

NEWS

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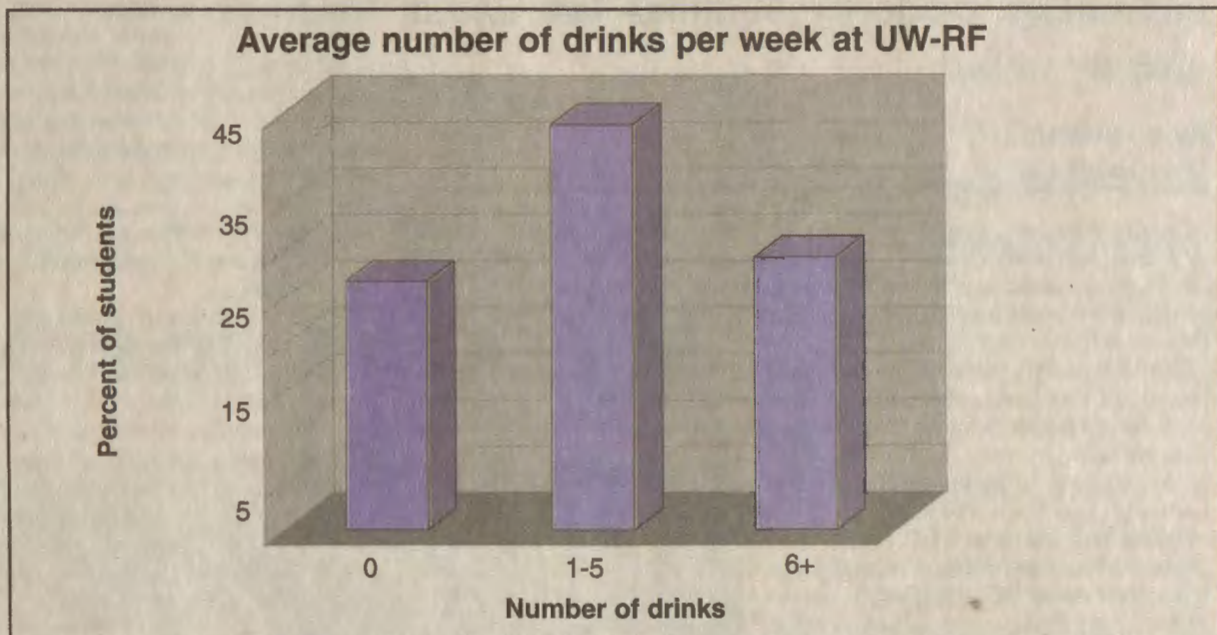
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Students drink less than thought



Eric Henning / Student Voice

The 2002 Core Alcohol and Drug Survey of UW-RF students showed that students drink less than is commonly believed.

Eric Henning
Assistant Editor

UW-River Falls students overestimate the amount of alcohol their peers consume, a recent survey shows. "There's a big discrepancy between perception and reality," said Keven Syverson, health education coordinator for Student Health Services.

Statistics compiled in the 2002 Core Alcohol and Drug Survey show that UW-RF students think 90.4 percent of their peers used alcohol once a week or more within the past year. However, only 49.4 percent of students said they actually drank once a week or more in the past year.

Student Health Services has launched an advertising campaign to make students aware of this misconception. The goal of the campaign is to reduce binge drinking. Binge drinking is consuming five or more drinks in one sitting within the past two weeks. The survey found that UW-RF has a 51.2 percent binge-drinking rate, holding steady from the last survey three years ago.

Ads have been shown to decrease binge-drinking rates on campuses around the country, Syverson said. The ad being circulated at UW-RF says, "Think about it...71 percent of UW-RF students have zero to five drinks per week."



Kyle Weaver / Student Voice

While many students frequent local bars Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, surveys show that students don't drink as much as many think.

The ad combines data showing nearly 27 percent of UW-RF students do not drink in any given week, and nearly 44 percent have one to five drinks in any given week to come up with the 71 percent figure.

"There is the theory that if students perceive all their peers are engaging in this behavior (drinking), they are more likely to engage in it," Syverson said.

Student Health Services isn't saying students should never drink,

Syverson said. But he does want students to be aware of some of the consequences that can occur with heavy drinking.

Forty percent of all academic problems and 28 percent of all dropouts are related to alcohol, according to "Breaking the Tradition on College Campuses," a book by David Anderson.

See "Drinking" on A6

UW-RF budget closer to reality

Eric Henning
Assistant Editor

The reality of Wisconsin's budget deficit is taking shape at UW-River Falls.

Approximately 18 faculty and staff positions will be lost for the fall semester and searches for new full time permanent faculty have been frozen. Overall, UW-RF will reduce its budget by over \$1.5 million, although the plan is not final.

Departments affected by the freeze on searching for faculty to fill open positions are: Health and Human Performance, Journalism, Art, Math, SCTA, and Communicative Disorders each with one search frozen; Physics with two frozen; and the English

department with three open positions frozen.

The campus budget plan was submitted to the Board of Regents for approval.

The Board will review campus plans for all UW System campuses to make sure individual programs are not cut on multiple campuses.

Whether UW-RF's budget changes hinges on whether the state legislature modifies Doyle's budget proposal. The legislature is expected to finalize the state's budget by July 1. If Doyle approves the changes, he will sign it into law.

Wisconsin is facing a \$3.2 billion deficit for the 2003 - '05 fiscal year beginning July 1. Gov. Doyle's budget proposal cuts \$250 million from the UW System.

Students find ways to deal with war

Jen Cullen
Editor-in-Chief

At a Minnesota Twins game last week Dean of Students Roger Ballou realized just how far from home the war in Iraq really is.

Before the game, troops in Kuwait City appeared on the big screen in front of more than 40,000 fans at the Metrodome. Their families stood on the field and watched their loved ones throw the first pitch from more than 6,000 miles away.

And even though the war is thousands of miles away, it is still having an effect on UW-River Falls students in different ways.

"The war appears to have a varying effect on students, depending up on their degree of involvement," said Gretchen Link, UW-RF personal counselor.

For some, the war can be a source of stress and anxiety. The National Mental Health Association (NMHA), the country's oldest and largest nonprofit organization addressing all aspects of mental health and mental illness (NMHA),

recently released a list of tips for college students on coping with war.

According to the NMHA, the most important stress-reliever for students is to talk about the situation and Ballou said from what he has seen of UW-RF students that is exactly what they are doing.

"My sense is that students are talking with family and friends and that's fine," Ballou said.

The NMHA also recommends students ask for help.

According to the NMHA Web site, "feeling overwhelmed is not a sign of weakness."

In an attempt to help students cope with their feelings and also in response to several calls from faculty members, Ballou organized a Thursday night talk session. He said that although only one student attended the event, he wasn't surprised because he felt students felt more comfortable talking amongst with friends.

Ballou also stressed the fact that distance plays a huge factor.

See "Stress" on A6

Silent students represent voices left unheard

Tiffany Shelman
Front Page Editor

In recognition of the National Day of Silence students gathered at the Student Center Mall Wednesday afternoon following 10 hours of silence.

Eric Dodge, coordinator of the UW-River Falls Day of Silence said this is his second time participating in the event that is a nationwide activity.

"Keep fighting for equal rights among all students," Dodge said. "Let this campus be heard and let yourself be heard."

The National Day of Silence, founded in 1996 at the University of Virginia, is a student-led day devoted to creating safer schools for all Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) students. People that participate in the day, whether they are LGBT students or allies, take a vow of silence lasting an entire day. The silence represents

the harassment, bullying and discrimination that LGBT students face in schools.

Some students at UW-RF wore T-shirts and buttons with the word "silenced" across the front and passed out cards to people who questioned their silence.

The card reads: "Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I support lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights. People who are silent today believe that laws and attitudes should be inclusive of people of all sexual orientations. The Day of Silence is to draw attention to those who have been silenced by hatred, oppression and prejudice. Think about the voices you are not hearing. What can you do to end the silence?"

Cora Opsahl, senior and also a second year participant, said it is difficult for her to be quiet but participated because she is an ally to

See "Silence" on A6



Maisha Downey / Student Voice

Eric Dodge addresses a small crowd on the Student Center Mall following the breaking of silence for the National Day of Silence Wednesday afternoon.

Senate Election Results

President

✓Matt Schuelke 323
Katie Kneissel 287

Vice President

✓Brandon Bruder 371
Matt Schuelke

At-Large Senators

Nick Cluppert
Tiffany Collins
David Craff
Katie Kneissel
Barbara Lind
Tim Bowers
Bobbie Pederson
Erik Tietz
Lisa Weinreich

Write ins

Joan Wierzba
Charles Packard
Mark Aleckson
*Charmaine Lindberg

*Has not yet accepted the position

Referendum

Should UW-RF remain a member of the United Council?
✓Yes 394 No 236

Senator's comment draws criticism

Eric Henning
Assistant Editor

A state senator has drawn some criticism for saying a UW campus in northwestern Wisconsin should be considered for closing.

The idea was suggested by state Sen. Tom Reynolds (R-West Allis) at a Brookfield Chamber of Commerce meeting last month as a possible way to reduce costs to the state as the legislature tries to fix Wisconsin's \$3.2 billion dollar

deficit for the 2003-05 fiscal year.

Reynolds was quoted in the March 22 edition of the Waukesha Freeman as saying he would "support closing one of the UW campuses in the northwestern part of the state to save money."

Both Waukesha and Brookfield are west of Milwaukee.

Campuses in northwestern Wisconsin include UW-River Falls, UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse,

See "Closing" on A6

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The deadline for the Collegiate Inventors competition is June 1. For more information visit www.invent.org/collegiate.

Fall Semester Registration begins April 14. Registration Appointments can be viewed at www.uwrf.edu/registrar/fallregappts.

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

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

Men’s Rugby. If interested in participating in a fun spring sport like Rugby, contact Kevin at 426-0777.

If interested in participating in the University Veterans Club, contact Mike Foley at micheal.o.foley@uwrf.edu.

If interested in participating in the Paintball Club, contact Chad at chad.r.goetsch@uwrf.edu.

Minnesota artist Mary Bryan’s watercolor artwork is on display until April 30 in the Harriet Barry Gallery, Davee Library.

English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta’s Recommended Literature ballots are posted outside KFA 265. Members are invited to vote on the best literature taught at UW-RF.

EVENTS

Final Campus Immunization Clinic for this academic year is April 30 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. in the Kinnickinnic Room, Student Center.

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

The Health Fair is April 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Karges Gymnasium. There will be many events including, live music, aromatherapy, cholesterol testing and much more. Come to learn and join the fun.

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

Tonic Sol-Fa is playing at River Falls High School on April 23 at 7 p.m. Tickets are sold at Lighthouse Coffee, St. Bridget Church, Lehl Chiropractic, or via phone at 425-1870.

The Shared Governance fair is April 14 from 11-2 p.m. in the Falcon’s Nest and the west side of Rodli.

Habitat for Humanity is sponsoring Habistravaganza April 27 from 12-4 p.m. at the River Falls Golf Course. For more information or tickets contact Amanda Frank at 425-4713 or Kate Russeth at 425-3776.

Looking to join a leadership committee, but don’t know which one? If so, attend the Shared Governance Fair April 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Falcon’s Nest, Rodli Commons.

Attention students interested in Broadcast Journalism: A seminar that will bring together students and professionals to explore the opportunities in the broadcast industry will be held April 26 at the J.F. Friedrick Center, UW-Madison. For more information, contact Michelle at the WBA office at 1-800-236-1WBA.

International Film Festival. “See the Originals” showcase is on Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. in 141 KFA.

Want to get in shape for just \$20 a semester? There are aerobics classes Monday through Thursday, 4 and 6 p.m. at the Aerobic Studio, Emogene Nelson (connected to May Hall). Register for any class anytime throughout the semester.

Focus on U Talent Show Auditions will be held April 16, 7-10 p.m. Top contestant will win \$50. For more information visit www.uwrf.edu/scta/focus.

Senior Art Majors Display will be held April 28-May 2 in the Chalmer Davee Library’s Harriet Barry Gallery.

MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Student union design plan in final stages

Input from students a priority for planning committee. Majority of funds for Union already raised.

Kyle Weaver
Viewpoints Editor

In the past few weeks UW-River Falls students visiting the Student Center and Rodli Commons have had the chance to view colorful design schemes and floor plans for a proposed student center facility. Students were also offered the opportunity to provide their input on the project.

The University’s Student Union Planning Committee is currently in the process of finalizing a design for the new facility and seeking input from students is a priority, said Dean of Students Roger Ballou, who serves on the committee.

“We want this thing to be popular,” Ballou said. “So far, designing it has been a very inclusive process.”

Ballou said the new facility will likely feature a design similar to the Science Museum of Minnesota, with large windows facing the Kinnickinnic river to the south and a north side that looks out over the campus mall.

“It’s a very open, very spacious concept,” Ballou said.

The new building will also make efforts to become a “green,” or environmentally friendly building. The committee hopes to obtain a silver rating from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a green building rating system assembled by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

According to the USGBC, the building must meet a minimum of 33 out of a possible 69 criteria such as efficient storm water management, erosion and

sedimentation control, renewable energy resources and innovation in design in order to obtain a silver rating, the Council’s third highest. Obtaining the silver rating would make the building the first student union in the United States to receive the rating.

One way the committee hopes to accomplish the goal is by using collected rainwater, or “gray water,” to flush toilets. The water would help cut down on the use of safe drinking water.

Scheduled to be completed in May 2006, the new student center project began in 1998 when administrators and Student Senate began meeting to discuss the topic. In March 2000, funding for the project was approved by Student Senate.

The building, which will be located where the Ames building currently sits, will become the new home for food services, the Leadership Center and the bookstore.

The projected cost of the building currently is \$28.4 million. While \$28.4 million may seem like a lot, most of the money has already been raised, said Bob Sievert, the director of Student Services.

When Student Senate agreed to fund the building, they broke the funding down into smaller, annual increases in student fees. Most of the capital for the building has already been raised. Increases of \$25 per student next year and \$15 in 2004 are all that remain, Sievert said.

“By the time the building opens in 2006, it will already have been paid for,” Sievert said.

In addition to student fees, funding for the facility could possibly come from Rodli and the current Student Center. Because the buildings’ purposes will likely change from student-use to academics, UW-RF could sell the buildings to the state.

Design and construction of the building would definitely improve with additional funding, Sievert said.

“We will have a lot more flexibility if we sell the two buildings,” Sievert said.

Kelm recognized as outstanding teacher

Leslie Shuler
News Editor

Steve Kelm, UW-River Falls dairy science professor, was named as the Outstanding Young Scientist in Teaching by the American Dairy Science Association (ADSA) and the American Society of Animal Science (ASA).

The award, which recognizes an outstanding animal and dairy science teacher, was presented at the Midwest ADSA-SAD meeting in March in Des Moines, Iowa.

Colleague Dennis Cooper, dairy science professor, nominated Kelm for the award. Tony Jilek, Perry Clark, Gary Onan and Larry Baumann, animal science professors, also assisted with preparing the nomination.

“We nominated him because he personally deserves recognition for his excellent contributions,” Cooper said. “We, as a department, have an obligation to recognize and reward what we truly value, which is dedication to the student experience through teaching, advising, and extra-curricular activities.”

Cooper said Kelm’s work with students is also outstanding.

“He has excellent rapport with his students,” Cooper said. “He is an enthusiastic and chal-

lenging instructor, a dedicated and interested advisor to both his advisees and the Dairy Club, and an effective contributor to both his profession and his campus community.”

Stephen Ridley, College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) interim dean, agreed.

“Steve Kelm is a skillful and dedicated teacher,” Ridley said. “Steve selected UW-River Falls as his professional career choice because of this institution’s dedication to teaching and learning through student faculty interaction. We are fortunate to have faculty members like Steve who will continue to serve our students well.”

Kelm has been teaching five years at UW-RF. He teaches upper level dairy management and husbandry courses, as well as dairy cattle evaluation and dairy science senior seminar courses through the Department of Animal and Food Science.

He also advises 40 dairy science majors and co-advises the 100-member dairy club.

Kelm received his A.A.S. from the University of Minnesota-Waseca, a B.S. degree at California Polytechnic State University and a master’s degree and Ph.D at Iowa State University.

“In graduate school I had the opportunity help with lab instruction,” Kelm said. “I found out that I really liked it.”

Kelm said all of his classes are different. He uses examples and applied information, as well as research to support studies, which makes his classroom instruction practical.

“It’s important to make that connection,” Kelm said.

Students also say they like his teaching style.

“He’s on a person-to-person basis with you,” said senior Beth Pieper, dairy science major. “His teaching style is interesting; it really makes you want to learn.”

Senior Josh Jens agrees.

“He’s always there to help,” said Jens, a dairy science major.

“If you ask him a question and he doesn’t know it – he’ll find the answer,” Pieper said. “Not a lot of other professors will do that.”

Jens added that Kelm covers relevant course material.

“He doesn’t make you feel like you’re wasting your time,” Jens said.

Overall, Kelm was honored.

“I’m just thrilled to receive the award,” Kelm said. “To think the people I work with, I learn from, put the effort to nominate me is gratifying.”

Kelm also was the recipient of the 2002 UW-RF Distinguished Teacher Award.

Anna Permann
Staff Writer

Following a year-long effort directed toward sending a significant number of students to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR 2003) the UW-River Falls student RSCA (research, scholarly and creative activities) organization succeeded in helping to send 32 students accompanied by about six faculty members to Salt Lake City, Utah.

The meeting, held from March 12-16, is the premier undergraduate RSCA event in the United States attended by 2,500 students, faculty and administrators. The event, which moves to a new location each year, was held in Whitewater, Wis., last year and will be in Indianapolis next year.

All of the UW-RF students did a wonderful job presenting both themselves and their RSCA results to a national audience, said faculty advisor Tim Lyden.

In all cases, the presentations were well received and the students were given wide acclaim for the quality of their work and the professionalism of their presentations.

Lyden said the work of these students and their faculty mentors was widely praised by other institutions and the professionalism of UW-RF students was noted and remarked upon on several occasions.

In the spring of 2002, approximately 39 UW-RF students from many different fields and academic disciplines attended the Nation Counsel on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) meeting held at UW-Whitewater.

As a direct result of this collective experience, a number of these students, together with Grants and Research director William Campbell, decided to form an organization to support UW-RF student participation in future meetings (both NCUR and others) as well as to help foster a positive campus environment for research, scholarly and creative activities.

The Student Organizations Committee is an official member of the UW-RF community recognized following an organizational meeting and the drafting of a constitution on May 15.

Last summer several meetings and discussions took place to begin planning future activities and to help maintain the momentum of this important student directed effort.

At the 2002 meeting in Whitewater, a group of UW-RF students formed a new student organization named the “Society for Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities” (SURSCA).



Submitted Photo
The UW-RF Society for Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities (SURSCA) recently sent 32 students to present research in Salt Lake City.

The primary focus of this group in its first year has been to repeat the successes of 2002 by sending about 30 students to Utah. This effort was greatly aided by funding and support from Provost Ginny Coombs, the UW-RF Student Senate and a generous donation from Daniel Marchand, assistant professor of chemistry.

In addition to NCUR 2003, SURSCA has been active in encouraging a “culture of RSCA” on the campus all year. These efforts began in the fall with sponsorship of an evening of RSCA and will culminate this spring with participation in the UW-RF RSCA Day April 22 and the UW System RSCA day in Eau Claire a few weeks later.

The future plans of SURSCA include sending a significant contingent to NCUR 2004 in Indianapolis, expanding the “Fall RSCA Evening” to include more individuals from the arts and other fields of study, participating in

RSCA 2004 and developing a significant funding base to assist other students to participate in various meetings and activities associated with RSCA.

“It is very important to our efforts to enhance the student’s awareness of RSCA at UW-RF,” Lyden said.

The current members of SURSCA are President: Ryan Saffert, Vice President: Harsh Aggarwal, Financial Officer: Jeremy King, Communication Officer: Niti Aggarwal, Katie DeHaven, Lee Harvey, Jill Bueke, Lee Hrabý, Curtis Thacker and Chris Knoop. SURSCA Faculty Advisor is Tim Lyden, biology department, and the Administrative Advisor is Bill Campbell of the Grants Office.

For further information SURSCA maintains a website at www.uwrf.edu/surrsa.

Got an announcement? E-mail it to tsveditor@uwrf.edu

Public Safety

Violin, case stolen from KFA

Aaron Kenealy
Staff Writer

April 4 an event speaker was reported stolen from the softball field. The speaker was valued at \$895.

April 4 Public Safety witnessed a subject vomiting near P-Lot. They then contacted the subject, Kevin M. McDonough, 19, and noticed the smell of beer. McDonough then admitted to drinking that night. After

going back to his room and confiscating McDonough's alcohol, Public Safety issued him an underage drinking ticket for \$225.

April 3 a violin and black case were reported stolen from KFA. The person reporting the crime specified that the violin had been stolen during spring break.

April 2 a glass event case and East Hathorn Hall sign were destroyed by vandals. The glass case was valued at \$50 while the sign was valued at \$200.

Fun at the bloodmobile



Maisha Downey / Student Voice

Junior Jennifer Ekenstedt, communications disorders major, takes time out of her schedule to donate blood. The bloodmobile was set up in Rodli Commons.

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Student Senate

Faculty evaluations discussed, finals week activities planned

Open-ended answers possible. Faculty senate opposes having the answers available to other students

Angie Schumacher
Staff Writer

Faculty Senate Chair Dave Trechter addressed Student Senate about the potential changes and use of open-ended questions in the student evaluations of faculty Tuesday night in the Regents Room of the student center.

Trechter said that the plan right now for the evaluations is to provide students with the opportunity to answer open-ended questions as well as fill-in-the-blank questions.

It is not yet decided whether the results of the open-ended questions will be turned into faculty supervisors, including the provost and departmental chairs, or if the results will remain with faculty members to reflect upon.

"It's our strong feeling that those open-ended questions are not representative," Trechter said.

He said that students who have strong feelings of either liking or disliking a faculty member are more apt to answer the voluntary open-ended questions than students without strong feelings.

Trechter said that if biased results of the open-ended questions were to be reviewed by faculty supervisors it might be detrimental to faculty members and their jobs.

If a biased example is used to determine the effective-

ness of a faculty member, he said then the talents and qualifications of the faculty members could potentially be overlooked.

Trechter also said Faculty Senate strongly opposes making the results of open-ended questions publicly available to other students. If open-ended questions remain with respective faculty members, then the results will not be open to the public.

Student Senate will vote on two motions taking a position on the issue at next week's meeting on April 15 at 7 p.m. in the Regents Room of the student center.

In Other Student Senate News

-President Jessica Wermuth said there were a good number of students who joined student senators, UW-RF faculty and staff, and the River Falls community at the Joint Finance Committee hearing that took place last Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at River Falls High School. The committee represents state of Wisconsin legislatures who heard testimonies from students, faculty and staff of the UW System regarding budget issues.

-Shared Governance Director Matt Schuelke and Senator Emilee Driscoll are planning 'stress relief' events for spring semester finals. An event is set for May 20 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. where students will be able to take swings in a "car bash." In efforts to receive feedback about Student Senate, students will be allowed to hit the car if they provide student senators with any comments, complaints, compliments or ideas about UW-RF student government. The event is set to take place in the circle lot next to the student center.

-Diversity Issues Director Lisa Weinreich reported that "Take Back the Night" is set for April 24 and "Unity in the Community" is set for April 23. More details about these events will be available at a later time.

The Voice is
accepting
applications for
next
semester.

If interested, stop
by 304 North Hall
for an application
or call 425-3118
and ask for Jen
or Eric.

War Is Tough on Families

War can mean oceans of separation from loved ones in the military. It can also mean turmoil for families caught in the conflict who must flee their homes.

The American Red Cross is working around the clock, and around the world, to help people endure these very trying times. We keep men and women in the Armed Forces connected with their families during emergencies. We also deliver humanitarian aid to those caught in the crossfire.

The Red Cross is the one you've always turned to in times of need. And that time is now. Please, we need your financial support today for these urgent services. Call 1-800-HELP NOW or visit www.redcross.org. Thanks for doing your part.



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Together, we can save a life

1-800-HELP NOW
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Think about it...

0-5 drinks per week

71% of UWRF students
consume 0-5 drinks per week.

1 drink: one shot, one mixed drink, OR one beer

UWRF Core Alcohol and Drug Survey Data March 2002

UWRF Student Health & Counseling Services

Call 425.3755 or 425.3293 for more information.

Editorial

Conservative opinions show balance, fairness

The Student Voice has taken its fair share of criticism in recent years for being too "liberal." This is somewhat true—at least as far as the Viewpoints pages go. Throughout the rest of the paper the news has and will continue to be unbiased.

Columnist Dave Misselt provides a conservative viewpoint. Recently the Voice has received a lot of criticism for letting his columns run. It is surprising how when the Voice runs a column expressing a conservative viewpoint—a viewpoint not often expressed in this publication—there is always someone who condemns the Voice for its "irrational" behavior.

The First Amendment protects freedom of speech, and the Student Voice respects that right. While his opinions aren't always popular, they are exactly that: opinions. Sometimes a person's opinions do not sit well with others. It does not mean these opinions don't have the right to be shared. While Misselt may believe certain things, it does not mean his opinions represent that of the Voice staff or anyone else on this campus. They are his opinions only, though there may be students on campus who agree with his line of thinking.

On the other hand, it is important for columnists to write logically and to back up their viewpoints with statistics and facts. This is something that the Voice has and will continue to work on.

One thing that many students, faculty and staff don't realize is that the Voice's advisor and UW-RF administrators have no say about what goes into the pages of this newspaper. The final say lies with the editor. UW-RF is lucky the Voice doesn't have administrators peeking at stories before they go to press, letting students, faculty and staff read only what makes the University smell pretty. We are lucky columnists can speak out about faculty, the University in general, administrators, or anything else that is on their minds. When we take away the right for columnists like Dave to speak about controversial topics, we are taking away the right for columnists to write anything that is considered "against the norm."

If that happened, all that would be left is a one-sided newspaper full of fake sunshine and a lot of lies. And that's not really news at all.

If that happened, all that would be left is a one-sided newspaper full of fake sunshine and a lot of lies. And that's not really news at all.

Iraqi war fought on false moral pretenses

President Bush started a war in Iraq a couple weeks ago on a set of pretenses:

—The current Iraqi leadership is exceedingly evil.

—Most Iraqis despise Saddam's regime and want a change that favors democratic ideals.

—Iraq is not destroying their infamous "weapons of mass destruction" and will only do so through military intervention.

—Iraq poses a threat to the United States and its interests.

Iraqi leadership is evil. This is an extremely relative concept. What is considered evil in America is quite likely to be something different than in the Middle East. Remember: America was founded on Judeo-Christian ethics, whereas nations like Iraq bring their citizens up on predominantly Islamic principles. So it pays to bear our Western views of good and evil in mind. There is no global moral standard.

One might argue a universal definition of evil when Saddam allegedly gassed scores of Kurds to death, but is the argument so cut-and-dry if we consider how our government has abused people (Japanese internment, Native American genocide, African-American enslavement) within its borders over the years? The truth is every nation struggles with ethnic hatred and bad policies that stem from it, so we shouldn't hold other countries to a standard higher than we're willing to step up to ourselves.

Most Iraqis despise Saddam and want democracy. For a number of reasons, there is no good evidence this is true. The authoritative Baath Party ruling Iraq surely gains a chilling effect on any political opposi-

tion by threatening death to dissenters, and it also controls the country's media outlets. A better gauge of Iraqi public opinion would be if its citizens were to assemble a substantial resistance to their current regime, much like Americans did toward the British in the Revolutionary War. In reality, there is only a small opposition force—the Kurds—who want autonomy and show no sign of backing down

with no political opposition allowed. Many countries with Communist ties, like Iraq, have used an oppressive one-party system, at one time or another, to forcefully solidify their nation. Communist regimes are notorious for this, and Saddam's regime follows suit. In this regard, are we still chained to the containment theory of the Monroe Doctrine? The more global our society becomes, we should

Iraq poses a threat to America and its interests. If Iraq had Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, then I'd think there would be half a chance I'd buy it. Unfortunately for our governments case, Iraq doesn't have ICBMs and has yet to be proven to possess chemical or biological weapons. Apparently, America's interests consist of Israel and oil. And people wonder why we're in this mess.

That said, I believe Bush's true morals, motives, and objectives concerning Iraq can be translated thusly:

—The current Iraqi leadership is evil because it's Islamic and has ties to Communism.

—America has the moral obligation to topple foreign governments it finds oppressive and install democracies.

—Despite Bush's emphatic claims, Iraq doesn't appear to have a chemical or biological arsenal, so they cannot destroy what doesn't exist.

—The Iraqi threat to America consists of oil supply, and the vulnerability of Israel—a prime example of the West's success with outsider "nation building."

As Americans, it's our patriotic duty not to follow our government, but to master over our government. If we follow its current trends, then maybe we should also stop what could be called the Bush family monarchy and the de facto one party system in America that spawned it? We all know what Bush 41 and Bush 43 would say to that.

ERIC QUADE

"As Americans, it's our patriotic duty not to follow our government, but to master over our government."



even if democracy wins in Iraq. The fact that our government is forcefully pushing democratic reform in a foreign land without obvious support from its inhabitants smacks of treachery. Will our government stop at this de facto monarchy or is it now the evangelical responsibility of a world superpower to bring democracy to all the heathen nations?

Another argument might be that the Iraqi people cannot voice opposition because of a one-party system

become more accepting of other governmental systems. The democratic ideals of Western-style government are greatly dissimilar from those of the hierarchical East, but there's nothing inherently immoral about that, just different.

Iraq is not destroying its weapons of mass destruction. At the time I'm writing this column, there has yet to be any solid evidence these weapons even exist, yet this is supposedly the main reason for the war. What gives?

Rookie reporter cuts teeth, learns lessons

Good old April fool's day. A day when I can take my knack for making up scandalous, off the wall stories and put it to good use. To my dismay, this April 1 was far less eventful than those in the past.

So when one of my reporters called to tell me that there was a man with a gun involved in a stand-off with police at the River Falls Armory, I thought what any other person who was aware of the date would think: yeah right.

But as the tone in my reporter's voice became more and more serious, I realized that I had a lot more to learn about trusting people and, more importantly, about being a journalist.

Luckily, I had my reporter's hat on that day (thank you Pat Berg) so I grabbed a camera and my assistant editor, made a quick stop to pick up my photographer and then my reporter who was on the way to the "scene."

We all crammed into my Ford Probe and drove in the general direction of the Armory. As we approached a side street somewhere near all the commotion, I had the feeling this was going to be one of those times when I was going to have to suck it up and act like I wasn't some college rookie journalist who had no idea what she was doing.

There were police cars and ambulances everywhere. Yellow police tape and big wigs in uniforms prevented us from going any further.

As the four of us stood on a dark street with other onlookers I knew I had to act the exact opposite of how I felt: scared and intimidated. Yeah, I know, two great qualities for a journalist to have. I figured that if any of us acted like the rookies we really were that those cops would smell it from a mile away and we

would get no information (little did I know all the information we got that night would be available in a press release the next morning). Lesson number one: Remember the press release.

We knew that there had to be other news media near by. And after driving in circles for about 10 minutes

well that's too bad for them. Read: Yes, as journalists we are all on the same team, but sometimes there is nothing better than scooping another newspaper.

We found out that River Falls Police Chief Roger Leque was about to brief the reporter on the current status of the situation. When

there's always going to be someone (even if it's yourself) waiting in the wings to take it off if you let them.

I felt like a failure. I am paying to go to school for journalism. I like it (for the most part). And the first time I get the chance to show myself what I'm made of I take a long walk off of a short pier. Good job rookie.

Luckily I had a chance to pick my reporters hat up off the ground along with my dignity.

I got a tip that there was a car (I later found out it was an unmarked police car) leaving the Armory to go to the "scene."

On goes the reporter's hat and off goes Jen, running like a fool to her car with her reporter.

I followed the car. The area it went to wasn't blocked off. The car parked and four men in uniforms with guns got out and ran toward a house. I'm not a cop and I didn't even think they made guns that big so I opted to stay in the car and move a little ways away.

Lesson number five: no story is worth getting shot for. At least not in River Falls.

Eventually the unmarked cop car drove up to us and asked if we had any business in the area. I knew it was time to stick to my guns. "Um, nope. We were just leaving" was the response I managed to stammer out. Real slick rookie. Lesson number six: if the area isn't marked off, you have every right to be there. Don't let the man get you down.

All in all I felt like I was only feet away from death (a little over the top, I know) and that I had the chance to get the scoop on something big that was happening in River Falls. But then I realized that it really doesn't matter when you don't ask the questions that need to be asked. I guess the joke was on me.

JEN CULLEN

"On goes the reporter's hat and off goes Jen, running like a fool to her car with her reporter."



we finally spotted a channel 4 news truck in the Armory parking lot.

Lesson number two: when in doubt, follow the professionals, or at least someone who has more of a clue than you do.

Naturally, we strutted through the parking lot like we owned the place and got information from the first person who looked like he knew what was going on; a Channel 4 news reporter.

Now, I think that this guy either felt sorry for us or thought it was respectable that we actually showed up.

Lesson number three: if someone feels sorry enough for you to give you information, milk it for all it's worth. If they respect you and are still willing to give you information,

he came out to talk I had my trusty pen and notebook in hand and feverishly wrote down what he said.

I was amazed at how quickly the reporter belted out questions. I would have had to sit at my computer and think about what to ask for about 10 minutes before coming up with the same thing. Stupid rookie blew her cover and everyone else's for that matter. Instead of firing questions at the chief I stood there and mooched off the guy who actually knew what to ask and when to ask it (I hope I still have my summer internship). Lesson number four: journalism majors have a unique chance to work hands on during college in the field. But no matter how hard you try to wear your reporter's hat all the time



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

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

The Student Voice reserves the right to

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

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Smoke 'em if you got 'em; it's great for the economy

Federal government hooking smokers just as frequently as big tobacco

Being one of those nasty, child killing, health care cost-raising people who happen to enjoy polluting my lungs with tar and nicotine, I pay particular attention to the relatively recent phenomenon of the anti-smoking movement. As you might have already guessed, I feel the smoking Nazis amongst us are nothing but a collection of hypocrites and money-grubbing liars who lead such shallow lives that they have nothing better to do with their time than harass others for purchasing and using a legal product, the income from which, often funds the same groups so vehemently trying to abolish its use.

Take that group of crazed teenagers known as Target Market, for instance. I'm sure many of you have seen their ridiculous TV commercials, filled with inflated statistics, images of masses gathered to save the evil smokers from themselves and diabolical tobacco executives plotting the destruction of

America. Fortunately, they have finally been identified as the kooks they really are and have been shut down. Among the reasons for this were the criminal acts of trespassing and vandalism committed by members of Target Market. The group has also been responsible for creating phony corporations and using them as platforms to fraudulently present the so-called illegal and/or deceiving practices of tobacco com-

panies. And don't forget their questionable accounting records filled with examples of misuse of taxpayers' money as well as tobacco endowment funds. The Minnesota Attorney General's office has conducted quite an investigation concerning the actions of groups funded by the state's tobacco endowment and has found them to be guilty of misuse of funds, embezzlement, illegal establishment of corporations and fraudulent representation of information.

Now, this is just fine with me, but remember this monster was originally created by the very lawsuits brought against tobacco companies by the Attorney General in the first place.

Minnesota was not the only state to extort money from "big tobacco." The stealing has gone on all over the country. Even my beloved state of Wisconsin jumped on the lawsuit bandwagon and was rewarded handsomely for its efforts.

Some of the blame for this ludicrous legal frenzy has to be placed at the doorstep of the tobacco companies themselves. After all, big tobacco agreed to pay these settlements rather than doing the right thing and fighting it out in court. As we have seen (thank God) the gun companies have stood their ground and haven't paid one dime to greedy lawyers who filed class-action suits against them. In fact, all of these

cases have been dismissed either initially or on appeal by both federal and state courts every time they come up. I wish the tobacco companies would have had the guts to do the same.

I'm not going to argue the stupidity or naivety of people who claim they didn't know smoking was bad

government says smoking is going to kill not only the smoker, but also everyone within a 10-mile radius of them, while at the same time, counting the millions upon millions of dollars collected through excise taxes on tobacco products.

The whole premise for suing tobacco companies was to recoup



DAVE MISSELT

"In order to honestly make those responsible for medical costs pay their fair share, I guess an old-age tax would be the answer."

for them. Nor am I going to rehash the myriad of allegations that have been levied against the tobacco industry. I merely wish to examine the utter hypocrisy of governments using the courts to financially punish a legal industry for producing a product that they rely so heavily on for tax revenue. On the one hand,

health care costs associated with treating smokers. Insurance companies also promised to lower rates as a result of the money they would receive. Guess what, the lawyers got rich, insurance rates didn't go down and few outside of the government saw a penny of the money.

Now, state governments are sitting on millions of dollars of tobacco money while deficits increase and their only answer is to once again raise your taxes.

The idea that smokers are responsible for increased health care costs is also a flawed argument. At least three studies I know of conducted in the United States, Sweden and Canada have proven just the opposite is true. Smokers in fact are responsible for fewer medical costs

simply because they die at an earlier age and do not burden the health care system with all of the maladies associated with old age. In order to honestly make those responsible for medical costs pay their fair share, I guess an old-age tax would be the answer. Or better yet, let's abolish the Social Security and Medicare systems. Especially since the majority of today's recipients have collected far more than they ever paid in.

On top of everything else, those great constitutional minds at the Minnesota State Capitol have proposed yet another tax increase on cigarettes. This new increase would add one dollar a pack to the price of those cancer sticks and the revenue collected is destined for the state's general fund. Don't smoke they say; but keep on paying higher taxes, its great for the economy.

Despite all of the anti-smoking propaganda we must suffer through on a daily basis, the youth smoking rate has consistently increased. I guess the tobacco industry's mind control techniques have worked after all. Maybe the education system could use their help to increase graduation rates, or at least assure those that do graduate can read.

The obvious question is: if tobacco is such an inherently evil substance, why doesn't the government simply outlaw it completely? It would save the children from a life of addiction, misery and phlegm balls wouldn't it? But where would the money come from to replace the lost tobacco tax revenue? That is exactly my point; by banning tobacco the government would lose a source of income it has come to rely upon for its very existence. Of course, being honest and using common sense has never been a strong suit of politicians.

In states such as California and

New York, smoking bans in all bars and restaurants have cost business owners not only money, but the freedom to run their establishment as they see fit. Certain cities have even gone so far as to propose smoking bans outdoors and in private homes.

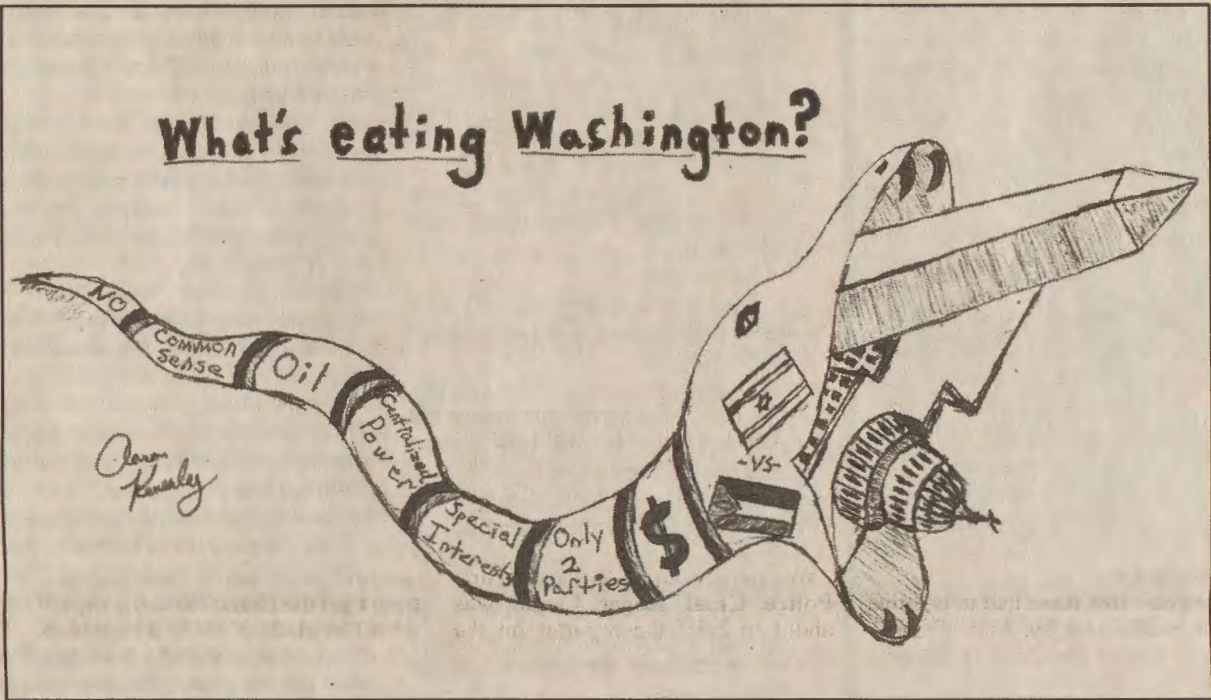
It seems "big brother" knows that you are incapable of managing your own life, so the government will step in and manage it for you. Just keep reminding yourself "If this will save just one child's life its worth it." Keep repeating it all the while the smoking police are searching your cupboards for ashtrays and testing your hair for traces of nicotine.

And why can one purchase cigarettes at 18, but not alcohol until 21? Studies have shown that if a person can make it to age 18 without smoking the chances are they never will. Wouldn't it make sense then to raise the legal age for buying tobacco products to 21? Wouldn't this reduce the number of last minute nicotine addicts and help to avoid the problem in the first place? Isn't the government just as guilty of hooking younger people on cigarettes as the tobacco companies? Democrats and Republicans alike are as addicted to their campaign contributions from tobacco companies as I am to their lovely product.

It all comes down to personal responsibility. Smoke if you want to, or don't-it's your choice. There is no definitive evidence that second-hand smoke causes cancer, so don't get all bent out of shape if someone near you lights up.

Instead, thank that smoker for going above and beyond to fund our government, employ tobacco industry workers and keep American farmers in business. After all, they won't be around as long as you think.

Carry on.



Check out the Student Voice online at www.uwrf.edu/student-voice

Letters to the Editor

Close-minded opinions insulting to immigrants

To the editor:

This letter goes out to the entire body of UW-River Falls and, especially, to my ignorant, selfish, racist, lying and certainly uneducated pals Dave Misselt and Jake Duesenberg.

My fellow students, if you have been reading the Voice in the past few weeks you would have seen that these two self-absorbed cowards have insulted immigrants in general and have also insulted women. They are using the paper to spread their hate and racist views and excusing it by saying it is free speech.

Free speech is great, but when you abuse such a right and use it as an excuse to insult others you are not going to get away with it.

As president of the African American Alliance on campus, my group and I are deeply offended by such statements. Not only because my group and I are trying to promote diversity on campus, but because I am also an immigrant. I am not only an immigrant, but also an educated immigrant. If both of you don't have anything intellectual and nice to say about immigrants and foreign countries, do the rest of

us "diversity freaks" a favor and shut the hell up.

It is people like you and others with these close-minded views that encourage others to hate America. And you wonder why terrorism exists today. My organization, along with many other organizations and individuals on the UW-RF campus who try to promote diversity every day will continue to do so proudly. Being a diverse group of people from many different countries, we will continue to be proud of where we are from and as students on this campus we will remain until we graduate and there is nothing you two or the rest of your ignorant friends can do about it. To all the people who are trying to promote diversity not only on campus but in the city of River Falls, I say continue to do so and say to yourself right now, "I am proud to be called a diversity freak," which is better than what our two close-minded friends are being called. Promote diversity. God bless the French and God bless the rest of the international community.

Leon Gbee, student

War discussion positive

To the editor:

A few comments regarding Wednesday's panel discussion on the war in Iraq. Thanks to everyone who found the time to participate on the panel, and all who helped. While I felt the anti-war people had stronger arguments for their cases, I appreciated the honest exchange of ideas. Everyone handled themselves professionally with respect to one another with the exception of the young man from the audience who

added his pro-war sentiments at the end of the discussion.

To him: Son, your arrogant and insulting attitude had no place in this discussion of facts, it did your cause more harm than good. I'd like to see more discussions in the future of this important subject. Perhaps at a later hour, after classes and with more advertisement, more people could attend.

Ritch Ellingson

Pro-American justifies rallies, supports Iraqi war

To the editor:

Last January, my co-chair of the College Republicans, Nick Koecheler, and I came up with an idea of how to send a positive message to the White House. We were saddened to see the growing anti-war sentiment building up while our troops were being deployed. So on one Thursday in February, my fellow College Republicans and I went downtown and began holding up signs and American flags. Our actions were strongly energized by the actions of our opponents.

I do not like war. It is a terrible thing. However, it is unavoidable in some cases. Since the tragedy of Sept. 11, our country has experienced an attack on American security. The aftermath has shaped new foreign policy. In his address to the country, President George W. Bush listed the triple threat of three countries: Iraq, Iran, and North Korea. Due to the intelligence at his hand, his administration had a worthy case against Saddam Hussein.

My opponents argue that there was a rush to war. The fact is that the administration used diplomatic means first. President Bush went to the UN and got a resolution passed last November. He offered numerous non-aggression promises if Saddam and his sons left the country. And in the last 12 years, sanctions and no-fly zones have been posed upon the evil regime.

My opponents will argue that there are no ties to terrorism. This is certainly not true. Al Qaeda and Ansar links to Iraqi officers are quite evident.

Editorial staff shouldn't publish hateful opinions

To the editor:

I read Dave's article titled "security, immigration problems solved" and I did find the article very offending and wondered how the editorial or the management staff at Student Voice could let such a hatred article appear in the paper. Reading it one could wonder if it is a KKK journal or a Student Voice.

For example, he refers to illegal immigrants as intruders; these people come to this country because of different reasons. In South America they had civil wars, dictators who massacred their own people. Some illegal immigrants had to leave for their lives they come to the United States for the safety of their children or their lives. Calling them intruders is an act of hate, racism and ignorance.

Two of our first casualties in this gulf war II were immigrants, one from

After the invasion of the country in Operation Iraqi Freedom, U.S. troops have found terrorist training camps. It is rather dismissive to say that Saddam Hussein does not know about terrorists in his own police state.

Finally, my opponents argue that this war is strictly on oil. In my opinion, this argument is birthed by a dislike for President Bush and Conservatives. There is no proof to back up such a statement; it is entirely based on an assumption. Since the start of the 20th Century, the United States has never taken wealth from a country after it was defeated in war. One could argue that this case in Iraq is different. Maybe, but time will surely tell. If President Bush lied to the American people, he would be committing the biggest political suicide ever. Not to mention, he would damage the Republican Party.

I am a good, American loving citizen. I'm proud to live here and I will gladly hold the flag of this wonderful country. When U.S. troops are overseas fighting for me, I back them 100 percent. Since others choose to carry on with their protests, I will be out every week supporting the troops. I am sending them a positive message, letting them know that what they are fighting for is a worthy cause. And when the war is over, I will welcome them back and thank them for protecting the security of the United States of America.

Jake A. Duesenberg, student

Guatemala who came in this country illegally at the age of 14. He was offered a green card and he joined the Marines to thank the country but unfortunately he died in this war and shed his blood for all of us. Calling this person an intruder is giving more pain to his family and to all 31,000 immigrants who serve in the U.S. military, including myself.

Dave wrote about "Diversity Freaks." This shows again his racist views; our campus is trying to encourage diversity on campus but an irresponsible paper as yours allows in the name of free speech, a racist student to publish his hatred, racist opinions in the paper. I hope you take immediate action about this problem, and hope you will be sensible to what you publish in your paper.

Jean Baptist Uwimana, student

War for oil, campaign contributions

To the editor:

George Tomlinson, a 1996 graduate and now a resident of New York, wrote a letter to the editor that appeared in the March 27 issue of the River Falls Journal. I agree with Tomlinson's letter 100 percent. As soon as we win this war and install a puppet government in Iraq that government will cancel oil leases that Saddam has granted to France, Germany and Russia and will give them to the largest multinational U.S. and

U.K. corporations. Officials associated with those firms will in turn donate most of the \$250 million that the Committee to Reelect the President estimates will be needed for Bush to win in 2004. Will this amount, the largest in the history of presidential campaigns, be sufficient enough to enable him to steal another presidential election?

Ray Anderson, professor emeritus

Correction

In an April 3 Letter to the Editor entitled "Government should fix problems at home first," Section A, Page 6, a sentence was incorrectly typed. The words "house burning" were mistakenly typed in place of "cross burning." We apologize for the error.

Stress

Continued from A1

"It's not as if it's in our backyard again," Ballou said. "If we have another incident like Sept. 11, I think that's when people will start to feel anxious, scared and afraid."

While it's difficult to do, Ballou said it's important to try not to saturate yourself in the news.

"Things aren't going to change that dramatically," Ballou said. "Things are going to start to wind down a lot in the coming weeks."

If students feel that anxiety or stress is becoming a problem for them Ballou said there are always counselors available.

For more information call Student Health Services at 425-3923. Also visit www.nmha.org.

Stressed out because of the war?

Here are some tips to help students cope

- Talk about it.** Talking with those close to you will relieve stress and help you realize that others share your feelings.
- Take care of yourself.** Get plenty of sleep, eat well and exercise regularly.
- Do something positive.** Make care packages or take a First Aid class to make you feel more in control.
- Ask for help.** Talk with someone you can trust by making use of campus or community resources.

-Source: www.nmha.org

Silence

Continued from A1

LGBT students.

"We're here to stand up and represent the people who are lost," Opsahl said. "It is important to use our voices to create change."

Sara Mumm, also an ally, said it is a success to be different.

"To be different is the best way to be," Mumm said. "And to be okay with that is even better."

Kendra Plant, sophomore, said it takes a lot of discipline to control the way people participate in each day.

"I participated today to let other students on campus know there are students actively involved in equal rights on campus," Plant said. "And that we are spending our time to make the world better."

Following the breaking of the silence Dodge and other UW-RF Gay Straight Alliance members coordinated an Equality Dance at Brandy's.

Drinking

Continued from A1

Binge drinkers don't get to class as often as they should, they don't get enough sleep and they don't study as much as they should, Syverson said.

And alcohol can affect more than just the individual who is drinking.

Heavy drinking can disrupt roommates' lives. It can affect the campus when intoxicated people vandalize property. Eighty percent of sexual assaults involve alcohol.

"It's fascinating how alcohol plays a role in so many things beyond the actual act of drinking," Syverson said.

A case in point is the three college students from Minneapolis and Eau Claire who disappeared after partying at bars. The Eau Claire student's body was recovered recently from a lake near several bars.

"It shows that [excessive drinking] is dangerous and it's more than just a good time," Syverson said. "You do things you would not normally do if you weren't intoxicated."

Though students don't drink as much as is commonly thought, the college environment still fosters an atmosphere that encourages drinking, Syverson said.

•Underage drinkers consume 19.7 percent of all alcohol consumed in the United States*
•There has been a 22.3 percent decline in the entire county.
•There has been a 35.6 percent decline at UW-RF on-campus underage drinking citations from 1999 to 2000.

**Source: Survey results published by Columbia University's National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse.*

The national binge drinking rate among 18-to 22-year-old full-time college students is 41 percent, compared to 36 percent of peers not enrolled full-time, according to an April 2002 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

The common perception is that if you go to college, you are obligated to drink, Syverson said.

Syverson said the problem is magnified because Wisconsin has a drinking culture. Nearly every town has a bar, regardless of its size. Miller Brewing Company is located in Milwaukee, Leinenkugel's brewery is in Chippewa, and the alcohol tax hasn't been raised in 30 years.

Wisconsin has the highest adult binge-drinking rate in the United States, Syverson said.

"Alcohol is a big part of the culture here," Syverson said.

Classifieds work.
Call 425-3624 to place an ad.

Residential Services Student Work Crew Summer Employment Application

Begins: May 27, 2003
Ends: August 22, 2003

- \$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 27 through August 22 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.
- Only full-time positions available. Must be able to work from 6:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M. Monday through Friday.

Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled.

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

Closing

Continued from A1

UW-Stout and UW- Superior.

According to a representative for state Sen. Shelia Harsdorf's (R-River Falls) office, no campuses will be eliminated; the topic is a non-issue that will not gain any traction in the legislature.

According to Harsdorf's office, there is not enough support for the idea from other legislators to overcome the resistance Harsdorf and other western Wisconsin senators will put up.

Others agree.

"I think it is highly unlikely that this will happen," Chancellor Ann Lydecker said.

The idea of closing a UW campus has come up several times over the past few decades, said UW System President Kathryn Lyall.

"When [legislators] actually dig into it and look at the numbers, they always conclude that they don't want to do it," Lyall said.

Closing a campus would not save money, administrators say, unless fewer students are admitted to the UW System.

"The real issue is not which campus to close," Lyall said. "The real issue is whether the state wants us to continue to serve 160,000 students or not."

There are numerous reasons why closing a campus is not practical.

If a campus were to close, its students would have to go elsewhere, Lyall said. The faculty, laboratories, and residence halls would have to be recreated at another campus to accommodate the needs of additional students.

"The notion that somehow closing campuses saves a lot of money is false, unless along with that goes a mandate to downsize the number of students we serve," Lyall said.

The demand from students for a UW System education is very strong right now, Lydecker said.

"If we had a campus that was dwindling in numbers and we couldn't recruit a solid student population to the campus, then I think we'd be in jeopardy," Lydecker said. "But when the quality of the student contingent increases and more and more students line up to

get in, why would you consolidate [campuses]?"

In a letter explaining his comment, Reynolds said, "Our citizens cannot afford state programs and institutions operating in close proximity to each other, providing largely identical services to similar populations."

UW-RF administrators disagree.

UW-RF, UW-EC, and UW-Stout are all unique enough that there's not that much overlap between individual campuses, Vice Chancellor Virgil Nylander said.

UW-EC and UW-RF have distinct differences in majors offered, while UW-Stout has a heavy emphasis on technology-based majors. Students attend a campus because of a particular program it has.

"Students come from all over Wisconsin and Minnesota to UW-RF for agriculture, because that's unique to us," Lydecker said.

The agriculture program has a significant impact on Wisconsin's agricultural economy because of contributions from its faculty, some of whom travel around the state as part of the cooperative extension program, College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences interim dean Stephen Ridley said.

The biotechnology and teacher education programs are also unique programs vital to the state. The biotechnology program draws students from across Wisconsin and Minnesota at a time when the biotechnology industry is starting to take off, Lydecker said. UW-RF's teacher education program is one of only five in the UW System that is accredited with the National Counsel for Accreditation of Teacher Education, said College of Education and Professional Studies dean Connie Foster.

UW-RF administrators take issue with Reynolds criticizing the close proximity of western UW campuses.

There are clusters of UW campuses on the eastern side of the state too, Nylander said.

The people in the Madison/Milwaukee area often don't seem to know what is out in the rest of the state, Lydecker said.

"People from the eastern side of the state don't understand that we are part of a large, large metropolitan area," Nylander said. "There's major growth in some of these counties right now."

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OPINION



MIKE FOLEY

Missing: Falcon hoops fans

I was happy watching Kukla hit threes and Melzer throw down dunks in front of a tiny gathering of semi-enthusiastic spectators. Then I round out what college basketball was supposed to be like.

I recently discovered the joy of attending real college basketball when I went to both sessions of the Men's NCAA Basketball Midwest Regionals at the Metrodome.

During the first game, Wisconsin vs. Kentucky, the stands were filled with mostly red with small areas of blue and yellow. The fans of each team lived and died with every basket made or foul called. Cheerleaders, pep bands and mascots worked up the crowd and people were happy just to be there.

The environment was even more enthusiastic during the final between Kentucky and Marquette. Even though Marquette University is a more than five-hour car ride away, it seemed that the school brought its entire enrollment of 11,000 plus bunches of alumni and other fans such as myself.

Students were dressed in requisite Marquette Basketball yellow T-shirts with matching bandanas while vigorously waving yellow pom poms and foam noodles. They cared if their team won or lost. This wasn't a charade they put on just for the Sweet Sixteen cameras. These fans were doing this all year.

"This wasn't a charade they put on just for the Sweet Sixteen cameras. These fans were doing this all year."

This brings up an important

See "Foley" on page B2

Falcons split wintery week

Sports Information

The UW-River Falls softball team split two games at the Grinnell (Iowa) Tourney last weekend and missed out a chance to play two other games when a winter storm hit the area Sunday.

Saturday the Falcons beat William Penn, 3-1, and lost to Grinnell, 1-0, in winter-like weather. The temperature was in the 30s and the wind chill was in the 20s, according to head coach Faye Perkins.

"On Friday there was a hail storm, and Saturday morning it turned so cold that they had to shovel off the hail from the field so we could play," said a disappointed Perkins about the weekend.

Against William Penn, the Falcons scored three runs on just one hit and made no errors. WP had one run on five hits and made one error. UW-RF scored twice in the first and once in the third. WP scored its run in the second on a home run.

In the first, Anna Poulter walked and stole second. Tiff Blumer was hit by a pitch. Both runners advanced on stolen bases on a double steal. Amy Brooke was also hit by a pitch to load the bases. Amanda Moxon then scored Poulter with a sacrifice fly to center with Blumer advancing to third. Meghann Mulligan hit a sacrifice fly to right to score Blumer.

In the third, Poulter walked, stole second, and scored on an error by the shortstop. Brooke picked up the pitching win. She went the distance, walked two and struck out two.

Against Grinnell, UW-RF had no runs on three hits and played errorless ball. GC scored one run on five hits and made one error.

Grinnell scored in the third off a double, a single and a fielder's choice. Brooke doubled and Blumer and Melissa Turbak had singles. Devanie Bigalk took the pitching loss. She worked all six innings, struck out two and didn't

See "Fastpitch" on page B2



Jens Gunelson / UW-RF Photo Services

Senior pitcher Amy Brooke scrambles in front of third baseman Emily Evans to play a bunt by a Concordia-St. Paul batter at Ramer Field on April 1.

Superfans embrace 'Falcon family'

Ryan Brinks Sports Editor

Most people see their extended family over the holidays at the home of one of their relatives. River Falls natives Glenn and Marion Linder see theirs on Saturday afternoon at Ramer Field or game night at the Karges Center.

"I call this my extended family," Marion said of the football and basketball teams.

For more than 30 years the Linders, both 82, have been consistently adding to their 'extended family.' They began by watching their own kids play basketball or field hockey, then they watched the University kids they worked with, and now it's every Falcon kid since.

"Once you get hooked on that..." Marion just smiles. "The kids seemed to always appreciate it. ...I'm kind of a mom away from home."

In 1966, Glenn became a custodian at UW-River Falls and Marion worked part-time mending athletic gear at their home in Plum City. As Glenn commuted, some of their five children joined him for the ride to the college until the family moved to River Falls in 1970.

Two of their sons attended UW-RF and participated in sports — Steve and Stanley.

Then Marion moved up to full-time work, including washing and cleaning in addition to mending. For three months she even filled in for a vacancy in the dorms and helped clean.

When the University installed a sewing machine in the laundry room just for her, the basement of the Karges Center soon became her second home. And it was there that her second family began, getting to know the Falcon players who came to her day by day with their laundry or mending needs.

Inevitably "the kids wanted [Glenn and I] to come out to watch their games," Marion said.

Whether it was football, men's or women's basketball, or field hockey, the Linders became regulars in the bleachers. And for 10 years, Marion developed relationships with players that continue today.

For instance, Mary Johnson, a women's basketball Hall of Famer, invited the Linders to her wedding.

One time the Linders saw Kent Gray, a football nose tackle, appear on Wheel of Fortune, and they wrote him a letter about it.

"He was almost like my own," Marion said. "Ever since then, he's been writing to us at Christmas time."

In fact, they hear from a lot of players on the phone at Christmas time.

After 18 years as a UW-RF employee, Glenn retired from the University's receiving department.

Now, there is no sewing machine in the basement of Karges and few of the same faculty are around, but more than 30 years after they began, the Linders are still in the stands.

"We still get to know some of the kids," Marion said.

Women's basketball coach Cindy Hovet has invited the Linders to team events, but mostly now they get to know players' parents.

"It's entertainment," Glenn said, "and we get to know a lot of parents — that's why we go now."

In fact, the Linders can tell you, from their usual seats, where around them certain parents regularly sit.

Their favorite event, however, isn't any particular football game nor the basketball playoffs. It's the alumni games and receptions, Marion said, where all of the players they knew and watched for years return to UW-RF. It is, in fact, like a

See "Superfans" on page B2

OPINION



JASON KENYON

I'm down with the East Side

I am officially taking this opportunity to announce that I am changing my posse and intend to further represent the East Side. Two important questions emerge from this gregarious statement. "What the hell are you talking about?" and "why are you changing sides after being a devout member of the West Side?" What I am talking about is the domination of major college sports by the Big East Conference, and I am changing because it looks as if it may be that way for a while.

The Big East is home to the Miami Hurricanes, who in 2001 were the national champions after a perfect season and arguably the greatest college team ever to walk on a football field. They were near perfection this past season, but an extremely questionable pass interference call and Willis McGahee stretching his knee in a backwards position gave that honor to Ohio State.

In men's college basketball, the Big East received the ultimate "dis" when only four teams were selected to this year's NCAA tournament. Pittsburgh, Notre Dame, Connecticut, and Syracuse all advanced to at least the sweet 16, and in case you have been in a coma, Syracuse won the national title. Despite receiving "no love" from the selection committee, all four of those teams proved that more teams from the Big East like Seton Hall deserved an opportunity to compete in the big dance.

The Big East also has managed to represent for a second consecutive year in women's college basketball.

See "Kenyon" on page B2

How often do you attend Falcon sporting events? Why?



Josh Thygesen, sophomore
"Every once in a while. If Lydecker hadn't cut the baseball program, I'd attend every game."



Tristan Davis, senior
"I only go to hockey games. I'm usually not around for the rest."



Jennifer Fenton, senior
"Never been to one, ever."



Andy Weichert
"Not very often. Depends on if friends are going and if I have other things going on."



Tiffani Huber, freshman
"I've attended three football games."



Kyle Hellmer, senior
"Twice a semester, max. Most of the time I don't know when things are happening. Otherwise I just don't have the time."

Fastpitch

Continued from page B1

walk a batter. "All three of our pitchers have done well," Perkins said. "We just haven't been supporting them with hits." After 18 games, the Falcons are hitting .260. Poulter leads the team with a .434 average. Two other Falcons are hitting over .300 — Blumer (.367) and Emily Evans (.357). Poulter leads the team with 62 runs scored while Blumer and Abby Keene lead the Falcons with six RBIs each.

The pitching staff's ERA is a solid 1.79. Brooke has a 1.38 ERA and a 4-6 record. Bigalk has a 2.01 ERA and a 4-2 record. Leah Vanderploeg has a 2.44 ERA and a 1-1 record. In 121 innings, Falcon pitchers have walked only 52 and struck out 72. The opponents are hitting .251 against Falcon pitching.

The Falcons, 9-9 overall, began WIAC competition Thursday afternoon when they played UW-Eau Claire at Ramer Field.

This weekend the Falcons will compete in the first of two WIAC Cluster Tournaments. The tournaments have all nine WIAC schools gather at a single site with a series of games played over two days. On Saturday the Falcons will play UW-Whitewater at 2 p.m. and UW-Platteville at 6 p.m. Sunday the Falcons face UW-Oshkosh at 1 p.m. and UW-Stevens Point at 5 p.m.

Foley

Continued from page B1

question: Where are all the Falcon basketball fans all year? Sure, they managed to fill Karges for the first-round playoff game against UW-Eau Claire, but nearly a third of those fans were from the rival school. What gives?

One argument that seemed to make sense at first was that Marquette has a Division I basketball team. The quality of play is much better than the likes of our lowly Falcons.

Even so, our fans could still try to measure up to UW-Eau Claire fans. Why do Blugold fans cheer harder than Falcon fans? Their teams aren't usually any better.

This year the Blugolds Women's Basketball Team advanced to the Division III Final Four where the Blugold supporters were named d3hoops.com's No. 1 fans. How does UW-Eau Claire travel with so much school spirit? Why do their fans feel so 'at home' in Karges?

With the exception of the "Superfans," who sit on floor-level at midcourt for every home game and wear outlandish costumes, our fans have about as much spirit as the Iraqi soldiers who tried to surrender to U.S. troops on the Kuwaiti border before shooting began March 20.

Mike Foley is a sophomore majoring in journalism

SCOREBOARD

Fastpitch Softball

April 5
William Penn 010 000 0 - 1 5 0
River Falls 201 000 - 3 1 0
Win - Brooke (4-6)
Loss - Brown

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	K
Poulter c	1	2	1	0	2	0
Blumer lf	1	1	0	0	1	1
Brooke p	1	0	0	0	0	0
Olson pr	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moxon ss	2	0	2	0	0	0
Mulligan 1b	2	0	0	1	0	1
Turbak 2b	2	0	0	0	1	1
Stahl ph	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hilpisch dh	3	0	0	0	0	0
Evans 3b	1	0	0	0	1	0
Guisinger pr/3b	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keene cf	2	0	0	0	0	0
Rodgers rf	0	0	0	0	0	0

Totals 16 3 1 3 4 3

Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K
Brooke	7.0	5	1	1	2	4

April 5
River Falls 000 000 0 - 0 3 0
Grinnell College 001 000 - 1 5 1
Win - Renolds
Loss - Bigalk (4-2)

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	K
Poulter c	3	0	0	0	0	2
Blumer lf	3	0	1	0	0	0
Brooke dh	3	0	1	0	0	2
Rodgers pr	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mulligan 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0
Moxon ss	3	0	0	0	0	2
Hilpisch dh	3	0	0	0	0	2
Turbak 2b	3	0	1	0	0	2
Evans 3b	1	0	0	0	0	1
Olson pr	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keene cf	2	0	0	0	0	0
Bigalk p	0	0	0	0	0	0

Totals 24 0 3 0 0 11

Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K
Bigalk	6.0	5	1	1	0	2

Superfans

Continued from page B1

big family reunion for the Linders. "We spend almost a whole day there," Marion said.

And like any athlete fresh off the end of a season, they look forward to next year. In September they'll both be 83 years old. After missing last fall's football season because of back surgery, Glenn is anticipating getting back in the grandstand this year.

And next year. "And as long as we can get up in the bleachers," Marion

stated. "It's a good pastime," Glenn said. There's always a familiar face somewhere in the crowd. "They treat us so well," Marion added. "It's the best move we made."

FALCON SPORTS CALENDAR

April 11-10 2003	Fri. 11	Sat. 12	Sun. 13	Mon. 14	Tues. 15	Wed. 16	Thurs. 17
Track & Field		at St. Thomas 3 p.m.					
Women's Fastpitch		at WIAC Cluster Tourney	at WIAC Cluster Tourney		at Stout 4 p.m.		vs LaCrosse 4 p.m.

FALCON ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Anna Poulter
Fastpitch Softball
(Jr., Colfax, Iowa)



Anna Poulter

Poulter, Falcon catcher, was one of the team's top hitters in four games last week. Poulter finished 3-10 at the plate with two runs scored. She had one RBI and walked three times. In the field she had 18 put outs and one assist with no errors. She also stole four bases in five attempts. She was named to the Grinnell All-Tourney team.

Kenyon

Continued from page B1

ketball. The UConn Huskies nearly completed a second consecutive year of perfection en-route to this year's national championship, but a loss to Villanova in this year's conference tournament, a loss that I'm sure will burn in their minds forever, provided a ho-hum 37-1 championship campaign. More good news, my Big East clan members, is that every member of the women's team is an underclassman, and due to the immense pop-

ularity of the WNBA, or lack thereof, it virtually guarantees that player of the year Diana Taurasi will return for her senior season.

The forecast for sports in the Big East is why the "East Side" is the place to be, if you feel me. Trophy makers most likely began work on next year's championship award for the Connecticut Women, and Taurasi, but the battle for supremacy in men's basketball will be just as interesting. The Huskies have already been predicted to be the team to beat with the return of such legitimate Emeka Okafor, and leading scorer Ben Gordon. If by some

small chance that Syracuse freshman Carmelo Anthony chooses books over bling bling, Syracuse would be the clear favorite to repeat. Something to sweeten that deal is the fact that LeBron James recently suggested that should Anthony stay at Syracuse University, it would not be out of the question for James to consider attending. To sum it up, and to steal a line from Jamie Kennedy's new movie, "Don't be hatin'" on the Big East. Word.

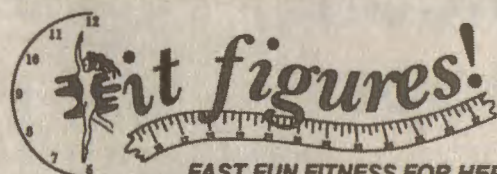
Jason Kenyon is a senior majoring in journalism

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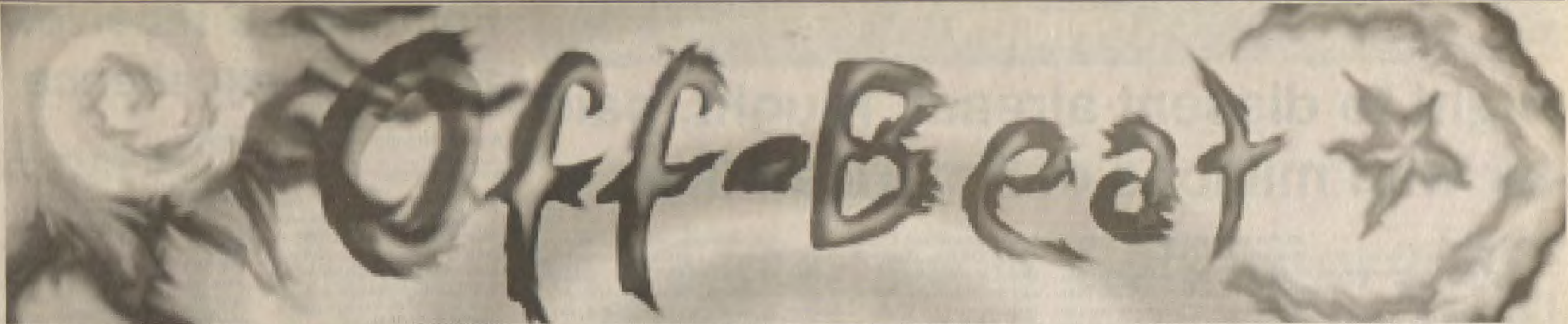
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Working to save some cash

Many studies recommend students work around 10 hours per week, but many say they work much more than that to pay for college.

Maisha Downey
Photo Editor

Being broke is part of college life. The advice, money and practical gifts students receive at high school graduation parties never prepares them for the reality of college. How to balance the pressures of school and work is an age-old question that has never been fully answered. Academic Advisor Wade Warner says many studies recommend full-time college students should only work around 10 hours per week. But students like sophomore Jeni Ness don't feel that suggested schedule considers students like herself. "I work between 25-30 hours a week," Ness said. "The money that doesn't

go to my tuition, I put into savings for next year when I move off campus." Ness pays for all of her college tuition, but says her parents would be willing to help if she were to ask. "I know they're supportive," Ness said. "But right now I feel like I should be

"It's important to live as college students. It's good that we struggle financially now so we can appreciate being able to afford luxuries later in life."

—Cassandra Dahl, student

independent as much as possible." To make more time for school, Ness works mostly on the weekends so she's able to concentrate

on school and extra-curricular activities during the week. French major Cassandra Dahl said being broke is something all students should experience during college. "It's important to live as college students," Dahl said. "It's good that we struggle financially now so we can appreciate being able to afford luxuries later in life." During the school year Dahl works 10 to 13 hours a week on campus. The money she earns goes towards her cell phone and credit card bills. "I'm extremely active on campus so some of my money does go toward

have my whole life to work." During the summers, Dahl works between 35 to 40 hours at her local Wal-Mart. The majority of this money goes to tuition, while a smaller amount goes toward a trip to France Dahl is planning. Companies like Cash Express, which opened on North Main Street in January, are looking to help relieve the stress on students in financial emergencies. Manager Tracy Cribbs said some emergencies could range from unexpected car repairs, medical costs or tuition and housing fees. Cash express offers 14-day loans for between \$100 to \$500 with a current pay stub and a valid ID such as a driver's license. Dahl isn't convinced Cash Express is a logical option for her. "I don't think I have enough information about fast loan businesses," Dahl said. "If I did have a financial emergency I would confront my parents or my sister."

Relay for Life combines good times, good cause



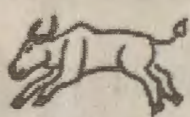
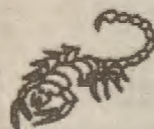
Kyle Weaver / Student Voice

Even though she was riding in a shopping cart, Chancellor Ann Lydecker was all smiles at Relay for Life. Freshman Jim Kvalheim (pushing the cart) and his team from Grimm Hall had approximately 10 team members. The annual Relay was held at River Falls High School April 5-6. More than \$127,000 was raised at this year's Relay for the American Cancer Society.

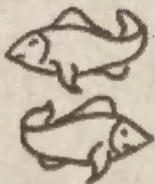
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Horoscopes

By Staff Psychic Blythe Criswell,
Who took over for Craig, because Craig is kinda lazy.



-Zodiac
graphics
by Katey
Hoyt.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

No, your goldfish isn't just taking a nap upside down. Face the facts, Sparky is dead. Go ahead, cry for awhile, hold a flushing funeral, then get over it. For just \$1 you can buy four more Sparky's.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Hey Pisces: Wash your sweater. The people in the back of the classroom can smell it, and you sit in front. Don't worry, washing it will not only get rid of that smell, but it will also regain it's ability to bend.

ARIES (March 21-April 20)

Who cares about what you did in high school—you're in college now, baby. Put away your letter jacket and start thinking about the future. The future is a wonderful thing. It has hydrogen powered cars.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

Word of warning to all pedestrians: don't expect a semi to stop for you. Yes, you are a special person, but even your greatness can't stop the forward motion of a semi in time. Unless you really want to be a hood ornament.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Your professor hates you, but don't despair—another student will do something to get even with him. Feel free to point laugh and take pictures. Send some to us. It will improve our dreary existence.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

Due to budget cuts your office space has been cut in half. It's too late to do anything about it, so just do what Student Voice employees do: complain. At least 10 times a day. Every day. When they move you out to the hallway, you'll have all the space you need.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

Repeat after me: I am not God. I do not have the power to declare a certain day a day of rest. Believe me the professors will not buy your explanation for why you haven't done any work on Wednesdays.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept 23)

Editors edit: In place of a horoscope for Virgo you get the mental image of Craig tap dancing. He's not a very good dancer though. He dances like Bill Cosby did on the Cosby Show.

LIBRA (Sep. 23-Oct. 23)

"Bravery and stupidity are separated by a fine line." Apply this phrase to your own life in whatever capacity you deem necessary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

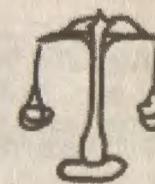
You are a pinko commie. Sorry I had to be so blunt about it, but it's about time that somebody told you. Someone erased the original horoscope here so this week you get a decidedly bad horoscope if you are a scorpio. That's the way the cookie crumbles sometime.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Cheer up, spring is almost here. Soon it will be time to pick flowers, dodge rain showers and start wearing skimpy clothes. Or, since you live here it will be time to slip into snowdrifts, get covered in freezing rain and dig out your sweaters. Head to Miami for a break.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

The jacket you bought from the bookstore two months ago? Yes, it is cool, even if 100 other people are wearing it. If you really want to be different from the others, spill mustard on it in a strange, artistic pattern. Claim it came that way. Better yet, see if you can get a refund.



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

OPINION

Right to dissent already fought, paid for with millions of American lives

Craig Corsten
Offbeat Editor

It's a scary time to be an American. I'm not talking about the war in Iraq, or the fear of another wave of terrorist attacks like we suffered on Sept. 11. I'm talking about dissent and the right to do so. And not only the right to dissent, but the right to do so without fear.

The past few weeks have seen a flurry of Americans, politicians and others having their patriotism assailed for expressing strong viewpoints in opposition to the war in Iraq or in opposition to Dubbya.

At a concert in London the lead singer of the Dixie Chicks, Natalie Maines, expressed her disdain for ol' Dubbya by telling the crowd she was ashamed that Dubbya was from Texas. The backlash has been harsh. Country stations around the nation have removed the Chicks from their play lists and they've seen a steady drop in album sales after the incident. Chicks fiddler Martie Maguire told Australian reporters that fellow Chick "Emily [Robison] had the front gate of her ranch smashed in," and "It (threats) puts my well-being in jeopardy." The long-term effect on their careers remains to be seen, but things don't look good.

While none of this illegal, it's sad and it reeks of McCarthyism, an era that I thought America had left behind. We all learn about McCarthyism in high school and until recently I would've told you that all history teachers probably tell their students it was a dark time in American history. Apparently not all teachers tell their students that. The government has kept their nose out

of this and rightfully (and constitutionally) so.

What the right is doing is nothing short of a scare tactic. It's like when your mom says "Mow the lawn or no ice cream tonight." Only the republicans say, "Agree with everything we say or you can't be a patriot."

However, Dubbya's lackeys have been making it near impossible for any of their political opponents to speak out against him and his poli-



cies.

Sen. John Kerry, the current front-runner for the democratic presidential nomination in 2004 is also under heavy fire for criticism of Dubbya. At a recent campaign stop in New York Kerry said that what was needed to repair our standing among allies "...is not just a regime change in Saddam Hussein and Iraq, but we need a regime change in the United States." Of course Kerry was only telling the truth as he (and many other Americans see it), but the republicans believe there is only one

side of the coin and it's their side.

The GOP immediately shot back. House Majority leader Tom DeLay called his remarks "desperate and inappropriate." Senate majority leader Bill Frist decried Kerry's statement as "petty, partisan insults launched solely for personal political gain."

Instead of rolling over and playing dead, or begging for the forgiveness of Dubbya, Kerry showed some gumption and fought back. "The



Republicans have tried to make a practice of attacking anybody who speaks out strongly by questioning their patriotism. I refuse to have my patriotism or right to speak out questioned. I fought for and earned the right to express my views in this country," said Kerry, a decorated Vietnam vet, who added "If they want to pick a fight, they've picked a fight with the wrong guy."

The practice of republicans (who never served) attacking democrats (who did serve) as being unpatriotic is nothing new. Saxby Chambliss,

the republican junior senator of Georgia, defeated incumbent Democrat Max Cleland, a decorated vet who lost both legs in Vietnam, by running a campaign that labeled Cleland as weak on national security and unpatriotic.

Excuse me?

Dubbya himself went AWOL on his last year in the Air Force National Guard and was able to defeat (bad word usage) two Vietnam vets (Gore and McCain) on his way to stealing (better word usage) the White House.

The republicans believe that it's best that everyone just keeps quiet and supports Dubbya, regardless of how we feel about him. God forbid anyone have a dissenting viewpoint, but if you do, you can bet the GOP will do its best to portray you as against America if you're against it.

One should not have to fight for their right to dissent from the views of the current administration. Millions of Americans have already fought and many of them have died, so that we could have this right to dissent. That we should have to fight our fellow Americans for this right is not only wrong, it's downright sickening.

However, I love it that people are fighting back to defend their rights. To not fight back when your patriotism is in question is as un-American as anything the "right" accuses the left of doing.

Kudos to the Chicks for speaking their mind. Double kudos to Kerry for speaking his mind and sticking to his guns. A big bag of doggie doo-doo to the Republicans for trying to suppress our constitutional rights.

Keep on dissentin'.

Focus on U receives award of excellence

Anna Permamm
Staff Writer

UW-River Falls' own "Focus on U" received an Award of Excellence March 5 for sports coverage and an Award of Achievement for programming by (WAPEGAC) Wisconsin Association of Public Education and Government Access Programming Channels.

The highest award went to Rick Vogel for coverage of the UW-RF versus UW-Oshkosh football game.

Vogel, Focus on U advisor and assistant professor of mass communication in the speech and theatre department, directed and produced the show. He was presented with the Award of Excellence.

"It was such a great game to cover," said Vogel. "A throwing style, come from behind win."

They were not sure what to expect because the particular type of broadcast was a first time thing.

"We had never done the broadcast of a sporting event before," Vogel said. "It was a new experience for us. All of the students did an exceptional job on all positions and that made the production a success."

Focus on U won the achievement award for a program that discussed the persuasive tactics, the psychological impact upon children and the First Amendment rights of abortion protesters who came to campus last fall.

Focus on U is in its 13th season. The news program focuses on news and issues of interest to the campus and community. It is the longest running television show at UW-River Falls.

Jen Kern, a senior mass communications major, is involved in Focus on U and was in charge of the abortion show. She followed the protesters with a video camera as they visited the middle school and UW-RF. She was able to get reactions from

the public.

"I'm really excited about this," Kern said. "I hadn't won an award like this yet."

Vogel asked Cindy Kernahan of the psychology department to speak about the affects of this type of protesting on children because there were graphic pictures displayed. And Jim Pratt, an SCTA professor at UW-RF, discussed the persuasive techniques and First Amendment aspects of a protest such as this.

It was not a program for or against abortion," Vogel said. "That has been done before. It was more about the ideas behind and the reactions of the protest."

Garett Gilbertson, a speech communications major was director of the show. It was produced by Vogel, Megan Clarke, a broadcast journalism major, and Kern. Ben Friesen, a speech communication major, was technical director for both programs.

"It is so incredible to watch these students take what I teach them in the classroom and apply it out in the field," Vogel said.

The WAPEGAC is an organization that supports and acknowledges locally produced television programming offered for cable access channels.

The awards will be presented May 2 at Oshkosh.

Vogel is unsure if the winners will make a trip to receive the honors in person or if they will just have the awards sent to River Falls.

"It was definitely a team effort all around," Vogel said. "I am very proud of all of my students."

There was a total of 212 entries, and Focus on U was one of 25 chosen to win the achievement award.

"We put a lot of work into it and we all felt that we put together a worthwhile show," Kern said. "It's really nice to get recognized."

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Weekdays 4:30 Evenings 7:10, 9:30

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Weekdays 4:30 Evenings 7:10, 9:20

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Weekdays 5:00 Evenings 7:15, 9:30

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Sat/Sun Matinees (1:15)

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