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UW-River Falls men’s basketball beats Hamline 80-67 at home.

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The Good Dinosaur a good-looking but disappointing movie



University of WisconsinRiver Falls

STUDENT VOICE

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Dog Sees God gives teenage angst perspective

Ryan Funes
Falcon News Service

The University Theatre at UW-River Falls presents its latest production, “Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead,” from Dec. 8-12 in the Sanford Syse Theatre, and for the cast and director it has been a demanding two-month journey to this week.

“Dog Sees God” proved a challenge for all those involved with its production, because it is a drama and satire revolving around The Peanuts Gang as teenagers. This unofficial adaption of the beloved characters that were created by Charles M. Schulz deals with a range of teen problems including child abuse, sexuality, drug abuse and death.

But the play has served as a place where some people are able to stretch their wings. One of them is Kendra Yarke, who marks this as the first play she has ever directed.

For her, things have been pretty fast-paced since they all started rehearsing back in November, a short period to produce a play, she said.

“It’s something I’ve never done before... but it’s actually gone smoother than expected,” Yarke said. “I’m very fortunate to have a cast that is so down for everything. They’ve been very respectful, have listened to direction, and tried new things.”

Danielle Bebus, who plays a Peppermint Patty analogue by the name of Patricia, said this role is different from previous roles she has had.

“It’s always challenging to take on a new role, especially Patricia, who is a mean pretty girl,” Bebus said. “I was just in ‘The Spitfire Grill,’ where I played Shelby, who’s very shy, closed off, and not forthcoming. Tricia is very abrasive, but it’s been fun getting myself to



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
CB (Corey Fern) receives advice from Van’s sister (Danielle Formanek).

play a new, mean character.”

Whereas Bebus has been acting for some time on campus, for Corey Fern this is his first semester and his first acting role at UW-River Falls, which he has said has not been easy on him. Fern plays the lead, called CB.

said he had to focus heavily on his facial expressions so that theater-goers will not miss an inch of his acting abilities.

Another hurdle he faced is portraying a character who has homosexual desires, but Fern said all the actors involved have been quite professional. For Fern, kissing your fellow actor is just another part of the job.

A big part of the job of acting and directing is what these students owe to the audience. Yarke said she believes that what they must deliver is trueness to teen life and give an honest perspective to viewers.

“Quite frankly, we have a conservative audience at River Falls and it’s challenging and a little bit nerve-racking because you don’t want anybody to be offended. But at the same time I think it’s good to keep an open mind,” Yarke said.

“I think the script is funny, interesting,” she added, “and will hopefully make people think.”

Both Yarke and Fern said that with the audience being college students, the memories of high school and being teens are still strong, and will help them resonate with what is being expressed through the play.

Performances of “Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead” begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanford Syse Theatre (108 Kleinpell Fine Arts). Tickets may be purchased online at marketplace.uwrf.edu until 3 p.m. on the date of the performance, and afterwards between 6:30-7:15 p.m. on the evening of the performance at the Kleinpell Fine Arts box office. UWRF students with a valid identification are entitled to one free ticket at the box office.

“It’s definitely a challenge. This has been the most demanding role I have ever had to play,” he said.

With the way the play is written and because it is a black-box production, meaning the audience is quite close to the actors, Fern

‘The Dam Decision’ garners much community interest



Tori Schneider/Student Voice

This dam is located underneath Winter Street and has been subject of much controversy in River Falls.

Jacob Rogers
Falcon News Service

What started out as a small Web video project for UW-River Falls student Sydney Howell has grown into something much bigger. Her documentary, titled “The Dam Decision,” made it to the big screen at the Falls Theatre in downtown River Falls on Monday, Dec. 7.

Howell, a double major in marketing communications and digital film and photography, thought her small Web video about the two historic dams on the Kinnickinnic River in River Falls was only going to be for the Friends of the Kinni organization. The Junction Falls and Powell Falls hydroelectric dams, which created Lake George and Lake Louise, are the focus of a debate in the community about whether to keep or remove them.

“I met the spokesperson for Friends of the Kinni, and we just started talking about it, and I thought it was an interesting story, but as I continued working towards making that short video for their website, I found out that people are really invested in the topic,” Howell said.

Before starting the video project, Howell

had no idea that there were two dams in River Falls.

“Personally, I didn’t know that there were dams in River Falls, so I thought there are others in my situation who don’t know that this is happening, and don’t know the issues behind it,” Howell said.

She picked the topic because of the lack of knowledge that people in River Falls had about the dams. Making a short film about the dams was the perfect way for Howell to make others aware about the situation.

The dams have been around for nearly 180 years, and the City of River Falls is trying to decide to either relicense the dams or to completely take them out. The dam licenses expire in 2018.

Those who are in favor of removing the dams are worried about the trout population in the river. Lake George and Lake Louise heat the water because they are impediments created by the dams, and trout can only survive in a small variation of temperature. Those in favor of removing the dams also want the river to be free flowing in its natural state.

On the other side of the debate, there are

those who want to keep the dam around for multiple reasons.

“There are those who really appreciate the dams and feel like they’re an asset to our community,” Howell said. “There are some who really enjoy the lakes that we have. Also, the dams produce a minimal amount of energy.”

The dams do not produce a whole lot of energy, Howell said, but enough to make a difference in the city’s budget. The fact the energy is produced locally and is considered renewable energy is a bonus as well.

Howell has been so interested in the feedback that she has received from the community while putting the documentary together.

“This is the first project where it’s been so important to so many different people. Many people are concerned and invested in what I put together,” Howell said. “I had to send the city of River Falls a little preview of it because they want to know if they are going to back my movie or not.”

To say that the turnout for the documentary on Dec. 7 was good would be an understatement. Every seat in the Falls Theatre was filled, while some in the audience had to stand

in the back of the theater or sit down in one of the aisles.

A River Falls resident who did not want to give her name was intrigued by the documentary and impressed with Howell’s work.

“I thought that the film was interesting and I found out information about the dams that I did not know before,” she said.

The documentary itself lasted less than 15 minutes. After the conclusion of the film, Howell opened up the floor for questions. There were a wide variety of questions directed towards Howell and Michael Page, the spokesperson for the Friends of the Kinni. Filmgoers asked Howell if she plans to make a second part to the documentary in the future.

“If I am still in the area in five years, I want to do a follow-up film to see where the debate is at that time,” Howell said.

Page answered questions about how much it would cost to take out the dams as opposed to renewing the licenses for the dams and making repairs.

News briefs:

UW-River Falls students honored at Agronomy, Soils and Environmental Sciences

Twelve students from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls attended the Students of Agronomy, Soils and Environmental Sciences (SASES) Conference in Minneapolis Nov. 13-16 capturing awards and honors.

SASES features professional development activities, inter-collegiate competitions, networking and social events, and regional tours focusing on different aspects of the industry. UW-River Falls students participated in a full range of activities.

Seven students participated in the Undergraduate Research Symposium, giving either an oral or poster presentation. William Steffel, a sophomore majoring in agricultural business from Champlin, Minn., took first place out of the 47 entries in the national poster competition with his presentation, “Mid-season Determination of Quality Parameters in Silage Corn Using the Greenseeker Sensor.”

A separate poster competition was conducted to showcase student work in club activities and give clubs recognition for promoting agronomy, crops, soils, and environmental sciences on their college campus or in their local community. The UW-River Falls submission took third place. The poster was presented by two members of the UW-River Falls Crops and Soils Club: Renee Reid, a crop and soil science major from Whitewater, and Karlee Lawrence, a crop and soil science major from Hugo, Minn. The poster described the club activities in celebration of the International Year of Soils. The members reached out to 4-H and FFA youth groups with interactive presentations and demonstrations emphasizing the different roles of soil and the need to protect soil from degradation. A highlight of activities was the introduction and subsequent identification of a “mystery soil.”

Elections for the five-member national officer team for SASES took place during the conference. Steffel was elected vice president and in that role will serve as program chair for the 2016 annual meeting in Phoenix. He will also attend the SASES spring meeting in March hosted by Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

The student conference is held each year in conjunction with the annual joint meeting of the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America.

For more information, email laura.walsh@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-4714.

Coffee Concert Series now in third year at UW-River Falls

An annual Friday noon Coffee Concert Series held at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is now midway through its third year. The series features performances by UW-River Falls music faculty as well as guest artists from around the world.

This year the series has been named the Frances Cohler Coffee Concert Series in memory of New Richmond resident and music alumna Fran (McNamara) Cohler, ‘74. Naming of the series has been made possible through a generous donation from Mary Ella Jerome and her family foundation, to honor their life-long friendship and shared love of music that started at UW-River Falls.

The concerts, held at noon on select Fridays throughout the academic year, are free and open to the public. The hour-long performances are followed by coffee and treats and time to visit with faculty and guest musicians.

The final concert for the semester will be held Friday, Dec. 11, featuring Harmen Vanhoone (trumpet).

For more information, visit the Coffee Concert webpage or call the UW-River Falls Music Department at 715-425-3183.

EPA awards \$10 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant to research group that includes UW-River Falls professor

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a \$10 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant to a research group that includes University of Wisconsin-River Falls Associate Biology Professor Joseph Gathman.

The grant was awarded to Central Michigan University and a collaborating group of researchers and agencies to monitor coastal wetlands around the Great Lakes basin over the next five years. It will expand an already existing GLRI grant for Great Lakes wetlands monitoring.

The \$10 million grant is a renewal of a previous grant that Gathman and the research group were awarded. UWRF and Gathman’s portion of the grant is approximately \$250,000 and will be used to fund research on Lake Erie and Lake Huron, as well as student assistance on the project.

Gathman’s research work is based primarily in Canada, where he has collaborated with researchers from the University of Windsor. The crew works the entire Canadian side, and most of the U.S. side, of the Lake Erie coast, as well as the entire Canadian shore of Lake Huron. Gathman and his crew visit 30 wetlands each summer to measure their condition. The findings allow them to determine which wetlands are in greatest need of restoration.

“Representing UWRF in this large-scale project helps me to incorporate the most up-to-date environmental-monitoring methods and data into the classroom, while I contribute to this effort to protect and restore critical habitats in the largest body of freshwater in the world,” said Gathman.

The EPA estimates that more than half of the 220 million acres of wetlands, present on the continental U.S. in the 17th century, have been drained for various uses including farming and industrialization. The GLRI was launched in 2010 in an effort to restore the Great Lakes area.

During the last five years, Gathman and his collaborators used their first GLRI grant to collect data from the various wetlands. The new portion of the grant will allow the researchers to continue collecting data and track changes. The data will be used to assist in restoration efforts for the Great Lakes wetlands region.

For more information, email Gathman at joseph.gathman@uwrf.edu.

Provisional Agreement allows UW-River Falls students into LECOM medical colleges

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Biology Department and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, Pharmacy and Dentistry (LECOM) have announced an agreement allowing UW-River Falls students to receive provisional acceptance to LECOM’s medical colleges.

The agreement will grant students who have met certain qualifications entrance to LECOM upon graduation from UW-River Falls. If students are accepted and meet all requirements, they do not have to take the college entrance exams, including the MCAT, PCAT, or DAT.

To qualify for provisional acceptance, students must have attended UW-River Falls for a minimum of one year, preferably two, and have two years of UW-River Falls education remaining. They must also have a minimum 25 ACT score, and a major and cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better. Students can apply for an interview, and if accepted, they will be provisionally guaranteed entrance to LECOM upon successful graduation from UW-River Falls.

Once accepted, students must maintain their academic

standing while still at UWRF. Provisionally accepted students will meet with LECOM twice during their remaining two years at UWRF and with the Biology Department each semester. In addition, they will be expected to submit semester grades. An evaluation of each student will take place at the end of every semester and be sent to LECOM from UWRF.

“I am honored to be a part of such an amazing program,” said Emilee Plautz, a junior biology major and chemistry minor. “I cannot express my level of gratitude toward UW-River Falls for this opportunity or my level of excitement to start my medical career at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. This affiliation allows me to be part of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I am extremely grateful.” Plautz was accepted into the program this past summer and will be attending LECOM fall of 2017.

The LECOM affiliation agreement joins several other post undergraduate options available to UWRF biology students in the biomedical/pre-health professions track for the 2015-16 academic year, including the University of Minnesota Medical Lab Scientist Program, the Palmer School of Chiropractic, and the Mayo School of Health Sciences (MSHS) Echocardiography Program.


For more information on the LECOM program, or other UWRF pre-health profession affiliation agreements, call Mark Bergland at 715-425-3591 or email mark.s.bergland@uwrf.edu.

Have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor.

Email your thoughts to editor@uwrfvoice.com

Check out the Student Voice online at uwrfvoice.com





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

8 oz. pilsner lager
8 oz. stout lager
1 frosty mug
1 icy road
1 pick-up truck
1 10-hour day
1 tired worker
A few rounds with the guys

Mix ingredients.
Add 1 totalled vehicle.

Never underestimate ‘just a few.’
Buzzed driving is drunk driving.



River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

Tuesday, Dec. 1

- A drug complaint was reported at E. Cascade Ave around 2 a.m.
- A threat was reported at UWRF Lab Farm 1 around 4 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 4

- A theft was reported by South Hall around 7 p.m.

Editor’s note:

Information for this section is taken from UW-River Falls Police Department incident reports.

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Students use balloon to create maps of local park

Katie Galarno
Falcon News Service

Two UW-River Falls students have been taking aerial photographs with a balloon and a GoPro camera this semester to create three-dimensional maps of Hoffman Park.

International student Diego Valadares and UWRF senior Jason Blatz said that they wanted to do something different for their final project in Field Methods and GPS (Geography 366). Instead of using a GPS system to help them map different features from the ground on and around campus, they decided to look at River Falls from above.

To take the photos, they launch a helium balloon with a GoPro attached to it set to take a photo every two seconds. Any camera could be used, but Valadares said that they chose a GoPro because of its size and image quality. A picavet system made of string, pulleys and wood keeps the camera stable and facing the ground. The string passes through the pulleys as the balloon moves, and the wooden cross with the camera attached to it settles into a level position.

However, the system isn't perfect. Valadares said that post-processing of the photos has to take place before the final product can be created.

"We pass all of the images through Photo-shop to correct the lens distortion," Valadares said. "And after that, we get those images together and put them into another software to generate a 3-D model of the area."

The photos are placed into a program called Agisoft PhotoScan, software that places the images and overlaps them to create 3-D maps. Blatz said that the program can determine the height and angle of the photos correctly, but entering GPS coordinates can give a more accurate result.

"It's kind of like a mosaic, and then with that, it's building a 3-D model," Blatz said.

Their instructor, Associate Professor of Geography Matt Dooley, said that this type of work is particularly important because aerial images aren't always updated regularly.

"We don't have really great aerial imagery when we need it a lot of the time," Dooley said. "So a really good example of that would be an emergency disaster situation."

Dooley said that while Google has its own maps, they aren't updated enough to give relevant information about current situations. According to the Google Maps help forum, most of the images are between one and three years old.

"It's really exciting because we can get more detail, hopefully, and get the photos when we want them," Dooley said.

Dooley said that Valadares and Blatz's project is another way to show that geographers do more than sit at computers all day.

"While that's a really important thing, especially in cartography, that's not all that we do," Dooley said. "So I think it's important to highlight that we actually go out into the field and do things as opposed to just sitting in cubicles."

On Dec. 3, Blatz and Valadares launched the balloon on campus for the first time and captured photographs. They presented some of the images along with their research from the semester at the Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity's Fall Gala that evening.

This is the final semester at UWRF for both Blatz and Valadares, with Blatz graduating and Valadares returning to Brazil. Blatz said that he'd like to use this semester's work to do more research with his own resources. He said that if he decides to attend graduate school, he will likely base his work on this project. Valadares said that he also intends to continue taking aerial photographs to map parts of Brazil.



Photo by Diego Valaderes and Jason Blatz
Diego Valaderes and Jason Blatz launched their aerial photography balloon between Kleinpell Fine Arts and Centennial Science Hall on Dec. 3.

UWRF hosts second annual Opportunity Fair

Natalie Howell
Falcon News Service

The second annual Opportunity Fair at UW-River Falls, hosted in partnership between Career Services and Student Involvement, will see an increase of booths for organizations and businesses from last year.

The first Opportunity Fair took place in February and featured 72 different on-campus jobs, internships, summer positions and volunteer positions. Businesses and organizations involved in the previous Opportunity Fair included those in the local area of River Falls, Hudson, Woodbury, and Stillwater and featured opportunities from organizations such as the Peace Corps and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

"[The Opportunity Fair] was created so that students would have an opportunity to network with area employers and see what's available right here in the community to start building or acquiring relevant experience on their resumes early on," said Assistant Director of Career Services McKenna Pfeiffer.

Pfeiffer said that although the Opportunity Fair and the Career Fair feature some of the same organizations, such as Aladtec and ACR Homes, it differs from the Career Fair because it focuses on many opportunities while the Career Fair mainly focuses on internships and full-time jobs.

The Opportunity Fair is also more informal than the Career Fair, allowing students a non-intimidating environment to learn about the opportunities available to them, according to Assistant Director of Student Involvement Amy Lloyd.

"It's definitely an informal experience versus the Career Fair, when it's obviously a very formal experience," said Lloyd. "This is a way for students to test the waters, talk to people, and hopefully find an experience. Because that's what people want down the road, actual experience."

Career Services and Student Involvement will be modeling the Opportunity Fair set-up after the Career Fair however, increasing the

number of possible booths from a capacity of 74 to 94. Pfeiffer said that this will help with the goal of having 500 students attend, which would be about a 150 student increase from last year.

According to Pfeiffer, 37 organizations are returning from last year's Opportunity Fair, including WeHaKee Camp for Girls, the Wisconsin Farmers Union, and the Wisconsin Early Autism Project. So far, 46 organizations have committed to attend the Opportunity Fair this year.

Kelsey Wright is a junior psychology major at UWRF, and will be representing WeHaKee Camp for Girls at the Opportunity Fair. She said she thinks that it's important for the university to hold events like the Opportunity Fair.

"I think having a fair like this is really good to have people come in and it's a whole area where you can see just the different things going on," said Wright. "I think it's, people aren't just automatically aware, and having events makes it easier for people to find out

about things."

Tips for students on the Career Services website when preparing and attending the Opportunity Fair include researching the attending organizations, approaching the organization representatives confidently and actively listen to what is being said, and discuss with the organization representative how and when to follow-up.

When it comes to students preparing for the Opportunity Fair, Pfeiffer said that there is no formal dress code and although students can bring a resume, it is not required.

"Come with an open mind and ready to ask questions," said Pfeiffer. "It's the type of event that they can go to in-between classes. So if they have five minutes, come and spend five minutes. If they have an hour, come and spend an hour."

The Opportunity Fair is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, in the Riverview Ballroom in the University Center. For more information, go to the Career Services page on the university's website, uwrf.edu.

UW-River Falls Student Senate vice president resigns

Natalie Howell
natalie.howell@my.uwrf.edu

As of Sunday, former Student Senate Vice President SJ DeGroote resigned from her position that she was elected into at the end of the spring 2014-2015 semester.

On Sunday, Dec. 6, DeGroote sent a letter to Student Senate President Christopher Morgan, resigning from her position as vice president, effective immediately. In her letter, she stated that as a biochemistry and economics double major with the intention of becoming a pediatrician after graduation, the position of vice president no longer impacted her studies and long term goals in a positive way.

In an email interview, DeGroote said that because of her high level of involvement in other organizations on campus and her double major, she could not continue with all of the organizations and at the same time achieve academic success. DeGroote is an active member of the sorority Phi Mu and a member of the university's women's club lacrosse team.

"It was such a great honor to serve as vice president, and while I was helping to make positive impacts for our university, I was neglecting my own life and neglecting the values that I deeply care about," said DeGroote. "It became very apparent to me towards the end of this semester that I could not sustain this for the entire year."

According to the Senate Bylaws, in the event of an officer vacancy, the Senate president, subject to confirmation by the Senate,

may appoint a student to fill the vacancy. In an email interview, Morgan said that there are currently numerous candidates for the position within Senate.

"I will look to see which candidate has the most relevant experience, professionalism, and dedication," said Morgan.

Although in her resignation letter DeGroote stated that she was unable to give any more of her time with Senate, she later said that after a conversation with Morgan she decided to stay involved with CASE, Senate's sustainability committee that was created this semester.

"By continuing on with CASE I can still help to positively impact our university while having a small time commitment," said DeGroote. "Sustainability is something I also passionately care about, so staying on with CASE to see the green fee initiative through is a way that I can still help do great things for our campus and community."

DeGroote said that the next Senate vice president needs to be fully committed to Senate with minimal other obligations in order to truly work efficiently with the Senate body and president.

"The advice I would give to the next vice president is to be confident in yourself, but also realize what a great honor holding this position at our university is. Find an initiative you're passionate about and run with it," said DeGroote. "Also, I really advise supporting all your members in Senate and reaching out to them. It truly makes all the difference in creating an environment that all people involved in Senate can thrive in."

Newest Windows and Mac OS coming to UWRF computers

Derin Loe
Falcon News Service

Both Windows 10 and the newest Macintosh operating system (OS) are expected to be rolled out to computers at UW-River Falls next summer.

All computers on campus are still running the old operating systems, despite the fact that the new operating systems have been available for months. UWRF Chief Information Officer Steve Reed said that switching to a new OS is more of a challenge than people think.

Reed explained that compatibility is one of the main reasons why UWRF has not switched over to the newest Windows OS. As many faculty and students rely on applications for school, the Division of Technology Services (DoTS) must make sure that the software works correctly on the newest Windows OS.

"You have to test every one of those applications, so we have over 300 applications just that are in the labs that need to get tested," Reed said. "I would predict 10 to 15 percent of those we will need to replace and so then

that requires us working with faculty and students determining what that is."

Windows 10 is the newest OS from Microsoft and was released in the summer. The new OS is designed to be an improvement over the old Windows 7 and Windows 8 systems that the campus is using right now. Microsoft has been offering free upgrades to Windows 10 for many Windows users already.

The newest OS for Macintosh computers is called El Capitan and also is set to be installed during the summer. El Capitan also is a free upgrade.

For the applications that are not compatible, DoTS has to find a replacement and test it to make sure it works correctly. With more than 2,500 computers on campus, it takes time to make sure that each is functioning correctly. Reed said that DoTS likes to be aggressive when moving to the newest technology, but the deployment schedule is pushed back because of the education requirements and needs of UWRF.

"We have to provide technology that supports every faculty member and every student," Reed said.

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EDITORIAL

Professor surveys still important despite changed method of access

If you had the power to mould your classes into a new form -- one that would not only help you to get more out of the experience, but also to enjoy yourself more too -- wouldn't you exercise it?

At the end of every semester, students are able to fill out surveys to evaluate their professors. The responses to these surveys serve as a valuable means of understanding the impact professors have on their students. Thus, we see it as a harmful step that, as of the past few semesters, these evaluations have, for whatever reason, been made available online rather than being physically handed out during class.

It may seem like a minor change, but the effects it engenders are highly significant.

A contributing factor in professor tenure and overall success at UW-River Falls, these online forms certainly result in less participation in filling them out compared to the original method. This results in less accurate data to affect a professor's future.

Not only are professors losing out on valuable input, students must -- rather than filling out the form during class time with a very high response rate -- be subjected to repeated emails on behalf of each class' professors which surely are more of a hassle than the paper counterpart.

The highest goal of any good university ought to be education, and the quality of that speaks worlds about the institution. No professor can say how good their class was as well as his or her students. Further, the most important tool -- in improving the quality of our professors and in sorting out what works and what doesn't in our educational environment -- is these evaluations.

Consider your classload from this past semester. Look at its ups and downs and explain them in the evaluation. Did you like this professor's methods? Did you hate that one's? Express yourself! If you want to see change that will positively affect yourself along with your fellow students, you should make yourself heard.

Without our professors, we would obviously have no UWRF to go to. While that might seem like a good thing to some, we should all be able to acknowledge that much of our education here will stay with us for life and will likely be critical to our futures in the job market, or pursuing our varied interests. Thus, we hope that, in the long term, UWRF will change the method of evaluation back to its original glory and that, for now, students will take the time to improve their university by filling those online surveys -- if anything, just to make the emails stop.

D 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@uwrfoice.com.

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

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

WISCONSIN NEWS PAPER ASSOCIATION Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Should we fight against offensive speech?

Speak out against bigotry, now. The bigot in our country has free speech rights to say things that are offensive and propose policies that would trample on the civil rights and civil liberties of those they scapegoat. But free speech, fortunately, also provides others a forum to disagree, to point out the fallacies and hatred that are being proclaimed. However, just because that forum exists, does not mean the hatred is automatically confronted. We, as individuals and communities, need to use that forum to confront the bigotry. Don't wait for someone else to confront the bigotry. Don't wait until the bigot has singled out your race, religion, gender or other demographic characteristic. Do not let all Muslims be

demonized and discriminated against because some Muslims are violent. Remember what Martin Niemöller, a prominent Protestant pastor in Germany said about the regrets he had for not speaking up earlier against bigotry in Nazi Germany: "First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me."

Davida Alperin, Professor, Political Science Department

Happy holidays from the Student Voice staff

The Student Voice staff, left to right:

- Back row:
Hayden Bosch, Matthew Clark,
Natalie Howell, Tori Schneider,
Molly Kinney
- Middle row:
Trevor Hoglund, Clayton Brady,
Katie Galarno
- Front: Kris Bradley



UWRF Photo Club

Societal pressures on appearance weigh heavily in the Kardashian era

Tori Schneider

Columnist

I recently read an article published in The Guardian titled "What does 'the natural look' mean in the Kardashian age?" Normally, I would never read anything with the Kardashian name attached to or even associated with it. I have always been very anti-Kardashian. I never understood the way my peers worship Kylie or how they can make time to religiously tune into "Keeping up with the Kardashians" just to tweet about how dissatisfied they are with their own lives simply because it's not up to par with these women that have done absolutely nothing worthwhile to become the household names they are today. But I have always liked to keep a very natural look and I feel the societal pressures to look more like a Kardashian every day, so I was curious. I read the article a few times, and it really got me thinking about what it's like to be a woman in "the Kardashian age," as Jess Cartner-Morley, the writer of the article, put it.

In the age of the phrase "I woke up like this," it's not a surprise that "the natural look" is in fact in again. However, the natural look that you may see a celebrity or a model sporting is not as natural as it appears to be. It turns out, it takes just as long for these women to get this look as it would take them to get any other look. Cartner-Morley cited "buzzwords" from the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, like simple, minimal and natural. "Confusingly, though, there were also endless photos of the models sitting patiently at their makeup stations, hours before call-time, with their hair netted in hot rollers," she wrote.

That is confusing, isn't it? As a college woman who has never cared too much about how she looked or any celebrities' activities, I feel like somewhat of an outsider from my peers. I'm not obsessed with what Kylie is wearing, I don't follow anyone with Kardashian or Jenner for a last name on anything and I've never once contoured. Hell, I just learned how to curl my own hair two weeks ago. Why do these things seem to be the basics of how to be a millennial woman in today's society? And why do I feel pressure to do them?

I can't answer these questions for every woman but I can look at them as they apply to my own life. I have always struggled with acne; most people can tell that just from looking at me. There's almost never a day where you can't see a red spot, a scar, or a fresh pimple on my face. Despite this, somehow, I have never been a daily makeup wearer. I believe that the skin I was born with may not be perfect, but it's who I am. Having acne gives me character. If anything, it has taught me the very valuable lesson of "this too shall pass" because one pimple might be on my face one day, but are the people I meet really going to remember that? And is that pimple going to be there in another week? No! However, lately I have felt more pressure to go out in full makeup. I

don't know if it's me being at a new school, me trying to figure out where I am going to fit in in society or if it is just insecurity deep inside me, but I don't like it. For me, wearing make-up is a double edged sword. I wear it to feel better about how I look, but I feel guilty that I no longer don't care about my appearance the way I used to.

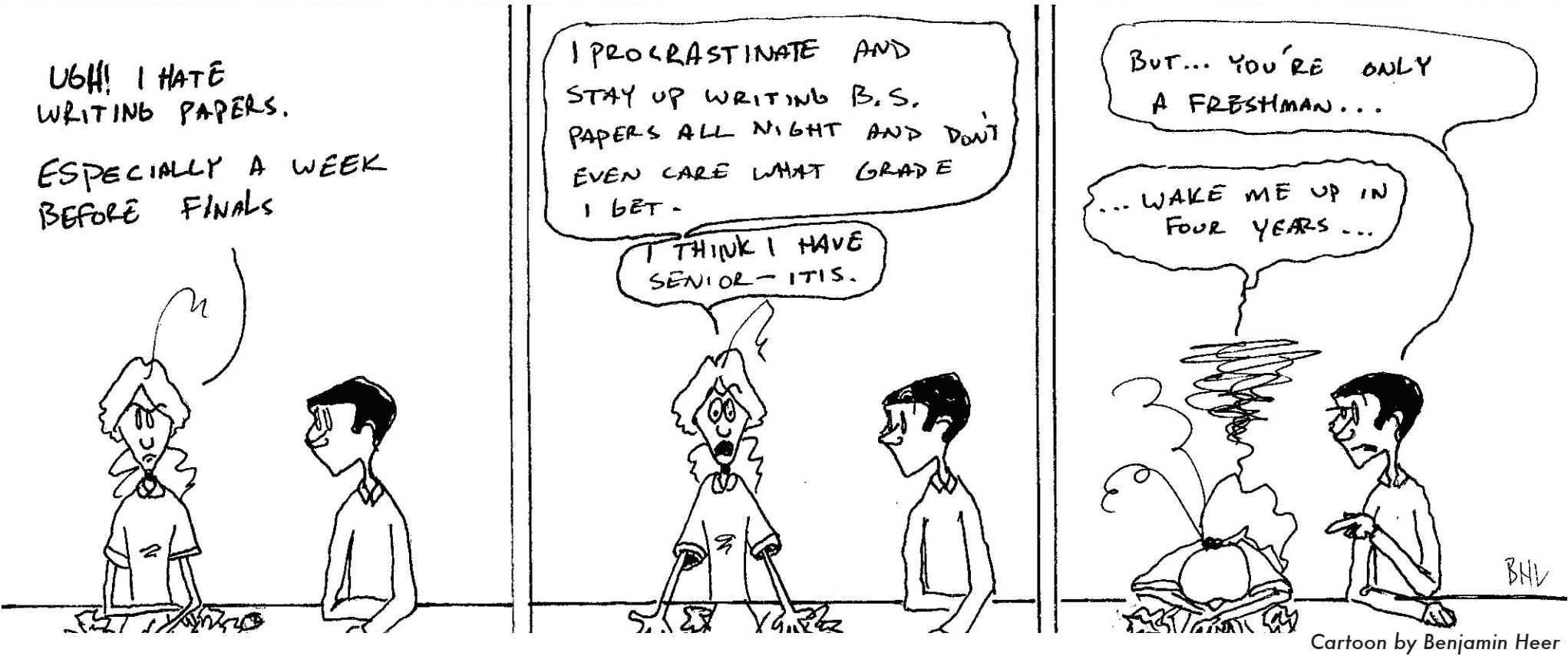
My own mother is quite the opposite of me. I remember being in the grocery store with her growing up and her always grabbing at least one of the tabloids at the checkout line. She also got many beauty magazines in the mail. Her bathroom counter now is covered in expensive makeup, and she never goes out without some makeup, unless she is exercising. She is a beautiful, very fashionable 40-something woman with endless beauty advice, and I wouldn't trade her for any other mom in the world. But it boggles my mind how I ended up being so much different from her in the self-appearance aspect of life.

We are all bombarded by images of celebrities every day in tabloids, on TV and the Internet. I know that celebrities' Instagram selfies are extremely retouched and that they pay big bucks for makeup artists to make them look flawless. But somehow, some women are not as enlightened on the subject. I had a real argument with a friend once about celebrity skin. She was convinced that because celebrities have a lot of money, that they have perfect skin. I tried to tell her that these women have the same problems as us; they just use their money to cover it up. I never knew other girls thought this way.

I am in no way condemning women like my mother and many of my friends who are daily makeup wearers. I have the utmost respect for those who swear by their lipsticks, Naked eyeshadow pallets and their contour routines. If anything, I envy their talent and passion. I simply do not want to be them. But I feel the societal pressure to be. My pressure has obviously been quite minimal, but I feel sorry for the women whose pressure has been immense. That's what I condemn.

I can't entirely blame the Kardashians, even though I think they are the shallowest of them all. I was in the depths of the internet the other day when I stumbled upon a photo gallery titled something like "Look at the Kardashians with no makeup...LMAO!" I looked at all of the images, and I did not laugh my ass off. I think these women look beautiful with a bare face, better even! This problem is societal. It begins and ends with every woman, famous or not. But I can't help but ask myself why these famous women don't use their fame to promote an actual "natural look," one that doesn't require standing in front of a mirror for hours on end, obsessing. When is real going to be in again? When will it be okay to be happy with the body and the skin you are born with?

Tori Schneider is an aspiring photojournalist. She enjoys cats, Twittering and saving the earth.



STUDENT *Voices*

What are your plans over j-term?
Compiled by Amara Young



Kenzie Shira
Senior
“I’ll be working and then heading off to Scotland for spring semester.”



Trent Brossard
Sophomore
“Working.”



Sara Noble
Junior
“Taking Women and Gender Studies and sleeping off finals.”



Tim Abrahamson
Sophomore
“All I’m doing is working.”



Adri Silkett
Freshman
“Working and hanging out with my dog.”

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 will be announced on the Voice’s Twitter and Facebook accounts:

@uwrvoice and **facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice**

Now Playing: The Peanuts Movie and Love the Coopers

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

Email your thoughts to editor@uwrvoice.com

Men’s basketball continues winning streak

Zach Dwyer
zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

The Falcons extended their win streak to four games this past Saturday, taking down the Hamline Pipers 80-67 at Karges Center.

Senior Jon Christensen had a career night, dropping 40 points on the Pipers on an amazing 16-20 shooting from the field. The 6’6 forward added four threes on the night to finish with an 80 percent field goal percentage.

“Every shot I took felt good as it left my hands. My teammates did a great job of getting me open and finding me when I was in scoring position,” Christensen said.

The Falcons impressive offensive display continued throughout the game, with UWRF shooting over 50 percent on field goals for the game and 63 percent in the second half alone.

This hot shooting got the Falcons off to an early start, coming out of the gate on a 9-2 run. But Hamline responded with a 26-11 run of their own to go up 28-20 with a little under five minutes to go in the first half. But Christensen couldn’t be stopped, adding nine points in the final four minutes to put the Falcons up 33-32 at halftime.

The defense stepped up big in the second half, helping to give the Falcons a lead four minutes into the half that they wouldn’t relinquish for the rest of the game. They held the Pipers to only 38 percent on field goals on Saturday night.

“Defensively we were able to focus in on what they were going to do. We had a week to prepare and create a solid game plan, and the guys executed it very well,” Head Coach Jeffrey Berkhof said.

The game was tied up at 55 midway through the half, but the Falcons responded with a run like they did all night. A three-pointer by Logan Halvorson that put the Falcons up nine with only four minutes left proved to be too big of a lead for the Pipers to overcome.

“Our style of play and constant pushing of the ball wore Hamline down. Being bigger and a bit more physical allowed us to go on a big run in the second half,” Berkhof said.

Other than Christensen’s huge game, other Falcons also stepped up with big contributions that lead to the victory. Senior Jack Herum had a solid all-around game with eight points, seven rebounds, and six assists, with CJ Lewis also adding 10 points.

The Falcons 47-34 advantage in rebounds was especially important, with Christensen saying, “Our biggest strength was our inside presence and ability to out rebound Hamline and really control the glass.”

With the win the Falcons move to 4-2 on the season after beginning the season



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
Senior Jon Christensen goes up for a shot on Saturday, Dec. 5 at home against Hamline. The Falcons won 80-67 bringing their win-streak to 4.

0-2. Both Christensen and Berkhof see key changes that have contributed to the Falcons current win streak.

“The biggest part is the

team’s overall intensity. We realize that a lot of these games really come down to a few key possessions and we have to play hard for the

full 40 minutes,” Christensen said.

“Our ability to control tempo is something we’ve had to work on since the first two

games. The guys have really bought into team defense and it’s come a long way since the beginning of the season,” Berkhof said.

The Falcons next play host to Carleton College and St. Thomas University this week at the Karges Center.

For cross country team members, focus now turns to track

Kate Vruwink
Falcon News Service

After the UW-River Falls cross-country team had its first-ever qualifier for the national tournament, Julian Manley, all eyes now move to the track and field team to see if he can pull it off again.

According to the co-head cross-country and assistant track coach, Chris Rombough, success in the one sport sets a precedent for the other.

“When you have successes in cross-country, that kind of springboards into good performances in track a lot of time,” Rombough said.

However, it is a lot harder to qualify for the national tournament in track than in cross-country. During the indoor track season alone, which begins Jan. 23 for the Falcons,

only 15 athletes are selected from each race, according to the WIAC sports information website.

But Rombough said that will not deter the will of Manley to succeed.

“I know he has high goals,” he said. “Will we get those goals? I don’t know. We’ll have to wait and see.”

Manley, a junior from Spring Valley, finished 84th in the national NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships held Nov. 21 in Winneconne, Wisconsin. Manley himself was not available for comment.

The second-year coach said there is a lot of crossover between cross-country runners and track and field runners, like Manley. These student athletes often choose to compete in both sports so that they have a chance to train year round.

According to the UWRF sports informa-

tion website, the top four men who placed in the WIAC tournament for UW-River Falls — Manley, Jackson Shaw, Braydon Johnson and Zach Ambrose — also run some sort of race for the track and field team. The same goes for the top two women who placed in the WIAC tournament for UWRF, Deanna Cahoon-Draus and Abby Fouts.

Rombough said it was necessary for success in both sports.

“Basically it’s expected, everything kind of builds on one another,” he said. “We prefer it. Once you start training year round, that’s when you see the improvements.”

With all the time they spend running, Rombough also said it was important to give the athletes a break so that they had a chance to recuperate both mentally and physically. After finishing their season they got two weeks off, and then indoor track and field practice

began the week of Nov. 30.

“If they did the training they were supposed to do over the summer, they were going good for about five or six months,” he said. “So that two-week break is just a nice breakaway from everything.”

The athletes usually end their outdoor track and field season at the end of May, and then begin training for cross-country at the start of June.

The indoor track season this year for the Falcons will run from the end of January until the National Indoor Championship which is held March 11 and 12 at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. Then the Falcons start up their outdoor track and field season only a week later on March 19 against Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

For these Falcon athletes, the running never stops.

Men’s hockey battles Hamline to tie game 3-3

Zach Dwyer

zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

The Falcons played strong throughout the game, but could only manage a 3-3 tie against the Hamline Pipers on Tuesday night.

This comes after a huge week for UWRF, where they took down two top-10 ranked teams in UW-Stevens Point and UW-Eau Claire. The Falcons were hoping to stretch that lead to three games when the Pipers came to Hunt Arena for the second time this season, falling to the Falcons 3-1 on Nov. 12.

The Pipers came out in control early, looking like the more aggressive team and holding possession of the puck for most of the first seven minutes of the game. But the Falcons finally pushed through at 8:57 in the first period, when senior Mike Williams netted his first goal of the season to put the Falcons up 1-0 and completely swing the momentum.

Hamline took it back late in the first, when two Falcon penalties gave Hamline a two man advantage on the power play. It didn’t take long for Hamline to capitalize, with Charlie Adams scoring his first goal of the night to tie the game at 1-1 at 16:41 in the first period.

The Falcons grabbed back the lead in the closing minute of the first period on Freshman Eddie Matsushima’s second goal of the year. Kyle Gattelaro set up the goal and put the Falcons ahead 2-1 going into the first intermission.

What the second period lacked in goals it made up for in aggressiveness and chippy play. Officials were having to break up players left and right and stop a few potential fights. This type of play led to two Piper penalties for holding and cross-checking. The Falcons couldn’t capitalize on either opportunity, and also had a shot go off the top of the bar early in the period.

“We took some undisciplined penalties that hurts us. We lacked a bit of intensity and that made our play a lot more inconsistent than usual,” Head Coach Steve Freeman said.

Hamline still managed a 15-5 shot advantage in the period and wouldn’t give anything up when they were facing the Falcon’s power plays. The score remained 2-1 going into the decisive third period.

The third period was as action-packed as one could hope for, and the Falcons managed to strike first. Freshman Joe Drapluk put a shot past goalie Justin Quale for his third goal of the season to give the Falcons a 3-1 lead with 16 minutes remaining.

Most probably thought the game was over, but Hamline continued to pressure goalie Tanner Milliron throughout the early stages of the third period. They broke through only two minutes after Drapluk’s goal with Charlie Adams’ second goal of the day on a beautiful setup from Brandon Zurn. Adams’ tenth goal of the season brought the Pipers within one only 7:19 into the third period.

A holding call on Eddie Matsushima at 11:33 allowed Hamline to go on the offensive on another power play. This one



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
Freshman defenseman Brian Drapluk searches for a teammate to pass to on Tuesday, Dec. 8. The Falcons tied Hamline 3-3 bringing their record to 5-4-2.

they converted on at 12:47 with a Jesse Kessler goal from Zurn. Zurn assisted on all three goals for the Pipers.

Both teams had multiple opportunities down the stretch and in overtime, but neither could capitalize on penalties. The Falcons only finished 1-6 on power plays on the night and couldn’t finish on either of Hamline’s two penalties in overtime.

“We weren’t able to shut down two of the top scorers in the nation, and they really beat us on special teams,” Freeman said.

With the tie the Falcons now stand at 5-4-2 on the season. The number fifteen overall Falcons now look to return to their consistent play as their six game home stand continues. Freeman hopes they can “Elevate their competition against un-ranked teams to the same level when they play ranked teams like UW-Eau Claire and UW-Stevens Point. Because if they do that, they can be one of the top teams in the country.”

The Falcons next host Finlandia University at Hunt Arena on Friday, Dec. 11. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m.




Tori Schneider/Student Voice
Taylor Burden, a junior for UWRF, battles to keep the puck out of his opponents control. The Falcons will play Finlandia University at 7:05 p.m. on Friday Dec. 11 at home at Hunt Arena.

WRFW LIVE FALCON BROADCASTS WILL
RESUME NEXT SEMESTER!

HAVE A NICE BREAK!

The Good Dinosaur charms with stunning visuals



Ryan Funes

Reviewer

After the stellar reviews Pixar received from the release of Inside Out, their next major release The Good Dinosaur has arrived, a work that has taken a long time to come here, and still feels like it could be better.

At plot like this can seem deceptively simple, and in this case, that assumption can be entirely right. This is a very simple film. But it’s simplicity goes towards its strengths and weaknesses.

Imagine a time-line where the as-teroid that wiped out the dinosaurs never occurred. That is the set-up to allow this story to be told, of a family of di-nosaurs that exist five-million years before our time. There’s a father, mother, and three kids, all working

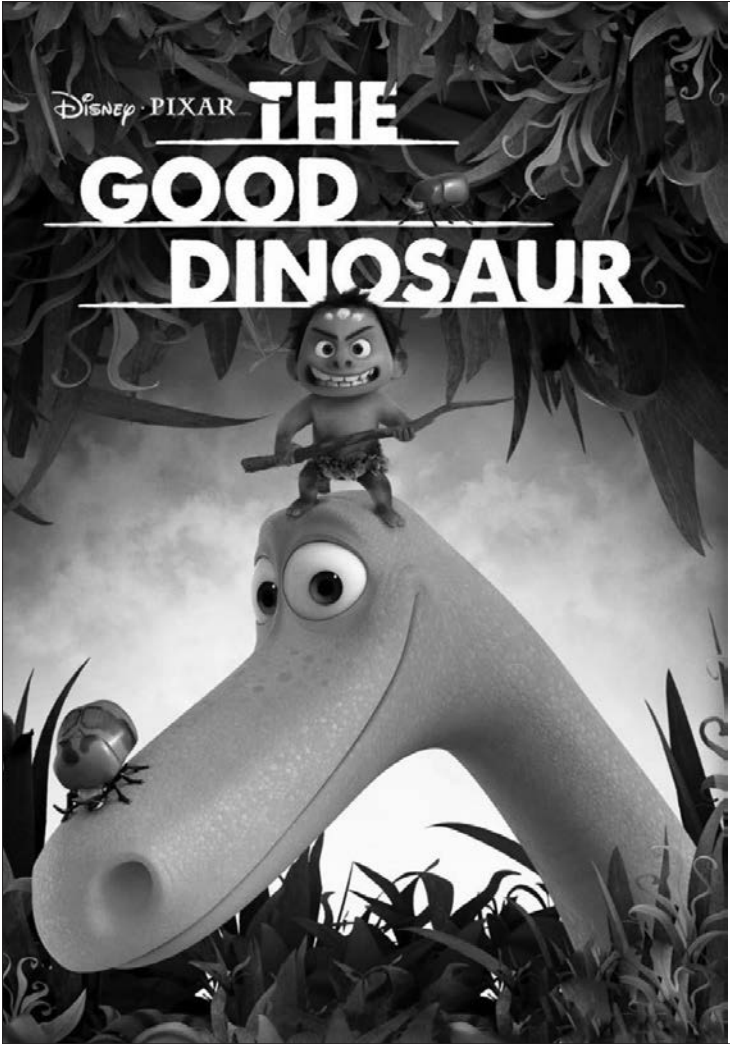
on a primitive farm so that they can survive. But one child, Arlo, is having trouble every day trying to do the best work he can.

Fear is Arlo’s biggest obstacle, for with looming white mountains and dangerous critters about, he’d rather stick close to his parents than face this world. But through a se-ries of events he becomes lost when a river takes him away, and one of the critters he once hated, a young caveboy he names Spot, is going to have to be his guide back home. Along the way, Arlo must face predators, experienced farm-er dinosaurs, and the odd land beyond his home to come back and try to be worth something to his family.

At plot like this can seem deceptively simple, and in this case, that assumption can be entirely right. This is a very simple film. But it’s simplicity goes towards its strengths and weaknesses.

One thing that should be clarified is that The Good Dino-saur has been in development for six years total. I heard of this film when I was in the 9th grade in high school and wondered why it took so long to make. Reasons for this were discovered

online as I found this film was plagued with its director los-ing creative steam, the script being scrapped and rewrote, and almost all of the original actors being tossed out for new ones



to fit the new plot.

Considering all the craziness that went behind scenes, it’s any wonder the film even got made. But here it is today, and for what it is worth, it is an adequate addition to the canon of Pixar, though sadly contains problems.

For its good parts, it definitely knows how to create a world that you can marvel at and take seriously. Some people might

be put off by the cartoonish designs of the characters, but it ac-tually works to a degree. Emotions can come through a lot bet-ter and connect with younger audiences. The Good Dinosaur

does this well.

Another thing it does well is back-ground and world design. The Good Dinosaur features some of the most beautiful land-scapes I’ve seen in a Pixar film. Given that the production want-ed to make nature the villain in this film it becomes

clearer as to why everything is so nicely rendered. Every drop of rain, leaf in the grass, and cloud looks gorgeous and awe-inspiring. The staff really must be commended for what they did here.

But the prettiness aside, this Pixar film in particular is lacking heavily in the story department. The Good Dino-saur is not bad, but everyone has seen it before. We’ve seen the boy and his dog story, we’ve seen the journey home story, we’ve seen misfits becoming friend stories, and we’ve seen coming of age movies. Many of the elements to this film’s story have been seen elsewhere, and it makes the film slightly disappointing when you consider all the things that Pixar can do with both animation and storytelling together.

Along with some other odd design choices, like some wild-west elements thrown into the world, the time it took to make this film speaks volumes as to how it got this way. Perhaps The Good Dinosaur is a testament to not bite off more than you can chew when releasing two Pixar films in one year, or maybe it’s just a lesson that not everything is going to go well in six years’ time.

But for what it’s worth, The Good Dinosaur is still some-thing I can recommend. It’s got some touching moments, and some serious ones that can be important for anyone, even children, to watch, and while it won’t go down as Pixar’s best, it is at least able to go down in some people’s hearts.

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.

Commuters must take an active role in getting involved

Lauren Simonsen

Columnist

Going to college is strange for me. I have been driving the same route to go to school for the past five and a half years now. Seeing the same scenery, the same people, the same streets and businesses every day. Today, when my foot holds down the break at the lights by the Dairy Queen I drive straight through them, past Mariachi Loco, and into the roundabout, to search hopelessly for a parking spot. A year and a half ago when my car idled at those same lights at the same Dairy Queen, I would turn right and drive past the purple tooth dentist, and the hockey rink, and into the parking lot of the High School, a place where I always found a spot to park. I commute to school every day because I live here, and have lived here my whole life. I didn’t even apply to any other colleges besides the UW-River Falls, as the conveniences associated with going to

college just fifteen minutes from my house far outweighed the list of pros any other university could have.

My life is predictable, mundane and maybe too settled for some, but I like that I see my parents every day, that I climb the stairs to my *real* room, not my temporary dorm room. But college is strange for me; I almost feel like a visitor to campus sometimes. I don’t know many people, because at the end of class I run to my car to go to work or home and I take my lunch with me, getting used to eating alone was something I had to adjust to last year. For me, going to college in my hometown is practical; I am here to gradu-ate with a degree and to get that first job out of college that I don’t dislike too much. But, at the end of my freshman year of college, I realized that the whole year had flown by and I had little to show for it. I had “participated” in some clubs, I had a job, but that was it. I hadn’t done anything spectacular or some-thing to challenge myself.

Sophomore year had to be different, I couldn’t let myself just attend class, go to work, and then go home. And this year actually was different, and sometimes scary.

Upon the guidance of my advisor I enrolled in a six-credit introductory journalism class, that seemed like it might be fun but also a lot of work (six credits!). Turns out I loved it, creating projects in lab, learning about ethics,

My life is predictable, mundane and maybe too settled for some, but I like that I see my parents every day, that I climb the stairs to my *real* room, not my temporary dorm room.

and even math for journalists was interesting to me. I finally and actually became involved in life on campus by becoming a columnist for the Student Voice, putting me and my words right out there in print for anyone to see and judge. I declared a second major in journalism – a major that demands that you be involved on campus and be comfortable with public speaking, and broadcasting your voice and your work out into the public.

Sophomore year is also the year for bigger

opportunities that put me far outside my comfort zone, such as traveling abroad. Liv-ing for three months with so many strangers might be the only “real” college experience I will have, as if I were to actually live in a real college dorm room- that just happens to move all around Europe. This year I will have physical proof that I was an active member of the UWRF community, that I did more than just school, home, and work. But I am still working, actively now, to find a place for myself at college. I hope to do many more things that make me nervous and uncomfortable because it challenges my settled life that is always too easy to fall back to. I have come to realize that where you live or even where you eat are not the deciding factors for your life in college, it is work for everyone to find a place where they belong and people they like, which makes me not so different from anyone else.

Laurem A. Simenson is a sophomore majoring in communication studies. Her interest include eating dark chocolate, online window shopping, and reading anything she can get her hands on. While not at work, at school, taking naps, or doing homework, she likes to cook, canoe, fish and write.

Understanding of diversity important for a healthy campus

Molly Kinney

Columnist

On Tuesday night I attended a Student Senate meeting to make a comment about the com-mittee I’m on, the Committee on Advancing Sustainable Efforts. We’re hosting an event in the library on Dec. 17 during finals week, centered on sustainable living and mental health, and advocating an \$8.75 due that will be put into a green fund for students to use on sustainable projects on campus. After I made my plug I stuck around to see what else goes on during the weekly business meeting of our student government, and was intrigued by a bill to re-implement a position that would serve the students as someone they could talk to if they feel marginalized, of-fended, or wronged by the university. When the list of speakers was made, I was sadly unsurprised when the first person to speak was a white male, whom asked in sum, “why would we need this? I don’t know of anyone that feels this way.” The second speaker, another white male, reiterated this question.

I was at first extremely surprised that anyone would question why a safe space to

express problems on this campus is neces-sary. With over 85 percent of the university being white, obviously a POC might be uncomfortable going to directly to adminis-tration with issues surrounding their race. As well, there is no information about sexuality diversity of this campus, so a LGBTQIA person probably wouldn’t even know where to go if they had an issue. Other historically marginalized groups- such as disabled, muslim, etc.- would be able to utilize a student in this position to voice their concerns for them, since often their concerns are swept under the rug.

Other historically marginalized groups- such as disabled, muslim, etc. - would be able to utilize a student in this position to voice their concerns for them, since often their concerns are swept under the rug.

But after a little more consideration, I wasn’t surprised that this question was asked, because of who asked it. In general, white

men have little to no problem having their voices heard on our campus and in society more generally. Throughout all of history, white men have always been the powers-that-be. A white man has little insight on what the experience of the less privileged have, and why they might feel insecure talking to administration about their problems.

The next morning as I traversed the Uni-versity Center in search of coffee, I was an-noyed to say the least that the Men’s Rights Coalition was once again allowed to perpet-uate their flawed and misogynistic work at a table. Rather than going into specifics, I’ll simply say that what they stand for seems rather irrelevant, seeing as the population they represent comprises the largest percent-age of people in Congress.

To deny that white men do not control the world is to deny reality. What I tried to get across to these men was that as a feminist, I advocate for complete equality of men and women across all platforms. Women will not be equal in the workplace until men are equal in the home, as feminist icon Gloria Steinem once said.

As well, with an ever-increasing percent-age of minorities in our lovely nation, those who have historically held control of power have to start agreeing to letting some of their power go, in order to achieve a fully repre-

sentative democracy.

Adding this position to Student Involve-ment seems like a necessary and proper thing to do if the Senate is committed to improving inclusivity on campus, as well as because we are slowly becoming a more diverse campus. In an increasingly globalized world, we all need to not only get used to, but embrace, having people who don’t look like us as apart of our culture and being represented by them in the legislative process.

Molly Kinney is a journalism student with a minor in political science. When she’s not writing, she spends her time outdoors, promoting climate justice, neglecting homework, playing pool at Emma’s, and reading the news. In the future she would love to travel the world and cover politics for NPR.

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