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University of WisconsinRiver Falls

STUDENT VOICE

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River Falls earns recognition for safety

Hayden Bosch
hayden.bosch@my.uwrf.edu

A home security advice website has ranked River Falls as one of the 50 safest college towns in the U.S.

The Sept. 8 article published on SafeWise.com lists River Falls as the country’s 48th safest college town. SafeWise researchers used 2013 FBI statistics to gather the amounts of crimes committed in towns containing at least one college. Those numbers were factored in with the town’s population to find a comparable ratio between towns. SafeWise also considered the existence of programs concerned with wellbeing.

“The town and its residents emphasize a holistic approach to safety, in which the arts and culture contribute to the overall well-being of the area,” writes the article’s author, Mike Strayer. “The University of Wisconsin-River Falls serves as a cultural hub for the region, offering exceptional academic programs in the arts as well as performances and exhibits open to the community.”

While placing 48th in a top 50 list may seem underwhelming, it should be noted that there are a total of 4,706 four- and two-year colleges in the U.S.

While placing 48th in a top 50 list may seem underwhelming, it should be noted that there are a total of 4,706 four- and two-year colleges in the U.S. Not every college is in its own town, so the above number

does not give an exact quantity of college towns. However, this gives a very rough estimate. If there were just one-third as many college towns in the country as there are colleges, this list would place River Falls in the top 4 percent.

“I’m happy any time we can get recognized for having a safe community,” said River Falls Chief of

he sees the local police forces as being deeply ingrained with the community, going so far to describe the two as “partners.”

When asked what the RFPD has worked on in the past that may contribute to River Falls’ safety, Leque responded that the department does its best to stay involved in the community through meetings and par-

reach. A case of murder or nonnegligent manslaughter had not been reported anywhere from 1985 until 2011, when one occurred. Aggravated assault rates also reached a record high in 2012.

According to an FBI guide to using UCR data, they “are sometimes used to compile rankings of individual jurisdictions and institutions of

misunderstand this position.”

The guide mentions “factors that are known to affect the volume and type of crime occurring from place to place.” Some of these include population density, crime reporting practices of the citizenry and citizens’ attitudes towards crime.

According to SafeWise, it uses FBI crime data in conjunction with



The home security advice website SafeWise.com ranked the 50th safest college towns in the United States.

Police Roger Leque. “I can point to several areas that contribute to the safety.” Leque singled out law enforcement — both the River Falls Police Department (RFPD) and UWRF’s on-campus department — as well as the healthy community of the town which contributed to the safety provided by River Falls.

Leque stressed that, while the police specialize in crime prevention,

participation in city events.

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data — published by the FBI — for crime reported to the River Falls Police Department (RFPD) in the year 2012 showed a reported 47 violent crimes and three cases of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter. This was the highest occurrence of both crimes since 1985, the furthest back the UCR data

higher learning. These incomplete analyses have often created misleading perceptions which adversely affect geographic entities and their residents.” The FBI adds that it “has a long-standing policy against ranking participating law enforcement agencies on the basis of crime data alone. Despite repeated warnings against these practices, some data users continue to challenge and

other information gathered by its own researchers. SafeWise also took into account population density — one worry of the FBI about validity — to make the rankings more accurate.

Leque encourages residents who observe suspicious or dangerous behavior, or directly witness or experience a crime, to call 911 for help whenever possible.

Fundraising campaign nears \$20 million goal

Natalie Howell
natalie.howell@my.uwrf.edu

The “Rising to Distinction” fundraising campaign at UW-River Falls is closing in its goal of raising \$20 million in five years. As of June 30, more than \$18 million had been donated or pledged, according to the University website.

In 2012, UWRF launched “Rising to Distinction,” the university’s first comprehensive fundraising campaign. The campaign is aimed at “enabling UWRF to climb to new heights of excellence in financial aid, faculty support, student learning opportunities, and facilities”.

“Rising to Distinction” has six key areas of impact in which the \$20 million will be divided: scholarships (\$7.92 million); colleges, units and programs (\$5.5 million); faculty support (\$2.5 million); the Falcon Center (\$2 million); Fund for UWRF (\$1.58 million); and

Fund for Distinction (\$500,000).

When it came to deciding how much money would go where, the Assistant Chancellor of University Advancement and President of the UWRF Foundation Chris Mueller said that there were specific commitments that the foundation had to consider, like the Falcon Center and Falcon Scholars, where officials knew the number needed right

However, within seven months that campaign had already raised more than \$7 million.

away.

“Then you start filling in the blanks of what you think you can raise in other areas,” Mueller said. “So there is a little art and a little science to it.”

With the campaign deadline set

for June 30, 2016, Mueller said that he is surprised by how quickly the money has been raised.

According to Mueller, the university had a feasibility study done by a consultant in 2011, which determined that the university would be lucky to raise \$10 million by December 2014. The university then launched a \$10 million campaign set for two and a half years.

However, within seven months that campaign had already raised more than \$7 million. That’s when the foundation board decided to launch a \$20 million campaign.

“We still thought it was a stretch, but we felt like given the times that we needed to stretch a little bit,” said Mueller.

One donor, according to Mueller, who has stood out in this campaign is Dr. Bry Wyman, a physician from Madison and the son of Walker D. Wyman, a UWRF history professor for whom the Wyman Educa-

tion Building is named. Because of his donation to the foundation, Dr. Wyman was the first living million dollar donor in UWRF history.

Another donation that stood out was from Arlin and Marilyn Albrecht, who donated two separate times to the Falcon Scholars. Mueller explained that Marilyn was the first recipient of a scholarship from the UWRF Foundation in the 1950s.

“Rising to Distinction” has also held fundraising events, including an annual scholarship benefit held in the spring semester, meant to raise money for UWRF scholarships and honor donors who have given to the university. Speakers for this event have included award-winning entrepreneur Daymond John in 2015 and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Bob Woodward in 2014.

When it comes to how the scholarship benefit has impacted the foundation, Mueller said that although there is money raised through the

event, it is more about creating a better connection with alumni and donors that is unique.

“I could give you a number, and it would be too low,” Mueller said. “Because it wouldn’t count for all those anecdotal stories of the way it has enhanced.”

Looking at how quickly the money has been raised, Mueller explained that nobody involved with Rising to Distinction is worried about meeting the \$20 million goal.

“So now we get to spend the next year really planning what will be our campaign celebration next fall,” said Mueller. “And that’s a really wonderful place to be, because we can thoughtfully think about the impact the campaign has had on campus and really illustrate that to people.”

Check out the Student Voice
online at
uwrfvoice.com

News briefs: Piano Festival & Competition to be hosted by UWRF

Dairy Judging Team Takes Second at Contest

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Dairy Judging Team took second place overall at the 22nd Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Contest sponsored by Accelerated Genetics on Sept. 20.

Twelve university teams traveled to Viroqua to participate in the contest, which models other national contests. Teams must place ten classes of cattle, representing the major dairy breeds of North America, and present oral reasons on five of the ten classes. Within the oral reasons segment of the contest, the student puts forth a persuasive speech, defending his or her placing on a particular class to the official judge in a one-on-one setting.

The UW-River Falls team that competed included: Tim Abrahamson of Lindstrom, Minn.; Meghan Connelly of Rochester, Minn.; Trent Miller of Spring Valley, Wis.; and Charlie Moore of Fennimore, Wis. Abrahamson, Miller and Moore are Dairy Science majors. Connelly is majoring in Agricultural Business.

Individually, Connelly finished second overall and third in reasons; Miller finished sixth overall and sixth in reasons. The team finished second overall and finished third in oral reasons. The team is coached by Dairy Science Professor Steve Kelm and alumna Mary Holle. Holle is a 2011 graduate of the UWRF Dairy Science program and is serving as Assistant Coach for the first time in 2015. Holle and her husband farm in Baldwin.

This second place finish, coming on the heels of UW-River Falls second place finish at the All-American contest earlier this month, is a testament to the depth and strength of the UW-River Falls Dairy Judging program, as the two teams were comprised of different students.

UWRF again one of the “Best in the Midwest” colleges

For the fifth consecutive year, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls has been named one of the best colleges in the Midwest, according to the nationally known education services company, The Princeton Review. UW-River Falls is one of 159 institutions in 12 Midwestern states and one of four University of Wisconsin System institutions deemed “Best in the Midwest.”

The Princeton Review also designated 225 colleges in the Northeast, 125 in the West, and 140 in the Southeast as best in their locales on the company’s “2016 Best Colleges: Region by Region” lists. Collectively, the 649 colleges on The Princeton Review’s “regional best” lists constitute about 25% of the nation’s 2,500 four-year colleges.

The Princeton Review survey asks students to rate their colleges on several issues –from the accessibility of their professors to the quality of their science lab facilities – and answer questions about themselves, their fellow students, and their campus life.

UW-River Falls, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee are the four University of Wisconsin System institutions included in The Princeton Review’s list of the “Best in the Midwest.”

The Princeton Review is an education services company known for its tutoring, test-prep courses, books, and other student resources. The company is not affiliated with Princeton University. The “Best in the Midwest” Web feature is accessible at <http://www.princetonreview.com/bestMWcolleges>.

Founded in 1874, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is located in a scenic community just 30 miles from downtown St. Paul, Minn. UW-River Falls students are empowered, beginning in their first semester, to participate in hands-on research, global travel, and collaborative learning with award-winning and caring faculty.

For more information, email beth.schommer@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-0662.

A Piano Festival & Competition will be hosted by the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Friday and Saturday, Sept. 25-26, in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. All festival concerts are free and open to the public.

The festival will bring together well-known local and international artists to perform concerts, give master classes, and conduct workshops on an array of topics for piano students and teachers. All levels are welcome.

Skilled piano students are encouraged to enter the Saturday morning competition for the opportunity to take a master class with Professor Alexander Braginsky and to play at the Final Concert at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 26 in Abbott Concert Hall on campus.

The festival will provide the opportunity to work closely with such distinguished musicians as Alexander Braginsky, Denis Evstuhin, Laura Caviani, Laura Edman, Gail Olszewski, Tully Hall, and Ivan Konev.

The Piano Festival was created to develop musicianship and promote artistic growth in piano students of all ages, and to inspire greater levels of curiosity and commitment to piano.

Events include:

Friday, Sept. 25, noon, Free Coffee Concert with Laura Caviani, in Abbott Concert Hall.

Friday, Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m., Free Opening Concert with Denis Evstuhin, in Abbott Concert Hall.

Saturday, Sept. 26, 6:30 p.m., Free Final Concert in Abbott Concert Hall, following a student competition, workshops, movie, and master class throughout the day.

For a complete festival schedule, registration, and competition requirements, visit our Piano Festival webpage.

For additional information, call the UWRF Music Department at 715-425-3183 or email ivan.konev@uwrf.edu.

UW-Madison history professor to speak at UWRF

Florencia E. Mallon, Julieta Kirkwood Professor of History at UW-Madison, will speak at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls on Tuesday, Oct. 6, as part of the annual Edward N. Peterson Lecture Series. The lecture will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the Kinnickinnic Theater in the University Center, and will be preceded by a reception at 4 p.m.

Mallon’s reception and lecture, “From Hemisphere to Country: A Genealogy of ‘America’,” are free and open to the public.

Using Michel Foucault’s methodology of “archaeology” and “genealogy,” her lecture explores how the utopian notion of “America,” initially applied to the full Western Hemisphere, is transformed within the emerging nation of the United States. The conflictive interaction between the idea of the “American people” and the idea of the “states,” where the notion of “America” denotes a utopian form of union, is first developed productively in “The Federalist.” Subsequently it becomes a bone of contention, not only in the tensions resulting from U.S. territorial expansion, but also into the conflicts resulting in the Civil War. Finally, during the Spanish-American War (1898), when the United States occupied the Philippines, Cuba and Puerto Rico, the utopian notion of “America” is once again deployed when the U.S. presence in the Caribbean and the Pacific is articulated to a vision of the United States—increasingly self-defined as “America”—as a new world power that protects emerging nations from European imperial domination.

Mallon’s lecture is one of the many events featured in UWRF’s Year of Mexico. The “Year of” program that is part of the global initiative of the university’s strategic planning and an effort to apply a multidisciplinary approach to better understand and appreciate the cultures of different nations in the world, such as Germany, China, Mexico and Brazil.

Mallon’s research and teaching interests include Latin American History of the 19th and 20th centuries, especially Mexico, Peru, and Chile.

Professor Edward N. Peterson taught history at UWRF from 1954 until his death in 2005. To honor his memory and his achievement in teaching and research, the UWRF History and

Philosophy Department established the Peterson Lecture Series program as an annual forum for leading scholars to present their scholarship on war and peace, abuses and limits of power, and the struggle for democracy in the 20th century, issues that Peterson taught about and wrote about during his long career as a historian. The series is funded by an endowment made possible by the generous donations of students, alumni, faculty and friends, collected over many years.

Additional information about the Edward N. Peterson Lecture Series and this year’s event is available on the Peterson Lecture Series webpage. For more information, call 715-425-3164.

Skills Department and ESL Center open to students

All undergraduate and graduate students of any major are welcome to set up an appointment with a tutor in the Skills Department for homework, studying, or writing assistance.

Tutors in the Skills Department are from varying majors, so students may be able to make an appointment with a tutor that has been through the same class. Appointments can be made online through Tutor Trac, or students can stop in the ESL Center to receive assistance in setting up an appointment.


The English as a Second Language Center is open to undergraduate and graduate international students seeking help with reading, speaking, listening, and writing in English. Students who would like papers proofread may come in to work with a tutor, who will explain why errors or mistakes were changed to provide students with a better understanding of English.

Speaker’s Corner is part of the ESL Center, welcoming students that would like to practice their English conversation skills. This program is available Monday through Friday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Both the ESL Center and the Skills Department tutors are prohibited from completing or rewriting homework.

The ESL Center is located in Davee Chalmer Library 104, and is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday.

For more information, you can visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/AcademicSuccess/Tutoring>, email tutoring@uwrf.edu, or call Kelly Grenzow at 715-425-3531.





The “It’s Only Another Beer”
Black and Tan

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8 oz. stout lager
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Mix ingredients.
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Never underestimate ‘just a few.’
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River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

Thursday, Sept. 17

- An incident concerning fraud was reported to have occurred at North Hall around 2 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 18

- An incident concerning underage alcohol consumption was reported in Johnson Hall around 1 am.
- An incident concerning vandalism was reported to have occurred in Stratton Hall around 6 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 21

- In a slightly ambiguous report, an incident concerning a suicide attempt or threat was reported to have occurred in Hagedsted Hall at 4 p.m.

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

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Homecoming to bring excitement to campus

Phelan Patten
phelan.patten@my.uwrf.edu

Homecoming is drawing near, and with it, a wide assortment of exciting activities at River Falls. To name a few highlights coming up: Falcons Got Talent, the parade and the Homecoming football game. Homecoming also involves visits from parents and alumni, displays of school spirit and *Minions* playing all weekend in the theater. It's a time to have fun, get excited about River Falls and participate around campus; here are a few options.

One trademark activity is the annual parade. It's from 10:30 until noon on Saturday, Oct. 3, and runs along Main Street. Homecoming is a place to see community spirit and smile at creative floats—and there is an added allure to the spirited event.

“There’s also a lot of free things,” said student Olivia Wannarka. Last year, she says, “I remember I got like three packs of free ramen…it

was crazy.” Noodles, she says, were not the only things to fall into her lap. “There was a lot of candy, actually…it almost felt like Halloween or something.”

However, Wannarka didn’t only enjoy the parade because of its material perks. “I liked it because it catered to people of all ages,” she recalls. “There was candy for the little kids and then ramen for the college-age students…it was a good family outing experience.”

Falcons Got Talent is another memorable way to spend time during Homecoming. The talent show is at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 2, in the Falcon’s Nest. It’s open to anyone who wants to see an exhibition of talented students. “A bunch of Falcons, aka UWRF students, got up on stage, and they did different acts showing their talent. Some people sang, some people danced, and I think there was even a saxophone that had a presence onstage,” Wannarka remarks on last year’s show.

“I really enjoyed it…it was interesting seeing people that I would

run into on a daily basis, but I didn’t realize that they had those talents,” she says.

Of course, the Homecoming Football Game is the quintessential Homecoming event. Preceded by the Falcon Fest Tailgate at noon, the game starts at 1:00 p.m. at the new Ramer field and is against the UW-La Crosse team. As for when it really ends—who knows? Offensive Line Coach Jacob Wissing says that, in the past, the football team has had some “unbelievable” football games against La Crosse, often going into overtime.

He thinks the team’s chances against La Crosse are pretty good. “We usually play pretty well at Homecoming,” he says, but he adds that he thinks La Crosse will give them “a run for the money.” He comments that the football players are excited for the home game against La Crosse. “The home atmosphere is great,” he asserts. “Our guys love it.” That’s his favorite aspect of games past, too. “Everyone’s excited to be there,” he explains.

“That’s what’s really exciting.”

Wissing says that the football team is excited, too. “They want to be successful so the fans can see all the hard work they put in,” he says. Regarding La Crosse: “I think it’s gonna be one heck of a game with them.”

Student Sara Meureo largely agrees with Wissing’s statement on the general excitement surrounding the Homecoming Football Game. When she attended the game last year, she says, “[the stadium] was probably the busiest it ever was.” It differed from her high school football experience, however; she describes it as “pretty laid-back.” And, she adds, “it was fun.”

Last year, Meureo participated in another element of Homecoming: a family visit. Remember those kleenex packets handed out during registration, bearing the words, “It’s not goodbye, it’s see you soon?” Homecoming weekend is the “see you soon” event in that message; it’s a great time to spend with family. The weekend is packed with

family-friendly activities to be done with friends or your visiting family. Meureo experienced a visit from her family last year. “My parents came, and they did the whole tailgating thing, before the game,” she remembers. (She also took her parents to the football game, which she says they liked.)

Finally, if you need a break from the flurried activity, *Minions* is playing all weekend in the Kinni Theater, on the third floor of the UC, at varied times in the afternoon.

Again, these are only a few of the many activities happening at River Falls during Homecoming; to see the full list, go to www.uwrf.edu/StudentInvolvement/EventsandPrograms/Homecoming.cfm. There are even more ways to enjoy yourself: a bonfire, tailgating and calf-roping, to name a few. Check them all out and select some activities to attend in order to make this year’s Homecoming a memorable one.

New website helps students find higher education

Kate Vruwink
kate.vruwink@my.uwrf.edu

The Obama administration has announced a new website aimed at helping college-bound students and their parents choose a college based on cost, graduation, post-college earnings and debt, according to a press release from the White House.

The College Scorecard is found at collegescorecard.ed.gov. It is interactive and compatible with mobile devices.

In his Sept. 12 weekly address to the nation, President Obama introduced the site by highlighting the importance of higher education.

“Some higher education is the surest ticket to the middle class,” he said. “By the end of this decade two in three job openings will require some higher education.”

Users visiting the site may search for a college based on programs and degrees, location, size, name, and more advanced categories. The user

can then choose the “Find schools” button to see what colleges best fit their needs.

After selecting a college, information is presented in seven main categories: costs, financial aid and debt, graduation and retention, earnings after school, student body, SAT/ACT scores and academic programs.

The categories then may be broken down further providing even more details.

President Obama and his administration felt the categories highlighted on the website were necessary

because they offer reliable data on factors important to prospective students.

“The old way of assessing college choices relied on static ratings lists compiled by someone who was deciding what value to place on different factors,” according to a White House fact sheet regarding the website. “The new way of assessing college choices, with the help of technology and open data, makes it possible for anyone — a student, a school, a policymaker, or a researcher — to decide what factors to evaluate.”

Some students at UW-River Falls agree. They were searching for the statistics on the schools of their dreams well before the site was established, and looked into the points highlighted on the website.

For one student, cost was his main concern.

Chris Diaz, a junior at UW-River Falls, looked into the school because of how it compared to other

schools.

“It wasn’t, like, too expensive, but it was that right price. Like, it’s not \$30,000 a year to get my education,” he said.

Three years ago, when Diaz was looking for information on the campus, it wasn’t all in one place, and he said if the College Scorecard website had been around when he was looking he would have found it to be a very useful tool.

In fact, on the website UW-River Falls ranks better than the national average in every category. In one category alone UWRF ranked 25 percentage points higher than the national average. UWRF has 92 percent of students paying down their debt compared to 67 percent in the nation.

Provost Fernando Delgado said the site provides a fair depiction of certain variables, but does not highlight all of them.

“What it doesn’t really give us a great sense of is the complexity of

the people who come here,” Delgado said. “So it talks about output, but one of the challenges we have in higher education, all of us, is what is the value-added dimension?”

Another factor he said the scorecard lacks is the reason students choose a particular campus. For example, the decision could be based on location rather than the merit of the school.

For Diaz, a big factor that went into his decision to go to UW-River Falls was that he could keep his job in his hometown and be close to home. Other colleges and universities offered his major, but the location of UW-River Falls is what drew him in.

Another student, Abby Krueger, a freshman at UW-River Falls, picked the campus after her high school teacher told her to look into it because he graduated from the campus.

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Center for Economic Research helps local business

Jacob Rogers
jacob.rogers@my.uwrf.edu

The Center for Economic Research, perhaps little known to students on the UW-River Falls campus, has been serving the information needs of St. Croix Valley businesses and local government for about a decade.

The center, part of the College of Business and Economics (CBE), is located in South Hall. Some students who are not in the CBE had no idea that the Center for Economic Research exists.

“I am not sure what that is. I did not even know it was a thing,” said elementary education major Amanda Gemar.

However, to local business leaders, the center is very beneficial.

Logan Kelly, an assistant professor in the Department of Economics, has been the director of the Center for Economic Research since 2010 and said the center has been around for about 10 years.

According to the UWRF website, the mission of the Center for Economic Research is to contribute to the goals of the CBE and the University by encouraging all areas of economic research and promoting economic development in the Upper Midwest.

One of the services that the center provides is an online aggregator of data that is collected from other sources such as banks and local

businesses.

“We put together a fairly extensive dashboard of economic indicators that comes out monthly for the region,” Kelly said. “It’s easy to

Some students who are not in the CBE had no idea that the Center for Economic Research exists.

Data in the dashboard ranges from the employment level and unemployment rate of the St. Croix Valley to milk and crop prices in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Also offered is housing market data. The dashboard can be accessed by anyone who has a computer.

The data that the center produces is used by an array of people such as economic development corporations, local bankers that evaluate economic conditions and local business leaders. The City of River Falls has contacted Kelly for local employment data.

Kelly may be the director of the center, but there is simply too much work to be done for just one person. He usually has an undergraduate or

graduate student assisting him each semester.

“Students are involved in our consulting projects, both at the graduate and undergraduate level,” Kelly said.

Kelly mentioned that currently two graduate students are working on a project for the city of New Richmond and how it can react to the new St. Croix bridge going in, and what possible issues might arise, particularly in the housing market.

The center also provides consulting services for a fee.

The center is self-funded through sponsorships from other organizations or through the consulting projects.

Follow the Student Voice on Twitter @uwrfvoice.

EDITORIAL

Student safety around local bars should be high priority for UWRF

Students at UW-River Falls have plenty of options on where to go get drunk.

Considering how small River Falls is as a city, there are definitely more than enough bars and stores to get your fixing for alcohol alleviated.

There is nothing wrong with getting drunk; the important thing to remember, though, is that one must do so safely.

Most college campuses will give students information, whether that’s through messages around campus or one of those awkward stage performances about the dangers of drinking improperly. This information often revolves around the *act* of drinking, ignoring, crucially, what happens after.

Robert Sontag, a student here at UWRF, died last may after he went missing. Before his body was found in the Kinnickinnic River, he had been last seen leaving a bar after a night of drinking, trying to make his way home.

It is events like this which we can only hope encourage students to take care of themselves when they go out to house parties or to bars at night.

The problem many students face is that they have no ride back to their homes. Not many people enjoy being the sober cab while the rest of their friends drink, so students may be at risk of having to walk back to their homes alone at night. But UWRF will hopefully soon be remedying that issue. Student senate has recently discussed the possibility of employing vehicles to ferry students from the bars around town back to the safety of their homes or dorms.

One big question now for these buses is how they would be paid for. Does UWRF pay for it with some of its funds? Will students have to pay for it each time they ride the bus? It’s not definite yet. The Voice would certainly suggest that the buses are paid for from someone’s pockets besides students who have just spent their money on shots and bar food. If students have to pay for these buses, there will be far less motivation to take them rather than walking back home. There is really no excuse to not take a bus if it’s free, so if student safety is as important to UWRF officials as they make it seem, then the buses will come at no additional charge to them.

If students had a safe alternative to walking home, or even driving drunk, future accidents could be effectively prevented. After the incident with Sontag, and with some roads around campus being dangerous (consider the two UWRF staff members who were sent to the hospital after a collision on Cascade Ave. last spring), UWRF staff should be working to implement this idea for the sake of its students.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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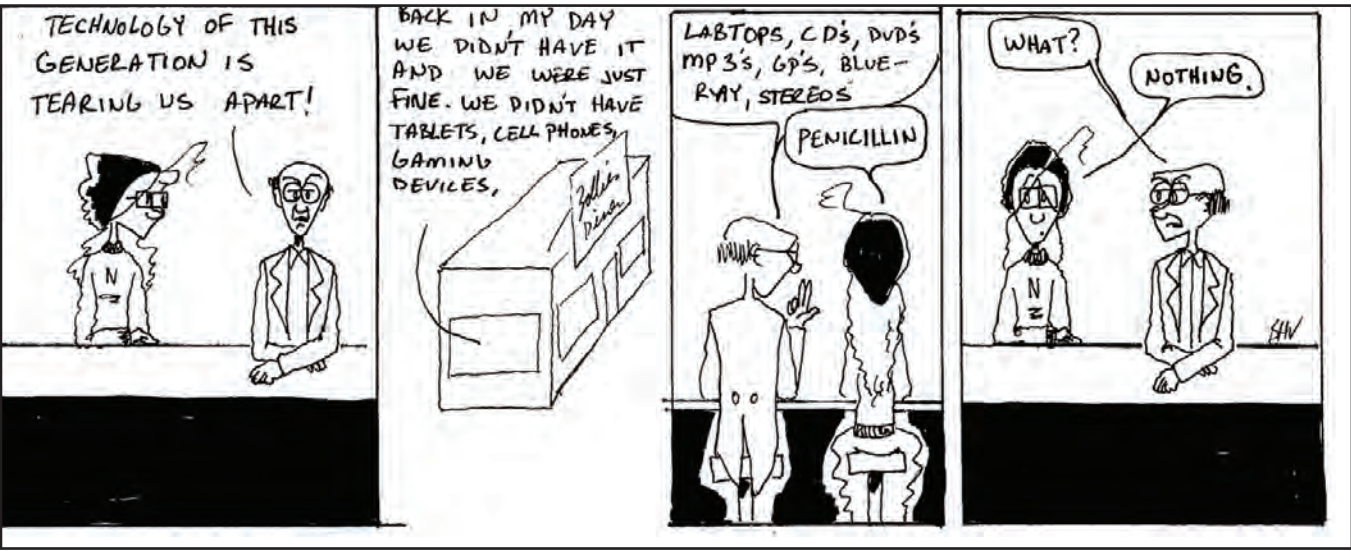
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Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall, River Falls, WI 54022 or to editor@uwrfvoice.com.

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Cartoon by Benjamin Heer

Student Senate Update: Falcon Spirit Allocation

At the Student Senate meeting on Tuesday, Vice President SJ DeGroote re-introduced a motion that was previously discussed at Senate, but only had introductory status, meaning that it was not voted on. The Falcon Spirit Allocation was a motion to allocate \$5,000 from the Student Senate Funding Pool for 400 t-shirts to hand out to the student body throughout the year for Falcon Spirit, formally Falcon Fridays.

DeGroote then made an amendment to this motion, asking instead for \$2,400 to be allocated from the funding pool instead of the \$5,000. The \$2,400 would be to purchase 48 \$50 gift certificates for the Falcon Shop, instead of the t-shirts. Two gift certificates would be given out weekly to get students more involved in Falcon Spirit.

After much discussion over which prizes would be most effective to create more participation in Falcon Spirit, the amendment to the motion was voted on and passed. The main motion was then voted on and passed as well.

All information in this column comes from the September 22 Student Senate meeting and select documents from the OrgSync Student Senate page. It's very important for all students to stay informed on what is going on with Senate. It meets at 7 p.m. every Tuesday in the Willow River Room of the University Center, and the meeting agenda can be found 24 hours prior on the Senate page. To see the details of what was discussed last Tuesday, go on the Senate page, and read through this week's minutes document.



Cartoon by Benjamin Heer

Cartoon Captioning Contest

Visit the Student Voice’s facebook page at facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice and leave a comment with your caption!

The winning caption will appear in next week’s issue. Get creative and get your name in the paper!

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- Reporter
- Columnist
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Not sure what the positions entail? Email us with any questions!

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Biology department gains recognition

Derin Loe
Falcon News Service

The biology department at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls is seeing increased recognition due to the recent grants and awards it has received.

Over the last few years the biology department and faculty have received numerous awards and grants that have helped the department gain recognition from both other UW System schools and from students. For example, the biology department received the 2014 Regents Teaching Excellence Award, which is only given to one department in the entire UW system.

Professor Mark Bergland, chair of the biology department, said that getting awards is not something the department purposely strives to do.

“We just try to do a good job and, if you do a good job, then eventually good things just come your way,” Bergland said.

The department has also received a handful of grants over the last few years that have helped fund multiple research programs. One of the most recent grants was for testing a sustainable beekeeping model that will evaluate the overwintering

“We just try to do a good job and, if you do a good job, then eventually good things just come your way,” Bergland said.

capabilities of small beehives called nucleus colonies. The project is headed by biology professors Brad and Kim Mogen.

One of the key reasons for the recent success the department has had, according to Bergland, is due to a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute a few years ago that helped freshman get into undergraduate research, which has led to an

increase in admissions this year.

“The reason why we continue to get so many majors is probably mainly because there’s so much demand for people trained in our discipline,” said Bergland. “It sure doesn’t hurt to have an award-winning department.”

The recent success of the biology department has also has affected the College of Arts and Sciences. For Dean Brad Caskey the recognition the biology department has gained has made it a destination program for students.

“Our fame, so to speak, continues to grow in the region and people are understanding that we not only have a very strong basic science curriculum, but especially in areas like biomedical training,” Caskey said.

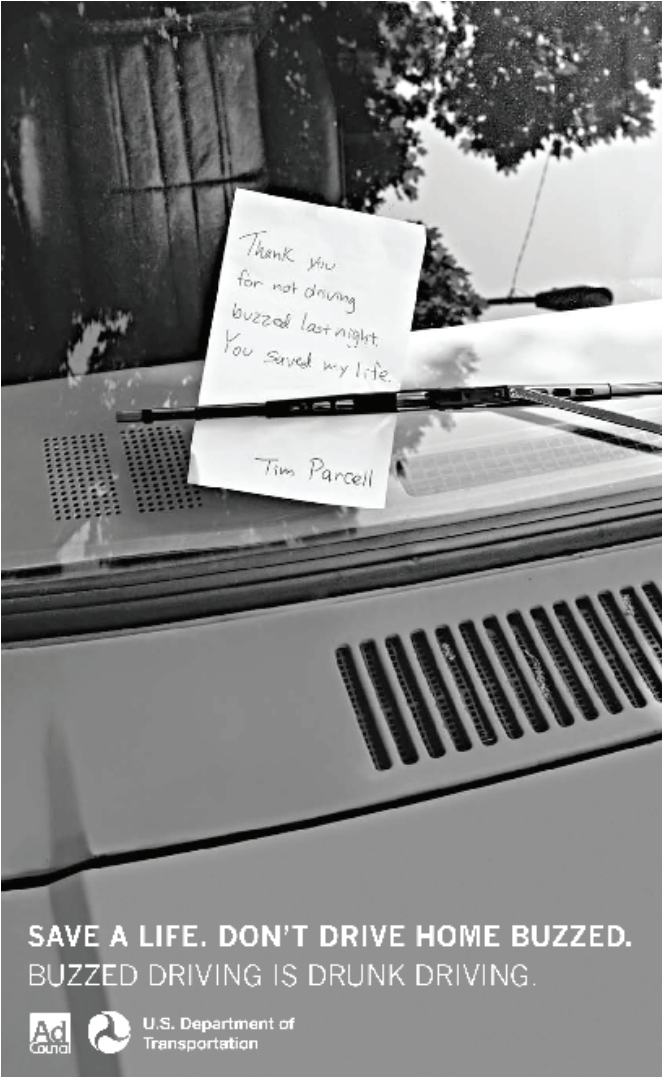
Caskey gives credit to the biology faculty.

“What really separates them in some ways are the faculty excellence,” Caskey explained. “That core faculty is really what drives it.”

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

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

The winner is announced on the Voice’s Twitter and Facebook accounts:
@uwrvoice and **facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice**
Now Playing:
Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials



STUDENT voices

Do you feel safe walking on campus at night?

Compiled by Bethany Lovejoy



Eliana Seltzer
Freshman

“I do for the most part. I have a little fear that’s been unprompted.”



Andrew Borchardt
Freshman

“I feel safe due to the people and ability to talk to them.”



Bryce Palmer
Senior

“Yes I feel safe. I see the officers driving in the evening and that makes me feel safer.”



Eileen Korenic
Staff

“I feel safe due to the amount of students walking at night.”



Sydney Howell
Senior

“I’m a commuter so I don’t stay here later than eight. I feel quite safe actually.”



Hattie Danke
Sophomore

“I feel pretty safe.... It’s a pretty small community so you know everyone.”

Do you have something to say?
Write a letter to the editor.

Email your thoughts to editor@uwrvoice.com

After football loss, coaches remain hopeful

Zach Dwyer
zach.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

After UWRF’s surprise victory over the South Dakota School of Mines on the road last season, expectations were high coming into last Saturday night’s contest.

However, last year’s result couldn’t be replicated this season with South Dakota School of Mines coming out with a fast-paced start to beat the Falcons 49-22.

“Whenever you face a scholarship team, there’s an element of the unknown coming into each season. They did a great job of recruiting this past offseason and we knew coming in they were going to be one of the most athletic teams we would face all season,” Coach Matt Walker said.

The Hardrockers showed their athleticism right out of the gate, putting together an impressive 73-yard drive in the first minutes that was capped off by a 1 yard plunge into the end zone by RB Jerome Dixon. South Dakota Mines converted on a two point conversion to make it 8-0 early in the game.

The Falcon’s defense was the next to step up, with SR Defensive Back Charles Register intercepting a Hardrockers pass and returning it 54 yds. This set up a 37-yard field goal that QB Ryan Kusilek booted through the uprights to make it 8-3.

But that was the closest the Falcons would get on rededication night for the new David Smith stadium. South Dakota Mines would go on to score the next 20 points unanswered into halftime, and would go up 35-3 before the falcons would put up another score in the third quarter.

The Hardrockers were led by their dual quarterback threat of Jake Sullivan and Trent McKinney, who combined for 251 yards passing through the air. McKinney was also dangerous out of the backfield, scrambling for yardage all night with 112 yards on just seven carries. His two rushing touchdowns were huge factors in South Dakota Mines putting the game out of reach in the second half.

Coach Walker thought the Falcons had many areas to improve on after the game, saying, “There wasn’t one specific area where we were outstanding tonight. We need to be a little better everywhere to improve as we go forward.”

However, the Falcons offense stepped up big in the second half to try to make a game of it. Senior QB Ryan Kuselik came out firing after the break, finishing with 236 yards passing on 51 attempts on the game. His two touchdown passes to freshman receiver Nick Studer were key in injecting some life into the Falcon offense. Kuselik even added a 14-yard rushing touchdown of his own in the 4th quarter.

“We didn’t hold anything back after halftime and really opened up the playbook to let our senior quarterback go after it. We realized we had to change our game plan and Ryan (Kusilek) completed a lot of passes for us. There were also a lot of dropped balls so the stats don’t tell the whole story of how he played. He showed the fans in the second half what he can really do,” Coach Walker said.

The Falcons struggled to run the ball all night, with leading rusher Rance Ashley only getting 31 yards on 10 carries. The Falcons were hoping to keep the high-powered Hardrockers offense off the field by controlling the pace of the game, but the South Dakota Mines defensive line contained the Falcons throughout the game.

It was a disappointing result for the Falcons that dropped them to 0-2 on the season, but Coach Walker knows his players are going to stay together and not dwell on the result for too long.

“Even though our team had execution issues, their effort was never lacking throughout the game and that’s something to be proud of. The team is going to face adversity now, but they’ve already shown they have a tight bond and won’t allow these tough losses to bring the team down. It’s easy to lose goals once you lose a game or two, but we will continue to improve and grow.”

The Falcons won’t have long to



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
Senior quarterback Ryan Kusilek dodges defenders on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015. Kusilek threw for a total of 236 yards against South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

dwell on their home-opener loss as they travel down to Texas this week to play Southwestern University. But Coach Walker knows these

next games will “prove what kind of men as coaches and players we all are”.

Kickoff for the Falcons game

at Southwestern University is at 1 p.m. on Sept. 26.



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
Sophomore wide receiver Tony Denn, from North Branch, Minnesota leaps to catch a pass on Saturday, Sept. 19,2015. Denn has 65 receiving yards on the 2015 season.

New UWRF cross country coach met positively

Derin Loe
derin.loe@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls men’s and women’s cross country team has a new coach this season. Danielle Douglas, who took over after former Head Coach Matt Cole resigned in May, also will coach the track and field team.

Douglas is a native of Memphis, Tennessee, and has years of prior experience as a coach. She had been the head coach for both the men’s and women’s cross country and the track and field teams

at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) since 2012 before taking the job at UWRF this year.

Douglas had not heard of UWRF before taking the job but after researching the school thought it would be a good fit for her as she was looking for something different compared to her previous coaching jobs. So far Douglas has enjoyed the transition to UWRF.

“I’m very impressed and happy that I made this decision,” Douglas said.

At MVSU Douglas led the men’s cross country team

to back-to-back Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) championships in 2012 and 2013. She also was named SWAC men’s cross country coach of the year in both 2012 and 2013.

Members of the men’s and women’s team have been impressed by Douglas so far. Senior Zach Ambrose is among them.

“She’s the type of person you want to impress and also someone you can look for during a race to motivate you and push you to run harder and faster,” Ambrose said. “I think she was an excellent

hire for the cross country and track and field team.”

Senior Rachel Stairs also had good things to say about her new coach.

“So far Coach Douglas has brought a lot of energy to the team. She is very passionate about coaching and is excited to make our team work hard and be successful,” Stairs said.

The cross country season is just starting, but so far Douglas has been impressed by both the men and women.

“We have a lot of potential, a lot of potential, we’re young and their doing great,”

she said. “I was very impressed with the first meet, we had a lot of person records, a lot of PRs compared to last year.”

Douglas doesn’t expect the team to be placing at the bottom of the conference and told the team she is looking for it to place fifth in the conference this year. Team members also expect to do well this year. Senior Daniel Borash said she believes this year’s men’s team could be the best in school history.

“I am very optimistic about this season, with the experience of our upperclass-

men and some solid talent in our newcomers I can see this team being the best cross country team in our school history,” Borash said.

For the next meet Douglas has set goals for each of the athletes on the team and hopes to see them improve from previous meets, while also making sure they have fun at the same time. The men’s and women’s cross country team will travel to the University of Minnesota for the Roy Griak Invitational on Sept. 26.

Photos on page 7

Art gallery highlights UWRF Year of Mexico



Photos taken at the Art Exhibit “La Frontera/The Border” located in the Gallery 101 KFA through Oct. 6. The gallery is one of many events being put on by the university throughout the academic year.

Amara Young/Student Voice



UW-River Falls hosted the fall 2015 UWRF Falcon Invitational on Sept. 11. Pictured is a member of the UWRF men’s cross country team racing alongside two representatives from UW-Stout
Story on Page 6.

Kathy M. Helgeson/
UWRF
Communications

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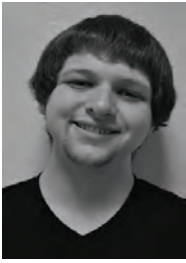
LIVE

FALCON BROADCASTS

FOOTBALL
SATURDAY, SEPT. 26
AWAY VS. SOUTHWESTERN
PREGAME- 11:45 A.M.
KICKOFF- 12:00 P.M.

VOLLEYBALL
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30
AWAY VS. EAU CLAIRE
GAME TIME- 7:00 P.M.

‘Black Mass’ a solid, dark crime movie



Ryan Funes

Reviewer

One of Boston’s darkest denizens comes to life thanks to excellent acting and great direction, though viewing a biographical film like “Black Mass” teaches a harsh reality of all films like it.

A film like this though feels like it should have been made already, because its story is a look into one of the FBI’s biggest shames and one of this country’s most infamous criminals: James “Whitey” Bulger, an Irish gangster who ran the Winter Hill Gang through the 70s up to the mid-90s. I was ever thankful that it was finally told, for the true events that transpire in this film make for great entertainment.

The dirty dealings of the time, such as all the death and dirty dealings, are rendered quite well by the film’s director Scott Cooper. This being his first film foray into telling tales of crime and rascality, he does a great job portraying the dark alliance that was made between the FBI and Bulger’s gang to rid the streets of an Italian-American gang that was worse as Bulger.

“Black Mass,” appropriately, is filmed with dark filters and set in the grim places of Boston. Even the character of Bulger is mostly shown with a dark leather jacket, which makes him blend into the darkest crevices of his hometown.

The film’s soundtrack is low and booming, using deep strings that seem to stretch into the dark matter of your head. You feel like you are hearing the soundtrack of Bulger’s black heart. Elements like this make help to heighten the film above weaker biographical films.

You feel like at any moment Bulger will snap and attack anyone in his life. Even when he chats with an old lady, you can’t help but feel like these will be her last words.

Most of the film’s success is due to the actor playing Bulger—Johnny Depp—and the character of Bulger himself. Bulger is portrayed in the film as a family-oriented man, caring very much about honor and loyal friendship, and brutally punishing those who transgress his boundaries. Depp perfectly creates a character unlike the usual quirky characters he has played in films before. In “Black Mass” he is pale, balding, grimy, and intimidating.

You feel like at any moment Bulger will snap and attack anyone in his life. Even when he chats with an old lady, you can’t help but feel like these will be her last words. Much credit must be given to Depp for this portrayal, as it makes for a memorable character that will linger in people’s heads.

However much credit I can give to the film, some of its inspirations can’t help but to make me feel like I’ve seen some of it before. Chief among them is the obvious inspirations found from this film’s predecessor, The Godfather.

The soundtrack at times feels eerily similar to Nino Rota’s music from Francis Ford Coppola’s film. Both even share a scene in a church, but where Michael Corleone ascends into the criminal world, in “Black Mass” Whitey Bulger falls from grace.

Inspiration is fine, but it feels odd when inserted into a bio film like this one, for it feels like it obfuscates the real world a bit and returns you to fictional storytelling.

“Black Mass” did raise the question to me as to how objective a bio film has a responsibility to be in order to capture reality, but perhaps that’s a question for another time.

“Black Mass” makes for an interesting character study of an unscrupulous person bound by the honors of his old world and becoming a king of crime, and I do wonder what place it will take in film history in retrospect. For all its parts, it still feels like a film I’ve seen before, and perhaps the problems of its originality will hurt it in the future.

It may not do much that is new, nor does it push any boundaries for its genre, but “Black Mass” is still a film I can recom-





Ryan Funes is a Junior at River Falls majoring in Journalism with a minor in Art History. In his personal time he enjoys all facets of popular culture, discussing the influence of the media, and desperately trying to find the chance to sing a drinking song with all his friends.

Religion deemed irrelevant to political process

Matt Clark

Columnist

Today I will spare you the flowery intro that sets up my column and get straight to the question at hand: what the heck is going on with religious interference in American politics?

In our society of increasing political correctness and strong social justice movements, religious discrimination and the American religious hierarchy have become the sore thumb on the otherwise powerful fist of social change. It isn’t hard to see this form of interference in everyday politics if you listen closely to the speeches given by politicians, debates between political candidates, and the perhaps more destructive inference in the formation of political platforms and policymaking.

But before I go any further, let me make it very clear that this is not a column about “taking Christ out of Christmas” or removing “one nation, under God” from our Pledge of Allegiance. Those topics are better left for another day and much less important than the issue of religious ideals in the everyday decision-making and rhetoric of American politicians.

As you are reading this, the names Donald Trump and Ben Carson probably come to mind. But before I even begin to mention the more modern incidents, it is wise to step back in time to show that this is not a new problem as well as briefly summarize the constitutional background on this issue. I am sure that every reader by this time in their lives has heard the phrase “separation of church and state” but few actually know where it comes from, what it means, and how it affects them.

The phrase itself is often attributed to Thomas Jefferson as his way to summarize the establishment clause found in the first amendment. In the establishment clause, the very important line “congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion...” That very statement clearly draws the line between government lawmaking and religion; yet, politicians of past and present have ignored that incredibly important line. Our founding fathers predicted this issue and attempted to prevent it but unfortunately, not even our own constitution can stop religious inference.

Although there have been several examples of religious criticism of American politicians, perhaps the most famous is the criticism of the late president, John F. Kennedy. Kennedy was, and still is, the only president to serve openly as a Roman Catholic, which drew heavy condemnation from opposing politicians and voters alike. Critics claimed that because of his religious affiliation, and only because of that, Kennedy would base all of his political actions on his religious beliefs.

This absurd notion is laughable when considering that almost all presidents before and after Kennedy were affiliated with some form of religion, primarily Christianity. Who is to say that none of them based their actions off of their respective religions? The criticism had become so heavy that Kennedy was forced to make the now famous statement, “I do not speak for my church on public matters-and church does not speak for me.” But the discrimination of religious affiliations in American politics is only one of the main issues in religious interference.

More recently, we have found ourselves with a more modern version of this very same issue. Although not directly pointed at a candidate, GOP presidential hopeful Ben Carson became the poster child for discrimination of Muslims in American politics. In an interview with NBC’s Chuck Todd, Carson said “I would not advocate that we put a Muslim in charge of this nation. I would absolutely not agree with that.”

He soon followed that statement by saying that Islam is incompatible with the US constitution. This event highlights the fact that we have not learned from the mistakes made during the election of President Kennedy and also leaves me, along with many other Americans, asking why someone’s religious beliefs has anything to do with how well they will run a country.

I am sure that it is not news that religious interference and discrimination spans far beyond the criticism of a political candidate and more so affects the life of the everyday American citizen. To list one single event in recent history that portrays this problem proves to be much too difficult of a task because of the sheer amount of them.

American politicians, on both sides of the spectrum have consistently voted for policies, whether it be same-sex marriage, abortion, or really any other social decision, based on their religious beliefs and not the beliefs of the people they represent. I am constantly asking the question “how can these people be the leaders of the free world if they can’t make decisions without being chained by their own ignorance and religious affiliations?”

I reached a breaking point recently when I saw the rally held for Kim Davis, the country clerk who refused to issue marriage certificates to same sex couples because of her religious beliefs. While “Eye Of The Tiger” blared on the speakers, Kim’s hand was held up by Mike Huckabee, former presidential hopeful and former governor of Arkansas. This support from a leader of this “free world” for someone who was the exact opposite of a pillar of freedom and justice, clearly displayed the problems of religious interference in government. The Kim Davis story is just one story of many that shows how the power of one religion is affecting the beliefs and rights of all Americans.

It is not easy to sum something like this up because there is no clear future when it comes to this issue. Americans will always struggle with their faith and the changing social climate around them. But it is up to our elected officials to put those beliefs aside and do what is best for the whole country, not just their beliefs. As a country that prides itself on freedom, prosperity, and perpetual social reform, the question of religion should never come up when discussing the strengths of a political candidate. I don’t think I can say it better than President Kennedy who said, “Are we going to admit to the world that a Jew can be elected Mayor of Dublin, a Protestant can be chosen Foreign Minister of France, a Moslem can be elected to the Israeli parliament—but a Catholic cannot be President of the United States? Are we going to admit to the world—worse still, are we going to admit to ourselves—that one-third of the American people is forever barred from the White House?”

Matt Clark is a sophomore journalism student. On campus he is an active DJ at wrfw ad well as the circulation manager for the student voice. In his free time, Matt is an active guitarist, playing in succesful rock bands in the mid-west. He has had the opportunity to open for legendary rock bands Chicago, Huey Lewis, and The News as well as modern bands such as Daughtry. Matt hopes to one day become a music journalist and work in radio.

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