

Student research to be on display in Madison

Displays give students way to make their research public

Derrick Williams
Co-Editor

Professional experts, doctors, and graduate students find their research lining the pages of trade magazines and scholarly periodicals any time they stumble across something interesting. For undergraduate students though, getting their research published, much less listened to, is a much harder venture.

The UW System, however, is helping to make it easier for undergraduate research to be noticed. "Posters in the Rotunda: A Celebration of Undergraduate Research," will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 7. The celebration will coincide with the April meeting of the Board of Regents. The event will bring students and faculty from 15 UW System campuses to the Wisconsin State Capitol Rotunda in Madison to share findings from undergraduate research projects with state elected officials, Regents, government representatives, and the public.

Interim Chancellor Virgil Nylander couldn't be happier for the research students.

"It is amazing, the kinds of things that our students are actually involved in on this campus," Nylander said. "They do some really high quality work. Not only are we honoring the kind of student research that takes place around the campuses, but it is also an opportunity to show the governor and legislators that something is really happening on all of our campuses and it is important for them to support us and these students."

There are six posters from students at UW-RF going to the celebration. Bwarenaba Kautu, Kendra Scudder, Nels Thoreson, and Matt Schuelke each did individual projects and there are two projects that were collaborative efforts in the Biology Department.

Director of Grants and Research Bill Campbell is the University contact for the project and the brainchild for the celebration, which started two years ago.

"I stole the idea from Council on Undergraduate Research," Campbell said.

"They have been doing this in Washington for years. Their idea is to take fabulous examples of undergrad research, do a show in Washington, invite legislators and all the big shots they can think of and say look at what our students can do. The idea is to impress the people who make decisions."

This year's celebration in Madison is scheduled purposely to coincide with the UW-System Board of Regents meeting and the State of Wisconsin legislative session.

"In many ways this is public relations for the students, a way of showing off," Campbell said.

Most of the students who have research going on display will be at the event standing in front of their posters. This gives them a chance to discuss their work and talk to the people who want to look at their research, according to Campbell.

Kautu's research involves the formaldehyde induced fluorescence of neurons in worms.

"Formaldehyde induced fluorescence is a staining technique that you can use to investigate neurons in the nervous system," Kautu said. "The type of neurons that I am interested in studying are Dopaminergic neurons which are believed to be associated with Parkinson's Disease and other neurological disorders."

Kautu likes the idea of doing research to learn.

"I really enjoy research as it makes more sense to me than taking notes from the lecture (classroom)," Kautu said.

For Campbell the most important part of all of this is to get the research done out to the public realm so the work can be expanded upon used in other research and most importantly, critiqued by other researchers interested in using it.

"The most important thing to me is doing the research," Campbell said. "We're doing the posters to disseminate the research to the world. To make it genuine research you need to put your ideas out in the public realm."

On top of the actual research that is being done, there are some practical benefits to the student as well.

"This is something that students can put on their own resumes that they participated in," Nylander said. "It is critical for students to

have the opportunity to be involved in these activities. It helps them move onto graduate school or industries. It is really impressive."

Schuelke, whose research is on student retention data collected at River Falls from the fall of 2002, plans on using this experience and the research he did to help him further in the future.

"I do plan to attend graduate school at the University of Oklahoma in Industrial and Organizational psychology," Schuelke said. "I will be attending in the fall, and I will include this on my curriculum vita."

Thoreson, who did research on word usage in the 2004 presidential debates, said he is excited about the prospects of this experience.

"I think this will be a good experience in being able to show legislators what undergraduate research is being done throughout the UW-System," Thoreson said. "Hopefully it'll turn some heads and they'll start funding the university a bit more. My plan right now is to go to law school next fall, with grad school also being an option. If all that fails, however, I'll probably pitch a tent and live off the fat of the land."

All joking aside, this project is very important for undergraduate research, according to Campbell.

"This kind of project is the best kind of undergraduate work," Campbell said. "You have a student and a faculty adviser working on a question to which nobody knows the answer. That is really cool. To realize you're the first person in the world who knows the answer."

Nylander agrees with that sentiment. "It's got to be fun for the professors," Nylander said. "They make it exciting. It is something new and they learn a lot."

The event in Madison is just one of four events like this, according to Campbell.

Besides being on display in Madison, the posters will also be on display, along with others on this campus April 26. Then there will be another state event at UW-Oshkosh April 29. The biggest event of the year for undergraduate research will be April 20-22 in Lexington, Virginia, at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research where UW-RF will send 41 students to display similar work, Campbell said.



Submitted Photos
A group of UW-RF students traveled to Madison April 7 to display their research in the State Capitol in Madison. Last year's celebration was a big success with more than 100 students on hand to display similar research.



University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Health Fair 2005

Wednesday, April 13th- 10a.m-2p.m.

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Created by Gina Astedt Spring 2005

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G:\PPDC\Student Health\Marketing\Topics\Alcohol\2004-2005\Spring Ad\ppd2004

Made by: Larissa Filbes, Spring 2005



Liposuction costs how much?
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April 8, 2005

www.uwrf.edu/student-voice

Volume 91, Issue 21

Student union prepares new digs

Derrick Williams
Justine Benzen
Staff Writers

Finally, after five years of planning, countless hours of meetings, numerous budget proposals, multiple bids and many a headache, the long awaited Student Union is officially being built.

Construction of the \$34 million dollar project began in February when construction crews began digging out the foundation for the building. However, the official groundbreaking was April 5 when UW-River Falls administration, project architects, UW-System officials, construction crews, faculty and students ceremoniously kicked off the construction phase of the Student Union.

"We wanted to have a formal groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the beginning of construction," Mary Halada, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance said.

Chancellor elect, Don Betz, in remarks read by Halada expressed his feelings of gratitude for all those who have made this project a possibility.

"I know that there are many today, both known and unknown, who deserve thanks and praise,"



Photo by Micheal Foley

Administrators and students participate in the formal groundbreaking ceremony to kickoff the official start of construction for the new Student Union. Originally conceived in 1996, the \$34 million building is slated to open in 2007.

Betz said, "I applaud the UW-RF students for their central role in this major project."

Jim Murphy, facilities manager

and project liaison during the construction phase echoed those sentiments.

"Students need to be given all

kinds of accolades for their support of the project and the long term view of the needs of the campus," Murphy said.

The ceremony, which had the benefit of a warm spring day, was accentuated with the noises of construction throughout the

hour-long event.

"We have to do the photo-op for historical purposes," Halada said.

The project originally began in 1996, according to Halada. A group of students conceived the idea of "Concept Hall." While that project fell apart, the South Fork Suites and the Student Union were born from that original idea, said Halada.

"The project as we know it now began in the spring of 2000 when the \$20 million budget was passed for the building," Halada said.

While this ceremony marked the official beginning of construction, the project has been moving forward for a while now. The Ames Teacher Education Building was demolished last fall and since then other things have already been constructed.

"All of the pilings have been installed on the site," Murphy said. "The footings and foundation work has begun. They were actually pouring concrete footings during the time the ceremony was taking place."

The Student Union will function as the new hub of student life, thoughts Interim Chancellor Virgil Nylander mentioned in his

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RF youth show support for troops

Signature yellow ribbons decorate Main Street

Brian Hogenson
Staff Writer

Along with the usual signs of spring's arrival - green grass growing, flowers sprouting and birds chirping - yellow ribbons have been blossoming alongside the streets in River Falls as a show of support for those in the community who are serving with the United States armed forces in Iraq.

The yellow ribbons adorning the light posts along the streets of downtown River Falls are there courtesy of members of the River Falls Youth Advisory Council, a subcommittee of the River Falls city council.

The ribbons were part of a project by the RFYAC entitled "Youth Supporting Troops." Three members of the RFYAC spearheaded the project: city council member Carol Robinson, high school sophomore Amy Pierce, and Cindy Dipprey from the River Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau.

With Dipprey's guidance, Pierce wrote the application for a \$500 grant through the River Falls Partnership for Youth Mini Grant.

"By having Youth involved in supporting the troops at each level of the community, school and involved families they will get first hand experience of [what] community pride and support truly means. Although students and youth may not specifically know a service member, they will know they are making a difference by supporting the River Falls area service members while on duty," Pierce wrote in the grant application.

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Photo by Micheal Foley

North Hall custodian Larry Larson lobbies students to sign a petition to assist the Wisconsin State Employees Union. The union hopes to sign a better contract.

Union looks for student help

Eric Ebert
Assistant Editor

UW-River Falls members of local 351 of the Wisconsin State Employees Union participated in an "Action Day" April 4.

According to the local 351 Web site, members were asked to stop by the Student Center throughout the day and cast a vote to support bargaining teams of the WSEU to take the actions necessary to obtain a contract settlement.

The WSEU is the union for all UW System classified employees, including custodial staff, department assistants, public safety and many other positions. The WSEU is still

attempting to negotiate a contract for the 2003-2005 contract.

Classified employees in the union, representing around 16,000 employees throughout Wisconsin, usually sign two-year contracts, said Greg Elliott, local 351 president.

Because the 2003-2005 contract is still on the bargaining table, UW System classified employees have not seen a change in their wages for nearly two years. Instead, the 2001-2003 contract has been extended, Elliott said.

The current contract proposal being offered by Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle is a 0 percent increase for the 2004 year and a 1 percent increase for the

2005 year.

The contract also asks employees to pick up the cost of health insurance, which Elliott said would, in effect, result in a pay cut.

Another stipulation restricting the negotiating power of the WSEU is defined in the Wisconsin State statutes.

"We're prohibited by law from striking," said College of Arts and Sciences program assistant Mary Foster.

According to article 111.89, classified employees are prohibited from striking, which limits the power of the union. According to the statute, employees participating in a

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Taiwanese students stay fortnight in River Falls

Nick Koehler
Staff Writer

Students from the other side of the world are experiencing a taste of small-town life in the American Midwest.

Fifteen students and one professor from Shih Chien University in Taipei, Taiwan, have come to UW-River Falls for the cultural and academic experience. The group arrived March 28 and is staying with host families until their departure on April 7.

Last year, 30 students and four faculty visited from Shih Chien to UW-RF.

The students will each spend a day visiting and experiencing campus life in each of UW-RF's colleges.

For the College of Agriculture Food and Environmental Sciences, the visiting students will attend a tractor pull, tour the lab farm and also get to tour the Silver Bison Ranch.

The group is also scheduled to visit the Mall of America, and get a tour of local businesses and local farms, such as Phillips Plastics and the Sajan Corporation.

Irene Tsai, one of the visiting students, said her favorite part of the visit was going to the Mall of America.

"There isn't enough time to see everything," Tsai said.

Angel Ko, another visiting student said her favorite part of the visit was staying with her host family.

"Everything is new for us," Ko said.

Terrance Peng, a student at UW-RF, has been talking with the visiting students.

"It's interesting to talk to them about their experiences," Peng said.

Brent Greene, Director of the International Program has been very excited about the students

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String of LCD projector thefts strike UW-RF, KFA

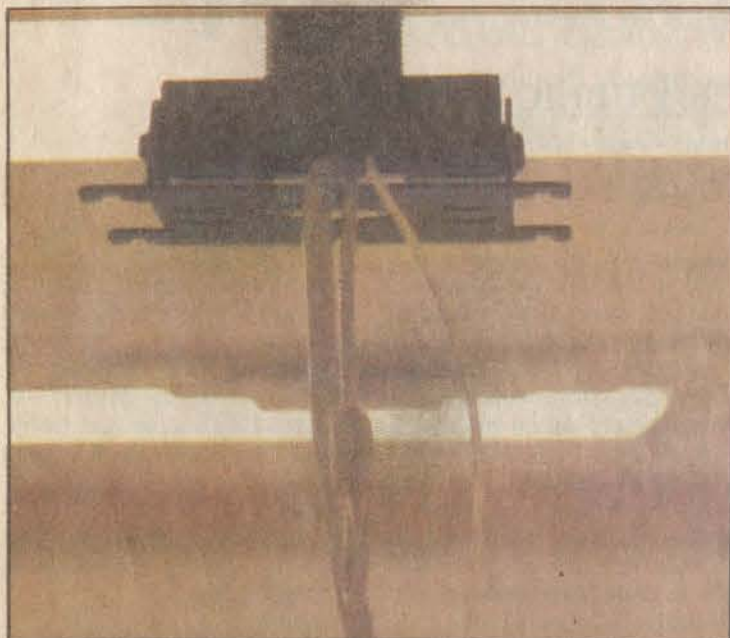


Photo by Micheal Foley

Cables hang loose in a tech classroom in KFA. The projector they belong to was stolen last week.

Derrick Williams
Co-Editor

UW-River Falls was the most recent victim in an epidemic of LCD projector thefts that have afflicted the region.

Sometime between March 30 and March 31, two projectors, which had a combined value of \$5,300, were stolen from Klempell Fine Arts Building rooms 280 and 361.

The string of thefts began in December when Carleton College had ten projectors stolen and then in January when UW-Stout had nine taken.

River Falls Police Chief Roger Leque confirmed that there had been a theft and it was under investigation.

"There have been no arrests made at this point in time," Leque said.

The projectors, which were

mounted to the ceiling, had the power cord and security pad locks cut. It isn't known whether the rooms the projectors were stolen from were locked or not.

"It appears that in the rooms where the projectors were stolen, if the doors had simply been locked, it would have hopefully prevented the thefts," Interim Chancellor Virgil Nylander said. "It is my understanding that equipped classrooms are to be shut and locked to prevent this kind of things."

Interim Public Safety director Mark Kimball acknowledged that the rooms should have been locked and said things might have to change in wake of these thefts.

"ITS is taking steps as we speak to make the projectors more secure," Kimball said. "Basically we're looking how we can make rooms more

secure."

At this point, it isn't known whether the projector thefts at UW-RF are tied or related to the thefts at UW-Stout and Carleton

College according to Leque.

The University was made aware that projectors might be in danger of theft back in January when UW-Stout alerted college campuses in the region.

"There have been some real major thefts at Stout and other colleges in the cities and we were kind of hoping we missed this one, but it seems that they

know about us," Nylander said.

While RF-PD is still investigating the thefts, the University is planning on replacing the stolen projectors.

"ITS is taking steps as we speak to make the projectors more secure. Basically we are looking how we can make rooms more secure."

Mark Kimball,
Interim public safety director

to switch rooms but it's definitely a pain."

If anyone has information about the thefts, call Crime Stoppers at (800) 303-8477 or the RFPD at 425-0909.

LOCAL

Music to fill concert hall

On April 10, the UW-River Falls Concert/Pep Band will present their annual spring concert. The show starts at 1 p.m. and will take place in the Abbott Concert Hall in Kleinpell Fine Arts. Thomas Barnett, assistant professor, will lead the full band in pieces that include Robin Hood, Louie Louie and Zoot Suit Riot. He will also conduct the musicians in small chamber groups. There will be chamber performances by the brass, woodwinds and saxophones. The performance is free.

Well-known comedian coming to campus

Hal Sparks, a comedian whose work has been seen on both VH1 and Comedy Central will be taking his stand-up act to the UW-River Falls campus on April 19. The show begins at 8 p.m. in the North Hall Auditorium. Besides hosting "I Love the 90's" and "Talk Soup" Sparks has been in a few movies including, "Dude Where's My Car." Tickets can be purchased in the Leadership Center. Prices are \$7 for UW-RF students and \$12 for non-students. Ticket prices increase by \$3 at the door on the night of the performance.

Parking permits available for next year

Students applying for parking in the residence hall parking lots next year can apply for a parking pass now. Applications will be mailed out on April 11 to all students living on campus this semester. Everyone who doesn't live on campus can come into the Parking Office starting on April 11 to pick one up. Applications for parking will be accepted starting on April 18. For students who are planning on applying, all outstanding tickets must be paid off at the same time the application is turned in. Passes will be distributed by class status followed by residence halls. All applications must be turned in and completed by May 13 for all returning students. They will then begin to accept applications from freshman at the summer orientation sessions.

Relay for Life fund-raiser at high school

On April 15, there will be a spaghetti dinner at the River Falls High School. The event takes place from 5:30-8 p.m. The River Falls Rotary Club will be sponsoring the dinner which serves as a fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Adults eat for \$5 and children under 10 have a \$3 fee. All cancer survivors eat for free at the event. All the money raised from the dinner goes to the American Cancer Society. The Relay for Life event itself starts at 6 p.m. April 15 until 10 a.m. on April 16.

Social Security discussion on Thursday

On April 14, Tim Penny will be on campus to talk to students and staff about Social Security and its reform issues. The discussion will take place from 7-9p.m. in the Blue Room of Rodli. Penny works for the Humphrey Institute Policy Forum where he is the senior fellow and co-director. He also was a member of congress for 12 years, during the years of 1982-1994. He also worked for former Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura, where he worked as a part of his transition team. One of his most recent accomplishments was being appointed to the bipartisan commission on Social Security under President George W. Bush. Along with co-writing two books, "Common Cents" and "The 15 Biggest Lies in Politics," he also ran for Minnesota Governor as an Independence Party candidate in 2002.

Awards reception to take place

On April 26, there will be a reception for the College of Arts and Sciences Awards. This reception is for all students who received academic merit awards, scholarships and departmental awards. A reception with desserts will begin at 6 p.m. in the lobby of Kleinpell Fine Arts and the Gallery. The presentation begins at 7 p.m. and will take place in Abbott Concert Hall. Everyone who wishes to attend the ceremony should pick up a ticket April 11 through April 21. They are available at the information desk in the Student Center.

REGIONAL

Bomb threats continue to empty schools

At New Richmond Middle School there was a bomb threat. On the morning of April 4, school officials found a note that threatened a bombing, which caused the school to evacuate. There have recently been six other threats at this school. The first threat occurred Feb. 22 and was written on the wall of the school. The only time the school officials have been able to catch any suspects was on March 15 and March 29, when they took a total of three suspects and referred them to juvenile authorities. After each scare, the members of the police and fire department alongside the school officials searched through the entire school, but found nothing that resembled explosives.

UW students speak up on tuition changes

On April 5, students had the opportunity to speak at a listening session where the main topic of interest was the increase of tuition in the UW System. Today's session took place on the UW-Eau Claire campus. Representative for the Wisconsin State Legislature Rob Kreibich put together the session. Kreibich is part of the Assembly's Colleges and Universities Committee. The committee wrote a bill that would put a 3 percent cap on tuition and extra fees System-wide. The increase would be for the next two years. Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle has considered increasing tuition by 7 percent, which would take place in the next two years as well. Kreibich's proposal is doing well with around 30 legislators co-sponsoring him. There will be another listening session April 18. This session will take place at UW-Stout.

NATIONAL

Jennings diagnosed with lung cancer

American Broadcasting Company (ABC) news anchor Peter Jennings was recently diagnosed with lung cancer despite kicking the habit of smoking nearly 20 years ago. Even though he had quit, he had a temporary relapse of smoking when 9/11 happened. He informed all of his co-workers of the disease via e-mail. Jennings said he was pleasantly surprised by all of their support. He will continue to anchor the news, despite the fact that he begins chemotherapy on April 11.

Arkansas cans the pink jerseys

An Arkansas football coach said that his players will no longer wear pink practice jerseys so they don't offend breast cancer survivors. Coach Houston Nutt said he received negative comments about the pink practice jerseys. Also, according to Nutt, he never meant to offend anybody. They are thinking of changing the colors to burnt orange.

Briefs compiled by Sarah Packingham
Assistant News Editor

Send news brief ideas to sarah.packingham@uwrf.edu

STUDENT SENATE

Student Regent visits, informs Senate on important state issues

Eric Quade
Co-Editor

Lemonade wasn't the only thing being dispensed at the Student Senate's April 5 meeting. UW Student Regent Beth Richlend dispensed her fair share of current issues in education, but her news wasn't all sweet. First up for concerns was the possibility of losing funding for the Lawton Minority Retention Grant. Richlend said the grant's funding must be fought over every year. But this year it has received significant flak from UW economics professor emeritus W. Lee Hansen who has said the grant amounts to reverse discrimination. Richlend said the Lawton Grant has always been funded even during the past years of a Republican-controlled legislature, so she hoped it would continue to receive funding. Second on Richlend's list of concerns was a very controversial tuition system up for debate. The Regents are considering a sliding scale tuition system for future budgets

where a student's tuition would be linked to his/her income level. Non-traditional students (especially those who no longer receive health care through their parents' policy) and students with wealthy-but-non-contributing parents might have the most to lose with this proposal that Richlend said is not likely to be approved because it is so controversial. Third, considering Senate's support for the Mandatory Refundable Fee referendum on an every-two-years basis, Richlend's support for loosening the voting to every four years might leave a sour taste in Senate's mouth. Richlend said, while she understands Senate's reasoning for wanting to keep the vote to every two years, any benefits are outweighed by the huge amount of time United Council has to campaign campuses to keep the fee, which translates into too much time wasted. Richlend also said UC is on extremely good terms with the Regents and have great influence when it comes to policy sugges-

tions. "I think anything they [UC] bring right now would be passed," Richlend said. **In other Senate-related news:** *Senate approved \$2,776 to fund a second annual Diversity Recognition Reception. Senators Jeremiah Zitzow and Louis Muench objected and said too much money seemed to be allocated for the number of expected participants and the amount of food likely to be consumed. Senator Katy Leisch said there wasn't any harm in allocating extra money for food because the cost of entertainment hadn't been finalized yet. *Senate appointed Charles Packard to a Student Senate seat for the remainder of the academic year. Packard is a former student senator who served during his freshman and sophomore years at UW-River Falls. *Drainage troubles might dry up in front of Kleinpell Fine Arts this summer, Zitzow said. Facilities Manager Waldo Hagen's tentative plan is to coordinate with a landscaping crew to fix the drainage problem.

Faculty, students dance the night away



Photo by Micheal Foley

Students are entertaining audiences with their dance routines for Dance Theatre. Dance Theatre is taking place April 5-9 at the Blanche Davis Theatre in KFA.

Katrina Schmidt
Staff Writer

Spring is here just in time for the UW-River Falls Dance Theatre to present its 23rd annual spring concert.

The concert will consist of a unique blend of choreography by faculty, students and special guests, focusing on modern, lyrical, hula, tango and interpretational types of dances. Ruby Lanoux, Dance Theatre

president and choreographer who has been involved with UW-RF Dance Theatre for three years, said each of the dance styles are important. "A lot of the pieces have different meanings behind them as far as what the choreographer wanted to say," Lanoux said. This year's performances consist of a lot of variety from African dance, to hula, to tango-based ballroom, to contemporary lyrical styles.

Dance Theatre secretary Dori Bockenhauer, who has also been involved with dance theatre for the past three years, said each of the performances will be very authentic. "For instance, one piece is a hula piece, so the music is hula, the costume is hula, everything is hula, they even sing in Hawaiian," Bockenhauer said. Bockenhauer said not all of the performances tell stories, but some do. "There is another piece that is based on the 9/11 incident, but then there are some pieces that are simply just a song that we tried to adapt the clothing and the facials to the movement so that the audience can see." This year, the concert is a little different than it has been in past years. "There's a little bit more of a variety this year. Over half of us are new members, and there is a lot more meanings behind the

pieces this year versus just movement pieces," Lanoux said. The performance also appeals to a more student-based crowd this year. "It's a lot of our styles that we would like to go watch and see, more styles of dance that younger people will enjoy," Lanoux said. Though the UW-RF Dance Theatre spring concert has more variety than in past years, the overall purpose has stayed the same. "This is to allow students to have an artistic experience during their time here at River Falls as performers and choreographers," said acting organizational director Susan Sell. Sell has been advising Dance Theatre this year in place of Karla Zhe, who is on sabbatical. Ticket prices are \$5 for students and children and \$7 for adults. Tickets will be available March 28-April 9, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the box office in Kleinpell Fine Arts. They will also be sold at the box office before each performance from 7-8 p.m. The performances will be held in the Blanche Davis Theatre in KFA, starting at 8 p.m., from April 5-9. Ticket reservations are recommended. For further information on the spring concert, call 425-3131. To purchase tickets, call the box office at 425-3114.

"There's a little bit more of a variety this year."
Ruby Lanoux,
Dance Theatre president

Contest brings big high school crowd to campus

Sara Tischauser
News Editor

Nearly 800 high school students flooded the UW-River Falls campus April 2 to participate in the Agricultural Technology contest. This contest is organized by the agricultural education department and was coordinated by Crystal Heath, a senior agricultural education major and Ag Tech student coordinator; Andi Cooper, a junior agricultural education major and assistant Ag Tech student coordinator; and Tim Buttles, an agricultural education assistant professor and faculty coordinator of the contest. The Ag Tech contest is for high school FFA members from across the state in different contest areas. "It's an opportunity for high school students and FFA members to compete in 14 different contests," Heath said. The 14 contest areas were food science and technology, ag mechanics, dairy cattle evaluation, floriculture, livestock evaluation, horse evaluation, wildlife, agricultural communications, agronomy, farm business man-

agement, forestry, nursery/landscape, small animals and soils. Buttles said this year the food science and technology contest was the state qualifying contest for the Wisconsin FFA Association. He said the winner from this contest will compete in Louisville, Ky. at the National FFA Convention. He said six of the other contests were state qualifying contests, so a certain percentage of the top teams in these contest areas will be able to compete at the state level for a chance to go to nationals. Heath said a new contest was added this year and that was the agricultural communications contest. According to Buttles, River Falls decided to have this contest because there were no contests in the area of communication. "It fills an area that we currently didn't offer," Buttles said. Besides providing a service to the high school FFA members who compete at the contest, the University is also served. "At least by having them see our campus they get an idea of what our campus looks like," Cooper said. "A lot of [UW-RF students] that work, if they get the chance to

talk to students, can promote students to come here." Heath agreed with Cooper. "The contest is a really good recruitment tool," Heath said. "Students see our facilities and use our facilities." There are also benefits to the students who help with the contest. "For Ag Ed people, it is getting them student contact hours," Heath said. Buttles also said the contests help prepare agricultural education students for how to teach their future students about the contests. Heath agreed with Buttles and said UW-RF students are able to see how the contest is run and get first-hand experience running and organizing the different contests. Cooper said the contest is also a chance to work with FFA advisors. "Getting to work with the advisors gives me an opportunity to meet the people behind their students," Cooper said. "The people I will hopefully be working with one day." Heath estimated about 80 River Falls students helped with Ag Tech. "Without all the help it would be impossible to run the event," Heath said.

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

Compiled by Micheal Foley
Photo Editor

March 30
Ezekial J. Secrist was fined \$164 for theft of a street sign and \$226 for obstructing an officer at 650 S. Main St.
Melvin B. Woods was taken into custody for battery of a female at 327 N. Fourth St. Bail was set at \$150 for disorderly conduct and \$500 for battery.
Cassie J. Staubus was cited for speeding.
Rachel A. Baker reported a hit-and-run accident to her vehicle parked at 200 S. Second St.
Keith L. Armstrong was cited for failure to obey a sign.
March 31

Nicole M. Purtell was fined \$243 for underage consumption at Johnson Hall.
UW-River Falls reported a robbery at Kleinpell Fine Arts. Two LCD projectors (valued at \$2,300 and \$3,000) were taken from two classroom ceilings.
April 1
Natalie J. Hansen was fined \$164 for an ID violation and \$164 for underage consumption.
John A. Hepokoski was fined \$243 for underage consumption at Johnson Hall.
UW-River Falls reported the theft of two DVD players (valued at \$260 each) at Kleinpell Fine Arts.
Christopher A. Bauers reported a robbery at McMillan Hall. A

blank check and \$16 in cash were taken.
April 2
Zachary S. Burdick reported damage to his legally parked vehicle at 850 E. Cascade Ave. A pair of eyeglasses (valued at \$400) were taken.
Michael J. Dougherty was fined \$243 for underage consumption at Johnson Hall.
April 3
Todd M. Hofdahl was fined \$274 for battery to a female at Johnson Hall.
Justin W. Fallon was fined \$367 for second-offense underage consumption at Johnson Hall.
Amanda M. Kraabel reported damage to her legally parked vehicle in the O-Lot.

April 4
Jamie C. Hatch was fined \$367 for second-offense underage consumption at Johnson Hall.
Tyler R. Anderson reported the theft of two cymbals (valued at \$440 and \$160 each) at Kleinpell Fine Arts.
UW-River Falls reported the theft of two DVD players (valued at \$260) and several DVDs (valued at \$300) at Kleinpell Fine Arts.
April 5
Danielle N. Cesare was fined \$243 for underage consumption at Johnson Hall.
April 6
Kelly A. Gorgus was fined \$243 for underage consumption at Johnson Hall.

Comedian to entertain students, not concert

Eric Ebert
Assistant Editor

The UW-River Falls Entertainment and Special Events committees intended to end the 2005 school-year with a blow-out concert for a big name performer, but due to complications some changes have been made.

Instead of a big name band coming to UW-RF, the committees have decided to hire a big name comedian.

Comedian and actor Hal Sparks will be performing stand-up comedy April 19 at 8 p.m. in North Hall. Aside from appearing on VH1's "I Love the 90s," Sparks has also acted in movies such as "Dude, Where's My Car" along with being a show host on E! Television.

But Sparks' talents extend beyond those of comedy and acting.

Sparks is also part of a band named "The Hal

Sparks Band," which is debuting their first album "Zero!" soon, according to the Hal Sparks Web site.

Although Sparks has a variety of talents, he will be performing a comedy routine at UW-RF.

"We're very excited to be bringing Hal Sparks to campus," said event coordinator Marie Johnson.

Yet the move to have Sparks perform instead of a band stemmed from numerous complications while trying to book a band.

The committees began their band search by using results from a survey conducted last semester.

The survey, which around 800 students responded to, asked students for input on which band they would like to have come to campus and established performer Gavin McGraw as the number one choice.

"We were so excited that 800 people filled out that band survey," Johnson said.

The committees contacted McGraw and set up a

date in May for the concert. However, McGraw was offered more money by another campus and chose to perform there, Johnson said.

Although the committees tried talking to other bands such as Eve Six, Phantom Planet and Atmosphere, a decision had to be made before Spring Break, Johnson said.

Entertainment Committee chair Jillian Meyer said they were left with two options: a lesser-known band or a well-known comedian.

Although the Special Events Committee is helping to facilitate and set up the event, they left the final decision about the performer to the Entertainment Committee.

"We spent one of our weekly meetings basically debating whether it would be a band or comedian," Meyer said.

Using a list of comedians provided through an agency, the Entertainment Committee selected Hal Sparks to perform at UW-RF.

"We decided it would be more beneficial to bring in a big name comedian," Johnson said.

Johnson was concerned about upset students at first but is hoping that more of the excitement focuses on Sparks rather than the lack of the concert.

Meyer shared Johnson's worries, but said she has not had any feedback from students concerning the band/comedian issue.

"We just want to get the word out to students that he is coming," Meyer said.

Meyer is hoping for a sell-out crowd because this event is partially funded by student tuition.

Tickets are available for purchase at the front desk in the Leadership Center, and will also be sold at tables in the Student Center and Rodli Commons April 11-14. Ticket prices are \$7 for UW-RF students and \$12 for non-students. Tickets will also be available the night of the show, but will cost \$3 more.

Professors see differences in domestic, foreign teaching

Sara Tischer
News Editor

The cultural experience of being in another country has been brought to UW-River Falls through many different avenues, from having professors from foreign countries come to campus to having UW-RF professors teach in other countries.

Victoria Perselli, senior lecturer and coordinator for equity and diversity at Kingston University (just south of London), visited UW-RF April 4-6. She said she has never taught American students, but from her observations she did see some similarities between her students at Kingston and here.

A similarity Perselli saw in students was that UW-RF education students are "very enthusiastic, really committed to becoming teachers, same as ours [Kingston school of education students.]"

She said there was one other similarity.

"Most of our students are women," Perselli said. "Obviously we would like more men in teaching."

Perselli said from her observations this seemed to be a common problem with the education program at River Falls.

One of the differences Perselli sees in the two universities is that many of

the students at Kingston are older than 25 and have families. She said students often enjoyed working with their children and then decided to go Kingston as education majors.

UW-RF English professor Marshall Toman found out first-hand the difference in teaching foreign students when he taught in the Czech Republic in 1997 and 1998. While he was there he taught non-American students English. One of the first differences he noted was the time schedule for the class.

"English classes, unlike here, meet once a week for an hour and a half," Toman said. "It turns out to be much easier to meet just once a week."

Toman said the Czech Republic students seemed ready for class.

"Students [were] very well prepared, both in terms of language ability and intellectual ability," Toman said. "But like students here it was difficult; more difficult for them to read lengthy works."

One of the differences Toman notices between the Czech Republic students and the American students he has taught is the amount of knowledge the students come to class with.

"I think they [Czech Republic students] came to the University with a broader knowledge of the world than American students do," Toman said. "I think they didn't have better skills

than American students in terms of discussing or writing."

Besides the knowledge the students brought in, Toman noticed a different attitude in the Czech Republic students.

"I did see that their attitude was more serious than most students have in their early years here," Toman said.

Toman said this might be because in America a large portion of the population goes to college, while in the Czech Republic far fewer people go to college. He said part of the reason there are fewer people in college is because there are more rigorous screening measures to get into college.

"Screening measures may get rid of people that could succeed and leaves only those that most likely will succeed," Toman said.

Betty Bergland, a history professor, said she saw the same seriousness in students when she taught in Germany in the 1970s. She said the reason for this was probably do to the process students go through to get into college.

"Students that go on to study at a university a much more elite group than here," Bergland said.

Bergland said that students in Germany take a test when they are about 11 years old and this test determines what career path they should

follow. This test determines which students will go to college and their classes from then on is oriented towards going to college.

Bergland also said German students need to be concerned about staying in school once they are enrolled.

"The system is very difficult," Bergland said. "It is very unlikely that as a German student you could drop out, work for a while, and then re-enter."

Toman said at UW-RF there are standards in place to determine who is able to attend college, but that here the University is more willing to help those students with average academic ability or other problems with school.

Another difference Toman experienced was in the attention of the students.

"I had to say something only once and everyone there knew it whether they were in class or not," Toman said. "Sometimes here I will repeat a change, and sometimes even people in class didn't realize a change was made."

Toman said he has one favorite thing about teaching UW-RF students.

"I think it's the excitement of the subject matter and seeing students share some of that excitement," Toman said.



Photo by Corey Hargreaves
Victoria Perselli from Kingston University gave a speech on April 6 in Davee Library.

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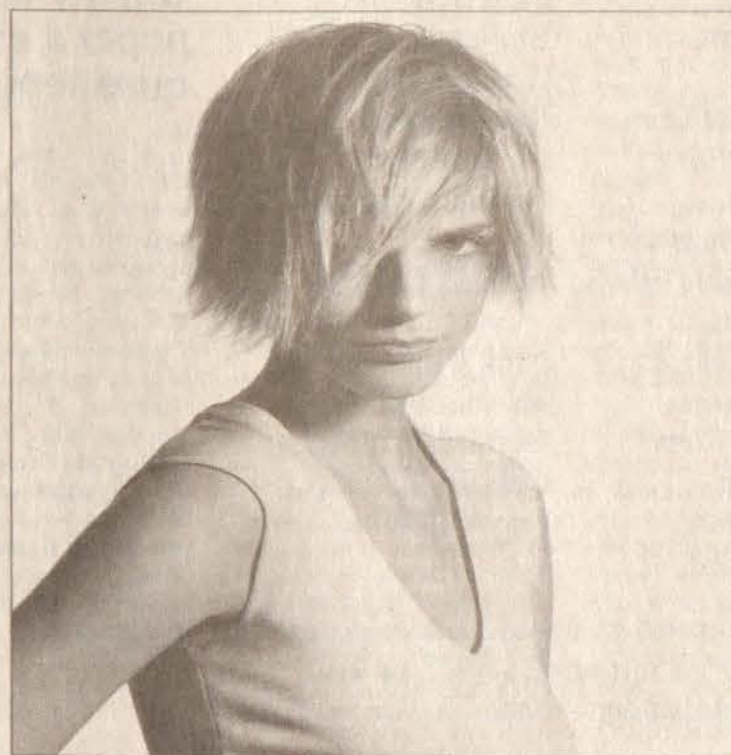
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EDITORIAL

LCD projector thefts foreseen but ignored

These past few months have witnessed a slew of LCD projector thefts at area universities, including UW-Stout in January and Carleton College in December. UW-Stout estimated that they lost \$32,000 worth of academic equipment in the debacle. Referring to those wintertime thefts, former Public Safety director Priscilla Stevens had claimed that now, here at UW-River Falls, "Campus awareness is heightened."

But, apparently, it wasn't heightened nearly enough because now UW-RF has become a victim of costly LCD projector thefts.

Obviously, anyone who really wants to steal an LCD projector could do it. Security cables can be cut. Wires can be ripped out. Heck, even ground-level classroom windows could be shattered to compromise security. It's just like associate director of IT Services John Nierengarten said about those past area thefts in the Feb. 25 *Student Voice* issue, "Anybody with sufficient time can defeat a security system."

The frustrating part, though, is that UW-RF officials purport these pillaged rooms in KFA might have been left unlocked, even after the whole UW System was alerted of what Nierengarten described as "an organized effort, not a rag-tag group," of random thieves.

UW-RF should, at the very least, follow UW-Stout's lead and adopt a simple and inexpensive security measure: have the last faculty member to use a classroom every day lock the door on the way out. While this probably happens to some extent on campus, it seems obvious at this point, that rooms – or at the very least – a room was left unlocked.

Interim Public Safety director Mark Kimball said that ITS was looking into additional security measures to protect LCD projectors in rooms on campus. This is simply too little – too late. It took the theft of nearly \$6,000 in equipment to get the serious attention of the University.

Media bashing becoming tiring

The media created political correctness. The media glamorizes violence. The media created Britney Spears. Listen to professors, political pundits, media critics and other talking heads and one is sure to hear about how those diabolical manipulators—the media—are programming society one way or another.

For the love of Allah, God or whoever—give it a rest.

To put some fears to rest for all those media paranoids out there, let's get some things straight. The media reflects society and the ideologies within. Yes, modern Hollywood films emphasize explosions and general violence, but these things have always fascinated people; modern technology simply allows for society to 'witness' violence without the consequences.

Incorrectly, tragic events like the school shootings of Columbine and general violence among children have also been blamed upon the media. Even Barry Bonds blames the media for the attention he has gotten regarding steroids.

The bottom line is that people need to start being responsible for their actions rather than blaming someone or something else. You don't like the show? Turn the station. You don't like the news you're getting from CNN? Watch something else. You don't like the first amendment rights that are afforded to you in the United States? Move to China. As for Britney Spears ... sorry, our bad.

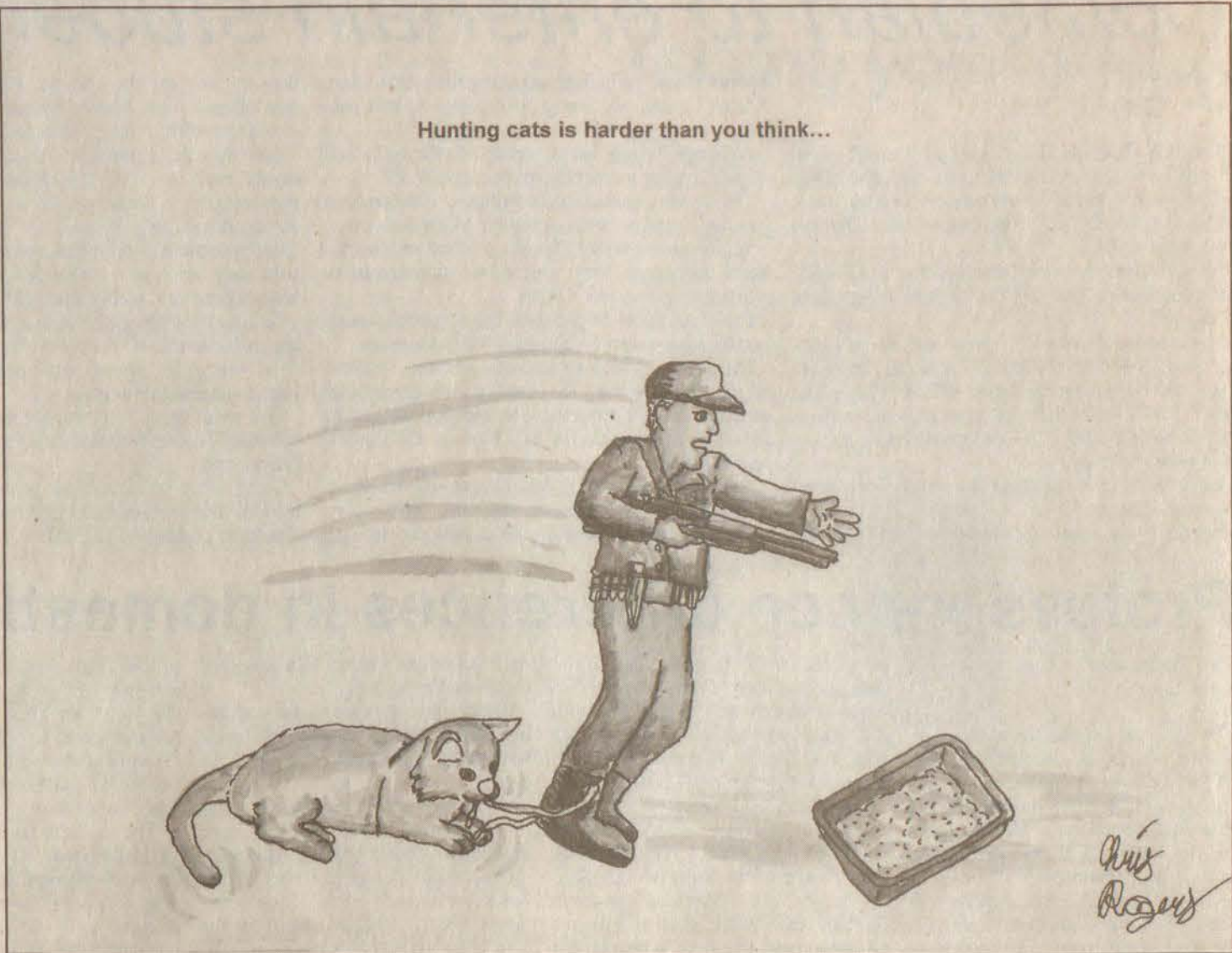
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VIEWPOINTS



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Columns express personal opinion, not societal truth

In Katie Elmer's letter to the editor last week, she commented on Jon Majak's viewpoints column and his expression of single life. She wrote to Jon, "you are giving gay people a bad name." Well, guess what? Jon is not a voted-on international representative of gay people. It is not his job to give gay people any name, bad or otherwise. He is an individual with his own desire to creatively communicate to the campus community in his column. Also, what right do we have to "disagree" with anyone's "lifestyle?" Personally, I disagree with many things that happen in American society, like wastefulness, intolerance and apathy. That doesn't give me the power to go around judging individuals around me and ask them to censor their views for my comfort.

Additionally, enough with people writing in to complain about the *Student Voice*! If students want to improve the articles, then they should participate in the production of the newspaper. After all, let's give students the respect they deserve for participating in a student-produced media that benefits us all.

Kendra Plant
Student Senator

Quality of paper's content questioned

I couldn't help but notice the "Drink Recipes" included in last week's *Voice*. The recipes were conveniently located on the opposite page of Student Health Services' calorie advertisement advocating responsible drinking. The *Student Voice* has a responsibility to report on pertinent news. I question the necessity of including drink recipes in future issues of the *Voice*. Perhaps next time left over space needs to be filled, the *Voice* could come up with something more educational or even donate the space to campus organizations or Student Health Services.

Mara Bryan
student

A call made for the respect of smoker's stations

Over the past several months I have been following the discussion regarding smoking on campus, and I am particularly interested in the problems we face in disposing of cigarette butts. It only takes one sweeping glance across the grass to realize there is an ever-growing heap of cigarette butts accumulating on the grounds.

As a fellow smoker I understand the negative images that many students have of smokers. I am not writing to reinforce any of these stigmas. I have however recently become aware of the stain that cigarette butts leave on our beautiful campus after they are not properly disposed of. It is a dark reminder of a trail most don't want to follow. This is not the standard argument about who is right or wrong, but about respecting our environment.

To maintain a respectful balance, our student body must learn to open our minds and compromise to better the whole environment of our campus. Smokers should not loath the set guidelines by the student body, but at the same time non-smokers should realize that the set guidelines are slightly degrading. Smokers are not pushed into busy areas due to the fact that that's where the "smokers' stations" are placed. Although the "smokers' stations" are a good thing they aren't as good as they could be. This was especially the case this past fall when I walked past Parker and Crabtree halls to discover that people regarded the smokers station as garbage and the trash also brought bees, which I saw as a disrespectful act. The "smokers' stations" are there for a reason and it is not so we can all look at your crap. If you need to throw something away by all means do it. Seeing as UW-RF has an outstanding art program, it shouldn't be very hard for a few people to get together and make the stations more aesthetically pleasing.

I guess what I am trying to say is it all comes down to respect. If we were all more respectful and conscientious of what's really happening to the people's feelings around us, things might run more smoothly on campus. I am now using this opportunity

to ask the pertaining class to transpose norms and realize their pathetic sway!

Eileen Topic
student

Student against columnist portrayal of GOP

Being an active College Republican from the "religious right," I'm setting the record straight. Brian Hogenson's column last week could have been titled, "Republicans, hypocritical extremist bozos" rather than "Columnist criticizes American Injustice." Saying nothing about "American injustice," he simply lambasted groups to which I belong. Consider the error of this divisive, partisan stereotyping.

I consider myself part of the religious right (I attend church, lead worship, and lead a Bible study) and the GOP, though I support some democrats. Most say I'm extremely conservative, but while I'd gladly fund "Jesus Saves" billboards, I'd never support "XXX Adult Toy" stores and anyone claiming to be a Christian who does is hypocrite, regardless of how they vote. I didn't support efforts to keep Terri Schiavo's body breathing. I believe activist politicians are sometimes just as bad as activist judges. I think years of court hearings with 19 judges concurring are more reliable than publicity-crazed politicians. I believe that while technological advances allowing life support are wonderful gifts, pulling that life support isn't necessarily murder. So how are republicans "repaying" this republican?

Hogenson notes that racist Strom Thurmond was republican, using this as evidence against the party. So can I use current democratic Senator Robert Byrd's KKK membership against the the democratic party? Extremists come from every party. Those arrested trying to "feed a vegetable" (that was real tactful Brian) don't represent me any more than anti-war rioters represent democrats. And good work forgetting that those "conservatives during the 1800s [who] fought for the right to keep slaves" were democrats, while Republicans, led by Lincoln, fought against slavery. Hogenson mentions the NRA

(which I'm not in and don't always agree with) also supports democrats. And what does the NRA have to do with Medicaid? In developing an argument, at least make it smart, rather than revealing your partisan bigotry and journalistic incompetence.

We must stop putting each other into stereotypical boxes like "democrat" or "religious right." Those terms help define our beliefs, but they are guidelines helping us understand one another's principles, not definitions by themselves. Hogenson's divisive partisanship is shallow and immature.

Joey White
student

Skateboarding trial period on campus explained

As some of you already know, there currently is a trial period for skateboarding on campus. This trial period will last through the rest of the semester, and then will be re-evaluated based on how well the new proposed policy is being used. Between the hours of 2:15 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. daily, students will be able to skateboard on campus in designated areas. The designated areas include: the sidewalk on the north side of the east end residence halls and Rodli Commons, and the side walks between Prucha, Johnson, and May Halls. Keep in mind, this is only a trial period, and how students use or abuse this trial period will determine whether skateboarding will be allowed on campus in the future. So, we would suggest that all who will take advantage of this opportunity will abide by the rules and treat others respectfully.

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Student Voice

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

All editorial content in the *Student Voice* is determined by the newspaper's Editorial Board.

Letters concerning coverage or content should be directed to: *Student Voice*, 410 S. Third Street, 304 North Hall, River Falls, WI 54022.

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All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads, and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Tuesday at 11:59 p.m.

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Second strike sinks in, better now than later

Columnist speaks about personal effects of second DUI

The time has finally come, my friends. I should have seen it just around the bend, but I was too busy hitting my head against a metaphorical wall of fines and broken relationships. Alcohol and Mike Sonn just don't mix.

Apparently, I can't have my cake and eat it too, lest I pay thousands of dollars in fines. In my own defense, though, at least I've come to this conclusion now and not when I'm forty and stumbling out of a bar to head home to a trailer full of cats and empty whiskey bottles.

I think if there were to be a "recipe" to create-a-Mike it would go something like this: take two parts bad luck, mix in three-fourths horrible timing, add a bottle of O.T. and stir generously. Note: make sure to chase with three to four squads and a hand full of citations.

I've also come to the conclusion that I would be fine right now if I was either fat-

ter or in a position of authority or fame. The fatter thing would have helped since I once again drank less than seven drinks only to blow over a .1 BAC. I knew I should have gotten on that raw egg diet. And if I was famous or worked for the University I probably could have gotten away with driving drunk. Maybe once I graduate I'll become a coach and get to be friends with the sheriff; then my assistant can take the fall for me after I actually do something to deserve a D.U.I. - like roll my truck into a ditch.

However, I can't be bitter because, after all, I did break the law. But there seems to be some of you who think that since I put my drunken actions into words that



MIKE SONN

I'm the only one who does this sort of stuff. Contrary to popular belief, I would put what little I have left in my savings on the fact that a very good majority of the students who drink downtown on any given night, especially during the winter, either get into a car with a person who should not legally be driving or are driving themselves.

... at least I've come to this conclusion now and not when I'm forty and stumbling out of a bar to head home to a trailer full of cats and empty whiskey bottles.

This doesn't mean I'm using this as an excuse, but I'm not the devil incarnate and I didn't drink myself to "total anesthesia" before I got behind the wheel.

Anyway, on the bright side, I'm saving myself more than \$75 a week by not drinking, so maybe I can afford a good lawyer so I don't have to do any jail time. Now that I think of it, I could really boost my street creds if I spend a little of my summer behind bars. After I beat up a few meth-heads from Dunn County, no jock in River Falls is going to want to come within ten feet of me.

In ending, I'd like to remind you that it really doesn't take much to get a D.U.I. I thought I was fine twice and I'm running a

0-2 record. There are sites online where you can find out exactly how few drinks you can have before you are over a .08 BAC. Drinking is a great time and about the only thing to do in this town, but be smart, I know the cops will be itching to hand out some tickets now that I'm not drinking anymore.

Poop: all part of raising your puppy

My dog is a lunatic. That is an understatement. We brought Lance home when he was about 8 weeks old. When we first met him at the animal shelter he was very docile and submissive. These qualities, according to a book we had purchased titled "How to Raise a Super Pup," were essential. However, we soon found it was all an act. After the first week, in which he proceeded to rip holes in the bottoms of my jeans by latching on whenever I walked past him, I knew he was going to be a lot more work than I had previously thought.

The first year or so of puppydom was very trying. Because we knew nothing about raising a puppy, we took him to a puppy kindergarten class and an obedience training class. He turned out to be a very smart dog; maybe a little too smart for his own good. What kind of a dog eats napkins and paper towels? I've caught him many times trying to gulp stacks of napkins. And soap! The other day as I waited to return a bar of soap to the shower, Lance sat in front of me and eyed the bar of soap. He licked his chops while drool formed small puddles on the linoleum. The shower door must remain closed or he'll swallow the soap before I even realize what has happened.

We used to keep Brillo pads under the sink to scrub off stuck on stains. However, after a few occasions in which he batted the cupboard door open and made a beeline for the Brillo pads, we

hid them somewhere else. Don't get me wrong, Lance has his good points, but for the most part he is a conniving maniac.

Fortunately, the phase in which he tried to knock me down the stairs has passed. It's not a good feeling to realize your dog has lunged with his front paws at your turned back in order to send you careening down the staircase. On the rare occasion I'd turn around and catch him red-pawed, he'd freeze and give me a guilty look.

The first year we had him he came down with diarrhea. He slept in a kennel in my brother's or my room during the night. One night I woke to a soft whimpering and a horrible smell. I turned on the light to discover he had soiled his kennel. He must



CAITLIN NIMM

have had diarrhea for at least a week. Eventually someone had the sense to call the vet and she recommended Pepto Bismol. Unfortunately, peppermint was not a flavor he enjoyed. We had quite the time forcing it down his throat. The Pepto Bismol did the trick. He has been diarrhea free ever since.

Recently, he discovered the joys of mayonnaise, bread, meat and cheese. When combined these ingredients made, in his opinion, a combination to fight for. Last summer, sandwiches were the main staple of my diet. Every once in a while, if I didn't keep a close eye on Lance, he would grab my sandwich from the counter. Around the table he would run, devouring all my hard work.

Treasures abound, just have to find it

Now that spring is finally here, (and I've been counting signs, everything from robins to motorcycle packs) I find that I can no longer use the excuse "Well, it's too cold out" to avoid activity. So with this thought in mind, I have been getting outside more in hopes of getting a little healthier. In order to exercise, I must find things to do that are disguised as fun.

Running on a treadmill, or doing sit-ups are not disguised, therefore I quickly lose interest. But I do have a new game that's not only good for me, but amusing as well. It's a far-reaching game, currently being played in more than 200 countries. It's called geocaching (pronounced geo-caching), and simply put, it's a high tech treasure hunt.

In order to play, you simply need a global positioning sys-

tem, or GPS. They range from \$100 to more than \$1000 (I think I bought mine for \$250-300). On a Web site, aptly named www.geocaching.com, one can download or copy off coordinates for caches or containers hidden by fellow geocachers. A common misconception is that, well, you know exactly where the cache is. It's not hidden. Well, it's one thing

Caches are hidden to keep "geomuggles" out. It keeps people who don't play the game from ruining it for the players.

to have the coords, as they're called, and it's another thing entirely to go out and FIND it. A GPS system can get you within a few feet of the cache, but it's still hidden

often under rocks, in stumps, or on tree forks. Caches are hidden to keep "geomuggles" out. It keeps people who don't play the game from ruining it for the players. People tend to bother things and even remove them if they don't understand that the

cache is supposed to be there and it sucks to go out there and not find the cache.

This weekend my roommate Natalie (now known as Nat the Hat) and I went geocaching and found a little beach on the St. Croix River about seven miles from the main drag in River Falls. It was great exercise, and we found the cache.

We signed the log-book and swapped a bobber and a little Star Wars guy for a necklace and a worry stone. This is a good time to mention the treasure is really composed of just little trinkets and knick-knacks with mostly no value.

Sorry if you were expecting gold and jewels, but we spent most of the gold on the GPS unit. The rule is if you take something, leave something, so everything you find has come from other geocachers. It's still a blast. Some caches also have

travel bugs, which are little key-chain bugs that people track using the geocaching Web site. People pick up a bug at one cache and drop it off at their next cache find. Some of those little bugs travel!

As I run out of room, I wish I could give you guys more details. One column of 600 words doesn't give this wonderful hobby justice. It's a hell of a good time, and it gets you out of the house into the woods and parks. You can geocache wherever you go. You can take kids and pets along. You don't need to be an expert in anything. It's worth the money to buy the GPS unit. What else can I tell you? Go to www.geocaching.com for all the best details. This site tells you everything, and it's how geocachers keep in touch. If you see Amazon and Imp online, drop a line, because that's my fiancé and myself. Please, please, please check it out! You'll be so glad you did!



AMY SCHOBERT

The "only" definition for life and death

Uniformity of opinion suggested to eliminate controversy

Imagine if everyone had the same opinion on the meaning of "life" and "death." Universal meanings to such words means there would be no controversy or disagreements since both are so deeply rooted in

opinion. There would be no more debates over the moral issues concerning life and death (e.g. euthanasia and abortion), either - just serenity. But that isn't the case. We are subject to differing opinions constantly. Our parents' opinions are instilled in us throughout childhood. The media has something to say every time we pick up a newspaper or watch the TV. Even professionals - like doctors, lawyers, and professors - have a heavy influence on our opinions. Who are we supposed to listen to in order to form an opinion? The answer is simple. Me. Laugh if you must, but if everyone went along with my meaning of "life" and "death," there would be no room for opinion and thus, no controversy. Genius! I'm sure you'll find my opinion just as useful as any others you may have heard as of late.

When I was 9 years old, I didn't understand what death was or how it worked, but it intrigued me. Determined to find some answers, I set out to the woods with my brother's BB gun. As I was lying in the grass and leaves looking somewhat like G.I.

Joe, I surveyed the area for something living. My sights stopped on a small chickadee high atop a balsam. After a quick pump of the action, I let 'er fly. The next image was a vivid one: an innocent little chickadee plinko-ing through the tree branches, plopping lifeless onto the forest floor. I ditched the gun, did a commando roll, and ran up to the scene. My heart sank. It was just lying there, motionless. One of its eyes was missing.



BEN JIPSON

Having been my first encounter with death, I cried for a little while and performed a burial ceremony. I knew that's what people usually did when something died. From then on I had an understanding of death. If something has a BB wound in the eye and it's

lying motionless on the ground, it's dead.

The BB wound is crucial, though. Take that away and it becomes a whole new story. My friend Moose, for example, discovered a taste for alcoholic beverages and took to a bottle of Phillips vodka to test his limits. Moose wandered outside and found himself on the forest floor soon thereafter. Although he was relatively motionless, he was still muttering some sentence fragments. In an effort to rid the alcohol from his system, some friends and I made him chew on some army worms. He vomited, and we knew he was going to be all right. Between his heaves, I realized Moose represented life. Fact number two: if you

vomit from ingesting army worms, you're alive.

Now replace the forest floor with a hospital bed, but keep the drunken stupor. I remember an episode of "The O.C.," or one of those stupid shows, having a similar scenario. One of the teenage characters drank to the point of unconsciousness and friends panicked (those silly Californian adolescents). They dumped his lifeless body on

Who are we supposed to listen to in order to form an opinion? The answer is me. Laugh if you must, but if everyone went along with my meaning of "life" and "death," ... there would be no room for opinion ...

the sidewalk outside an emergency room and sped away to avoid any trouble. His blood-alcohol concentration was more than 0.5 percent, and he died on a hospital bed that night. After watching that show, I had a better understanding of death. If someone is lying unconscious on a hospital bed with a BAC of over 0.5 percent, they're dead.

Keep the hospital bed, but let's have the patient be in a persistent vegetative state, instead of being in a drunken stupor. The patient has a heartbeat and can breathe, but is barely responsive to external stimuli and has to be fed to stay alive. Is that life or death? This example didn't fall into any of my "life" or "death" categories. I'll have to add onto my criteria for one or the other. But, I know if such an event comes up again I'll have an opinion. One that nobody - no politician, priest or lawyer - decided for me.

Why truck drivers shouldn't sell lingerie

Here's the thing, I have a strong feeling that there are too many people out there that have the wrong job for them. By "strong" I mean it drives me crazy. Not to be mean, but it just seems that there are some jobs that need a certain person to fill them, and yet somehow they manage to slip through the cracks.

Let me clarify. For example, take the customer service guy who does not have the patience to listen to your question. Even though it is his job to serve you, the customer, he is much to busy reading a copy of *Auto Trader* too help you.

Coincidentally my cell phone bill is addressed to "Elex Oscarson" thanks to some customer service dude who spoke some of the worst English ever.

Kind of like the professor who scolds you or treats you like dirt because you asked a question in the middle of his/her lecture. It's your job to answer questions - that's how some people learn.

I met of my favorite out of place employees is from this past week. I was at Victoria's Secret with a friend (don't worry, it was a chick, so it's not as weird as it sounds) and there was a saleswoman there, obviously. The only problem was that she was not the person to sell lingerie, if you know what I mean. As she sat there trying to get someone to purchase something that seemed better suited for catching fish than wearing, she said, "Well, this piece hasn't gotten me anywhere yet, but I just got it." No, it hasn't got-

ten you anywhere yet because people can only consume so much alcohol before they start telling the truth and you slap them. Now go back home to your three-dozen cats.

Here's my problem with this scenario. If a salesman is going to try to sell you something, then they should at least be able to use it/know about it. So buying sexy lingerie from someone who will never use it seems bizarre. It would be like paying Paris Hilton to teach your kids about chastity (rule number 1 - always have a camera ready). It just doesn't make sense.

That sounds mean, but it really is the truth.

I can say that because I used to sell outdoor stuff at

Galyan's, to be exact. And while I could do the job of selling because I can and have used it all, I have very little patience - for anything. People sit and twiddle their thumbs trying to decide what to buy when all I wanted to say is, "Look pal, I just sat here and listened to you spew a bunch of nonsense about these skis so you could sound all bad-ass for your girlfriend, but we both know you're broke, so just leave." Patience is a virtue, they say, but whoever said that was not wise just really lazy. Patience is a waste of time.

That is why I now work in an office, separated from customer service all together. Well, that and by looking at the mug shot that accompanies this column, I think we can all tell - I am no looker. That is why my office is in the basement where there are no windows.



AJ OSCARSON

What do you think about labor unions?



Jean Wilson, junior

"They are very good, my husband is part of one. They help raise the wage standard and benefit both union and non-union workers."



Paul Merkling, junior

"The advantage is that workers get treated fairly, but they corner the market with being able to set the wages."



Katie Seidel, junior

"I agree with them."



Mike Reneau, senior

"Labor unions have had a very positive impact in workplaces through the years."

Photo poll by Theresa Theobald

Third base proves to be home for Evans

Corey Hargreaves
Sports Editor

A utility player has found her home at third base for the Falcon fastpitch team. Senior Emily Evans has been a part of the team since the 2002 season.

Evans came to River Falls with many years of experience behind her. Her experience included being a member of numerous teams including Spring Lake Park, Fridley, Hopkins and her hometown team from White Bear Lake.

Evans decided to further her fastpitch career by attending UW-RF.

"I had been to River Falls a few times before," Evans said. "My mom grew up around here."

Evans' family ties to River Falls made this school a comfortable choice for a university.

"I knew the area pretty well from attending softball clinics," Evans said. "Coach also attended some of my games and saw me play before I made my decision. She did as well as you can do while recruiting for a DIII school."

UW-RF wasn't the only choice she had while searching for a school.

"I had my heart set on River Falls, but also had an offering to

play at St. Scholastica," Evans said. "They offered money, but I figured it was a pretty expensive school to start out with, so River Falls worked better."

Evans has also had to learn to adapt when she arrived at UW-RF.

"I have always wanted to pitch," Evans said. "While playing here I've played first, third, and pitcher. This year, coach said I would stay at third."

The coaching staff appreciates Evans' ability to play more than one position on the field.

"She allows herself to be available for anything we need help with," said head coach Faye Perkins. "She'd give her shirt off her back to help a teammate."

Perkins also acknowledges Evans' skills while playing at third. Perkins said she is always there and will never back down in a situation, even when she's at the plate.

While on the field, Evans remembers that her family is always there for support.

"My family has always been at my games, whether I was playing or not," Evans said. "The game I hit my first homerun was one of my mom's first games missing. When I stepped on home plate I almost started to cry because she wasn't there."

Parents aren't the only fans who are important to the team.

"Fans are necessary for a game," Evans said. "In all sports, the athletes feed off the fans."

Looking at this season, Evans sees the team heading in a direction she likes.

"On past teams, I've seen bench players complaining about not playing when they should be supporting the team," Evans said. "This year the team doesn't have players that stand out. Instead we all feed off of each other."

The team has put together many goals that hope to be met when the season is in the books.

"At the beginning of the season we set team goals," Evans said. "Each game, we add new goals that eventually add up to the big goals."

Evans sees herself as a team player when goals are being set.

"I don't have any personal goals because it takes a team effort," Evans said. "Overall, I think we have a lot of players who have the power to hit home-runs instead of a few singles a game. My big goal is to see the team come together and become even more like a family."

Looking back on her years at UW-RF, Evans has had many memories, while being a mem-



Photo by Corey Hargreaves

Senior Emily Evans prepares to field a ball in the April 5 game vs. UW-Eau Claire. Evans has played many different positions as a member of the Falcons, but she has found her home at third base for the 2005 season.

ber of the team, but she especially enjoys the trip to Florida every year.

"Our trip to Florida every year is my favorite," Evans said. "On

the trip we learn to grow as teammates, and even stronger as friends."

After playing on numerous teams, Evans has found her

home with the Falcons and will continue to strive and become a dominating player from their third base position for the 2005 fastpitch season.

Visiting UW-Eau Claire stymies Falcon fastpitch

Tara Sowle
Sports Information

The Falcons lost two 3-0 shutouts against UW-Eau Claire April 5 at Ramer Field. The Falcons came into this game with a record of 7-10 overall, while UW-EC was 14-3.

Hitting for the Falcons didn't go well. "When we hit we can beat anyone," said coach Faye Perkins. "We can't win if we don't hit."

The Falcons had four hits in the first game. Their first hit came in the second inning when Emily Stahl singled to left field. Two more hits came in the third inning. Breamber Syverson made it to first on a single to third base and Amanda Wojnowiak hit a single to right field. Their last hit came in the fifth inning when Ashley James singled to left.

The Falcons played tough defense and were able to limit UW-EC, who is the eighth ranked team in the nation, to only three runs in both games. UW-EC scored three runs on six hits.

"Defensively we played a good game," Perkins said.

UW-EC had single runs in the fifth, sixth and seventh innings.

Leah Vanderploeg pitched six innings and took the loss dropping her record to 3-4. She allowed five hits and three earned runs. She struck out three and walked three. Brittany Rathbun pitched one inning and allowed one hit and struck out two.

The second game was a lot like the first. The Falcons had four hits and only one error and UW-

EC had five hits, three runs, and no errors. UW-EC scored two of their runs in the second inning and one in the sixth. The Falcon hits came from Wojnowiak to right field in the first, James had an infield single in the fifth, Syverson had an infield single in the sixth and Emily Evans singled to right in the seventh.

Ashley Bertrand pitched six and one-third innings and took the loss, putting her record at 3-4. She allowed five hits and three earned runs. She struck out four and walked three. Rathbun finished the game, pitching the last two-thirds of the inning and allowing no hits, walks or runs.

Perkins thinks her team, "needs to get mad and play better; they know they can play better than this."

The team won the first game on April 1, against Case Western Reserve, with a final of 3-1. The team fell to Calvin in the second game, with a final of 6-3.

On April 2 the Falcons took on CWR again, but would lose this game 4-3.

Both teams had one error. The fifth inning is where the Falcons scored all their runs. Out of six hits the Falcons had three runs. CWR scored all their runs in the fourth inning and had four runs on ten hits.

Rathbun led off the fifth inning with a double to center field. One out later Schwartz reached second on an error and Rathbun scored. Jamie Falck came to the plate to hit a double to bring Schwartz home and Emily Rodgers hit a double of her own to score Falck. Syverson walked to first, but CWR

ousted the next three Falcons to end the inning.

The three runs scored weren't enough to beat the four runs CWR scored the previous inning. With two outs, CWR's Gunselman singled to center field scoring the first run. Seeds singled to left scoring the next run.

Rathbun pitched the final three and one third innings and allowed only one hit. She walked two and struck out one.

The last game for the Falcons was against Hope College, whom they had lost to in the final day of the team's spring trip to Florida. They lost that game 9-3.

The Falcons wanted revenge and would beat HC, 6-3. The Falcons had no errors in the field and scored six runs on 10 hits. They started out with a bang, scoring four of their six runs in the first inning, then making single runs in the fourth and seventh.

HC made one error and made three runs on six hits. They were only allowed single runs in the third, fourth, and fifth innings.

In the first inning, Syverson started the action when she made it to first on a fielder's choice then stealing second.

Wojnowiak sent her to third with a single to third. Then Wojnowiak stole second. Evens stepped up and hit a single the sent Syverson home and Wojnowiak to third. Evans took off for second, giving Wojnowiak the time to get home and score a run. Evans stole third on a wild pitch, then Vanderploeg sent her home with a single. A walk from James put runners on first and second which allowed Schwartz to smack a double bringing Vanderploeg home. Syverson scored the fourth inning run when she hit a single with two outs and then stole second base. Wojnowiak then sent her home with a double.

The final run for the Falcons came in the seventh inning when Wojnowiak got to first on an error with one out. She then stole her way to second and was hit to third by Evans. Michelle Kelley, who ran for Evans, also stole second. Stahl grounded out allowing Wojnowiak to score on the play.

Bertrand pitched the game and is now 3-3. She played five and one-third innings. She allowed six hits and three earned runs. She was 4-4 in walks and strikeouts. Rathbun pitched the rest of the game and picked up her second save of the season. She pitched to the minimum of five batters.

The Falcons now have a record of 7-11 overall and 0-2 in conference. On Saturday and Sunday the Falcons play in the UW-EC tournament.

The Falcons play Elmurst at 2 p.m. and St. Scholastica at 4 p.m. on Saturday. On Sunday the Falcons face UM-Morris at 1:30 p.m. and Northland at 3:30 p.m.

Want to know more about the Student Voice?
Stop by our office at 304 North Hall next Wednesday evening to check it out!

Varsity Sports Week

Thursday, April 7

Fastpitch at St. Mary's 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 9

Track & Field hosts Falcon Invitational, 11 a.m.

Fastpitch at Eau Claire Invitational

vs. Elmhurst, 2 p.m.

vs. St. Scholastica, 4 p.m.

Sunday, April 10

Fastpitch at Eau Claire Invitational

vs. UM-Morris, 1:30 p.m.

vs. Northland, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 12

Fastpitch vs. La-Crosse 3 p.m.

TOP PERFORMERS



Ashley Bertrand
Fastpitch



Amanda Wojnowiak
Fastpitch

Bertrand picked up two wins for the Falcons in Michigan last weekend. She pitched 13 innings in wins over Hope and Case Western Reserve, giving up just nine hits during both matches.

Wojnowiak had two hits in the conference opening double-header against Eau Claire. She leads the Falcons on the year with a .414 batting average and 5 doubles.

Let the tailgating season begin

With the Major League Baseball season under way, another season is now in full effect: tailgating.

Unfortunately, for students stuck on campus, making it to a game might not be the easiest thing to do, especially if you're a Brewer or Cubs fan. Being a Twins fan, I try to get to a few games every year, but the beginning of the season is a difficult one, so I partake in a different form of tailgating, that goes something like this ...

First, it is necessary in tailgating to have a proper parking lot to spend time kicking back a few and flipping the old tub steak over some coal while enjoying the scenery with your chums. In this case, my parking lot of choice is the one at 515 E. Cascade, otherwise known as the Campusview lot.

While propping up the chairs for a warm spring afternoon, we equally split the role of bartender as we fetch drinks for each other.

Usually we have some form of loud music playing from the back of the Ford that's equally as loud as the music playing in front of the Dome. It doesn't take long for us to realize that our neighbors frown on that, as we are visited by a few of RF's

finest. This calls for necessary backup, so keep a boom box handy, so you can keep the party going.

Another thing enjoyable about the designated spot is the view of the road. We all have our reasons for sitting there.

Whether it is to look at passing vehicles, bikes or to realize that, yes, it is for our education that we are at the old Moo U. Yeah, it might not be the best form of entertainment, but it's the most happening spot for action on Cascade around the late afternoon hours, so it works for us.

Most of all, it's my time to realize that while most of the crew will be parting in May, my sorry self will be journeying back to the dorms for one last hurrah. So it's important for us to enjoy that moment cause, "guys we won't have this moment for much longer and we need to remember this."

So in the end, whether or not you make it to the Twinkles, Brews or Cubbies, just make sure that you are participating in the great American pastime of tailgating. Because when the real tailgating season ends, you'll be back for yet another semester. Which reminds me, I haven't partied in the dorms for quite some time.



COREY
HARGREAVES

SCOREBOARD

Fastpitch

WIAC Standings

	W	L
Eau Claire (16-3)	2	0
Oshkosh (9-6-1)	2	0
Superior (13-4)	0	0
Stevens Point (8-4)	0	0
La Crosse (6-5)	0	0
Platteville (7-6)	0	0
Stout (5-10)	0	0
Whitewater (7-10)	0	2
River Falls (7-11)	0	2

April 5 Results

UW-Eau Claire	002 001 0 - 3 5 0
UW-River Falls	000 000 0 - 0 4 1

Name (Pos)

	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Breamber Syverson 2b...	3	0	1	0	0	0
Emily Rodgers cf.....	3	0	0	0	0	0
Amanda Wojnowiak rf....	3	0	1	0	0	0
Emily Evans 3b.....	3	0	1	0	0	1
Michelle Kelley pr.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emily Stahl 1b.....	2	0	0	0	1	1
Leah Vanderploeg dh.....	3	0	0	0	0	1
Ashley James c.....	2	0	1	0	0	0
Jessamy Schwartz ss....	2	0	0	0	0	0

Jamie Falck lf.....	2	0	0	0	0	1
Ashley Bertrand p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brittany Rathbun p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.....	23	0	4	0	1	4

UW-River Falls	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
Ashley Bertrand.....	6.1	5	3	3	3	4	23	28
Brittany Rathbun....	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2

UW-Eau Claire	100 011 0 - 3 6 0
UW-River Falls	000 000 0 - 0 4 0

Name (Pos)

	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Emily Rodgers cf.....	3	0	0	0	0	1
Breamber Syverson 2b....	2	0	1	0	0	0
Amanda Wojnowiak rf....	3	0	1	0	0	0
Emily Evans 3b.....	3	0	0	0	0	1
Emily Stahl 1b/2b.....	3	0	1	0	0	0
Leah Vanderploeg p.....	3	0	0	0	0	1
Ashley James c.....	3	0	1	0	0	0
Michelle Kelley pr.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jessamy Schwartz ss.....	1	0	0	0	0	1
Jamie Falck lf.....	2	0	0	0	0	0
Brittany Rathbun p/dh....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.....	23	0	4	0	1	4

UW-River Falls	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
Brittany Rathbun....	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	4	4
Leah Vanderploeg....	6.0	5	3	3	3	3	19	24

UNION from Page 1

strike are subject to discharge by the employer and fines levied by the state.

"What does that allow us if we can't go on strike?" Foster said.

While Foster isn't in favor of going on strike, she said she does want the faculty to receive a "fair and equitable" contract. Foster questioned why the state wouldn't want to support their workers, who invest in the state through taxes and property.

"I am not without education. I am not without skills. But I'm paid like I'm just out of high

school," Foster said.

Elliott, who has worked in the UW-RF heating plant for 25 years, shares Foster's frustration.

"We as employees do not want to take a major cut," Elliott said. Since classified staff members at UW-RF work directly for the state, they have more difficulties in negotiating contracts.

City and county employees, although in the same union, are closer to their level of government and can more effectively negotiate contracts.

"Their wages are actually higher than ours," Foster said.

Many of the classified employees have starting wages around \$8.50 to \$9 per hour, Elliott said.

The staff members being affected by this contract are responsible for keeping the facilities warm, lit and clean so faculty can teach.

"Helping keeping things going behind the scenes," Elliott said.

Because the contracts are negotiated at a state level, the UW-RF administration is unable to help.

"They know it's not a local decision," said Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Mary Halada. "I don't hear daily complaining at all."

Halada is in favor of ending the contract dispute and said classified staff have gone without a pay raise for too long. Staff members are demoralized by

how long the process has taken and are in need of a pay raise to stay consistent with inflation, Halada said.

But with the current state budget, UW-RF classified staff may be getting their raise later rather than sooner.

While Elliott understands that the status of the state's economy isn't strong, he is hoping that the action provided by Monday's vote will help to make the state settle sooner.

"In practical terms we don't know how the political people will react," Elliott said.

In addition to the action day, the WSEU is also planning a rally at Madison, which is scheduled for April 21.

TAIWAN from Page 1

visiting UW-RF. Greene had recently returned from visiting Taipei and touring Shih Chien.

"We're hoping that by developing these programs more students will become interested in China and Taiwan and taking the foreign languages," Greene said.

Steve Ridley, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences agrees with Greene.

"I'm really hoping some of our students will be attracted to Shih Chien," Ridley said.

Ridley accompanied Greene on

the visit to Taipei touring Shih Chien.

The College of Business and Economics has an agreement with Shih Chien called the "Three Plus One" program. Students from Shih Chien study at UW-RF during their fourth year and receive a diploma from both institutions when graduating. CAFES is working with Shih Chien to have a similar agreement.

Greene is not only excited by the visiting students from Taipei, but also the increase in students studying abroad. Greene said that four years ago only about 100 students studied abroad compared to approximately 350 in the 2004-2005 year.

RIBBONS from Page 1

The "Youth Supporting Troops" project is a three-part project consisting of "Supporting through the community," "Supporting through the school," and "Supporting families of those who are serving."

The "Supporting through the community" part of the project is where the yellow ribbons come into the equation.

There had already been independent groups and supporters who had placed other yellow ribbons around town, but the Youth Advisory Council wanted to build on that support.

To do this, RFYAC distributed \$200 of the grant to going to purchasing yellow ribbons and River Falls Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau committed \$50 towards the purchase and distribution of the ribbons. The ribbons will be placed throughout the area throughout 2005, as well as when the troops are scheduled to come home from Iraq.

Dipprey said the community also showed their support before the troops left and that the ribbons will show that support while the troops are away.

"We want the ribbons there to show support for the troops when they come home," Dipprey said.

"Supporting through the school" is the second part of the project. It consists of

the purchase of \$250 worth of magnetic yellow ribbons that will be disbursed to River Falls High School students. There will be a "Youth Supporting Troops" table during lunch hour at the high school as well as focus groups to discuss the purpose of the program and give out the magnetic ribbons to interested students.

"To each service member who is currently serving there is more than likely

a spouse or significant other, family and friends they have left," Pierce wrote in the grant application.

The third aspect of the grant is

"Supporting families of those who are serving." As part of this, the youth will attend monthly meetings to hear the stories of loved ones and friends as well as donate \$50 to go towards postage of the care packages that are made for the troops.

In addition to the three parts of the "Youth Supporting Troops" project, six boxes of teddy bears were collected at the high school to be shipped to Iraq

and given to Iraqi children.

"The teddy bears are for the Iraqi children during these hard times in their lives," Dipprey said.

"Youth Supporting Troops" is designed to not only support the troops, but also to teach valuable skills to the youth involved in the project.

"The big thing in this grant is developing the leadership of the youth," Dipprey said.

CEREMONY from Page 1

remarks.

"The new Student Center will be located in the heart of the campus, linking the east and west end residence halls to the academic core," Nylander said.

Not only will the Student Union be the focal point of campus life, but it will also incorporate features that are ecologically and environmentally sustainable. Features include the use of natur-

al daylight to illuminate the architecture, the use of recycled building materials, recycling of construction waste, and stored rainwater for toilet fixtures. Designed to be a "green building," the new Student Union will consume 40 percent less energy than any other student center of similar type in the upper Midwest.

The building will feature all of the food service venues for the campus, and be home for all the student organizations save a select few. Also included will be a student life involvement center, an entertainment complex, book-

store, bank, coffee shop, convenience store, banquet hall, theater-style meeting room, and conference rooms.

After such a long wait, Murphy is excited to see the construction begin.

"This is the part that I enjoy," Murphy said. "Watching the puzzle being put together. It is going to be a very nice building to watch go up. This is a nice campus and this will add to it. It will be a focal point."

The project is slated to be completed December of 2006 and open for use in the spring of 2007.



This job might be part-time, but it's putting me through school full-time.

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Student Association Student Senate Student Senate Spring Elections

From 8 a.m. on Tuesday, April 12 through noon on Wednesday, April 13th there will be an electronic election which all UW-RF students are eligible and encouraged to participate. Vote for your favorite Student Senate candidates for the 2005-2006 school year.

Vote at the Student Senate Website:

<http://www.uwrf.edu/student-senate/>

If you are interested in running as a write in candidate and/or would like to become acquainted with the election and campaigning rules, please pick up a copy at the Leadership Center Font Desk.

Questions or comments?

Contact the Student Senate Elections Committee at the Student Senate Office in the Leadership Center or email us at kendra.i.plant@uwrf.edu

These are the students who are running for a Student Senate position:

President

Nicholas Cluppert
Dave Crass
Timothy Wilson
(Write-in Candidate)

Vice-President

Liz De La Torre
Adam Joel Koski
(Write-in Candidate)

College of Business and Economics

Chee Moua
(Write-in Candidate from the College)

College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences

College of Arts and Sciences

Jeremy Bonikowske
Joe Eggers
Anthony McFarlane
Charles Packard
Shaun Priesgen
(Write-in Candidate from the College)

College of Education and Professional Studies

Bethany Barnett
Lindsey Burdick
(Write-in Candidate from the College)

At-Large Senators

Adrienne Adolphson
Bethany Barnett

Jeremy Bonikowske
Paul Borofka-Webb
Lindsey Burdick
Nicholas Cluppert
Nathan Cook
Dave Crass
Megan Currier
Liz De La Torre
Joe Eggers
Lacey M. Felmlee
Robert Hughes
Adam Joel Koski
Katherine Leisch
Chunlan Li
Sarah Lieder
Vang Lor
Anthony McFarlane
Chee Moua
Charles Packard
Shaun Priesgen
Derrick Torgerson
Jim Vierling
Timothy Wilson
Alaina Zack
(Write-in Candidate)

CLASSIFIEDS

*Student Voice Business Office
410 S. Third Street, 304 North Hall
River Falls, WI 54022
Phone: 425-3624 Fax: 425-0684*

*Contact Advertising Manager Rachel
Gaynor for further questions by e-
mail at tsvadvertising@uwrf.edu*

For Rent

Need storage space? Call River Falls Mini Storage. Various sizes. Month to month lease. Rent as low as \$40.00 per month. Call 715-425-7510.

Advertise Here

For Rent

GREAT ROOMS for 3 females; newly decorated and fully furnished. Close to campus. Share bath, access to kitchen and laundry. Utilities included. No smoking. \$275 and \$300. Reserve now for Summer and Fall. 651-335-6427

For Rent

Two large rooms for two females; adorable home, close to campus. \$325 + utilities, available immediately. 715-441-9717.

Part-Time Nanny

Needed for 2 boys, ages 8 and 5 in River Falls. Must love children, be trained in CPR and be very dependable. Experience necessary, must provide references. Reliable transportation needed. Will work 2 - 2 1/2 days each week, starting the week of May 9th. If interested, please call Jennie at 426-2640.

Help Wanted

Experienced servers. Work at a busy restaurant with outside dining and on the river. Apply in person Riversides 500 First St. Hudson, WI.

YMCA Open position

A 'fitting' opportunity! The River Falls YMCA is seeking energetic & dependable individuals to work Part-Time! PT Wellness Center Staff Several PT Positions Resp. for all activities in the fitness center. Will provide excellent cust. serv. in a safe, positive environ. Must follow YMCA of the USA Health and Fitness guidelines. Must have formal

trng. and/or equiv. edu. in Exercise Physiology/Science, Athletic Trng. or rel. field. Excellent cust. serv. and comm. skills and ability to work w/ all age and ability levels req. Send cover letter, resume and apps to: River Falls YMCA, Attn: P. Siebenaler, 303 S. Main St., River Falls, WI 54022. Apps available at any Y or online: www.YMCAtwincities.org

Marketing Opportunity

Professional marketing opportunities available to serious individuals. Top training and mentoring. 888-687-2562.

Very Low Rates

Summer Nanny

Wanted for three school-aged kids in Hudson on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday; 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Non-smoker, must have own car, references required. Good Pay. Call 715-381-7008.

Childcare

Take home a smile. The River Falls YMCA is seeking energetic & dependable PT Kids Stuff Staff Resp. for providing quality care to children, ages 6 weeks to 9 years, in a positive, nurturing environ. Must have exp. leading and motivating children, and have knowledge of appropriate activities for various age levels. Education in rel. field pref. Hrs: M-F, 8:30-11:15am and 4-7pm, and some weekends required. Send apps to: River Falls YMCA, Attn: V. Kaczmarek, 303 S. Main St., River Falls, WI 54022. Apps available at any Y or online: www.YMCAtwincities.org

Off-campus entertainment

Lonestar
 Sunday, 4/10
 7 p.m.
 Mystic Lake Casino
 Hotel
 Prior Lake, Minn.
 \$35 - \$43

George Carlin
 Thursday, 4/14
 7:30 p.m.
 Mystic Lake Casino
 Hotel
 Prior Lake, Minn.
 \$33 - \$42

Sean Hannity with the AM 1500 All Stars
 Friday, 4/15
 8 p.m.
 The O'Shaughnessy
 Saint Paul, Minn.
 \$25 - \$35

Bill Engvall
 Thursday, 4/21
 7 p.m.
 Grand Casino Hinckley
 Event Center
 Hinckley, Minn.
 \$25

Snoop Dogg
 Thursday, 4/21
 7:30 p.m.
 Target Center
 Minneapolis, Minn.
 \$44.25

Maroon 5
 Saturday, 4/23
 7:30 p.m.
 Xcel Energy Center
 Saint Paul, Minn.
 \$33.25

Moby
 Sunday, 4/24
 7 p.m.
 First Avenue
 Minneapolis, Minn.
 \$28

Slipknot
 Sunday, 4/24
 7 p.m.
 Xcel Energy Center
 Saint Paul, Minn.
 \$33.25

Lewis Black
 Thursday, 4/28
 7:30 p.m.
 State Theatre
 Minneapolis, Minn.
 \$35

Velvet Revolver
 Thursday, 4/28
 8 p.m.
 Xcel Energy Center
 Saint Paul, MN
 \$40.75

Elton John
 Friday, 4/29
 8 p.m.
 Target Center
 Minneapolis, Minn.
 \$43.25 - \$123.25

Garbage
 Friday, 4/29
 6 p.m.
 First Avenue
 Minneapolis
 \$31.50

Weezer
 Tuesday, 5/3
 6 p.m.
 First Avenue
 Minneapolis
 \$28.50

Crossfade
 Wednesday, 5/4
 6:30 p.m.
 Quest Club
 Minneapolis
 \$13.50

Lenny Kravitz
 Wednesday, 5/4
 7:30 p.m.
 State Theatre
 Minneapolis
 \$48.50

Battle of the Bands
 Saturday, 5/7
 9 a.m.
 Quest Club
 Minneapolis
 \$8

Maya Angelou
 Saturday, 5/7
 3 p.m.
 The O'Shaughnessy
 Saint Paul
 \$36

David Copperfield
 Sunday, 5/8
 5 p.m.
 DECC Auditorium
 Duluth
 \$36.50 - \$46.50

You know you want to go ...

Journalism is all about the ads

It's tough being a journalist, and the job doesn't get any easier knowing people generally hate us. The journalism profession is about as popular with the general public as lawyers and terrorists are. Really, only politicians are more despised.

We're basically just like every other profession, with our desks, chairs on little wheels, computers with high speed internet and telephones. Well, okay, so we ask a lot of questions. And there is no discrimination in regards to whom we ask questions of. We ask public officials questions. We ask people just walking down the street minding their own business questions. We ask people walking UP the street questions. If your house just burned down, a journalist will show up and ask you how it feels to lose all your worldly possessions. Pretty much every person we come into contact with, we ask questions. We journalists are darned pesky with all our questions, not to mention nosy.

When I think about what we do day in and day out, just to get the latest "scoop," I become sick to my stomach. Then I take some Pepto Bismol and get back to work, because a journalist's job is never finished. A journalist's job is to write the words that fill the space where the advertisements aren't. The newspaper business is all about the ads. If you look through this newspaper, you'll notice there are ads for Digital Dynamics, Lutheran Social Services, and Student Health Services, among others. These fine businesses and organizations pay the Student Voice to print their ads in our newspaper so that you, the reader, will see them and have the ad's message. (Buy me! Put your baby up for adoption! or Drinking isn't healthy!), sublimely imprinted in your mind. These ads are vital to the survival of the Student Voice, in that its staff could not afford to go to the bars without the revenue

they generate.

The space where the ads aren't is called the "news hole." The term "news hole" came about because in the first edition of the first newspaper ever put out, a long, long time ago, there weren't enough ads, which left a "hole" bunch of empty white space. This left the *master* (today the politically correct term is "editor") with no choice but to send his *slave* ("reporter") out to find some "news" and write about it.

Which brings me back to what exactly a journalist does. Quite simply, we write the news. Unfortunately, writing the news isn't all that simple. For example, sometimes news occurs that involves one of our advertisers. Like maybe a new scientific study has come out showing a definite link between tanning beds and skin cancer. This is definitely news that people will be interested in. But then we realize that Hairworks and Tanning has an ad in our paper. After looking into it a bit more, we conclude that people with tans look hot, so who cares what some pessimistic scientists think. The bottom line is, we don't think it is all that newsworthy if tanning beds cause skin cancer, not as long as Hairworks and Tanning runs their ad. Wait, hold on. Hairworks and Tanning is no longer running their ad.

LATE BREAKING NEWS ITEM: if you use a tanning bed, you might get skin cancer. Plus you'll look like an old catchers mitt in 20 years. But you look hot right now!

As you can see, determining what is newsworthy can be tricky. Though at times it may seem that the media simply pulls its stories out of its ass, there are actual criteria a potential story has to meet before it is considered newsworthy. Next time we'll go over these criteria, assuming I find out what they are by then. In the coming weeks, we'll also go over why journalists misquote their sources, misspell their sources' names, and in general get the story mostly wrong. We'll also touch on the importance of alcohol in journalism. You already know you hate journalists, but when we finish our examination of the journalism profession, you will know exactly why you hate us.



ERIC HENNING

Applications Due April 20

Pick up an application at 304 North Hall or go online at www.uwrf.edu/student-voice

MITCH

By: Neng Yang

You guys giving blood for the blood drive?

I don't know, I don't like needles

Its not that bad, they give you snacks when it's over.

I aint afraid of needles, besides I love sweets,

I suppose I'm in too

Hold still, I haven't even used the needle yet.

If you're interested in seeing how the *Student Voice* works, stop by 304 North Hall on Wednesday night. Get an application while you're there.

have you heard about 'OPEN' adoption?

Call 1-888-746-2850

(Free Counseling in River Falls)

Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc.

SWING INTO SPRING

Photo by Micheal Foley

Tyler Christianson takes a swing while playing softball outside Hathorn Hall April 4. Temperatures hit 70 degrees for the first time this year earlier in the week, prompting a flurry of volleyball, frisbee and softball games. Temperatures are expected to be in the 60s during the next seven days.

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From Braces to Botox

Teens and cosmetic surgery

Patricia Bruhn
Staff Writer

Between advertising, the Internet, daytime talk shows and reality TV, cosmetic plastic surgery has become about as mysterious as a haircut.

Attitudes among college students and teens toward cosmetic plastic surgery procedures, including liposuction and Botox injections, have changed. There was a time when wearing braces was remarkable. Now it is plastic surgery and other cosmetic quick-fix procedures that are becoming ordinary for teens and college students.

Although rhinoplasty (nose reshaping) is still the most frequently performed surgical procedure on teens, many teens see no reason to stop there. Other procedures once reserved for older, wealthier clients have increased among teens. They are opting to have breast augmentation, Botox injections, liposuction and, in the last couple of years, J. Lo's behind.

According to the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ASAPS), while nose shaping appears to still be the most preferred among those under 18, doctors are finding a steady rise in breast implants, liposuction and tummy tucks.

The ASAPS found the number of girls under 18 who received breast implants tripled from 2002 to 2003. Cosmetic surgery is increasingly popular as a graduation or birthday gift.

While it is true that teenagers having cosmetic surgery is not new, in the richer enclaves of our American culture it seems that 16-year-old boys get a car while girls get a nose job. The number of teens and young adults willing to go under the knife to acquire their idol's 'most wanted' assets has risen substantially in the past few years.

ASAPS said teens are following a trend eagerly embraced by their parents and older siblings.

According to ASAPS, there was a 48 percent increase in cosmetic procedures in the United States between 2001 and 2002. Most of the surgery, 44 percent, was for people between 35 and 50. And while kids 18 and under were responsible for just 3.5 percent of surgeries, this is a jump from 2.9 percent in 1997.

In her article "Kindest Cut? Teens and Plastic Surgery," published in the *New York Observer* in 2004, Deirdre Dolan wrote, "In New York, they come loaded with their parents' money and tell doctors that they want to look like Jennifer Aniston, Christina Aguilera, Britney Spears and J. Lo."

In recent years, younger and younger girls are resorting to plastic surgery to look like the models that embody a popular image. They are disregarding the adage that "true beauty is on the inside" to concentrate, instead, on perfecting themselves on the outside.

Associate professor of psychiatry at New York Presbyterian Hospital Gail Saltz said that for network executives, society's fascination with reality TV shows that glamorize plastic surgery is the recipe for high ratings.

According to Concerned Women for America (CWA), "Just in the past couple of years, five new shows have debuted with 'transformation' as their focus. Shows such as: 'The Swan,' 'Extreme Makeover' and 'I Want A Famous Face,' exploit their patients as 'ugly ducklings' who are now much more content with their lives after surgery."

Unfortunately, these shows can foster unrealistic and unhealthy expectations, says Saltz. Plastic surgery is real surgery with real benefits and real risks.

In her article, "Mom and Dad, I want to have bigger breasts," published on MSNBC.com in 2004, Saltz wrote that "in today's era of quick-fixes, avoiding any painful feelings, expecting perfection and idolizing outer beauty, an increasing number of preteens and teenagers are turning to plastic surgery as the solution."

Saltz said that although for some teens plastic surgery can have a positive impact on their physical and emotional development, reality shows have desensitized everybody because "it seems like it's no big deal to have the surgery."

"You don't see the risks that a r e

involved, nor do they see the pain and suffering of the healing process that follows the surgery," Saltz said.

She said that teens especially do not understand what is involved in having cosmetic surgery.

"It looks like everybody is doing it and it's easy. Okay, so you wear some bandages for a few days and then, hey, you're beautiful," Saltz said.

Saltz said it is not only the physical discomfort of the aftermath of surgery, but parents and surgeons must also consider the psychological trauma that the teen will experience.

"The psychic trauma of recovering from surgery and the risk of things that may go wrong, both of which are often underrated, are important to consider as well before a teen goes under general anesthesia and the knife," Saltz said.

According to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), many parents worry about the potential influence the media may have on their children's self-esteem and body image. But some experts say that it is parents who influence and encourage their children to have beauty-enhancing procedures.

The media "probably does influence the child's decision to have surgery to some extent," ASPS public relations specialists Brian Hugins said, "but their parents are from the baby-boomer era which is driving much of the increase in plastic surgery today. Public consciousness has changed."

Clinical professor of surgery at Harvard University Robert M. Goldwyn said that sometimes it is the parent who encourages the child to have the surgery.

"It's not uncommon to see kids brought in by a parent who is pushing a surgery because they're compulsive about their own weight," said Goldwyn. "It's amazing how it breaches common sense. I remember a mother who brought her child in for rhinoplasty because she was concerned that her child wasn't popular enough."

Saltz said that, most often, parents are unhappy with their own appearances. And just like their teens, they felt that the size of their breasts or shape of their noses was responsible for their feelings of unattractiveness which contributes to their low self-esteem.

"Parents are willing to spare their children these feelings," Saltz said. "They want them to be all the 'beautiful things' they couldn't be."

Liposuction, traditionally a procedure for the extremely overweight, has gone micro and is now one of the most fashionable procedures for teens 18 and under.

Amelia Langston, a 19-year-old college student in Florida, said that dieting does not work for her, so she said she is getting liposuction.

"My mom is always talking about getting a tummy tuck so I thought why not get lipo," Langston said.

Langston, who is 5 feet 8 inches, wants to lose 40 pounds.

"I weigh 180 pounds and my thighs are bigger than my waist. I have tried dieting but it just doesn't work for me. Besides, it takes too long to lose the weight and to get into shape," Langston said. "Lipo is like cheating to get to the end of your diet."

New York City plastic surgeon Dr. Howard Sobel said he sees between 15 and 29 teens a week in his Manhattan office, up about 30 percent from five years ago.

"It's not so much about changing your weight; it's about changing your shape," Sobel said.

"There's a common belief among the public that a large percentage of young adults and teens are having cosmetic surgery," said ASPS President Scott Spear, chief of plastic surgery at the University of Georgetown in Washington, D.C. "Because many college-age women see cosmetic surgery as an acceptable thing to do."

But that isn't true, according to a U.S. study published in the March issue of *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*, the official journal of ASPS, which says only 5 percent

of college-age women have actually had cosmetic surgery.

The study surveyed 559 college-age women, ages 17 to 24, at six universities. Among the 5 percent of females studied who had cosmetic surgery, chemical peel was the most common procedure, followed by breast augmentation, nose reshaping and breast reduction.

Hugins acknowledges that the frequency of cosmetic surgery among teens and young adults has increased.

"Overall plastic surgery has increased over the years. Procedures on teens 18 and younger increased 48 percent in 2002-03. A total of 331,000 procedures, or 4 percent, is attributed to teen or young adult plastic surgery," Hugins said.

Information about the vast array of cosmetic procedures and prices is only a click away for many teenagers, who can surf many plastic surgery Web sites such as 1800beyourbest.org and Dr. Michael Bermant's site, plasticsurgery4u.com.

Bermant said that teenagers can have awkward features and can sometimes benefit from cosmetic plastic surgery.

"During the malleable teenage years, appearance is often an emotional issue," Bermant said. "Self image and acceptance impact the balance between enjoyment and stress."

Bermant's said that his Web site can be an effective tool for dialogue between teenager and parents. They can discuss a specific problem and the cost of the surgery as they browse through the information in the comfort of their own home.

And cosmetic plastic surgery can be expensive. This is a reality for some parents who, more often than not, pay for the surgical procedures.

According to the ASAPS, the national average costs for some of these surgeries are: breast augmentation (\$3,375), buttock lift (\$3,554), ear shaping (\$2,535), liposuction (\$2,224), Rhinoplasty - nose reshaping (\$3,188), thigh lift (\$3,283) and tummy tuck (\$4,641).

If parents cannot afford the cost of the surgery, some college students have found another way. They are using their college loans to finance their surgeries.

"As soon as I get my college loan, I am going to use some of the money to have my lipo procedure," Langston said. "This is what one of my friends did. And I don't have to pay it back until I finish school, so why not use some to do something that will make me feel better about myself?"

Average costs for cosmetic procedures

- Rhinoplasty (\$3,188)
- Ear shaping (\$2,535)
- Breast augmentation (\$3,375)
- Liposuction (\$2,224)
- Tummy tuck (\$4,641)
- Buttock lift (\$3,554)
- Thigh lift (\$3,283)

Source: American Society of Plastic Surgeons

Graphic by Neng Yang