read and understand important social cues. This and our preference to communicate through digital media have led to a rise to depression, anxiety, and extreme loneliness. If this trend continues, the future of society doesn’t sound that great.

To combat this problem including my own growing addiction to my phone, I have created a resolution for myself: From now on, I will have no interaction with my phone for one whole hour a day.

But I suppose I should be a bit more specific, so in this hour I will still have my phone handy in case of an emergency. However, I will not peruse news feeds or read the latest ClickHole article. Instead, I will interact with my friends and try to know them and the world around me better.

This may not sound like much, but I’m certain I will notice a difference. If we all adopted this plan, maybe the world wouldn’t feel as lonely as it does right now.

Matt Clark is a sophomore journalism student, an active WRFW DJ, and Student Voice Circulation Manager. In his free time, Matt plays guitar for rock bands in the Midwest. He’s had the opportunity to open for legendary rock bands Chicago, Huey Lewis and the News, and Daughtry.

Childhood to adulthood epiphanies inevitable

A few weeks ago in my short story class, we were talking about a story when a boy sees his hero doing some pretty shady things and loses faith in him.

Natalie Howell

Our teacher mentioned the idea of a moment in everyone’s life when they realize that they are no longer a kid, and that the world isn’t as bright and wonderful as they once thought. For the boy in the story, he had that moment. His hero wasn’t who he thought he was.

Columnist

Walking back to my dorm room after class, I thought about what my moment was: What had happened in my life that was a definitive moment marking my childhood as over? I couldn’t think of a single moment in my life that ripped my childhood from me, and I smiled at the idea that maybe my teacher was wrong, and that not everyone has those moments.

Then, a few days later, I got a call from my dad saying that they had to put down our family dog, Halle. He told me that the night before she had fallen and lost the mobility of her back legs, and that it was time.

It was the middle of the week, and because I didn’t have a car, I couldn’t go home to say goodbye to Halle, whom I had since five years old.

When I said goodbye to her at the end of J-term, I wondered if I would have said goodbye differently if I knew it was going to be the very last time. I wanted to cry and stay in my bed all day like a little kid, but I knew that for everyone else on campus it was just a normal day and that I had to act normal too.

When I got back to my dorm later that night, I knew it was my moment to act like an adult over my dog’s death without my parents there to comfort me. This was the moment my childhood was over.

This moment might happen to others sooner rather than later. Eventually, it happens to everyone whether they realize it or not. I’m lucky my yellow lab lived to be 15 years old. Until then, I had gone my whole life without having to deal with the death of someone I love. That defining moment was hard, but it not as bad as it could have been. Some people have to face the harsh reality of their childhood ending too soon because of much worse reasons.

No matter how hard we try to fight it, we all have that moment when our childhood starts to fade away and when it’s time to grow up and become an adult. It’s important to realize a certain path doesn’t mean that being stuck on an assembly line of adulthood. We can still stop and smell the roses or catch butterflies on the way to the next stage.

There’s a moment in everybody’s lives when their childhood is over, but that doesn’t mean that we have to lose all of ourselves and who we used to be. When that moment happens we are sometimes broken down and forced to reconstruct ourselves. We may be forced to grow as a person into someone better, someone more independent and strong; maybe someone that our younger selves would have looked up to.

Natalie Howell is a sophomore journalism major from Rochester, Minnesota. After graduation, Natalie hopes to earn a job working for a newspaper.

Famous composer Johan de Meij conducts UWRF Symphony Band

Cristin Dempsey

Columnist

The UW-River Falls Symphony Band is busy this week because we have awaited the arrival of famous composer Johan de Meij all year.

This week, he is in residence in River Falls, working with the Symphony Band until the concert on Thursday, Feb. 26.

While his music presents a challenge in every part; at the end, it’s always a rewarding experience to work with a famous composer and achieve a piece at a difficulty level we aren’t used to. Since this is my first time working with de Meij, I don’t know exactly what to expect, but I look forward to what I can learn in one week.

This is not de Meij’s first

time in River Falls. Four years ago was his first residency with the Symphony Band. For some, they knew what to expect from the week; but for most, it’s a new experience that we will remember for years to come. In my four years at UWRF, I have worked with several composers, conductors, and soloists, all of varying personalities and talents, and I learned something different from each of them.

This is no exception to de Meij, who is a household name in the band world. With his experience with bands around the world, we will be able to expand our knowledge.

At 7:30 p.m., de Meij will conduct the Symphony Band in six pieces, five of which are his own, which are “Riverdance,” “Spring,” “Summer,” “The Witches’ Sabbath,” “Elfentanz,” and “Ballade.”

In addition to de Meij as conductor, alto saxophone

soloist Hans de Jong will join us with “Elfentanz” and “Ballade” composed by Alfred Reed. “Riverdance,” composed by Bill Whelan, and “The Witches’ Sabbath,” composed by Giacomo Puccini, are both arranged by de Meij. “Spring” and “Summer” are original works that follow a similar theme.

“Riverdance” is based on the world-famous theater production and mainly includes rhythms from Irish, Spanish, and Eastern European works. “The Witches’ Sabbath” originates from Puccini’s “La Tragedia” from the opera “de Villi.”

Thursday’s featured saxophone soloist, de Jong, splits his time between playing alto saxophone (both as a soloist and as a part of chamber ensembles) and teaching both classical Saxophone and chamber music at the Royal Conservatoire in Antwerp, Belgium. In total, there are about 150 compositions dedicated to him, from

chamber works to concertos.

In addition to these dedications, de Jong has also composed three works of his own, all concertos. He has presented Master Classes in several countries, including Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Spain. De Jong won several contests for his abilities, most of which were near his home in Antwerp.

Between being under the direction of de Meij and playing alongside de Jong, this week’s events will be something that we will all carry with us for many years, whether we go into music as a career or keep playing for the pure enjoyment. It’s not every day that musicians get to work with one of the most famous band composers in the world. The Symphony Band is getting that chance.

Cristin Dempsey is an English major and music minor from Eagan, Minnesota. She enjoys writing, playing the flute and swimming.