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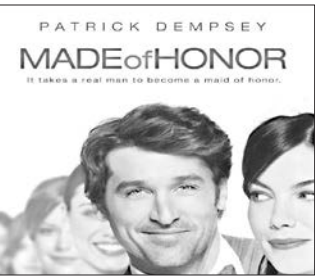
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University of Wisconsin

River Falls

# STUDENT VOICE

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## Hall directors aim to make residents’ life easier

Tori Schneider  
Falcon News Service

Freshmen aren’t the only new residents in Crabtree Hall this fall. Liz Brunner, who is in her first year as one of the new full-time hall directors at UWRF, welcomed students to their new living quarters in September.

“I like her. She’s nice,” Crabtree resident Sarah Decorsey said. “She’s involved, which I like.”

Hired this year as part of a new Residence Life staffing model, Brunner has made it a goal for herself to get to know the names and faces of all 250 freshmen living in the hall.

The seven newly hired professional hall directors replace nine graduate student hall directors and a number of undergraduate assistant hall directors, complex directors and area coordinators who previously oversaw the 11 residence halls on campus.

Graduate hall directors were part of a partner program with UW-La Crosse in which students complete a full-time student affairs administration graduate program. The program is done over the course of two years, both in person at UWRF and online with UW-La Crosse staff while serving as interns at UWRF in Student Affairs and Residence Life.

“You think about, you’re a grad student, you’ve got a paper due tomorrow, you’re in class and there’s a student in crisis. You’re torn, right?” Karla Thoennes, director of residence life, said. “You’ve got to either go do your coursework, or you go take care of the student in crisis.”

Thoennes hopes that hiring professional staff who can focus on the job will be beneficial to students.

Thoennes said that in truth, the graduate student hall directors were only able to do their jobs part-time because they were in school full-time and in addition to that had to do a job that requires full-time attention.



Tori Schneider/Student Voice

**Crabtree Hall Director Liz Brunner, right, laughs with Resident Assistant Rachel Hovey at the Falcons Got Talent event, Friday, Oct. 6.**

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## UW-River Falls crime stats reveal a sobering trend and a new lease on life: looking at underage drinking on campus

Nathan Lukasavitz  
Falcon News Service

Getting caught drinking underage is not always as devastating as the consequences suggest, and in the case of Michelle Denney, who is currently a junior at UW-River Falls, it was an experience that led to a college career of rewarding academic success.

“It was not a fun phone call to my parents,” Denney said. “They were not proud of me, but they said, ‘Michelle, this isn’t the end of the world. You can pick yourself up, and you can move forward.’”

That difficult and disappointing phone call that students make to their parents when they get caught drinking is a call that appears to be becoming a much less common occurrence for students on campus at UWRF, according to the 2017-2018 UWRF Annual Security Report.

In 2014, there were 297 disciplinary referrals issued for alcohol-related incidents, according to the UWRF campus crime statistics. However, in 2015 the number of disciplinary referrals for alcohol fell to 204. An even larger decrease was seen the year following, 2016, in which only 100 referrals for alcohol were issued.

“There’s nothing specific that would say this is the specific reason why the numbers have dropped,” said Karl Fleury, chief of campus police. “Every year you get a different group

of individuals that are coming to campus because we’re always constantly turning over students in the sense that we get a new freshman class every year.”

In addition to student turnover, the resident assistants on campus also play a major role in what determines the overall number of disciplinary referrals, according to Denney.

“I think it depends on the RA. They can either be pretty strict on the rules, or they can be pretty lenient,” Denney said. “I think a lot of the RAs really take their job seriously, and I think they really try and crack down on the underage drinking here on campus.”

When an RA is confronted with a scenario where cracking down is necessary, it affects not only the community aspect, but it also affects the way that residents perceive their RA, according to Resident Assistant Chris Rost.

“It was kind of like everybody was stepping on eggshells for a little bit because it’s like ‘Oh, that RA’s a hard-ass kind of thing,’” Rost said. “It was kind of like a taboo subject for about a week. Then after a while it was like, ‘Oh yeah, remember when this happened.’”

Depending where on campus the student is living, getting caught drinking can mean having to pack up all of their belongings, saying goodbye to their roommate and relocating to an alternative building.

“It definitely took a toll on my finals,” Denney said, “because I had to pack up all my stuff during finals week, be-

cause that was when I got written up, and they told me I had to leave.”

Having to change residence halls, however, is not the only consequence that students face.

“You also have to take a \$65 class at the restorative justice center downtown,” Denney said. “There’s a speaker, and they talk about their experience with drinking and other drugs, and you kind of give your own little reasons about why you were drinking and what you think you should be doing with your life instead of drinking.”

Instead of drinking, Denney did a lot with her life in regards to her academics, beginning immediately upon returning to campus the following semester.

“I really focused on my studies, and I had a better environment to work in in May (Hall) because there were a lot of distractions from where I was previously living,” Denney recalled. “I really focused on my major, and I got a good group of friends, and I made the dean’s list the past three semesters. I was really proud of that.”

Ultimately, getting caught drinking can be a good thing for a student’s academic success, but only if the student chooses the right perspective on it.

“You can use it as a learning experience,” Denney said, “or you can not heed the warning that it gives you.”

## Working journalist Farrah Fazal exposes social injustice

Lauren Simenson  
Falcon News Service

One in five people living in the largest refugee camp in the world, the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, have family living in Minnesota. Recently, one of those five refugees, a 3-year-old girl named Anfa, went from having family members in the Minnesota heartland to being there herself.

Anfa was born just as her parents were ready to head to the U.S. after gaining refugee status. The newborn did not have



Tori Schneider/Student Voice

**KSTP investigative journalist Farrah Fazal speaks during the communication and media seminar titled, “Shining a light into the shadows,” which was sponsored by the Communication and Media Studies Department at UW-River Falls, Thursday, Oct. 11.**

refugee status, and was therefore unable to be properly interviewed or vetted. Anfa’s mother made an impossible choice and had to leave Anfa behind.

Farrah Fazal, who was also born in Africa, is an investigative reporter from KSTP-TV in St. Paul. She can really connect with the diverse communities she often reports on, and that ability has enabled her to change the life of a Somali family living in St. Cloud by finding and helping to reunite Anfa with her parents.

Anfa’s story was just one example of the type of compassionate and involved reporting that Farrah Fazal advocates for and that she shared with the UWRF students and community members last Thursday night in the UWRF’s North Hall Auditorium. Fazal was the featured media speaker during the latest installment of the communication and media seminar titled, “Shining a light into the shadows,” which was sponsored by the Communication and Media Studies Department at UW-River Falls.

Fazal, who can speak several languages, first told the audience of her diverse background, of being born in Africa and then living and being educated in London and Alberta. Fazal is also an award-winning investigative journalist who has worked for news stations in Texas, Montana, Florida, Canada, Missouri, Nebraska and currently Minnesota.

Reporting with an emphasis on social justice, Fazal covers issues of immigration, sex trafficking, terrorism and the Somali community in Minnesota. She was even one of the very few journalists to get into Pakistan to report on the Taliban and

to cover riots in Ferguson, Missouri.

Since arriving at KSTP, Fazal has reported on a series called “Hell to Heartland” about the local Somali community in the Minnesota heartland who are separated from their families back in their homeland of Somalia. Her first story of the seminar highlighted the plight of the three-year-old Somali girl, Anfa, who had been separated for three years from her parents and who lived in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Fazal was an integral part of a seven-month process of bringing Anfa from a refugee camp in Kenya to St. Cloud to reunite with her parents. Anfa was just one victim of President Trump’s travel ban on Muslim countries as she was delayed from getting to the United States due to the ban.

Many in the audience acknowledged that Fazal’s story on Anfa humanized the issue of immigration and of the travel ban. Anfa put a face to the word “refugee.” Fazal said of her story, “This shows that people are people all over the world,” and that this is a story that she hopes everyone could connect to because we all know what it is to like to have parents who would miss us if we were kept from them.

Not only did Fazal get those who attended the seminar to connect with Anfa, through the use of Facebook and Twitter, Fazal was able to share her trips to Africa, to visit Anfa and to get hundreds of thousands of people around the world to care about a little girl separated from her parents. Fazal credits

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# News Briefs:

## University of Wisconsin-River Falls Alumni Wins MN Award for Civic Leadership

Hippy Feet, a Minneapolis-based social organization that helps the homeless community, has been announced as an award winner in the 2025 Plan Leadership Awards from the Mpls Downtown Council. The company, whose founding members include University of Wisconsin, River Falls alumni Michael Mader and his partners Sam Harper, Andrew McDonough and Madelyn Pung, was built on the idea of giving back. Every purchase creates an opportunity to help those less fortunate, whether that be through the donation of socks or providing employment to homeless youth. Hippy Feet is being awarded for their work in providing both short-term and long-term solutions to homelessness during the 2025 Plan Leadership Awards, hosted annually by the Mpls Downtown Council. This year’s gala was held on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at the Minneapolis Events Center. Focusing on the areas of development, greening & public realm, downtown experience, transportation, and ending street homelessness, the council recognized leadership by individuals, organizations, and initiatives, that work to benefit the community. Hippy Feet has donated more than 5,000 pairs of socks to shelters across the Midwest. They have created 20 part-time jobs for young people affected by homelessness. For more information on the event visit: <https://www.mplsdowntown.com/event/2017-mpls-down-town-council-annualgala>.

## Young to present Edward Peterson Lecture at UWRF

Louise Young, professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will present a lecture at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls on Wednesday, Oct. 18, as part of the annual Edward N. Peterson Lecture Series. Young’s lecture, “Korean-Japanese Relations, Imperial Nostalgia and Japan’s New Right” is set for 4:30 p.m. in the Kinnickinnic Theater in the University Center and will be preceded by a 4 p.m. reception. Both the reception and Young’s presentation are free and open to the public. Young’s presentation examines the tensions in Japan’s relations with South Korea around economic rivalries and the Comfort Women issue that are driving the rise of the new right from the 1990s to the present, and explores the significance of Japanese nostalgia for the days of empire. Young is a historian of modern Japan. Her research and teaching interests include Japanese international relations, World War II in Asia, comparative imperialism, Japanese urbanism and urban modernism between the wars, local history and most recently, sociology and social policy. She is currently working on two book projects, “Middle Class Myths in Modern Japan: A Cultural History of Social Power” and “Sociology and the ‘Social Problem’ in Prewar Japan.” The Peterson Lecture series honors Edward N. Peterson, professor of history at UW-River Falls 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 donations from students, alumni, faculty and friends. Young’s lecture is co-sponsored by the Year of South Korea Committee as part of UWRF’s Year of South Korea, 2017-18 program. For more information about the Peterson Lecture series and Young’s presentation, visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/HIST/Events/PetersonLectureSeries/>.

## Rush River Ramblers Band Featured in First 2017-2018 Barn Dance Event

Western Wisconsin string band the Rush River Ramblers will kick off the 2017-18 River Falls barn dance series on Saturday, October 21 in the gym of the River Falls Academy (the former Meyer Middle School) at 439 West Maple Street in River Falls from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. The Rush River Ramblers features old-time musicians from Spring Valley and Martell. The group has been a crowd favorite in the River Falls summer Music in the Parks series and spring Bluegrass Festival. No prior dancing experience is necessary. A skilled caller teaches steps to newcomers and more seasoned dancers alike. All dancing is social and singles are welcome. Children are especially encouraged to participate in the opening family-friendly segment from 7 to 8 p.m. The second part of the evening features somewhat more advanced dances. Other dates in the 2017-18 season feature a diverse roster of local and Twin Cities musicians: **Barn Cats on Saturday, November 18** **Rush River Ramblers on Saturday, January 20** **Grit pickers on Saturday, February 17** **Greenwood Tree on Saturday, March 17** **Barn Cats on Saturday, April 14** The barn dance series is volunteer-operated and jointly sponsored by River Falls Community Arts Base, River Falls Parks and Recreation, and Allina Health River Falls Area Hospital. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for 12 and under. Inexpensive refreshments are available. More Information can be found at <http://www.riverfallscab.org>.

## Grazing model offers industrial farming alternative

America’s mechanization pushed farmers further from family farms, forcing the continued consolidation of land, efficiencies of scale supplanting seasoned planters’ tack. The dairy industry was no different, but industrialization’s inevitable inundation wasn’t accepted by all, spawning a counter-movement — the heart of which lies approximately two and a half hours east of the St. Croix River Valley. Third-generation dairy farmer Joseph Tomandl III’s family business shifted from the industrial model in the 1980s toward grazing, a method employing fencing to section off patches of grass for cows to eat rather than feeding them in a confined facility. Through that lens, Tomandl helped develop the nation’s first and only nationally recognized formal dairy grazing apprenticeship, its headquarters on farmland outside Medford, Wis. Natural limitations of a grazer’s farm directly address environmental issues such as soil loss and runoff. Permanent pastures where cows feed offer a natural filter for surface and groundwater. This model also lessens an operation’s concentrated manure load and offers an appropriate cow-to-land ratio because it only requires as much acreage as cows are willing to walk. Cows spread their own

manure, fertilizing the fields as they eat. While providing a model more environmentally friendly, Tomandl hasn’t sacrificed the business end. A growing “farm-to-plate” market means consumers like to know more about where their food comes from and who produces it. For full article, visit: <http://www.riverfallsjournal.com/news/business/4338852-dairy-road-diverges-grazing-model-offers-alternative-industrial-farming>

## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY MONTH

## Campus Events Calendar:

- **Horitculture Society’s Fall Plant Sale**  
**Friday, Oct. 13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
**Agricultural Science Building**
  - **48 Hour Film Fest**  
**Friday, Oct. 13, all day event**  
**Kinni Theater, UC**
  - **UW River Falls Surplus Sale**  
**Friday, Oct. 13, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.**  
**Rodli Hall**
  - **BFA Thesis Exhibition 1**  
**Friday, Oct. 13, 3-8 p.m.**  
**Monday-Friday, Oct. 16-20**  
**Kleinpell Fine Arts**
  - **UW Law School Information Session**  
**Monday, Oct. 16, 10-11 a.m.**  
**Kleinpell Fine Arts**
  - **CHS Meeting**  
**Monday, Oct. 16, 5:30- 6:30 p.m.**  
**139 Hagstad Hall**
  - **Meeting of Society for Human Resources Management**  
**Tuesday, Oct. 17, 3:30-4:30 p.m.**  
**South Hall**
  - **Ally Training 1**  
**Tuesday, Oct. 17, 6-9 p.m.**  
**Falcon’s Nest, UC**
  - **Cohler Coffee Concert: Ema Katrovas, voice**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 18, 12-1 p.m.**  
**Abbott Concert Hall, KFA**
  - **Nuclear Stalemate with North Korea Lecture**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 18, 12-1 p.m.**  
**University Center**
  - **Fellowship of Christian Faculty and Staff**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 18, 12-1 p.m.**  
**Off campus- Journey House**
  - **Weekly Relaxation Practice**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 18, 3:30-4 p.m.**  
**162 Hagstad Hall**
  - **Edward N Peterson Lecture**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 18, 4:30-5:30 p.m.**  
**University Center**
- Visit [uwrf.edu](http://uwrf.edu) for a full schedule of events**

### Weekly UWRF Crime Report

**Friday, October 6**

- Theft was reported at Crabtree Hall at 12:13 p.m.

**Sunday, October 8**

- Theft was reported at George R. Field South Forks Suites at 8:39 p.m.

**Monday, October 9**

- Property damage MV accident was reported at George R. Field South Forks Suites at 6:18 p.m.

Editor’s Note:

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

### Follow the Student Voice on Twitter

@uwrfvoice

## Student Senate did not meet this week

*The information in this update comes from the minutes posted to the Student Government Association FalconSync page every week. The Student Senate meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Willow River Room of the University Center.*



# Allina Health River Falls Clinic brings new care

Destrey Zarfos

Falcon News Service

In the foreground, children were having their faces painted and citizens were climbing in and out of helicopters and ambulances on display. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, cabinets were stocked, hand sanitizer filled and exam rooms lay prepped and ready.

Local artists had worked to fill the walls with color. Fresh white lines for parking spaces were painted and shrubs were planted in the hopes that they would someday grow to fill the landscaping.

Much like those plants, the Allina Health River Falls Clinic is in it’s infancy. The doors were opened on Sept. 23 for an open house where community members could come see for themselves the new building that sits next to the River Falls Hospital, also part of Allina Health, on East Division Street. The brand-new clinic is already busy as patients are able to schedule appointments 24 hours a day using the online calendar or by phone.

There are five medical doctors and one licensed acupuncturist on staff at the clinic, all with their own specialties. The clinic offers 19 services to patients including vaccinations, family medicine, general surgery and pregnancy care.

Dr. Katelyn Bezek did not have to travel far to end up in River Falls. “I grew up in central Minnesota and moved all over the Midwest for college and medical school,” Bezek said. After spending four years at United Hospital in St. Paul, Bezek made the transition to River Falls after “so many other providers told me how much they loved the people out here.” Bezek also works with the River Falls Hospital.

Bezек has certainly enjoyed her time in River Falls thus far and likes the culture. “River Falls is amazing,” she said. “The area is beautiful, the clinic is a lot of fun and the people are so friendly. I love how many artists live in the area, all of the clinic artwork was done by local artists, and I’ve heard about some incredible things people in the area are working on.”

Bezек said the clinic is up and running very smoothly.



Destrey Zarfos/Falcon News Service

**Allina Health River Falls Clinic is now open and ready to serve the community.**

“Most of our team is from the area and have worked here for years; they’re phenomenal, we’re lucky to have such a kind and experienced team right from the start,” she said.

Heather Lindstrom lives just a block away from the new clinic and has already found it to be incredibly convenient. “I think the new clinic is a great addition, especially for me living so close, its nice to be able to receive good care right away and be treated,” she said. “I don’t have to go anywhere; its in my own backyard I don’t need to travel to Hudson or anywhere else, and especially for something minor that a clinic could just handle.”

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, every year since 2012 the population of River Falls has climbed. Lindstrom said she believes the new clinic came at the the right time. “I think that this new clinic adds a lot to our community and it shows that we’re growing, which is really awesome,” she said.

Although the clinic is brand-new, the mission is clear. “Our goals for the clinic are to provide thorough and compassionate care to the community we serve. In ours and other communities,” Bezek said.

## Hall directors make residents’ life easier

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Three graduate students still serve as support staff for full-time resident hall directors on campus in Ames and South Fork Suites, Grimm and McMillan halls and May and Stratton halls.

Since the graduate hall directors came on, all but three assistant hall directors and complex directors positions were eliminated. This freed up money in the residence life budget to allow for the hiring of the new full-time hall directors.

An extra \$145,000 was needed to make ends meet and cover everything including benefits for these positions.

All of this was done without raising user fees, or what students pay to live in the dorms, which is where residence life gets its budget.

According to the residence life website, “Hall Directors are compensated with an annual salary of \$35,000 for a 12-month appointment along with a comprehensive fringe benefit package including full coverage for family health insurance and retirement plan. They also receive a meal plan, one parking pass, and a partially furnished on-campus apartment.”

Graduate student hall directors were paid a salary of \$13,124, according to Thoennes.

Such a subtle change might go unnoticed by students if they don’t have experience navigating the many layers of the old staffing model, haven’t needed to contact their hall director for anything or if they don’t see an increase in the amount they are paying.

“I doubt they would know so much of changes,” said Temi Abiodun, a resident assistant (RA) in Hathorn Hall. “If you’re not an RA you wouldn’t know too much of what’s going on inside Res Life.”

The changes may not be so obvious to students who are just getting settled in their new homes.

Abiodun is in her second year as a resident assistant and said it is still early in the school year, but she sees changes already.

“One thing I would say is there’s more time available with (the hall directors). They’re always at their office if you need them,” she said. “(Last year) you would just probably see them at meetings or if they wanted to talk.”

Both Abiodun and Brunner said they are excited for the new model.

“It’s really the time that we’re able to dedicate to our students, our student staff, people like our RAs, our desk assistants, our hall council,” Brunner said. “The amount of time I’m able to put into them because I’m not balancing school and that’s what we’re doing as a department. I think (that) has been the biggest change and the one I’m most excited about.”

## Water Bar art installation features the value of clean drinking water

Sophia Koch

Falcon News Service

Drinking water gets plenty of attention when it’s suddenly not available. Puerto Rico is in the news as it struggles to restore clean drinking water to its residents in the wake of Hurricane Maria, and officials from Flint, Michigan, are still facing legal backlash after the incident in 2016 where over 100,000 residents were exposed to high levels of lead in their drinking water.

River Falls has none of those problems, and when there’s no crisis it’s easy to forget about water. That, said Professor Greta Gaard from UW-River Falls, is when it tends to get neglected.

“We commodify it,” Gaard said, “consume it, and forget it. And that’s how water is being contaminated, dammed, used as waste.”

Gaard and a handful of other members from the UWRF Sustainability Faculty Fellows are aiming to change that outlook through what they’re calling a “water bar.”



*Photo courtesy of Greta Gaard*  
**UW-River Falls Sustainability Faculty Fellows Grace Cogio, Veronica Justen, Greta Gaard, Tovah Flygare and Robin Murray display their interactive “water bar” art installation at the Hudson Phipps Center for the Arts on Oct. 21, 2016.**

The water bar began as an interactive art installation run by a couple out of Minneapolis but has since been picked up by other organizations hoping to spread the message. The setup, Gaard said, consists of three glasses of water arranged in a wooden tray. Each glass contains a water sample from different sources within the St. Croix River Watershed (municipal water, private wells, etc.). Much like they might sample from a flight of beer, participants are encouraged to taste test each glass of water and share with the people running the “bar” what they think.

“People are invited to taste the water,” Gaard said, “and describe how it tastes to them. To actually pay attention to the taste of water, which we’ve sort of assumed tastes like nothing.”

The idea of the project, Gaard continued, is to engage the

public in conversations about water quality in the hopes that people will begin to see potable water as a valuable resource that is not inexhaustible. The Faculty Fellows bring the installation around to various sustainability-related events in the area, such as the Chill on the Hill concert series and an art opening at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson.

Lee Owen, a River Falls resident for 45 years, said that she worries about the effects that the pace of River Falls urban expansion will have on local drinking water as well as the environment in general. She has noticed increased trash in the Kinnickinnic River as the city encourages recreation, and she said she worries that impermeable surfaces like cement will increase runoff of chemicals into the river, particularly the excessive fertilizer her neighbors spray on their lawns.

“Everybody’s got this perfection of lawn thing that’s been encouraged ... so I think they overdo chemicals on that,” Owen said.

Despite Owen’s fears, however, River Falls actually has a very good reputation in terms of its municipal groundwater. The river, to begin with, is not the source of the town’s municipal water. Tamara Wittmer, a land conservation planner at St. Croix County, said that River Falls draws from an underground aquifer, a layer of porous sandstone that slowly sponges up water trickling down from the surface. This serves as a natural filtration system.

“Mother nature has a great way of cleaning water,” Wittmer said.

River Falls also has a testing system in place to look for any contaminants that make it past the sandstone filter, particularly nitrates and disease-causing bacteria. Nitrates, Wittmer said, are usually the result of things like storm runoff from fertilizer or animal waste and septic systems, and can be harmful in high enough dosages. The River Falls Annual Water Quality Report from 2016 shows that nitrate levels in the municipal water ranges between 0.02 and 0.05 parts per million (ppm), which is considerably below the 10 ppm limit at which it’s considered a problem.

Overall, Wittmer said, River Falls is ahead of the game when it comes to managing storm water runoff. It voluntarily began management practices in the early 90s, and regulates things such as excessive paving and the treatment of phosphorous. Hudson, by comparison, only began managing its storm water around 2016, and did so only because its rising population reached a cutoff point where the EPA requires management practices due to the Clean Water Act. Its Annual Water Quality Report from 2017 records nitrate levels at 2.4 ppm.

“I think River Falls has done a really good job of protecting the resource,” Wittmer said. “(It) is a really proactive community.”

Unlike Flint, Michigan, and Puerto Rico, River Falls is not facing a drinking water crisis. This does not mean, however, that it never could. The point of the water bar, Gaard said, is to bring the value of water to the attention of the public and to get people thinking about how their actions might impact this resource.

“It’s really, I think, a practice of mindfulness,” Gaard said. “It’s time to stop treating our water as free and inexhaustible.”

## Working journalist Farrah Fazal exposes social injustice

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“the power of storytelling, the powers of connection” to get people to care and connect, which ultimately is her goal as an investigative journalist and storyteller.

Fazal, who doesn’t own a television, credits social media as an essential tool for her job. “We have to think differently how we tell stories,” she said, adding that fewer people are watching broadcast television.

So how is she changing her story format to fit social media?

Fazal explained how she used different clips and segments

of Anfa’s story to post on Instagram, Facebook and SnapChat. She is aware that different audiences require different content. “On instagram they want a pretty picture and a couple of sentences,” she said. “On Facebook, people love stories. They love to read long stories. I have had to learn this is how I can do journalism. I can tell a little story with some pictures on Facebook, and then it’s important that they are coming to see me. They want my stories so it’s important for me to engage and be connected and tell it.”

She admits that the multiplatform storytelling keeps her busy, but it is an essential way to keep her stories relevant and

to reach and connect with her audience and build understanding.

The best part of her job, Fazal said, is telling stories of people and issues that matter and make a difference.

“I am in the service of people,” she said. “I am going to tell their story; I am going to open that window. I am going to help somebody else, including me, understand a little piece of their lives.”



# EDITORIAL

## Alternative strategies could prevent further accidents on Cascade Avenue

A pedestrian was hit by a car on campus last Friday crossing at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Cascade Ave. The female student was on a bike, and was hit by a passing vehicle while riding through the crosswalk.

This is not the first time a student has been hit on that particular crosswalk. Traffic between North Hall and the rest of campus is heavy, particularly between classes on the hour, and it can be difficult for drivers to make their way down Cascade Avenue with packs of students constantly crossing the street. It is also exceedingly difficult for drivers to see when students cross, particularly if the student is on a bike and moving quickly.

A large part of the problem is the way the crosswalk is set up. The flashing lights that indicate when a pedestrian is crossing are not reliable, sometimes going off when no one is present or belatedly when someone is attempting to cross. The grass that grows along the median also causes a safety hazard because it inhibits clear vision for drivers and pedestrians alike.

Dale Braun, the campus planner, has said in the past that the reason behind the grass is to prevent jaywalkers from crossing at random points along Cascade. It is also meant to force drivers to slow down by making them uncertain when traveling down the street. However, we at the Student Voice believe that this strategy has proved ineffective.

Careless drivers will speed whether they can see pedestrians or not. However, if they were to catch sight of an oncoming pedestrian out of the corner of their eye, there is a better chance that they would slam on the brakes in time. The grass tends to block this sort of peripheral vision, and further encourages speeding without regard for people who are not visible.

There are a variety of potential solutions that could be employed to fix this problem. Cutting the grass twenty or thirty feet on either side of the crosswalk is one initial and very easy solution. It would improve visibility while also still discouraging jaywalkers anywhere else along Cascade.

Another strategy would be to employ student workers as crossing guards at the busiest corner near North Hall. They could either remind distracted students to watch for traffic or they could alert drivers to oncoming groups of pedestrians. A similar solution would be to install a light that occasionally signals pedestrians to stop so that cars can make their way through during peak travel times.

On the more extreme end of the spectrum, solutions could include a pedestrian walkway that either runs underground in a tunnel or overhead on a bridge across the North Hall crosswalk. Adding different species of plants that are lower but still unpleasant to cross through could similarly hinder jaywalking along the road.

While the accident this past week caused only minor damage, we as a campus community should look for solutions that can eliminate the danger of more serious injuries. Serious accidents have happened in the past, and will continue to happen until alternative strategies are implemented.

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

# STUDENT VOICE

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# ‘Rick and Morty’ explores societal issues beyond entertainment brand

Sophia Koch
Columnist

Entertainment isn’t always simply about entertaining people.

We live in an interesting age where many of the “official” forms of information or moral guidance (i.e. news media, government, religion) are largely distrusted. Journalists are considered biased and government officials corrupt, and the news or rules they produce is either ignored or considered untrustworthy.

Where, then, are people getting their knowledge of the world?

Works of fiction, satire, and comedy are typically classified as “entertainment,” which suggests that their only purpose is to prompt a laugh or provide a moment of escapism. There is, however, an aspect of entertainment media that runs much deeper.

Works of fiction traditionally are meant to convey some sort of moral. Aesop’s fables were among the first in this tradition, using animals and other made up characters to provide examples of how people should or shouldn’t behave. Modern movies, TV shows and books follow this example to some degree or other.

Some, like the “Fast and Furious” franchise, provide only shallow moral lessons. In these cases, “entertainment” is a more accurate word, as the main point of the media is to provide maximum escapism through fights, explosions and chase scenes. Superficial as the moral is, however, it’s still there.

Even the shallowest of movies tends to offer the audience guidance towards some “right” or “truth” about the world. Some movies, books and shows take this a step further, and use their fictional characters, worlds and plots to tackle topics and issues that run far deeper.

The TV show “Rick and Morty” fits this idea almost perfectly.

“Rick and Morty” is extremely popular. It’s also extreme-

ly funny and possibly far too vulgar for the tastes of some, and it could easily be written off as a shallow bit of escapism for the sake of a cheap laugh.

The show, however, is extremely well-written. The characters are believable because they are flawed in ways that are very human and realistic. Morty and his sister fight in the manner of siblings, their parents have a floundering marriage, and Rick compensates for the family life he missed out on by burying himself in science. The actions of each character have very realistic consequences (though augmented by features like lasers and inter-dimensional travel), and viewers can potentially watch how situations play out and learn from the result.

Going beyond family life, “Rick and Morty” also delves into wider societal problems that plagues the world today. The show makes a parody of modern U.S. government with the Citadel of Ricks, which is portrayed as a grand vision of freedom and leadership that wandered down the path to hypocrisy and corruption due to the progression of time and the temptation of power. In season three, the show delves into concepts of race, class and gender inequality by taking these issues and portraying them in an exaggerated way through alien societies.

We as the viewers can laugh at these crazy adventures that Rick and Morty embark on and the crude jokes that the characters make, but every once in a while there’s a moment where we find ourselves laughing at something that is scarily true. Sometimes, it’s so true and so dark that we wonder if it’s right to be laughing about it.

Like a mother sneaking spinach into her kid’s brownies, “Rick and Morty” sneaks lessons of morality into the adventures and wisecracks that drew you to it in the first place. In this way, the show is more than pure entertainment. It is also a medium for the writers to portray real issues that they see going on in the world today, and to force us to think about why such ridiculous things as race, class and gender inequality still exist.

*Sophia Koch is a journalism major and biology minor at UWRF. Her hobbies include dropping her phone in the river, camping in idiotic places/conditions and spending way too much money on books.*

# Rhett and Link series can still bring out the mythical best in all of us

Lauren A. Simenson
Columnist

During the years 2008-2010 there was a global recession, Captain Richard Phillips was rescued from Somali pirates by the Navy SEAL team and the iPhone 4 was released by Apple. The years of 2008, 2009 and 2010 were not only a time of great change and trauma for the world but for me as well.

Those three years marked my last year of middle school and the start of my freshman year of high school. I tend not to let myself recall memories about this period of my life. I had to research what even happened back then as I had apparently also blocked that out. Not enough time has passed for the memories to not seem painfully awkward and embarrassing yet. Until a time comes when I can look back on my past without cringing, I will keep everything locked away.

One of few clearest memories from this formative time of my life came via YouTube. Back then it was just a few years old and not quite a cool part of the internet yet. I remember becoming hooked onto this new video-sharing site pretty quickly. YouTube combined some of my favorite things: creative visual entertainment and people sharing their lives. One day, as I was once again spiraling down the YouTube rabbit hole, I happened upon these two guys sitting at a little folding table in a bright green room. One had a beard, the other wore glasses, and they both had southern accents. I had found Rhett and Link.

Every week day I watched the latest video in their internet show, ‘Good Mythical Morning’. I watched as these two guys talked about anything and everything, ate some really gross food, played games, laughed, danced and sang and then shared it all online. Pretty soon I felt like I actually knew these guys, and I felt even more invested in the show as the years passed. Rhett and Link and I changed and evolved right along side each other.

Since I started watching GMM, the duo has moved out of a shed in Rhett’s backyard in North Carolina to bigger and bigger spaces in Los Angeles. They added employees,

worked on bigger videos and projects, formed a media company, made podcasts, created their own shoes, have been on television shows and will soon be embarking on a nationwide tour of live shows.

This week, they released their first physical work, a book called, ‘Rhett and Link’s Book of Mythicality.’ Being a super fan, I had this book, the first YouTube book I have ever wanted to read, preordered and waiting for me in my mailbox. Their new book’s theme revolves around one of Rhett and Link’s guiding tenets – their concept of having mythicality and of being your mythical best. This term of mythicality refers to having “a desire to learn and do new things, an appreciation of originality and a tendency to not take yourself too seriously. A person who is willing to risk pursuing these values – for the purpose of making the world a better place”.

Over the past 10 years, I have spent time watching all of their videos (seriously, all of them) and absorbing every fact. I’ve been repping their merch and embodying this quality of mythicality. From that I can see how far I have come in life too. I may not have moved to LA, but I made the big and also successful move from high school to college. Through their videos I have laughed more and connected to people I may not have ever met before. I remind myself to not be so serious, and like Rhett and Link I am always working to see what I can do to make the world a better place.

I was lucky enough to discover Rhett and Link at a time when I probably needed them the most. They have been the best part of my daily routine and have kept me laughing, informed and entertained. Rhett and Link and have set the perfect example of the kind of best friend and human being I want to be. Now through this book they have ensured that when the internet is eventually rendered useless in the inevitable apocalypse and I no longer have YouTube to rely on, I will always have this book with which to reconnect with how I can continue to be my mythical best.

*Lauren Simenson is a senior majoring in journalism and communication studies. Her interests 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.*

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# STUDENT voices

How would you describe the internet in one sentence?

*Compiled by Yasmine Ruetz*



Gwenyth Ballard  
Junior  
“Cats.”



Laken Jones  
Senior  
“The pinnacle of everything at this point, my whole degree.”



Brodie Melchione  
Unknown  
“a collection of information and the craziest jokes you can imagine.”



Adam McMurray  
Junior  
“A place where everyone can get information instantaneously”



Heesung Shin  
Transfer/Junior  
“A different world”

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# We are family: UWRF Latinos find meaning and explore past in Hispanic Heritage Month

Zach Dwyer  
Falcon News Service

Jason Caballero, a senior football player and president of the Latino Student Organization, grew up in urban Houston before arriving for school at UW-River Falls.

The city of River Falls, which is only 1.3 percent Hispanic/Latino according to the American Community Survey 2011-2015, was an entirely new experience for Caballero.

“Being from a majority (in Houston) to a minority out here was an odd feeling to take on,” Caballero said. “It was hard to adjust to that in the first two years. I felt like I was the only one and didn’t have a voice.”

UWRF’s student body is 88 percent white, with Hispanic/Latino students making up the largest minority on campus. Those 167 students made up about 3 percent of the student population in 2016-2017, which rose almost 50 percent from the 113 Hispanic/Latino students at UWRF in 2012-2013, according to the UW-River Falls Office of Institutional Research.

Even though these students make up a significant portion of the population, people tend to group them all together and ignore their distinct cultures. Efforts such as Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, are causes that help raise awareness for the unique culture and history of a variety of ethnic groups.

Both of Caballero’s parents grew up in El Salvador before fleeing during a civil war to look for opportunity in the United States. Caballero said they started with nothing but used their work ethic to achieve new opportunities in life. He has tried to expand upon this idea in his own time at UWRF.

Once Caballero began to identify with fellow Latinos at the university, he began to feel less isolated and more confident in who he was. With four new Latino freshmen on the football team, Caballero was determined to make sure they didn’t have to stand alone.

“I wanted to make sure they would feel welcomed and not just for football, but as a part of a community,” Caballero said. “We Latinos, whether we’re Puerto Rican, Hispanic, etc., identify each other as one family.”

That family aspect has put Caballero into the mentor role for freshmen Anthony Silva, Justice Watson, Fernie Ortega and Angel Bautista. Caballero is happy to see more Latinos coming to UWRF.

“I try to keep my arm around them and help them with the struggles of school,” he said. “They’ve responded well to that, and I kind of feel like a father to them. I want them to get to the point where I am in my life, as a senior soon to graduate.”

Awareness efforts like Hispanic Heritage Month and being a part of the football family have allowed Caballero to let teammates help learn what his culture and people are like.

“Just as they were curious to learn about my culture, I was curious to learn about their culture, so it was a learning experience for us,” Caballero said. “Family is a big part of the football team, and I think that correlates with Hispanic heritage. Family is everything you need in your life.”

Sophomore soccer player Mariah Troje had a much different experience than Caballero. Troje’s grandparents are both 100 percent Mexican, but her mother’s generation wasn’t as immersed in Hispanic culture.

Troje’s grandfather still speaks Spanish with his brothers and sisters, but didn’t pass the language on to Troje’s mother once she was born in Cottage Grove, Minnesota. Troje took Spanish in high school, but wasn’t fluent in the language growing up.

“I’m Hispanic, but most see me as white,” Troje said. “Most people also say I don’t look Mexican, so that may be a factor too.”

While she might not be as directly connected to her past, the Hispanic concept of family still maintains a strong hold on her life.

“I get an identity with my team,” Troje said. “Having more than just one person and having people to understand what I’m going through helps a lot.”

Troje’s grandmother on her father’s side had recently had hip surgery because of cancer in her bones. The support and effort from her team to put on the Kick for a Cure game against UW-Oshkosh on Sept. 30 had a significant effect on Troje.

Troje may not be completely rooted in Hispanic culture but still sees great benefits from Hispanic Heritage Month. She said it can help others understand where people are coming from and can help others gain knowledge about other cultures.

While there are challenges that minority students face at the university, the UWRF Athletics Department is helping students feel more included in diversity initiatives around campus.

Interim Athletic Director Crystal Lanning said steps are in the process to allow more collaboration between athletes, staff and the campus culture.

“In our strategic plan last year, one of our primary goals was to increase inclusion and diversity efforts,” Lanning said. “One giant step we took in that area was we hired a coordinator for Diversity, Inclusion and Student-Athlete Success.”

Chantel Flegler has recently stepped into this role through the Division III ethnic minority women’s internship grant.



Tori Schneider/Student Voice  
**Mariah Troje kicks the ball during a game between UWRF and Hamline on Sept. 6.**

The grant helps place women or minorities into athletic administrative roles. Lanning said this new hire proves that the department is committed to their desire to increase diversity efforts.

Lanning also hopes Flegler can get connected with other organizations on campus to help bring athletics in line with what the rest campus is doing in diversity efforts.

One other new aspect this year is the creation of a Diversity Council. This student-driven group meets once or twice a month. Assistant athletic director Kellen-Wells Mangold heard about the need for a group and facilitated it, Lanning said.

“They wanted to talk about things that are important to them,” Lanning said. “It’s an open dialogue, and anyone’s invited. It doesn’t have to be a student of color. They want to get teammates and coaches involved and start a conversation.”

# Falcons football falls short on homecoming to UW-Platteville

Owen Elle  
owen.elle@my.uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls football fell short this past weekend, losing 24-14 in a tightly contested matchup on homecoming Saturday against UW-Platteville.

Despite a convincing 30-7 victory over UW-Eau Claire the week before, the Falcons couldn’t get the win in a game that was dominated by defense. UWRF started off with a promising first drive that stalled out, something that would happen often in the first half. Falcons punter Owen Schommer punted the ball seven times through the first two quarters alone.

UW-River Falls head football coach Matt Walker was content with the start his team had early on, saying they wanted to limit possession and run the clock.

The team didn’t start off particularly fast, with punt returner Kyle Narges fumbling a punt midway through the first on a play where he was surrounded by five Platteville defenders.

After a scoreless and uneventful first quarter, the team continued to ask a lot out of its defense. They frequently had to stop the high-powered Platteville offense from within its own 50-yard line.

“The field position hurt us all day”, Walker said. “I’ve never been a part of a game where we started five drives within the five. Never seen it before.”

At 7:24 in the second quarter, Pioneer running back Sean Studer ran the ball in from the five-yard line, putting Platteville up 7-0. For the first time in the game, the heavily-relied-upon defense bent.

At halftime, the score was 7-0 Platteville, with the focus of the game squarely on field position for both teams. Falcons star running back Michael Diggins got involved in the offense early and often, finishing with 96 yards on 25 carries.

Coach Walker spoke glowingly of Diggins, saying, “He’s having maybe the best year of anybody offensively in our league this year”.

The Falcons defense cracked midway through the third when they allowed a 64-yard touchdown run by junior running back Sean Studer. He bolted straight down the middle of the field with little resistance, putting UWRF down by two scores.

“We know we are slightly vulnerable to big plays, it’s just the design of the defense,” Walker said. “Our defense was out on the field too much”.

Just as the game was about to get out of hand in the third quarter, the Falcons offense responded quickly. Two minutes later Hearn threw a touchdown pass to tight end Patrick O’Leary in the back of the end zone. The 6’5 sophomore put the team on the scoreboard for the first time in the game to cut UW-Platteville’s lead down to 14-7.

Coach Walker was proud of the turnaround the team had pulled off in the comeback.

“This is a group of kids that don’t get rattled,” he said. “The game was going to plan deep into the second half.”

Pioneers wide receiver Mark Johnson took advantage of the matchup on junior cornerback Alex Wood for most of the day, finishing with ten receptions for 152 yards. But Wood



Tori Schneider/Student Voice  
**Michael Diggins (32) runs the ball during the UW-River Falls homecoming game between UW-River Falls and UW-Platteville at Ramer Field at David Smith Stadium on Saturday.**

made a big play in the third quarter when he picked off a pass from quarterback Jack Eddy on an incredible no-look grab. This interception proved to be a momentum changer as the Falcons offense then drove down the field on a ten-play, 55-yard drive which was capped off by a game-tying touchdown run by Hearn.

Despite the momentum being on River Falls side, injuries to the Falcon’s offensive line along with a massive 40-yard reception by Johnson led to the Pioneers taking a 17-14 lead on a 35-yard field goal by junior kicker Michael Pratl.

With just 2:39 remaining in the fourth quarter, Platteville running back Wyatt Thompson would score on a 15-yard reception. This put the Pioneers up by ten points late in the contest.

The Falcons would need to score quickly if they were to have a chance at winning the game. However, on the first play of the drive, Hearn would throw an interception to Pioneers cornerback Luke Johnson, effectively ending the game.

After a couple of kneel downs, the Falcons would fall to 3-2 while the Pioneers would soar to 5-0 and the top of the

WIAC.

“I think we proved we can play with anybody in the country,” Walker said, remaining optimistic after the tough loss.

“We play a very conservative game offensively, but it’s because of the game plan. You are playing one of the number one offenses in the country”, Walker acknowledged. “Nobody wants to hear excuses”.

The loss to UW-Platteville may be difficult, but the Falcons have proven they’ve come a long way by competing with a top-ten team for four quarters.

“We’ve been pretty public that this thing has been a major turn around,” Walker said. “We still have big goals here at this program.”

While the homecoming loss stings everyone involved, the team will shift its focus towards next week’s opponent, UW-Stout. Despite coming off of two straight losses, Coach Walker contends that Stout will still pose a threat to the Falcons. Kickoff in Menomonie is set for 2 p.m. on Saturday.



# UWRF Falcons 2017 Homecoming Weekend



*Tori Schneider/Student Voice*  
Students in the stands hold up signs during the homecoming football game between UWRF and UW-Platteville at Ramer Field at David Smith Stadium on Saturday.



*Tori Schneider/Student Voice*  
UWRF women's hockey players Kathryn Larson, left, Hannah Enright and Maddy Illikainen smile as they walk in the homecoming parade on Main Street in downtown River Falls on Saturday.



*Tori Schneider/Student Voice*  
Travon Hearn (11) pushes through the UW-Platteville defensive line to score a touchdown in the third quarter of the homecoming game between the two teams on Saturday.



*Tori Schneider/Student Voice*  
The Perfect Fourths perform during Falcons Got Talent in the Falcon's Nest, Friday, Oct. 6. The group won first place in the show.



*Tori Schneider/Student Voice*  
Gabby Munsterteiger dances at the start of Falcons Got Talent in the Falcon's Nest, Friday, Oct. 6.



*Tori Schneider/Student Voice*  
UWRF Student Body President Abby Wendt, left and Vice President Kaylee Kildahl greet the crowd in the homecoming parade on Main Street in downtown River Falls on Saturday.



# McDreamy’s ‘Made of Honor’ is not made of greatness

Bethany Lovejoy

Reviewer

“Made of Honor” starts with what is perhaps my favorite recurring movie plot: a playboy falls in love with an actually okay human being and gets friend-zoned. Said man then waits until his best friend is about to be married to ruin her life and take out any love rivals.

The movie opens on a man walking around in a Bill Clinton mask. In an amazing impersonation of the man, he tries to get in bed with a girl who invited him to her room. However, instead of her being there, he ends up getting into the bed of her geeky roommate, a girl who was supposed to be in the library.

After being maced with body cologne, he decides to tell her that he is going to be a great inventor one day. You know, as you do.

His idea? The coffee collar – a cardboard tube that goes around coffee cups to prevent them from burning you.

This man is a national hero. He’s met bono and slept with half of this girl’s floor. I immediately love him.

He gets turned on by people being honest with him. Hannah, as the girl’s name is declared to be, tells him that he is ugly. Tom, the man, is played by Patrick Dempsey, also known as McDreamy. I’ll let you decide how dreamy McDreamy is.

McDreamy goes to this coffee shop, we find out that he is mega rich due to the fact that he receives a dime for every coffee collar used. He puts a coffee collar on a woman’s drink. Ten cents later he drives off with his coffee cups, both donning collars, to see the girl of his dreams. He has earned himself a total of 30 cents in the five seconds we’ve seen him.

Hannah has blossomed into a beautiful art restorer who also enjoys Chinese food. Hannah is the type of person I would spend hours with; she’s sarcastic and deaf to nutritional laws, and she proceeds to eats a ton of Chinese food and talk about cream cheese. Emotionally, I connected with her.

Hannah and McDreamy talk about his dad and how his dad has a new lady every month. Hannah’s invited to the wedding of this lady, but McDreamy is all upset that it’s even happening.

Hannah gives McDreamy the best life advice: “If someone’s doing something you disagree with, just say, ‘I’m happy that you’re happy’.”

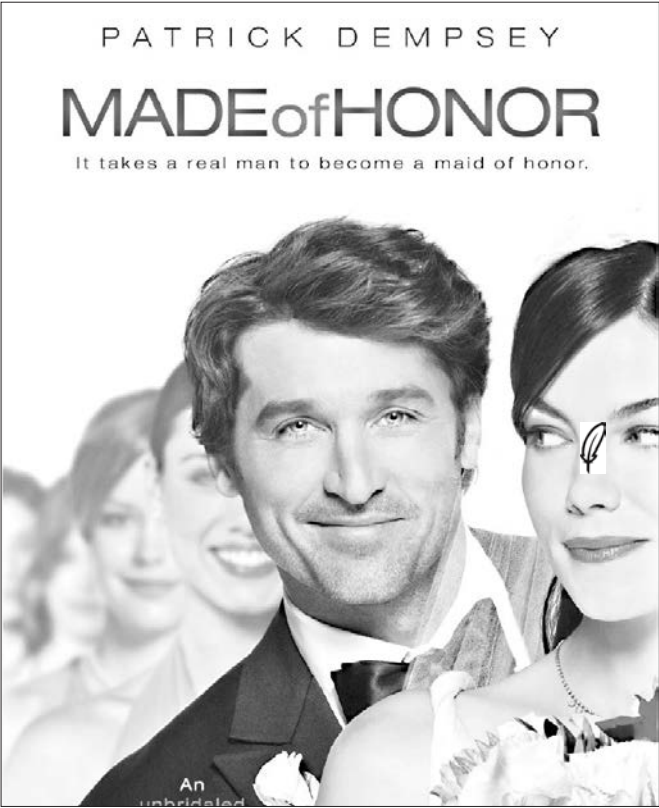
They go to his dad’s wedding and watch the attractive gold-digger esq. girl-hustle. Respect. McDreamy is all mad because his dad’s bride is a sugarbaby, but dances all of his irritation and distress away with Hannah. The camera zooms in on Hannah while slow music plays; Hannah has fallen in love.

I imagine the same thing happens when she goes off to Scotland to restore art, because she comes back and is all about marrying this one guy.

This guy is a duke. Respect.

So, she met this dude when he saved her from a bunch of cows in a thunderstorm. He rode a horse to save her. I immediately love this Scottish duke more than I love McDreamy.

Also, while she was gone meeting this awesome dude in awesome Scotland, Tom had this dumb realization that he’s in



love with Hannah and is done sleeping with multiple ladies.

Anyway, so Hannah is get married in Scotland to a man who uses the word “fortnight” and owns the largest whiskey distillery in the world. Colin, the Scottish guy, is a huge catch.

McDreamy is upset because Hannah asks him to be the maid of honor. McDreamy does not care about long-term whiskey acquisition, which would no doubt be a large amount of alcohol.

McDreamy’s MARRIED friend tells McDreamy to ruin the wedding using his position. McDreamy is dumb and goes along with this.

McDreamy meets up with Hannah and Hannah’s bridesmaids, and they have a wonderful dinner meeting while the bride is not present. There is the traditional wedding movie snafu where one of the bridesmaids thinks she should be the maid of honor.

I quickly ignored this as they moved onto the next typical wedding movie issue: one of the bridesmaids says too small of a dress size. They all roll their eyes at this girl and ask if she wouldn’t like a size twelve instead of a size eight. She says no because she is on a diet and will be size eight in two weeks, then she will meet a Scottish man and be happy.

If the girl didn’t end up happy I would have given this movie a 0.5/5.

McDreamy proceeds to throw the worst bridal shower in hopes of making Hannah hate Scotland. This goes well as he is identified by her grandmother as “The Fornicator.” He proves he is not a fornicator by having a woman come and sell personal devices at the party. You know, as the entertainer.

Anyway, so Hannah is upset that McDreamy ruined her bridal party, low-key drops a hint that she won’t be coming back to the states, then bolts to Scotland for her wedding.

Tom spends all this time learning how to be a good maid of honor, which is also the same as being a good person.

What he should have been doing, however, was training for the Highland games because the second he shows up in Scotland they want him to toss cabers left and right.

Apparently Scotland is just a land of men and hunting, because literally every second they spend in Scotland proves that Colin is the manliest. He literally shot everything they ate.

Colin is awesome.

Hannah is rapidly being turned off of Colin, but Colin is just aggressively cool.

Anyway, McDreamy decides that there weren’t enough stereotypes crammed into one movie and writes Hannah’s vows for her. Hannah nearly kisses him, but instead has to get her stag on for stag night.

Hannah and McDreamy make a grave mistake and kiss each other.

McDreamy makes a grave mistake and has a woman show up (unprompted by him) to his room for intercourse, then Hannah shows up and decides not to talk to him because obviously he was into his nonconsequential sexual relations.

Hannah decides that since Tom had a woman in her underwear atop him, she should get married to Colin, the hot Scottish guy.

I agree completely.

“I can’t be your maid of honor. I can’t give you away. I’m sorry Hannah.” With that, McDreamy drives away.

Colin tries to comfort Hannah and move past the incident.

And the movie ends.

Only, you know, this is a wedding movie. So McDreamy sees a dog and dogs are really the only non-Hannah thing he loves. Seeing that dog makes him remember his favorite dawg, Hannah.

In the vein of many other wedding movies, McDreamy rides off to save the love of his life from a perfectly okay guy. Right as they’re saying “I do,” McDreamy rolls in and tells her she looks ugly as heck.

Also, he loves her.

None of the rest of it matters, however, as the girl in the size eight dress successfully manages to date a Scotsman and we can only assume later marry him.

The movie was predictable, as all wedding-themed movies are. The only thing that really saved this movie from being a cliché was probably Colin punching McDreamy right in his McFace.

I’d give it a 3 out of 5.

All in all, the characters were likeable and well-rounded but the story was not. Everything was predictable, all conflicts could have been easily resolved, and to be honest? If you want the audience to root for the main character over Colin, maybe don’t make Colin the human embodiment of Gaston.

Everyone loves Gaston, even just a little.

If someone could point me to a wedding movie where the bride doesn’t end up with someone else I would applaud them and say their name in my worst Bill Clinton impression.

On that note, if you have any movies that you enjoy and would like to recommend to me, get in contact.

Bethany Lovejoy enjoys chicken tenders, trips to Aldi with her mom and pasta.

## Last Week’s Answers

Things That are Most

