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STUDENT VOICE

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Foreign exchange dairy students look for and find authentic relationships at UW-River Falls

Nathan Lukasavitz
Falcon News Service

Not knowing a single American student on campus, three Dutch students arrived at UW-River Falls in January with plans already made for May to spend a few weeks exploring places in America such as San Francisco, Los Angeles and possibly Texas before returning to the Netherlands on June 3.

However, at some point in March, they changed their plans to include a week long trip in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on Lake Huron. There, they plan to spend six days at a retreat with dozens of American students from UWRF who the Dutch students became very close to during their short time in the U.S.

Though they have developed numerous forms of authentic relationships with various students all over campus, the Dutch credit their change of plans, in particular, to UWRF junior Theresa Lusk, who established a natural connection with the Dutch early in the semester. In addition to introducing them to all of her friends on campus, Lusk also invited them to her home in La Crescent, Minnesota, for Easter weekend.

"My parents really wanted me to come home (for Easter), and they knew about the Dutch, so they said, 'You should see if they have any place to go for Easter,'" Lusk said. "So I asked all three of them, and they said that they had no plans, so I was like, 'Well, you're coming home with me - that's the plan.'"

While at Lusk's home, the Dutch not only got to spend Easter with an American family but also learned how to saddle and ride the family's horse. Another thing they had not done before, which they now joke about, is hanging their socks on the deer antlers that are mounted on the walls of Lusk's basement, where they slept.

"It was really kind of special," Dutch student José Verbeek said. "I really liked it there, and the family was really nice to us. It was a really good weekend."

Lusk is a biomedical major and all three Dutch students are dairy science majors. Not sharing any of the same classes with the Dutch, Lusk is especially grateful for the relationship she has established with them over the semester. Her hospitality is not too uncommon for UWRF students, according to Sylvia Kehoe, who serves as the UWRF faculty adviser to all three Dutch students.

"Our students here do a relatively good job of trying to bring these students into the fold," Kehoe said, adding that it



Photo courtesy of Theresa Lusk
Jose Verbeek, Kas Elferink (left), American student Theresa Lusk and William Van Mourik visiting Lusk's horse over Easter weekend in La Crescent, Minn.

was particularly easy with these Dutch students because "they really jump in with both feet, and they interact."

One of the things that has helped the Dutch students to interact is their slightly reduced credit load, according to Kehoe, who said all three of them were enrolled in 17 credits at the beginning of the semester. Each of them chose to take Kehoe's advice in dropping a course, freeing them up to meet students such as Lusk and others.

Though Lusk herself is not a dairy science major, another student who the Dutch have gotten to know over the semester is UWRF sophomore Joshua Heer, who is majoring in dairy science and grew up on a farm with more than 3,200 dairy cows.

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Athletics Department diversity efforts go beyond ethnicity

Zach Dwyer
Falcon News Service

When senior basketball player Devin Buckley began school at UW-River Falls as a freshman, he said everybody mainly just went with the flow and there weren't many conversations about diversity in the predominately Caucasian Athletics Department.

Now, the Athletics Department is driven to increase diversity efforts on campus and aren't afraid to talk about those challenging topics that are tough to have, Buckley said.

"They're trying to give a platform for people of a different ethnicity and race to come together and to speak about their challenges or what they like about the university," Buckley said. "They really try to implement change and allow people to see all sorts of different perspectives ... and do a good job of making everyone see that people see things in different ways."

This includes educating people that phrases or sayings may be okay in one culture, but not necessarily for everyone. Buckley said that the world isn't always simple and nice and that there's things that are said that shouldn't be. However, he said sport gives a chance for people to interact with people that may normally be out of their group of peers.

"We have some guys that are more country and some from the city," Buckley said. "There's a lot of different types of people, and we get to just hang and learn from each other."

Buckley mentioned how last season they would be driving through the country and teammate Garret Pearson would point out things Buckley never have even considered since he grew up in the city. Sport has helped start new conversations about diversity beyond just ethnicity, Buckley said.

However, Buckley still says that some people may make assumptions that may seem normal to them but not to others. Buckley is biracial, where his mom is white and his dad is black.

"The question I get a lot is, 'what are you?'" Buckley said. "My answer is usually that I'm a person, just like you. Even though someone may look different than you, they may have a lot of the same things that go on in their lives."

While Buckley said he hasn't specifically felt uncomfortable being a minority in a mainly-white athletic department, he said there's a few people from his own team that haven't always felt like they fit in right away.

Buckley said he's pretty good at adapting and being outgoing in the situation he's in, so he gives advice to those that are having trouble.

"I tell them to be okay with being different and to try to be adaptable and flexible with other people," Buckley said. "Understand that they don't come from the same place that you come from and try to make the best of it ... become friends



Tori Schneider/UWRF Communications
Devin Buckley goes up for a layup against UW-Whitewater in February. Buckley said there have been major strides in increasing diversity and inclusivity in the Athletics Department.

with as many people as you can and learn from other people."

Buckley said that Athletic Director Crystal Lanning returning to UWRF, along with the additions of Assistant Athletic Director Kellen-Wells Mangold and Chantel Flegler, the coordinator for the Office of Diversity, Inclusivity and Student Athlete Success in the Athletics Department, has been especially influential in the changing culture.

UWRF has about 88 percent of its students who identify as white, according to the fall 2016 Campus Data Report. Male athletes followed similar statistics of being 89 percent white, while female athletes are over 96 percent white, according to 2016-2017 ethnicity reports compiled by the Athletics Department.

Problems can arise with teammates when someone has perceptions or stereotypes because they've never had a chance to interact with someone of a social class or culture group, Flegler said.

"It depends where someone's from, if they're city versus farm; and the perception of 'others' can get in the way, and there is ignorance," Flegler said. "That is one of the biggest challenges, because we don't have a lot of cultural differences on this campus."

Flegler is in her first year at UW-River Falls after coming from Michigan State University. The issue of increasing diversity and talks beyond race to gender and sexual identity are questions that are a "fairly new subject in this athletic department," she said.

"It's going to take time, and this year is the first time we're making a big push," Flegler said. "It's a slow start getting athletes to participate, and one day those conversations won't feel as uncomfortable or forced."

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News Briefs: UWRF professor discovers key findings in new gender study

University of Wisconsin River Falls visiting assistant professor Amelia Reigstad has spent the last year conducting research about gender differences in communication styles and their influence on workplace communication and the practice of public relations. She recently shared her findings at an International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) event in St. Paul.

Timely with the #MeToo movement, pay discrepancy, inequality and sexual harassment in the workplace, Reigstad discovered that men and women communicate differently but that personality traits rather than gender lend itself to influencing the end goal of a PR campaign. The idea that practitioners “perform” in their day-to-day jobs and put on fronts, not necessarily communicating what is on their mind to colleagues and clients is apparent and there is a feeling that the expectation is to always “be on”, to essentially be acting or playing a role. Age is a factor within many communication challenges and female practitioners take on masculine qualities in order to gain recognition and seats at the executive table. In-equality at the C-suite level is still of concern to women but it doesn’t impact men in the same way.

“The goal of my study was to assist communication professionals do their job more effectively by understanding gender and communication differences between men and women and how this relates to the workplace, leadership positions and public relations,” says Reigstad. “My hope is that this may inspire practitioners to look at the status quo in a different light and challenge themselves to communicate more effectively.”

Gender, public relations, communication styles and differences between men and women have been studied independently but Reigstad’s study combines these areas in hopes of generating new knowledge as part of degree requirements for her Ph. D in Media and Communications at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom.

St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center celebrates grand opening

April 13, 2018 – Before a crowd of over 200 invited guests, project partners, elected officials and representatives and members of the public, the St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center (SCVBIC) opened April 12.

The SCVBIC offers small businesses resources in the way of space for rent, co-working spaces, Wi-Fi, a business incubation program, event hosting and conference rooms, mail service, workshops and seminars, 24-hour access, business coaching and advising.

The project is a collaborative partnership. The River Falls Economic Development Corporation, the City of River Falls, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and Chippewa Valley Technical College are founding partners, with the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation also serving as funding partners.

“It’s a great day to celebrate eight years of hard work and perseverance that brought this multi-use business development facility to fruition,” said SCVBIC Director Danielle Campeau. “Our goal is to help small businesses grow through mentoring, coaching, consulting, training seminars and networking.”

“The impressive new St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center is testament to what can be accomplished when leaders from across the spectrum – business, academia and government – come together in support of business and American innovation,” added U.S. Department of Commerce Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs Dennis Alvord.

The West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the St. Croix County Economic Development Corporation, Pierce County Economic Development Corporation, River Falls City Council and River Falls Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors were also honored as contributors in helping build the 30,000-square foot facility.

“It really goes to show that when you have a great vision and you work together and collaborate and build partnerships, you can make things happen,” said Wisconsin Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary Sheila Harsdorf, who provided critical legislative support for the center when she served as a state senator. “This is a great example of a public-private partnership.”

The University of Wisconsin System also showed strong support for the center’s development as part of a statewide effort to spur economic growth. The project also supports one of the UWRF’s strategic goals, that of spurring innovation and partnerships.

“44,000 employees, 26 campuses, 13 chancellors and 180,000 students. (The University of Wisconsin System) is truly the economic engine which drives Wisconsin’s economy,” said UW System Regent President John Robert Behling, himself a UW-River Falls alum. “This is exactly what we should be doing.”

River Falls Mayor Dan Toland, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Vice President of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Aaron Hagar and Chippewa Valley Technical College President Bruce Barker also spoke at the opening, praising the spirit of collaboration which made the facility possible.

UWRF students participate in Research in the Rotunda

April 13, 2018 - Nine University of Wisconsin-River Falls students shared their research on topics ranging from myoelectric partial hand prostheses to the effect of snow on the South Pole neutron monitors at the 15th Annual Research in the Rotunda event in Madison April 11.

Nearly 130 students and faculty advisers from throughout the UW System took part in the event which allows legislators and the public to learn about the impact of UW System undergraduate research.

In addition to their presentations, the UWRF students and physics Professor James Madsen, who accompanied the group along with Director of Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity and English Professor Lissa Schneider-Rebozo, also met with legislators and staff to explain how research and “hands on” experience benefits them now and into the future. Madsen is a member of the AMANDA (Antarctic Muon and Neutrino Detector Array) and IceCube collaborations.

“I had the opportunity to attend this event and our students did an outstanding job of presenting their projects to legislators and others at the state capitol,” said UW-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen. “Undergraduate research, across a range of disciplines, is a distinctive strength of our campus, and it is the dedicated mentorship of our faculty that is a key component of providing these opportunities for UWRF students.”

Each year, student research in Wisconsin leads to an average of 170 new patents, nearly one every other day.

UW System President Ray Cross spoke to the students who also heard comments from Executive Officer of the National Council on Undergraduate Research Beth Ambos and Director of U.S. Strategic Initiatives at Foxconn Technology Group Alan Yeung.

UW-River Falls student presenters, hometowns and research title were:

- Miranda Rang (senior biology major from Baldwin) and Daniel Parlin (junior biotechnology major from Winona, Minn.) – Exploration of Antioxidant and Radical Scavenging Activity of Preparations of Roses
- Crystal Carpenter (junior biology major from Red Wing, Minn.) - The Effect of Invasive Macrophytes on Turtle Community Structure in the Kinnickinnic Watershed
- Roman Alvarado (junior physics major from Medford) - Design and Construction of a Myoelectric Partial Hand Prosthesis
- Nathan Grosse (senior conservation major from Cottage Grove, Minn.) - Effects of Agricultural Pollinator Conservation Practices on Species Richness and Diversity
- Emma Cobian (senior mathematics and economics major from Hager City), Austin Wilcox (senior mathematics education major from Hager City) and Roman Alvarado (junior physics major from Medford) - It’s All Greek to Me: An Investigation of the Diffusion of Languages Based on Dynamic Influences
- Begad Elmelligy (junior physics major from Eden Prairie, Minn.) and Grace Zeit (junior physics major from Deerbrook) - Effects of the Surroundings on the South Pole Neutron Monitors.

UW-River Falls to offer ACT test preparation classes during summer

April 17, 2018--The University of Wisconsin-River Falls will offer test preparation classes in June and July for high school students planning to take the ACT, a popular admissions test measuring academic readiness for college. Students may attend one of two four-day sessions beginning June 4 at the UWRF Hudson Center in Hudson or July 9 on the UW-River Falls campus.

“Students will receive an in-depth review of the exam materials, insight into strategies for succeeding on standardized tests and a comprehensive study plan,” said Randy Zimmermann, director of UWRF Outreach and Continuing Education. Class sessions use real test questions to show just how these skills are tested, he added.

The UWRF ACT Summer Institute consists of 20 hours of classroom instruction covered in an intensive four-day format. Students receive instruction from an ACT test preparation expert and access to extensive online review tools. Lessons include test-taking strategies, question formats, and the ACT test components for math, English, reading comprehension, and science reasoning. Students also receive access to online review sessions and open office hours in the time leading up to fall exam dates.

The course fee of \$449 includes all classroom and on-line sessions and course materials. Advance registration is required and early registrants are eligible for a \$50 discount. Session dates, course descriptions and registration forms are available at go.uwrf.edu/testprep.

UW-River Falls offers a full portfolio of test preparation classes for the GRE, GMAT, LSAT and SAT admissions exams, including free strategy workshops for the graduate admissions exams. Test preparation classes and workshops are provided in partnership with Educational Testing Consultants, a leader in higher education test preparation.

The UWRF Continuing Education office provides life-long learners with academic, professional development and enrichment programs that are practical, flexible, convenient and affordable. A complete list of courses, course descriptions and online registration information is available at <http://www.uwrf.edu/ContinuingEducation/> or by calling 715-425-3256, 1-800-228-5607 or e-mailing outreach@uwrf.edu.

Student Senate Update: Apr. 17

Textbook services representative Cory Whipkey was a guest speaker. Topics covered included:

* A proposal to move towards Open Educational Resources (OER), an alternative to traditional textbooks.

* Unlike traditional textbooks, OER authors retain the copyright license, as opposed to the publisher.

* They are primarily digital, the distribution cost is drastically reduced.

* A potential drawback to OER is the fact that it is difficult to obtain a physical copy of the text if desired.

* Whipkey pointed out that OER would reduce the school’s costs and allow for more versatility within the school’s textbook options.

* Unlike traditional textbooks, OERs would be continually updated with revisions being posted regularly.

* President Abby Wendt asked if printing a PDF of the OER would be a viable option for students seeking a physical book. Whipkey said that it is an option, but the longevity is compromised and students rarely prefer this option.

* Vice President Klidahl voiced her support for OERs, not just at UWRF but across the country as a way to cut back on students’ costs.

* Faculty Advisor Gregg Heinselmann asked if certain disciplines are ahead of the curve when it comes to the implementation of OER. Whipkey said that the sciences tend to utilize OER more than other disciplines.

Director of Marketing and Outreach Gridley reported that interviews for the upcoming student elections are now available online.

Five hundred and sixty-three students voted in the election as of the start of the meeting, a notable improvement upon last year’s numbers.

The winners of the academic advisor of the year award winners have been decided.

The financial committee is currently working on a debt relief programs for student organizations. There is currently no way to hold students accountable whose committees are in debt.

Klidahl’s report for the Green Fund will be sent out at the end of the week.

Wendt reported that training programs for next year’s student body leadership are in progress.

Heinselmann reported that he attended training to prepare for the accreditation visit this fall. He also reported on upcoming policies which will require the disclosure of criminal backgrounds of students applying to live on campus.

Chair of Academic Counsel introduced a resolution to purchase \$100 worth of plaques for faculty receiving the outstanding teacher of the year award. Introductory status was struck. Senate voted unanimously to approve the purchase.

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.

Weekly UWRF Crime Report

Friday, April 13

- A motorvehicle accident was reported at the horse arena at 6:56 p.m.

Saturday, April 14

- All drug complaint was reported at Parker Hall at 2:05 p.m.

Sunday, April 15

- An intoxicated person was reported at McMillan Hall at 12:57 a.m.

Monday, April 16

- Theft was reported at 185 Emogene Nelson Ave at 5:00 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

University partnership gives students visiting from China experience in American culture; both the good and bad

Chris Gregg
Falcon News Service

Imagine stepping off a plane at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and being greeted with signs that say, “You’re Almost Home.” You get into a van with a complete stranger who drives 40 minutes to what seems like the middle of nowhere. You are checked into your room by a resident assistant, then you realize it: home is thousands of miles away.

This is exactly the experience sophomores from Zhejiang International Studies University had as they arrived at UW-River Falls for the first time last August. The 23 students from Zhejiang International Studies University are at UWRF to gain experience in American educational settings.

These students are here as a part of the partnership that UWRF and Zhejiang International Studies University have maintained for 30 years. The program allows ZISU students to complete their junior year at UWRF and gain valuable elementary education experience. Though the program has many advantages, participants also experience challenges of language barriers and difficulties adjusting to American cultures.

The current program, which started in 2013, has ZISU students attend UWRF for their sophomore year, said Katrina Larsen, executive director for International Education. Students take eight credits of ESL (English as a second language) courses and eight credits of teacher education courses tailored to meet their needs. One course requires students to spend six hours every Wednesday at one of the River Falls or Hudson elementary schools.

“As you can imagine, students love getting the opportunity to see how the United States public education system works and interacting with the elementary school teachers and students,” Larsen said.

There have been 77 participants in the elementary education program, 23 of which are currently studying at UW-River Falls. A visiting scholar, Professor Weiwei Chen, is also on campus.

While the program appears to have a lot of positives, participants also experience some challenges. Participants are given host families, including interim provost Faye Perkins’ family, to help with some of these challenges. Perkins’ family has hosted over 30 students, including at least seven students and professors from China.

“We try to provide a welcoming atmosphere and help in-

troduce them to our culture,” Perkins said. “When our sons were growing up, our international students felt like they had little brothers and were a part of our family. Inviting them over for holidays, birthdays, special occasions or just to hang out helped them when they were homesick.”

In addition to homesickness, another challenge international students experience is language.

“Even though they may have had years of English training in their schools, it is very different when you are around native speakers who generally speak at lot faster than they are used to,” Perkins said. “Most international students have to study very hard, and do a lot of reading, in order to understand their course material.”

Despite these challenges, ZISU students experience a lot of positives while studying at UWRF. This experience also benefits UW-River Falls.

“Over the years, many UWRF and ZISU students have had education abroad experiences on each other’s campus, and faculty and staff have had opportunities to visit and learn about a different place and culture,” said chancellor Dean Van Galen. “These experiences are often life-changing and also help to further internationalize the UW-River Falls campus.”

UWRF Student Voice wins 7 writing awards, including best sports story



Photo courtesy of Mike Dorsher

UWRF Student Voice Assistant Editor Sophia Koch, Editor Zach Dwyer and former photo editor Tori Schneider collected their awards Friday in Madison at the Wisconsin College Media Association Honors Luncheon.

Mike Dorsher
Falcon News Service

MADISON – UW-River Falls student journalists picked up seven statewide awards Friday from the Wisconsin College Media Association, including a first place in sports stories for Student Voice Editor Zach Dwyer.

Dwyer, a junior from New Hope, Minn., was among the first to report in March 2017 that Falcons Dani Sibley, Carly Moran and Paige Johnson had turned down an offer from USA Hockey to be substitute players. Instead, they decided to support the starting players’ boycott of USA Hockey over equal wages and training conditions – a boycott that proved successful and instrumental in the USA women’s hockey gold medal victory in the 2018 Olympics.

The Falcons hockey players’ sacrifice was also the subject of a Student Voice staff editorial that won second place among smaller college newspapers in the WCMA Better Newspaper Contest. All of the awards were handed out Friday during the Collegiate Honors Luncheon at the Wisconsin Newspaper Association’s annual conference in Madison.

Under the headline, “Falcon hockey players take admirable stand, choose solidarity over personal success,” the Student

Voice editorial said: “What Sibley, Moran and Johnson did is admirable. They could have undermined the entire effort by the national team. They could have made the decision based on their own potential personal gain. They didn’t. This kind of solidarity is amazing.”

The Student Voice also won a third-place award for a staff editorial entitled, “Students showing more interest in local and state government vital to democracy.”

Sophia Koch, a senior from Spring Valley, won two awards for public affairs reporting. She won second place for an article headlined, “UWRF student leaders may soon decide on ‘green fee’ proposal” and third for “Potential change in federal water pollution rules could have effect locally.”

Tori Schneider, a senior from Manitowoc, also won two awards: a third-place in-depth story headlined, “Numbers at River Falls food pantry tell only part of hunger’s story” and a third-place sports story, “New addition to Falcon football team brings inspiration to players.”

All of Koch’s and Schneider’s award-winning stories were originally reported as part of UWRF’s Jour 406: News Service course and distributed by Falcon News Service.

Dutch students find authentic relationships at UW-River Falls

Continued from Page 1

For the Dutch, who come from farms in the Netherlands with the number of cows ranging from 80-150, they actually were not too surprised to learn about Heer’s vast herd.

“This is America, and here everything is bigger, bigger and biggest,” Dutch student Kas Elferink said. “So 3,200 cows – that’s America.”

Despite certain dairy farms in Wisconsin far exceeding the cow population of farms in the Netherlands, many of the farms there are much more technologically advanced than farms in the U.S.

“In the Netherlands, automatic farming is a little bit further ahead than the rest of the world. In the Netherlands, more farms have robots than, I think, any other country,” said Elferink, who admits to being slightly unimpressed by Kehoe’s recent lesson on “two-robot farms” in his lactation class.

In addition to making friends and learning about dairy production, the Dutch have also significantly enhanced their ability to speak and comprehend English.

“It was a big challenge here to speak English,” Dutch student William Van Mourik said. “I’m also not an outgoing guy, but I met a lot of people here, and my English improved a lot, and people are saying it.”

Although various friends have told the Dutch how much they have improved their English communication, Lusk said she thinks she has just gotten better at understanding them. “Your ears become adapted to their accent,” she said.

With both the Dutch improving and Lusk adapting, she has definitely spent a great deal of time with them over the semester and does not look forward to the day they have to return to the Netherlands.

“I want to stay in contact with them so bad. I don’t want to lose the close friendship that we’ve established,” she said. “This isn’t just a friendship that was just a one-time thing. I can see us being lifelong friends.”

This year, the Dutch were among the first to register for the May retreat to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, a trip known as Chapter Focus Week, which more than 40 UWRF students attended last spring. Lusk and other friends will have a full week to spend time with the Dutch on Lake Huron before they are forced to say goodbye.

Following the retreat, the Dutch still plan to see various other sights throughout America.

“We’re still planning to go to San Francisco and L.A. and maybe even Texas,” Elferink said. “If we hadn’t signed up for Chapter Focus Week, we would have started that a week earlier, but that’s the only difference.”

Diversity efforts in UWRF Athletics Department go beyond ethnicity

Continued from Page 1

With so few student-athletes of varying cultures at the university, a lot of effort has come from the administration side in working with the coaches and teams to get them exposed to other ways of thinking. Flegler said this could include gender, culture and religion lines, because even along gender lines there are different ways that people think.

Coaches are a major part of implementing this culture, according to Ali Krohn, a junior softball player. She said that her coaches are very open and that directly leads to a supportive team.

“Our coaches are good at making sure we’re doing okay psychologically and not just an athlete,” Krohn said. “I don’t think anyone is close minded on our team.”

Krohn said that this atmosphere leads to having conversations about race and sexuality that may be hard to have with people that aren’t considered “family.” She said it’s easier to foster those conversations when you’re comfortable with the people you’re around.

The department’s current goal is to begin providing programs to get a conversation started. As new freshmen classes come in, it will be easier to teach the culture that they’re trying to create, Flegler said.

Falcons United, which is a diversity council for student

athletes that meets each month, has worked with topics like LGBTQ+ allied training, using sports as a vehicle for social change and class and gender privilege. The department also has plans to do more theme nights next season like the two “you can play nights” they participated in this season. These games raise awareness about LGBTQ+ players in hopes of making a safer environment. The department also plans to roll out a transgender student athlete policy in the fall.

If an athlete isn’t identifying within his or her own team well, Flegler said there are many avenues on campus to find talks about diversity and inclusion. Athletics is working closely with the Center of Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging to get athletes more engaged and not just be in a bubble but instead interact with others.

“If you’re having a difficult time, the diversity office has access,” Flegler said. “Advisers for all of our affinity groups (different cultural groups on campus) can connect people. There’s talking circles to get together and talk about issues on campus, and I think that’s a great outlet for people that may be having difficulties with their teammates.”

These more well-established resources aim to combine people with groups in order to connect with people beyond race. Flegler stressed that piggybacking off of what they already have will better serve the students here while the Athletics Department is still trying to create that inclusive culture.

Follow the Student Voice on Twitter @uwrvoice

Tune in Tuesday nights at 7:00 for live tweets of the Student Senate meetings.

EDITORIAL

Choose healthy coping methods as finals approach

The end of the semester is beginning to draw near. Finals and projects are beginning to loom, and it is time for the Student Voice to write its compulsory, biannual editorial about how to not burn yourself out as things get crazy.

We've often written about some of the methods students can employ to keep themselves sane and healthy when school begins to look hopeless. One point we often bring up is the idea that people should "find time for themselves." However, we feel that we need to clarify this point: "finding time for yourself" doesn't necessarily mean doing whatever is the most fun. It means finding the time to figure out and give yourself what you need.

Our culture tends to encourage that people overwork themselves. We overcommit to things, stay up late trying to finish them and constantly feel stressed out because there seems to be no end to the things that need to get done.

Unfortunately, the socially accepted ways of coping with these stresses are just as unhealthy as the stress itself. Wisconsin in particular tends to encourage people to unwind by going out on the weekends and binge drinking. In the short term, it feels great – you forget about everything that's weighing you down. When it's over, however, you remember everything that needs to be done and realize that you've compounded your problems for the week ahead.

It isn't just about drinking; putting off problems comes in all forms. Binge watching Netflix, for example, is an equally effective way to put off things you'd rather not think about. Unlike drinking, it tends to be a socially accepted practice, yet it often has the same effect – you use it as a crutch to put off your work, and as a result feel like your problems have only gotten bigger when you decide to get back to them.

There are things that you can do to relieve stress that don't make you feel this way. One big one is having a healthy social life. Especially this time of year, many people try to cope with the overwhelming amounts of work they have to do by shutting themselves away from their friends so that they can get work done. It's the polar opposite of putting off your responsibilities, but it can leave a person feeling equally burnt out and potentially lead to even healthier coping mechanisms.

A sense of social connection relieves a lot of stress. You can goof off for a bit without worrying about your looming assignments while at the same time be exposed to other people who are going through the same things. In the end, you might feel inspired to get your own work done afterward or at the very least find emotional support since everyone's going through the same struggle.

Bar crawl is this weekend in River Falls, which is always one of the biggest days for drinking throughout the city. It can be a lot of fun and a great way to connect with people you haven't seen in a long time, and this can be good for your mental health if you're doing it for the right reasons. However, if your only intention is to drown away the looming finals stress, maybe reconsider.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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Free-range kids learn independence

Sophia Koch

Columnist

I'm pretty lucky to have grown up wild.

Most of that has to do with my parents. Mom grew up on the edge of the Apple River, and she told me once that she "never really spent time in the house during the summer." She learned how to light a campfire with just one match, catch panfish with a home-made rod, accumulated so many mosquito bites that she "looked like one big bug bite" and built a stone-walled fort out of cement, rocks, discarded barn materials and chunks of scrap metal. I visit that fort from time to time. The roof fell in, but the walls, the one window and the little firepit/chimney she made are still there.

Dad was just as wild. His family home was just a quarter mile down the road from where I grew up, and he spent his time roaming the woods and fields that surrounded his family's little farm with a gun and his dog, Jack. He shot, cooked and ate squirrels, played with toy army men and handmade boats in the dry-run stream and camped in all seasons (even winter) with Jack for company.

I think my generation has lost a lot of what my parents had during their childhood. Utah recently gained attention in the news for being the first state in the U.S. to pass laws protecting so-called "free-range parenting," which basically redefines the term "neglect" so that reasonably-aged kids don't get picked up by Child Protective Services when they're caught walking home from the park alone.

It's a little sad that this is a necessity. We are of a generation whose parents had a marked tendency to hover and shelter while we were growing up. The "stranger danger" was an ever-present threat, and I remember being instilled at an early age with an acute wariness of cars. Some level of protection

is a good idea, but I think over-protection caused many of us to miss out on a lot of the independence, creativity and imagination that marked my parents' upbringing.

I definitely felt some of that pressure towards safety and caution, but overall Mom and Dad did a pretty good job making sure I knew how to explore on my own. They armed me with an adventure pack, the ability to identify poison ivy and the advice, "don't eat anything unless you know for sure it's not poisonous." Then they ushered me out into the very woods and fields that Dad used to explore when he was young.

I wandered all over out there. I built forts out of piled rocks and fallen tree branches. In the spring, I would put on tall boots and splash through the dry-run stream that runs past Dad's old house. In the summer, I used his old tent to sleep out in cow pastures with my dog, Stella. At night, I had to make sure to zip the tent up tight lest the mosquitoes devour me alive.

A lot of that childhood defined who I am today and has become indirectly useful. I can't say that the ability to arrange branches and rocks into a teepee is something that I can put on a resume, but I learned how to be creative and resourceful. Camping out in cow fields isn't directly useful experience in most jobs, but it taught me to plan and pack carefully so that I didn't get cold/wet/dehydrated/mosquito-bitten overnight.

As we become the next generation of parents, I think it's important to keep these things in mind. "Free-range" kids learn a lot about the world as they wander ravines, fall in mud and rip their pant legs. Protecting them from the world doesn't just make them unprepared for it – it robs them of the things that make childhood wonderful.

Sophia 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.

College basketball still fails to properly compensate female coaches

Lauren A. Simenson

Columnist

Recently, in the midst of some feverish online scrolling, my eyes zeroed in on a story about basketball, of all things. The specific story that managed to pique my scant sporting interest was the news that basketball star Lindsay Whalen had accepted the head coaching position for the University of Minnesota's women's basketball team. I'll admit that her acceptance of this position was not groundbreaking to me. That is, until I kept reading and came across her salary.

The Star Tribune reported on April 13, one day after Whalen's coaching announcement, that her contract to coach "begins with a base salary of \$400,000" and will increase each year until the final fifth year of her contract to \$547,391. This amount seems laughably low to me given the knowledge I have on the exorbitant amount of money that male college coaches make.

One quick Google search was all I needed to do to investigate the salary of Whalen's counterpart – the University of Minnesota's head coach for the men's basketball team. Spoiler alert, Richard Pitino makes much, much more than Whalen. Yet people still say that the gender wage gap is a myth.

USA Today published an impressive chart that ranks college basketball coaches by how much money they earn. The top spot is taken by Duke's head coach, who makes about \$8.9 million. Pitino sits at number 49 with a total pay of \$1.9 million with a "max bonus" and "bonuses paid for 2017-2018" of \$600,000 and \$200,000. Adding those two bonus options to his total, Pitino's salary now goes into the \$4 million range. Meanwhile, college athletes of both sexes still remain unpaid.

Before we dive into the analysis, let's get some definitions out of the way; according to this USA Today pay chart, total pay refers to the "sum or school pay and income listed on the coach's most recently available self-reported athletically related outside-income report." But careful, do not confuse "total pay" with "school pay," which is different.

School pay is "a coach's base salary; income from contract provisions other than base salary that are paid or guaranteed." But wait, there's more: while maximum bonus is "the greatest amount that can be received if the team meets prescribed on-court performance goals."

Bonuses paid, of course, is the actual amount that a coach was paid from "July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 for meet-

ing personal performance or team-performance goals." These similar categories of payment do not reflect all of the money that these male basketball coaches make, however.

USA Today further explained that even the salaries detailed in their chart do not reflect all of the money or benefits that these coaches take in. In addition to sponsorships, speaking arrangements and more, which are not reflected in a coach's total pay, the school pay amount does not include:

"Health care or the value of potentially taxable items such as cars; country club memberships; game tickets for the regular season, postseason and other sports; the value of stadium suites; travel upgrades; spouse/family travel and game tickets; amounts connected to transactions related to buyouts owed by coaches for terminating a contract with a prior employer."

I do not pretend to know the reasoning behind coaches' salaries, but am I the only one who finds it disconcerting that one of Pitino's bonuses is more than Whalen's entire coaching salary? The plot thickened even more when I took a deeper dive into the background of Pitino and Whalen, thinking that might be a way to uncover whether Pitino did deserve to make millions while Whalen did not.

Interestingly, Pitino started out as an assistant coach for the College of Charleston in 2004. Whalen began as a first-year WNBA player for the Connecticut Sun, also in 2004. What a coincidence. While Pitino has had a long coaching career, his biggest achievements come in the form of winning the NIT Championship in 2014 and being named the Big Ten Coach of the Year for 2017.

Whalen, on the other hand, has achieved such success that I cannot mention it all here. Some of her biggest highlights have been to achieve Olympic gold on two occasions, gold in two World Championships, and all of her many WNBA career highlights where she has been an assists leader, a peak performer and an all-star, to name just a few categories.

Whalen will also keep playing in the WNBA this summer while she starts coaching. WNBA players' salaries, by the way, range from just \$50,000 to \$110,000, which, combined with Whalen's coaching salary, is still lower than Pitino's. It seems that collegiate basketball's problem of not paying their players for their work now extends to their female coaches as well.

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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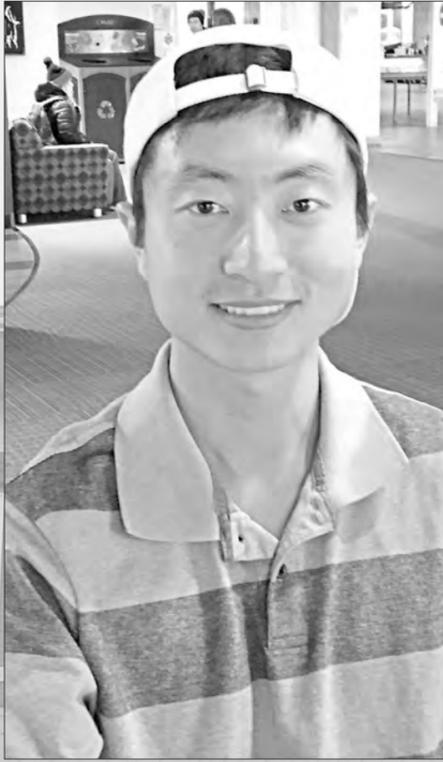
STUDENT voices

Compiled by Alayna Rudolph

“What’s your dream car?”



Makayla Kosmicki
(Freshman)
“Chevy truck”



Saun Woo
(Senior)
“A white Maserati”



Jay Conrad
(Freshman)
“Mercedes cl 500”



Amy Rice
(Junior)
“A minivan with stow and go seats.”



Theresa Lusk
(Junior)
“A white Ford Mustang with tinted windows, chrome handles, and a black racing stripe down the middle.”



William Ven Mourek
(Junior)
“Volvo 850”

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Minnesota Timberwolves fandom paying off

Zach Dwyer

Columnist

The Minnesota Timberwolves will no longer be the trivia answer in the category of “longest playoff drought in the NBA.” With their 112-106 victory over the Denver Nuggets on the last day of the regular season, the Timberwolves clinched their first playoff appearance since the 2003-2004 season.

Yes, you read that correctly. It’s been 14 long years since the Wolves (or puppies as they’ve commonly been referred as, due to their timid nature) made an appearance in the postseason. To give you an idea of how different a world we lived in at the time, Twitter hadn’t been invented yet, gas was \$1.75 a gallon and the song “Yeah” by Usher was the no. 1 song in the U.S.

However, that season was also important because it marked the first time I fell in love with the team. My first game was November 1, 2003, against the Vince Carter-led Toronto Raptors. I don’t really remember anything from that game, and I think we may have even left at halftime. The final score was 73-56, a score that is almost impossible to imagine in today’s fast-paced game with an emphasis on the three-pointer. Kevin Garnett led the team with 20 points and 7 rebounds in a year when he went on to win the MVP award and give the Wolves a no. 1 seed. The team fell to the Los Angeles Lakers in six games in the Western Conference Finals, but everyone assumed they would be back the next year.

But they weren’t. The team missed out on the playoffs by one game to the Memphis Grizzlies, and it was all downhill from there. Garnett left the team two years later, taking with him the only success the franchise had ever seen. While he was winning an NBA title in 2008 with the Boston Celtics, the Wolves were finishing season with records of 24, 15 and

17 wins in consecutive seasons. This year’s team, with a record of 47-35, was the first to have a winning record since 2004-2005.

Trades have made and broke this franchise, most notable with Garnett’s departure. A Kevin Love era came and went without a playoff appearance, which probably hit me the hardest. A player that came in as a beefy post turned into a three-point threat, finally giving me something to cheer about as a fan. However, like most players who have spent too many cold Minnesota winters in a losing effort, he eventually wanted a change of scenery. The trade in 2014 that netted no. 1 overall pick Andrew Wiggins was the moment that began the four-year road to the postseason.

Wiggins and two-time dunk contest winner Zach Lavine brought a fun and exciting feel back to the franchise that had been missing for years. Growing up, I’d always wanted to start a collection of memorabilia, but I never really had the chance or funds. However, my senior year of high school started a rapidly growing collection of basketball cards, autographed items (a 1989 inaugural season ball signed by the whole team) and a huge collection of bobble heads (now totaling 24). Flip Saunders, the coach from the 2003-2004 team, also returned in an attempt to turn around the franchise.

Saunders sadly passed away the next season after a battle with cancer, but not before he drafted the Timberwolves’ first ever no. 1 overall pick, Karl-Anthony Towns. Towns was only 8 years old the last time the franchise reached the playoffs, but his determination to make the team relevant and make his first all-star appearance were both achieved in his third season. Towns recorded 68 double doubles this year and was only the second player in the history of the NBA to average over 20 points per game, 10 rebounds per game, shoot 50 percent from the field, 40 percent from the three-point line and 85 percent from the free throw line.

However, there’s no doubt who the leader of the pack truly is. Jimmy Butler was traded to the Timberwolves this offseason as a three-time all-star. He has been clutch in fourth quarters, shown the desire to play defense every

night and not be afraid to tell the media the team isn’t trying hard enough. The Wolves were 10-13 when he was hurt this season and 37-22 when he was healthy. If it wasn’t for a knee injury in the first game back after the all-star break, the Wolves would’ve had a chance to be as high as the three seed.

But what they are is an eight seed. The Wolves play a seven-game series against the no. 1 seed Houston Rockets this week, the same team Butler was injured against. The Timberwolves are facing a huge uphill climb, but as the team’s slogan says, they have to continue to focus “all eyes north.”

If you didn’t suffer through the last fourteen years of heartache with the ups and downs of this franchise, I don’t blame you for not staying interested. If you missed watching Jonny Flynn be selected over two-time MVP Steph Curry in 2009, or you didn’t watch the joyless 15 and 17-win seasons led by washed-up veteran players, you didn’t miss much. Not all fans need to be tapped in at all times to the team to be “true fans.” While I may consider myself a diehard Wolves fan, I appreciate those that get excited and start paying attention when there is a truly exciting product on the court.

The Wolves sold out 16 games this season, more than the last five years combined. So instead of focusing on the bleak past, let’s look towards the future of the franchise. Let’s see if they can give a 65-win Rockets team a run for their money. We can look fondly upon the good times, like Love’s 30-point, 30-rebound game, Towns’ franchise-record 56 point-game or Lavine’s high-flying moments. My favorite moment of all-time is still the Garnett buzzer-beater I watched at Target Center against Portland in 2007. With two all-stars and a whole city finally starting to believe again, maybe it’s finally time to turn around a tragic 29-year story.

Zach Dwyer is a junior at River Falls majoring in journalism and minoring in political science. Beyond watching his beloved Timberwolves, he enjoys watching Formula 1 and IndyCar races and visiting lighthouses on the Great Lakes.

Joe Mauer: How to feel about the Minnesota native

Zack Anderson

Columnist

When I think about the Minnesota Twins, I think about a lot of things. I think about the all-time greats such as Rod Carew, Kirby Puckett and Harmon Killebrew. I think about the World Series titles of ‘87 and ‘91.

With the modern Twins, I think about Joe Mauer. With Joe Mauer grabbing his 2,000 hit last Thursday, it really makes you think about the career that he’s had. As I watched the Minnesota native tip his helmet to the fans, I began to wonder how to remember or feel about his career. How do you feel about a guy who ultimately peaked before signing his big contract? Does he belong among the greats I mentioned? I stared at an empty page for days trying to contextualize his career. After staring at stats, comparing him to current Hall of Famers, and watching clips, I have an answer.

However, before we think about his legacy, the elephant in the room needs to be addressed.

Joe Mauer was overvalued.

As sports fans, we tend to overreact to anything that happens. If someone has a career year, the general reaction among general managers is to sign him to a massive contract. In most cases, production tends to decline. This leads to overpaid players with unfair expectations and unhappy fans.

That is exactly what happened to Joe Mauer. When Joe Mauer won the MVP in 2009, people lost their minds. There was real conversation about whether or not Mauer should be among the highest paid players in baseball. But when you look at his career stats and the stats from that year, it never made sense for the Twins to offer him that contract.

In his MVP season, he hit a .365, 96 RBI’s and 28 home

runs. These are impressive numbers for a catcher, but when you look at overall league production, only his batting average and on base percentage were among the best in the league. In fact, he was not even in the Top 10 for home runs or RBI production. Those are the key components that we have always looked at when signing players to massive contracts.

When evaluating if the Twins overpaid, just think about the history of baseball and who we have signed to big contracts in the past. If you look at the history of the league, Mauer signed the 14th biggest contract in baseball history—tied with Ryan Howard. When you look at the guys ahead of him, excluding pitchers, only one other player has never hit over 30 home runs in a season—Derek Jeter.

Baseball rosters have always valued the power hitter – the guy who can hit the long ball and drive in runs. That player has always been important if you want to contend for a championship. Fair or not, Mauer was lumped in with guys like Alex Rodriguez, Prince Fielder and Albert Pujols because they were all paid similar amounts of money. But the truth is, Mauer was never that type of player. Instead, he was just overvalued and paid much more than he was ever worth. When you value a player against the players I mentioned, fans expect a higher level of production.

Mauer never fit that description, and looking back on it, it was absurd that we were thinking about paying him that type of money.

Mauer peaked 9 years ago.

Just go look at the stats; this isn’t even an argument anymore. He has never even come close to hitting those types of numbers again.

His legacy: Will Mauer be in Cooperstown one day?

This is a tough question. I have always had problems with who they chose to exclude from the Hall of Fame. I view the Hall of Fame as two simple questions:

• Can the history of baseball be told without you? In other words, how important were you to the game? This simple

question is why I have never understood why people turn the Hall of Fame into a morals question. As if it is an ethics award, which it is not. Ty Cobb was an extremely racist person and he is in there. We can no longer talk ethics with him being in.

• When I say your name, do people go, “well of course!”? If I said, “Should Hank Aaron be in the Hall of Fame?” you would say, “well duh, he is one of the best hitters of all time.” If people do not respond with, “well yea, duh,” or, “of course,” I don’t think you should be in there on the first ballot.

Circling back to Joe Mauer, ultimately a strong case can be made both ways. Some will argue that his batting titles, on base percentage and career hits earned him a spot in the Hall. That he could finish with around 2,400 hits puts him in good company. Others will argue that because he did not produce consistently and was always hurt, he does not belong.

Bottom line is this:

With the direction of baseball and analytics, history will view Joe Mauer favorably. His stats and the fact that he never played on the big stage will give his career a mystique that a Yankees or Cardinals player could never have. He will not go into the Hall of Fame on the first ballot, nor does he deserve to. However, if he earns a spot in the Hall, it will be based entirely on his batting titles, career hits, use of advance metrics by writers and the nostalgia of his career.

And finally, my answer:

I believe that Joe Mauer should be in the Hall of Fame, but I would not be upset if he never got in. He is important to baseball, but ultimately, due to his injury, he never lived up to expectations.

Zack Anderson is a senior at River Falls. He is a biomedical major with plans to go to medical school after graduation. Outside of medicine, his interests include sports, movies and music.

Sports Schedule

April 20 softball at UW-Whitewater (doubleheader), 2 p.m.

April 21 softball vs UW-Platteville (doubleheader), 2 p.m.

April 21-22 women’s track and field at UW-La Crosse

April 21-22 men’s track and field at UW-La Crosse

April 22 softball vs UW-La Crosse (doubleheader), 12 p.m.

April 24 softball at UW-Stout

(doubleheader), 4 p.m.

April 25 softball at UW-Oshkosh (doubleheader), 2 p.m.

April 26 women’s golf at UW-Eau Claire

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Beth's trailer predictions: movies to maybe see this summer (if the snow ever goes away)

Bethany Lovejoy

Reviewer

A wise prophet once said, "Where there is Panda Express, nearby there lay Taco Bell." This was said by me; I am the prophet. What it means, within this context, is that where there is mediocrity and stress (Panda Express is sort of a low point food for me), up ahead lies the joys of creativity and cheese.

Sweet, sweet, Taco Bell plastic cheese.

On that note, it's been a fairly stressful week in roomhold (just my room, which is just me). Therefore, we are going to look toward the sweet cheesy future at movies I will maybe (probably not) see.

Super Troopers 2:

I'm probably going to see this, maybe. But it's not going to be one of those good movies that all your friends and family come to watch. This is going to be one of my low point existential crisis movies. I mean, the trailer is essentially one long Canadian joke that makes you deeply concerned as to who greenlit the movie.

Chomp:

The trailer opens with a little girl in fairy wings seeing a megalodon shark, which definitely kind of appeals to my sense of impending doom with upcoming finals. I think it's a thriller, because there's a bald dude and bald dudes don't star in horror movies. The thing that's probably not going to be cool is that the trailer strongly hints that a dog dies, which is a big no from me.

Solo:

I'm going to see this movie because my father loves "Star Wars" more than he loves me. Also, Donald Glover is in the trailer for this movie, and he's a 10/10 babe that I would take multiple buses for. The only downside seems to be that the Han Solo is like a 6/10 babe, but Chewie is looking like a 50/10 Chewbacca.



Infinity War:

I'm going to hate watch this because the trailer is such an obvious grab for your money that it's almost sad. Shout out to Marvel for overloading our senses with characters in a movie that we know will lack any significant character development or overall plot direction.

Incredibles 2:

Wasn't super about it. Saw Edna Mode (No capes!). Was about it.

American Animals:

At first the trailer gave me the idea that this was a horror movie and I was not about this, but then I saw that the okay looking dude from American Horror Story was in the trailer for this, and that it's about stealing books. If there is one crime I can get behind in this world, it is obtaining knowledge and being vaguely babe-like.

Mary Shelley:

This movie is about the original goth, Mary Shelley, and alludes to her horrifying world. From losing her virginity on her mother's grave to hating her father, Mary Shelley was a 10/10 broken-hearted teenage youth who you need to properly experience in order to appreciate the goths. This lady dealt with people cheating, a weird fascination in ghost stories (likely rooted in the fact that historians believe she was super about her mom because her dad was the worst and self-centered and cared mainly about his desires) and freakin' rich folks. Of course your girl is gonna turn up for Gothapalozza.

Hot Summer Nights:

Though this movie is very evidently about attracting women and selling weed, I'm going to watch this solely because I can count the number of women in the trailer upon my hands. I know in my heart that it is another 1970s movie that is rooted in how great it was to be straight, white and male in that time period.

So it'll be like diet bad.

Dude:

This is another really evident drug movie. Which, you know, is great. Weed movies are a thing now, I guess, and I can't argue against it. The only difference in this is that it stars female stoners, which is somehow innovative.

Of course I'm going to see it.

Also, it comes out on 4/20 ... Which means we might re-view it next week.

Bethany Lovejoy is a junior at UWRF. She is a creative writing major, and all she does is sleep, watch Netflix and tell you to watch Netflix.

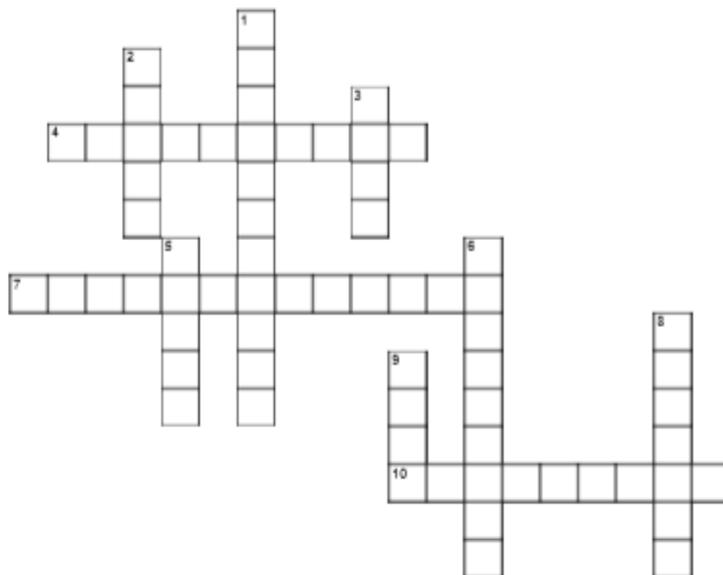
Last Week's Answers

Dr. Who (spoilers)



Puzzle of the Week

Memes



ACROSS

- 4 A famous green muppet faces what appears to be an evil version of himself.
- 7 A thoughtful-looking velociraptor contemplates life's big questions.
- 10 "Well, that ___ quickly."

DOWN

- 1 "Shut up and _____"
- 2 Bad Luck _____. "Has a pet rock. It runs away."
- 3 "___ is smart. Be like ___."
- 5 Condescending _____. Features the main character from "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" looking patronizing.
- 6 Siamese cat with a perpetual frown and bad attitude.
- 8 ___ Kid. Features a little kid clenching his fist and looking determinedly victorious.
- 9 Features a Shiba Inu dog with wide eyes and floating words written in Comic Sans surrounding him.

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