

NEWS



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Open-ended questions on faculty evaluations reveal differing views

Kyle Weaver
Viewpoints Editor

What began as a simple computer system upgrade on campus has turned into a passionate debate over the content of teacher evaluations.

Many students feel strongly that teacher evaluations should have open-ended questions to provide instructors with constructive criticism and feedback. Several UW-River Falls faculty and administrators, however, are strongly opposed to the questions because of the need for them to be public information and a potential for bias.

The debate began last January when UW-RF administration announced it would be upgrading the computer mainframe that handles the current teacher evaluations and that they would have to be

uploaded into the new system.

Faculty Senate Chairman Dave Trechter said he saw the upgrade as an opportunity to see if improvements could be made to the evaluations. To examine the possibility, Trechter created a task force made up of faculty and students, which drafted an initial proposal for the new evaluations.

The proposal assembled by the task force contained three parts: a series of eight objective fill-in-the-circle type questions dealing with instructor quality, a set of 16 optional questions about the course and a set of open-ended questions.

After debate last Monday, the task force voted 4-3 to remove the last two parts of the proposal, Trechter said. The trimmed-down proposal will face a Faculty Senate vote on May 7 at 4 p.m.

"Discussion within the committee

developed a question as to who should have access to this information," Trechter said. "There was a deep divide between the students and the faculty."

Trechter said the student members of the task force were in favor of open access to the information.

Faculty members disagreed for two main reasons, Trechter said.

First, information provided by open-ended questions is of two types: students who really love a professor or students who really dislike a professor. Neither perspective represents a middle ground, Trechter said.

"The data you get is not very representative," Trechter said. "It's a disservice to everyone to put information out there that we know is biased."

Faculty members also disliked the fact that any information on the

Faculty evaluation usage

Semester	Times accessed
Fall 2002	2
Fall 2001	1
Fall 2000	4
Fall 1999	5

*Information provided by Julianne Johnson, library circulation supervisor. Faculty evaluations are housed at the library reference desk, and are available to anyone upon request. The semester listed indicates when the evaluation was taken.

evaluations must legally be made accessible to the public and could be used to help determine tenure and promotions.

"Anybody in the world literally would have access to it," Trechter said. "Faculty, at that point, said we're not willing to do this."

Trechter said that it would be like

professors placing such comments on a student's records.

Faculty Senator Barb Werner, the women's studies coordinator, said even though she uses open-ended questions for herself, she doesn't

See "Evaluations" on A6

Artwork for Humanity



Habitat for Humanity and art students at UW-River Falls teamed up to raise money Tuesday and Wednesday by holding an art tent sale. All proceeds from the sale, held outside KFA, go towards Habitat for Humanity.

Kyle Weaver / Student Voice

Testa booked for drunken driving

Jen Cullen
Editor-in-Chief



Larry Testa

Larry Testa, UW-River Falls director of residential services, was booked into the St. Croix County Jail April 9 for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (OWI).

The Roberts Police Department received a phone call at approximately 8 p.m. concerning an erratic driver headed southbound on Highway 65.

An officer noticed a vehicle "swerving in the road and traveling at a slow pace" matching the description given by the caller. The officer pulled the vehicle over at

Highway 12/65 at North Division Street.

Testa attempted to exit the vehicle but was told by the officer to stay in his vehicle, according to the report. The officer also said Testa had a difficult time removing his license.

According to the police report, the officer noticed the smell of alcohol on Testa's breath. Testa was asked the exit the vehicle to perform a field sobriety test. Testa failed to pass both tests and was given a Breathalyzer by the officer.

The report said Testa's initial blood alcohol level (BAC) was .191 for which his was given an OWI citation.

The officer then transported Testa to Hudson Hospital where he agreed to give a blood sample.

See "Testa" on A6

Paper theft could lead to charges

Innocent prank or violation of system policy?
Administration could decide

Jen Cullen
Editor-in-Chief

A Thursday night prank may have seemed funny at first but some students aren't laughing. Junior Ashton Flinders, 21, senior Chris Riepe, 21, and sophomore Bobby Wicklund, 20, could face University and police charges after admitting to stealing more than 2,000 copies of the Student Voice from campus racks April 24.

Voice staff member Kyle Weaver notified public safety and the River Falls Police Department of the theft at approximately 9 p.m. after he was told by another student of ransom notes.

The note, from the "Army of the Flying Squirrels," was in place of newspapers in several academic buildings, including the Fine Arts Building, Student Center, North and South Halls and Davee Library. The note said the editor-in-chief would be contacted with the group's demands.

On Friday morning staff members were told a large number of papers had been seen in Centennial Science Hall. The papers, which initially were inside Chemistry Professor Kevin McLaughlin's office, had been moved to the hallway.

McLaughlin refused to comment. Chemistry department Chair Jeff Rosenthal admits to letting "a couple" of students into McLaughlin's office Thursday night. Rosenthal said he watched the students put the papers in the office but "didn't realize how many it was."

Voice staff members retrieved the newspapers and redistributed them by noon Friday.

Voice staff members received an e-mail from the "Squirrel Master" at 11:40 a.m. Friday. The e-mail contained several demands and a threat to remove papers from racks the following week if the demands weren't met.

At approximately 4 p.m. Friday a staff member at IT Services searched the campus logs and determined Flinders was logged into a Hathorn Hall computer when the e-mail was sent.

Flinders, Riepe and Wicklund were unavailable for comment.

A second e-mail from the "Squirrel Master" was also received by several staff members. The writer of the e-mail apologized for upsetting anyone but said he or she believed there was nothing wrong with stealing a "free" newspaper.

Monday morning Flinders, Riepe and Wicklund apologized to Voice advisor Pat Berg and journalism department chair Colleen Callahan. None of the three have apologized personally to any Voice staff members as of Thursday night, May 1.

Rosenthal said he was contacted by a student Thursday at about 9 p.m. who asked if he could be let into McLaughlin's office to play a practical joke.

Rosenthal said he didn't realize the magnitude of the "prank."

"I look back at it now and I should have seen it coming," he said.

Rosenthal said McLaughlin has never said anything to him about disliking the Voice and that, as far as he knew, the incident wasn't part of an annual chemistry prank.

Rosenthal acknowledged that Flinders and Riepe were involved in an incident this past falls semester during which Public Safety Officer Chris Corrigan was injured by a chemical Flinders left outside CSH.

See "Theft" on A6

Victims share assault stories

Take Back the Night raises awareness about violence, assault

Tiffany Shelman
Front Page Editor

It surprised some, but the women who spoke about their sexual assault and rape experiences at UW-River Falls brought to light an often silenced problem.

More than 30 students gathered outside the Student Center April 24 to Take Back the Night.

The seventh annual UW-RF Take Back the Night (TBTN), organized by the Gender Equality Council (GEC), is a rally and speak-out against violence, specifically domestic violence, sexual assault,

sexual harassment and stalking.

Before the speak-out began, there were silhouettes of women placed around the student center mall that told stories of women who were killed by their partners. The silhouettes are part of the Silent Witness project. The project was created in 1990 by Arts Action Against Domestic Violence to raise awareness in communities about the extent of domestic violence and to help connect people with resources for exterminating violence.

People attending TBTN sat in the grass listening to Thea Ennen, a singer, songwriter and piano player from the Twin Cities.

There were also t-shirts created by artists hung on clothes lines between trees to represent a woman or child who died as a result of violence.

The GEC, led by women's studies professor Barbara Werner, sold t-shirts, buttons, bumper stickers,

pizza and drinks to the crowd.

Two poets, Kirsten Dirking and Rosanne Loyd spoke at the event. Both spoke about their books written as part of the healing process following their own rape and sexual assault.

"I am really proud to be a part of Take Back the Night," Dirking said.

Reading from her book, "One Red Eye," Dirking told her story about being a 21-year-old college student and surviving rape, beatings and attempted murder.

"Silence on the topic was impossible," Dirking said to the crowd.

She wanted to share her story with UW-RF students because other people may understand the ferocity of sexual assault and the shame that so many rape victims feel.

Loyd agreed, saying that sharing her personal account of rape is help-

See "Night" on A6

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Looking for a hysterical, free play to watch? Come and see the Masquers student theatre organization's production of *The Birthday Present*. Sign up on the sign posted in KFA near 119. If you want to usher show up around 7:15 p.m.

There are tabling sessions with information and a petition about implementing professor evaluations on various days in the Student Center. For more information stop by the Student Senate office in the Leadership Center.

Having difficulty choosing a major? If so, stop by Career Services or call 425-3572 to make an appointment with a Career Counselor.

Do you want to be on the radio? If so, apply for a radio show at WRFW. There are applications outside 306, North Hall. Just return your application to Jason Hausler's mailbox outside 306C North Hall.

Unique Summer Jobs with the Kansas City Chiefs training camp. There are openings for courier positions and a volunteer/guest services coordinator. If interested or have any questions, contact Mary Halada at mary.l.halada@uwrf.edu.

Graduation regalia is available at the bookstore. Stop by and pick up your graduation cap and gown.

Student job opportunities with athletic teams for fall semester. If interested contact Kevin Bullis at 425-3138 or via e-mail at kevin.w.bullis@uwrf.edu.

Do you want to be in a sub-committee or interest group regarding the needs of vegetarians on our campus? If so, please contact Gerda Benedict at 425-4663 or gerda.h.benedict@uwrf.edu.

Do you miss your pet while at college? If so, volunteer at the Pierce-St. Croix Humane Society. For more information call 426-5535 or visit their Web site at www.adoptablepets.org.

EVENTS

There is a senior reading consisting of original poetry, fiction, and/or prose May 8 at 3:30 p.m. in the Chalmer Davee Library Breezeway.

There is a Faculty Senate meeting May 7 at 4 p.m. in the Presidents Room, Student Center, regarding professor evaluations. For more information stop by the Student Senate office in the Leadership Center.

Roxanne Emmerich, a former UW-RF graduate is speaking on campus May 13 at 10 a.m. in the Blanche Davis Theatre to help students shape a successful future.

A school psychologist and ASD teacher from Forest Lake School district are coming to talk about autism on May 6 at 6:30 p.m. in 118, Wyman Education Building.

Diversity organizations come together to fight hunger in the community until May 14. Collection boxes are around the campus where you can donate non-perishable food items.

Walk for the animals is on May 3 at 10 a.m. at Hoffman Park in River Falls. For more information contact Alli Uphill at allison.a.uphill@uwrf.edu.

The College of Arts and Sciences Awards Reception will be held May 6. The dessert reception will begin at 6 p.m. in the KFA lobby and Gallery 101, and the awards presentation will start at 7 p.m. in the Blanche Davis Theatre.

The Piano Ensemble Concert is May 11 at 8 p.m. in the Abbott Concert hall. This event is open to the public and admission is free.

Senior Art Majors Displays are in the Chalmer Davee Library Harriet Barry Gallery through to May 2.

MEETINGS

Resource Management Club has its final meeting May 6 at 5 p.m. in 333 Agriculture Science building.

College Republicans sponsor weekly pro-American rallies. If interested meet in May Hall Thursdays at 4 p.m.

A new organization is looking for people who like to play, or would like to learn how to play Frisbee. For more information contact Jacob Connell or Ashley Ryan Hawke at 425-4743.

Informational meetings for the Winter Interim in Mexico are May 6 and 7 at 4 p.m. in 140 KFA.

A Tactile-enriched environment in Gallery 101 features several graduating senior artists. The gallery hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 7 to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. in KFA.

Campus Ministry Network has weekly ecumenical prayer gatherings Wednesdays at 5 p.m. at the St. Thomas More Chapel.

Amnesty International offers two peace marches to incorporate all opinions. One march will meet on Cascade Avenue at 4:30 p.m. and the other march will meet at Veteran's Park with candles to express their concern for our troops. Both marches will meet after the march at Veteran's Park for a silent vigil.

Habitat for Humanity meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the International Room of the Student Center.

Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship meets every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in North Hall Auditorium.

Campus Crusade for Christ meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the International Room. For more information contact cc4cuwrf@hotmail.com

Got an announcement?

If so, add a brief to the Student Voice. Drop off the written announcement at the Student Voice office at 304 North Hall or e-mail tsveditor@uwrf.edu

'Present' full of laughs, mature content

Tiffany Shelman
Staff Writer

It's out of the norm, but the UW-River Falls theatre department has put a rating on one of their plays. "The Birthday Present," a Masquers production, is rated for a mature audience due to content.

John Stevens, director of the play said the rating was established because the show involves sex.

"There's nothing real bad in it," Stevens said. "We just want people to be warned this play is probably not for little kids."

"The Birthday Present" begins during 10-year-old Wallace's birthday party. Stevens said Wallace doesn't have many friends and his father is the only one to give him a present.

Brad Jennings, who plays Henry Cooper, Wallace's father, said his character is a crazy scientist who has been trying to create a drug that will save the world.

"His operation is shut down as the play opens," Jennings said. "He is left with but one option; test the drugs on his son as a 'Birthday Present.'"

Twenty years pass and Wallace finds out the shot his father gave him made him the last fertile man on earth.

Jennings said he wanted to be a part of "The Birthday Present" because the characters are not only brilliantly unique and hilarious to watch but the show has a good feel to it.

"It's a story about a young man who has no friends and who is treated like dirt by everyone," Jennings said. "All the other characters are caught up with their own lives while he is left in the background."

Despite being left behind, Jennings said Wallace prevails in the end.

"I think everyone can relate to that feeling of wanting good things to happen to them as they struggle to just be good people in a world full of other people who are mean and selfish," Jennings said.

Casting for "The Birthday Present" was a long process but Stevens is happy with the results.

"They are very talented," Stevens said. "All of my cast is terrific at what they do; they blend well together and make for a wonderful team."

Jennings agreed the cast works well together.

"Everyone has a brilliant energy and does a great job of highlighting the eccentric nature of their characters," Jennings said. "We're all good friends and are very supportive of each other. It has been a real joy working with this cast."

Carrie Pommier who plays Mary, Wallace's mother, said she always looks forward to interacting with the rest of the cast.

"I have done several shows with a few of the cast members and it has been so rewarding to see their character development in addition to watching them grow as actors," Pommier said.

Renee Schott, the newscaster who



Jens Gunelson / Student Voice

"The Birthday Present," a Masquers production, starts its run May 1 in the Blanche Davis theatre. The play has a mature rating due to sexual content.

updates the world on the infertility, said everyone should come see the play.

"It's funny and will keep your attention," Schott said. "No one will be bored."

Other members of the cast and Stevens couldn't say enough about the humor within "The Birthday Present."

Peter Potyondy, Wallace's bodyguard, said the show is a hilarious comedy.

"It keeps you on the edge of your seat, to the point you almost fall out

with laughter," Potyondy said. "You will laugh so hard you will need a tissue to dry the tears of joy."

Prior to the main show, there is a 10-minute show. "The Secret of Our Sex Life" will be performed by Becky Trick and Kyle Gettelman.

"It's a funny 10-minute play about a couple's sex life," Stevens said. "The Birthday Present" runs May 1-3, and 8-10 at 8 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the KFA box office, \$7 for adults and \$3 for students.

Professors set their sights on Nicaragua

Grant gives professors opportunity for an agricultural university exchange

Anna Permann
Staff Writer

It is common to hear of students taking trips overseas and experiencing education abroad, but what about professors?

After three proposals and a lot of work on the part of two professors from the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES), a grant has been received for \$103,000.

The United States Agency for International Development sponsored the fund.

The grant will fund an agricultural exchange program between UW-RF faculty and faculty at Universidad Nacional Agraria (UNA) in Managua, Nicaragua.

Department chair and animal science professor Tony Jilek and agriculture economics professor emeritus Jerry Nolte will be in charge of a number of mentoring relationships with UNA faculty.

"I always keep my eye out for anything about collaborative arrangements with Central America and send them Jilek's way because of his history there," said Bill Campbell, director of UW-RF grants and research.

There were some difficulties the first few times they tried to write up the proposal for the grant.

"We wrote it out three times," Jilek said. "We had left out some minor fundamental things, but finally by the third time we got it right."

UW-RF faculty members and Nicaraguan professors from UNA will participate in the exchange. Campbell and a UNA administrator will exchange visits as well. However, nothing is set in stone.

For financial reasons teachers in Nicaragua seldom go to good schools, said Jilek. UW-RF faculty will work closely with them to help improve their knowledge and hone their teaching skills.

Over a span of 18 months in 2003 and 2004, the Nicaraguan teachers will come to River Falls and shadow their UW-RF faculty partners, observing teaching methods, doing research and getting to know the students.

"We will all be working together in both locations," Jilek said. "We hope that after the exchange is over we can even stay in touch and monitor any progress or success via e-mail."

Topics addressed will be agriculture related because it is a vital part of life in Central America. More and more students at UW-RF are going into International Agribusiness as well, said Jilek.

Topics include forage, agricultural marketing, professional selling, agricultural financial management, animal nutrition and soil and water conservation. Those from Nicaragua will also be taken to visit businesses, such as dairy farms and feed producers, to see firsthand how they are run.

They seemed like the most urgent areas of need for the faculty and students of UNA, said Jilek. The professors from UW-RF involved are Jilek, cattle management; Lou Greub (retired); Dennis Cosgrove and Larry Meyer, plant and earth science; Dennis Cooper, animal and food science; and Lewis May and Nolte, agricultural economics.

Two UNA faculty members will be at UW-RF for four weeks during the summer. The other four will visit in early January for about 10 weeks. UW-RF faculty will travel to Nicaragua during school breaks in summer and in January.

Jilek has an extensive past with Nicaragua. He

began working there in 1971, when he taught at Central American University. Since 1981 he has worked with Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners. More recently, he has worked with UCA through the Farmer-to-Farmer, a USDA funded program designed to promote agricultural development and allow agriculturists to share technology.

Nolte and Jilek were in Nicaragua in July 2001 working with UNA through the Farmer-to-Farmer program assisting faculty in becoming more proficient as teachers.

"Nicaragua is probably the second or third poorest country in this hemisphere," Jilek said. "And it's not because of a lack of work on the people's part. It has just been hit pretty hard."

The country has suffered a lot—from natural disasters, including hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, tidal waves and droughts, to a civil war.

"If this program is successful we hope to write another proposal for a grant for future years," said Jilek.

Through Partners of the Americas, a nonprofit organization that pairs a U.S. state with Latin American and Caribbean countries, Wisconsin and Nicaragua are partner states. Within the program, Hudson and River Falls are partner cities to Ocotol, a city of about 30,000 in Northern Nicaragua.

"What I hope for is UW-RF faculty and students to open their hearts to the people of Nicaragua," Jilek said. "I want people to become better informed of the situation in Central America."

Public Safety

Parking lot vandals strike; three cars damaged

Aaron Kenealy
Staff Writer

Several vandalisms occurred in E-lot sometime between April 21 and April 22.

Three vehicles were burglarized or damaged. From one vehicle \$1,200 in stereo and stereo related equipment was stolen. Another vehicle had \$636 worth of stereo equipment and CD's stolen.

One other vehicle had its rear window, valued at \$50, broken.

—April 22 a bike valued at \$80 was stolen from the KFA bike rack.

—Sometime between April 22 and April 24 a vehicle in L-lot had a tire punctured and the front lower cowl damaged. Damages were estimated at \$1,065.

—April 22 Public Safety received a report of stolen keys from 322 May Hall. The keys, valued at about \$40, were then used to enter a locked vehicle where about \$2 to \$5 in change was stolen.

—April 25 Public Safety was alerted to a possible underage drinking situation at 210 Prucha Hall by hall staff. Upon reaching the scene police found three males who later were found to be drinking. Out of the three subjects one, Brian A. Busby, 19, is a UW-River Falls student. He was cited \$349 for second offense underage drinking.

—April 28 River Falls Police were called to Shopko for an attempted shoplifting. According to police and witness reports both Joleen M. Homeier, 19, and Crystal L. Bonnett, 19, attempted to walk out of Shopko after concealing several ladies undergarments underneath their clothes and in a purse. Both were then cited \$162 for retail theft and ordered to pay a total of \$11.48 in restitution.

The Voice is hiring proofreaders, columnists and page editors for next semester. All positions are paid. Applications are available at 304 North Hall and are due May 2.

Student Senate

Student org money still available

Angie Schumacher
Staff Writer

Student Senate is seeking students to fill senator, director and chair positions for next year. Students should submit their cover letters, resumes and applications to the Student Senate office in the Leadership Center by Friday, May 2 at 3:00 p.m. For more information contact Matt Schuelke in the Senate office.

Senate news

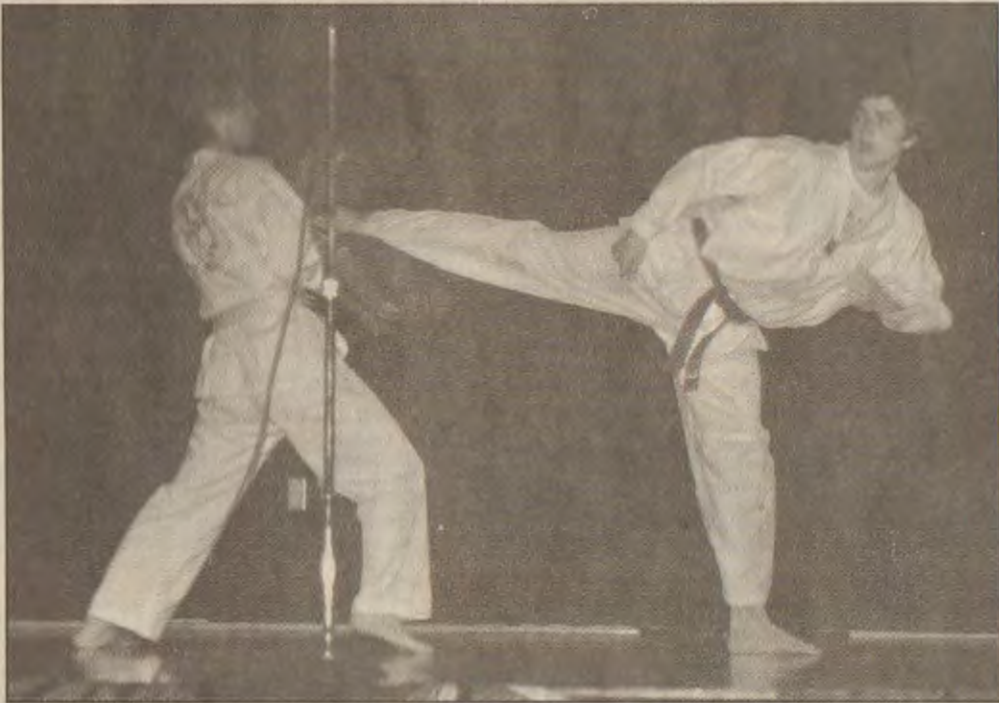
-Finance Director Emily Wenger said she will accept requests up through Monday, May 5 for student organizations wanting money before the end of the year. Requests can include additional money needed for projects or events, as well as start-up money for new orga-

nizations. Contact Emily Wenger in the Senate office for more information.

-Senator Nick Cluppert said that the Academic Programs and Policy (AP&P) committee is seeking student representatives for its Gen Ed Committee. Meeting times are Mondays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information contact Ruth Wood of the English department and chair of AP&P.

-Students interested in serving on any of the Leadership Development and Programming Board (LDPB) committees should apply online on the Student Senate website at www.uwrf.edu/student-senate. The LDPB is made up of a variety of student-driven committees and initiatives that plan student life programs and activities on campus. For more information contact LDPB Chair Jared Liston in the Leadership Center.

A 'bazaar' kick



Kyle Weaver / Student Voice

Students demonstrate tae-kwon-do techniques Wednesday at the International bazaar. A wide variety of International food was served for \$3. Dance techniques and tae-kwon-do were a few of the activities.

Farm broadcaster named distinguished agriculturist

Lindsay Starr
Guest Writer

Farm broadcaster Bob Bosold, of WAXX radio in Eau Claire, Wis., was named the UW-River Falls College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) Wisconsin Distinguished Agriculturist for 2003.

"I was overwhelmed and flattered to be recognized by a university that I respect so much," Bosold said. "I consider this to be an honor, especially because I didn't attend school here."

Bosold, a Wisconsin native, spent much of his childhood on an aunt and uncle's farm in western Iowa. Today he continues his agricultural involvement in numerous ways.

Bosold graduated from the UW-Madison with a degree in agricultural journalism. While in college, he gained radio experience working with Wisconsin Public Radio.

In 1977 he worked for WEAU-TV and WAXX Radio in Eau Claire; when the stations were sold in 1983, he became Farm Director for WAXX Radio. His responsibilities later included Farm Director of their AM station, WAPP 790.

Bosold has made many contributions to CAFES. He was a member of the CAFES' Advisory Council from 1988-1994, and served as committee chair for two years. He has created internship opportunities for the College's students at the Eau Claire radio station.

Bosold compliments the faculty and program at UW-RF.

"I have tremendous respect for what comes out of this university," Bosold said.

His contributions to UW-RF do not end there; two years ago he offered advice and encouragement to a group of CAFES' students who were starting an agricultural radio program, ACT on Ag Radio. With his help, WAXX Radio donated country music CDs for the group to



Submitted Photo

CAFES interim dean Stephen Ridley presents Bob Bosold of Eau Claire's WAXX radio with the College's Distinguished Agriculturist Award at the annual CAFES banquet this week.

use during their programming.

"Mr. Bosold's continuous support of the college, but more specifically the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT) organization, was the reason we nominated him for this award," said Joshua Krenz, ACT member. "He has gone out of his way to support the radio program."

His statewide agriculture contributions include serving, for three years, on the executive committee for Wisconsin Farm Progress Days. He also volunteers as a judge for many FFA and 4-H competitions and holds communication workshops.

In the fall of 2002, the National Association of Farm Broadcasters (NAFB) named him the Farm Broadcaster of the Year. Bosold has served as a Regional Director for NAFB, been on the nominating and awards committee and presently

serves as the Chair of the Ethics committee.

Currently, Bosold serves on the UW-Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) alumni board. He was honored last fall with a distinguished recognition award from CALS.

The Wisconsin Distinguished Agriculturist Award is an annual award sponsored by the CAFES, UW-RF and the College's agricultural student organizations. Selection is based on the candidate's success in agriculture and/or natural resources and the leadership, service and other contributions they provide to the agricultural community. The Wisconsin Distinguished Agriculturist Award was first awarded in 1970.

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WNA
Wisconsin Newspaper Association

Editorial

Removal of Voice qualifies as a crime

For the students who saw the ransom note left in place of the Student Voice last Thursday or Friday, it should have been apparent something was amiss. While the note claimed the Student Voice was "kidnapped," in all reality it was stolen.

The person who orchestrated the heist seemed to think that since the Voice is distributed free of charge, it was acceptable to take a couple thousand copies and hide them in a chemistry professor's office.

It is not acceptable. In fact, it is illegal.

The argument that a publication distributed at no cost is "free" does not hold up. The Voice costs money to bring to the newsstand every week. It costs about \$1,200 to print each issue. Out of the \$49.63 in student fees every student pays each year, \$6.50 goes to the Voice to pay printing costs. This amounts to about 25 cents a student per issue. Think of it as a subscription. It also costs about \$800 a week to pay for staff salaries. This is paid for with advertisements, which generates about \$800 a week for the Voice.

Our advertisers are paying to have their ad circulating in more than 3,000 copies of the Voice, but more than half of were effectively removed from circulation. Had those copies of the Voice not been recovered, we would have had to return the ad revenue to our advertisers. Had the missing papers not been recovered when they were, our printer would have had to print a new press run. In fact, the reprint order was on the printer's work board.

Considering the amount of money involved in producing the Voice, removing a majority of its copies amounts to theft.

Removing more than half of the Voice from circulation was an effective attempt of censorship. This too is a crime. Censorship of a student newspaper has the potential to result in a couple types of civil lawsuits.

When someone intentionally takes control of someone else's property, and the rightful owner can no longer use the property as intended, conversion is the result. According to a report published by the Student Press Law Center, "An act of conversion is not excused by good intentions or the thief's belief that his actions were permitted by law."

A person actively aiding or helping with the taking of newspapers is also guilty of conversion.

Censorship can also result in a violation of First Amendment rights. A publication at a public university has a wide range of First Amendment rights. Claiming a violation of First Amendment rights does require that the culprit act in an official capacity at the university. An employee qualifies. If a student was the culprit, a tie would have to be shown to a school official to have violated First Amendment rights.

Add in the potential for using school judicial proceedings, and it becomes apparent that the theft of the Voice was not just a little prank.

Bar scene opens columnist's eyes

Warning. This is not going to be a "happy" column. It's around 4 a.m. as I write this. I got home from work an hour ago. I've been bartending for about six weeks at a small town bar not far from here. Don't get me wrong, most of the time, I really do love my job. It's just sometimes, after a really long night, life really gets me down. I have seen the darker side of life tonight, and I can't seem to just go to sleep and forget about it. I came to an epiphany an hour ago: I have to quit drinking. Yep, after only 3 months of it, I am giving it up, because I can't risk becoming what I saw tonight.

I never want to be the parents I see each night, who bring their young children with them into bars. I never want to be the parent whose 8-year-old calls the bar looking for them. As I watched my flock tonight, I saw more evils of the world than I care to remember. I saw people I used to respect spend an hour and a half fighting with anyone else who will listen over a stupid little issue. I saw happy couples go through a dozen drinks apiece, and then walk home, arm in arm. The only problem was, each half of those couples was married—to someone else. I get to see half of that same couple come in next week with their real spouse, and I have to keep quiet.

I have to own up to my own mistakes, as I deal with the consequences of breaking my own rule:

never date a customer. I get to watch as he drinks a dozen beers, and then takes home a beautiful new co-worker of mine—who is also married to someone else. I get to deal with the really nice guy who was all set to go home with her, as we both watch helplessly as our (former) love interests walk out the door together.

tries to buy me a drink. I get to enjoy sexually explicit comments, jokes and suggestions at least every 15 minutes. I have been sexually assaulted and my life has been threatened by people who are really rather nice human beings when they are sober.

And the one factor that ties all of what I see together is alcohol.

Thursday night? Great, good for you. I have nothing against that. After all, you are young, in college, and chances are you don't have a family to support. It's the middle-aged, blue-collar parents that I hate seeing. Night after night, these people come in and spend at least \$30 on booze alone, and much more if they buy cigarettes or pull-tabs. These people can't afford that much money five or six times a week, yet they continue to waste it, and their kids are the ones who suffer from it.

I already know that I come from long family lines of drug and alcohol abuse, so I'm pre-disposed to become a future alcoholic. While I don't seem to have a problem right now, I'm scared of what could happen in the future. What if, 10 or 15 years down the road, I turn into what I see at my bar each night? The drunks I serve, at one time in their lives, must have been good people. I consider myself a good person, but what if I go wrong? I've decided I can't risk it.

Therefore, at the risk of "missing out" on the whole college experience, I'm giving up drinking for the sake of getting wasted. Sure, I may still have the occasional beer or something if I'm out with friends, but that's it. I like myself, and respect myself too much to risk becoming a monster.



BLYTHE CRISWELL

"As I watched my flock tonight, I saw more of the evil of the world than I care to remember."

I get to see spousal abuse happen on a nightly basis. I see people do and say things they could never live down—if they were to ever remember. I get to hear all about everyone's personal life. I am forced to defend my policy of not drinking on the job each and every night, as customer after customer

Don't get me wrong; I'm not going to sit here preaching about the evils of drinking. I have no problem with people who are able to drink and enjoy it, and part of me wishes that I could join them. I just have a problem with people who turn into monsters night after night because of it. So you get trashed each

Professors, custodians make RF what it is

As this semester comes to an end, I find myself reflecting on the many qualities that make UW-River Falls and our community unique. It also occurs to me that I have taken many of these things for granted, as many of you have, I suspect.

The first of these things came to my attention a week or two ago. I was waiting for class to begin in Centennial Science Hall, and Dr. Magdalena Pala walked past. I had her four years ago for General Chemistry and have fond memories of that experience, so I said hello. She looked at me and said, "You're Brad, but you like to be called Chuck." I was flabbergasted. Not only did she remember who I was, but she remembered I was binomial. At a large institution, I would have been no more than a student ID number to some graduate student teacher's assistant. The professor/student relationships available in River Falls are a fantastic aspect of our school that too many of us don't appreciate. As a senior, I've had the opportunity to forge relationships with many of my professors. They know me by name, greet me in hallways and some

have even prepared meals for me in their homes.

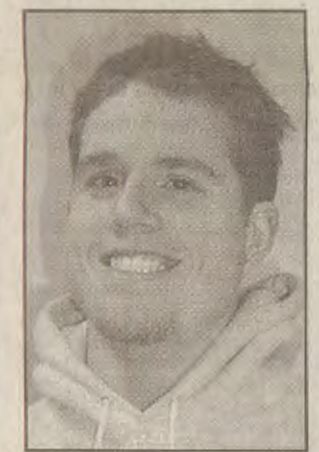
I also don't think I have appreciated River Falls as a community. No doubt, many of you feel that River Falls is too small or not exciting enough, and, depending on

town to be something it isn't. Walk down Main Street and look in shop windows. Go to a movie for two bucks. Play Ultimate Frisbee at one of the parks. Go fishing in the Kinni. These are things that River Falls does well. If your heart

tan accessibility is a great thing. Appreciate it.

Finally, I go to the bathroom a lot. Considering our campus is a public place utilized by people who routinely use the "smell test" to decide if their clothing is clean enough for use, our facilities are kept remarkably clean. Also considering the total number of bathrooms on campus, one quickly gains an appreciation for the amount of work the custodial staff devotes to making sure we can take our place on the porcelain throne and not feel the need to take a shower afterward. Custodian is probably one of the least romantic jobs on earth, and despite the tremendous need for their services, custodians are also sorely underappreciated.

So, thank you Dr. Pala and Dr. Garry for remembering who I am. Thank you River Falls for still having a Main Street that you can walk down. Thank you UW-RF custodians for making all of my lavatorial experiences more enjoyable. Our institution would not be what it is without you.



CHUCK SWEEN

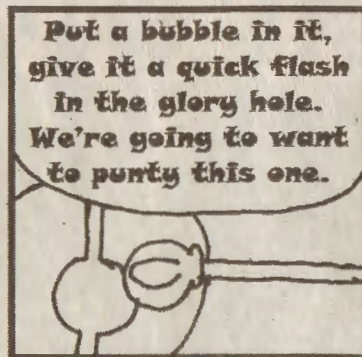
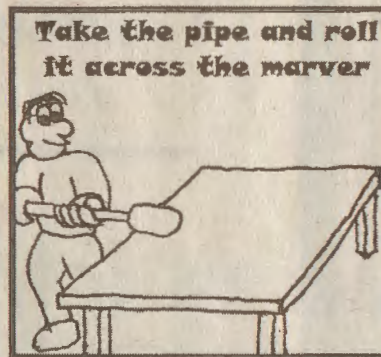
"River Falls is a small, fairly quiet community, but that is a great thing if you can accept it."

your mindset, you would be right. River Falls is a small, fairly quiet community, but that is a great thing if you can accept it. Don't ask our

desires more, we are also fortunate to have the Twin Cities less than an hour away. That combination of small town charm with metropoli-



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The Student Voice is a student written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls and is published weekly on Thursdays during the regular school year, with the exceptions of finals/holiday breaks and the weeks of semesters.

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Letters directed to coverage or content should be directed to: Editorial Board, 304 North Hall, UW-River Falls, 54022.

The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper's advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.

All letters to the editor must be legible and contain a handwritten signature and telephone number.

The Student Voice reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or

space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters.

Unsigned letters will not be published and must include first and last name. Letters to the editor become the property of the Student Voice and cannot be returned. Only one letter per person per week will be accepted. The student retains reprint rights to all published material.

All letters to the editor must be submitted by **Monday at noon** for inclusion in Thursday's edition.

News releases and briefs, display ads, and classified ads must also be submitted no later than **Monday at noon** for inclusion in Thursday's edition.

Single copies of the Student Voice are free. If you wish to purchase additional copies, contact the editor-in-chief. Printing costs are paid for through student fees.

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The Student Voice is a non-profit publication and can be found on the Web at: www.uwrf.edu/student-voice/

Editorial

Teacher evaluations should contain open-ended questions

The topic of teacher evaluation and open-ended questions has been hotly debated in the past few weeks; and for good reason.

Opponents of open-ended questions, mainly faculty members, have made several solid arguments for the questions to not be part of the evaluations. They argue that the only people who will answer such questions are the ones with the strongest opinions; either very much in favor or very much against. Such responses, they contend, do not represent a fair middle ground and do not provide constructive criticism.

Faculty members also have argued against open-ended questions because the information provided must be made public. In the private sector, they argue, employee reviews are not public knowledge so why should they for instructors at a public university?

But what the faculty members who oppose open-ended questions aren't considering very closely is the fact that education is a service paid for in part by student tuition dollars. Why shouldn't we be allowed to assess the system how we choose?

We agree that responses at the extreme positive or negative ends of the spectrum do occur and should not be considered in the evaluation process. But for professors to think that students will only provide feedback if they have extreme

opinions is, quite frankly, insulting. Most college students are smart enough to tell the difference between www.myprofessorsucks.com and a meaningful teacher evaluation. We recognize the first is a form of entertainment.

Some faculty members have stated that having open-ended evaluations be made public would be the same as faculty being able to place such assessments on student records. It's not the same, however.

Teachers are employees of the state in the same way that government officials are. Therefore they should be in the same public eye as government officials. Open-ended questions not only serve students, they also serve the taxpayer.

The bottom line is students have a right to know how well faculty members are doing their jobs and we want the opportunity to provide the constructive criticisms necessary for them to do their jobs well.

“Education is a service paid for in part by student tuition dollars. Why shouldn't we be allowed to assess the system how we choose?”

Letters to the Editor

Columnist needs lesson in liberalism

To the editor:

I am writing in response to Dave Misselt's article entitled "Liberal opinions oppose diversity's goals" in the April 24 issue of the Student Voice. It seems that after Dave's many years in college, he is still uninformed, so allow me to enlighten him by giving him a lesson in liberalism.

The main thing that most liberals, like myself, believe is that you should care about the well-being of all people, not just the rich, white corporate execs who run this country. This contradicts the main thrust of Dave's article claiming that [liberalism]... "emphasizes differences and separation of groups rather than bringing people together."

Anybody who understands the least bit about liberalism would know that Dave's statement was completely false. We can't all live in Dave's utopian society where all the tension and discrimination in the world is swept underneath the carpet and ignored.

Instead of ignoring racism, sexism, ageism, etc., liberals understand that discrimination does still exist in the world, in our country and on our campus. By ignoring the fact that discrimination exists, and naively think that the world exists as "one," we will never be able to conquer discrimination and prejudice.

Most of us liberals recognize that every person is

unique and different and that some people are treated unfairly because of their differences. Only when recognizing these differences and accepting them can discrimination truly be stopped.

Maybe an extreme example will help illustrate my point. Suppose everybody ignored the problem of slavery in the early years of U.S. history. Suppose the Union swept this problem under the carpet and did nothing to stop it. Who knows, maybe we would still have slavery in our country today. The same goes for discrimination and prejudice. If we ignore the fact that African-Americans, Hispanics, Middle Easterners, homosexuals, women, etc. are still being discriminated against in the world and on our campus, how can we ever expect the problem to go away? So, I encourage Dave to do adequate research on viewpoints other than his and to know what he is talking about before he spouts off about things he doesn't understand (liberalism, among other things). I am more than willing to further enlighten Mr. Misselt on liberal viewpoints but I only have one more semester left on campus and I fear that my work would be left undone. But I am willing to give it a shot. So remember, Dave, that there is even something about you that could be discriminated for. Oh, wait. Discrimination doesn't exist, does it?

Melanie Walters, student

On-street parking restrictions clarified

To the editor:

We wish to clarify points made in an article in last week's Voice about on-street neighborhood parking north of the campus. The city parking committee has spent the last two months gathering information and discussing options, which would allow neighborhood residents to have some on-street parking during the daytime hours.

After consulting with city staff, it was agreed by the parking committee members to recommend that some parking restrictions in the Winchester Neighborhood be imposed. The recommendation presently does not require fees to be paid by residents nor any one else.

The recommendation would allow parking by resident permit only on one side of the street, and the

other side of the street would be open parking. The parking committee is hopeful that this recommended compromise solution will be best for all who wish to park in the Winchester Neighborhood. Please feel free to contact members of the committee for further discussion about this issue.

Ed O'Keefe, Student Representative
Emily Ronning, City Council Representative (425-4293)
Ila June Brown-Pratt, Community Representative (425-9411)

Sexual assault serious, needs to be reported to authorities



TIFFANY SHELMAN

This week I was assigned to cover Take Back the Night (TBTN). As you may have read in my article, TBTN is designed for people to speak out against violence and sexual assault.

As I sat on the lawn of the Student Center Mall, I wasn't prepared for the following events.

I was intrigued by the musical sounds of Thea Ennen and my night was suddenly overcome with many confusing thoughts and feelings.

How am I going to get students to talk about why they came to TBTN tonight?

How am I going to report about this without embarrassing or singling out students who speak out

during open mike?

Well it turns out I needed to have my personal thoughts heard, something that a reporter tries not to have when writing for a newspaper.

It was jaw-dropping the number of students who got on stage during open mike time and pronounced they had been raped, beaten and sexually assaulted. Some students told stories from childhood or high school experiences but numerous women spoke of their experiences of being raped at UW-River Falls.

That's right, I said the small-town campus of UW-RF has had more than one rape and rapist. These were not stories from 20 years ago either, they were from as little as just one year ago and the rapists were not always strangers. Many of the women spoke of people they thought were "friends."

One of the most common themes I heard from the victims who spoke was the failure to tell authorities. One of the women mentioned she didn't tell anyone except for two close friends and she continues to see her attacker on a fairly regular basis, free from consequence and walking around campus.

As I sat there, tears fell from speakers, onlookers and myself.

How could someone who had been raped live with something like this, as a victim, for the rest of their life and not tell anyone, especially authorities?

Two words: fear and embarrassment.

I cringe at this thought and would like to urge people to remember

that rapists don't discriminate.

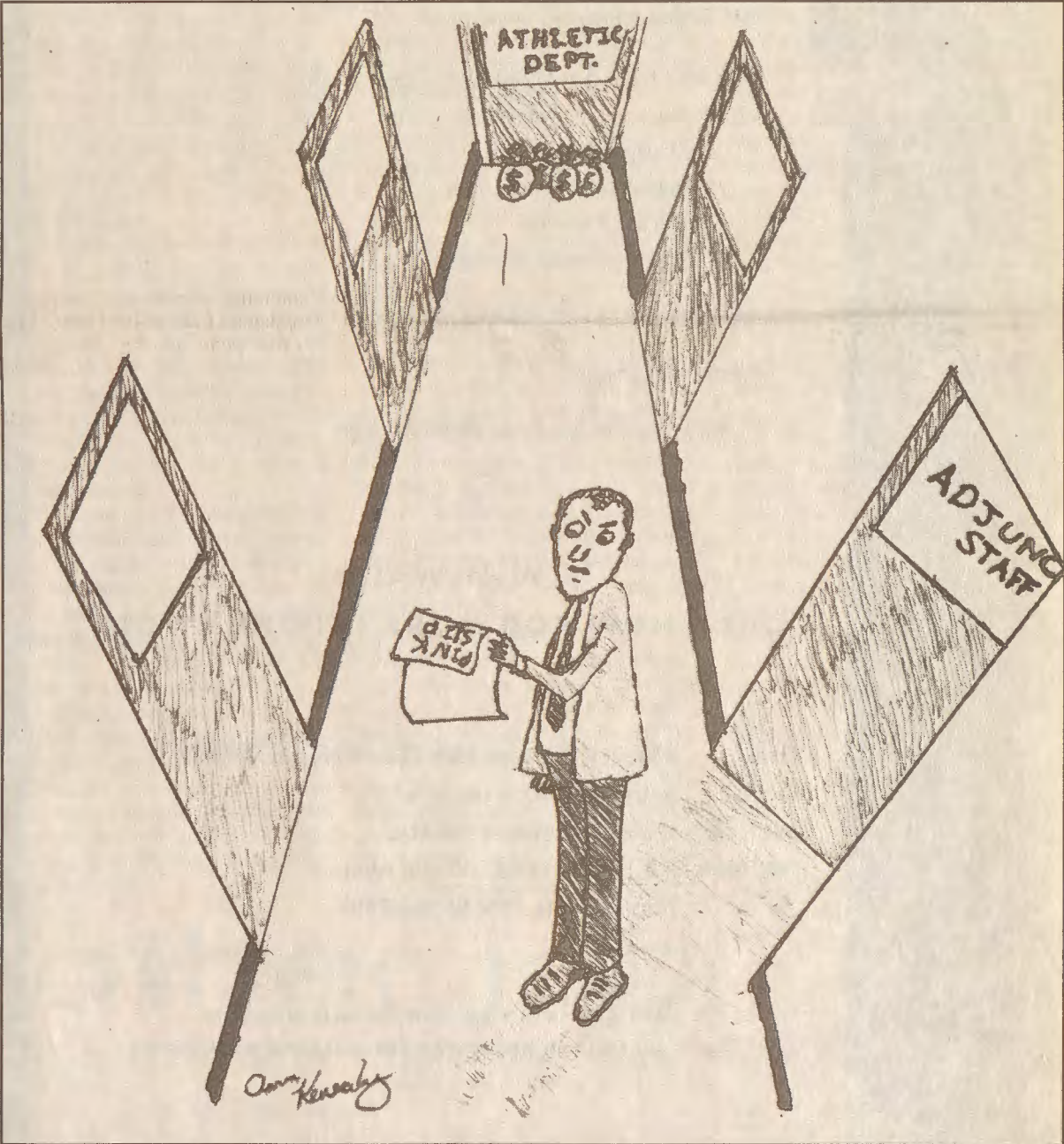
It doesn't matter whether you live in a big urban city where crime is splashed across the television news each day or in the smallest, seemingly safest town like River Falls—rape still happens and can happen to anyone.

I plead for people to make it clear to family and friends that this needs to stop. People shouldn't have to live in fear and embarrassment as victims any longer.

If someone you know is raped and confides in you, please urge them to first and foremost remember that this horrendous act was not their fault. No one asks to be raped. Clothes, attitudes, time of day and unlocked doors, do not give people permission to take advantage of someone and brutally attack them and/or rape them.

The second thing I urge you to do is convince them to contact authorities immediately following the attack. If it has been a few days, still contact the police. The person that hurt you deserves to have consequences for their wrongdoings—they deserve to be embarrassed and live in fear behind bars.

Although I have never walked around campus thinking that nothing bad ever happens here or will ever happen here, attending TBTN really opened my eyes. I walked away from that with the feeling that I too need remind myself daily that River Falls and UW-RF aren't pristine wonderlands—I like anyone else, God forbid, can be a victim.



Do you think teacher evaluations should contain open-ended questions?

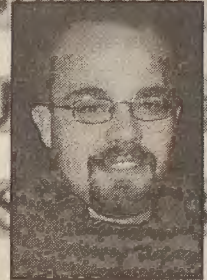
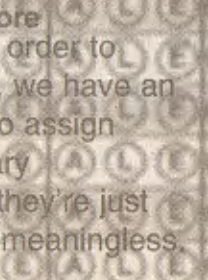
 Glover, Mike	 Johnson, John	 Brittany Schrock, freshman	 Jim King, sophomore
Adam Westrich, senior “The system we have in place now doesn't really evaluate professors well. They're too vague to provide effective evaluation.”	Sara Sanfilippo, sophomore “Yes. If I was a teacher I'd want feedback on my teaching.”	Giacomo Baglio, sophomore “No. It will give the students the feeling that they're making a difference when they're probably not. Checking no is just as effective as writing a long term answer that says no.”	Alaina Zack, freshman “I think so. It gives students a better opportunity to express their opinions about professors.”

PHOTO POLL

By Kyle Weaver

Theft

Continued from A1

Rosenthal said it didn't occur to him the latest incident could be more than a prank, partly because Flinders has been such a good student.

While the department hasn't discussed any consequences for the students, Rosenthal said he took the incident seriously, as did other people in the department.

"Maybe the initial intention [of the prank] seemed right, but it just got out of hand," he said.

Although some of those involved view the incident as a prank, administrators are still concerned.

Chancellor Ann Lydecker said the incident was "something that on the surface appeared as one thing but was actually another." Lydecker said she hopes all involved, as well as the campus community, will learn a lesson from the incident.

One lesson already learned by many involved is the issue of a "free" newspaper.

The Voice is free to students at the time the paper comes out. But Vicki Hajewski, co-director of the Leadership Center, said through student fees each student pays approximately \$6.50 per year for their subscription the Voice.

This is something Mark Goodman, executive

director of the Student Press Law Center(SPLC) in Virginia, said most people don't understand. Goodman said not only do students pay for the paper through student fees but advertisers have money invested in the paper because they count on having their ad distributed to a certain number of people.

"People get caught up in the fact that there isn't a stated value," he said.

The number of newspaper theft cases varies from year to year. Goodman said there is usually anywhere from 20 to 40 around the country each year.

"This was a theft, a theft of information for which our students paid for. This is unfair and unacceptable."

—Roger Ballou, dean of students

Goodman said punishment is the bottom line. "Thefts continue to happen because school officials or others don't respond to them as anything more than a prank," he said.

In cases like this, Goodman said it is the administration's "obligation to condemn these actions" and to hold the students accountable.

Dean of Students Roger Ballou said a viable option is to press charges against the students

under UWS 17, a statute that works as an operating document for the UW System. The statute states that the university is an "environment that is safe from violence and free of harassment, fraud, theft, disruption and intimidation."

And Ballou does see the incident as a theft.

"This was a theft, a theft of information for which our students paid," Ballou said. "This is unfair and unacceptable."

If charges are pressed the students will be referred to the University Hearing Committee for a formal disciplinary hearing.

"This is a very meritorious case," Ballou said. "It will be a good case to deal with."

Ballou agreed that discipline is a key factor in this incident.

"If this goes unnoticed, the Voice will be a victim again," he said. "You want to do something so this will be stopped."

In addition to the students potentially being faced with disciplinary action, SPLC Attorney Mike Hiestand said it is possible McLaughlin and Rosenthal may face charges, depending on their level of involvement.

"To the extent that the professor was working with the 'squirrels', he may even be held liable for having conspired with them," he said. "As a public school official, his actions would be a First Amendment violation and there would be ample legal precedent to take action against him in such a case."

Evaluations

Continued from A1

support them being used at the university level.

Werner compared the evaluations to Web-sites like www.myprofessorsucks.com.

"They're either As or Fs," Werner said.

But Student Senator Nick Cluppert, who served on the task force, said that students feel differently.

At the last Faculty Senate meeting Cluppert presented petitions signed by more than 400 people in favor of open-ended questions. The petitions were part of a Student Senate initiative about the teacher evaluations.

Cluppert said he doesn't believe that open-ended questions will yield only two-sided results.

"With more directed questions we think we're going to get constructive comments back," Cluppert said.

Nevertheless, Cluppert said members of Faculty Senate told him the questions "had no chance" of passing a Faculty Senate vote. Cluppert said he is in the process of finding faculty members who support the open-ended questions.

Kristine Butler, assistant professor of French, may be the faculty member Cluppert is seeking. Butler, a member of the Faculty Senate, spoke out in support of open-ended questions at the April 23 Faculty Senate meeting.

Butler said she understands the concern that faculty members have about the evaluations becoming public information, but feels that student feedback is a more important concern.

"Every classroom situation is different," Butler said. "A ranking

from one to six just doesn't give a lot of information on how to improve a class."

Butler said that she believes concerns that open-ended questions have no more validity than Web-sites like myprofessorsucks.com are not fair to students.

"I'd like to give students more credit than that," Butler said. "Students can tell the difference between a myprofessorsucks.com and an end of term evaluation where they're being asked to sit down and give honest evaluations."

But Wes Chapin, political science professor, said extreme positives and negatives are a reality of open-ended questions and are what will drive public discussion.

"The reality is that if it's exciting, it makes talk," Chapin said.

Chapin, who has used open-ended self-evaluations for years, said that though he hasn't decided yet, he is inclined to vote against the questions being on teacher evaluations.

Jim Mulvey, professor of English, shares the concerns of other faculty members.

But Mulvey said he is also concerned with what he calls "student shoppers" who will use the evaluations to choose classes and professors based on preconceived notions of how difficult they are.

"Education shouldn't be about what you expect and what you shouldn't expect," Mulvey said. "If you expect it to be one thing then you sort of make it that thing and therefore you don't have to adjust yourself."

Though Mulvey has his concerns he said he isn't certain how he will vote on the issue.

"I would like to hear both sides of the argument," Mulvey said.

Other professors wishing to hear more debate on the topic will get the chance at the Faculty Senate meeting next week, Trechter said.

"It will be debated," Trechter said. "There's no question."

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UNIVERSITY of St. THOMAS MINNESOTA

LEARNING FOR A LIFETIME

Night

Continued from A1

ful to herself and to others.

"It often takes just one person joining with one other person to make things happen," Loyd said. "There is so much power in telling someone your story."

The last issue of the Student Voice will be May 15.

Testa

Continued from A1

Roberts Chief of Police Ricci D. Prein said the blood work was "sealed as evidence" and sent to the Wisconsin Department of Hygiene. The blood work was sent back to



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OPINION

Park should be for all

Jen Cullen
Editor-in-Chief



My friends and I joked last week that I should start a column called "Let's get serious." I'll admit that, in a world full of ignorance, I manage to toss this trademark (my own, of course) saying into almost every conversation I have.

This week, the "Let's get serious" award goes to the 20 or so people who showed up at Veterans Park last Thursday.

It appears that a few of these "America-loving" citizens, were upset the park, a public place, was being used for silent protest by members anti-war activists who felt it was no longer appropriate to march.

After all, the park is dedicated to war veterans. Silently protesting for peace is wrong. Silently protesting in Veterans Park is disrespectful.

It's sad this actually has to be pointed out, but don't you think there are veterans who the park was dedicated to who silently protested for peace? Don't you think there were those who hoped every day for an end to the war while they were in the battlefields?

The fact that there were Vietnam vets among the silent protestors should answer the question.

And did this group miss the fact that the park public? They can't deny anyone the right to enter the park as long as they aren't committing any illegal activities. The silent protestors have done nothing of the sort.

It's time for this group, and others who have used insults and force, to stop acting like meatheads, for lack

of a better term.

Flexing big boy muscles doesn't always equal victory.

If I were an anti-war protestor or if I chose to attend the silent protest, I wouldn't even take this group seriously with the antics they are using. Let's get serious. I would laugh in your face.

However, I would take you seriously, and maybe gain a morsel of respect for you, if I knew you didn't agree with what I was doing, yet I had to sit there in silence staring at you while you stood at the park, acting mature and taking a stand for what you believed in.

I do understand, or should I say try to understand or I am aware of, the concern of those who call themselves pro-American. They feel that because a person is anti-war they do not support the troops. They don't want what happened in Vietnam to happen to our troops today.

Here's the thing that many people don't realize; what kind of person doesn't have some kind of sympathy or support for someone else putting their life on the line for an entire country? It is an anti-war group not an anti-American troops group.

There's a big difference.

The group of people upset with what Veterans park is being used for are obviously very emotional about the issue, but so is the other side. Preventing others from using the park as they chose is the wrong reason to protest.

"Don't you think there are veterans who the park was dedicated to who silently protested for peace as well?"

MOVIE CRITIC

'Identity's' immense talent wasted on implausable plot holes, twists



Photo Courtesy of Columbia Pictures
John Cusack and Amanda Peet are just two of the many stars in the ensemble cast of the murder thriller, 'Identity.' The movie is based on the Stephen King novel of the same name.

Chris Anderson
Movie Critic

"Identity" is something like a cross between Agatha Christie and Stephen King.

The plot itself is lifted, or ripped off depending on how you look at it, from the constant Christie-to-film work "Ten Little Indians" (there are about two versions made every decade, none of which are really destined to be on "all-time greatest films" lists) which, like most Christie-on-film movies, have usually relied on celebrity drawing power (except in made-for-TV versions.)

This time around most of the cast is mostly composed of character actors or actors who are currently stalled in their careers: John Cusack as a failed cop turned limo driver for



currently struggling prima donna movie star Rebecca De Mornay (I mean that's the character she plays in the movie); Ray Liotta as the guard of transported prisoner Jake Busey (the son of actor Gary Busey who is also currently getting stuck playing homicidal maniacs); Amanda Peet as one of those angelic prostitutes whom I'm sure exist everywhere; Clea DuVall and William Lee Scott as a very recently married couple (the film takes place in Nevada somewhat near Las Vegas); John C. McGinley as the recent husband of Leila Kenze and stepfather of child actor Bret Loeher; and John Hawkes as a sleazy motel owner.

But, typical Christie, none of these 30-ish-looking people (at least there were no teens being played by twentysomethings in sight) are who they seem.

Stephen King is one of the best writers today, particularly in the niche of "horror of the mundane." However, once his works go to the

screen reinterpretation and, more importantly, marketing take over and he becomes one of the most butchered writers as Hollywood only sees his work as a way to show off their lame computerized special effects or to add to the "mundane" antithesis it can't currently get enough of, "splatterpunk."

The plot of "Identity" goes like this: on a thunderstorm filled night in the remote Nevada desert weather conditions create a bizarre series of events that strand a total group of strangers at one of those shoddy motels prevalent in horror movies that health and public safety inspectors should have closed down years ago.

And thanks to the storm and the motel's shoestring budget, communication with the outside world is impossible.

After some character introduction, a sequence of murders by some unknown person or entity starts to take place. Just like any slasher flick, if we are present with the vic-

tim seconds before he or she gets murdered there is eardrum-rupturing music played (maybe it was the film's orchestra killing everybody by deafening them to death.)

Once the victim's body (or in some cases severed head) is found there is plenty of blood to be seen and the same goes for murders or suspicious-looking "accidents" happening off the camera.

No problem, we just need to see who the last person or persons left living are and they will be the murderer(s) and everything will be explained for us, most people who intend to go to this movie will probably think.

Then things start really getting bizarre as the bodies and all the blood they left behind start disappearing.

No problem, the movie will explain that, though probably rather implausibly, too.

Well it does, but unfortunately the people making "Identity" thought it would be really neat to abandon literary style and put the denouncement before the climax.

So rather than baffle us some more with "what is going on?" and "who's going to be next?" we already now what's going to happen and why the next people are going to be terminated.

And then we have (surprise, surprise) the ending thought that maybe the real murderer didn't die.

"Identity" did have a little more effort, though not maturity, put into it than the usual why-are-those-people-looking-nothing-like-teenagers-acting-so-abysmally-stupid horror fare that comes out of Hollywood today.

Unfortunately, it is also happens to be a Hollywood production and nothing director James Mangold did (or was allowed to do, as the case often is with films) could make it stand apart.

The Student Voice is accepting applications for next semester for columnists, proofreaders and page editors. Stop by 304 North Hall for an application.

'Identity'

Starring: Jon Cusack, Ray Liotta, Amanda Peet

Rated: "R"

Rating: ☆☆

-Zodiac graphics by Katey Hoyt.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

Since you are an aquarius you should buy an aquarium. Little do most Americans know that since the 9/11 attacks there has been a noted decline in aquarium sales. Do your part to prevent the lay-offs of aquariumists everywhere!

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Listen to more Paul Simon. It's all part of a grass-roots movement to make the world a better place.

ARIES (March 21-April 20)

So this horse walks into a bar and the bartender says "Why the long face?" I'm so damn funny.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

The Ford Taurus is being discontinued. This does not mean your horoscopes will cease being written. Although writing one less horoscope would be a huge weight off my shoulders.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

I've been so busy writing horoscopes for you that I've forgotten all about orange juice, country style. You feel guilty about this. Buy a friend a beer to make it all better.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

So this polar bear walks into a bar and the bartender says, "What'll ya have?" and the polar bear says, "..... I'll have a beer." Then the bartender says, "Why the big pause?" I'm still so damn funny.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

"And he shall be Leò, And he shall be a good man."
Elton John wrote a song all about Leo's. You should feel privileged.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept 23)

Write a book about the time you made your professor look like an idiot in front of all your classmates. That way your friends can stop listening to you tell that story over and over again.

LIBRARY (Sep. 23-Oct. 23)

Libra is two letters away from being the word "library." You should petition psychics everywhere to change the word "libra" to "library." You saw it here first.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

So this termite walks into a bar and says, "Is the bartender here?"
If you got this joke, you are a true Scorpio and you will have a prosperous week, if you didn't get it, look out for german shepards and cottage cheese.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

A public service announcement:
The public service announcements on *Late Nite With Conan O'Brien* are not real. The more you know....

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

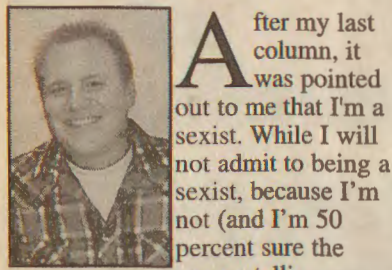
The picture you keep above your bed of the vietnamese officer shooting the vietcong in the head should be replaced with a picture of a fuzzy bunny. You'll have less nightmares this way.

www.uwrf.edu/student-voice

OPINION

More reasons country is cool

Craig Corsten
Offbeat Editor



After my last column, it was pointed out to me that I'm a sexist. While I will not admit to being a sexist, because I'm not (and I'm 50 percent sure the person telling me that was saying it tongue-in-cheek), I will admit that I was wrong to exclude any women country singers from my list of greats. The omissions of Patsy Cline and Emmylou Harris were glaring, to say the least. Both women are/were extremely talented and also decidedly cool. It was Patsy Cline who turned Willie Nelson's own "Crazy" into one of the all time great mega-hits.

With that in mind, my second part of the list will include a woman. Maybe even two, because I fully admit to making this up as I go along.

Live at Robert's BR5-49

You might have to do some digging to find this whole CD but I know one can find the majority of it on certain internet file-sharing servers. This is cool. BR5-49 were supposed to be the next big thing in country music. Never happened, but it should have. Anyway, long story short, BR5-49 was the house band at Robert's Western World, a honky-tonk on Broadway in Nashville. They played blazing four hour sets several nights a week and packed the crowds into this bar with their

neo-hillbilly, punk-country sound. This album captures the essence of what was one of their Robert's Shows from the mid 90's. "Me 'N' Opie (Down by the Duck Pond)" is a strange take on what happens when you mix the wholesome "Andy Griffith Show," with sex, drugs and alcohol. The outcome is hilarious. "Ole Slewfoot," is a great old fashioned and fun bluegrass romp.

Live
Alison Krauss + Union Station

I could say Alison Krauss + Union Station is the finest acoustic combo in America and I would be 100 percent correct. I think this album is a testament to the absolute greatness of this band. Krauss has the voice of an angel. You may think otherwise, but you would be wrong. While I would call their music, "newgrass," not "bluegrass" that doesn't take away from their musicianship. This band is as tight as any you will ever hear. Jerry Douglass is said by many to be the greatest dobro player of all-time. I think those people are right. All of the bands' hits are here as well as some other super-stupendous stuff.

Carry On Pat Green

This guy right here, let me tell you. He's huge in Texas. When he plays anywhere in Texas you ask people, "Were you at the Pat Green show last night?" and they say "Duh!" Everyone goes to see Pat, because he kicks ass. They call him the Dave Matthews of country music, which is not fair, because Pat Green is actually talented. I guess they call him that because he puts on a show that all the college kids flock to and they party and they get drunk and

dance and have a great time. This album is his major label debut and it should've made him a household name. He's a disciple of Willie Nelson and Jerry Jeff Walker. He's alternately quiet and introspective and then loud and fun. His music makes you want to drink beer and dance. The album opening title track "Carry On," is just a good time recorded and put down on record. This is good stuff.

Bruce Robison Country Sunshine

You're probably familiar with one of Bruce Robison's songs. It's called "Travellin' Soldier" and the Dixie Chicks had a number one hit with it until it was almost totally yanked from radio. This guy is one hell of a songwriter. This album is more so a singer-songwriter album than a country album, but so was most of Willie Nelson's work. Robison has a knack for writing laid-back songs that are great for relaxing and having a beer. This album has the words "cool" and "laid-back" all over it. It's got the great and hilarious tribute to Willie Nelson entitled "What Would Willie Do," as well as a duet with his wife, country singer Kelly Willis entitled "Friendless Marriage." If Kelly Willis doesn't have the sexiest voice ever, then I know nothing about music.

Country music has been labeled as a music for hicks and inbreeds, which is just too bad. There is a whole world out there of music waiting for you to just give it a good home. Saying you don't like country music is like saying you don't like beer. Impossible, you just haven't found the kind you like best.

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*Identity (R)
Sat/Sun Matinees (1:00, 3:00)
Weekdays 5:00, 6:00, 7:20, 9:30

*The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG)
Sat/Sun Matinees (12:30, 2:30)
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*INDICATES STADIUM SEATING

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Weekdays 4:45, 6:00, 7:15, 9:45

What A Girl Wants (PG)
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