

THE STUDENT VOICE

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April 11, 2002

Serving UW-RF students and faculty since 1916

Volume 88, Number 23

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of sexual orientation

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Really.

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Students go silent to fight GLBT oppression



Molly Montag / The Student Voice

Participants of the Day of Silence listen to a speech by former Diversity Issues Director Eric Dodge Wednesday afternoon on the Student Center lawn. More than 100 UW-River Falls student took part in the day-long national youth movement meant to protest oppression on the basis of sexual orientation.

Day of Silence 'goes a long way' to fight GLBT oppression

Jenny Cullen
Co-News Editor

Amid students laughing and hustling off to class yesterday, there were over 100 students who were silent from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. These UW-RF students were taking part in the Day of Silence, in which more than 1,700 schools across the nation also took part.

The Day of Silence is a one-day movement to raise awareness about the oppression of GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender) students by asking GLBT students and their allies to take a vow of silence for eight hours.

Their silence represented the voices of GLBT people whose voices are often unheard because of depression and prejudice.

The Day of Silence Project participants wore black t-shirts that said

"silenced" on the front, and they handed out cards when asked to speak that read: "Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I am participating in the Day of Silence; a national youth movement protesting the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies."

My deliberate silence echoes that silence, which is caused by harassment, prejudice and discrimination. I believe that ending the silence is the first step toward fighting these injustices. Think about the voices you are not hearing today. What are you going to do to end the silence?"

Former Diversity Issues Director Eric Dodge decided to bring the Day of Silence to UW-River Falls after he was informed about it at a Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. Dodge said the reason he brought the Day of Silence to UW-RF is because it is a small project that has a big effect.

"I'm an activist. This is a simple project that goes a long way," Dodge said. "I didn't care if only ten people signed up or 100 people signed up. I'm still going to do it next year because it proves a point."

After being silent for nine hours, approximately 30 students gathered

outside of the Student Center at 5:01 p.m. to break the silence with a loud scream and applause. Chancellor Ann Lydecker and the United Council LGBTQ issues committee director, Kim Elderbrook, addressed the audience about discrimination issues and the importance of their vow of silence.

"I am proud of those of you who are working to make GLBT voices louder and supporting those voices who want to be heard," Elderbrook said.

Dodge said the most difficult part of organizing the Day of Silence was getting people to sign up, but once that was out of the way it only took him about three weeks to put it all together.

Next year Dodge also plans on organizing the Day of Silence because it is an important even for UW-RF.

"I can help people and that's why I really take this project to heart," Dodge said. "I want people on this campus to set aside what they heard before, including their stereotypes and what was programmed into their heads when they were growing up."

An open microphone session followed the speakers and gave stu-

Varsity sports cuts possible Lydecker meets with athletes, students

Paul J. Cruz
Sports Writer

For nearly two-and-a-half hours Thursday morning, UW-River Falls Chancellor Dr. Ann Lydecker held an open meeting with the baseball, gymnastics and wrestling squads and anyone wishing to offer an opinion on the proposal on which she is prepared to announce a decision sometime Friday morning.

From 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in the Regents Room of the Student Center, after Lydecker provided an opening statement, coaches, players and parents involved with the three sports slated to be terminated, if Lydecker approves a proposal she received two weeks ago, voiced their opinions and concerns surrounding the pending decision.

In her opening statement, Dr. Lydecker cited instability of ad hoc coaches (baseball), high maintenance (gymnastics) and lack of competitiveness (wrestling) as among the rationale for the proposed cuts.

In addition to individuals who would lose their sport if the proposal is accepted, two individuals spoke from different points of view.

A female student, who said she is not an athlete, urged Lydecker to consider denying the proposal, and Pat Lawrence, a cross country runner and current member of the men's club track and field squad, which



Molly Montag / The Student Voice

Chancellor Ann Lydecker addresses UW-River Falls athletes and students Thursday morning in the Regents Room.

would be promoted to varsity status if the proposal is signed, "threw himself to the wolves" and expressed his support of the proposal.

To culminate the forum, which she terminated because of a prior meeting obligation, Lydecker addressed those in attendance.

"I'm a believer in the Division III philosophy," said Lydecker, who stated one of her sons competed at the Division I level. "You'll never take that away from me."

"I went to a Division III school where numbers were always and issue. There's no doubt in my mind everyone (in Division III athletics) is passionate. I didn't sleep last night, as I'm sure many of you didn't. Actually, I haven't slept since I received this report. This is not a decision any of us take lightly. I will analyze it from any angle I can, but I know, ultimately, I must make a decision. When I make a decision I know it will be solid. I'll have to

move on, and I hope all of you will. I will use tonight to analyze every bit of information and passion that has come to me."

Many individuals' emotions surfaced heavily during their time on the floor. Others questioned the validity of budget and gender equity concerns being cited as reasons approving the proposal would be beneficial.

For example, baseball team member and marketing major Brian Bosch stated that, according to numbers contained in the Chancellor's Report UWRF Sports Module, dated March 25, 2002, that the current proposal actually adds to men's participation numbers and defeats the gender equity rationale. Bosch also stated if the proposal was installed with the exception of keeping baseball in lieu of adding men's track and field to varsity status that the University would actually save \$781.

Please see Page B1 for additional coverage of the proposal.

Student Senate elections to be held next Tuesday

Presidential, vice presidential candidates respond to Q&A

Kevin O'Brien
Assistant Editor

Next Tuesday UW-River Falls students will have the opportunity to cast their ballots for the offices of Student Senate President and Vice President.

The Presidential candidates are Cora Opsahl, the current president, and Jessica Wermuth, who this year has served as Legislative Issues Director.

The Vice Presidential candidates, Andy Parrish and Alexia Kjos, run independent from the Presidential candidates.

The Student Voice asked each candidate to respond to several questions.



Alexia Kjos

Cora Opsahl

Andy Parrish

Jessica Wermuth

What do you think are some of the main issues facing students at UW-RF?

Jessica Wermuth
I think the biggest issues facing students right now are a lack of student input, the parking situation, and the current budget crisis.

Additionally, I think the new buildings emerging on campus, low voter turnout, campus safety at the crosswalks, and campus programming are issues of

See "Election" on A8

Work by UW-RF professor becomes roadside art

Engebretson's picture of col- ored art glass used to promote national show

Teresa Schmitt
Co-Photo Editor

Driving on Interstate 94 near downtown St. Paul a billboard pictures a piece of blue-green art glass against an orange background. UW-River Falls Professor James Engebretson is the creator of this and many other works of art that were selected to publicize the American Crafts Council 2002 Show scheduled for April 11-14 at RiverCentre in St. Paul.

Engebretson is the head of the glass program at UW-RF and is known nationally for his artwork.

According to Nan Alderson, manager of show operations for the ACC, Engebretson's work was selected by the council's advertising



Submitted photo

Professor James Engebretson stands near the billboard in St. Paul featuring a picture of art glass he designed.

agency to represent the show. His work was chosen from approximately 250 artists who were selected by a jury of other artists.

Engebretson works in partnership with his wife, Renee, at their glass studio in Hudson.

"Although we have been chosen

for many shows, it's always an honor and surprise to be chosen," Engebretson said.

Engebretson's piece will be viewed by motorists this spring on the billboard near the exit of Kellogg Avenue/Mounds Boulevard, and is the featured piece

throughout an extensive promotional and advertising campaign for the exclusive national show.

Engebretson said he and his wife try to compete in the shows that are the top ten nation wide.

He said this year they have been chosen for most of them but that could always change.

"Any kind of art competitions are generally pretty stiff," Engebretson said. "There are many very talented artists out there."

Engebretson's art glass is also portrayed in the March/April issues of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine and Minnesota Monthly, programs for the Minnesota Orchestra, Minnesota Opera and the Ordway Theatre and a postcard used for a direct mailing. It will also soon appear in newspaper ads in the St. Paul Pioneer Press and Minneapolis Star Tribune.

According to Professor Michael Padgett the ACC shows are hard to get into because standards are set high and there is a lot of competition.

"The fact that Jim was selected to exhibit at the show and his work was selected for use in promotion for the show is quite an honor,"

Padgett said. "This speaks to the quality of the art program at UW-RF and the quality of our professors. By being practicing artists ourselves, marketing and selling our work as well as creating it, we are serving as positive role models for our students."

Engebretson said he's had lots of feedback from students, staff, and citizens who have seen the billboard.

Sophomore Amy Justmann said she noticed the billboard while driving the other day and didn't realize it was the work of a UW-RF professor.

"It was exquisite," Justmann said. "It made me interested in his artwork, and more interested into taking one of his classes."

Although millions of motorists will see this billboard and approximately 14,000 will attend the show possibly purchasing artwork, Engebretson said making a living as a working artist is a very competitive and challenging job.

"It's just a business my wife and I run to support us and our four geese, three cats, and one parrot," Engebretson said.

He said he sells about a couple

thousand pieces of art a year. Although he may get orders from people around the nation saying they would like a duplicate of a certain piece of art, Engebretson said it is tough because people don't realize he can't recreate the exact same piece of art.

"Working with glass everything made is original," Engebretson said. "In glass blowing no one can recreate one specific art work."

This will be the ACC's show's 16th year in the Twin Cities, featuring the work of artists from all over the United States.

The show will begin Thursday April 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. with a benefit preview reception sponsored by the Minnesota Orchestra Volunteer Association, to raise money for music education programs for children.

Show hours for April 12-14 are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Ticket price for adults is \$7 and children ages 12 and under are free. RiverCentre is located at the corner of Kellogg Boulevard and West Seventh St. in St. Paul.

BRIEFS

ANNOUCEMENTS

If you wish to purchase any textbooks you have checked out this semester, bring them to Textbook Services during the book sale from Feb. 11-April 12. Textbooks purchased during the semester book sale will be discounted 20 or 40 percent. Subject to availability, undergraduate students may also purchase texts from classes in which they are not currently enrolled during the book sale.

Discontinued texts, are on sale at minimal prices ranging from 25 cents to several dollars per copy, from now until finals week. Books in most subject areas are available. They are on display at Textbook Services. Some free discontinued textbooks are also available.

Attention spring 2003 student teachers

During the next couple of months Dr. McCollum will hold informational meetings about student teaching. These meetings are held to clarify procedures for application to student teaching and to answer any questions. The last meeting will be May 1, 2002. Applications to student teach spring 2002 are due no later than May 15, 2002. Attendance at a meeting is required prior to application to student teach. (You need attend only one meeting). Please arrive promptly, sign in and remain for the entire meeting (above an hour).

Sign-up sheets with dates, times and locations are posted on the student teaching bulletin board on the second floor of WEB. We have limited seating for each meeting, so sign up early. If no one signs up for a meeting, it will be cancelled.

Student chapter of the society for human resource management (shrm)

We are pleased to announce the opening of a new chapter of SHRM on campus. This new chapter will acquaint students with the field of human resource management; to keep students up-to-date on new developments and issues in the field; to provide learning opportunities through interaction with HR professionals and practitioners and to promote the development of truly professional HR mahagers for the future.

Informational meeting will be Tues., April 16, at 3:30 p.m. in the Kinnickinnic Room in the Student Center. Membership is open to ALL UWRF students with a yearly membership fee of \$10. The meeting will also provide materials regarding the National Chapter of SHRM that is available to students for a nominal fee.

For more information about SHRM, check out their website at www.shrm.org. For more information on campus contact Dr. Claire McCarty Kilian at Claire.m.kilian@uwrf.edu or Angie Lallemon, at angielalle@hotmail.com.

Graduating seniors

Graduation caps, gowns and tassels are now available at the University Bookstore

EVENTS

Take back the night

UW-RF Gender Equality Council will be holding the 6th annual River Falls area Take Back the Night on April 18th on the Student Center Mall. The rally will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will include our keynote speaker, Lorie Jorgenson from the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Abuse. This night is devoted to ending the problem of domestic and sexual violence on campus and in our community. Please join us in our efforts to raise awareness, promote healing and ending violence in our homes and community. For questions, contact Jennifer Straub at 426-6392 or js5m@uwrf.edu

The UWRF Dance Theatre will present its annual spring concert April 8-13 at 8 p.m. in the Davis Theatre. Mon., April 8 will be preview night and university students may purchase two tickets for the price of one for that performance. Ticket prices are \$4 for students and children and \$7 for adults. Tickets will be available from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. beginning Mon., April 1 through Fri., April 12 in KFA. Tickets will also be available each performance evening from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. To order tickets, contact the ticket booth at 425-3114 and for more information call 425-3131.

Bean Bag Coffee House live music calendar
245 Knowles Ave. Hudson, WI (715) 246-5800
All music on Saturday 7-9 p.m.
April 13: My Cousin Dallas; **April 20:** BLT; **April 27:** The Mighty Limited

UW-RF International Film Series will be presenting movies on Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. in CSH room 271 and will be followed by discussion.
April 18: "Leila"; **April 25:** "A Door on the Sky"; **May 2:** "An Egyptian Story"
For more information, Please Call Wendy Stocker at 425-3261

Riversides live music calendar
500 First St. Hudson, WI (715) 386-5504
NEW: Open mic every Tuesday 9 p.m.-Midnight hosted by Doctor Smoke. Karaoke every Friday; Live music and DJ on Saturdays. All music 10 p.m-1 a.m.
April 13: Hungry Horse; **April 20:** East of Eagan; **April 27:** Jones Tones. For booking information, call Lori Karis at (715) 381-2652

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences annual awards banquet will be held on Tues., April 30. The theme is "A Road to New Horizons". Social hour begins at 5 p.m. in the Blue Room of Rodli Commons, followed by dinner at 5:45 p.m. in the River Room. Tickets are available for sale April 15-19 on Second Floor, Ag Science Lobby and April 16-25 at the Student Center Information Desk. Tickets are \$13 per person. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend. For information contact Susan Higgins, ext. 3535/susan.higgins@uwrf.edu

Nominate someone for the 2001-02 Service Award of Excellence

Wisconsin Partnerships in Service-Learning is proud to announce the presentation of the 4th annual Service-Learning Award of Excellence. Nominations are being accepted through Mon., April 15. Please call the RDI Outreach office at 425-3256 to request a nomination packet or for more information.

Have you every griped about the news media?

Find out what every American needs to know about journalism. Join us for rabble-rousing discussions about one of the most misunderstood professions. "Principles of Journalism" is a series of roundtable discussions on the role of the news media in society featuring area journalists. Come join the discussions every Mon. in April at 4 p.m. in 281 KFA.

Kinderkonzert

The St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra will perform Prokofieff's "Peter and the Wolf" on Saturday, April 20, 2002 at 3 p.m. in Abbott Concert Hall. For more information, call 425-3183.

Cellist to peform at UW-RF

Melissa Kraut from the University of Central Florida, and Interlochen Arts Academy will perform a cello recital on Monday, April 15 at 8 p.m. For more information call Kris Tjornehoj at 425-3183.

Celebrate @ your library, April 15-19

In celebration of National Library Week, the Davee Library invites students, faculty, staff and the University community to visit, stay awhile and get acquainted with the news and the traditional. Enter daily drawings to be held during the week of April 15-19 to win a free t-shirt, mug or key chain.

The Society of Physics Students and the UWRF Physics Department

Invite the University community and the public to an evening of astronomy on Wednesday April 17. At 7:30 pm in room 152 of Centennial Science Hall, Dr. Andreas Keiling will present a talk on the Northern Lights. Following Dr. Keiling's presentation there will be an open observing session, weather permitting, approximately at 8:30 p.m. Go to <http://www.uwrf.edu/physics/obsviewtime.html> for further information about public observing sessions at UWRF.

McMillan Hall Date Auction

April 11, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the Blue Room in Rodli Commons

Adventure as a lifestyle

Hailed as a "modern day mountain man," Dick Person lived in a tipi in the Yukon wilderness for over 17 years and has worked as a guide in the Boundary Waters, the Rockies and Canada. A presentation and slide show will include a discussion on his wilderness, survival skills, plus a video on tipi living on Saturday, April 20 at 1 p.m. at the River Falls Public Library. For more information, call 425-0905.

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

Campus and Community come together to ‘Take Back The Night’

Caroline Joyce
Staff Writer

UW-River Falls students and members of the River Falls community will unite on the Hagstad Student Center Mall at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, to participate in the Sixth Annual River Falls Area Take Back the Night rally.

The UW-RF Gender Equality Council and the local non-profit organization Turningpoint for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence co-sponsor this event.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and the purpose of this rally is to raise awareness of sexual assault and domestic violence.

The first Take Back the Night rally was held in 19th Century England by a group of women who were protesting the fear and violence they suffered while walking alone at night.

The first rally held in the United States was in San Francisco in 1978, where a group was protesting sexual assault against women.

Now, rallies are held across the nation.

Among the night's activities include the keynote speaker Laurie Jorgenson from the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Abuse.

There will also be an open mic for survivors of domestic abuse or sexual assault to tell their stories, informational booths, and live music.

Trained advocates will also be on hand for people who would like to speak privately and confidentially with someone about abuse.

The traditional march down Main Street and the campus will end the night's activities.

A third year member of GEC, Jen Straub, said the Take Back the Night Rally is always a good experience.

Straub said there are a variety of reasons why people participate in the event.

"People come because they want to support each other, because they want to learn more, because they need to tell their stories, because they know someone who is a survivor, because they need to know they are not alone," Straub said. "No matter why they come, everyone leaves with something."

Straub offered some statistics about sexual and domestic abuse that may put things in perspective:

- Every 1.3 minutes a woman is raped, which means about one out of every



File photo by Scott Wente

At last year's Take Back the Night rally marchers marched down the streets of downtown River Falls and through campus holding signs and cheering.

three women in the United States is a sexual assault survivor.

- 1,500 women in the U.S. die each year as a result of domestic violence, and 70 percent die after trying to leave an abusive relationship.
- Even UW campuses cannot escape sexual and domestic violence.

In 1999, a UW-Green Bay student, Katherine Majewski, was killed by her abusive ex-boyfriend.

Straub hopes that the rally will allow people to talk about subjects that are not usually spoken about.

"At Take Back the Night we talk about the taboo stuff and get it out in the open so that we can deal with it and make changes," Straub said. "The longer we ignore these issues the longer they will remain issues."

Health Fair to promote healthy lifestyle

Khrysten Darm
Staff Writer

We want you...To live a healthy lifestyle! You might have seen flyers around campus displaying this slogan, or even received an e-mail with this message.

Each year, the Health and Human Performance department and Student Health Services puts on a Health Fair.

This year's Health Fair will be held Wednesday, April 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Karges Gymnasium. This event is free and open to everyone.

Leslie Krogman and Jackie Boumeaster, both seniors majoring in health and human performance, helped in getting the word out about the Health Fair.

Krogman and Boumeaster are in the comprehensive school health education programs class, and were in charge of notifying the media about the event.

"Different classes in the department are in charge of different aspect of the Health Fair," Krogman said.

"There are groups in charge of putting up flyers around campus, setting up the Health Fair, and getting the community involved."

To get the campus and community involved, door prizes will also be given away.

Some of the activities that will be available are massages, given by a local masseuse and drunk goggles, which are goggles that make everything dis-

"Last year we got a really good turnout. I hope this year is even better!"

-Senior Leslie Krogman

torted. Students will then try to do various activities with the goggles on.

Other things to check out are a cholesterol check, body fat analysis, an aerobic demonstration and Sex Jeopardy!

Last year there was also a bone density test. This test measures if you are at risk for getting osteoporosis later in life.

In addition, the wellness class provides a variety of booths offering different types of information.

Many community health-related agencies and organizations also participate in the event. In previous years, the River Falls Fitness Center and Pierce County Reproductive Health Services have attended.

Also, the River Falls High School usually makes a trip out to the Health Fair.

"Last year we got a really good turnout," Krogman said. "I hope this

year is even better!"

Other services that will be provided are hearing screening, blood pressure, safer sex and abstinence kits, and pet therapy.

Boumeaster strongly suggested that students come out to the event.

"You get to learn so much more about yourself," she said.

This event is completely student run. Students from all classes in the Health and Human Performance department have a hand in making sure that this event runs smoothly.

For any questions, or to receive more information, please call Student Health Services at 425-3293.

Students searching for answers receive valuable guidance at Disorientation



Molly Montag/The Student Voice

Dave Woodward, director of financial assistance at UW-RF; Jeff McCardle, loan officer at Westconsin Credit Union and Steve Leitch of Leitch Insurance Agency offer credit advice to students attending the recent Disorientation even.

Disorientation, organized by Career Services, gathered professionals and University staff in an effort to help soon-to-be graduates prepare for life outside of college.

Angie Schumacher
Staff Writer

Disorientation: Surviving the Transition from Backpack to Briefcase, a new campus event aimed towards helping upperclassmen make the transition from college life to the real world, took place Tuesday in the Student Center.

The day-long event hosted professional employers sharing their expertise and knowledge to students through a variety of presentations, workshops, panel discussions and informational tables.

Subjects discussed at Disorientation included issues such as financial planning, understanding benefits, insurance and retirement plans, sharpening

networking and professional etiquette skills, and balancing social and personal life.

"The people that were there got everything they needed to prepare for after college," said June Schubert, College Recruitment Coordinator at Career Services. "There were just excellent workshops and a lot of high-powered people there."

Students were also able to participate in mock interviews with employers, receiving direct feedback and advice on their interviewing skills.

The chance for students to interact with employers turned out to be a major highlight of the event. According to Schubert, 98 students and 18 employers were involved in mock interviews throughout the day.

Another highlight of the event was the networking lunch sessions connecting students with employers. The purpose of the networking sessions was to focus students on gaining and applying networking skills. The sessions also offered students with chances to make career connections and to receive advice about particular career choices.

"The networking lunches gave students opportunities to ask questions of professionals about the work they'd eventually love to do themselves," said Sally Berkholder, Career Counselor at Career Services.

Other opportunities at Disorientation included a Golf Etiquette & Networking Workshop, a professional wardrobe Suit Sale, and the Career Services Etiquette Dinner.

Another important success of Disorientation was the collaborative efforts done by various UW-RF departments and organizations and of the professional employers of local and metropolitan businesses and organizations who shared their time and knowledge.

"It was really a great event," said Schubert. "It was collaborative and that was nice. The planning committee crossed many lines."

The event was coordinated over the past academic year by Career Services, Student Health & Counseling Services, the Business Association, the Leadership Center, the Office of University Advancement, Chartwell's and Food Services, and the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

A disappointment of the event was the lack of attendance at some of the workshops and presentations. This may be due to the fact it was a new campus event.

"How do you build student interest?" said Berkholder. "On this campus - all campuses - it's hard for students [to participate] with so many things on their schedules. For the future I would hope for more student awareness and participation."

Although student participation was low, Berkholder and others involved in coordinating Disorientation are happy with the outcome of the overall event.

"It's positive, the fact that the campus is willing to try something not done anyplace else," said Berkholder.

Student evaluations conducted by Career Services were also very encouraging, as one stated, "Very helpful - be proud of what you do for us!"

Another stated, "Thank you for providing this event for students. I feel it has helped me in my professional career search."

Part II: Karolides publishes second book of series



Nick Karolides

Khrysten Darm
Staff Writer

Nicholas Karolides, associate dean of the arts and sciences department and professor of English has recently published a book, entitled "Censored Books II: Critical Viewpoints 1985-2000."

This book is the second in the series, following the book "Censored Book: Critical Viewpoints that covered censored books from 1965 to 1985."

The idea behind each book was to identify the most censored books in the time period, and have a series of individuals write in defense of a specific book.

Each author that Karolides contacted wrote about their own ideas and argued why these ideas should be available to the public rather than keeping a book hidden.

"Basically, I'm against the censorship of books," he said. "I'm in favor of an open learning environment."

Karolides also believes that teachers should be able to have the freedom to choose the books that they want to teach to their classes.

"Some books are not suited for everyone," he said.

"I support the freedom to learn and free inquiry," he said. "The basic components of learning is privileged in finding materials to cause you to think about issues."

For "Censored Books II", Karolides approached many UW-River Falls professors to provide defense for certain books.

Faye Perkins, a professor in the health and human performance department, wrote in defense of two books, "What's Happening to My

Body? A Growing Up Guide for Mothers and Daughters," and "What's Happening to My Body?"

A Growing Up Guide for Parents and Sons. Both books are written by Lynda Madaras.

The information in these books is basically about the changes that a child's body goes through as they grow up.

Perkins writes that Madaras wants adolescents to feel comfortable with their bodies as they are going through all of these changes.

Writing in defense of these two books was not difficult for Perkins.

In her Human Sexuality class, she assigns her students to defend why human sexuality is taught in the classroom.

"We explore why it needs to be taught and why knowing human sexuality is important," she said.

Another reason why she decided to accept Karolides' offer was she felt that it would be an extension of her teaching.

"I expect my students to defend human sexuality, so I should also expect it of myself," she said.

Another professor who wrote in defense of a book is Ruth Wood, an associate professor of English. She wrote in defense of the book, "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood.

This book takes place in the future where the government has been overtaken by a fundamentalist religious group. There are some sexual scenes in the book, and Wood said that the censors object because of the sex.

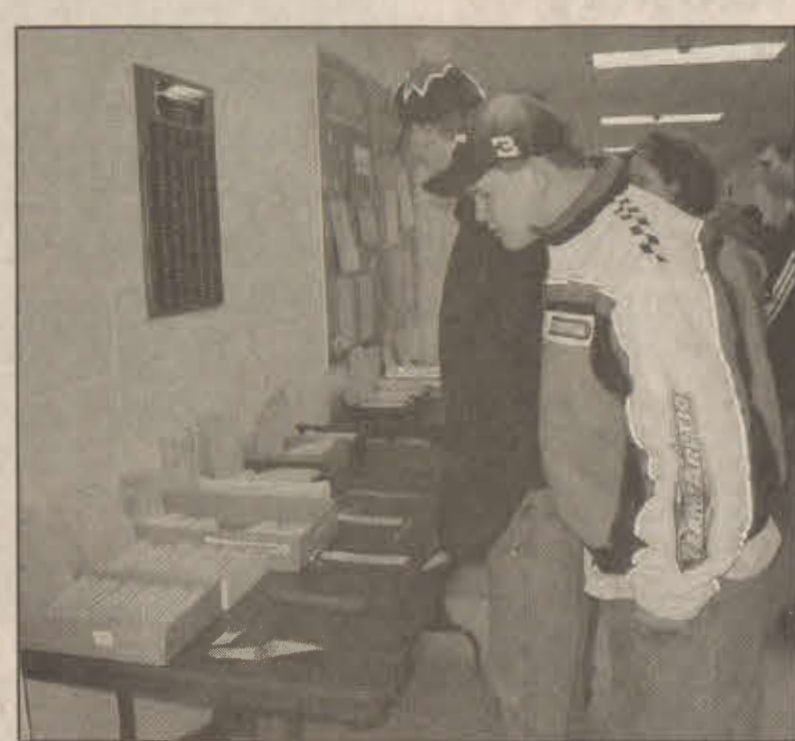
Wood is familiar with the topic of censorship. She is the editor of the Wisconsin English Journal and she devoted an entire issue on censorship. She has also made a presentation at the National Council of Teachers of English conference on censorship.

Wood praised Karolides for his dedication to fighting censorship.

"He has always been devoted to this cause," she said. "He worked hard to find a range of people with different connections, such as librarians, the authors themselves and people with a commitment to fighting censorship."

Karolides, in honor of his dedication, will be awarded the Burriss award at the upcoming Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English convention in later this month. This award is given to teachers who are devoted to the cause of intellectual freedom.

Crops Contest seeks to shed anonymous label



Submitted photo

8th grader James Giese and senior Robert T. Bohac, both of Lincoln Alma Center look on with anticipation. Their school took home the trophies for Haylage/Grass Silage, Grass Hay, Legume Hay, Shelled Corn and Top Crops for the 2002 competition.

Hope Yeager
Staff Writer

There are so many things happening at UW-River Falls which involve the community of River Falls as well as many other Wisconsin towns. The recent mayoral election would be one obvious example. On Saturday, April 6, the campus witnessed another.

As non-traditional student Wayne Yeager said "one can live in the town of River Falls - work in the town - and even go to school at the University and still not know all the interesting things which happen here".

Steve Carlson, a professor at the University since 1977, voiced the same ideas.

"For 23 years we have had this specific competition at the University and

there are still students who aren't familiar with it," he said.

The Invitational Crops Contest began in 1979. There was a need - an event waiting to happen - for the spring quarter classes held in the Ag-Science building.

Up to this point there had been a Fall Quarter Crops contest for the University students to take part in as a hands-on supplement to their class work. The students brought in an assortment of crops to be judged, bringing in the best possible as they had been learning the standards of a "good crop."

Up until 1979, there had not been such an experience for the students in the spring.

"We saw a need to give the spring quarter students an opportunity for some hands-on experience as well," Carlson said.

At the time there was (and still is) Agricultural Tech contest during the spring.

Carlson took his idea for a crops contest to the college - and for 23 years (minus a snowed-out year) the contest has been a tradition.

A new perspective for the students was incorporated into this new contest. In this competition the university students would be the judges - and high school students of schools throughout the region would be the contestants.

According to Jean D'Angelo, a high school agriculture teacher at the Menomonie high school since 1989, what was envisioned as a learning tool has become "a friendly competition between schools, a family and community tradition, and an exciting and fun opportunity for the high school students to visit the campus - adding to their experiences in farming as well as giving them an idea of a college education and college life."

The awards have ranged from simple t-shirts to trophies of varying sizes. The competition is between schools while some of the communities hold their own competitions to ready themselves for this experience.

Different communities have participated during different years, although in the lists of past winners there were towns that weren't involved this year - it "may be due to the growth of the towns and the diminishing volume of farms in their areas" said Steve Stoppelmoor, a teacher of Agriculture II at Cochrane Fountain City High School.

An interesting regulation within the competition is that the students are allowed to bring their samples from anywhere. This includes their family farms, neighbors, relatives - or even other states or countries. All a person really needs is a love of learning about crops and a school willing to be involved.

The schools involved for the 2002 competition were:

Albany, Menomonie, Auburndale, Barron, Black River Falls, Bloomer, Boyceville, Clear Lake, Cochrane Fountain City, Colby, Elmwood, Gale-Etrick-Trempealeau, Gilman, Granton, Independence, Lincoln Alma Center, Neilleville, Osseo-Fairchild, River Falls, Thorp, Turtle Lake and Unity.

According to the students competing, the University students judging and the teachers involved, no matter who the "Top Crops" winner is (for 2002 it is Lincoln Alma Center) all are winners for having had the experience.

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Begins: May 28, 2002
Ends: August 23, 2002

- \$7.25 per hour/40 hours per week for the entire summer.
- Two afternoon positions available.
- Double room at reduced rate.
- Those students who work full time from May 28 through August 23 will receive an additional \$100 lump sum payment on their last check. If they have worked previous summers for Residential Services, the lump sum payment will be \$150.

Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled.

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

Student Senate

Senate opposes sexual conduct model, elegant dining facility

Jamie Nielsen
Staff Writer

At their April 9 meeting, the Student Senate passed a motion to support the Faculty Senate in their opposition of the Sanfransky model, which was recently adopted by the UW-System Board of Regents as a way for universities to remove tenure from faculty.

The decision was made following an incident at another UW-System school involving the inappropriate sexual behavior of a faculty member who was dismissed despite having achieved tenure. In order to dismiss him, they had to dismiss his tenure.

The name Sandfransky is for another teacher of that name who was fired from a K-12 school for children with learning disabilities back in the 1970's for being openly gay. The university used that case as a precedent for firing their problem faculty member.

The opposition claims that a precedent for a K-12 school cannot be applied to a higher education facility. In their motion, the Student Senate stated that "the preservation of academic freedom is essential to maintaining high academic standards and the concept of tenure was designed to protect academic freedom."

In other Senate business, Senator Nick Sirek reported on the last Student Center Core Committee meeting where the Faculty Senate presented a resolution to urge the creation of an elegant dining space with large windows to take advantage of the view of the Kinnikinnick River in the new student center. They propose that the room be reserved for faculty use during the lunch hour and open to the community in the evening.

"I remind you that students will be paying for it and faculty will be using it," Sirek said. "It's student money, so students have the ultimate say."

Most senators did not agree with this proposition. "I say that if they plan to do that, we'll be pulling our money out," Finance Director Ryan Eilar said. "I'm just saying that there is no way this is ever going to happen."

Sirek also said that not all faculty members are in favor of the dining room only being open to faculty during the day. It may not even be legally possible.

"According to the research I've done since this came up in a meeting a month and a half ago, if it's paid for by student dollars, it would have to be open to everyone who is paying for it all the time that it's open," Senator Jessi Andrews said.

Some student senators think the dining room is a bad idea all together.

The Senate will likely endorse the idea of the dining room, but only if it's open to everyone.

Eric Dodge addressed the senate on the Day of Silence. To date, over 1,200 schools have signed up. He talked about the 'Break the Silence' rally, to take place on the student center mall at 5:01, where the chancellor and a member of United Council will speak. There will also be an open microphone opportunity for participants to reflect on their experiences that day. The movie 'The Laramie Project,' about Matthew Sheperd, will also be shown.

"If you haven't signed up, I encourage you to at least get a button and volunteer that way," Diversity Issues Director Melissa Baker said.

Legislative Issues Director Jessica Wermuth reported on the General Assembly, which took place in Appleton last weekend.

"It was way fun, if you ask me," Wermuth said.

Wermuth said future plans include planning a day of calling the senators and representatives.

Senator Kyle Jacobsen reported on Shared Governance committee. He talked about Search and Screen committees for new faculty, most of which are frozen until budget concerns are worked out.

The Student Center Search and Screen is still active, however. The Senate was concerned that since many of the search and screens are conducted during the summer, the student population is not being effectively represented.

"It's really important that those of us who are going to be around this summer do sit on these committees," President Cora Opsahl said.

Womens Initiatives Director Kendra Plant reported on the issues facing her committee, which is currently working on revamping their mission statement.

"(This is) so that we can have material to hand out to students next year on our committee," Plant said.

Plant also reminded Senate that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encouraged all senators to participate in Take Back the Night, which is April 18. There will be live entertainment, refreshments, and a speaker from the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

"This is so important, our committee is so excited about this, because it's kind of the heart of our committee," Plant said.

President Opsahl ended the meeting with a request that senators begin fulfilling their obligatory office hours.

"I'd like to see you all a little bit more," she said.

Opsahl also reported that the zip disc containing the last three years of meeting agendas and minutes is missing from the office, and people have generally just not been on the ball.

"I've been really disappointed in all of us," Opsahl said. "Part of our responsibility in being in this organization is taking initiative."

"I don't think there should be an elegant dining facility on campus. It's a waste of student money."

-Kyle Jacobsen said.

Visiting professor gives the first of several talks



Molly Montag/ The Student Voice

Dr. Dick Ojakangas, a professor at the University of Minnesota-Duluth spoke to a full house in room 200 AgSci Wednesday night. Ojakangas and River Falls Geological Society president Alyssa Boock discuss Ojakangas' research prior to his talk titled "Paleoproterozoic Climatic Records of the Canadian and Fennoscandian Shields: Glaciogenic Rocks, Paleosols, Orthoquartzites" or "Was North America Once Part of Finland?" The talk was first of a series by Ojakangas. He gave talks to the Petrology class (AgSci 335) and a Brown Bag talk on "An Antarctic Expedition" Thursday morning. Friday he will speak to the Geomorphology class (332 AgSci) at 9 a.m. Visiting professor Herr Doktor Wolfgang von Schlummerklutz will give his acclaimed talk on Panzerenkotklotzen (armored mudballs) at 5 p.m. Complete coverage on the talks will appear in next week's issue of The Student Voice.

Campus Security

Theft still a pain for students

Jenny Cullen
Co-News Editor

Chad E. Koranda, 22, was given a \$734 citation April 5 for operating a motor vehicle with prohibited alcohol content.

A Compac laptop was stolen April 5 from Parker Hall. The laptop was valued at \$1,100.

A navy colored "P" coat was stolen April 8 from Rodli Commons. The coat was valued at \$75.

Sick of licking stamps for a living? Then come and work where the real fun is next semester. And where is that you ask...The Student Voice! Be sure to pick up your application at B102 Ames today!

TECHNOLOGY IN MY ENVIRONMENT

Students! Are you sick and tired of your professors just assuming that you are familiar with such tedious applications as PowerPoint or Microsoft Word?

When you approach the color printer or the scanner, do you cower in fear? If you answered yes to either of those questions we have the solution!

Join us in the HelpDesk commons area (160 Daves Library) on the listed dates for training sessions which will ease your user anxiety!

Bring your brain and no money. It's FREE!

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Thursday 4/25/02	Basic MS PowerPoint Workshop (Yellow Lab)
Thursday 5/2/02	Basic MS Word Workshop (Gray Lab)
Thursday 5/8/02	Flatbed Scanner Techniques Workshop (Red Lab)

Workshops are held at 4:00 PM

Developed and presented by Students employed at the HelpDesk!

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APRIL 16-18

Go to the Student Services Web Page and Click On **ON-LINE VOTING**

<http://www.uwrf.edu/student-services/apps/voting/>

For more information call the Leadership Center at 425-4911.

‘That’s so gay!’ Life in and outside the closet at UW-RF

■ A look at the real problem of discrimination and hate crimes against homosexuals and what is being done about it



File photo by Scott Wente
Last spring demonstrators on campus showed their biases against GLBT people by using the Bible and other devices.

A safe place to study? UW-RF looks at discrimination

Jenny Cullen
Co-News Editor

It is not uncommon to hear some students use the word “gay” to refer to something they don’t like, and jokes about sexual preference are heard everywhere, but when these types of attitudes are allowed to develop into acts of harassment and even violence, the University is no longer a safe place for GLBT students.

So, what is UW-River Falls really doing to curtail hate crimes and discrimination and raise diversity levels on this campus? And is it really enough?

“On this campus we ask ourselves, ‘is this fair?’” said Chancellor Ann Lydecker. “We try to set up a system that is open and free from bias and discrimination.”

Another plan for the UW System is called Plan 2008, which tries to spread racial and ethnic diversity throughout the UW System.

One of the goals is to help the UW System and its colleges accurately represent the diversity of the Midwest.

“We need to ask ourselves, ‘are we as diverse as the Midwest?’” Chancellor Ann Lydecker said. “Right now we aren’t, and we need to get there.”

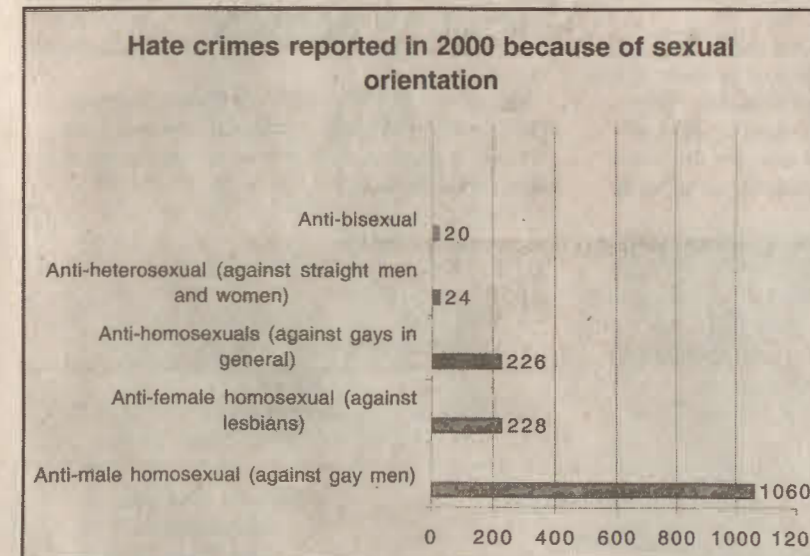
Tommie Jones, who is the first African American student regent, also said Plan 2008 is very important in helping to educate and end discrimination.

“I don’t want to visit the university (UW-Whitewater) I am at now 10 years down the line and see students not accepting those who are different,” Jones said. “I think Plan 2008 will do that.”

One major problem with Plan 2008 is that it fails to raise levels of GLBT students across the UW System.

Former Diversity Issues Director Eric Dodge agreed that Plan 2008 would be helpful in recruiting diverse students, but worried about how the plan would help deal with discrimination.

“The funding for the program is hurting,” Dodge said. “And as for Plan 2008 and discrimination, I think it is an administration problem. They need



Graphic by Jenny Cullen/The Student Voice

According to the 2000 Uniform Crime Report, 1,538 hate crimes were committed in the US because of sexual orientation

to do more.”

Raising levels of GLBT students on campus is often times difficult to do because of the legal aspects of asking a student if they are homosexual.

Although Plan 2008 began in 1998 to help raise racial and ethnic diversity levels on campus, Dodge said UW-RF doesn’t do enough about discrimination and hate crimes of GLBT students when they do occur.

“I think campus security has covered up hate crimes as well as the Leadership Center,” Dodge said. “What we call a hate crime, they call a roommate dispute. Discrimination on this campus happens a lot.”

Leadership Training Coordinator Emily Ronning said the Leadership Center does many things to make the residence halls and campus community a safe place for all students and also a place that is as free from discrimination as possible.

“We at the Leadership Center focus on creating inclusive communities for

Jenny Cullen
Co-News Editor

The more than 100 students who wore black t-shirts Wednesday and chose to act with silence represented an unspoken problem at UW-River Falls. With the Day of Silence project, they represented those GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) students who face prejudices every-day. Oftentimes, they fear what others will think and their voices are left unheard. Those who chose to speak are often victims of hate crimes.

Administrators acknowledge that unreported and hidden discrimination do occur at UW-River Falls, but how big is the problem and what is being done on behalf of the victims?

The US Department of Justice defines a hate crime as a “crime motivated by hatred against a victim based on his or her race, religion, sexual orientation, handicap, ethnicity, or national origin.”

Although UW-River Falls has not reported any hate crimes since 1998, that doesn’t mean they do not happen.

Many times people are afraid to report such crimes in fear of being publicly humiliated or looked at as different, says Priscilla Stevens, UW-RF director of public safety.

“Most people don’t report these crimes because they don’t want to

bring attention to themselves or be labeled,” Stevens said. “They fear that if they come forward they will become more of a target. It takes a lot of courage in a society filled with prejudice and biases to speak out for yourself.”

Students come here to go to a college where they are more than just a number and where people they see are more than just people. Most students don’t come here expecting to see two women holding hands on Main St. or two men embracing each other down by the Kinnickinnic River. After all, neon signs flashing “The Gay 90’s” or “The Rainbow Room” don’t pepper downtown River Falls.

GLBT students who attend UW-RF say it is difficult to live in a small town because differences aren’t as common here. Within the heart of campus, amid the hustling students and quick meals, those who are “different” say they are victims of discrimination and hate crimes but are reluctant to report them because they believe they will be targeted or not taken seriously.

“People in a small city like River Falls tend to ignore the fact that gay people exist while in big cities it’s a fact of everyday life so everyone accepts it and gets along with it because that’s the way it has to be,” said UW-RF Gay/Straight Alliance member Matthew Fischer. “Until small cities

realize that, there are going to be places of discomfort for a lot of gay people.”

While hate crimes and discrimination undoubtedly occur in every town, Chancellor Ann Lydecker said they also exist at UW-RF, whether people realize it or not.

“It is more behind the scenes than blatant,” Lydecker said. “Many people would say we aren’t biased or we don’t discriminate and for some that is close to reality. There are others who are naive enough to not understand what they don’t know.”

Although it is not discussed very often, many students on campus have experienced violence for being GLBT.

Incidents have included name calling, graffiti on residence hall doors and marker boards and even death threats.

Sophomore Jil Stahosky knows what it is like to be threatened because of her sexual orientation. After she returned from spring break last year, the word “lesbos” was written on the door (not on her marker board) to her dorm room in red marker.

Stahosky never reported the incident to her RA or the leadership center because she felt uncomfortable about the situation and felt it was just an isolated incident.

Approximately a month later someone wrote “go to hell lesbians” on her marker board.

“I just think things like that are childish pranks that you would

expect from someone in junior high school, not in college,” Stahosky said. “People need to get over the fact that there are gay people on this campus and treat them as equals.”

A former UW-RF student named Josh was forced to transfer from UW-RF when he was a sophomore to the U of M because of a death threat he received on the phone. Dodge said his friend transferred because at the U of M, “being a GLBT student, you have some protection.”

Although acceptance of homosexuality has been getting increasingly better in society (homosexuality was considered a mental illness until 1973) students feel that UW-RF still overlooks the GLBT community here.

“People need to open their eyes because this town is not reality,” Fischer said. “It’s a fairytale land of straight people.”

The above comments are excerpts from letters written to the Gay/Straight Alliance (formerly known as the 10% Society) in response to a display the group did in the 90’s. The display was in Davee Library and profiled the 10% Society.

Personal experiences with discrimination: My own story

Jenny Cullen
Co-News Editor

When I tell most people I am a lesbian, their first response tends to be, “Really? You don’t look gay to me.” I believe I receive this particular reaction because I am usually friends with people before I tell them about my personal life. So they can get to know me as a person first, not just as a gay person.

Then there are those whom I don’t know. Those people who have no idea I have a girlfriend of three years. “Dude, you’re such a fag and that’s so gay” are usual comments I hear from them. Sometimes, even my closest friends will say things in my presence that strike a chord in my heart. They are discriminating against me and don’t even realize it until I give them a strange look or say something.

I know many GLBT people on this campus and have not only heard about, but seen the traumatic experiences they have lived through during their college careers at UW-River Falls. I know from personal experience that discrimination and hate are a part of their everyday lives.

In high school, my girlfriend and I had things thrown at us. People even took pictures of us dancing at our senior prom only to make fun of us later. In college here, I naively assumed that since the people I encountered would be more mature that the biases and childish acts would be few and far between. I was terribly wrong.

While living in Hathorn Hall with my girlfriend, we had people write derogatory things on our door, and I heard the words faggot, gay, dyke and queer used more times than I would care to hear in my lifetime. People would laugh at us when we walked down the sidewalk holding

hands or make disgusted faces like we were physically harming them by doing so.

As co-chair of the Gay/Straight Alliance, my group received horrible hate-filled e-mails just for informing students of our events for National Coming Out week. It hurts not to be able to show your love for someone and it hurts even more that people truly hate me and other GLBT people just because they don’t understand or agree with my lifestyle.

Discrimination of GLBT people is something that is very common on this campus, whether people realize it or not! It’s not talked about and people don’t report these things happening because they are paralyzed with fear. Fear that if they tell someone they will be made fun of or hated because of who they are.

As a gay person, I don’t expect everyone to believe my lifestyle is right. All I am asking is that other people realize how big of a problem this is.

Hurting people and making fun of them for any reason is just wrong and I don’t think anybody likes the thought of other humans suffering. Or maybe the people who discriminate against GLBT people on this campus to like to see others suffer. That’s what it seems like from the looks of things.

I like music. I like to spend time with my girlfriend. I like to write and hang out with my friends. I am a human just like the next person and being gay is only a small part of who I am.

Discrimination is not something to be tolerated and it happens on this campus behind closed doors.

We should be asking ourselves why making people suffer is okay and try to stop the hate instead of spreading it.



Jenny Cullen

everyone,” Ronning said. “It is virtually impossible to create a top-down program that looks at every facet of human diversity.”

Ronning said diversity issues are looked at during RA training, but that all situations are different.

“It would be nice if we could say, ‘this is how you deal with each individual student,’ but you can’t,” Ronning said. “We train our staff about diversity and discrimination in general and we are always available as a resource for them when they have specific problems.”

Building diversity costs money

Diversity groups on campus including the Gay/Straight Alliance hold programs on campus and serve as a welcoming environment for students and supporters.

These groups request annual funding for events they wish to hold throughout the year. They present a request to the diversity awareness committee and are encouraged to state the reasons why they need the money to the committee. The committee then divides the money in the budget (this year it was around \$18,000) among the various diversity groups.

Some programs that met to deal with diversity issues and concerns have fell by the wayside in the past few years and exist only on paper or are inactive due to lack of volunteers.

One such program is the Safe Space program, which invites faculty and staff members to place a sign on their door so GLBT students know the person is an ally/advocate.

In the early 90’s, a former student named Mandy Fox held the diversity coordinator position in which she organized the Safe Space program. When her position was cut, there was nobody left to recruit new members to be a part of the program.

“Safe Space still exists,” said Wade Warner, Gay/Straight Alliance faculty advisor. “It just isn’t as active in the past because everything is done on a volunteer basis.”

Programs like Safe Space aren’t totally doomed, however. There are still some faculty and staff who would like to re-start these programs again.

“Volunteer help on this campus has spread very thin,” said Professor Judy Emmett, who is trying to revive the GLBT safe space program. “People just wear out.”

Dean of Students Roger Ballou said the student development staff is still looking into re-starting the Safe Space Program.

“I would call it a dormant program,” Ballou said. “I wouldn’t say it doesn’t exist because you see the signs up everywhere.”

Lydecker is in the process of forming what she calls a campus climate coordinating committee. This committee would be an umbrella group consisting of chairs from committees that deal with GLBT issues, multicultural issues, affirmative action and other issues related to discrimination.

The group would report back to the chancellor so that the various diversity organizations wouldn’t be working at cross-purposes.

“Committees are a resource that don’t take a lot of money to run,” Lydecker said. “This means we can work with the money we have now. If we need funding from grants for specific initiatives then we can do that. But

I am not really thinking about that right now. I just want to get this group started.”

Some students feel money is being spent that could be used for more diversity issues.

“The University needs to stop spending money on so many trips with coach buses to every game around the whole state,” said Matthew Fischer, Gay/Straight Alliance member. “They need to get us something good like a resource for women and GLBT people on this campus.”

Lydecker said some of the most important elements in ending discrimination on campus are education and personal experience. She said it is important that diversity is a part of what students and staff do both in and out of the classroom every day so people on campus can learn about others.

In her own personal experience with a gay, bi-racial son and a gay brother who died of AIDS, Lydecker said she is “far stronger because I lived through difficult things with both of them.”

Differences are something that many people aren’t comfortable with and Lydecker said having a campus community in which students can “naturally react” with others is essential.

“It is important that we get to know people as people,” Lydecker said. “Once you do that you can accept people for whom they really are and not what you thought they were.”

Lydecker also addressed the fact that people are and always will be entitled to their own opinion, but shouldn’t jump to conclusions without knowing an individual.

“People will always have biases,” Lydecker said. “But one way to end that and to learn is to experience things with an open mind set and an open point of view.”

Cities and universities in Wisconsin reporting hate crimes because of sexual orientation in the year 2000

Hayward:	1
Kenosha:	1
Madison:	12
UW-Parkside:	1

•Not all schools and cities chose to submit information

Taxation without representation

This week my roommate wrote out a check. This check, like many, went to pay a bill. Like other bills, this one would be assessed a severe finance charge if not written for the appropriate amount. However, it was unique in the fact that Nick would have to discover exactly how much he had to pay. Amen for tax time.

It is said there are two inevitabilities in life, death and taxes. Science might eliminate one of those two someday through genome mapping and genetic engineering, but rest assured that your great great grandchildren will be paying income, property and sales tax for hundreds of years.

Taxes do wonderful things. Thanks to tax money, national parks are established and maintained. Without taxes, we would not have public education. The government, through taxes, is able to maintain police departments, fire departments, and the armed forces.

Of course, this also means that American citizens pay for Navy maneuvers off the coast of Puerto Rico, and purchased the bombs dropped on Afghanistan. Nuclear missiles are developed and stored thanks to tax dollars. Wars are fought thanks to tax dollars.

What would happen to a business if you provided them with limitless funds but never examined their books, or did not analyze their busi-

ness decisions and practices? Think Enron. it's fallen out of practice among Americans in recent years. Voting.

Last week fewer than 60 University of Wisconsin - River Falls students voted on campus. Fewer than 60. Not to beat the issue, but students at River Falls had the opportunity to elect a student as mayor, one that might be more sympathetic to students concerning on street parking and roller skating on sidewalks.

Unfortunately, students have little control over whether or not to pay taxes. You might make it a few years, but inevitably the government will find out.

Students can choose to check up on the government to see if their collective will is being enacted, that they support the wars being fought and the causes being served. If you don't like bombs being dropped on other countries, vote out the administration. Want lower taxes? Vote in candidates who agree with you. Think we'd fare better with a socialist as a president? More

power to you. Of course you could always just remain apathetic; I'm sure *The Real World* is on somewhere.

SCOTT JOHNSON



"It is said there are two inevitabilities in life, death and taxes."

ness decisions and practices? Think Enron.

There is a quick and mostly painless solution, as long as you don't mind standing in a line. It was all the rage a hundred years or so ago, but

Take care of yourself, mind and body

It seems that winter is ready for a rest and spring is here to stay. That's kind of nice, don't you think? With the arrival of spring, the idea of rejuvenation and renewal come to mind.

Another nice idea one might say. So I am suggesting that sometime in the near future, perhaps today, or this weekend, you take a mental health day. However, let me just say right now, I am not suggesting that you call in sick to work or miss class. I am suggesting that you utilize your free time wisely to treat yourself to a treat.

Whenever spring arrives, it makes me want to go for walks or sit out on a park bench or in the grass and listen to the birds while reading a book.

With that I got to thinking that so many of us are caught up in our schedules and have become quite task oriented that before we are 40 we will have already experienced a mental breakdown or mid-life crisis. Why?

Well, my theory is that we haven't taken enough time to enjoy the little things in life. Remember when you were a kid? The most important things in life were recess, mud puddles, cartoons and lemonade stands. We enjoyed looking at the clouds and trying to decide if they looked more like a school bus or a dinosaur. We laughed and didn't care what anyone thought of us. We enjoyed life's little treasures. It was great, wasn't it? There were no deadlines, no dress codes, and very little stress if any. Oh, to be 6 again!

Now, I realize that we all just returned from spring break and time away from this institution.

For some it may have been a vacation and others, work topped the agenda. That's all fine and dandy. However, I am suggesting that you start incorporating some mental downtime for yourself into your schedule.

Why? Well, it's not like I know all of you or anything, and you could justifiably say most of my thoughts are assumptions about you as a per-

son. books aside. Put the day planner down. Watch the Chipmunks. Go for a walk. Swing on the swing set at Glen Park. Go on a picnic and spend time enjoying your surroundings. Listen to the birds. Read a book on a subject you wouldn't normally for example: read a book on archery, or Tanzania, or pick up a Dr. Seuss book or another kid's book. Be 6 and fly a kite.

Call up a friend and go for out for coffee and enjoy a game of Connect Four. Roll down the windows and sing at the top of your lungs with the radio like nobody is listening. Look at the shapes of the clouds or wish on falling stars. Write a love note to yourself. Whatever you do, just take some quality time for you.

You might think that I am crazy and you wouldn't be the first to say so. But think about it, aren't you worth a good day? I fully realize we live in a fast paced world, run by computers and time clocks. We are running the never-ending race for the almighty dollar. What is a dollar worth if you can't enjoy the profit because you're mentally and physically exhausted. Forced to live on bad coffee and anti-depressants in order to retain the status quo.

Now that's a bright picture to look forward, isn't it? Okay, maybe not. So take a few hours to prevent the madness. Take some time to smell the roses and enjoy life.

I wish all of you a great week. Smile to yourself. Give yourself a big hug or a pat on the back for just being you-the great and talented soul that you are! Take a moment today or really soon to celebrate you...because you're worth it!

MAILE' ILAC



"What is a dollar worth if you can't enjoy the profit because you're mentally and physically exhausted."

son.

It just seems to me that college is supposed to be a growing experience for all of us and not just in class work. We're supposed to experience some kind of personal and social growth too.

So do me a favor or rather yourself a favor, take a mental health day. (Maybe not a whole 24 hours, but at least a couple.) Set the school-

Letters to the Editor

Athlete speaks on behalf of team

To the editor:

I am a senior and captain of the UW-RF Women's Gymnastics Team. As you probably know, we recently qualified for, and competed at the NCGA National Championships as a team.

When we returned from Ithaca, NY, we were shocked to hear our program was in danger of being eliminated. On Tuesday, April 9, the committee that decides this matter made a recommendation for the immediate drop of gymnastics, baseball, and wrestling.

This drop will become official when Chancellor Lydecker holds a press conference announcing her approval of this decision. This is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 12.

We have been told these cuts are due to budget constraints, of which we are all aware. The University feels that it can save money by dropping these three sports.

However, in an attempt to comply with the standards of Title IX, two new sports will be

added: men's track and women's golf. I am confused with the logic of eliminating existing sports, only to replace them with new ones.

Why cut programs such as ours that are already in place, that have facilities, athletes, coaches, traditions, etc., only to instate brand new programs that may have none of these things?

In the case of the gymnastics team, we were told that we are being eliminated because at the end of the 2002-2003 school year, the Ames building, where our practice gym is located, will be torn down in preparation for the new student center. Thus, we will have no place to practice. This is not true.

We have already made arrangements with the River Falls High School to use their practice facility for our practices. While this is certainly not ideal, our team is more than willing to travel to practice each day and very grateful for the generosity of the high school gymnasts to share their gym. There is also a very good chance

that a new club gym will be built in the River Falls area, in part with the purpose of housing our team. Therefore, the argument that we have no facility is irrelevant.

As a part of the University, these three sports: baseball, wrestling and gymnastics represent you, the students and staff. We ask for your support in our attempt to convince Chancellor Lydecker to reevaluate her decision to eliminate our sports.

Please e-mail Chancellor Lydecker, Athletic Director Rick Bowen, gymnastics coach Jean Delisle at jeam.m.delisle@uwrf.edu, or me at ekholly@hotmail.com.

I thank you in advance for your support.
Erin Holly
Co-captain Women's Gymnastics Team

Letters to the Editor continued on A7



EDITORIAL

One last chance

This morning the Regents' Room was filled with athletes, coaches, friends of athletes and people who just enjoy athletics in general to show support for the baseball team, the gymnastics team and the wrestling team, who plead their cases to Chancellor Lydecker about the proposal to cut their programs. Coaches and players from these teams spoke on behalf of their teams and why these sports are so important to them as individuals, the University as a whole and the community.

The wrestling and gymnastics teams are faced with the prospect that their completed season was their last at UW-RF, but the baseball team is faced with competing for the rest of the season, knowing it may be their last.

Teams were notified Tuesday that a decision was going to be made Friday about the future of their programs. Why not give these teams the chance to come up with a solution before cutting them. Give them a year to find outside funding and sponsorship. This is an opportunity not only for alumni to live up to the challenge of supporting the programs they love, but for the athletes to prove their passion is enough to keep their programs going.

The athletes and coaches who spoke today showed a determination to do anything in their power to keep their programs alive. If given the opportunity, they will find the funding to keep their programs going through barebones budgets, fundraising and outside support.

The University is faced with hard times and will be forced to make hard decisions, but one of the things we've always been taught is to look at all the options before making a decision. Allowing these teams a year to see if they can find a plausible solution and put in into place to keep these sport programs alive is an option.

Show your support for these teams by sending your thoughts to the Chancellor. If enough voices are heard, a difference can be made.

Vote at Senate elections

During the River Falls mayoral elections last week, the city and student population both had low voter turnouts, with less than 60 students turning out at Rodli Commons to fill in circles. Next Tuesday, students will have another chance to elect the people who spend their money, and this time, students can rest assured that every vote WILL count and the results of the election WILL have an effect on their daily lives. At voting booths located in Student Center, students will have a chance to choose their student senators, including the new Student Senate president and vice president.

In the photo poll last week, one student compared voting to not littering, saying "if you throw little piece of trash out the window no one will notice." Another said "if the votes were neck and neck my vote would make the difference." At a campus with over 5,000 students, the typical Student Senate election only draws about 900 voters. With such a small voting turnout, every vote could conceivably make a huge difference in the final results of an election. Furthermore, if students recruited five or more of their friends with the same ideas, they could singlehandedly.

But the results of an election shouldn't necessarily be in the hands of only a few of the potential voters. Too often, the students who win senate seats are those than get the most friends to come out an vote, making the elections more a popularity contest than a serious political election. The best candidate for the job should win, not the candidate with the most friends.

Anyone can vote next Tuesday 8 a.m. to noon on Thursday by going online to uwrf.edu/student-services/apps/voting.

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A NON-PROFIT PUBLICATION

The Student Voice is a student written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls and is published weekly on Thursday afternoons during the regular school year (except during semester/holiday breaks and finals weeks).

All editorial content is determined by the *Voice's* Editorial Board. Complaints concerning coverage or content should be directed to the Editorial Board, 1102, Ames Building, UW-River Falls, 54022.

Opinions expressed in editorials and columns are not necessarily those of the student population, faculty, staff, or administration.

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

We reserve the right to edit for length, content, and libel or to withhold letters. **Unsigned material will not be published.** Letters to the editor become the property of *The Student Voice* and cannot be returned. Only one letter per person per week will be accepted. The student retains reprint rights to all published material. All letters to the editor must be submitted by **Wednesday at 3 p.m.** for inclusion in that Thursday's edition. News releases/briefs, display ads, and classified ads must also be submitted **no later Wednesday at 3 p.m.** for inclusion in that Thursday's edition. We can be found online at www.uwrf.edu/student-voice/

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Blissful death...

A “splendid” little war..

There are only two sure things in life: Death and Taxes. This is a wonderful expression, because it reminds me that taxes are due soon. It also reminds me that if I were to die, I wouldn't have to worry about taxes. But since I am still alive, I have started my taxes, by which I mean I have sharpened my number two pencil.

There are several ways to do taxes, many of them legal. It can be a complex process, as evidenced by examining any one of the 61 pages of forms or instructions in my nifty "1040A" booklet. Despite instructions on how to prepare your taxes in the event your child has been kidnapped (p. 13), you may have some questions.

Q: What does "IRS" stand for?
A: It means "Money Grubbing Bastards".
Q: Where does all of our tax money go?
A: The destination of our tax money is not entirely known. My personal theory is that once the government gets its hands on our money, they

ERIC HENNING



"There are only two sure things in life: Death and Taxes. This is a wonderful expression, because it reminds me that taxes are due soon."

flush it down the toilet. Sometimes they also put orange barrels all over the Interstate Highway System. At any rate, I hope that someday there will be a box to check stating that you will voluntarily burn your tax money in your fireplace at home. This will save everyone some time.

Q: I have noticed there is a great deal of space on the 1040A form to list dependants. It would be nice to claim several exemptions, but I do not have any children. I feel very left out.

A: I always list my guppies, which are like children to me, in that they are very dependant on me for food and water, particularly water. Even though I can't tell them apart, I give them a name. Today I called them "Bob". In the space designated for a Social Security Number, any random collection of nine digits will do. In the space for 'Dependant's Relationship to You', I put "very close."

Q: There are special instructions for blind people when determining the Standard Deduction. Do blind people ever read this part?

A: If blind people aren't reading these instructions, they ought to be. For any blind people reading this, please refer to page 32 in your 1040A booklet on how to fill out line 21a.

Q: These "worksheets" for figuring out various numbers always confuse me.

A: Yes, they can be confusing. For example, on page 33 you could use the directions given, but that might make your head spin. I personally do these "worksheets" in the following manner: Write down a random number, perhaps your current cholesterol level. Divide this number by two million trillion. Take off your shoes and socks and count your toes. Multiply the number of toes you have by the previous number. This method will always give you the correct answer. I came up with zero.

Q: I would like a refund. How can I get one?

A: Probably the easiest way is to fill in all the tax form blanks with a zero. Although I have not tried this method, so far all I know, it may increase your taxes. It might also cause the IRS to have you audited by Herman the Three-Headed Dragon. I recommend wearing a fire-proof suit.

Q: I have been really busy, and I don't have time to fill out this pesky "1040A" form. What should I do?

A: Hire a personal accountant. I have known my personal accountant for as long as I can remember. Things have gotten so that we are on a first-name basis. "Dad", I will say on April 14, "I've been really busy, can you quick fill out these tax forms for me?"

Q: What will happen if I don't pay my taxes?

A: Probably nothing. There are a couple hundred million people in the United States. I doubt the IRS will miss you.

Q: What is prison like?

A: I expect it is very nice; otherwise people wouldn't be going there in droves. I personally have never been to prison, but that will probably be changing sometime after April 15. If you follow any of the advice above, I'll see you there!

Over 100 years ago America embarked on its first foreign conflict. The Spanish American War was politically motivated and a sure way to prove our international might. One of the factors leading to the war was the Spanish encroachment into our hemisphere. In response Teddy and the boys went off to Cuba and took care of business in short order.

Many of the officers and elites who participated, referred to the deployment as "A splendid little war." It would be a chance to advance military careers through battle and for others it would be a great adventure worth telling the grandchildren about.

As anticipated, the war was over relatively quickly. The majority of casualties caused by disease not bullets. All's well that ends well, right?

Today the world is faced with a similar situation in the Middle East. Palestinians are at war with Israel in part because they feel their territory has been taken over by foreigners.

Israel on the other hand feels they have been ordained by God to occupy their current country, and as for the so-called "occupied" territories, they were taken during a war with Arab countries.

Now, here's what I'm getting at. When the U.S. felt threatened by Spain, whether real or imagined, we wasted little time in going to war

with that country in order to flex our muscles around the world.

Our media of the time used the ever-present spin machine to whip up public sentiment for the war. We as a nation would do whatever we had to do, in order to defend not only our own

DAVE MISSELT



"Are not the Israelis under attack by terrorists on a level which if occurred in the U.S. would result in massive retaliation."

country, but that of the beleaguered Cubans.

So what is the difference between what we did in the Spanish American War, or for that matter what we are currently doing in Afghanistan in the name of the "War on Terrorism," and what Israel is doing to the Palestinians? Are not the Israelis under attack by terrorists on a level which if occurred in the U.S. would result in

massive retaliation the likes unseen since World War II?

Are not the Israelis defending a country which, unlike the Palestinians has been recognized as a sovereign entity? Don't they deserve safe borders and the ability to live their lives without worrying about being blown up while eating a pizza?

At the same time, this could also be said for the Palestinians, who have endured their own suffering at the hands of Israel.

I have got to ask, why can't America stay out of this one and just let these two advisories have at it until one side becomes the clear victor?

What does the United States have to gain by becoming nothing more than a referee, throwing penalty flags at two teams which would rather cheat than agree to end the game?

Israel has been involved in some of the most serious spy scandals in recent history. The Israelis have time and time again stolen various state secrets from our government. Not too good coming from a country which is supposed to be a trusted ally.

The Palestinians have absolutely nothing to offer us, so why bother with them.

To the victor go the spoils! Whatever side wins we should embrace them and allow them to govern how they see fit. As far as counties who pose a threat to ours go, a little global house cleaning can't hurt.

Letters to the Editor

Letters Continued from Page A6

To the editor:

With all the recent talk of campaign finance reform, I am appalled at the actions of university personnel in the wake of the recent budget "crisis."

I have received multiple e-mails and one letter informing me of the situation. However, these messages have crossed the line of informing, to political campaigning. They continually sing the praises of the Senate Democratic Caucus and their efforts to fight for the students, while bad mouthing the Assembly Republicans.

Political opinions aside, this ought to enrage you. University time and money (our time and money) are being spent to ensure that students (you) conform to the political wishes of the administration.

Through mass e-mail, Chancellor Lydecker has emulated Churchill, leading us in the brutal battle of budgets against the unsympathetic Assembly Republicans (a.k.a. Nazis). She has "informed" us of hiring and admissions freezes and consoled and encouraged us with her words "hang in (there)," and "rest well tonight."

However, these are merely fear tactics trying to scare us into believing that if the Republicans get their way, the University will shut down and we will have to move far, far away from the comforts of River Falls to attend an understaffed university with no running water or electric

lights, that luckily happened to stay in business despite the Republican onslaught.

I, along with every other student in Rep. Mark Pettis' 28th Assembly District, also received a letter from Student Senate President Cora Opsahl (ON UNIVERSITY LETTERHEAD) informing me that Pettis "does not have a record that is extremely favorable to students," and prompting me to tell him that I can either "vote for him or against him." Read between the lines!

This is an outrage. Instructors are no longer allowed to provide handouts in some classes due to the budget crisis, and yet Ms. Opsahl has taken the economic liberty to send a letter to every student in a voting district to persuade them to vote the way she believes they should.

That's not only bad economics; it's an abuse of power. She may hold the majority opinion; however, what about minority rights, hasn't that been a major effort as of late? The student body elected Ms. Opsahl to represent them in campus affairs, not to give them voting lessons!

Ms. Opsahl closes her letter "On behalf of all students, thank you for your support." I may be the only one, but I never prompted her to write this letter.

These efforts are not about fighting for education, they are about fighting for self-interests in the way of pork barrel projects and job security. Education seems to be coming in a distant second. Furthermore, fear is being used to create a student body of economic victims, who believe they are entitled to a free education.

Well, it looks like they are going to win again, but don't be discouraged. In the end there's "no free lunch," you will pay for your education. If not with dollars today, you will pay by having complete lack of personal responsibility for the rest of your life.

The bottom line is that these people will never be happy with the amount of money spent on education and will abuse their office and power to get their way.

Patrick Coughlin
Student

To the editor:

All right Dave, who do you think you're trying to fool? Have you had any editorial writing training or experience?

All you've produced this semester is a bunch of fluff. Your columns have consisted of over-used analogies and bold statements with nothing to back them up.

Editorial writing takes a lot more than audacious opinions and a 35 year old know-it-all to produce a good column.

Let's step it up a notch buddy, because as it stands right now you're poorly representing our journalism department, and embarrassing the Republicans on this campus by making us look like Nazis.

Jessica Wolf
journalism major, Republican and unwed mother

The Student Voice is currently accepting applications in B102 Ames for next semester.

Do you think sports are important to the University?



Niki Burns, Senior
"Yes, it brings people together. And some schools don't offer certain sports that are offered here. For example, gymnastics."



Nate Pachl, Junior
"They are just as important as any other extracurricular activity. They provide students to socialize with others that share similar interests. They are worth maintaining whether they generate revenue for the college or not."



Tera Meyer, Senior
"Yes, sports motivate a lot of people to attend college."



Scott Johnson, Sophomore
"Yes, for athletes. I doesn't affect me, but I think they should have the opportunity to play the sport they want to."



Jill Mcquiston, Senior
"Yes, it gets a lot of people active, and is a great stress reliever."

importance for students.

Cora Opsahl

One of the big things is looking at the new buildings on campus and creating buildings that students actually want. We also need to build connections with people in city so we can begin to look at tangible solutions to the parking problem.

Alexia Kjos

I believe that parking will always be an issue on our campus but that doesn't mean that we need to stop working on it. I would like to see advice and ideas coming from the students on how to alleviate some of the pressure from this issue.

I also believe the budget, nationally and statewide (including Minnesota's), will be an issue next year. I plan on having weekly updates from United Council (UC) and the United States Student Association (USSA) and the Legislative affairs committee on each of the budgets and acting on anything that may help or harm the students of River Falls. I also would like to see the lighting situation improved on Cascade Avenue. This year there are some hard working Senators working on this issue and I would like to see that project continued and completed.

Andy Parrish

Athletics being cut and the lack of handicap accessibility. The school meets the minimum requirements for handicap accessibility. If we as students met the minimum requirements the school set for us they would ask us why. We must ask them why they only meet the minimum themselves.

What will your own top priorities be as president?

Cora Opsahl

First, to continue moving in the same direction, which is forward. Second, I want to have every senator work on one particular campus issue so that students can start to see tangible results. Third, to continue keeping students informed by creating forums outside of the Senate meetings where the students can talk freely about whatever they want. Fourth, I want to inform students on how they can access the funds available to them. Fifth, to create a core base of non-senators who are involved in all aspects of student life and would be a network to keep students informed

Jessica Wermuth

There are many realistic goals I believe, we as a Senate, can accom-

plish next year. The biggest thing I would like to see Senate take on is a more involved role among other student groups. We can do this through "co"programming; where Senate will work with other student groups to put on programs and events. I truly believe that Senate should promote all events on campus, and not just the events that they fund.

My other priorities as President would include establishing a more visible Senate, ensuring that students have an active voice/role in the new programs and buildings evolving on campus, recruiting more strong leaders for the Senate and other roles on campus, and finally, a big get out the vote campaign during the gubernatorial race in the fall. These are the tasks I would like to start with in the fall and I am definitely hoping for student input to see where we will go from there.

Alexia Kjos

To continue the current Vice Presidents idea with the proposals that each Senator must report on each week. The proposals are issues that students have brought to the Senate to work on, two senators choose a project and report weekly to the Vice President and bi-weekly to the senate during a meeting. I am also helping another senator plan a training week or weekend for the senators during the summer so we can deal with the internal problems there and become a team working together. I think that this year we have focused a lot on the internal workings of senate and not on student needs. I also plan on advertising for senate. Many students don't know what senate is or what it can do for them. Students hold the majority of the power on this campus and I would like to see us utilize it but we can't do that until each student realizes the power they have.

I would like to see a senator be assigned a hall council to go to twice a month, I believe this will improve the senate/student communication I would also like to see senator becoming more visible within the University. As Vice President I would be in charge of counting the office hours that every senator must have, I would include attending University funded events, organizational meetings, even attending a football game if they go as a representative of Student Senate. I plan on working on these even if I am not Vice President next semester.

Andy Parrish

First to let every student know we have a Student Senate for them. Second, to get the Senate involved with the students. It is not the responsibility of the students to get involved with us, rather we need to get involved with the them. Third, to support the president.

What is your greatest personal strength and your biggest weakness?

Jessica Wermuth

(Strength) Dedication: I don't do things half-way and I put my heart into everything I do.
(Weakness) Sometimes my expectations of other individuals are too high, thus leading me to some let-downs.

Cora Opsahl

My greatest strength is my ability to organize and to keep organized on issues that important to students. My biggest weakness is that I have a tendency to take on too many things at once or if a job isn't being done, I go ahead and do it even if it isn't my responsibility.

Alexia Kjos

My greatest strength is that I am highly motivated. I enjoy working on projects and I am very strict to deadlines. My greatest weakness would be that I am not a morning person. Seeing that a lot of meetings with administrators and faculty are in the morning I think that this would be my biggest hurdle to overcome next semester if I am voted as Student Senate Vice President.

Andy Parrish

My greatest personal strength is that I know when I need help and I am not afraid to ask for it. Weaknesses, where do I start? I'm human. I struggle with a lot but since I have to chose one I would say I get too emotional over things in live.

Voting will be done online from Tuesday at 8 a.m. to Thursday at noon at:

uwrf.edu/student-services/apps/voting

Check out two more questions online at:
uwrf.edu/student-voice



Dean Hashimoto,

A.B., M.S., M.D., J.D., M.O.H., and now, finally, IRA.

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Molly Montag / The Student Voice

UW-River Falls Chancellor Ann Lydecker, center, attended the rally for the Day of Silence Wednesday afternoon.

Silence

Continued from A1

dents who participated a chance to share their reactions to the events that day.

A few students shed tears as they shared stories about why they participated in the event. Others shared reactions they received from other students and faculty.

"I handed someone a card and they said 'thanks,'" said transfer student Diomira Sheldon. "It is very different to have someone thank you for showing campus activism since we have such an apathetic campus."

Everyone who participated in the Day of Silence had their own reasons for doing so.

"By wearing this shirt I'd rather have people think I'm gay than narrow minded," said student Owen Swerkstrom.

Although most participants said they had a positive experience, there were those who received negative feedback.

When freshman Eric Aho handed another student a speaking card, he said their response was, "You're doing this? I don't believe in that kind of stuff."

A faculty/staff member also addressed the audience in a different way by standing in front of the crowd and not saying a word.

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Contraction at the local level

The big story this week is the cutting of athletic programs on campus. I am not sure why this is coming as a shock to most people, if they even know about it. Everyone should have seen something like this happening. However, with that aside, I am going to put my neck on the line to give you my perspective on the cuts and gains the athletic program plans on doing.

I lead with the baseball story because it is closer to my heart. I grew up loving the game and started playing around the same time I could walk. I love the game, and even though I actually came

DAN SCHULTZ

here to play (before I blew out my arm, the old high school injury cliché), I have to say that I saw this coming. Some say that you can't get rid of America's pastime, but apparently the UW system thinks you can.

The team hasn't had a winning season (overall) since 1996 when they won the conference title. They had a second place finish in 1995, but you have to go back to 1988 to find their last first place finish. In the past five years, they have accumulated a record of 71-91-1. They were better in the '80's, finishing first twice and second three times. The facilities are not exactly the best in the league, and they may have had a case to stay if there was more support on campus. Unfortunately, they don't draw a great amount of fans and they don't have the booster support that the football, hockey and basketball teams have. And let's be honest, the political drive with students here isn't going to get them up and to a meeting to save the team at 9:30 in the morning.

Winning isn't a guarantee either. The gymnastics team is finding that out. They were the most successful team in the entire sports program and are scheduled to be axed. The squad went to nationals and placed eighth, and yet they are on their way out. It seems that the school or UW system seems to have hired Bud Selig for this budget job. Cut the team that is successful seems to be the approach on this decision. The squad has sent three individuals to Nationals in the past five years. The team hasn't been a powerhouse in the conference, but has been competitive.

You have to wonder about the cutting of wrestling. This is probably one of the cheapest sports if you are thinking equipment budget cuts. What would you have to buy other than headgear, tight, and shoes. Other than travel, this is one of the lesser money-hungry sports. By no means is this team a dominating force in the conference. Also, they haven't fared well in the conference meet as a whole in the past five years, but my question is more on what it actually costs rather than success on this move.

Now the counter to the cuts is the addition of other sports. The school plans on bringing in women's golf and men's track. The addition of men's track is reasonable. This has been a club for quite some time and there is definite support to have success with it. This also will benefit the football team, who continually loses recruits that want to participate in track and also play football. On the other hand, I was unaware of the push for women's golf here on campus. This pick is new to me, considering that golf isn't exactly a cost-effective sport.

For all of the people who are complaining about the cuts and have suggested other sports such as football, hockey, and basketball be cut, there is no argument. Football, though it doesn't draw a ton of fans, except Homecoming, does have a lot of support in town and through boosters. The hockey team isn't just successful but it's tradition alone would keep it here, especially with it's attractive recruiting proximity. The women's program is too new and it's gaining popularity and support. The

See "Schultz" on page B2



Molly Montag / The Student Voice

Senior Eric Bartholomew spoke on behalf of the baseball team at the Thursday morning forum in the Regents' Room on the athletic budget proposal that would eliminate three varsity sports.

All-star gymnastics season may be their last, alongside baseball and wrestling, according to proposal

Paul J. Cruz
Sports Writer

Sometime Friday morning, UW-River Falls Chancellor Dr. Ann Lydecker hopes to announce her decision to sign or veto a proposal that includes the termination of three Falcon athletic programs and the inception of two others.

Two weeks ago, a 15-member committee, consisting of UW-RF administration, faculty and students along with members of the community, submitted the two-pronged proposal to Dr. Lydecker.

The proposal's two facets are as follows: 1. Cut baseball, gymnastics and wrestling from varsity status and 2. Add women's golf and promote men's track and field to the varsity level, and hire full-time soccer and women's track and field coaches.

Reasons for the proposal involve concerns surrounding the University's athletic department budget and gender equity issues.

The 2002 baseball roster lists 29 men, the 2001-02 gymnastics squad sported 13 women and the 2001-02 wrestling team included nine men. Women's golf has never been a varsity sport at UW-RF, while administration axed men's track and field from varsity status eight years ago and this year's club team includes approximately 20 members.

Under the stipulations of the proposal, starting in the 2002-03 academic/athletic year, UW-RF would offer 10 women's sports and six men's sports. Currently, the University offers 10 women's sports and seven men's sports.

"The proposal was a very, very difficult thing to do," said UW-RF interim athletic director Rick Bowen, also the UW-RF men's basketball coach and head of the aforementioned 15-member committee, "but we're in a position in our athletic department that, if we are going to continue, we must make some tough decisions."

"On behalf of the committee, I submitted the report to (Dr. Lydecker), we've discussed it and I'll support and implement whatever her decision is."

In an interview held Wednesday morning in North Hall, Dr. Lydecker expressed a strong desire to deliver her decision promptly Friday morning, although she stated her ability to do so is contingent on being able to fully process some reports before that time.

"I expect fully that the report will come Friday morning," Dr. Lydecker said. "Some big snag would have to come up (for that not to happen)."

"Out of kindness to everyone, I'd like to have the decision ready by Friday morning so we can all move on."

Although Dr. Lydecker's decision surrounding the proposal will not be official until Friday morning (or whenever the announcement arrives), several indicators suggest that, for all intents and purposes, the decision has already been made.

Indicator No. 1: In a meeting with the baseball team and its coaching staff on Tuesday, Bowen informed the squad of the proposal. After being informed, the team asked Bowen if there was anything it could do to save the program. According to members of the team, Bowen told those in attendance that he believed (Dr. Lydecker's) mind was pretty much made up and he didn't want to give them false hope. In an interview Wednesday evening, Bowen confirmed submitting the previous statement.

Indicator No. 2: On Tuesday, gymnastics coach Jean DeLisle called all members of her squad and informed them the gymnastics pro-

See "Proposal" on page B2

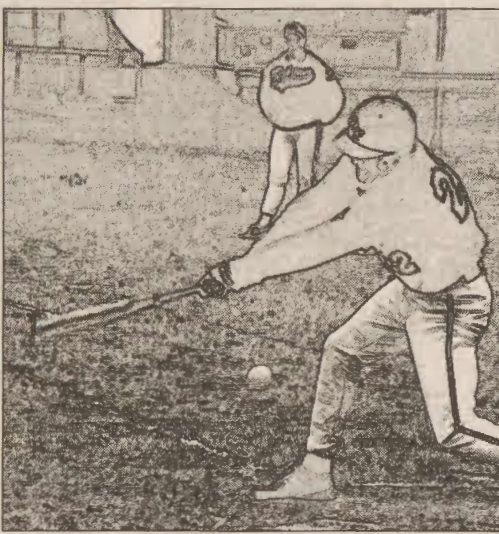


Photo Illustration by Molly Montag / The Student Voice

The future of baseball, gymnastics and wrestling may disappear with next year's proposed athletic budget.

Falcon baseball struggles over week, takes 1 of 4

Sports Information

The Falcons split a WIAC doubleheader at UW-Stevens Point Sunday afternoon. UW-SP took the first game, 7-5, but the Falcons came back to win the second, 12-9.

In the first game the Falcons scored five runs on seven hits and committed no errors. UW-SP had seven runs on eight hits and made three errors. UW-RF scored twice in the third inning and three times in the third. UW-SP scored

The Falcons came up with a win in their last of four bouts with the Pointers last weekend, scoring 12 runs with powerful efforts from DeWyre, Jacobs and Miller.

four runs in the second, two in the third and one in the eighth. Josh Eidem led the Falcons at the plate going 3-4 with two runs scored and one RBI. Eidem led off the third inning with a

solo homer to left. Nathan Brom, Scott DeWyre, Ryan Scherz and Aaron Greisen all had one hit and one RBI. Phil Worm took the pitching loss. He started the game and worked two innings and allowed five earned runs. He walked two. Josh Thygesen worked six and 2/3 innings and allowed two hits and two earned runs. He walked six and struck out two.

In the second game the Falcons pounded out 14 hits and scored a season-high 12 runs. UW-RF committed three errors. UW-RF scored six runs in the third and added three runs in the fifth and sixth innings. UW-SP had nine runs on 15 hits and they made six errors. UW-SP scored twice in the third and made it a game with a seven-run eighth.

UW-RF turned three double plays and left eight runners on base. DeWyre led the team at the plate going 3-5 with three runs scored and one RBI. Greg Jacobs was 2-5 with two runs scored and three RBIs. Joe Miller was 2-5 with two RBIs and Eric Bartholomew was 1-3 with a run scored and two RBIs. Nathan Brom was 2-5 with two runs scored and Dan Kretovics was 2-4 with two runs scored and a RBI. Bruce Grandits started on the mound and got the win, improving his record to 2-1 on the season. He worked seven and 1/3 innings and allowed 11 hits. He allowed six runs, five were earned. He walked two and struck out three.

Fastpitch squad splits at Grinnell

2 wins and a ninth-inning loss put the Falcons in position to split their back-to-back double-headers last weekend

Sports Information

The Falcon fastpitch team split in four games played Saturday and Sunday at the Grinnell Tournament.

Today the Falcons, now 9-5 overall, were to open WIAC play by hosting UW-Stout at Ramer Field, weather permitting.

On Saturday the Falcons lost to Marycrest, 5-4, in nine innings and beat William Penn, 8-1. Against Marycrest, Anna Poulter led the Falcons going 4-5 at the plate with two runs scored. Nikki Harberts and Holly Olson each had RBIs. Olson and Lindsey Becker each scored runs. Leah Vanderploeg took the pitching loss. She worked the last two and two-thirds innings and allowed nine hits and five earned runs. She struck out four. Amanda Jo Decker started and worked the first six and one-third innings and allowed just three hits and no runs. She walked four and struck out five. UW-RF scored one run in the third and three in the bottom of the ninth. UW-RF had four runs on nine hits and made two errors. Against William Penn, UW-RF had eight runs on 16 hits and made six errors. Poulter again led the Falcons going 4-5 with a run scored and two RBIs. Melissa Turbak was 2-5 with a run scored and one RBI. Abby Keene was 2-4 with a run scored. Amy

Brooke went the distance on the mound to get the win. In seven innings she allowed just three hits and one run, it was unearned. She struck out nine and didn't walk a batter.

On Sunday the Falcons topped UM-Morris 12-3 in five innings and lost to Grinnell, 10-5. Against UM-M, UW-RF had 12 runs on seven hits and made no errors. UM-M had three runs on six hits and made six errors. UW-RF scored three in the first, five in the second and two in the third and fourth innings. Emily Vogt was 3-3 with three RBIs. Meghann Mulligan was 2-2 with three runs scored and one RBI. Tiffany Blumer was 1-3 with two runs scored and three RBIs. Decker got the win on the mound. She worked all five innings and allowed six hits and three earned runs. She walked one and struck out three. Against Grinnell, UW-RF had five runs on 10 hits and made six errors. UW-RF scored twice in the fourth and fifth innings and once in the seventh. Turbak was 3-4 with two RBIs and a run scored. Keene was 2-3 with two runs scored. Angie Garin was 2-4 with two RBIs. Harberts was 2-3. Brooke took the pitching loss. She worked five and one-third innings and allowed six hits. She allowed eight runs, but only three were earned. She walked four and struck out five.

SCOUTING REPORT

FASTPITCH

WIAC Cluster Tournament at UW-Whitewater Saturday and Sunday



Saturday (Prediction: 2-0)

11 a.m. vs. Oshkosh: Tied for the weakest record so far this season, at 5-7, the Titans were picked to finish two places behind the Falcons (7th) in the conference.

3:30 p.m. vs. Platteville: Also tied at 5-7 overall, the Pioneers should compare almost as tough as the Titans.

Sunday (Prediction: 0-2)

8:30 a.m. vs. Stevens Point: At 10-5, the defending WIAC champions will present the Falcons with the first of two serious threats during the weekend.

Noon vs. Whitewater: Home field advantage and a 10-4 current second-place standing will enhance the Warhawks' difficulty.

■ **UW-Stevens Point ace tosses rare perfect game against the Falcons as his Pointers sweep the double-header 5-0 and 4-1**

Sports Information

The Falcons lost both games of a WIAC doubleheader at Stevens Point Saturday afternoon, 5-0 and 4-1.

In the first game UW-SP pitcher Bill Verbrick threw a perfect game. He faced just 27 batters in the nine-inning game. He didn't walk a hitter and struck out 10. UW-SP scored five runs on nine hits and didn't make an error. UW-SP scored twice in the first inning and single runs in the fourth, fifth and eighth.

"He was throwing strikes. He kept us off balance," coach Steve Huckle said. "It wasn't a lack of effort on our part. Basically, he kept the ball around the plate and our guys didn't do a good job picking up on the pitch locations. He won the battle."

Dan Morgan took the loss on the mound for the Falcons. He worked six innings and allowed eight hits. He allowed four earned runs. He walked four and struck out three.

In the second game the Falcons managed one run on seven hits and made three errors. The Falcon run came in the second when Greg Jacobs homered over the left field fence. Jacobs finished 3-3 in the game. Eric Bartholomew was 2-3. UW-SP scored four runs on eight hits and played errorless ball. UW-SP scored twice in the first and single runs in the fourth and eighth. Ryan Nickell took the loss on the mound. He worked seven innings and allowed four runs, three were earned. He walked two and struck out two.

Schultz Proposal

Continued from page B1

basketball teams will also be a mainstay on campus with booster and town support.

Now if you are looking for an alternative answer to these cuts, I have some suggestions. (I may lose some friends if I haven't already.) The first is the swim team. This is a squad going through some major adversity and is prime for "contraction". The team lost its coach, Doug Naylor, to a high school job in Warroad, Minnesota, and once

again the facilities aren't in tip-top shape. The high school in town now has a better facility. If the school is looking to pinch its pockets a little more, then why not look at bringing the women's tennis team down to a club level. All in all, the best solution that people have suggested to me is the complete contraction of The Student Voice. At least I still have radio! That's my take, I am out!

Dan Schultz is a junior majoring in journalism

Continued from page B1

gram was going to be terminated.

"(She said), 'It's over,'" said junior Tiffany Reber, who placed 13th in the all-around at this year's NCGA national championships at Ithaca College in New York.

Indicator No. 3: On Wednesday, the Health & Human Performance faculty held a meeting to discuss the details of the proposal and, at 3 p.m., today, the Athletic Committee met. An interview Wednesday revealed that those meetings were strictly informational and no one attending (excluding Dr. Lydecker) has a vote. Today, Dr. Lydecker conducted an open meeting with the baseball, gymnastics and wrestling teams. Time did not allow it to be confirmed if the same standards

apply to that meeting.

Indicator No. 4: During one point of an interview Wednesday morning, which was referred to earlier, Dr. Lydecker spoke in the past tense and her verbiage suggested a decision had been made.

Consider the following quotation's contents.

"One of the things you're aiming to do over the long term is to get the proportion of women competing in athletics to be proportionate to the number of students (enrolled)," Dr. Lydecker said. "We've come a long way since the early 1990's, but we can still improve. One way I'm considering this is how it will affect opportunities for women in our programs."

"(The proposal) is not just good for now, it's good for the future of the athletic department. There were (emphasis added) a whole lot of factors involved. The decision was (emphasis added) made on the dynamics of a whole set of factors."

If the above indicators prove effective as measuring sticks and Dr. Lydecker does accept the proposal, the repercussions, on both sides may, be resounding.

Reactions on both sides of the coin would vary, but according to several student/athletes, a striking percentage of those in the "my sport was terminated" category might consider transferring to another institution at which to continue their respective academic and athletic careers.

"It would take away a sport I love to play," said Scott DeWyre, a junior Glenwood City native who competes in both baseball and basketball for UW-RF. "Baseball brings a lot of guys to (UW-RF). To take that away is not only going to affect me, but 30 other guys."

"It might be bad to say, but you can get an education at any university. A lot of people choose (their college) to play a sport. If it takes transferring to do that, I think a lot of guys will end up doing that."

Reber shares the same sentiments as DeWyre. "I've been running around like a chicken with its head cut off," said Reber, who stated that at least five or six gymnasts will likely transfer if the proposal is signed. "As of right now, my heart is telling me I should do gymnastics."

Reber, however, is somewhat concerned about transferring simply to

FALCON SPORTS CALENDAR

April 12-18	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.
Women's Track							
Baseball		at Whitewater Noon	at Whitewater Noon			vs. LaCrosse 1 p.m.	
Fastpitch		Cluster Tourney 11 am/3 pm	Cluster Tourney 8 am/12pm		at UWEC 4 p.m.	at Superior 3 p.m.	

FALCON ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Amy Brooke Softball
(Jr., Spring Valley, Minn.)



Amy Brooke



Greg Jacobs Baseball
(So., Cumberland, Wis.)

Led the Falcons at the plate in the team's four games at Stevens Point this weekend. He was 5-8 (.385) batting. He scored 3 runs, had one home run, and had 4 RBIs

compete in a sport.

"I'm a junior. I don't want to go very far away from here," she said. "Also, some of my credits may not transfer, and I don't know if I want to leave all that I have here. I can't put it all into words."

"Gymnastics isn't something you take up in seventh grade. I've been in gymnastics for 11 years. There's so much to say, it's difficult to put it into words."

On the flip side of the coin, the University would likely be able to attract applications from a lot of potential students if the proposal is passed and the athletic department offers women's golf and men's track

and field at the varsity level.

Another after-shock surrounding Dr. Lydecker's final decision, no matter what it is, looks to be lawsuits. Such a result seems to go hand-in-hand with such proposals, no matter at what university they occur.

Either way, Dr. Lydecker's decision, no matter what it is, will leave some parties displeased and others satisfied.

By Friday morning, if everything goes according to script, the University's administration, faculty and students will know which side will be smiling and which side will be angry and, possibly, filing (lawsuits).

SCOREBOARD

Fastpitch

April 7 Results
UW-River Falls 000 220 1 - 5 10 6
Grinnell 004 006 - 10 9 1

UW-River Falls Name (Pos)	AB	R	H	RBI	BB
SO					
Anna Poulter rf	4 1 1 0	0 2			
Abby Keene lf	3 2 2 0	1 0			
Melissa Turbak 2b	4 1 3 2	0 1			
Meghann Mulligan 1b	4 0 1 1	0 1			
Tiffany Blumer 3b	4 0 0 0	0 3			
Angie Garin cf	4 0 1 2	0 0			
Lindsey Becker c	3 0 0 0	0 2			
Nikki Harberts dh	3 0 2 0	0 0			
Holly Olson ss	1 1 0 0	1 0			
Amy Brooke p	0 0 0 0	0 0			
Leah Vanderploeg p	0 0 0 0	0 0			
Totals	30 5 10 5	2 9			

Win - Reynolds
Loss - Brooke
Save - None

April 7 Results
Morris 101 01 - 3 6 6
UW-River Falls 352 2 - 12 7 0

UW-River Falls Name (Pos)	AB	R	H	RBI	BB
SO					
Anna Poulter rf/c	3 2 0 0	1 0			
Angie Garin cf	1 2 0 0	2 0			
Emily Rodgers rf	1 0 0 2	0 0			
Melissa Turbak 2b	3 2 1 1	1 0			
Meghann Mulligan 1b	2 3 2 1	1 0			
Tiffany Blumer 3b	3 2 1 3	0 0			
Emily Vogt lf	3 0 3 3	0 0			
Lindsey Becker c	0 0 0 0	2 0			
Jessica Perry cf	1 0 0 0	0 0			
Emily Evans dh	3 0 0 2	0 0			
Holly Olson ss	3 1 0 0	0 0			
Amanda Jo Decker p	0 0 0 0	0 0			
Totals	23 12 7 12	7 0			

Win - Decker
Loss - Lembecke
Save - None

April 6 Results
UW-River Falls 014 001 2 - 8 16 6
William Penn 010 000 0 - 1 3 3

UW-River Falls Name (Pos)	AB	R	H	RBI	BB
SO					
Anna Poulter rf/c	5 1 4 2	0 0			
Abby Keene lf	4 1 2 0	0 0			
Melissa Turbak 2b	5 1 2 1	0 1			
Meghann Mulligan 1b	4 0 1 1	0 0			
Tiffany Blumer 3b	4 1 1 1	0 0			
Angie Garin cf	3 2 0 1	1 0			
Lindsey Becker c	3 0 1 0	0 0			
Emily Vogt pr	0 0 0 0	0 0			
Emily Rodgers rf	1 1 1 0	0 0			

Amy Brooke p	4 0 4 2	0 0
Nikki Harberts pr	0 1 0 0	0 0
Holly Olson ss	4 0 0 0	0 2
Totals	37 8 16 8	1 3

Win - Brooke
Loss - Armstrong
Save - None

April 6 Results
Marycrest 000 000 104 - 5 12 2
UW-River Falls 001 000 003 - 4 9 2

UW-River Falls Name (Pos)	AB	R	H	RBI	BB
SO					
Anna Poulter rf	5 2 4 0	0 0			
Nikki Harberts lf	5 0 1 1	0 0			
Melissa Turbak 2b	4 0 1 0	0 0			
Meghann Mulligan 1b	4 0 0 0	0 0			
Tiffany Blumer 3b	3 0 0 0	0 1			
Angie Garin cf	4 0 1 0	0 0			
Lindsey Becker c	2 1 1 0	2 1			
Abby Keene pr	0 0 0 0	0 0			
Jessica Perry dh	4 0 0 0	0 0			
Holly Olson ss	4 1 1 1	0 1			
Amanda Jo Decker p	0 0 0 0	0 0			
Leah Vanderploeg p	0 0 0 0	0 0			
Totals	35 4 9 2	2 3			

Win - Grossnickle
Loss - Decker
Save - None

Baseball

April 7 Results
UW-Stevens Point 002 000 070 - 9 15 6
UW-River Falls 600 033 00 - 12 14 3

UW-River Falls Name (Pos)	AB	R	H	RBI	BB
SO					
Josh Eidem rf/p	5 1 0 0	0 0			
Nathan Brom 3b	5 2 2 0	0 1			
Scott DeWyre cf	5 3 3 1	0 1			
Dan Kretovics dh	4 2 2 1	0 1			
Greg Jacobs c	5 2 2 3	0 0			
Andy Becker ss	4 1 1 0	0 0			
Eric Bartholomew lf	3 1 1 2	1 0			
Nick Follen lf/rf	1 0 1 0	0 0			
Joe Miller 1b	5 0 2 2	0 1			
Sam Gillison 2b	3 0 0 0	1 2			
Bruce Grandits p	0 0 0 0	0 0			
Patrick Farrell p/lf	1 0 0 0	0 0			
Totals	41 12 14 9	2 6			

Win - Grandits 2-1
Loss - Mueller 1-1
Save - None

April 7 Results
UW-Stevens Point 042 000 010 - 7 8 3
UW-River Falls 002 300 000 - 5 7 0

UW-River Falls Name (Pos)	AB	R	H	RBI	BB
SO					
Sam Gillison 2b	3 0 0 0	0 0			
Nathan Brom 3b	3 0 0 0	0 0			
Scott DeWyre cf	3 0 0 0	0 2			
Ryan Scherz c	3 0 0 0	0 0			
Dan Kretovics dh	3 0 0 0	0 1			
Brian Bosch 1b	3 0 0 0	0 3			
Patrick Farrell lf	3 0 0 0	0 1			
Josh Eidem rf	3 0 0 0	0 2			
Andy Becker ss	3 0 0 0	0 0			
Dan Morgan p	0 0 0 0	0 0			
Ryan Christenson p	0 0 0 0	0 0			
Eric Bartholomew p	0 0 0 0	0 0			
Totals	27 0 0 0	0 10			

Win - Verbrick 3-0
Loss - Morgan 0-4
Save - None

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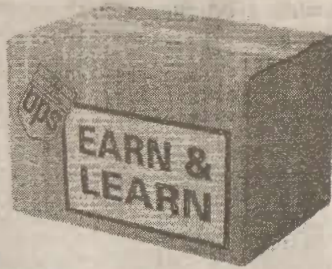
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Warning: this column is really ‘gay’

A column by senior Kevin O’Brien, who actually kept his mouth shut for once

“For millions of years, man lived just like the animals... Then something happened that unleashed the power of our imaginations We learned to talk

There’s a silence surrounding me
I can’t seem to think straight
I’ll sit in the corner
No one can bother me
I think I should speak now
I can’t seem to speak now
My words won’t come out right
I feel like I’m drowning
I’m feeling weak now
But I can’t show my weakness
I sometimes wonder
Where do we go from here

*It doesn’t have to be like this
All we need to do is make sure we keep talking.*

-Excerpt from “Keep Talking” by
Pink Floyd
Words written in italics from Stephen Hawkings

Those of you who read my column every week for entertaining stories and comic relief might be a little disappointed this time. Yesterday was the national “Day of Silence,” and as one of the participants at UW-RF, I felt I needed to express my own viewpoints about the rights of GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexuals) students on this campus. As always, I will use some of my own personal experiences to get my point across.

During the second semester of my freshman year here, I met another student named TJ who lived down the hall from me in May Hall. He became good friends with nearly everyone on our wing, and we would often sit together in the study lounge and talk about everything from environmental science to previous romantic encounters. I noticed, however, that he would always be very vague when discussing his past relationships and about who he thought was attractive.

One night, we were sitting alone together in the lounge, and he quietly told me he was gay. He thought he could trust me not to judge him or spread the story around to others, and he was right. I have never believed that one’s own sexuality, whether gay or straight, is wrong in anyway. As long as you are in a relationship with another adult person or pursuing a consenting member of either sex, I support your choices. I know how hard it is to find someone who truly makes you happy, and I don’t think we should further limit ourselves by following some arcane



I have never believed that one’s own sexuality, whether gay or straight, is wrong in anyway. As long as you are in a relationship with another adult person or pursuing a consenting member of either sex, I support your choices.

rules or silly religious dogma.

That brings me to the next part of my story. T.J. told me he was afraid to tell our other friends he was gay because they were “too religious.” This made me wonder how “Christian” my Christian friends were. The Bible says a lot of things that can be interpreted in many different ways, but it is clear about thing in the 2nd Commandment: “Love thy neighbor as thyself.” You’ll notice that it does NOT say “Love only thy heterosexual neighbor as thyself.” One of the most vulgar signs I have ever seen is the one that says “God Hates F*gs.” NOT AN ACTUAL BIBLE

VERSE. If being Christian means striving to be like Jesus Christ, who embraced everyone regardless of their sins, then people like this obviously have the wrong idea. The God I believe in does not hate anyone, especially because that person has romantic feelings for someone else of the same sex.

More moderate Christians will say they do not hate gay people; they just hate the sin of homosexuality. Well, according to the Bible, it is not a human’s job to judge other people’s sins: “Judge not, lest the be judged.” Granted, we all judge other people, just as we all sin. However, to continually seek out one supposed “sin” in another person-homosexuality—is not Christian behavior in my opinion. One of our readers wrote in a letter to the editor that said “Christianity is not a religion of tolerance.” That’s weird, because this contradicts everything I have ever been taught about the Christian faith.

Another issue I was thinking about during my nine hours of silence is the language we use in everyday conversation. Throughout middle and high school and even into college, I’ve heard my friends and classmates use the word “gay” to mean anything that is bad, unfair or otherwise sucks. I am not really big on political correctness, but this is one slang word that I think we could do without. Along with eliminating the two double g-words, I think we should all try to get rid of this insulting connotation.

More than a year after my friend TJ came out of the closet to all my other friends, one of my female friends used the word gay in a derogatory way while TJ was sitting right next to her. I turned to him and said “No offense, TJ.” She quickly apologized and he really wasn’t all that offended, but I think this causal utterance shows us that we all need to look closer at what we say.

Before I get down off of my soapbox, I would like to thank all of you for reading what I had to say. Actually, there is a slightly funny part to this story. T.J. said another reason he came out to me was that he thought I might be gay because I was the only one without a girlfriend, but that’s another story... I promise that I will return to my usual repertoire of bathroom humor and female foibles next week, but I felt I needed to say something different this week. However, if you want to offer some honest feedback on this complex issue, write a letter to the editor or e-mail me at ko58@uwrf.edu. You can even feel free to send your hate mails; I think they are as hilarious as anything that I write in this column. But if you are truly that narrow-minded, I don’t want you reading my column anyway.

Music Review

Mason Jennings or The Beatles?

Meghan Stephens
music columnist

Mason Jennings has been listening to the Beatles. You can tell from his new album, *Century Spring*. The ten song CD, which was released in March, has that feeling to it that you’ve heard it before.

It’s hard at first to figure out where you’ve heard it, then you remember: The Beatles. In fact, in a recent article, Jennings admitted to listening to a lot of post-Beatles Paul McCartney and John Lennon, especially in the songs “Forgiveness” and the title track.

Not that this is a bad thing, and Mason’s style is still there. It is funny how you can tell what Mason had been listening to while making an album because it always has an impact on how the new album will sound. During the making of the last album, Jennings had been listening to a lot of jazz and blues, as well as reading a lot about Eastern philosophy.

What makes *Century Spring* different from Mason’s last two albums is that this one is full of love songs. Love in it’s many forms. Not that his last two albums didn’t talk about love. They did, but this album seems to be more about finding love and keeping it rather than losing it. In the song “New York City” (who these days doesn’t have a song about New York?) Mason sings “I believe if you fall in love you should jump right in.” Who can disagree with that?

If you’ve gone to a number of Mason Jennings shows, you’ve more than likely heard the songs “Bullet” and “Adrian.” Now they’re are finally on an album! I know that I in particular have been waiting to see these songs in print, especially “Bullet,” which does sound different from the live version, but it’s all good. And now we can look up the words to it, which is good because it’s one of those songs that can be hard to understand.

The one complaint I have with this album is that it seems to have become all about Mason. I know that because he is the lead singer he gets more attention from, well, everyone, but the last two albums seemed to be more of a band effort. Bassist Robert Skoro would actually sing backup on some of the songs, and I think he’s on one of the songs on the new album. Besides that small complaint, I think the band did a great job on *Century Spring*, and I think everyone should listen to it. Especially if you’re in love. Or even if you’re not.

If you want to see live music, Atmosphere is Friday. Atmosphere always seems to be playing somewhere, so if you haven’t gone, go Friday night to First Ave. 5p.m. All ages! Only \$12! You’d be a fool not to go. Or go and see.....well, I don’t know. There’s really not much happening.

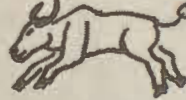
John Mayer and Five For Fighting are all next week at the Quest. Except that John Mayer is sold out, so if you want to go, I hope you have your tickets already. That’s all for now.

Want to become one of the most hated students on campus?
Join the Student Voice!
The Student Voice is now accepting applications for next semester.
Stop by B102 Ames and pick up and application.

Horoscopes

Jenny Cullen and Kevin O’Brien
Staff Psychics, who do everything around here

-Zodiac
graphics
by Katey
Hoyt.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

If you refuse to do your laundry more than once a month, you may want to invest in some more undergarments, because you are starting to stink. Either that or should buy yourself a washboard, bring it down to the Kinnikinnic River, and use some environmentally safe soap to clean off those nasty pit stains and skid marks. That way you don’t have to collect your quarters for the machines, and no one will ever throw your stuff on the floor.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Life would be much easier if you would just confront the people who really bother you instead of taking out your rage on random victims. Misdirected wrath can cause a lot of problems, especially when you find yourself yelling at your mailman for not spending enough quality time with you on the weekends.

ARIES (March 21-April 20)

What you might not realize now is that you have to find a job for this summer before all the good ones are taken. A great internship or high-paying career could be in your future, but you may miss it if you don’t get off your keester and start filling out some applications. Like right now, you are wasting time reading this horoscope, go out and get a job!

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

Despite some odd phone conversations you have overheard lately, your significant other is not having an affair. If someone else you don’t know answers the phone when you call, rest assured that it is probably just a friend or co-worker who likes to mess with your head. Listen for the sound of giggling or muffled laughter, and play along. Get really upset and pretend like you are going to break up with your woman/man. Then you can laugh last.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

If you are already counting down the days to your birthday, you are pathetic and you need help. Despite what you may believe, the calender does not revolve around your birthday, and not everyone cares when you were released from mother’s womb some several years ago. Counting down half birthdays is just wrong, if you do this, forget about getting gifts.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

Do you find it morbid that your astrological sign shares its name with one of the most feared and deadly diseases on Earth? Don’t worry, that doesn’t mean your future is any worse off than that of the other 11 signs on the horoscope. Just remember, being a cancer does not actually increase your chances of getting cancer. But smoking two packs a day, wiping your ass with espotos, and getting your water from the nuclear power plant just might.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

If your day isn’t going as planed just look on the bright side...it’s April and there’s finally no snow on the ground, just a bunch of puddles because it won’t stop raining. Take this opportunity to turn the muddy grass into a fun filled slip and slide, but just remember, it’s not just rain water you’re sliding into.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept 23)

If there is one thing to love about River Falls, it’s the smell of cow crap in the air as spring time rolls around. In large cities it’s normal to smell exhaust or even that fresh smell of spring time, but not in River Falls baby. Our strong agricultural pride has a way of taking over the city in more ways than one. Aren’t you glad that this is something you can take part in. Just walk outside and take a deep breath. Mmmm...

LIBRA (Sep. 23-Oct. 23)

Now is the time of year for you to really try and keep yourself under control. That means only drinking in extreme moderation, not staying up past 11 a.m. and absolutely no heavy petting with your significant other. Basically, you should take a vow not to do anything besides eating and drinking water for survival. This is the only way to true salvation. If giving one thing up for Lent gets you in good with God, thing how giving everything up year round will improve your position in the afterlife.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

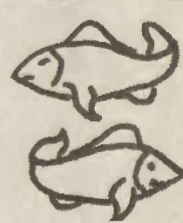
News Flash: Spring Break is Over! Yeah, believe it or not, you have left the beach and are back in class with finals just around the corner. If this comes as a major shock to you, then you probably have some catching up to do. But be careful with cramming. This is like a party where everyone is already drunk, and you slam 6 beers to get even. You might get a good buzz right away, but in about a half hour, you pass out in a puddle of drool.

SAGITT ARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

If you enjoy playing baseball, doing gymnastics, or wrestling for the varsity sports program at UW-RF, your future in athletics is really fuzzy. Instead of homeruns, balance beams and half Nelsons, you will have to look for less healthy ways of spending your free time, like watching TV, eating large amounts of junk vote voting and binge drinking. At least you know the TV stations, vending machines and bars will never run out of money.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

If you didn’t get out and vote in the River Falls mayoral election last week, make sure to get out next Tuesday to post your pick for next semester’s student senators. Next year, life on campus will be a little rough with budget cuts, parking problems, and. You will definitely need someone you can trust on Student Senate, and letting someone else make the decision for you will only piss you off in the long run, and by then no one will care.



Emotion, stories expressed through Modern Dance



Tiffany Paige, Amanda Lorenz, Molly Hergan, Morgan Siegrist, Raena Holmberg practice their opening acts for the Dance Theatre.

Teresa Schmitt
Co-photo editor

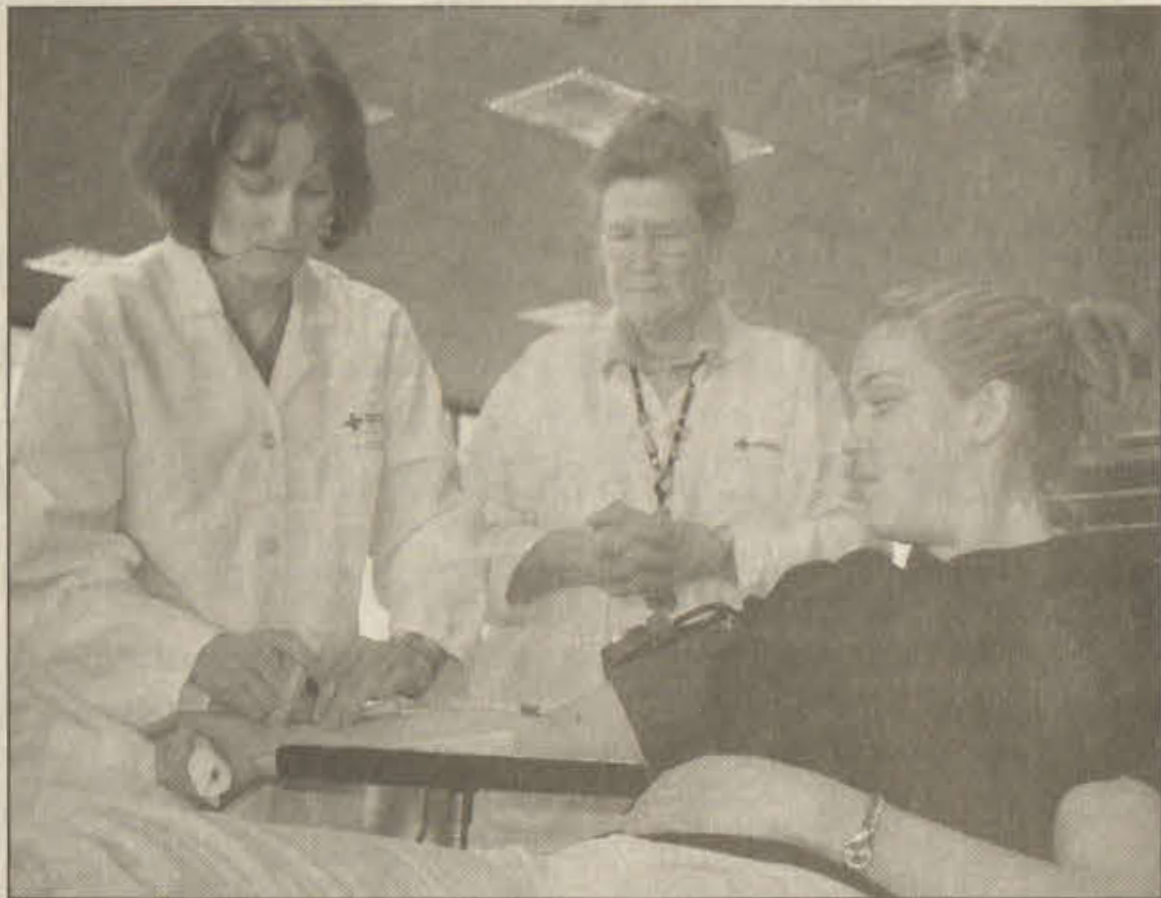
Students, staff, and citizens filled the Davis Theatre Monday night and watched emotions and stories told through the movements of dance. The UW-River Falls Dance Theatre presents its annual Spring Concert April 8-13 at 8 p.m. in the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building. Performers sat on couches in their dressing room Monday night laughing and talking, just relaxing before the concert began. "The first show is the most exciting," Sophomore Amanda Lorenz said. The concert consists of choreography by students and guests. Torrior Amie, Twin Cities choreographer and UW-RF dance faculty member, adds jazz to the different performances. Alumnus Lance Benishek choreographs a historic reconstruction of two 1950's dance forms, the Bop and

the Madison. Benishek is a master teacher of American classic dance who conducts workshops on American dance forms throughout the United States and internationally. The dancers performed in different outfits pertaining to the story their performance would tell. The outfits were colorful and others were dark, each outfit depended upon the music and story. Four UW-RF alumni returned as guest choreographers to share their inventive and technically demanding works to celebrate the 20th anniversary of UW-RF Dance Theatre. Lorenz participates in the Dance Theatre and is part of the program, "Inside." She has been dancing since she was three and said she wasn't as nervous as others. "For every show we just get so excited and pumped up," Lorenz said. "Monday night went really well for our first night." The room is dark, slow music begins and then part of the stage rises from under the floor with five women in black outfits posed on the stage. This is the setting for the performance "Inside." "Inside" is about a woman who died and the five girls who dance are representing the woman's feelings inside of her head, said Freshman Morgan Siegrist. "We love performing, so hopefully the audience will love watching it," Lorenz said. Students attending the program were there for their first time and others have been enjoying dance since they were little. It was Sophomore Amy Justmann's first time attending the Dance Theatre and she said she enjoyed it immensely. "The costumes they wore were just vibrant and really followed the music," Justmann said. "Through their dances and music they told stories and it was just wonderful to watch." Sophomore Steph Fox also attended the performance. "It changed my whole perspective of dance," Fox said. "It really is something every college student should explore." Tickets are available at the ticket office in KFA building from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. also available the evening of the performance from 6-8 pm. Reservations are recommended.

"The costumes they wore were just vibrant and really followed the music. Through their dances and music they told stories and it was just wonderful to watch."

-Sophomore Amy Justmann

Time to give



Teresa Schmitt/ The Student Voice

Sophomore Carrie Wendt gave blood Wednesday at the Annual Red Cross Blood Drive at Rodli Commons. Students were instructed to eat a full meal before and after the donation, and also to keep the pin prick covered into it healed.

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Weekdays 4:15, Evenings 7:20, 9:40

****The Rookie (G)**
Sat/Sun Matinees 12:45
Weekdays 4:20, Evenings 7:15, 9:45

****The Panic Room (R)**
Sat/Sun Matinees 1:15
Weekdays 4:30, Evenings 7:30, 9:30

****Changing Lanes (R)**
Sat/Sun Matinees 12:15, 2:30
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**Indicates stadium seating

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Sat/Sun Matinees 1:00, 3:00
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Weekdays 5:00, Evenings 6:50, 8:30

Big Trouble (PG-13)
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