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Two new columnists speak their mind for first time

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Academic Success Center bids farewell to its director

Wheeler's dedication, connectivity to students valued by colleagues

Matthew Perenchio
News Editor

Over the years, UW-River Falls has said good-bye to a great number of dedicated staff and faculty whose teaching techniques and contributions have left a long-lasting impression on many students. Early this month, the University will again wish the best of luck as another member moves on.

Dr. Lisa Wheeler, who has been the Director of the Academic Success Center (ASC) for the last four years, will become the new Vice President of Learner Services at Capella University, an internet-based academia in Minneapolis.

"This is something that I'm really looking forward to," Wheeler said. "This should be a lot of fun."

Originally the Assistant Dean of Students at the Franklin Pierce College in New Hampshire, Wheeler came to UW-RF in July of 1989, to be closer to family.

Wheeler said the relocation was the right move as there was a big difference between the colleges.

"I've really enjoyed every one of the students here," Wheeler said. "At a private college, everyone kind of has a chip on their shoulder. But the general character here (at UW-RF) is that everyone is really nice, and that makes it pleasurable."

Wheeler's goal when she helped the ASC get underway four years ago was to set up one nucleus that held an array of valuable student services, such as tutoring, counseling, and advising. Her objective "was to have services faster and easier for students."

Needless to say, she accomplished just that and more. "She had a vision of creating a location where students could get one-stop services," said Dr. Phil George, Associate Director of the ASC, who has known Wheeler for the last 12 years. "Dr. Wheeler has brought...tremendous skills to the Academic Success Center; she has a unique ability to reach across and connect the university."

Today, the ASC not only offers traditional student services, but also multicultural services and the McNair

Scholars Program. With these programs, the center provides students with ample help through their college careers.

"It's been a great satisfaction that I've had the opportunity to create benefits for students here," Wheeler said.

At Capella University, Wheeler will have many of the same duties as she did at UW-RF; however, the difference between the universities is all the classes at Capella are offered over the Internet.

Founded in 1992, the Graduate School of America changed its name to Capella University after it was accredited in 1997. With a worldwide reach appealing to adults who have full-time jobs, the average age of students is 40, according to Wheeler.

Despite the major differences, Wheeler said she looks forward to the career move.

"I know I will miss UW-River Falls, but what attracts me is the challenge," she said. "Nothing is predefined."

And, as Wheeler will miss UW-RF, she too will be missed.

"As busy as she is, her door is always open; she's always there," said Desiray Hinds, who has worked with Wheeler for the last two years. "People come to her all the time, and she's great at answering students' questions."

With Wheeler's departure, George will be taking over many of her responsibilities. George said the University would take this opportunity to assess the ASC.

"The University will probably change some things, and there will be a bit of reorganization," he said. "We will miss Lisa in terms of personalization and connectivity. She crossed bridges here, and we're going to have to work to maintain that."

The Academic Success Center has a motto: "We build success!" Lisa Wheeler has built more than that—a foundation.

"We're really going to miss her skills and talent," George said. "She's always been a pleasure."



Lisa Wheeler

University feeling winter's chill due to high energy costs

Jessica Perry
Assistant News Editor

As outside temperatures plummeted towards zero last week, temperatures within the University's buildings took a similar downward turn. Jackets, mittens, and hats became more common within classrooms as the staff followed official orders to turn down the thermostats.

With the return of traditional midwestern winter weather and record high energy costs, the state is taking actions to cut back on energy use. Because of this, the UW-River Falls Department of Administration has implemented guidelines for energy conservation measures to be followed on campus in response to an Executive Order issued by Governor Tommy Thompson.

The Executive Order, according to Chancellor Ann Lydecker, said given the cold temperatures and the increased costs for heat, the cost for energy in the state has skyrocketed.

The state is projected to be 15 million dollars over budget for this fiscal year.

The Executive Order provided government agencies with a list of conservation measures that could be put into effect.

Lydecker met with Waldo Hagen, director of facilities, to go over the possible measures and they found what they could do, what they were already doing and what they were close to doing with energy conservation in order to come up with the list of measures will be implemented on campus.

"I think one of the biggest things on this campus is getting all of us to be conscience of when we are spending energy in an excess way," Lydecker said.

The main change that has taken place on the UW-RF campus is the temperature in the buildings.

The temperature was dropped from the normal 72 degrees to 68 degrees in all the buildings. The humidity level was also dropped in the Teacher Education building.

The set temperatures in unoccupied space were dropped from 65 degrees to 60 degrees.

During weekends, breaks and holidays, temperatures



Molly Montag / The Student Voice
Marketing Communications major Amy Carrier, left and Conservation major Karen Curtis, right, try to keep warm while listening intently during Professor Charles Owen's Technical Writing class Thursday morning.

should be lowered in buildings and unnecessary exhaust fans and air handling equipment should be turned off.

"I am extremely pleased with the cooperation on campus," Lydecker said. "Most people are complying and for the most part are understanding."

Lydecker also has the deans looking at scheduling for next year, so all the buildings don't have to be open at all times in terms of electricity use and heating.

"We want to be more efficient as to what buildings we keep open and at what hours," Lydecker said.

Measures the chancellor is asking UW-RF students and faculty to follow in order to help with the energy conservation effort include: minimizing the number of lights turned on in rooms, shutting off lights when not

See "Temperate drop" on A6

Love is in bloom



Scott Wente / The Student Voice

Valentine fever can be found all around River Falls, with a number of establishments offering specials for couples. Bo Jon's Flowers on Main Street features a dozen roses arranged in a vase with a card for \$65; a half dozen roses is \$35. Due to high demand, Bo Jon's prefers to have orders received by Monday. They will also deliver arrangements in town for \$3 with out of town deliveries costing \$5.

New Assistant Chancellor position to benefit Foundation

Retirement of Alumni Director prompts proposal

Melissa Bregani
Front Page Editor

At the end of the semester, UW-River Falls will lose a valuable asset to its operations.

After two decades of service to the University, longtime director of Development and Alumni Relations Chuck Britson will retire.

Britson explained his main reason for retiring now, is his age; he just turned 60.

While he will not have daily duties on campus next year, Britson said he will be available on an as-needed basis to help with the transition of his replacement.

Britson is also thinking of writing a history of the Foundation from 1976 to the present, following up on the first book written by Walker Wyman.

To assure the campus will continue to operate smoothly with the departure of a faculty member, Chancellor Ann Lydecker has proposed changing the title of Britson's position from Director of Development and Alumni Relations to Assistant Chancellor for University Advancement.

A major duty associated with this new title, according to Lydecker, will be working on the UW-RF Foundation; in particular, planning and implementing the University's first capital campaign.

"This (plan) fits with our direction for the University to expand outreach and foundation to secure funds," Lydecker said. "It also fits with the parallel structure, assisting with recruiting people into positions."

The choice of the University to embark on the first capital campaign also influenced Britson's retirement decision.

"The capital campaign will take five to seven years," Britson said. "The Foundation needs someone with new ideas. It's quite a bit for me to handle at my age. They need

someone to take it to the next level."

Lydecker explained the UW System Foundation is a separate entity where alumni give gifts, such as money; these funds then go into the Foundation, which is privately operated, and build up over time.

In Britson's 21 years of service, he said he's seen a number of changes within the Foundation, from internal reorganization (when Britson first began working with the Foundation, he was collaborating with just one other staff member) to a significant increase in assets.

He said assets have increased from \$800,000 to \$10.3 million as a result of fundraising and instituting sound investment policies.

The University can spend these funds in areas of need.

other schools.

"(The University) isn't organized in a way that shows they want to build the Foundation," Lydecker said. "It needed a title that will give access to individuals who wish to do so."

When speaking of the ideal candidate, she said the University needs someone coming into the position with experience on fundraisers that will lead the capital campaign.

The capital campaign, Lydecker explained, is an initiative; the individual(s) will make a planned effort to raise a certain amount of money.

The University she left before coming to UW-RF set a goal of \$10 million over a time span of 3 years.

Involvement on the capital campaign will also include, for a major part, identifying the right people to approach and ask for help.

As Lydecker explained, the new Assistant Chancellor will have to know the difference between whom to approach for \$5000 and \$5 million.

Whoever is selected as Assistant Chancellor for University Advancement, with appointment scheduled for July 1, will report to the Chancellor, serve as the University's chief development officer and president of the UW-RF Foundation.

Qualities essential to this position include success in the areas of foundation solicitation, alumni relations programs, and most importantly, major capital campaigns.

Alumni Director Dan McGinty said he will miss Britson's leadership commitment the most, as it will take time for the new individual to establish the trust with alumni that is associated with their position.

Once the selection process is complete, however, McGinty sees a great deal of interaction between the Assistant Chancellor and himself.

"As we move into the capital campaign, I'll be planning a lot of alumni events and we'll be spending a lot of time together," he said.

McGinty also emphasized the impact of the capital campaign on the University.

"The Foundation needs someone with new ideas. It's quite a bit for me to handle at my age. They need someone to take it to the next level."

- Chuck Britson, director of Alumni Relations

"(The funds) help with research and scholarships for students," Lydecker said. "As we build up that area, we're providing revenue for things that can't be paid for with state allocations."

For long periods of time, private colleges and universities implemented this very system.

Lydecker said it will be important for UW-RF in the future, as it will allow people to recognize that only part of the funding comes from the state.

Bettering the University requires securing extra funds; this position will aid greatly in doing so, according to Lydecker.

Lydecker explained she had been thinking of this proposal since she began interviewing for the chancellor position last summer.

It was something she knew had to be implemented; the title is far more common at other UW System schools and Lydecker felt it was time for UW-RF to catch up to the

See "Proposal" on A6

BRIEFS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Falcon Flyers Track Club will be practicing at the indoor track every weekday beginning at 3:20 p.m. Anyone interested in competing in Track and Field at the collegiate level is welcome to join. Contact Earl Blodgett at 425-3196 or earl.d.blodgett@uwrf.edu for more information.

Trumpet players are wanted for the UW-River Falls Jazz Ensemble and Wind Ensemble. If interested, contact David Milne at 425-3940 or Kristin Tjornehoj at 425-3940 or 425-3183.

The Prologue is now accepting submissions for the 2001 Issue. Artists and writers are wanted for poetry, short stories, creative essays, and artwork submission. Guideline and submission forms are available at the Writing Center or outside Sheri Fowler's office at 245 KFA, and art submission forms are available in the Art Department Office. For more information, contact Stephanie Johnson at springlemmons@hotmail.com or 426-2648 or Sarah Maxfield at sarah.a.maxfield@uwrf.edu.

Attention Spring Graduates! The deadline to apply for Spring Commencement is Feb. 16, 2001. Applications are available at the Registrar's Office, 105 North Hall. For more information, contact Judy George at 425-3581.

EVENTS

UW-River Falls' Sexiest Bachelor Contest is coming soon, sponsored by May Hall. Mark your calendars for Tues., Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in North Hall. Watch for more information.

Chemistry Department Seminar. J. David Tebow, a Forensic Scientist at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Forensic Science Laboratory, will be giving a seminar in the chemistry department on Fri., Feb. 2, at 3 p.m. in 271 CSH.

The Student Alumni Association will be holding a membership campaign entitled "Where's Waldo" the week of Feb. 2 through Feb. 8. Find and talk to a member wearing a red and white striped rugby shirt and receive a prize! There will be information tables in the Student Center Mon. Feb. 5 and Tues., Feb. 6 from 10 a.m to 3 p.m. and in Rodli Wed. Feb. 7 and Thurs. Feb. 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please attend one of our information sessions on Mon. Feb. 5 at 5 p.m. in Rodli room 139 or Tues. Feb. 6 at 5 p.m. in the Falcon room. For prizes, fun and friends come see what the Student Alumni Association is all about! For more information, please contact Dan McGinty or Kimberly Gould-Speckman at the Alumni Office at 425-3505.

United Council of UW Students will be hosting it's 5th Annual Women's Leadership Conference on Feb. 16 through Feb. 18 at UW-Milwaukee. The conference theme, *Visionary Voices: Transforming Knowledge into Feminist Activism*, evolved out of the need to bridge the gap between academic feminist theory and feminist activism.

The Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities is sponsoring its Media Awards for outstanding coverage of people with developmental disabilities for the twentieth year. The 2000 Media Awards will be presented to newspaper, radio, and television staffs which feature people with developmental disabilities. For entry forms or more information, visit the Council's website at www.wcdd.org. The deadline is Feb. 9.

Missoula Children's Theatre will be performing Treasure Island at the Sheldon Theatre on Sat., Feb., 10 at 3 and 7 p.m. Cost is \$7.50 for adults and \$5 for students.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Westconsin Credit Union is sponsoring up to twelve \$1,000 scholarships for applicants who have been credit union members since April or earlier. Students can also have parents or legal guardians who are members to qualify. Other criteria include financial need, GPA and extracurricular activity involvement. Deadline for application is Feb. 23.

American Association of University Women will award a scholarship to a female student living in Racine County and beginning her first or second year at the University. Applications can be picked up at the Financial Assistance Office at 122 South Hall and the deadline for application is April 1.

Army Emergency Relief is sponsoring the M.G. James Ursano Scholarship Fund. This is open to dependent children of army soldiers on active duty, retired or deceased while on duty or after retirement. The applicants must be registered in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System and have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 Applications may be printed from www.aerhq.org.

Thomas B. Jones and Grace Stevenson Jones School will offer scholarships from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for the 2001-2002 school year. Students must be residing in the Wisconsin counties of Grant, Iowa and Lafayette. Applications can be picked up at the Financial Assistance Office, 122 South Hall, and the deadline for application is March 1.

All UW-River Falls Scholarships for continuing students are due on Feb. 16, 2001. Visit the Office of Financial Assistance, 122 South Hall, for scholarship brochures and applications. Scholarship information and applications are also available on the Office of Financial Assistance web page at www.uwrf.edu/financial-assistance.

MEETINGS

The Association of Women in Communication of UW-River Falls will meet every Thursday morning inside Java Coast at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome to join.

Want to serve as a link between past, present and future alumni? As a member of the Student Alumni Association you will meet new people, interact and network with alumni, go to fun conferences, and develop professional skills. If these opportunities sound good to you or if you are interested come find out what the Student Alumni Association is all about. We meet every other Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Alumni Room in South Hall. For more information, you may contact Dan McGinty or Kimberly Gould-Speckman at the Alumni Office at 425-3505.

The Student Senate meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Regents Room of the Student Center.

Anyone who has a brief meeting or event to be published in the Student Voice should submit it in writing to 213 South Hall by noon Monday.

THE STUDENT VOICE

I'm just so funny...



Molly Montag/ The Student Voice
Despite the snow, students turned out at Brady's Wednesday night to be entertained by comedian Alexandra McHale. Stephen Donovan captivated the audience as the opening act.

Valentine's Day traditions vary

■ Flowers, candy, hotels, friends, combine for perfect Valentine's Day

Paul Broz
Staff Writer

Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday?

The history of Valentine's Day, and its patron saint is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day as we know it today contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition.

So who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century

in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young, single men-his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius sentenced him to death.

Now here we are 1,700 years later and young and old lovers alike are very eager to celebrate this occasion.

UW-River Falls students have either been looking forward to this for a while or absolutely can't wait to see it go by like any other day.

"I'm going to go out to dinner for sure. I'm going to hit up a pretty decent restaurant and am going to

get some chocolate roses for the ladies," said Dave Sheperd, a junior majoring in information technology. "Afterwards, I want to do something entertaining with a sexy, tall drink of water."

Other students had more creative schemes.

"I'm going to go snow tubing at Afton Alps," said Niki Burns, a junior majoring in health and human performance. "Of course, followed by a romantic dinner."

With many stores to choose from in River Falls such as Gemini Jewelers or BoJon's flowers, There are many ways to impress that special someone.

BoJon's flower shop sells roses for \$4.50 a piece or \$65 for a dozen.

"The roses and balloons are the biggest sellers amongst college students," said store worker Amy Gilles. "At this time of the year we get more students than usual around here."

Some people could use flowers or jewelry to get the attention of their significant other. Or they could do it the old fashioned way.

"I want to be loved and surprised," said Stephanie Rosengren, a junior majoring in business administration.

"And have sex."

Other students had more traditional thoughts in mind.

"My ideal Valentine's Day would be at a hotel with a jacuzzi, flowers and all that good stuff," said Krissy Olson, a junior majoring in accounting.

But maybe the best Valentine's gift is the bond between friends

"I would like to get romantic gestures throughout the day," said Celena Apostoloff, a junior majoring in marketing communications.

"But, to have a big Valentines party with all my closest friends would be a better way to celebrate love day."

So, if you don't have the right woman or man picked out for Valentines Day get the courage and pick up the phone.

New Business College, dean on the horizon

Kevin O'Brien
Rachel Weddig
Editors

As the result of a Feb. 1 decision by the UW Board of Regents, about 1,100 students enrolled in the School of Business and Economics (SBE) will return next semester to a full-fledged college complete with a new dean.

The upgrade may not mean much to students since the academic programs and requirements won't change, but according to Chancellor Ann Lydecker, the name change will eventually raise the values of their degrees and allow for the hiring of high quality professors and other faculty.

Glenn Potts, the current interim director of SBE, feels the upgrade will help UW-River Falls students and alumni when entering the job market.

"The title 'college' carries with it greater prestige and consequently greater value in the marketplace," Potts said. "In this part of the United States, people understand what a college is, a school requires an explanation."

Before becoming the freestanding school it is now, SBE was controlled by the College of Arts and Sciences under Dean Gorden Hedahl. Lydecker thinks it is the next logical step to upgrade it to a college with its own dean.

"Within the four-year comprehensive institutions of the UW System, a college is a stronger, more fully developed organizational structure," Lydecker said.

Robert Milam, a former interim director of SBE, said the increasing size of the school and the need for a uniform organization with the other three colleges is what led to enrollment in the school is reaching the levels of the other three colleges at UW-RF.

Although he doesn't believe students will notice any changes next semester, Milam said the long-term benefits of the upgrade will start to take effect when the college comes up for possible accreditation by the American Association for the Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

"Down the pike, we have been tentatively approved for accreditation," he said. "Attending an accredited college is important to students when looking for jobs, and it also helps when you're hiring new faculty and staff."

Part of the motivation for upgrading the school came from the recent New Economy Summit,

See "Business" on page A4

STUDENT SENATE

Senate allots funds for conferences, search committee

Melissa Bregani
Front Page Editor

Funding issues dominated the Student Senate meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 6.

Senators Ryan Eiler and Thomas Pulford brought a motion to the table to allocate \$796 for the Women's Leadership Conference to be held in Milwaukee Feb. 16-18.

Pulford feels this is a good conference for Senators to attend and has heard that many people who have gone in the past have enjoyed it.

Eiler explained that the major costs for this event stem from acquiring a University passenger van as well as hotel reservations for the sixteen students attending.

The motion passed 20-0 with one abstention.

During March 9-14, the United States Student Association Legislative Conference will be held in Washington, D.C.

A motion put forth by Senators Ryan Eiler and Terence Galbreath would allocate \$3,402 for eight individuals (Senators or board members) to attend.

According to Eiler and Galbreath, this conference will be a good experience for all participants.

"I think that the eight people will learn a lot," Galbreath said. "Hopefully they'll bring back (to the University) what they learned so that it may be put to use."

The motion passed 21-0.

The final motion of the night resulted in a bit of debate among the Senators. Brought to the table by Senators Ryan Eiler and Matt Bendixen, the motion would allocate \$250 for the Search and Screen for Multicultural Issues Director of the United Council.

Diversity Issues Director Eric Dodge will be attending this search, to be held at UW-Milwaukee Feb. 16-19, and explained that the funds would go towards a state vehicle for him to use while at the event.

Dodge explained that since it's 1100 miles from River Falls to Milwaukee, it would be easier for him to drive to the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champagne and

continue on to UW-Milwaukee in a state vehicle, which he currently has on reserve.

This was a point of debate among the Senators, who couldn't understand why a motion to fund this was brought to the table.

According to Senate bylaws, there has to be a way to get to and from conferences and other events.

Shared Governance Director and Parliamentarian Dave Chell's main concern was that since Senate pays United Council, they (UC) should have to pay for Senate transportation to conferences and the like.

Chell wondered if an issue such as this had been addressed in the past to which Dodge said he would contact United Council to see if they will fund his transportation.

The motion passed 20-0 with Chell abstaining his vote.

In other Senate news, Chris Silver, who was elected to serve on the Provost Search and Screen Committee, addressed the group in an open forum. Silver asked for support from students during the search process.

"The Provost holds a lot of power and has a lot to say in what we (students) do here on campus," Silver said. "Students really need to get their opinions in on what they think would be good for the University."

If any students are interested in voicing their thoughts, Silver said they will have an opportunity to do so at an open meeting in the River Room at Rodli Commons on Feb. 12 and 13 from 6-7:30 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. respectively.

Senators also moved to eliminate the Student Academic Success Center Advisory Board, transferring all duties to the Student Senate Student Affairs and Academic Services Committee.

The motion, which had been tabled at last week's meeting until Senators could find out whether it was feasible to make these changes, was voted on 20-0 with one abstention.

The next meeting of Student Senate will be held Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Regents Room of the Student Center.

Gaelic Storm making waves since debut in *Titanic*

Small time Irish folk band now captivates audiences worldwide

Scott Wente
Assistant Photo Editor

It wasn't the racy content of a Rolling Stone magazine interview.

There was no bad-mouthing of former band members, no verbal attacks on old record labels, no bragging of while-on-tour sexual adventures and no explanation of how drugs ruined the band's artistic talent.

It was quite the contrary, in fact.

As they stopped at UW-River Falls for a concert last Thursday evening, members of the Irish folk band, Gaelic Storm, took a moment to sit down and humbly discuss their recent success, their soon-to-be-released third album, and of course, Guinness beer.

Nearly five years ago, at O'Brien's Pub in Santa Monica, California, the five-member Celtic ensemble played their first official gig. This was the night that Gaelic Storm decided to tackle the tides of musical success.

"Our first gig where everything just kind of clicked and we said, 'this is a lot of fun, let's do this every week,' was St. Patrick's Day, 1996," recalled lead-singer Patrick Murphy. "We just had a great time on stage that night."

Each member brought their own unique musical talent and background to the pubs of Santa Monica. Murphy (lead vocals, harmonica, accordion, spoons) is the band's only Irish-native. He moved to California in 1992 and met up with Stephen Wehmeyer (bodhran, vocals), who had taken his roots of Irish folk music and moved from New York to Indiana, and eventually on to California. The band was formed with the addition of Shep Lonsdale (percussion) and Steve Twigger (guitarist/mandolinist/vocalist), both originally from England and both from rock 'n' roll backgrounds, and fiddler Samantha Hunt, who was replaced by Chicago-native Kathleen Keane (fiddle, tin whistle, button accordion) about a year ago.

Gaelic Storm was playing in small California pubs, when, following one of their 1996 shows they were

approached by Randy Gerston, the music producer for James Cameron's *Titanic*. Evidently, as Murphy recalled being told by Gerston, Gaelic Storm played the type of music Cameron wanted to use to represent the *Titanic*'s spirited and energetic steerage class passengers.

"They had been looking for an Irish band for a couple of months," Murphy said. "They could have gotten the Chieftains or some super-professional band, but they saw us and liked the way we played and the interaction we had with the audience."

Following an audition, the band went to Ensenada, Mexico, the location of the *Titanic* set, to film their scenes. They were able to work their own music into the film, rather than playing what was originally scripted. (Cameron had originally planned on using only a piano and a tambourine.) As they returned to California after two weeks of filming, Murphy admitted they didn't realize the project they had just worked on would later become the highest-grossing movie ever.

"We finished shooting on a Monday and we were all back at work on Wednesday," Murphy said.

Little did the band know their lively dance scene in

Titanic would allow them to quit their day-jobs and focus full time on their Irish folk tunes, pub songs and Scottish love ballads.

The band was used to playing in small, intimate pubs, and their first post-*Titanic* gig was a completely new experience. They had been invited to play at the Milwaukee Irish Fest, with an estimated attendance of 100,000 people.

"We went from the pub to the biggest Irish festival in the world," said Twigger. "We were terrified!"

Prior to their Milwaukee performance, Murphy said he underestimated the festival's success.

"I thought, 'who the hell comes to a festival on a Thursday night? Nobody's going to

be here.' Then I looked out at the audience and thought, 'Holy Sh**!'"

Now, after five years of developing their own style and musical identity, along with consuming colossal amounts of Guinness, they're anxiously awaiting the release of their third album, due out later this spring.

"We're really excited about this third album," Murphy said. "It's our first album with Kathleen, and there's a lot of new material on it."

The band is quick to point out there is more to Gaelic Storm than record deals and worldwide, sell-out performances. (They recently made their first official trip to Ireland, playing in Murphy's hometown.) When asked to explain the relationship between their music and their continual consumption of Guinness, Wehmeyer said: "It's not just about the beer."

Hearing Wehmeyer's comment, Twigger joked about the possibility of marketing the new slogan.

"Gaelic Storm: it's not just about the beer. And on the back of the shirt it says, 'Well, actually...'"

The band is currently on a tour of the Midwest, an area of the country in which they've found considerable success and a surprisingly large fan-base. Wehmeyer said at a recent concert, they invited a family spanning four generations on stage to do a jig, also known as an Irish folk dance. Wehmeyer said the key to the band's past- and future-success is to appeal to many and to do so with a lively yet comfortable on-stage attitude.

"The music appeals to everybody; it does not offend anybody," Wehmeyer explained. "It's not a select market. It's great, kids are buying the CD's and listening to the music."

As for their future --beyond making a point to follow each night's concert with a pint of Guinness at the local pub--Murphy wants to build on the past and continue offering their audiences lively, make-you-want-to-get-up-and-dance music and entertainment.

"We all came from all over, we found common ground in this music and we are able to have a good time together and people just respond to the celebration of this whole thing," Murphy said.



Scott Wente/ The Student Voice

Patrick Murphy, the lead singer for the Irish folk band Gaelic Storm, entertained the crowd with catchy lyrics Thursday, Feb. 1. Murphy performed for a full house at the North Hall Auditorium. Gaelic Storm currently has two albums out and will be releasing their third in the near future.

Gaelic Storm 'gets (jig)gy with it' for third straight year

Scott Wente
Assistant Photo Editor

As concert-goers began filing into the North Hall Auditorium last Thursday evening, several teenage "groupies" ran down the aisle and claimed the front row seats.

They wanted to be front-and-center so the musicians in the Irish folk group, Gaelic Storm, could easily see their homemade sign that read, "Forget Lord of the Dance; We love Gaelic Storm!"

Playing at UW-River Falls for the third consecutive year, Gaelic Storm, of James Cameron's *Titanic* fame, (the steerage party scene) enlightened the sell-out crowd with their blend of traditional Irish folk tunes, Scottish love ballads and their dance-inducing pub songs.

They opened the evening with one of their well-known folk tunes, "Gypsy Woman." The comical lyrics and ripping harmonica solos by lead singer and the band's sole Ireland-native, Patrick Murphy, captivated the audience and had them tapping their toes.

Their second song featured the rapid, smooth play of the band's fiddler, Kathleen Keane, as Murphy accompanied her on spoons, an instrument commonly used in folk music.

It didn't take long--the third song, in fact--for the seated audience to begin clapping their hands to the spirited pub tune, "Drink the Night Away."

Murphy followed with the humorous rhyme "Sick Note," a fictitious tale of "why Patrick Murphy wouldn't be to work today." (Imagine that, an Irishman stretching the truth...)

Following a roaring applause for

Murphy's multi-versed "Sick Note," the band hammered away at another favorite, "Johnny Jump Up," a tune that jokingly addressed the consequences of drinking an alcoholic cider called Johnny Jump Up. ("Oh never, oh never, oh never again! If I live to a hundred or a hundred and ten/ 'Cuz I fell to the ground and couldn't get up/After drinkin' a pint of the Johnny Jump Up.")

Gaelic Storm is known for two things: entertaining their audience and their admiration for Guinness beer. Between songs they told stories ("a pint or two of Guinness" was somehow relevant to each tale) and poked fun at life in Wisconsin, including several jokes with the local Aves Taxidermy and Cheese as the punch-line.

They may be known for their lively drinking songs, but Santa Monica, Calif., based Gaelic Storm proved their versatility extends to other types of music as well. They followed "Johnny Jump Up" with what would be one of the highlights of the evening, an old Scottish love song. Guitarist Steve Twigger



Scott Wente / The Student Voice

Kathleen Keane of Gaelic Storm plays a solo on a penny whistle during their performance in North Hall Auditorium.

opened with a quiet and consoling solo and was later joined by the dreamlike sounds of Keane's penny whistle.

The ballad was anchored by the

See "Gaelic" on A4

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New student center set for completion in 2005

Rocky Hulne
Staff Writer

By the year 2005, there will be a new student center taking over the area on campus being occupied by the Ames building right now. The Ames building will be torn down and the \$20 million student center will be put in.

The center will be funded by an increase in student fees and will take a 20-year bond to collect all of the funding for it. Construction for the center will not begin immediately.

"There will be two years of programming and design before we begin construction," said campus planner, Dale Braun.

The student center, which has existed since 1959, will be replaced due to a lack of space.

"There is a significant shortage of space," said Director of Student Services, Bob Sievert. "Some editions will include a ball room and more meeting rooms."

The ballroom will allow more room for bigger concerts.

The old student center will not be torn down, but it will be used as a student services center. The student services center will have most of the administrative offices in it, and some departments will be moved to

North Hall, according to Braun.

"The Journalism department will be moved to North Hall," Braun said.

Braun also mentioned the new student center will have a different appearance than the current one.

"It will appear a lot bigger, because of the big ball room," Braun said.

The choice to make a new student center was done mostly by various groups of students after studying costs of building a new center and adding on to the old one according to Sievert.

"It has been a very long and involved process. The decision was made over three years, not overnight," Sievert said.

Students also have helped in the design of the new center.

"Fifteen to twenty students are working with the architect," said Sievert.

It was pretty open for most stu-

dents to get a chance to get their voice on the new student center.

"Most of the students involved are interested in the issue or on committees," Sievert said.

As far as food services in the new center go, it is undecided right now.

Sievert was unsure whether Char's would move into the new center.

"It's kind of like building a new house, do you want to take all of your old stuff with you," Sievert said.

"We are looking at the possibility of a market square for food services," Sievert said.

Sievert said the center might also go with brand names like when McDonalds resided in the old student center.

There were also some additions that were made to the old student center since its 1959 construction. The leadership center section was added in 1964, and the bookstore was connected in 1988.

"It has been a very long and involved process. The decision was made over three years, not overnight."

-Bob Sievert, director of student services

New business college / Dean to take leadership role

continued from A2

which combined the efforts of UW-RF and local business leaders in finding solutions to the area's business and economic concerns. According to her comments in a news release, the change to a college "will give the unit greater prominence as befits its leadership role in developing the economy of the St. Croix Valley."

Potts believes this upgrade will be very valuable resource for the businesses in the St. Croix Valley.

"We have 1,200 talented, well-educated students who can fill positions in business. We will place close to 100 students a year in internships that add value for the employer," Potts said. "We have a 25 faculty who can share their expertise with the business community."

Just as Dean of CAFES William Anderson has influence in the area's agricultural industry, the new dean will have an impact on the economic and business aspects of the region. Options for community outreach include the small business development center on campus, which organizes seminars and consulting services for local entrepreneurs and small business owners.

In addition, Milam said creating advisory boards with local business leaders is a way the dean will be able to establish working relationships outside of the University.

"After determining the needs of the business leaders, the dean can then use the resources of the University to meet those needs," Milam said. "These resources include the masters and graduate programs and internships."

In order to find a competent, experienced leader, a search and screen committee comprised of professors, staff, and students is currently accepting applications for the position, which should be filled by July.

"A major initiative of UW-RF and the UW System is to increase the level of support from the university to the economic development of the state," Potts said. "Given the connections with the business community, a deal of a college will be in a better position to provide leadership for the economic development of efforts of UW-RF."

One of the financial implications will be the cost of paying a dean of a college, instead of a director of a school.

Gaelic/ concert review

Continued from A3

subtle, but essential play of Shep Lonsdale on the djembe, a percussion instrument.

Lonsdale, well versed in rock 'n roll and equally as talented in Irish folk percussion, was a crucial component to the band and may not have been given enough opportunity to showcase his individual talent, unlike other members of the band.

The Celtic band did play several other slow ballads throughout the evening, including "Heart to the Ocean," off their second album, "Herding Cats." It's rumored that "Heart of the Ocean" was inspired by the sinking of the Titanic. If so, it explains the eerie but captivating vocal performance by Steve Twigger, the slow, melodic accordion play by Murphy and the song's haunting theme.

To end the evening Gaelic Storm performed several lively, upbeat pub songs that provided more than enough inspiration for audience members to crowd the floor in front of the stage and awkwardly attempt a jig or dance.

As the entire audience rose to their feet for the encore, a fast-paced tune called "The Barnyards of Delgaty," the teenage groupies in the front row held their sign up once again. The audience response was overwhelming; they, too, loved Gaelic Storm.

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Page Editors' Advice:

If you don't buy your girlfriend flowers for Valentine's Day... she'll find someone hotter, older, and sweeter who will.

CAMPUS SECURITY

Jessica Perry
Assistant News Editor

After another slow week with crime at UW-River Falls, the main thing students seem to be finding themselves in trouble for drinking.

On Feb. 1, Joshua D. Moore, 18, received an underage consumption citation in 431 McMillan Hall. Moore was fined \$212.

On Feb. 5, Joshua J. Boisen, 20, was issued an underage consumption citation at the 300 block of E. Walnut St. Boisen was fined \$158.

On Feb. 5, a citation was issued for an altered parking permit in K lot.

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Camp Roadkill by Jamison Penny



EDITORIAL

Energy crises leads to minor inconvenience

At the beginning of this week, students living in the dorm halls received letters from Chancellor Ann Lydecker announcing the beginning of a campus wide energy conservation campaign. Included in the plan to lower heating costs was an order to turn the temperatures down from 68 degrees Fahrenheit to 72 degrees Fahrenheit. As the big chill descended upon campus, many students responded by keeping their jackets and hats on while sitting in class.

Those students who have already started complaining about enduring cooler temperatures and turning off lights whenever leaving a room have obviously never dealt with the real hazards of winter's wrath. As members of the University, students are subject to changes made by the administration that controls their living and studying conditions.

Having buildings on campus to keep at tolerable temperatures, an energy crunch creates decisions that are complex and often hard to make. By deciding to attend this University, the students here have placed their trust in the officials who run the institution.

To illustrate the dilemma facing the University's administration, one has to look at the problems facing ordinary residents of River Falls. For example, one of the editors on the Student Voice remarked that his heating bill went from \$125 last January to \$215 this January, a difference of \$90. On a state level, the utility bills went up \$15 million in one year. Just as a household must conserve energy by keeping the doors shut and turning down the thermostat during times of high heating prices, the state and its schools must make adjustments to maintain a balanced budget.

All of us can remember being scolded by our parents for "heating the entire neighborhood" after leaving the back door open for 20 minutes. Although we didn't always understand the reasons behind the constant nagging about saving energy and reducing wasteful activities, we complied out of respect. Now, as students of this University, we should show the same deference to the leaders who pay millions of dollars to keep us warm. Yes, they are spending our collective tax dollars and tuition payments, but we have entrusted them to do so in our best interests.

What an energy crises like this does is remind us that the basic comforts of life such as indoor heat are not necessarily guaranteed and should not be taken for granted. Contrary to popular belief, the natural resources that fuel our furnaces are not unlimited. While it may seem impossible to dedicate thought to such immense issues as energy shortages, the need for extra consideration is highlighted in times of want. Turning off the lights more often and wearing extra layers of clothes doesn't seem so horrible in the long run...

Drugs not to blame for destroyed lives; uninformed lawmakers should take heat

Media reports erroneously state drugs have ruined actor Robert Downey Jr.'s life. This is not true. Drug laws and the law enforcement community have ruined Downey's life. While the narcotics he ingests are certainly not healthy, he continues to produce brilliant work on a regular basis when not incarcerated. One of this country's most skilled actors, Downey has been wasting his talent behind bars due to America's absurd drug laws. However, the drugs themselves have not been detrimental to his career. In fear of Downey harming himself with his drug use, the government protects him by placing him in jail, where he has been raped and degraded beyond anything a human should be expected to endure. And this was all for the sake of protecting him.

This is not to say drugs are harmless. Lives, families, careers, and health can be destroyed by narcotics. However, more often it is drug laws which destroy people's lives. Although it is difficult to separate the effects drugs have from the effects drug laws have on a person, people rarely die directly from drug use. It is not often someone taking a pure narcotic dies, but it does happen. Though, more deaths are caused by adulterated drugs that are cut with dangerous chemicals for sale at a higher price.

Other causes of death are wars between dealers, home-labs exploding, or ignorance about narcotics because of misinformation perpetrated by the government and media. These deaths are

caused by drug prohibition, not drug use itself. If drugs were legal, and sold by Philip Morris or Johnson and Johnson, they would not be adulterated and dealers would no longer kill each other or innocent people.

ever, drug prohibition is to blame for social ills.

It is surprising how often the notoriously liberal media blames narcotics and narcotic users for social problems. Instead, blame the laws that create the problems. Reporting on drug use is often inaccurate because it was written by people without an understanding of the issues involved. Reporting on drug use is often biased against the easy scapegoat of drugs and addicts, and also embarrassingly erroneous.

A USA Today front page story on rural pot farmers said, "Marijuana isn't the only crop being grown illegally in the USA's forests. Seizures of methamphetamines are up 150% this year."

Although it is convenient to tie marijuana and crystal meth together, someone knowledgeable about drugs would know meth is artificially manufactured in labs, not a "crop being grown illegally" on plants. If the reporter did not know this simple fact, would they be able to report a story about a meth lab blowing up? Or,

assuming meth was grown, would they attribute the explosion to violence between dealers?

A major step to solving many of America's problems is reforming our drug laws. Politicians are afraid to do this because of lack of voter support. Voters do not support these measures partly because they are uninformed, and partly because they are inaccurately informed by the media. The reality about drug problems needs to be reported and explained and not just with simple answers.

ANDREW LENARTZ



"If drugs were legal, and sold by Phillip Morris or Johnson and Johnson, they would not be adulterated and dealers would no longer kill each other or innocent people."

The media blames addicts for drug-related violence, but really politicians deserve the blame. How often is someone shot for money to buy cigarettes? (Although, if prices keep increasing, this may become a reality).

Nicotine is one of the most addictive substances in circulation. But, it is uncommon for someone to kill to obtain a dose because it is so easy to get. The media needs to stop blaming addicts for all drug problems. Drugs do cause problems, how-

And introducing... Sam 'Sir - No - Bur - Na'

Ok, right off the bat, I need to educate those who don't know me on my last name. It's of Serbian decent, and is pronounced "sir - no - bur - nah." I've heard MANY people's ideas on how the odd letter placement should sound, but, much like The Highlander, there can be only one.

So, Hi! My name is Sam and I'm a senior who will be graduating in May. Why did I choose to wait until the tail end of my career here at UWRF to write in this rip roaring publication you ask? I can't give you a straight answer to that one, but I'm sure it has something to do with boredom and laziness. I'm about to complete a degree in Psychology, but to tell you the truth; I've had a lot more fun with my broadcast journalism minor.

As a broadcast minor, I've had lots of fun with reading news on our campus radio station 88.7 FM WRFW. Yes folks; this school does have a history-rich radio station on the top of North Hall. I've also had lots of fun as a DJ for WRFW, a

position I'm going to miss dearly come next September. Never in my life have I had so much power to play anything I want on the air-

Oh yeah, I co-host the Coffeehouse Series that happens every few weeks down in the Brandy's section of the Student Center. I truly feel

SAM CRNOBRNA



"Never in my life have I had so much power to play anything I want on the airwaves, and know that at least one person is listening."

waves, and know that at least one person is listening. This ends the "you got to try this radio thing" advertising section of the article.

What else can I say about myself?

sorry for anyone who hasn't attended at least one of these joyous events. We have a featured local or national artist headline a show that is all about open-microphone talent

Guns play role in too many deaths

What the hell is wrong with kids today? While surfing the Internet last week, I came across an article in USA Today detailing a violent attack at a New Orleans middle school; two boys, ages thirteen and fifteen, were in critical condition after a fistfight turned ugly. Like most other incidents involving kids these past few years, guns were prominent objects.

Guns appear to have become the toy of choice among American children. Oh, how I long for the days when little boys and girls were more fascinated by Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch. Back then, life seemed so much easier. Newspapers top stories focused on the stock market crash and the fall of the Berlin wall. Now, all you hear about is kids shooting each other; what a difference a decade makes...

In the past few years, school shootings have become a daily event. Many parents, along with teachers, are probably asking themselves the same question: Why? The answer given by most

psychologists is large amounts of abuse and pain. Is that what drove Eric Harris and his friend Dillon

only speculate. The thought that immediately comes into my mind upon hearing

MELISSA BREGANI



"Guns appear to have become the toy of choice among American children. Oh, how I long for the days when little boys and girls were more fascinated by Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch."

Klebold to commit one of the worst school massacres in history at Columbine High School in April of 1999? Unfortunately, nobody will ever know the real reason; we can

one of these mindless tragedies is "What were they thinking?" Maybe it's just me getting older, but I just don't understand what possesses these children to take the lives of

other innocent children. Are their home lives truly that horrible? Did their parents not give them enough attention? The scenario is different for each child. But that does not give them the right to victimize other human beings that had nothing to do with their suffering. They're acting like victims. While they could be, they should do something about it aside from resorting to violence.

Another thing that really ticks me off is saying that they were made fun of by peers, as if that fact alone suddenly sent them over the edge. I don't buy that. Almost all children are the object of jokes at some point in their lives, but not all of them go on a killing spree. There has to be a deeper reason for that. Psychological problems seem to be the most logical to me. Years of abuse, endured by parents or peers, have really done a number on these kids.

See "Guns" on A6

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Temperature drops / staying warm

Continued from A1

occupying a room, using natural light instead of electric lights when possible, closing blinds or drapes at night to conserve energy, turning off computers and other electrical equipment at night or when not in use, and making sure windows are kept closed.

"I think the energy conservation measures are very appropriate," said student senate president Adam Clasen. "The conservation measures were passed down from the state and if we work on those ideas, instead of billing each institution individually, the legislator will take care of it."

In exchange for all governmental agencies in the state of Wisconsin taking energy conservation measures, the legislator will pay the excess cost of an estimated 15 million dollars over what was budgeted, according to Lydecker.

Students have become more aware of the energy being wasted on campus.

"I think it's a good idea to conserve energy, but when I walk out of KFA and the door is locked open, I have to wonder how much energy that conserves," freshman Adam Puhl said.

While the lower temperatures haven't bothered some students, others have started wearing jackets in class.

"I don't have a problem with the lower temperatures in the classrooms," said senior Adam Hanson. "I personally think it's a good idea."

One of the suggestions by Lydecker to offset the lower temperatures in the buildings is for students to wear more layers of clothing.

Junior Chad Koranda had a humorous response to the

colder classrooms.

"Well, before they turned the heat down, I could get by without wearing underwear," Koranda said. "Now though, I have to wear them to keep warm."

This is not the first time that an energy crisis has taken place.

Back in the 1970's measures had to be taken to conserve on energy.

"We were all very conscious of the energy we were using then," Lydecker said. "This is a good opportunity to remind ourselves that our natural resources will not last forever and we should think of ways to conserve them."

Lydecker sent a letter to students explaining the energy conservation measures that are being implemented on campus.

However, enforcing the measures in the dorm rooms falls on the hands of the students themselves.

"Energy conservation is something we should be battling everyday," Clasen said.

According to Clasen, the Student Senate is also working to inform students of the guidelines and their importance.

"Some students may not have read the letter from the Chancellor," Clasen said. "There's no reason to waste the tax money when it could be used somewhere else."

Most of the major mechanical changes that could be made to conserve energy have already been undertaken on campus.

Now the focus for conservation efforts falls on what we personally can do to save energy, according to Lydecker.

"We are one of the most energy efficient campuses," Lydecker said. "And for that we can be proud."

Guns / violence dominating schoolyards

Continued from A5

Many psychologists say that children who have been abused often become extremely aggressive.

It's no secret that all this violence is a problem, especially with all the media attention it receives, but what can be done to stop it? The time has come to really take action and put these terrible incidents behind us.

My suggestions will go beyond the obligatory 'Install metal detectors.' Because if there were 11,000 attacks with weapons in 1997, those metal detectors aren't doing their job.

First off, parents need to start spending a lot more time with their children. I don't mean a ten minute conversation on the way to school in the morning, but some quality time. Nowadays, some parents' priorities have become quite warped. They think they can buy their kids'

love, but they can't. I strongly believe in planned time together; not hours on end, but enough time for parents and children to just talk, to find out what's happening in each other's lives. My mom and I used to sit at the kitchen table and talk for a half-hour before bed. Even though we never talked about anything really important, I was happy knowing she cared about what was going on in my life.

I also believe quite strongly in the positive effects of counseling. In high school, I think a large number of children avoid their guidance counselor because they don't think he or she can help. Children need to start visiting their counselor on a regular basis, whether they have problems to discuss or not. A middle school in Austin, Minnesota has a mandatory rule that all students must become acquainted with their counselor; most are on a first name basis with him or her. If more stu-

dents took this approach, rather than avoidance, they could put an end to situations before they get out of control. Talking about how you feel helps quite a bit.

My final suggestion, keeping a daily journal of thoughts and feelings, may not work for everyone, but I do believe it has its place. Children can use it as a springboard for talking to their parents or counselors as well. Keeping a journal will allow kids to see what events bring about feelings of aggression or hostility. Upon realizing what triggers them, children will be more apt to avoid those situations altogether.

So parents, and teachers, the next time you think a child may be hiding something, instead of acting like the situation will right itself, sit them down and encourage them to talk about their feelings; you could be saving lives.

Proposal / position to benefit Foundation

Continued from A1

"In three to five years, the capital campaign will have a huge impact on the institution," he explained.

This includes growth and development of the Foundation as well as the needs of the institution.

Lydecker first brought her proposal to the Faculty Senate floor during a meeting last semester; it was one of many University reorganizations they asked to discuss.

For the most part, Lydecker explained that senators were pleased with her ideas.

"In regards to the whole package, people understand what kind of operation I'm trying to build to bring the campus forward," she said. "But people also had questions; when you make changes and create more positions, the main concern is 'Can we afford it?'"

The answer, Lydecker said, is yes. Her proposal is simply re-assigning a position and changing the title.

Funded partly by the University and the Foundation, Lydecker feels the campus will recognize the benefits to be had by this position.

"Faculty and students will realize the benefit of having a well-endowed Foundation," she said. "Some of the greatest needs will be identified-scholarships for students, as well as faculty research and development."

Another benefit to faculty will be the increased time and money available for sabbaticals.

Relying on state money is not a viable option in this case, as Lydecker explained, because they won't provide support unless you cut out funds somewhere else.

As a result, the University is forced to go to other sources; for UW-RF, it's the Foundation.

"We'll have a nice pool of money in the Foundation that will allow faculty to take longer sabbaticals," Lydecker said. "It's an excellent use of funds in my opinion."

Bricton agrees.

"I'm very much in favor of this proposal," he said. "It will raise the visibility of the Foundation and the

challenges they're facing will be enhanced."

Bricton also feels this proposal will help attract qualified individuals as his replacement.

Faculty Senate Chair Margaret Swanson also shares the view of her colleagues, saying the increased funds in the Foundation will be of great benefit to faculty.

"With more money for faculty to take sabbaticals, they'll be able to bring more information back on projects," Swanson said.

Swanson feels very confident in Lydecker's proposal and its benefits to the campus community.

"In my own personal sense, this is a good idea," she said. "In order to get expertise, we need someone at this University now, and in order to get them here, we need to offer perks, like a fancier title."

In addition to faculty benefits, students will see results, as well.

"It should benefit the campus community, particularly the students, with more scholarships; that has been a University goal for some time," Swanson continued.

Swanson feels some targeted funds on campus could make a big difference.

Former Faculty Senate Chair Bob Baker agrees with Swanson, but was initially concerned with the large amounts of money involved.

"The primary concern I had was where the salary would come from," Baker said.

Lydecker explained this position will be self-serving; that is, if the individual selected for the position is successful in bringing fundraisers to the Foundation, they'll make their salary.

As Lydecker stated, the position will pay for itself.

Baker, like Swanson, is in favor of the increased funds available for scholarships, and particularly sabbaticals.

Having gone on two sabbaticals himself, Baker feels he came back with a lot of new opportunities for his classes, which greatly benefits the students enrolled.

A search and screen committee is currently accepting applications for

this position; at this time, Lydecker said there are 12 applicants.

Chair of the Search and Screen committee, Dean William Anderson (CAFES), stated a number of reasons for becoming involved in the search process.

"The position of Vice Chancellor for University Advancement is critically important to this campus because of the University's many needs and the fact that the state has finite resources," Anderson said. "We are seeking a capable individual to continue our efforts in building strong relationships with key stakeholders, and to seek their support for programs, scholarships, faculty and staff development, and other needs related to University goals."

Having worked with individuals possessing these qualities over the years, Anderson said he knows the return on investment that is possible with capable people in leadership roles.

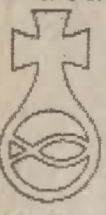
The fact he is co-chairing the Search and Screen committee with Foundation board member Jeff McCardle emphasizes industry's interest in this University and this position.

Committee members began meeting on Feb. 2 to review applications and will meet again on Feb. 12 to narrow the pool, according to Anderson.

Since there is no deadline for applications, Anderson said the committee will continue to accept applications until a suitable candidate fills the position.

As she continues to involve herself with the arduous task of replacing a longtime member of UW-RF faculty, Lydecker said Bricton should be commended for the work he's done, up until his last day.

"I think Chuck has done a great job in our Foundation in the years he's been here," she said. "If he hadn't been here, we may not have been ready for the next step, but (because of him) we're moving it forward."



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Who said anything about retirement?

It's been a year of surprises, there's no doubt about that. The Ravens winning a mediocre Super Bowl is evidence enough. And for Minnesota fans, the season yielded a better-than-expected regular season, and a worse-than-expected post-season, both surprising to a number of people. So, in light of that gloomy day in January, even a little talk of playing somewhere

RYAN BRINKS

else was to be expected. But not retirement.

To a Vikings team that had a lot – but granted, not enough – going for them, it seemed that continued success (defined as post-season berths – sorry, I have to disagree with those who say it's only about the Bowl) in the next couple seasons was well within reach.

Sure, there were rumors that Denny Green might be booted or Cris Carter might retire, but few ever believed those rumors had any truth to them whatsoever. Carter is at his prime – more so than even Robert Smith, who just came off the best season of his career. And then came the bombshell.

Smith's recent announcement to retire is, and should be, a heart-stopping stab to the very core of the sports world. After only his eighth season as a pro, after his very first injury-free season, and shortly after achieving the status of one of the NFL's premier backs, you would think there'd be a lot to look forward to.

He only recently broke the grip Foreman had on Viking history, surging into the recordbooks for career rushing yards.

On the other hand, I can't begin to understand what it's like to have to go through a third knee surgery. After a career littered with injuries, maybe it was enough to go through 2000 healthy to fulfill his goals in the NFL.

Simply put, it's astonishing to see him just walk away from it all. Just like Barry Sanders did two years ago. But not everyone is a believer. Commentators across the nation are debating whether or not it's for real. He's still got a lengthy off-season to contemplate the decision. For Minnesota fans, we can only hope that he's still just a bit overwhelmed from the season.

But he's a smart guy. A career change might do him well in the end. You have to respect that. Yet I can't help but wonder if he *can* stay away from football.

So the question remains: Is this a sincere decision, or will we have another Michael Jordan, another Reggie White? Apart from God, there's only one person who knows that answer.

Ryan Brinks is a sophomore majoring in journalism.

Skaters wear down Pointers, Blugolds



Scott Wente / The Student Voice

Matt Elsen pins Blugold defenseman Chris Hunter to the boards Friday at Hunt Arena. The Falcons beat UW-Eau Claire, 7-1.

Falcons earn four valuable points to vault into third place with one weekend left in the NCHA regular season

Troy Mallat
Sports Editor

In a second half of a season that has resembled a roller coaster more than a hockey team, the UW-River Falls men's hockey team played their most consistent two games of the season, defeating rival UW-Stevens Point, 5-2, after beating UW-Eau Claire, 7-1, at Hunt Arena.

The wins put the Falcons alone in third place at 8-4 (16-6-1 overall), one point behind St. Norbert and two points behind UW-Superior for the regular-season title. Stevens Point and UW-Stout are two points behind the Falcons.

"I think it was a real confidence builder," head coach Steve Freeman said of the two convincing victories. "With such a young team, I think we're really starting to believe in what we're doing and believe we can beat any team we play."

The Falcons, ranked ninth in the nation coming into the weekend, blitzed Stevens Point (15-8, 7-5 in the NCHA) from the outset. In the first 20 minutes, the Falcons outshot the Pointers 20-13.

The Falcons jumped out to a 1-0 lead under a minute into the first period when Jared Anderson scored on a power-play goal for his

10th goal of the season. After Jeff Bernard won a face-off in the offensive zone, Evan Stensrud fired a slapshot from the point that hit Anderson in the slot. The puck fell to Anderson's feet where he was able to control the puck and fling a wrister through Pointer goaltender Dave Cinelli's legs.

Bernard would add another goal to give the Falcons a 2-0 lead after the first period.

"We wanted to come out fast and play physical," Freeman said of the frantic start. "We set that fast pace early and they weren't able to keep up with that pace. When you play at home, you have to do that - you have to jump on teams right away."

In the second period, the Falcons took a 3-0 lead on Rheese Carlson's second goal of the season, a power-play goal at the 5:30 mark. In four games with the Falcons, Carlson has five points.

The Falcons went 2-for-4 on the power play for the game due to a slight adjustment in the power-play unit. Stensrud, who usually plays at the point, was moved to the half-board in an effort to get the puck lower in the zone.

The Pointers would score a pair of goals later in the period to cut the lead to 3-2. Defenseman Craig Busse beat Jacque Vezina with a slapshot from the blueline at 9:17, and Ryan Maxson cut the lead to one with a short-handed goal at 9:28.

Maxson took a pass from Matt Interbartolo at the blue line, cut to the slot, and beat Vezina stickside.

However, Vezina would settle down in the third period, stopping all eight shots he faced

See "Men's hockey" on page B2

Bowen wins 200th

Bob Burrows
Sports Correspondent

UW-River Falls head coach Rick Bowen said his 200th career win last Saturday night at UW-La Crosse meant only one thing. "It means I've been here a long time," he said.

Bowen, in his 15th season as head basketball coach at UW-RF, said the fact the 200th win came in a game that kept the Falcons in first place in the WIAC, was much more gratifying.

"I'm flattered and honored that we were able to do that, but I'm more pleased and happy that it keeps us in the conference race," said the coach, who has a record of 200-183 as a Falcon coach.

Bowen's and the Falcons' latest win came at La Crosse Saturday night as three players scored in double figures and the Falcons held off a late Eagle charge to post a 65-61 win.

The Falcons needed the win after dropping a 69-66 decision at home to UW-Superior last Wednesday night.

Saturday in La Crosse, the Falcons led by as many as eight midway through second half before the Eagles took a 61-60 lead with 1:36 to play. Two Brian Mathison free throws gave the Falcons a 62-61 lead and on the Eagles' next possession, Falcon guard Kent Becker forced a tie up and the possession arrow pointed in favor of River Falls.

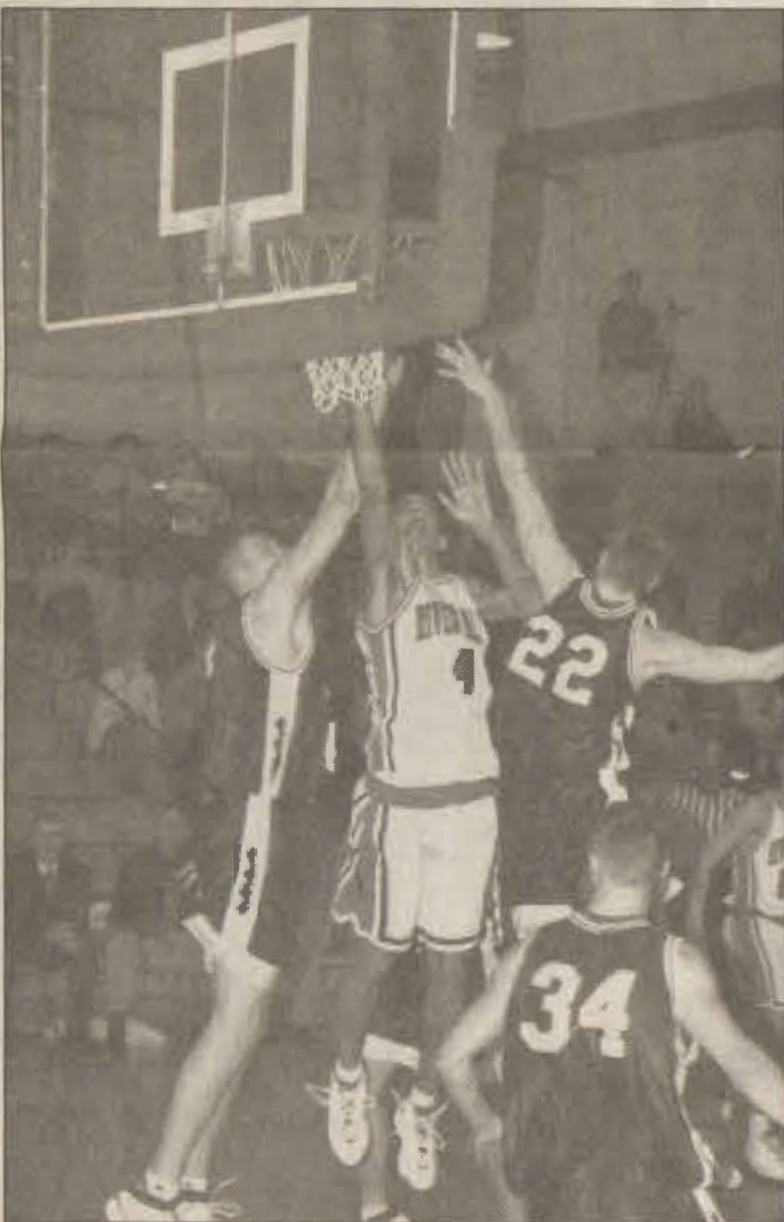
Becker missed the front end of a one-and-one with 27 seconds left but Pat Ptacek kept control for River Falls and Kevin Becker was fouled. He made one of two to make the score 63-61 and when La Crosse missed two shots at the other end, Edmund Johnson grabbed the rebound and was fouled and hit both free throws with two seconds left to make the final 65-61.

"He's just been so totally, totally steady," Bowen said about the play of Johnson, who led the Falcons with 17 points and eight rebounds. "Unless you really appreciate basketball, you don't even know he's on the floor until you look at his numbers afterwards and see all he does."

Kent Becker added 15 for River Falls while Rich Melzer tossed in 13.

"We got some real solid play out of Rich Melzer, which was big," the coach noted. "He played real solid

See "Men's hoops" on page B3



Scott Wente / The Student Voice

Falcon forward Rich Melzer goes up for two of his career-high 30 points during the team's 95-90 win against UW-Stout Wednesday night at the Karges Center. The Falcons remain in first place in the WIAC with a 9-4 mark.

3-goal third lifts Falcons to sweep

Ryan Brinks
Assistant Sports Editor

Overcompensating for an offensive dry spell in the early going of Friday's bout with Lake Forest, the Falcons choked out the Forresters' hopes of an upset with a three-goal third period to take the game 4-2, and then went on to obliterate LFC 6-0 on Saturday.

Hunt Arena hosted the Falcons' weekend series with the Forresters, but the results were similar at LFC, where the Falcons notched 3-1 and 5-0 wins back in early December. Nevertheless, it was a rough start for Falcon goalie Jill Janikowski and her teammates.

"It was good enough to win, but it definitely wasn't our best hockey of the year," head coach Joe Cranston said. "We sunk to their level a little bit."

The Forresters started the game off with a 9:43 goal on breakaway, making good on opportunities that would become much rarer as the game progressed.

But a lack of puck control came back to get them as the Falcons struck a return blow at 16:11 when Elisha Best, bringing the puck in from the right side, put the puck on goal. Saved by the goalie, it came off right to Hattie Hoff and a moment later it was all tied at one.

Despite a lack of overall shots, the Forresters got back on top at 7:04 into the second with a point blank goal past Jill Janikowski. With only two shots the entire period, Janikowski's 50 percent save percentage didn't fare well with the struggling Falcon offense.

This time, though, UW-RF didn't answer, and the third period brought a sudden urgency, down 2-1.

Calming Falcon fans throughout the arena, newcomer Jenny Conzemius stepped up at 6:30 and knocked one in from the right circle to tie, a long, unassisted blast right through.

Then, at 12:50, three seconds before their power play expired, Karyl Hylle slapped a shot on goal, and Mandy

See "Women's hockey" on page B2

Stout snowplows River Falls

Paul J. Cruz
Sports Correspondent

For the UW-River Falls women's basketball team, Wednesday was just one of those days.

Just about everything that could have gone wrong for the Falcons did en route to a 101-74 setback to bitter Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference rival UW-Stout at Johnson Fieldhouse.

After battling the treacherous, snow-covered roads between River Falls and Menomonie for 70 minutes, UW-RF (16-5, 10-3) endured its 24-point snowplowing at the hands of the Blue Devils (16-6, 9-5).

With the win, Stout avenged a 90-76 setback to the Falcons suffered Jan. 3 at Karges Center.

"We didn't do the little things right at all," River Falls coach Cindy Hovet said.

"When we make a commitment to doing those things right every day, we'll be pretty good. Until then, we'll be pretty average."

Besides the obvious — the loss — here's a sampling of what else went wrong for the Falcons during their sixth loss of the campaign.

•Tanya Halbach: Stout's shifty 5-foot, 8-inch, sophomore guard burned UW-RF for a career-high 29 points, 19 in the second half, on 9-of-16 shooting from the floor (6-of-9 from 3-point territory).

•Turnovers: Hounded by the Blue Devils' press, the Falcons committed 29 turnovers, 12 more than the Blue Devils. Stout collected 16 steals.

•Not-so-sharp shooting: UW-RF hit only 25-of-63 (.397) field goal attempts, including a frigid 3-of-13 (.231) from beyond the arc. The Falcons misfired on all seven 3-point tries in the first half.

•Sharp shooting: Meanwhile, the Blue Devils managed to connect for 10 treys in 24 attempts, with Sara Kahl, Jamie Retzlloff, Kailee White and Amy Zelinger complementing Halbach's half-dozen with one of their own.

Despite its struggles, UW-RF managed to

THIS WEEKEND

VS.

What: River Falls (16-5, 10-3 in the WIAC) vs. Eau Claire (16-5, 9-4) Saturday night at 7 p.m. in the Karges Center.

What to watch: Only one game separates the two squads in the WIAC standings. UW-RF is in second at 10-3 in the league, while the Blugolds own third place with a 9-4 record. The Falcons will be attempting to rebound from a 24-point loss to UW-Stout Wednesday, while UW-EC will be looking to up its winning streak to three.

open up a five-point lead in the first half when Sarah Pollock canned a pair of charity shots with 9-minutes, 32-seconds

See "Women's hoops" on page B3

Reif-Wenner sparks win

Paul J. Cruz
Sports Correspondent

With just over one second remaining in the first half of UW-River Falls' 88-69 victory over WIAC adversary UW-La Crosse Saturday at Karges Center, Falcon senior Mara Reif-Wenner popped a 30-foot jumper. Reif-Wenner's buzzer-beater attempt hit nothing but net, inducing a roar from the UW-RF faithful, upping the Falcons' lead to 37-32 and giving the home squad a spark it turned into a flame in the second half. "I hoped it would go in," Reif-Wenner said of her momentum-building try. "I was excited, but then I was like, 'We still have 20 minutes to play.'" In those 20 minutes, UW-RF canned 18-of-32 (.563) shots from the floor (including 3-of-4 (.750) from beyond the arc) to pull away for a 19-point victory that improved its season mark to 16-4 and league record to 10-2. The Eagles dropped to 8-12, 3-9 in loop play. The Falcons, who trailed by as much as seven

points in the first half, took the lead for good at 31-30 with 1-minute, 25-seconds to go in the opening stanza with junior Abby Nelson's free throw. "We hands-down played better against La Crosse," said Falcon coach Cindy Hovet, whose contingent buried WIAC doormat UW-Superior (2-18, 0-13) 78-60 Jan. 31 after trailing 34-33 at the break. "We got back on the right track. We were playing with more intensity and emotion. That's what we need to see." Six Falcons netted double figures in the scoring department, with juniors Andrea Long and Melissa McKernon sharing game-high scoring honors with 18 points apiece. Reif-Wenner added 14 points, junior Sarah Pollock 13, Nelson 12 and junior Tara Wakefield 11. Reif-Wenner, who shot 6-of-7 from the floor and 2-of-2 from 3-point territory, snared a game-high nine boards. She also distributed a game-high nine assists, while Nelson dished out eight. Junior Erica Olsen paced the Eagles with 13 points. Shelley Bakken and Jill Murray added 11 points each.

UW-RF enjoyed a successful afternoon from 3-point territory, connecting on 7-of-12 (.583) 3-point attempts. Pollock and Reif-Wenner each netted a pair of three's, while McKernon, Nelson and Wakefield netted one each. The Falcons committed 15 turnovers to the Eagles' eight, but held a convincing 43-32 edge on the glass. UW-RF nailed 33-of-62 (.532) field goals in the contest, while La Crosse shot a dismal 28-of-71 (.394) from the floor - including a frigid 2-of-16 (.125) from 3-point land. "Our team effort was great," Hovet said. "We were so balanced inside and outside." Against the Yellowjackets, Nelson paced UW-RF with a 24-point, nine-rebound, five-assist, three-steal performance. Long added 18 points and Pollock pitched in 15. The Falcons will return to action Saturday, when they host UW-Eau Claire in a WIAC tilt at Karges Center. UW-RF, which downed UW-EC 67-52 Jan. 13 at Zorn Arena, will be looking to complete a season sweep of the Bugolds.



Molly Montag / The Student Voice

Tara Wakefield shoots over a UW-LaCrosse defender in Saturday's 88-69 victory over the Eagles. Wakefield scored 11 points on 5-of-9 shooting.

Men's hoops

Continued from page B1

inside." Wednesday night at Karges Center, the Falcons trailed 60-52 with one minute remaining before fouling the Yellowjackets seven times in the final minute hoping to stop the clock and cut into the Superior lead. The strategy paid off as the Jackets missed four free throws down the stretch while Kent Becker scored 11 of his game-high 23 points in the final 48 seconds, including 6-of-6 from the free throw line and a three-pointer with seven seconds left that pulled the Falcons to within one, 67-66. Becker's fifth foul put Superior's Brandon Vessel at the line with 1.8 seconds remaining and Vessel hit both shots to make it a 69-66 game. Kevin Becker then threw a bomb the length of the court to Melzer, who knocked it down with one hand, gained control and launched a shot from just past the three-point line as time expired. The ball bounced off the back of the rim as the buzzer sounded and the Jackets escaped with the three point win. The Falcons led 26-23 at intermission and went on an 8-0 run early in the second half to widen their lead to 34-26. But costly turnovers, and the hot hand of Superior freshman Cody Kastern, allowed the Jackets to take a 41-40 lead with 12 minutes remaining. Kastern scored 11 points during a five-minute run, including three three-pointers, and finished with a career-high 19 points to lead the Yellowjackets. The Falcons took their last lead of the game, 48-46, on a three-pointer by Kent Becker with 7:38 remaining. But Superior went on a 9-0 run, capped by a thunderous dunk by the WIAC's leading scorer Vince Thomas with 3:33 to play, to take the lead for good. Bowen said the Falcons didn't play well and was particularly distressed by the 16 turnovers the team committed, many during Superior's five-minute run early in the second half that allowed the Jackets to battle back from eight points down to take the lead. "When is the last time you saw this team make that many bad pass-

es?" he asked after the game. In addition to Kent Becker's 23 points, Melzer and Edmund Johnson both posted double-doubles in scoring and rebounding. Melzer scored 14 points and grabbed 12 rebounds while Johnson, the WIAC's Player of the Week one week earlier, finished with 14 points and 11 boards, seven off the offensive glass. The Falcons dominated the Jackets under the glass, outrebounding Superior 42-27. Thomas finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Yellowjackets while Vessel also scored 14. "I thought Superior played well," Bowen noted. "We obviously had some trouble with their 1-3-1 zone, but our decision making wasn't sharp. I thought, when we opened up that lead at the beginning of the second half, that we had a chance to really make some hay, but we just weren't very good tonight."

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Women's hoops

Continued from page B1

remaining in the first stanza to put the Falcons in front, 20-15. Stout, however, seized the lead for good at the 4:47 mark of the opening half, at 31-29, on a Bethany Halverson jumper. With the Blue Devils in front by five, Amy Zelinger drained a 3-pointer with under one tick left in the first 20 minutes to up Stout's edge to eight at the half. The Blue Devils rode that momentum into the second half and outscored the Falcons 61-45 the rest of the way. Stout opened up as much as a 29-point advantage, at 94-65 with 3:30 to go, before UW-RF trimmed that lead to the final margin of victory. Andrea Long paced the Falcons in the scoring department with 17 points. Melissa McKernon added 15, Pollock 11, Mara Reif-Wenner 10 and Tara Wakefield 10.

Zelinger followed Halbach in scoring for Stout with 16 points and Laura Verdegan pitched in 11. Long pulled down seven caroms for the Falcons, as did Verdegan for the Blue Devils. UW-RF will attempt to get back on the winning track Saturday, when it hosts UW-Eau Claire in a WIAC tilt slated to start at 7 p.m. at Karges Center. The Falcons will also attempt to complete a regular-season sweep of the Bugolds, as they downed UW-EC earlier this season at Zorn Arena. In addition, the Falcons, who maintained their second-place status in the WIAC standings despite the loss to Stout, will try to hold on to that standing. UW-EC is only one game behind UW-RF heading into the contest. "We have to make a commitment to finding people and boxing them out," Hovet said.

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Omnitheater ‘Wolves’: enthusiastic paws up

Technology made me stupid

Matt Rayburn
Off-Beat Editor

It's not often that \$7 can buy a ticket to see a worthwhile film. At the Science of Museum of Minnesota's Omnitheater, one will feel his or her money has been well spent. "Wolves," which began in November, is a 50-minute film that educates about preserving the wolf population and makes viewers feel as though they are walking alongside the wolves in their wilderness experiences and struggles. According to the museum's web site, www.smm.org, the Omnitheater was designed in France and built in Spain, and is the first convertible IMAX dome theater in the United States. With as many seats as a 747 jet, and a screen called a RoDo (rotating screen) that is nine stories tall, the Omnitheater isn't your typical movie theater. "Wolves" begins with a trip to Yellowstone National Park in Idaho as the narrator explains how survival for the wolf has been a struggle for many years. With the camera shots above the ground, the viewer feels as though he or she is flying through the tops of the forests as packs of wolves chase their prey of elk and mule deer. Usually traveling 1,000 square

miles or more to locate food, the narrator explained how difficult it is for wolves to locate their prey. The film also takes viewers to other parts of Idaho, and gives a history lesson about the Nez Perce



American Indian tribe during the days of Chief Joseph, and the Nez Perce's spiritual connections to the wolf. Viewers also travel alongside a wolf pack as the narrator explains how all members of a pack help socialize young wolf pups. To show current efforts to strengthen the wolf population, the narrator explains the work of a writer and a biologist, and their educational program that helps students of all ages learn more about protecting the wolf. Explaining the wolf population problem as more of a social challenge than a biological challenge, the two wolf researchers believe education is one of the most effective tools in helping the public

understand the need to protect this animal. Visiting 200 schools a year with live wolves, the researchers teach students the importance of wolves in nature, and how many people are unaware of how gentle wolves actually are. Describing a wolf's howl as a fellowship call to other wolves and its strength to the world around it, the researchers explained how "old school" myths are now mainstream, and express incorrect information about wolves. "Wolves" continues by explaining the origin of American Indian dances, which are described in the film as dedications to the wolf, in hopes that the Creator will hear the prayers of healing and harmony between the wolf and human populations. The film ends explaining how the return of the wolf will reshape the ecosystem, and that one of the major problems is that people have a hard time living with wolves. According to the film, one of the rewards of helping to preserve the wolf population is seeing a wolf run through the woods as it howls, offering its music to the world. "Wolves" runs through June 14. Show times are 7, 8 and 9 p.m. The Science Museum of Minnesota is located in downtown St. Paul on West Kellogg Boulevard.

an essay by Max Date, a senior who's all rage against the machine and sh*t

In a move reminiscent of Henry David Cousteau, I have abandoned my computer for the simple comforts of a pen and paper. For the first time in my columnism career, I've gotten to thinking how attached I've grown to computers, be it the cheerful translucency of a macintosh or the ominous corporate stench of a Windows-based computer (please kill Bill Gates). And I can't help but wonder how much more intelligenter I would be if none of this technology crap existed. Hmm...



I'll attack this contemplation counter-chronologically, starting with the Internet. Al Gore invented the Internet somewhere around the beginning of my junior year of high school. @ that time, my grade point average was right around 3.63, pretty good for a kid that didn't apply himself. As it turned out, I graduated with a 3.4 and haven't seen higher than a 2.9 in college. However, I HAVE seen up-to the second sports scores, guitar tabs and a whole sh*tload of high-resolution pornography. Even trade? I suppose so. It's given me the impression that the library is COMPLETELY avoidable. Need to write a policy paper using scholarly journals. Well, the guy that wrote this one APPEARS to have gone to at least SOME high school. That counts, right? I think that at some point, some jack*ss hailed the Internet as the educational tool of the 21st century. You wanna know what I used the Internet for today? E-mail, NFL news and thesimpsons.com, where I looked up summaries of every episode ever made. Segway... Through the first eleven years, I have seen every episode of The Simpson. Like, all 257 of 'em. Case-in-point number one that television has been and always will be my downfall. I have gone to desperate measures to watch every episode (most of them three or four times). How far, you ask? My sophomore year, I skipped quizzes in my Western World Lit class to watch. In during the summer, I took hour-long breaks at work to go home and watch. When I got in trouble for that stunt, I taped over Game Seven of the 1991 World Series to facilitate my habit (c'mon we all know they won). I figure that somewhere around a month of my life has been spent watching that beautiful show. Okay, all I've proved thus far is that I'm easily distracted and teeevee and the Internet seem like good scapegoats. What would it be like without the warm, glowing warming glow of passive entertainment? God forbid we should resort to reading books and newspapers for entertainment! No, that would require effort to

enjoy myself, and that's just wrong. At this very moment, I'm thinking that there's a really unexciting college basketball game I could be watching... What incentive does anyone have to pick up hobbies? Art is very subjective; television asks nothing of me. Reading a novel involves a vivid imagination to depict the plotline; a movie does the imagining for me. Why play an instrument? Someone on MTV can play it better anyway. The problem is that everyone is under the impression that everything has hit it's creative peak and there's nothing else original, so why not idolize everyone else while exerting as little effort as possible? Here's part of the point: I guarantee that someone will write a song or paint a picture or write something that will instantly be hailed as a classic in its respective field. Why not do it yourself? Plus, saying "oh, I couldn't get my homework done because I was writing the great American novel" sounds better than "I was watching teeevee." Now, I know it's gonna be difficult, but put down the remote and pick up a pen, a brush, whatever. Even better, pick up a newspaper, bone up on some current events and sound intelligent when you talk. It's too late for me, so I'm going back to my SNL clips on Napster and video games. Plus, I'm writing THIS, so I'm technically one up on all of you. HA! If you want some practice writing, e-mail me at max.k.date@uwrf.edu. And keep your fingers crossed on that crosshair aimed at the back of GW's head...

‘Parallel Truths’ offers action, humor, sex goddess

Sara Masson
Staff Writer

In the 2001 novel "Parallel Truths" by Robert Eringer, the author brings the readers on yet another crazy and extremely humorous F.B.I. meets the supreme playboy escapade. The main character, Jay Sandak, is the Rico Suave of the private spy world, while his boss and all those he works with are the Barney Fife's of the same world. The adventure that Sandak, a former F.B.I. agent, now a freelance undercover spy, begins when he is hired to meet with Markham Fitch, a billionaire, who formerly lived in the U.S. but fled for sanctuary in Switzerland when he was found to have committed a crime. As Sandak's co-workers are introduced to the plot, they begin to make him look even better, and in the process make the F.B.I. agents look like complete fools. Introduced to Sandak by his meeting with Fitch is a madcap German Baron with an extreme obsession with philosophy and for illegally selling nuclear materials and arms to the population of shady business people all over the world. The Baron believes his brilliance will save the world from being the consumer obsessed narcissistic place that it is. In the process of getting information from the Baron about whom he

gets his nuclear materials from, Sandak is introduced to many shifty characters including an ex-KGB goon and his sidekicks who include two ridiculously ignorant bodyguards and a Russian sex goddess with ulterior motives in mind.

"Parallel Truths" is not your average adventure novel, but it adds zing and excitement as well as pages filled with wonderful imagery and a fast-paced plot that keeps the reader wanting to know more."

All of these outrageous characters get wrapped together in a tale of extreme madness. While doing this, Sandak engineers a complex and skill-

ful strategy to apprehend all of the criminals at one time, and in the process drinks enough alcohol to keep four full-time bartenders busy for weeks. Sandak is involved in the lunacy of rival U.S. government agencies, while being directed by risk-hating government and F.B.I. official, Pikestaff. On the path to his ultimate goal, Sandak always seems just one step and cocktail ahead of latigue, (a combination of fatigue and jet-lag) and the madcap criminals he is tricking as he travels to enough countries to fill up a passport in a weekend. "Parallel Truths" is not your average adventure novel, but it adds zing and excitement as well as pages filled with wonderful imagery and a fast-paced plot that keeps the reader wanting to know more. The plot keeps the reader guessing right till the very end with its sarcastic one-liners, and new and over-the-top characters popping up out of oblivion bringing with them more excitement and bizarre events. In addition to intelligence and humor, suspense and action make "Parallel Truths" a delightful action novel that strays from norms, but keeps the reader coming back for more. If you are looking for a fun, but an outrageous action novel that steps away from spy novel norms, then "Parallel Truths" is the perfect novel to pick up in order to liven up another drab weekend day at home.

If you could cancel anything tomorrow because of the snow, what would it be?

Danielle Price, Freshman
"My literature class, because it is boring and way too long."

Jason Beyers, Junior
"Political analysis, because it's SO fun and only the third week."

Nick Miller, Sophomore
"My econ class--sleep in."

Cory Gabore, Junior
"Classes all off, so I could have a day off."

Amy Robinson, Freshman
"My chemistry lecture--we have a quiz."

Bobbijo Anderson, Freshman
"Biology lab, so I can sleep in."