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University of Wisconsin

River Falls

STUDENT VOICE

November 10, 2017

www.uwrfvoice.com

Volume 104, Issue 8

UW-River Falls climate is chilly toward women, students of color and people with disabilities

Lauren Simenson
Falcon News Service

Students of color are 14 times more likely to report suffering racial hostility than are white students, and female students are nearly three times more likely than men to face political bias, according to campus climate survey results released last week. Students with disabilities report more bias, too.

“I’ve had to fight for a lot of accessibility issues on campus,” said Sam Hopkinson, a senior majoring in communication studies. “I’ve even had to call in the state department in order to get some of the stuff addressed.”

Some of the accessibility issues that Hopkinson has to deal with are poor sidewalk conditions in the winter, broken elevators and too steep and blocked curb ramps that make it very difficult to get around with his crutches, wheel chair and sometimes an electric scooter.

Hopkinson has cerebral palsy and while most of his experiences on campus have been positive, there is room for improvement.

“With me being physically disabled it’s easy to tell that I’m handicapped. In some

ways students treat me differently, some professors treat me differently.”

The climate survey report details the responses of 372 students and 293 university employees to questions that dealt with discrimination or bias on issues of gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, age, job classification and political views.

Most of the individuals who took the survey had few if any complaints about feeling discrimination or bias at UWRF. The

results go into detail about the demographic of students and faculty on campus who answered the climate survey.

The overall student makeup of those who took the survey was 60 percent female, 89 percent white and 87 percent heterosexual. The demographics of faculty who took the survey are 52 percent female, 89 percent white and 91 percent heterosexual. The survey results point out that UW-River Falls lacks diversity.



Photo by Lauren Simenson/Falcon News Service
Sam Hopkinson, a UWRf senior, poses for a photo in Centennial Science Hall.

Every spring semester, journalism professor Sandy Ellis teaches a class called Race, Class and News. This class teaches students first how reporters can do a better job at covering stories that reflect the diverse population of the United States. The class uncovers how recognizing bias, attitudes and stereotypes are the key to being more culturally aware in reporting.

Ellis, who chairs the Communication and Media Studies Department, agrees that there is low racial diversity among UWRf students and faculty.

“Those white folks who don’t have enough experience with people from another race are neither knowledgeable nor comfortable trying to figure out how to deal with a person from another race,” Ellis said.

The class, which is a journalism course, is often made up of 75 percent non-journalism majors, according to Ellis. Race, Class and News fulfills the diversity requirement, and Ellis’ goal is to get all students talking about race and class in the United States and understand better the differences in our population.

Timeless ‘Skin of Our Teeth’ play has taught humanity, crisis management through hardship

Sophia Koch
Falcon News Service

By day he is Nathan Brown, an elementary education major at UW-River Falls. By night he is Henry Antrobus, son of George and Maggie Antrobus who have been married only 5,000 years. His two personas could not be any more different, at least on the surface.

Henry Antrobus is violent and short-tempered. Nathan Brown is well-mannered and polite. Playing the part of Henry Antrobus, Brown said, took a bit of a learning curve and required that he explore parts of himself that he had not considered before.

“It brought up a lot of emotions that definitely exist within me and definitely exist within other people,” Brown said, “but we often prefer to think that they don’t exist.”

Henry Antrobus is one of the main characters in the play, “The Skin of Our Teeth,” which was written by Thornton Wilder in 1942. The production was performed for the last time on Nov. 4 by the UWRf University Theatre, but the themes it touched on can be applied beyond the stage.

“‘The Skin of Our Teeth,’ could have been snatched from today’s headlines,” Director Kathy Welch wrote in the performance program. “It is timeless, because it is about the human condition.”

The play is broken into three acts, each one centered around a cast of seemingly immortal characters. Henry is the rebellious son of George and Maggie Antrobus. George and Maggie have a strained marriage that is constantly put to the test when George chases after Sabina, a younger, more tempting woman who flits in and out of their lives. George and Maggie also have a daughter, Gladys, and they had an older son, Abel,

who Henry killed. It’s mentioned several times throughout the play that Henry’s real name is Cain and that he had to change it after the incident.

“Henry is the embodiment of the evil and hatred and all of these negative human emotions,” Brown said. Every character, he said, is supposed to be an archetype or example of some trait in humanity. At the same time, however, the play also takes pains to strip away the archetypes by frequently breaking the fourth wall, intentionally messing up scenes and admitting to the audience that it’s just a play and the actors in it are just people.

“If you were to take one thing and apply it to real life, know

Continued on Page 3



Photo by Tori Schneider/Univeristy Communications

News Briefs:

Barn Cats Play River Falls Saturday Night Barn Dance Series

The Twin Cities acoustic string band, the Barn Cats, will play in River Falls on Saturday, November 18, for the family-friendly Saturday Night Barn Dance series. The dance is held at the gym of the River Falls Academy (the former Meyer Middle School) on West Maple Street, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. The Barn Cats play an assortment of line and circle dances, reels, waltzes, and square dances. They've been a popular favorite at the the River Falls barn dances for over ten seasons. No experience is needed to participate. A caller teaches dance steps to new and more seasoned participants alike. All ages are welcome, singles, couples, and groups.

The first half of the evening features family dances suitable for including children, with more advanced dances in the second half. Other upcoming dances in the 2017-18 Saturday Barn Dance season are:

- January 20, Rush River Ramblers
- February 17, Gritpickers
- March 17, Greenwood Tree
- April 14, the Barn Cats

The barn dances are a joint project of 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.

Information at <http://www.riverfallscab.org>.

UWRF, local businesses partner to help students ‘dress the part’

Career Services at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls has partnered with River Falls-based Treasures From the Heart to help UWRF students prepare for professional interview experiences.

From November 13-17, the two organizations will sponsor a professional clothing drive designed to provide gently used professional clothing to current UWRF students entering the work force.

“Having the right clothing is a great step toward making that important first impression to an employer,” said Melissa Wilson, UWRF career services director. “Thanks to Treasures From the Heart, we’ve developed a way to help our students look their best when at an important moment in their professional lives.”

The public is encouraged to donate dress pants, shirts, suit jackets, blazers, belts, and ties at any of the following drop-off locations November 13-17:

- UW-River Falls Information Desk in the University Center
501 Wild Rose Ave., River Falls
- UW-River Falls Career Services, 211 Hagestad Hall
262 E. Cascade Ave., River Falls
- River Falls High School
818 Cemetery Rd., River Falls
- River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau
215 W. Maple St., River Falls
- Treasures From the Heart
200 S. Main St., River Falls
- First National Bank of River Falls
104 E. Locust St., River Falls
- Fantastic Sams
1587 Paulson Rd., River Falls

For more information, visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/CareerServices/Students/InterviewPreparation.cfm>

Visiting professor at UWRF to speak on the two Koreas

Fulbright Visiting Professor Won Jun Nam, Ph.D., will speak on “The Two Koreas” Thursday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m. in the Kinnickinnic Theater in the University Center as part of the “Year of” program at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. His talk, “The Two Koreas: In the Eyes of a South Korean Temporarily Visiting America” is free and open to the public.

Nam is a Fulbright Visiting Scholar from Hankuk University, the major language university of South Korea. His visit to River Falls from Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterrey, Calif., where he has been conducting research since the beginning of the year, is enabled in part by the Fulbright Outreach Lecturing Fund.

An associate professor in the Department of English Interpretation and Translation at Hankuk University of Foreign Languages in Seoul, his publications include addressing the translator’s perennial problem: “Learning to Translate Korean-Specific Cultural References.” An additional lecture by Nam, “Translation Studies in Korea and the Challenges We Face,” at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 16 in 282 Kleinpell Fine Arts is also free and open to the public.

Each year UW-River Falls selects a country upon which to focus academic and cultural programming. Other events for the Year of Korea can be viewed at<https://www.uwrf.edu/YearOf/SouthKorea.cfm>. Interim Provost Faye Perkins and Soil Science Professor Don Taylor, chair of the “Year of”

Implementation Committee, and the Department of English, TESOL, and Modern Languages also provided support for this visit.

For more information, call UWRF English Professor Marshall Toman at 715-425-3537.

UW-River Falls students take top honors at SASES Conference in FL

University of Wisconsin-River Falls students performed well against their peers from across the nation at the annual Students of Agronomy, Soils and Environmental Sciences (SASES) conference in Tampa, Fla., October 21-24.

The conference featured poster and oral research symposia, a manuscript competition, intercollegiate team contests, professional development and social activities, and regional tours focusing on unique aspects of the Florida geology, water systems and agricultural industry. Seventeen UW-River Falls students participated in one or more of the events. Some 283 students from 60 different universities attended the conference.

Stella Pey, a crop and soil science major from St. Louis, took first place in the manuscript competition and second place for her oral research presentation “Impact of Long-Term Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment on Soil Quality.”

In the poster research symposium, Jordyn Bush, a crop and soil science major from Lakeville, Minn., took first place in her section with her project, “NIRS Analysis of As-Fed and Prepared Samples of Corn Silage.”

For the speech contest, the student prepared a 5-7 minute speech on one of three topics selected just hours before the competition. Matt Kortbein, a crop and soil science major from Warrens, took first place with his speech about soil erosion practices that have paid off.

Cody Guenther, president of the UW-River Falls Crops and Soils Club, represented UWRF in the Presidents’ Trophy competition. A representative from each participating club was given five minutes to highlight some of their club’s unique activities over the past year with the hope of being awarded the Presidents’ Trophy as the best SASES chapter of the year.

Guenther, a crop and soil science major from Lafayette, Minn., took third place with his presentation focusing on the club’s Share the Harvest community service activity and their social media initiatives including Member Monday and Internship Spotlight features. The Share the Harvest event, which included a dinner, silent auction, and children’s activities, raised more than \$1,800 to benefit the River Falls Food Pantry and Grow to Share Community Gardens.

“Traveling to SASES to compete and win with the research I worked so hard on really made all of the long hours in the lab worth it,” said Bush when asked how the experience impacted her. “This experience only added to the fire that is my passion for agronomy and I can’t wait for the next opportunity to do something like this. On top of the educational seminars and networking with industry professionals, having the chance to bond with my peers and professors in this setting was invaluable.”

The SASES 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. Four UW-River Falls faculty accompanied the students to the conference, including Veronica Justen, associate professor of crop science, who is one of the three national advisers for SASES.

For more information, email laura.walsh@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-3535.

Looking for advice?

The Student Voice has an advice columnist. To send her an anonymous note, find the Student Voice on Facebook or Twitter and click on the Google Doc link.

Weekly UWRF Crime Report

Wednesday, November 1

- Welfare checks was reported at Parker Hall at 9:19 p.m.

Thursday, November 2

- All drug complaint was reported at Johnson Hall at 4:35 p.m.
- All drug complaint was reported at McMillan Hall at 11:16 p.m.

Editor’s Note:
Information for this section is taken from the UW-River Falls Police Department incident reports.

Campus Events Calendar:

- UWRF Piano Festival**
Friday, Nov. 10, 7:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Kleinpell Fine Arts
- Veteran’s Day Ceremony**
Friday, Nov. 10, 11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
University Center
- Frances Cohler Coffee Concert**
Friday, Nov. 10, 12 p.m.-1 p.m.
Abbott Concert Hall, KFA
- Dr. Alex Hall: Understanding Transgender Students**
Friday, Nov. 10, 2 p.m.-3 p.m.
University Center
- Improv Show**
Friday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Syse ‘Blackbox’ Theater, KFA 108
- Etiquette Dinner**
Tuesday, Nov. 14, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.
Riverview Ballroom, UC
- BFA Thesis Exhibition II**
Monday-Tuesday, Nov. 13-14, 3 p.m.-8 p.m.
Kleinpell Fine Arts
- GIS Day/Open House**
Wednesday, Nov. 15, 12 p.m.-4 p.m.
Kleinpell Fine Arts
- Weekly Relaxation Practice**
Wednesday, Nov. 15, 3:30 p.m.- 4 p.m.
162 Hagestad Hall
- Astronomy Talk and Observatory Viewing**
Wednesday, Nov. 15, 8 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Centennial Science Hall
- Diversity Dialog: Transawareness Week**
Thursday, Nov. 16 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Falls Room, UC
- Chancellor’s Award Reception**
Thursday, Nov. 16, 12:45 p.m.-2 p.m.
University Center

Visit uwrf.edu for a full schedule of events

Student Senate Update: Nov. 7

President Abby Wendt made an introductory motion to implement amendments to the Student Senate Association bylaws. The motion will be voted on next week, and changes include:

- Restrictions that prevent student orgs. from double-requesting funds
- Removal of the Sports and Recreation Facilities board
- Details regarding SGA’s taking charge of non-allocable fees
- General title changes for positions/committees
- General reorganization of the document

Samantha Michaud made a motion to allocate \$150 to walking tacos for the Finance Committee budget meeting on Nov. 15. This was changed to \$80 for pizza and approved.

Student Senate discussed the UW System merger. Wendt says that the merger will likely not affect UWRF, and Advisor Gregg Heinselman says that the issue will be brought up at the next Board of Regents meeting. SGA plans to send representatives to the meeting.

The Rules and Oversight Committee is looking for new student members.

The D2L renovation focus group is on December 20th, and is looking for more student participants. Contact Kaylee Kildahl for details.

The information in this update comes from the minutes posted to the Student Government Association Falcon-Sync page every week and from the live tweet posts gathered by Student Voice staff. The Student Senate meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Willow River Room of the University Center.

Pranksters take bicycle parts and locks, but owners and police do not find it amusing

Nathan Lukasavitz
Falcon News Service

Upon completing a shift at her on-campus job, UW-River Falls senior Sarah Knack returned to the North Hall bike rack, where she was surprised by what she saw and even more surprised by what she did not see.

“I biked to campus, and I came to North Hall where I work, and I locked my bike like usual,” Knack recalled. “I went to go to my next class, and the bike was there, fallen over, but there was no lock.”

A series of incidents is occurring on campus and in the River Falls community, where parts such as tires, seats and chains are being stolen, but in many cases the bicycles are remaining, according to the UWRF campus police department.

“Somebody, for some reason, was taking bicycle parts off of different bikes, said Karl Fleury, chief of campus police. They were “switching them around, and doing different things. Whether they thought that was amusing, it’s just not the norm.”

Given the fact that Knack’s lock was one that required a key to operate, amusing could be exactly what the swindler had in mind when taking the lock. However, despite the amusement, real consequences can follow the victim whenever one of these thefts occur. In Knack’s case, it resulted in a minor back injury that happened due to no longer being able to safely secure her bike outside.

“Since I didn’t have a bike lock, I actually had to try to drag it up fire stairs to my apartment,” Knack said. “I’m literally dragging this thing, and at one point I had to spin it off the rails to try to open the door and then maneuver into my apartment, and I pulled the right side of my back muscle. It’s been sore the last week.”

In addition to the soreness in her back, Knack has also found it irritating to store the bike in her apartment.

“It’s currently sitting behind my futon,” Knack said. “Now it

keeps falling, so whenever I put my head back, I keep smacking my head on the handlebars.”

Since sharing the living room with this new piece of furniture, Knack has purchased a replacement for her previous bike lock. Although she remains uncertain how the old lock was removed without the key, the police department sees it as nothing new.

“Some of the cable locks and some of the locks that they use are pretty cheap in the sense that they’re easily defeated,” Fleury said. “A lot of them have locking mechanisms that are easily defeated.”

The UWRF campus alone has had 37 reported incidents of stolen bicycles since the start of the year, 16 of which have been recovered, according to Fleury.

For students on campus who are concerned that they might one day face the reality of having a stolen bicycle, there is a program available to students that makes the recovery of the bicycle much easier, but only if the student takes the initiative to register in the program before the bicycle goes missing.

“We have a bicycle registration program – it’s free,” Fleury said. “We have a form that the students fill out online, and that provides us with all the information, so if the bicycle was found anywhere in the U.S. and somebody would run that serial number, it would pop up as a stolen bicycle out of UW-River Falls.”

For other students, given the age and/or style of their bicycle, it might be more likely that their lock gets stolen than their bicycle.

“It’s some clunky old bike of my mom’s,” Knack said, “so if anything, maybe that’s why they took the lock and not the bike.”



Nathan Lukasavitz/ Falcon News Service
Sarah Knack, a UW-River Falls senior, expressing confusion as she returns to the North Hall bike rack, where one week prior she found her bicycle lying on the ground with the bike lock gone.

UW-River Falls climate chilly toward women, students of color and people with disabilities

Continued from Page 1

“It is the most rewarding class I teach,” said Ellis. Students have said to Ellis that this class has changed the way they think and how they act.

The survey reports that students of color on campus are “14-times more likely to report experiencing racial hostility than are white students.” Survey results also showed that non-white students felt less attached to the university and were more likely to feel less satisfied in the campus environment. Non-white students, according to the results, were more likely to consider leaving campus.

UWRF student Paige Delgado experienced the general lack of cultural awareness of white folks with her own roommate. She made a comment about my race, Delgado said, and the way she said it was hurtful. When Delgado talked to her roommate about the comment, she apologized immediately, Delgado said. “She didn’t realize that she had hurt me by saying that and didn’t realize it was offensive.”

Along with the survey results, the chancellor’s office released a set of follow-up actions to address some of the results. The first goal of the follow-up actions will focus on diversity and inclusivity on campus. “We have been seeing a larger percentage of students of color choosing UW-River Falls,” Executive Assistant to the Chancellor Beth Schommer said of the first goal. “Now it is our job to make those students feel like they belong here and that they are welcome here.”

Feeling a bias in regards to political beliefs was one of the most strongly felt biases, ac-

cording to the survey. This political bias is even more strongly felt by females — 23 percent in comparison to males at only 9 percent. Student comments regarding this political bias in other students and in faculty were included in the results, with some students feeling that professors and staff were “imposing his/her political views on the class.”

For employees who took the survey, feeling hostility or exclusion due to their political views, 54 percent of employees experienced this political bias two to five times. The survey noted that political bias felt by students and employees is especially strong due to the 2016 elections.

Neil Kraus, chair of the Political Science Department, concurred with the results, finding a correlation between the political bias results on campus and on the election.

“Political debate in the society becomes oftentimes more hostile,” Kraus said. “We are going to see that sort of change on the university campus, too. I am not too surprised there has been an increase in this sort of bias.”

Kraus noted that while he did not personally feel any political bias from faculty or students, he has had an increased amount of students coming to him with political bias-based grievances they have felt. Similarly to the survey results, most of the students expressing political bias or frustration have been female.

Talking about politics in everyday life, to colleagues and in class has become far more difficult in general for Kraus. “I think that it is extraordinarily difficult to talk about President Trump in a neutral way,” he said. “We are in a whole different world now.”

‘Skin of Our Teeth’ play has taught humanity and crisis management

Continued from Page 1

that there is a reason as to why people act the way they do,” Brown said, “even those that you disagree with or dislike, ultimately, they’re just a product of their upbringing.”

Jake Marvin is an undecided freshman at UWRF, and he attended the performance on the evening of Nov. 3. The play, he said, was a bit difficult to understand at first.

“I could see, definitely, the appeal of the play. I was very confused at first, but I started to get more into it as time went on. It was a lot thrown at you in the first act.”

The time frame is one of the more confusing aspects of the play, since the characters seem to be able to live through multiple thousands of years in Earth’s history. In the first act, the characters are doing their best to survive the Ice Age, with little to no food and a fire that constantly threatens to go out. In the second act, they are on a boardwalk at the edge of an ocean that is about to undergo a biblical flood. In the third act, everyone is picking up the pieces after a catastrophic war that closely resembles World War II. In short, some of the biggest calamities to hit humanity.

“It’s interesting that that’s (Thornton Wilder’s) take on it,” said Jane Budworth, a mem-

ber of the Red Hat Society (a group of women aged 50 and above who go out and have fun together) who attended the play. “What was going on at the time, you know – World War II – was like the end of the world.”

“– As we know it,” added Katie Lee, another Red Hat member who was sitting next to Budworth. R.E.M.’s song, “It’s the End of the World,” was playing in the background after the show as the audience members filed out of the theatre.

An analysis by Ashley Gallagher from the Thornton Wilder Society said that one of the overarching themes of the play is the idea of humanity surviving despite the worst that can happen: “As each new crisis arises, the same evils are present and the same rebuilding must commence. The play’s title in itself ‘announces the theme, which is that no matter how hard pressed or frightened, the human race has (the) power to survive.’”

“It was so well done,” Budworth said. “The acting and the costumes were fantastic.”

The University Theatre will be presenting other plays over the coming academic year. The 2017-2018 Season lists “Beyond Therapy,” which will be playing Dec. 5-9; and “Silent Sky,” playing Feb. 22-24 and March 1-3. More information can be found at www.uwrf.edu/SASA/UniversityTheatre.



Sophia Koch/ Falcon News Service
Nathan Brown playing Henry Antrobus takes aim at Corey Fern playing George Antrobus in the Nov. 4 University Theatre showing of “The Skin of Our Teeth.”



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EDITORIAL

Ask before you assume: creating campus inclusivity

The Student Voice recently made a mistake. In the last issue, in the article entitled, “UW System’s free speech policy, Young Americans for Liberty spark controversy at UW-River Falls,” one of the quoted people, Ardin Fischer, was misgendered. Rather than “her feelings,” the article should have read, “their feelings.”

We at the Student Voice believe that mistakes like this are part of a much larger problem. People who identify by genders and sexual orientations beyond male/female and heterosexual are becoming far more common in U.S. culture. Same-sex marriage was legal as of 2015, and Andrea Jenkins won her Minneapolis city council race on Tuesday night to become the first openly transgender woman of color elected to public office in the U.S.

With this in mind, we think that it is time that our culture begins making changes to more fairly accommodate this new section of the populace.

This can begin with actions as simple as asking a person about how they identify rather than assuming and making mistakes based on preconceived notions. Asking them which pronouns they prefer to be referred to by can be interpreted as a sign of respect and acknowledgement.

Taking this a step further, it might be time that the English language change more drastically to accommodate these newly-established genders and sexual orientations. Currently, the most common way to refer to someone who identifies as neither male nor female is “they” or “their.” This is clunky and grammatically incorrect, and it would be far simpler and more clear to have a distinct pronoun that correctly identifies the person’s gender identity.

There’s another problem that stems directly from these sorts of confusions. When someone who is transgender becomes offended by misrepresentations of their gender, other people who are less on board with the concept of non-traditional genders can become annoyed and use the situation as grounds to justify their opinions. Instead of understanding why the person takes offense, they blame them for taking offense. This is illogical, since anyone, regardless of gender orientation, would take offense at being called by an incorrect pronoun.

Creating new pronouns and establishing a culture of inclusion could help curb this sort of thinking, and potentially prompt non-supporters of transgender culture to educate themselves and maybe even accept these people with new perspectives.

UW-River Falls, this week, is making important strides in raising awareness. There are movies and speakers coming to campus with background on these topics, and students can watch them for free. On Friday afternoon, Dr. Alex Hall will give a presentation on “Understanding Transgender Students.” This informative presentation is open to “all types of learners, from middle school students to medical professionals and everything in between.”

Efforts like this are a good sign that the university recognizes the growing populations of transgender students and the need to include them as a distinct culture on campus. However, the university can only do so much to change the campus climate. The power ultimately rests in the hands of students, who must make the decision to inform themselves on this new group of people and act towards them in a way that is in line with how you might treat anyone else on campus.

Editorials represent the opinions of the Student voice Editorial Board and are prepared by the editorial staff.

STUDENT VOICE

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Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall, River Falls, WI 54022 or to editor@uwrvoice.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 stall by email through editor@uwrvoice.com. Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

Power of presence: how a good villain creates emotional attachment

Sophia Koch
Columnist

Villains are fascinating.

A badly-done villain tends to be an extremely underwhelming experience in a movie or book. The protagonists’ victory feels hollow, and the viewer/reader is left to wander away from the experience feeling distinctly unfulfilled.

Galbatorix from the Inheritance Cycle by Christopher Paolini comes to mind. For the entirety of the book series, this man exists, for the most part, as merely a name. There is, of course, exposition laying out the destruction and tyranny that he brought to the land of Alagaesia. Every war and conflict in the book is technically his fault since he is the supreme overlord in charge of the evil lackeys, and his defeat is supposed to be the culmination of the entire four-book series. Unfortunately, the grand finale falls very flat (spoilers).

The protagonist, Eragon, reaches the castle of Galbatorix, and manages to defeat this supreme overlord by means of a spell that essentially makes the tyrant king feel bad. To death.

This is an interesting concept, and one that could potentially could have been used to better effect. The idea of confronting a villain with his/her sins to the point where it destroys him/her is one that is used a lot, and it’s a way to drive home the idea that being a bad human being leads to equally bad consequences.

The problem with Galbatorix, however, is that we don’t know him well enough for it to have any sort of impact. Before the confrontation, we never once see him. Never once hear him speak. We know some of his history through various passages of exposition, but he is never around to show us how he reacts to the protagonists or treats his underlings. The idea behind this is no doubt to turn him into a villain that is big, mysterious and dangerous, but the strategy robs readers of what could have been a truly despicable, hateful, and emotionally fulfilling villain.

By contrast, I will present my favorite villain of all time: the gentleman with the thistle-down hair from Susanna Clark’s “Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell.”

The gentleman is the exact opposite of Galbatorix. For starters, he never does actually have a name. Clark goes out of her way to ensure that he doesn’t. He is instead described

by his most notable attribute – the shock of fine white hair that marks him as one of the dangerous faery folk that used to exist alongside mankind.

The gentleman is everything that Galbatorix was supposed to be. He is senselessly cruel, with a tendency to steal away people to participate in his faery dances and violently punish the people he leaves behind. Unlike Galbatorix, however, we know why he’s senselessly cruel: he’s bored and thinks it’s fun, or he wants to exact revenge on the loved ones of the people he steals away.

He is a constant presence throughout the book who is forever floating in and out of characters’ lives, and because of this we get to know him very well. His offhand, careless tendency to steal people reveals that he regards humans as lesser beings worthy only of being his toys. His dialogue suggests that he thinks his victims should thank him for the honor, and the flashes of anger and vengeful power that he exhibits when he is thwarted reveal how wildly dangerous he is and just how powerless his victims are.

He’s an incredibly hateful villain that stirs up emotions in the reader of disgust and fear, and that is what makes him such a wonderful character.

When the gentleman is defeated (I won’t reveal exactly how, because I think you should read it or watch the mini-series), it’s fantastically satisfying. Not only do we have an emotional attachment to him that causes us to actively root for his demise, but we also get the catharsis of seeing him undone by his own sins. Because we know him well, it feels far more genuine than the undoing of Galbatorix. The final confrontation with the gentleman is devoid of exposition explaining the horrible things he did and how those things have come back to haunt him. Why? Because we got to see it firsthand.

Many stories make the mistake of elevating their villains above the plot through mystery and distance, but what they ultimately do is remove the character from the story. The villain is a character, just like the protagonist, and the best way to tell the story of a character is to show what he/she does.

Sophie Koch is a journalism major and biology minor at UWRF. She spends way too much money on books, gets lost a lot in the woods and periodically drops her phone in the river.

Awareness for Misophonia can bring both relief and understanding

Lauren A. Simenson
Columnist

When I was growing up, almost every night the four members of my family could be found all sitting around our kitchen table eating dinner together. There was always delicious food, thanks to my mom, and lots of conversation and laughter.

It was around this same kitchen table that I would begin to develop an intense anger toward the sounds my family made during mealtimes.

At the time, and for many, many years after, I did not realize this feeling was something that other people felt as well, or that it was even an actual condition.

Meal times began to devolve into shouting matches where I was told to stop being so sensitive or ignore the sounds people were making. I would be so frustrated and angry at feeling something so strongly that no one else could understand.

What I developed and still have today is something called misophonia. If you have not heard of this before, do you live under a rock?! This term has been blowing up online for a few years now which thankfully means that I finally understand why I have been getting so mad at sound!

WebMD defines misophonia as selective sound sensitivity syndrome, where a person is triggered by certain sounds (often mouth sounds when people eat, repetitive sounds, crunching, animal sounds etc.). When a person suffering from misophonia hears their triggering sounds, their reaction can range from feeling anxious or wanting to get away from it to the more severe side of panic, rage and feeling like their skin is crawling.

There is some research about how this extreme aversion to sounds, which other people do not even notice, develop, but there does not seem to be a standard explanation. From research on sites like misophoniainstitute.org, misophonia.com and Harvard Medical School, misophonia can typically

begin in children who are already anxious, have OCD tendencies and are very empathetic and sensitive to others and their environment.

So far, I seem to fit all the qualifiers. I used to think, and I am sure people around me thought this as well, that I was a brat or high-maintenance for being so physically upset at noises that they personally did not even take notice of. To me however, these noises were all I could hear in my head. I can clearly remember how I would yell and shout at people to stop eating or making literally any sounds, or to just go far, far away from my ears. Sometimes I would even pick up my food and run to my room to be in my own space that was safe from another person’s noise. These days I’m working on not yelling as much as I used to.

In addition to this extreme anger I feel when hearing any of my “trigger sounds,” which elicit such reactions as my heart beating faster, my muscles clenching, my skin crawling, a headache and yelling, I feel very guilty at being so mad at my family or anyone/anything making the sound.

When I finally knew that what I was feeling had a name, I was able to understand why I felt so out of control over something so simple as a sound, and why I have always been so sensitive to certain sounds in general. It is a tremendous relief to realize that I am not going crazy over this invisible internal fight.

There is no “cure” for misophonia as far as I know, but it has been more helpful than I realized to finally have recognition and concrete knowledge of what I am experiencing. I have come a long way, and so has my family in trying to understand my sensitivities. But if I ever abruptly move away from you when you are crunching on a bowl of cereal – do not take it personally, it’s not you, it’s me.

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.

The little adventures in life are sometimes the best adventures

Sophia Koch
Columnist

I find great value in random, little adventures.

Well thought out, carefully planned adventures are great in their own right. I went to Scotland last summer, and though the trip took a lot of planning and effort, it was one of the most fantastic trips I’ve had a chance to go on during my college career.

Mini-adventures, however, have a special place in my heart.

I have two friends that I consider to be my partners in crime when it comes to these ill-planned excursions. Our first one began when we were messaging one another back and forth over Facebook, and someone said, “Let’s go camping tonight!” Someone replied, “Yeah! Where?” which was

followed by, “I don’t really know. Let’s just meet at the gas station with our sleeping bags.”

We did just that, and someone had the idea of camping in a nearby park. After getting there and walking with our gear under our arms for about an hour (we’d forgotten backpacks), we realized that we weren’t going to find a campsite. Determined to camp anyway, we found a clear-ish shelf of dirt halfway up a hill and pitched our tent.

Most people would consider what followed a disaster. Only one of us thought to bring food, which consisted of a watermelon, a bag of beef jerky and six bottles of black tea. We also found out, when we were trying to sleep, that we were fighting two separate downhill: one that caused us to slowly slide towards our feet, and another that caused the two people on the sides to roll on top of the person in the middle. I don’t think any of us ever actually fell asleep.

Continued from Page 4

I wouldn’t trade that adventure for anything in the world. We played a stupid board game while we were cramped up in our slanting tent, we spent the sleepless night having loopy, tired conversations about our goals and fears in life, and we’ve been able to brag about the experience ever since.

Little adventures like this are the ones we remember. Even on the big trips, it’s actually the little mini-adventures that happen along the way that we recount to our friends and family. We learn from the experiences, and when we go with friends, we learn about one another.

My two friends and I have gone on several other adventures since, and I’ve begun to fill a journal with everything we do. We have a couple more planned for the winter, the latest of which began with the Facebook message: “Guys, my goal this winter is to build a snow fort, camp in it, and order pizza to be delivered to it.”

Let’s see what happens.

Sophie Koch is a journalism major and biology minor at UWRf. She spends way too much money on books, gets lost a lot in the woods and periodically drops her phone in the river.

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STUDENT voices

What is your favorite Holiday movie?

Compiled by Yasmine Ruetz



Mason Craker (Freshman)
“It’s a Wonderful Life”



Bailey Thompson (Sophomore)
“A Nightmare before Christmas”



Andy Tarr (Senior)
“Elf”



Sarah Anderson (Senior)
“Christmas Vacation”



Abby Klein (Senior)
“Hallmark’s Annabelle’s Wish”



Kyle Lehman (Junior)
“Die Hard.”

Here first but nearly forgotten, Native Americans celebrate their cultural heritage this November

Zach Dwyer

Falcon News Service

Aiyana Ledwein, a senior softball player, is one of the few Native American athletes at UWRF. She is a descendant of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, and her birth mother lived on a reservation in eastern Wisconsin before moving to Minnesota.

Ledwein is excited about the idea of Native American Heritage Month but said it doesn't receive enough publicity.

"It's not really talked about a whole lot," Ledwein said. "I would like to celebrate it more, but nobody really knows about it. I celebrate with my family, and we talk about important Native Americans. But otherwise it doesn't really get mentioned, so there's not a whole lot of celebration."

This lack of notoriety also can be seen in how Native Americans are viewed in the broader public, according to Ledwein.

"I think that they're kind of overlooked," she said. "There were Native Americans here for a really long time, and people forget that."

Native American Heritage Month is celebrated during the month of November. According to the Campus Data Report that measures enrollment by ethnicity, only 12 students at UWRF identified as Native American in 2016-2017. This is only 0.2 percent of the student body, making it the smallest minority on campus.

The city of River Falls is similar, with only 0.3 percent of the city's total population identifying as Native American according to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey. Both the campus and city have seen a rise in people that identify as more than once race, but the diversity results still prove the lack of Native American voices at UWRF.

However, Ledwein continues to stay active in her heritage through cooking ethnic dishes. When her family participates in these traditions, the long process and large portion sizes are special.

"Something that we make is wild rice for a lot of the holidays," Ledwein said. "Something that my birth family taught me was how to make fry bread. It's a Native American food that you can make Indian tacos with, or you can put sugar on

it and make donuts with it. It's so good!"

Ledwein was adopted as a child but continued to have a Native American influence in her life in her adoptive father and grandmother. Something unique for adopting Native American children is that one of the adopting parents must be Native American.

One Native American item that has stuck with her is the dream catcher. She has had one from her grandmother since she was little and also has one from her birth mom. The dream catcher is meant to be a soothing token for when you are asleep.

"All of your dreams go into the strings, and the bad dreams get caught," Ledwein said. "The good dreams get caught and flow down through the feathers into your body. I have one at home, school, at my cabin and in my truck. I have dream catchers all over the place."

Ryan Fischer, a professor of Native American history at UWRF, also noted the lack of publicity for the month of celebration. He said that the push for changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day has seemed to receive more attention. He believes this type of awareness will begin to have positive effects.

"There's more awareness, and people are thinking about this in a more well-rounded way," Fischer said. "There are a lot of stereotypes about Native Americans ... but people are beginning to show more sensitivity."

The rise in opposition to racist costumes and sports mascots has begun to be publicized in pop culture. The Native American population totals 5.2 million in the United States, according to the 2010 census, and Fischer said people need to think about how they present themselves and how racism will affect the lives of this large ethnic group.

One tool that Ledwein has used to begin a conversation about these issues is her involvement in Falcons United. She has felt connected with the group and their goal of starting a conversation and openly talking about difficult things like race. The group is made up of minority athletes and now includes opportunities for any athlete on campus.

"We talk about micro aggressions and how those affect us and how we can combat that," Ledwein said. "The goal is to

make the athletic community closer and open up people's perspectives to see our point of view. It's kind of like a teaching group for everyone."

Sam Gale is a visiting assistant professor of history at UWRF, and he was originally a teaching assistant at UW-Madison. In his time at the university, he became close with former Wisconsin Badgers basketball star Bronson Koenig and taught Koenig in a few of his history classes.

Koenig is Native American and has always been very vocal about his heritage of being a member of the Ho-Chunk nation.

"What I appreciated was, while he was a talented athlete and all for the Badgers, he also went to Standing Rock," Gale said. "He worked and fought for the rights of Native Americans. He understood this is who I am, and this has to be a part of my experience as a college student and a college athlete."

Gale said that Koenig's activism can serve as an example for Native American athletes and students alike. Gale has a specialty in sports history and added that sports have always been seen as an entry point for racial equality. However, blending into a team and avoiding who you are also isn't a solution, according to Gale.

"It's key to remain true to who you are," Gale said. "If you try to sacrifice or hide (from issues) for the betterment of fitting in, it's extremely difficult on a personal level, and it doesn't achieve what you need."

Native American Heritage Month is also noted for being celebrated in November, the same month as Thanksgiving. Some Native Americans have very different interpretations of the holiday and the results that followed.

"We celebrate the same, but we think about it differently," Ledwein said. "There were good and bad intentions (for the settlers), and I like to remember what happened in the past."

Realizing the connotation of events such as Thanksgiving and Columbus Day are ways that citizens have begun to take an interest in what Native American voices are saying. Sports mascots and certain names might not seem offensive to most, but it's not the majority that needs to be heard from.

"It needs to be based on an open dialogue," Gale said. "We can't say what's demeaning until we have that conversation. We can't try to silence a valid voice."



Kathy M Helgeson/UWRF Communications

Aiyana Ledwein hits the ball during a game between UWRF and UW-Oshkosh in 2015. Ledwein is a senior softball player who continues to focus on Native American culture in her life.

UWRF Sports Schedule

November 10 Men's Hockey at Concordia Moorhead, 7 p.m.

November 11 Men's Cross-Country at NCAA Midwest Regionals, 11 a.m.

November 11 Women's Cross-Country at NCAA Midwest Regionals, 12 p.m.

November 11 Football vs UW-La Crosse, 1 p.m.

November 11 Men's Hockey at Concordia Moorhead, 2 p.m.

November 11 Women's Hockey vs UW-Stevens Point, 2:05 p.m.

November 14 Women's Hockey vs St. Thomas, 7:05 p.m.

November 15 Men's Basketball vs Central College, 6 p.m.

November 15 Women's Basketball vs Carleton College, 8 p.m.

Home games in **BOLD**

Sports Recap

Football

The Falcons broke their four-game losing streak by defeating UW-Stevens Point 21-14 on Saturday. Michael Diggins was named WIAC offensive player of the week for his 224 rushing yards and three touchdowns against the Pointers. The Falcons didn't get on the board until there was less than a minute remaining in the first half, when Diggins ran the ball into the end zone from three yards out to go up 7-0. Ben Beckman had another solid day under center as the starting quarterback, completing 10 of 16 passes for 144 yards while running for 45 yards. On the defensive end, freshman cornerback Brandon Powers led the Falcons with six tackles. Falcons linebacker Max Praschak pressured Pointers quarterback Mitchel Neubauer all afternoon, sacking him three times. UWRF only allowed 37 yards rushing for the entire game, which helped them get out to a 21-0 lead at the beginning of the fourth quarter. The Pointers stormed back in the fourth quarter after Neubauer ran in one touchdown and threw for another to make it a one-score game at 21-14. However, the Falcons held the ball for the last six minutes of the game to get their first victory since September. Diggins now has 1,210 yards on the season and 15 rushing touchdowns. UWRF finishes off their season by hosting #24 ranked UW-La Crosse at home for senior day on Saturday.

Men's Hockey

UW-River Falls had a difficult start to their season at Hunt Arena, losing 2-6 against St. John's University

and 2-3 against Augsburg. The Falcons got down 6-1 in their game against St. Johns, with two UWRF players being ejected from the game. UWRF came back with a stronger effort the next night, getting up 2-1 after Cayden Cahill and Thomas Clayton scored goals in the first and second periods. However, the Falcons blew a lead in the third period for the third time this season when they allowed two Augsburg goals in the third period. Gunnar Goodmansson scored with only one minute remaining in regulation to give the Auggies the 3-2 win. The young Falcons squad drops to 0-4 on the season after the loss. They travel to Concordia Moorhead this weekend looking for their first win of 2017.

Women's Hockey

UWRF bounced back from their loss to Adrian last week by defeating Bethel 7-5 on Friday and 5-2 on Saturday. The high-powered Falcons offense scored four goals in the first period against the Royals, with three coming in a thirty-second span at the end of the first. Amy Auran and Jessie Anderson scored two goals each on Friday, and the Falcons added three goals in the third period to hold on after a Bethel comeback made it 4-3. On Saturday, UWRF went down early after Sarina Goos scored a goal three minutes into the game to go up 1-0. The Falcons responded with five consecutive goals and Carly Moran and Kora Torkelson each netted two goals apiece. Moran received WIAC player of the week honors for her performance of three goals and two assists. UWRF now sits at 2-1-1 on the season and hosts their first WIAC game of 2017 against UW-Stevens Point on Saturday.

UWRF celebrates Rick Bowen court dedication



Tori Schneider/University Communications
Rick Bowen, center, waves to the crowd while surrounded by his family during the dedication ceremony of Rick Bowen Court in Page Arena, Nov. 4.



Tori Schneider/University Communications
The UWRF men's basketball team poses for a photo after receiving their 2016-2017 WIAC Tournament Championship rings during the dedication ceremony of Rick Bowen Court in Page Arena, Nov. 4.



Tori Schneider/University Communications
Matt Keller (11) and Clay Seifert (1) celebrate after Keller made a free throw to take the lead over the University of Minnesota Duluth in the final second of the game between the two teams during opening night in Page Arena, Nov. 4.



Tori Schneider/University Communications
Alex Herink (5) shoots the ball with a University of Minnesota Duluth defender guarding him during a game between the two teams during opening night in Page Arena, Nov. 4.



Tori Schneider/University Communications
Devin Buckley (3) tries to shoot the ball while being blocked by two University of Minnesota Duluth defenders during a game between the two teams during opening night in Page Arena, Nov. 4.

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