

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-RIVER FALLS Student Voice

UW-RF to host
world premier
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April 22, 2005

www.uwrf.edu/student-voice

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Freddy Falcon greets Gov. Jim Doyle just outside of Karges April 19. Doyle stopped by the UW-RF campus briefly, while a tour through western Wisconsin.

Doyle drops by campus

Eric Quade
Co-Editor

If it wasn't for the swarm of state trooper vehicles, then even fewer UW-River Falls students might have suspected that someone of prominence had come into town.

Gov. Jim Doyle visited the UW-RF campus on April 19 to tour the addition to the Knowles complex.

"I came to look at some of the progress on a project I did approve funding for," Doyle said, referring to the Knowles complex construction.

According to a UW-RF press release, past budget cuts had caused scale-backs in many aspects of the original Knowles facility when it was first constructed in 1987. Project downsizing effects have since included between 80-100 Falcon athletes sharing the same locker room during the football season.

In addition to the project at hand, Doyle also

said keeping the Kansas City Chiefs in the community for their summer training camp and looking into ways to improve the campus basketball facilities are important endeavors. Doyle said the tour gave him a chance to discuss the future needs of the campus with administrators, too.

An entourage of project stakeholders accompanied Doyle on his campus visit. Some of the governor's entourage included representatives from Ayres Associates, the Eau Claire-based architectural firm that worked on the building plans; and UW-RF administration executives, such as Interim Chancellor Virgil Nylander, Provost and Vice Chancellor Ginny Coombs and Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance Mary Halada. Once Doyle left the campus for the next leg of his tour, many of his entourage took

shelter from the rain in a trolley the cans provided to follow the governor on his tour.

The UW-RF campus was just one stop on Doyle's tour of Polk, Pierce and St. Croix counties.

According to a press release from the governor's office, Doyle started their tour on April 19 with a breakfast meeting at the West Wind Supper Club. Attendees included members of River Falls Chamber of Commerce. After the breakfast meeting, Doyle toured the Knowles addition and then went on to stops in Hudson, Oshkosh, a land dedication in Polk County that completed the Ice Age Trail and finally a dinner meeting in New Richmond.

"I'm declaring Polk, Pierce and St. Croix Counties as 'Capital for the Day' on April 19 because I want to make sure that we're focused on the needs of citizens in Western Wisconsin," Doyle said in a governor's office press release.

*"I came to look at
some of the progress
on a project I did
approve funding for."*

**Jim Doyle,
Governor**

Senate elections taken in landslide

Patricia Bruhn
Staff Writer

UW-River Falls Student Senate president candidate Nick Cluppert and vice president candidate Liz De La Torre joined forces to win the election by a landslide. Cluppert won 404 and De La Torre won 373 of the 500 possible student votes for their respective seats.

De La Torre credits their win to the fact that they made their names visible on signs, tee shirts and candy suckers.

"We joined forces to create an effective team," De La Torre said. "People saw our sign everywhere. They knew who we were before they voted."

The focus of Cluppert and De La Torre's campaign was to be visible and accessible to the student body.

Together with their

years of experience and knowledge of the Senate, they said they are ready to move the UW-RF student body forward.

"Nick was already well-known and involved in the Senate," De La Torre said. "So joining forces with him was easy."

Not being as visible was the reason that the current Senate finance director Adam Koski said he lost to De La Torre.

"I did not campaign as hard as my opponent," Koski said. "Besides, Liz is very involved in campus issues and is well known."

Cluppert, a political science major, has been involved in the Student Senate for more than three years. As the current student affairs and academic services director, Cluppert has worked to get students to take an active part in the election and vote.

Although this is political science major De La Torre's first semester as a senator, she has been involved in the Senate since February 2005 when she went to Madison, Wis. to lobby against tuition increase. De La Torre is also the president of the UW-RF Latino student organization.

"I responded to a call to all students for input concerning the tuition increase. I felt that my voice should be counted so I took the initiative," De La Torre said.

By incorporating the different groups of students they represented, Cluppert and De La Torre bring experience and a willingness to make Senate work for all students.

Cluppert said the new Senate will address issues, such as how the State bud-

get affects different areas of campus, reviewing professors' evaluation forms, monitoring the effects of the recent change in the grading system and upgrading the ride board in the Student Center.

Another important issue the Student Senate will address is the proposed State legislation that would require UW-RF students who live on campus to show a Wisconsin state photo I.D. in order to vote.

De La Torre said that the Student Senate legislative affairs committee is proposing that students use their school I.D. as a form of identification when registering to vote.

"This could have a big impact because 50 percent of the UW-RF students who live on campus are from Minnesota," De La Torre said. "We don't want to see these students who live nine months of the year on campus get disenfranchised."

New to Student Senate is that, for the first time, each of the colleges will have a representative in the Student Senate. Cluppert said that the change to include senators from each of the colleges is an important system change.

"This is really great representation," Cluppert said. "It is an opportunity for all aspects of the student body on campus to have a voice. This will provide more dialogue with the various organizations."

The senators representing each of the colleges are: Joe Eggers, College of Arts and Sciences; Chee Moua, College of Business and Economics;



Graphics by Nana Yana



Apology to our readers

The *Student Voice* strives to be the active and objective voice for the UW-River Falls student body. However, the *Voice* like other publications is subject to errors.

In the April 15 issue of the *Voice*, the article entitled "Public safety officer's charge delayed," the *Voice* reporter perceptibly plagiarized information from the March 10 issue of the *River Falls Journal* article entitled "University worker accused of stalking."

We would like to apologize for this incident. While mistakes are sometimes made in reporting, plagiarism is sloppy, inexcusable and damaging to a newspaper's credibility.

Also, we would like to assure readers that action has already been taken against the *Voice* reporter responsible for the plagiarism. The reporter will no longer be writing for the *Voice* this academic year.

UW System defines liberal education

Derrick Williams
Co-Editor

Recent studies have shown that there is a growing disconnect between prospective and current college students and business and civic leaders when it comes to the skills required in life.

As a result, the UW System has teamed up with the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) to promote the importance of a liberal education and, most importantly, what a liberal education actually is, to Wisconsin, as well as the nation.

The national partnership with AAC&U is part of a pre existing UW System initiative, The Currency of the Liberal Arts and Sciences: Rethinking Liberal Education in Wisconsin. As a partner with AAC&U, Wisconsin becomes the first state to pilot activities as part of a national advocacy initiative, Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP): Excellence for Everyone as a Nation Goes to College.

Debra Humphreys, AAC&U vice president for communication and public affairs, said that she was excited to have Wisconsin be the pilot for the national effort.

"Wisconsin is the first state where we are going to pilot our advocacy initiatives because their original initiative overlapped so much it made sense to partner up," Humphreys said.

The goal of the program is to help raise aware-

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Spirit Day excites UW-RF

Katrina Schmidt
Staff Writer

If you were on campus April 15, then you might have noticed an abundance of people wearing their UW-River Falls gear. Students, faculty and staff were encouraged to show their support for UW-RF and other UW System campuses in honor of "UW Spirit Day."

"Gov. Doyle made a proclamation proclaiming Friday UW Spirit Day, literally to honor the 500,000 students and alumni that have gone through UW System schools," said Interim Chancellor Virgil Nylander.

UW-RF was one of many UW System campuses to participate in the second annual UW Spirit Day.

"UW-RF and UW System campus alumni are literally in every community and every public and private enterprise in Wisconsin," Nylander said. "With more than 30,000 alumni from UW-RF and a half-million UW System alumni across the state and their contribution of \$10 billion to our economy, it can seem to be an abstraction, but when we see individuals clad in UW-RF clothing, the impact becomes more apparent."

Each campus throughout the UW System also held a reception for current students, faculty, staff and all alumni to attend. UW-RF's celebration was held in the Falcon's Nest of the Student

See SPIRIT, Page 7

LOCAL

Sweet sounds from campus choirs fill the air

At 3 p.m. on April 24, the four choirs will perform in their annual Spring Choral Concert. The concert takes place in Kleinpell Fine Arts, in the Abbott Concert Hall.

The Concert Choir, Chamber Singers Men's Chorus and Women's Chorus will be performing in this annual concert.

Sarah Parks, Paul Schaefer and J.W. Park will be conducting during this concert.

Physics celebrates a milestone

On April 28, UW-River Falls will welcome Anthony Moffat to campus.

Moffat is a professor of physics at the University of Montreal. That evening he will be giving a lecture entitled "Dust Spirals" to remind students of the 100-year anniversary of Albert Einstein's discoveries.

Moffat's lecture will be given in room 200 of the Agricultural Science Building at 7 p.m.

Moffat owns some of the most amazing instruments in the entire world. He has a telescope in the Atacama Desert, which is located in Chile and the Hubble Space Telescope.

Moffat's recent work has focused on the carbon dust carried along by the stellar wind of massive stars. It is thought that such dust plays an important role in the formation of planets.

One hundred years ago Einstein published three papers that expressed ideas that have since influenced physics today.

With this year being the 100-year anniversary, 2005 has been named World Year of Physics.

There will also be other physics events on campus April 28-30.

Louis and Clark take the stage

For the next two weekends all students, staff and community members can see Louis and Clark: Re-imagining the Expedition here on campus.

The play will run for the next two weekends from April 21-30. The Thursday and Friday shows will be at 2 p.m. and the Saturday performances will be at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$4 for students and seniors and \$7 for adults.

All performances will take place in the Sanford Syse Theater at Kleinpell Fine Arts.

Track meet to take place at the high school

On April 30, between 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. there will be a track meet held for the Special Olympians from the St. Croix Valley Special Olympics Agency.

There will be several other agencies participating in the event. There is even a possibility of athletes from 18 countries participating in the day's events.

There are events that involve walking, running, throwing and jumping.

There will also be refreshments for sale that benefit the new St. Croix agency.

The meet itself is free and is located at the River Falls High School Track.

Presentation given at high school

On April 27 at 7 p.m. in the River Falls High School Auditorium there will be a presentation put on by the River Falls Police Department.

The presentation will be about methamphetamine use, and clandestine laboratories and their growing problems.

The school district of River Falls and church groups in the community are sponsoring the event.

There will be a power point presentation put on by Sergeant Jeff Kostner.

This program is recommended for those who are aged 18 and older.

REGIONAL

Motorcycle rally to raise funds

On May 21, there will be a motorcycle rally that begins at 10:30 a.m. at the Bar in Hudson. The bikes will take off at 12:30 p.m. and will end at The Doll House at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door on the day of the event.

People who wish to pick up tickets can pick them up at Dis Bar, Meister's Place, Champs, Fatt Matt's Klinkers, Waters Edge, The Doll House.

Whoever turns in their ticket stub at The Doll House on the day of the event receives \$3.50 off of a drink.

There are also drawings for many prizes with the grand prize being Vikings vs. Packer tickets.

All proceeds from the event go to Turningpoint. The Turningpoint mission statement is this: "Turningpoint is a non-profit agency providing services to victims of domestic violence, child sexual abuse. They offer support, education and information to those who have experienced or witnessed abuse or violence."

Pierce County joins the President's Challenge

Pierce County's Healthy Eating and Active Living Coalition has recently joined in the President's Challenge.

The President's Challenge is an attempt to improve a person's activity level. There is a Web site where participants can keep track of their progress.

There are different levels of participation based on the person's activity level at the starting point.

There is more information on the Web site www.presidentschallenge.org. Those who also want to sign up to participate can sign up there.

Wisconsin taxes potentially lowered

There is a new estimate that shows that approximately 21 million taxpayers in Wisconsin will experience tax relief.

This relief comes from the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRRA) and the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 (JGTRRA).

Taxes will also be going down nationwide, with an estimated 110 million tax payers having reduced taxes.

NATIONAL

Grad students take to the picket lines

Graduate students at Yale and Columbia University have recently begun to strike.

These students, who are teaching assistants, took to the picket lines in hopes that they would then be able to get people to recognize them as a Union.

According to CNN, the schools said the strikes will have little effects on the classes in session.

The teaching assistants said during their week long strike they would not teach class, grade papers or lead review sessions.

The strike began April 18 and is only supposed to last for five days.

Briefs compiled by Sarah Packingham
Assistant News Editor

Have news brief ideas?
Send them to
sarah.packingham@uwrj.edu

STUDENT SENATE

Students voice opinions on controversial funding motion

Eric Quade
Co-Editor

Ordinarily, Student Senate meetings at UW-River Falls are hard-pressed to have more than four or five guests attending. But once approximately 25 guests settled into the April 19 Senate meeting, the stage was set for a lot of direct student participation in student government.

The motion up for debate would allocate \$2,200 for an ad hoc committee to use in its efforts to defeat any state legislation that would ban civil unions. The campaign would include expenses, such as advertising in media outlets across the state and paying for guest speakers to come and speak to the campus on the issue.

Most of the guests who spoke on the issue spoke against the proposed motion.

Alluding to the amendment's ramifications for the homosexual community, student Matt Olson said there is a specific reason why banning civil unions is such a controversial move for a senate ad hoc committee to take a position on.

"The issue splits the student body down the center because it goes down to what students believe is right and wrong," Olson said.

Student Jim King said he couldn't understand spending money on a cause that is sure

to fail and described such an act as a gross misallocation of funds.

"This is a fight we know will go nowhere," King said.

After King spoke, a motion was passed to limit speaking time to 90 seconds, in order to accommodate the large number of guests who wanted a chance to address the Senate.

Student Kate Sorenson had a few opinions to share on the issue. Sorenson said a ban on civil unions is not a campus issue. She felt the proposed allocation of \$1,100 specifically for a state-wide advertising campaign was significantly underestimated and that the full \$2,200 might be better spent funding a campus-wide forum to discuss the divisive issue.

Student Joey White suggested reallocating the requested funding to better finance the grounds-keeping crew instead of funding the ad hoc committee. He used the partial-birth abortion issue as an analogy to ask senators if they would take a stance on that issue, too.

Student Brent Wiersma said the student body had not been polled to gauge popular sentiment. Instead, Wiersma said that investing in physical improvements on campus, such as a wind turbine or other renewable energy resources, would be a better way to allocate funds.

But not everyone at the meeting was opposed to the motion's intention. To shoot

down the notion of polling the student body, Senator Joe Eggers said that taking a poll for every issue that comes before Senate would be unrealistic.

Student Abigail Cook was one of the students who spoke up in support of the motion. She said that if Senate needed assurance of popular student support, then they could look to the recent success of the Day of Silence event.

Student Kha Vue said the issue was not being approached logically.

"We're allowing our religious backgrounds to influence this decision," Vue said. "This [amendment] will give us our rights."

Student Dan German said that failing to fund the Senate's position would take away from its own integrity.

"This issue isn't one-sided," German said. "The amendment is one-sided."

The motion finally came to a vote and the motion failed in a close, 6-7, vote.

Senator Georgia Wagner said that the ad hoc committee would continue working towards a no-vote on the amendment, regardless of the funding situation.

Student Senate meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Student Center's Regents Room.



Photo by Corey Hargreaves

Elementary students participated in Farm Day Jubilee on April 15 at Lab Farm 2. Alpha Zeta held the event and had 600 students and 100 chaperones participate in the event. Students participated in an agricultural jeopardy game, a story time and a rodeo demonstration. Elementary students from Wisconsin and Minnesota participated in the day.

Elementary students learn about farm life on Lab Farm

Alpha Zeta holds Farm Day Jubilee at Lab Farm 2

Sara Tischer
News Editor

Some elementary students were able to learn first-hand where their food and fiber comes from. The students learned that milk comes from cows and plants start from seeds at Farm Day Jubilee on April 15 at Lab Farm 2.

Farm Day is an Alpha Zeta event, said Michelle Backhaus, a junior marketing communications major and Alpha Zeta reporter. Alpha Zeta is an honorary co-ed fraternity for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

Backhaus hoped the event would be beneficial for the students.

"[We hope to] inform the little kids where their food and fiber comes from," Backhaus said. "So they don't think food comes

from the grocery store."

Ashley Lindahl, a dairy science senior and Alpha Zeta president, said the event is a chance for Alpha Zeta to teach students about agriculture.

"We hope to promote agriculture in a positive way," Lindahl said.

Lindahl said this year 600 elementary students and 100 chaperones participated in the event. The participants came from River Falls and surrounding areas and included some students from the St. Paul area.

Many of the schools that participated in Farm Day have participated before.

"They like to come every year. It is one of their [the teachers'] favorite events," Lindahl said. "It gives them lots of hands-on experience."

Lindahl said many clubs helped with the event. The Agricultural Education Society

had an agricultural jeopardy game for the students to participate in, the Dairy Club had a story time, the Rodeo Club put on a rodeo demonstration and the River Falls high school FFA chapter had a petting zoo.

Kyle Igou, River Falls high school agricultural instructor and FFA adviser, said his FFA chapter members helped run the petting zoo with 14 different types of animals and some chapter members were group leaders. He said 42 of the 83 FFA members at the high school helped with Farm Day.

Igou said his students gained leadership and communication skills.

"They actually had to talk and speak about each animal," Igou said.

Lindahl said the students' favorite part of the day is when they get to interact with the animals.

"Kids are more excited to see animals," Lindahl said. "I think they are surprised that milk comes from these big animals."

The FFA members had a unique experience with the elementary students and the petting zoo.

"They got to experience the reaction of someone who has not had the pleasure of being around all of the animals all of the time," Igou said.

There are benefits for UW-RF students as well.

"The aged students have the opportunity to get contact hours," Backhaus said. "It's really good experience speaking on different levels."

Lindahl said she learned a lot from planning the event.

"I have better leadership and organizational skills now," Lindahl said.

Backhaus said the event is a good time for Alpha Zeta members and is beneficial for the club.

"It's always a good time, a lot of fun," Backhaus said. "It gets our name out there."

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

Compiled by Micheal Foley
Photo Editor

April 7

The InterVarsity Christian Fellowship reported the theft of several drums and cymbals (valued at \$955) at 321 E. Cascade Ave.

April 12

Nicole D. Anderson reported the theft of \$150 cash at 315 E. Maple St.

Anne-Marie L. Jensen reported the theft of two clothing items, two car keys and a credit card (collectively valued at \$40) at Karges Center.

Nicole L. Eggert was cited for speeding.

April 13

Devin Underwood was fined \$243 for misuse of parking services.

Matthew J. Campeau was fined \$181 for skateboarding on state property.

Tabitha J. Dziak was cited for speeding.

April 14

Josh J. Dahlke was cited for speeding. Tanya E. Hartwig reported the theft of a barbecue grill (valued at \$100) at Parker Hall.

Terra L. Pietila reported damage to her legally parked vehicle in O-Lot and a laptop (valued at \$1,200) at Crabtree Hall.

April 15

Lizeht De La Torre reported an offensive sidewalk chalking near Rodli Commons. Grounds Maintenance workers removed the offensive phrase.

Ryan A. Full was fined \$243 for underage consumption and \$429 for resisting or obstructing a peace officer at McMillan Hall. Rudolph A. Raatz and Derek J. Przybylski were each fined \$243 for underage consumption at McMillan Hall.

Alicia R. O'Meara was fined \$367 for a second-offense underage consumption at

McMillan Hall.

Jeffrey M. Poterucha, Joel T. Varner and Emily A. Horen were each fined \$243 for underage consumption at Grimm Hall.

April 16

Andrew J. Turk was fined \$102 for public urination at 100 Elm St.

Sarah E. Krasean was fined \$77.20 for an open container at the 100 block of Elm Street.

April 17

Alexander M. Rud and Christopher K. White were each fined \$164 for disorderly conduct following a fight at 710 Oak Knoll.

April 18

Robin E. Murray reported the theft of a 35mm camera at Kleinpell Fine Arts.

Jennifer A. Roecher was fined \$243 for underage consumption at Crabtree Hall.

Barbara A. Heggernes was fined \$243 for underage consumption at Grimm Hall.

Diversity sought through unity

Nick Koecheler
Staff Writer

Students will be able to become immersed in different cultures during Unity in the Community on April 27. Students can see, hear and interact with people from different cultures.

"The University looks at this as a key event in the academic year," said Dean of Students, Roger Ballou.

Unity in the Community will take place on April 27 at the Student Center mall. Each year, students from the elementary school and up, along with members of the committee, flock to this cultural bazaar.

"It's awarding and exciting to see this program affect all these different groups of people," said Involvement Coordinator with

the Leadership Center Miriam Huffman.

The planning committee for Unity in the Community started planning for the 2005 Unity in the Community last spring. This is done to assess an estimate for how much funding must be requested in the spring.

Last November, the committee started searching for groups that were willing to perform at Unity in the Community. In March, the committee was finalizing picking the entertainment acts.

Huffman said that the committee works hard not to repeat the same groups each year.

"The students make good choices about getting under-represented or non-existent groups for this event," Huffman said.

In addition to the cultural acts that will be performing, there will also be tables set up where

student organizations can demonstrate how they incorporate diversity into their group.

"This is not another recruitment fair. We're looking for organizations to advocate diversity," Huffman said.

A picnic lunch at the event will take place on the lawn in front of the Student Center.

"There will be splashes of traditional cultural food while also offering American food," Huffman said.

Chartwell's will also be offering bag lunches for students who are on the go.

Another aspect of Unity in the Community is the recruitment aspect. Flyers are sent out from the Admissions Office to various high schools in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. Since 1997, Carolyn Brady, Administrative Specialist in the Admissions Office, has been inviting high schools to the event.

"It's a different way to view campus other than just taking the normal tour of campus," Brady said.

Flyers are also sent out to prospective juniors and seniors who may attend UW-River Falls in a few years.

"The students who come are free to experience the campus the same way a college student is," Brady said.

In addition to the various high schools that attend, local elementary schools such as St. Bridget's and others also attend the event.

Brady said the Admissions Office always gets a great amount of positive feedback concerning Unity in the Community.

"Everyone is hoping to be a part of Unity," Brady said.

There is always more demand for schools wanting to attend Unity than what the campus can accommodate. Brady said that schools allowed to attend are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Ballou is excited for Unity in the Community. Ballou said it is one of the key events he looks forward to each year. He likes how it embraces working together despite ethnic and cultural differences.

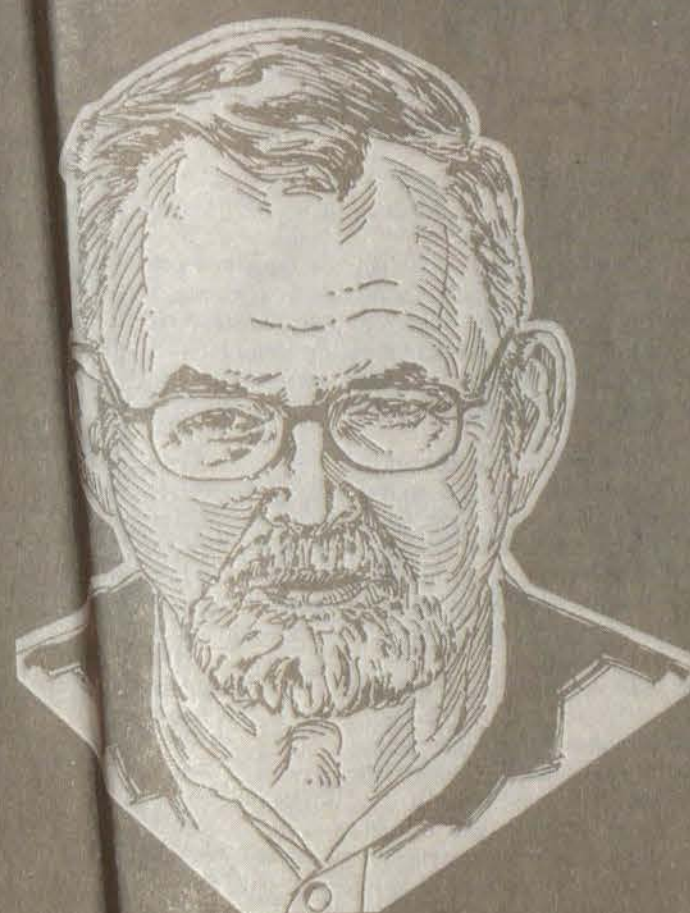
"We do better work if we have many types of people at the University," Ballou said.



File Photo

Last year's Unity in the Community had an Irish Trio and a Native American storyteller. This year's event is April 27 at 10 a.m. on the Student Center mall.

PETERSON'S LEGACY WILL BE FOREVER REMEMBERED



Edward Peterson
History
2004

Photo by Jens Gunelson

Ed Peterson was honored with a plaque in the lobby of the Wyman building April 20. Peterson was chosen as the 2004 Distinguished Teacher and spoke at the December commencement. He was recognized for his 50 plus years of service to UW-River Falls. The award is chosen by graduating seniors and recent graduates. One of the reasons Peterson was chosen was for not missing a single day of class during his teaching career at UW-RF.

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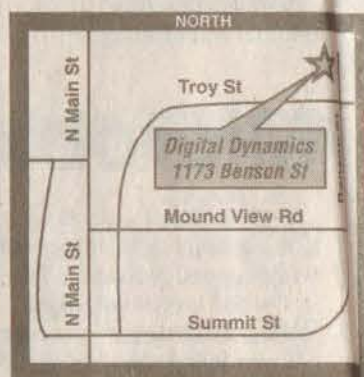
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EDITORIAL

Freedom of speech should be honored, not ignored

Birds have started chirping at 4 a.m., flowers are starting to bloom, trees are blossoming; the smells of grass, dirt and blacktop are filling the air. It must be springtime.

Along with these signs that spring is in full swing is that sidewalk chalkings on campus have picked up. And, once again, the issue of sidewalk chalking etiquette has sprung.

Addressing controversial issues that solicit pointed remarks from all sides is a tricky exercise to begin with. Addressing these issues in a forum with no attributions to make authors responsible for their arguments and no consequences for negligent blather can and will cause serious communication breakdowns. So it's easy to see how trying to debate an issue via sidewalk chalkings is very ineffective, to say the least.

That doesn't stop people from trying, though.

Recently, the Gay/Straight Alliance chalked messages in support of the Day of Silence, a day to reflect on homosexual acceptance issues. It's a stretch to construe these chalkings as an attempt to debate an issue, but that doesn't mean that some people wouldn't take the opportunity to snipe with their views on homosexuality.

As many students have seen around campus, the sidewalks have once again turned into snipewalks.

Almost all of the GSA sidewalk chalkings were tampered with. Either their messages were covered up, defaced or expounded upon in order to change the meaning of the statement.

Regardless of one's views on homosexuality, all views on the issue must be respected and left unmolested if any productive campaign—whether informative or persuasive in nature—is to be established. Instead of engaging in childish snipings, those who take issue with a chalking should either create their own separate chalking or, better yet, organize a forum to discuss the issue where participants would actually have to stand behind their views. In that light, the *Student Voice* is always open to printing submitted letters because we strive to be a forum for the campus community to discuss issues, don't forget.

In other 'lost etiquette' news, the vast majority of bulletin boards on campus are a case study in disrespect. There is nothing more annoying than people who cover other people's postings with their huge posters. Repeat offenders include some of those spring break posters and flyers that smother the boards every year. Yes, we know you're selling something, but so is most everyone else who posts.

One notable exception to the bulletin board massacre is the one next to the art department in KFA. Mary Foster, a secretary in the College of Arts and Sciences dean's office, runs a very tight ship there and puts a lot of effort into organizing and updating that board. The *Student Voice* commends Foster's contributions to fairness, equality and general bulletin board etiquette.

On the other hand, a notable problem child in bulletin board frenzy is Student Health Services, which some of the time just throw it's posters up onto boards without regard and simply covers up other messages, even placing tacks through other posters.

Finally, the *Student Voice* was the subject of some harsh criticism in the form of wanted posters that were placed upon campus. While their messages remained intact, the posters themselves were defaced—an uncondoned act by the *Student Voice*.

While these issues may seem trite, a larger problem is illuminated. Freedom of speech on this campus is sometimes held in contempt. Whether it is a few individuals altering sidewalk chalkings or defacing posters, or an organization not caring about the messages it covers up, somebody's free speech rights have been usurped.

GSA's sidewalk chalkings had a right to color the walkways, unaltered. The wanted posters have a right to remain critical without being written upon. The student trying to sell his car has the right to do so without another person covering up his flier.

This campus has many diverse opinions, many of which often butt heads and it isn't good practice to be ignorant of them. All of us need to be more cognizant of others rights.

The Editorials represent the opinion of the Student Voice Editorial Board and are prepared by the Editorial staff.

Students, faculty, staff and community members are encouraged to attend the *Student Voice* editorial board meetings, every Wednesday night at 8 p.m. You can voice concerns, bring up potential problems and see how the *Voice* works.

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Student Voice

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

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

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

Letters to the editor must be legible, contain a first and last name and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Please limit letters to 300 words.

The *Student Voice* reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters.

Letters to the editor become the property of the *Student Voice* and cannot be returned. Only one letter

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

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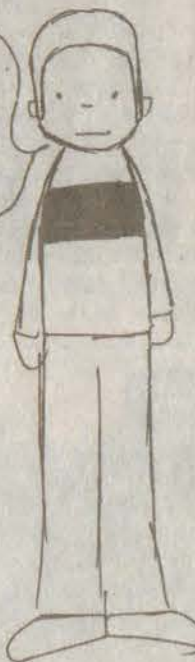
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BUSH ON SOCIAL SECURITY



Americans should put their money in private accounts, err, I mean personal accounts because the American people know what's best for their money, not the government.

Umm, is he serious?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Failure to pass motion is opportunity missed for Senate to take stance

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Student Association Student Senate has the task of supporting the rights for all students on campus. However, with the failure to pass a motion to allocate money to an ad-hoc committee, the Senate is in essence supporting the status quo. Therein lies the problem. The status quo right now could potentially mean having a constitutional amendment to limit the rights of everyone in the state of Wisconsin. The Student Senate has decided that the oppression that could potentially sweep the state is preferable to taking the risk and fighting a battle. It is one thing to speak in favor of diversity; it is quite another to encourage it. By fail-

ing to pass the motion to allocate money to the ad-hoc committee, the Student Senate has said that basic rights are only rights to a few, not everyone. The Senate had the ability to enact great change in Wisconsin, but decided against it when it conflicted the rights of the majority. Senate has missed the opportunity to finally take a stance and make visible change for the better, and it is greatly disappointing.

Joe Eggers
Student Senate

Opposition to columnist's explanation of Christian views

In response to Brian Hogenson's article "Christianity more than just right wing," he tries to portray his views as being those of mainstream Christianity. He says we should

accept homosexuals because "God created his own image and that includes homosexuals." Does this mean that since there are serial killers and other criminals out there that God condones their behavior since they are also created in his image. God loves the person, but He needs not accept the choices that person makes in his or her life. If there is any doubt, see Romans 1:26-27, Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, for the Bible's stance on homosexuality. Brian is perfectly allowed to accept homosexuality, but he shouldn't try to pass it off as a Christian view.

Also, Brian advocates acceptance of environmentalism. Does he really believe it is better to save an endangered tree frog than save the more than 1 million babies that are killed unnaturally every year? Should we turn our back on partial birth abortion in which the baby is delivered feet-first and its brains are sucked out before its head is fully delivered just since there

are other issues that need to be addressed?

I would like to praise Brian, however, for his call for more compassion and action for the poor and less fortunate. This is not being stressed enough by Christians today and I applaud his bringing this to people's attention.

Joe Exner
student

We want to hear what you think! Write us a letter to express your views

Microbicides offer option to women

AIDS. Only for people who get drunk and sleep around without protection and a plague of the gay community right? Wrong, so wrong. While on a trip this past J-term through the University of Minnesota YMCA Immersion program to study HIV/AIDS in New York City, I learned so much about all aspects of the virus. I have to say that all of the information I gained while on the trip totally changed my mind about sex and disease, one shocking fact stood out. The highest percentage of people currently contracting AIDS has been heterosexual white females whose significant others pass the disease to them unknowingly. Scary. Very, very scary.

The women who make-up this statistic are innocently being infected with a deadly disease by someone whom they are either married to, or have some form of romantic relationship with, a relationship which I would hope should involve some level of trust, but by that statistic I guess that's not the case. I can think of few things more shady than knowingly putting someone else in jeopardy because a selfish desire to

bring infidelity into a relationship. Who knows? This could happen to me. A future boyfriend, husband, whatever could decide one day to go out and find himself a dirty hooker and next thing I know I'm getting back tests with shocking results, left feeling betrayed and upset.

Before going to New York, which has one of the highest AIDS epidemics of any city in the U.S., I was surrounded by my small town bubble of ignorance making me oblivious to scary facts such as that one. Even though River Falls, and the similarly sized town in Minnesota that I am from, are grapes compared to the size of the Big Apple, the problem still lingers. Small towns don't provide the sanctuary we wish they would.

I was discussing with a friend how interesting it was that sex loses its intense consideration after the very first encounter. For most people, their first time is a well thought out decision which standards are set for. Whether its after marriage,

when the first "I love you's" are exchanged or the night he suggests somewhere other than Burger King and shells out more than \$20 for dinner, there is some thought put into when its right for the very first time. Funny thing is that this seems to

be a one time deal.

After getting the initial romp under one's belt, all partners proceeding it seem to be in. I was discussing this with a friend and thought that was actually pretty funny.

Whatever level of consideration you take when making the decision, its encouraging to

know that it is being acknowledged that woman need to be able to take protection into their own hands. Microbicides are the name for a product which is being developed for women to prevent HIV/AIDS topically. In forms such as gels and creams, women can protect themselves without consent from a partner, when condoms and mutual monogamy are not an option. This innovative product is not available yet, it needs support

both financially and by the public showing interest. At www.global-campaign.org you can sign a petition to help Microbicides receive additional funding. I hope you all take a minute to support the creation of this product

Whatever decisions people make regarding sex and protection shouldn't be taken too lightly, simply for the sake of safety. Hearing directly from people who suffer from HIV/AIDS about what its like to live with, frankly scared me shitless. From sores to flu-like sickness, not to mention living with the knowledge that your life's count down is accelerated, the stories I heard were hard to bare. Imagine having to run and wash your hands after every handshake or touch of a door handle for fear of coming down with a strain of the common cold that to anyone else would mean a day away from the office, but to you could be your cause of death. One man we got to know while in NYC explained the weight of this daily worry. I just want everyone to be careful. Small towns are no sanctuaries and a bubble of ignorance is no friend.



SARAH GESTSON

Baseball's superiority, everyone's game

Baseball has been deemed America's pastime. It's a great way to spend a spring evening, whether playing or watching. Baseball has been around so long, and so many forms of entertainment have come and gone since its creation, that some have forgotten its importance in American society. Entertainment wasn't as readily available in the mid-1800's as it is now. The National Football League wasn't even an idea and television wasn't invented yet either. Baseball was one of the only forms of entertainment one could enjoy in the company of hundreds of other spectators. It's a cornerstone of the American culture.

Some alternate forms of entertainment have invaded our country since baseball first became popular. Currently, there is a craze sweeping across the nation, and its effect on baseball is worrisome. It involves running around a huge field in an attempt to kick a synthetic sphere into a rectangular box. We Americans call it soccer. Yes, soccer is a tough sport and it requires the utmost endurance and agility, but soccer is taking so much away from the wonderful game of baseball, namely the athletes. Because of soccer's simplicity--run, run, run and kick the ball into the rectangle--and its ease on the pocketbook, it is being introduced into athletic programs from the collegiate level all the way down to the can't-tie-their-shoes-yet generation. All the blame shouldn't be placed on soccer, though. Track and field is exceedingly primitive too: run, turn left; spin and "put"

the heavy ball. The Iron Age is over; let's move on. Other sports are inferior to baseball. Baseball's basic requirements aren't as demanding as other sports; it's more inclusive. One need not be towering 6-foot 4-inches tall, a burly 260 pounds, or lightning-quick in order to play. Suffering countless ass-kickings on the football field and numerous blocked shots on the basketball court, I have come to appreciate this about baseball. However, baseball players are far from crotch-adjusting, tobacco-chewing wannabe athletes. They exhibit the finer points of athleticism: hand-eye coordination, quick hands and mental toughness.

Baseball is the sport most comparable to life. Dedication to the game of baseball ensures improvement. If you practice baseball, you'll get better. If you are heavily committed

professional sports. Because of this, a baseball manager doesn't expect his players to get a hit every time at bat. A good batter in Major League Baseball only gets a hit about 30 percent of the time, and the other 70 percent is considered a failure at bat. That can be hard for a baseball player to deal with, but baseball players are forced to learn from their failed attempts and improve as a result. Similarly, if you fail in some aspect in life you are forced to make adjustments for the success that is desired.

Involving yourself in an actual game isn't necessary to enjoy baseball. A baseball game in a major league park is Americana. You can find every type of person in a ballpark from seniors to grade-schoolers, from baseball enthusiasts to someone just looking to enjoy

... there is a craze sweeping across the nation, and its effect on baseball is worrisome. It involves running around a huge field in attempt to kick a synthetic sphere into a rectangular box.

Buddy system could promote tolerance

It's really too bad it rained this weekend. I had a smashing idea about all those chalk writings done by the Gay/Straight Alliance that were rudely commented on by various campus Christians and Republicans. At least, I figure that's who it is, as there were mostly replies to the gay writings in the form of "Read the Bible" and "God loves you but not your sin" and "Hug a Republican" and so on and so forth.

Anyways, my smashing idea was that we pair up the Gay/Straight Alliance guys with the campus Christians/Republicans and divide them into pairs, one gay and one Christian. Then we go make them scrub off all the little sayings they dirtied our sidewalks with. Then they have to talk to each other about their selves and hopefully get an insight into each other's lives. Then, once we've promoted some tolerance and open minded thinking on both sides (and yeah, I agree that might take a REALLY long time) we have them turn their chalk into the art department, who in turn could grace the sidewalk with more tasteful (and non-political) doodles and musings.

After seeing all these writings, I did happen to have a flash of thought directly from God. I kid you not. It was divinely inspired. I could practically see Him/Her shaking His/Her head in bemused resignation saying "That's the last time I give higher intelligence to monkeys. On the next planet, I'll give it to cats or iguanas or possibly

ostriches. But no more apes; they act like gorillas too much. All that screeching and chest beating. Honestly."

Now don't get me wrong about a few things. The Gay/Straight Alliance has a good message. Huzzah guy and gals. But we all know that sidewalk chalking is a useless venture. It just gives the unnamed extremist types a chance to condemn and harass.

But you know, I'm much less impressed with whoever took it upon themselves to go out there and chalk comments over the gay messages. How tacky. Look in the Bibles you tout so much; Jesus had manners. Follow that example for a couple minutes, huh?

Sigh. Well, I suppose it's a hopeless fight anyway. Maybe we should be glad the rain came. Possibly it's God's way of washing away the ugly and leaving us with beauty in the form of green grass and flowers. You can't help but be in a good mood when you're in the vicinity of a tulip or daffodil. Simplicity of design; that's why He/She is the Creator, and we're just here. Come on kids, it's spring. The weather is perfect, the songbirds are back and lovin' it up, and I bet we can all come up with better things to do than fight over degrees of moral superiority and who's right and wrong. Gay may mean homosexual, but according to Webster it also means happily excited; merry; keenly alive and exuberant; having or inducing high spirits. God made the rest of the world merry this time of year. Maybe we should just shut up for once and follow along.



AMY SCHOBERT

Stir things up by tasting a new flavor

It's like a ready-made box of cake mix. Add the same ingredients and the results will remain the same. Don't stray from the recipe and you will always get the same people coming back for more. I think it's time we try a new type of cake. I have always enjoyed chocolate cake, but that does not mean I always have to eat chocolate cake, does it? I remember the surprise in my parents' voices when, for the first time in years, I asked for a white cake instead of my usual chocolate cake.

My opinion has, like a three-day-old uncovered cake, become stale. I surround myself with people who have the same opinions. This monotony of conception is not quite deliber-

ate. I just find it easier to talk to people who think the way I do. But, it is as Frank A. Clark once said, "We find comfort among those who agree with us-growth among those who don't."

I noticed last week that there is a lack of diverse thought in the newspaper's photo poll too. All those being interviewed had the same opinion.

Where was the kid who thought what the Gay Straight Alliance was doing was stupid? I know those opinions exist. I saw them last Wednesday while participating in the Day of Silence.

Perhaps those opinions are hard to find. Or, maybe the people holding those opinions did not want to speak up.

Some time ago I was looking at a 2004 Student Engagement

Survey. According to the survey, 30 percent of students reported never having had a serious conversation with someone of a different race. In this context, race doesn't just mean ethnicity. Race can also mean conversing with someone who listens to different music, lives in a larger town or works a factory job. All these people have a new, unheard story to tell. When someone hears them speak, attitudes can change. I've noticed this lack of diversity within the very clubs that should be appealing to the diverse. We don't appeal to those who disagree with us, or even those who do. The same people continue to appear over and over. How do we expect change to occur if we can't attract the very people causing the controversy?

Diversity should not just be the same thoughts regurgitated week after week. If you ask the

questions right, then you will always get the response you want to hear. But, if you let people be themselves, then you will get their true thoughts. We weren't all made from the same box of cake-mix. Some of us are lemon, poppy seed or marble. We baked and rose differently depending on the types of ingredients, amount of stirring or time we were given. The environment we grew up in shaped who we are and will continue to shape us. This is why it is so important to let ourselves try something new. I will always enjoy chocolate cake, but I love so many other types of cake. I could not conceive of having my choices taken from me at the grocery store. Why do I limit myself when it comes to people? Step out of the routine and keep your mind open. Let yourself taste something you never have.



CAITLIN NIMM

Change of view; don't follow these footsteps

I spend most of my time in this column trying to convince you all that you should live your life like mine. It's a dreamy little world that I have in my head: everyone lives shorter, more bizarre lives with rubber bands on their arms and, of course, everyone listens to everything I say.

It recently became apparent, however, that if everyone lived the way I do, then it might (just maybe) not be the best thing in the world.

This past Sunday I went kayaking on some river north of here in Hudson. We didn't get started until 4 p.m., so the temperature was starting to dip, much like my IQ on a weekend.

Somewhere along the line I decided I was probably the greatest kayaker that ever paddled this side of the Mississippi and I proceeded to shoot my mouth off to everyone I could find-that being my brother who was in the other kayak and some fisherman that I know could have canded me with his fishing pole, hooks and all.

Then we proceeded to the rapids, which I went through singing a song. Not just any song. Show tunes from "Chicago" Halfway through "Cell Block Tango" I got stuck on

a rock and decided I mirrored Noah and that boat that he got stuck ... boat, ark, whatever.

By now I knew, beyond a doubt, that I should shut-up but just could help it.

The next set of rapids was a little trickier and much more exhausting for my little 12-year-old-girl arms, so it was a little more of a rush than I expected.

I also had to go to the bathroom. The only problem was that I was much too tired to find a still place to get out to go to the bathroom and get back, all without missing a tune from "Chicago."

Before I could make up my mind, my brother ran into me, and we continued along the river.

Soon enough the last rapids came along, and we hung out there for a while, playing in the rushing water. We got out and walked the boats up for a couple more tries at it. Somewhere along the walking in and out of the river, I cut up my leg to the point it was swollen, pink and burnt like the fire of a thousand suns. Oh well, I figured.

After eating dinner at my parents' and watching some TV, I decided that my leg sucked and needed something, and while my mom chose the doctor I chose the Econo Foods pharmacy.

I picked up some bandages and waited in line with the cashier staring at the wet, bloody mess that I was.

As I waited for an old woman to count out her coupons and pennies, I noticed a smell that was not good. I looked around, disgusted that people would actually go out in public like that. Only to find out that it was me, and that I had my own personal bubble while waiting in line. I also found out that I had my mind about when I should go to the bathroom (don't judge, everyone that has been in the water knows that it's a fact of life. Except that I was in a moderately dry kayak, so maybe you can judge a little).

By the end of the day I had accomplished very little or it was the most fulfilling day I had all week, depends on your angle. I had pissed off a fisherman or two by singing show tunes, I got myself hit for reciting the Old Testament, while perched on a rock in the middle of rapids. I also might or might not have made a very old woman cry herself to sleep.



AJ OSCARSON

Halfway through "Cell block tango" I got stuck on a rock and decided I mirrored Noah and that boat that he got stuck.

Adding life asterisks?

I just returned from my annual trip to Miller Park; and though we didn't see what some would consider good baseball, we still had a hell of an adventure getting there and back. Five plus hours in a van can lead to some interesting discussions and, of course, my column was brought up a few times. This helps since I would have to say the most difficult aspect of writing a column is picking a topic.

However, before you begin to chuckle at me, keep in mind that I could just start writing about my bowel movements or how my lucky flip flops broke, leading my pet turtle to wind up in my carburetor. How funny would that be? Glance around the page and I'm sure you can find something of the like. Anyway, I usually bounce some column ideas off my friends before I actually pick what aspect of drinking I plan on talking about.

This column was no different, especially since we had over half a day in a car by the time the weekend was over. The trip centered on baseball, leading much of our conversations to do the same. We talked about steroids and other performance enhancing drugs and their affects on the sport. This inevitably leads into the almighty asterisks and if it has a place in baseball record books.

The topic of asterisks and performance enhancing got me to

start thinking about my own writing. Do my columns deserve an asterisk? Is alcohol my steroid for writing? Maybe the Student Senate could run from the real problems facing this campus and set up a judiciary committee to investigate drug and alcohol use in writing

columns. To be honest, I think the problem is that some of the other columnists aren't hitting some of this too.

I'm just writing about my everyday experiences as a college kid in River Falls. I know a lot of you are going through some of the same things I am. Well, maybe not with the same frequency of

police interaction as me, but all of you aren't as lucky. It just happens that much of my day to day activities over the last seven semesters involved alcohol followed by poor decision making.

Furthermore, if I knew it would make a difference to dig deep and uncover issues that needed to be addressed here on campus, I'd gladly do it. For instance, I made mention of a glaring misuse of a public position in my last column and not one person wrote in to inquire more about it. Then again, I do get compliments for what I write about, so drop asterisks on me, but make sure to mention that the columns actually had some entertainment value. Someone has to bring the fans out to the park, even if they are juicing.



MIKE SONN

What are some of the challenges that students face while living off campus?



Jeff Cassellius, senior

"Seeing all the money that you have leave ... It all goes towards rent."



Diana Johnson, junior

"Dealing with the hassle of garbage."



Jake Jonker, senior

"Crossing Main Street at 8 a.m. and at 5 p.m."



Dele Adetifa

"Having to pay rent and throwing a house party."

Photo poll by Corey Hargreaves

Stahl and first base reunited in 2005

Corey Hargreaves
Sports Editor

First base is home to one of the Falcon's elite. Senior Emily Stahl has been a part of the UW-River Falls fastpitch program for the past three years. Originally from Como Park High School in St. Paul, Emily came to UW-RF as a transfer from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, bringing her contributions and skills to the 2005 team.

"Emily hasn't played first since she was little," Julie Stahl, Emily's mom, said. "It's fun to watch her play from that position again."

Emily enjoys playing first because she knows how to dig the balls out of the dirt and be consistent.

"With Jess strong at shortstop, I've adapted to playing first," Stahl said. "I've learned to embrace the position."

While playing on the team, Emily feels that it is her overall knowledge of the game that keeps her intrigued with playing.

"Playing over the years, I've learned people's strengths and weaknesses," Emily said. "I've learned that if you work hard the results will be paid off in the end."

Emily credits most of the success the team has to the training that the team does in the off-season.

"It's awesome how much we

work together," Emily said. "Our off-season training is starting to finally pay off, and we're finding our groove."

As for team goals, Emily would like to see the team win conference, but more importantly see the team succeed together.

Watching the success of the team, her parents attend the games that the team participates in.

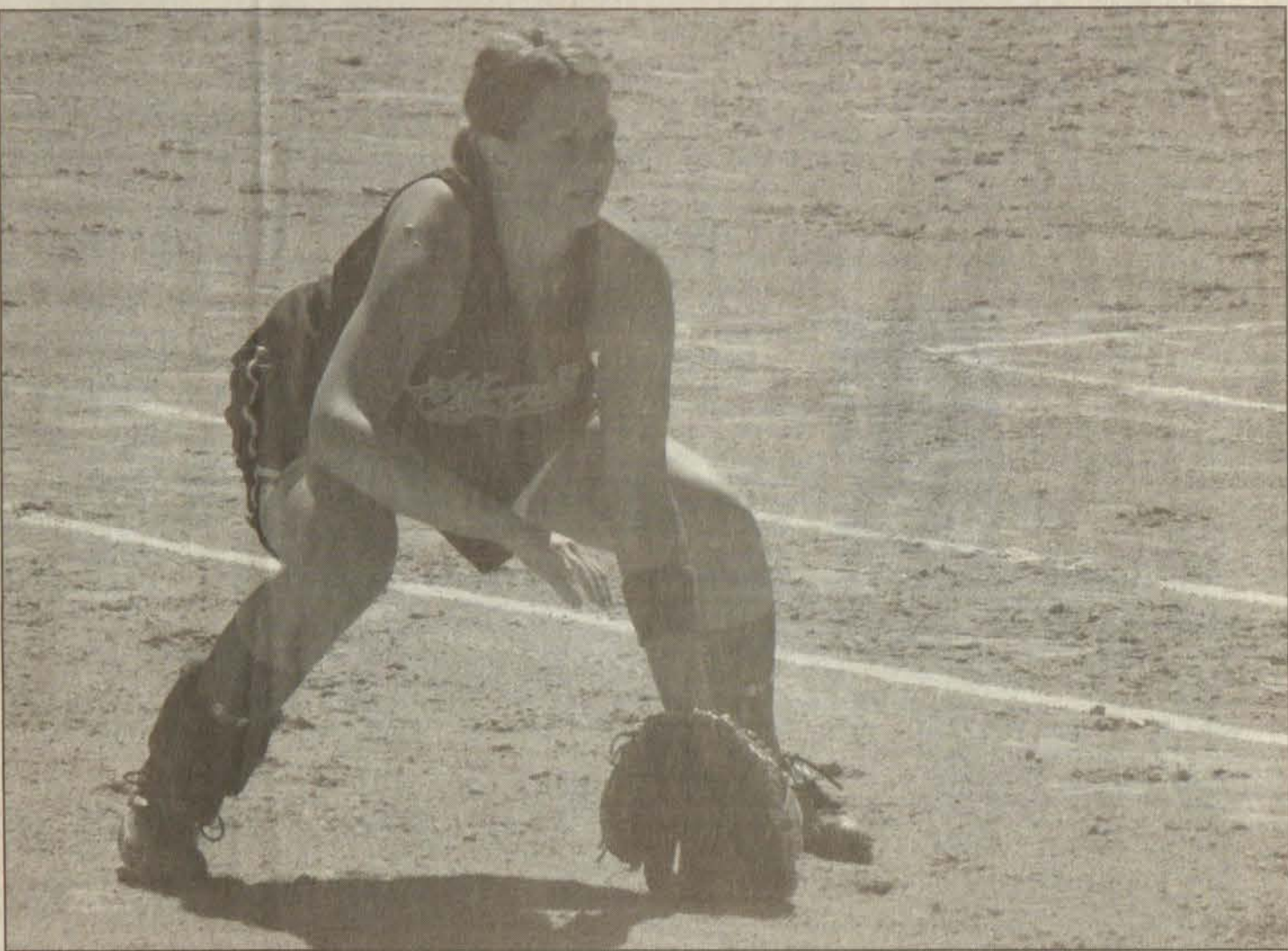
"We've been to more of Emily's games this year, compared to last year, since she had the shoulder trouble," Julie said. "We try to leave home early enough to make it out to the games."

Off the field, Emily is preparing for a future career since she is due to graduate in May. When she isn't job searching, Emily enjoys resting, since free time is a rarity.

"I would like to own a business in the future with my sister, since she will also have a business degree, possibly a bar," Emily said about her future plans. "I want to work at night, so maybe owning a bar?"

As for the team that she has grown to love for the past few years, Emily will continue to stay focused and strive to achieve for the rest of the 2005 season.

"I've enjoyed watching her play here for the past three years," Julie said. "She has really developed as a person."



Senior Emily Stahl prepares to field a ball in the first game against UW-La Crosse. The team split the match against the Eagles, closing out with a 4-1 victory.

Photo by Corey Hargreaves

It's not supposed to sound like that

I've got some things that bug me, and it's time to address these situations. Yes, the weather is nice and people are out and about, but there are some things that should remain inside.

Yeah, I'm talking to you, Mr. "Everyone listen to my crappy music, because I'm cool" guy. Seriously, is there any need to drive up and down Cascade Avenue blasting your music, that in most people's minds, should be banned from all radios and CD players? Somehow, you found it necessary to add the song to your already illegally downloaded music, burn it to a CD and blast it obnoxiously, giving everyone another reason to hate you. Do everyone a favor, roll up your window and turn on the air. If you don't have air, then suffer instead of making everyone outside deal with the crap you spend endless nights repeating until you have it memorized.

Another one of my friends I'd like to confront, mainly because I have space to fill and he's next on the old "take a crap on me list," is Mr. "My car is insanely loud" guy.

No, that's not your car sounding cool and loud, it's the sound of a hole in your damn muffler, so either fix it or have the

decency to realize you are financially busted and call someone for a ride. There are few vehicles that should make that noise. Some trucks are acceptable to this rule, but not your Ford Ranger, so take it to the shop.

Motorcycles are also exempt from this rule because they are supposed to sound like that. If you bike isn't making the right sound, chances are you should get one that doesn't require you to peddle.

So, in closing, if you find yourself being offended by what I've brought forth above, then trust me I'm helping you. This would be a good time to look over your collection that you choose to listen to in the car to make sure you don't fit these descriptions. I don't know what you think, but I don't want to be grilling out and suddenly have my burgers flipped because your bass is cranked up on a song that doesn't require bass. Do everyone a favor since we all are trying to enjoy the weather, before we part our ways for the summer-time, and turn it off. Oh yeah, and fix your muffler too, cause you managed to kill two birds with one stone and people are starting to talk, and from what I've heard it isn't pretty.



COREY HARGREAVES

Tourney proves to be a split for fastpitch

Sports Information
UW-River Falls

The softball team finished the first day of the UW-Oshkosh Tournament with two losses. In the first game, the Falcons lost to UW-Oshkosh 5-1. The second game was against UW-Whitewater and ended in a 5-4 defeat.

The Falcons got their first hit in the second inning when Emily Evans hit a single to left field. Their run came in the third when Michelle Kelley hit a double to right center then advanced to third on a wild pitch. She then got herself home when she scored on a passed ball.

Ashley Bertrand took the loss and her record dropped to 5-7. She pitched three and two-thirds innings and allowed six hits and four runs, two of which were earned.

In the second game against Whitewater, the Falcons played tough, but lost 5-4. They had two hits in the second inning and single runs in the third and fifth innings. They made four runs in nine hits and made one error. Whitewater made five runs in eight hits and didn't make any errors. They had one run in the first inning and two runs in the third and fifth innings.

In the sixth inning, Jessamy Schwartz

started the Falcons big with a single to center field. Stahl, then made it to first on a bunt. Rathbun walked, loading the bases. Guisinger then came in to dh for Madlon. She hit a fly out to right field, allowing Schwartz to score. Kelley had the final hit of the game with a single to second base in the seventh.

Vanderploeg took the loss for the Falcons, making her record 4-7. She allowed three hits and zero runs. She struck out one and walked one.

Against Platteville on April 17, the Falcons scored all three of their runs in the fourth inning. They had a total of six hits and one error. Platteville scored single runs in the third and fifth innings. They scored two runs on five hits and made no errors.

The big fourth inning for the Falcons started with Schwartz making it to first on a bunt. Stahl sacrificed her to second and just in time for Evans to hit a double to center field sending Schwartz home. Madlon came into to pinch run for Evans, but she wouldn't be out there long. Vanderploeg hit a double down the left field line to score Madlon. Kelley stepped up to hit a triple to send Vanderploeg home. Other hits for the Falcons came in the sixth inning when

Schwartz hit a single to center and Evans hit a single to left.

Ashley Bertrand took the win and improved her record to 6-7. She allowed five hits and two runs, one of which was earned.

The Falcons took the next game to 10 innings against UW-Stevens Point. They beat the Pointers 5-4. The Falcons scored five runs on four hits and made four errors. Stevens Point scored four runs on eight hits and committed two errors.

In the seventh inning, Breamber Syverson and Schwartz both walked. Evans then hit a fly out to right field, allowing both runners to advance. Syverson took off for home on an error by the right fielder to score the first Falcon run. In the 10th, Stahl was placed on second just in time for Rathbun to hit a double to center to send her home. Rathbun was then called out at third. Ashley James hit a single to right field, then Emily Rodgers hit a double to right field to score James and end the game.

Rathbun took the win improving her record to 2-4. She pitched five and one-third innings allowing two hits and one unearned run.

The team is square off at UW-Superior on April 25. The game will begin at 3 p.m.

Lieschy tosses her way to first at Gustavus' Lee Krough Invitational

Jenna J. Campbell
Sports Information

The men's and women's track and field teams competed at the 2005 Lee Krough Invitational at Gustavus Adolphus College on April 16, 2005. There were no team scores kept.

For the women, Jill Crandall had a NCAA Division III provisional qualifying leap of 1.68 meters in the high jump. Crandall also placed fifth in the 100-meter hurdles in 17.32. Mandy Lieschy placed first in the discus throw with a toss of 35.96 meters.

In the shotput, Vicki Cooper placed fourth with a toss of

11.26 meters, and sixth in the javelin throw with a toss of 27.64 meters. Holly Kromray placed sixth in pole vault with a leap of 3.20 meters. In the 200, Amy Piersak placed seventh in 27.21 and ninth in the 100 in 13.49.

"New comer Marlene Yaeger competed well in the 800," said head coach Martha Brennan. Yaeger placed 17th in 2:26.90.

For the men, placing first in the 3000-meter steeplechase was Jason Phillippi in 10:05.10. Kevin McDonough placed second in the 3000-meter steeplechase in 10:10.40. Taking third in the 110-meter hurdles was Darrin Young in 17.51. Young

also placed fourth in the 400-meter hurdles in 1:00.53. Mike Neurer placed fourth in the 400 in 51.35. Justin Youngblom achieved a personal best in the 5000, placing sixth in 15:53.88. Mycola Kramper placed sixth in the pole vault with a leap of 4.06 meters. Chris Huston placed fifth in the high jump with a leap of 1.83 meters. "The distance runners did a good job," says Brennan.

The men's 4x800 placed first in 8:08.23. The men's 4x400 relay team of Neurer, Mike Zander, Rick Stewart, and Garrett Duncanson placed second in 3:23.99.

"The weather was not ideal for most of the day, but the team did a great job competing in poor conditions," says Brennan. The events of high jump and pole vault contested inside due to weather. "Many of the high jumpers had personal bests," says Brennan.

The Falcons will compete on April 23. The women's team will compete at the Manitou Invitational at St. Olaf starting at 9 a.m.

The men's team will compete at the Phil Esten Challenge in La Crosse, action beginning at 1 p.m. "We look forward to competing next weekend, and hope to have good weather," says Brennan.

Varsity Sports Week

Saturday, April 23

Women's Track & Field at Manitou Invitational (at St. Olaf), 9 a.m.
Men's Track & Field at Phil Esten Challenge (at La Crosse), 1 p.m.

Monday, April 25

Fastpitch at Superior, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, April 27

Fastpitch at Stout, 5 p.m.
Men's Track & Field at Macalester Twilight, 4 p.m.

Top Performers



Brittany Rathbun
Fastpitch

Rathbun went 1-0 with one save during the WIAC cluster tournament. She pitched fifteen innings during the week, allowing just two runs.



Jason Phillippi
Track & Field

Phillippi took first place in the 3000 meter steeplechase at the Lee Krough Invitational. The freshman won the event with a time of 10:05.10.

Scoreboard

Fastpitch

WIAC Standings

	W	L
Eau Claire (23-6)	6	2
Superior (16-5)	3	1
Oshkosh (18-10-1)	8	3
Stevens Point (17-8)	7	4
Stout (11-14)	3	3
River Falls (12-18)	3	5
Whitewater (12-14)	3	6
La Crosse (11-12)	3	7
Platteville (11-15)	2	7

April 17 Results

UW-Stevens Point	000 210 000 1	- 4 8 2
UW-River Falls	000 000 300 2	- 5 4 4

Name (Pos)	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Kelley lf	3	0	0	0	1	2
Syverson 2b	2	1	0	0	1	0
Guisinger ph	1	0	0	0	0	0
Schwartz ss	2	1	0	0	1	0
Evans 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1
Stahl 1b	3	1	0	0	0	2

Blakeley 1b	0	0	0	0	1	0
Madlon pr	0	1	0	0	0	0
Vanderploeg p	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rathburn p	3	0	2	3	0	0
Taylor dh	4	0	0	0	0	0
James c	4	1	1	0	0	2
Rodgers rf	4	0	1	1	0	1
Falck cf	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	31	5	4	4	4	8

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
Vanderploeg	4.2	6	3	0	1	2	19 20
Rathburn	5.1	2	1	0	0	1	18 19

UW-River Falls	000 300 0	- 3 6 1
UW-Platteville	001 010 0	- 2 5 0

Name (Pos)	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Syverson 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2
Schwartz ss	3	1	2	0	0	0
Stahl 1b	2	0	0	0	0	2
Evans 3b	3	0	2	1	0	0
Madlon pr	0	1	0	0	0	0
Vanderploeg dh	3	1	1	1	0	0
Kelley lf	1	0	1	1	2	0

Falck cf	2	0	0	0	0	1
Taylor ph	1	0	0	0	0	1
James c	3	0	0	0	0	1
Rodgers rf	3	0	0	0	0	1
Bertrand p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rathburn p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	25	3	6	3	2	8

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
Bertrand	4.2	5	2	1	2	3	18 21
Rathburn	2.1	0	0	0	0	5	8 8

Track and Field

Falcon Invitational Results April 10

Men

1. Phillippi, 3000 m steeplechase - 10:05.10
2. McDonough, 3000 m steeplechase - 10:10.10
3. Young, 110 m hurdles - 17.51
4. Young, 400 m hurdles - 1:00.53
4. Neurer, 400 m - 51.35

Women

4. Cooper, shot put - 11.26 m
5. Crandall, 100 m hurdles - 17.32
6. Cooper, javelin - 27.64 m
7. Piersak, 200 m - 27.21

Wisconsin Advocacy and Campus-Action Pilot Initiative

As part of the initial phase of the LEAP Campaign, Wisconsin has become the first official state in the initiative to pilot a series of campus-action and advocacy efforts that champion the value of a liberal education for all college students.

Activities planned or already underway in Wisconsin include:

- Public opinion research—including focus groups with high school and college students regarding their own goals for college learning.
- Campus-Community Dialogues—including a series of campus-community meetings and events with students what their expectations of college were, why they were going to college and what they knew about liberal education. Humphreys said that the results were astounding.
- A state-wide leadership council for liberal education with members from politics, business, industry, arts, the non-profit sector, and all levels of education.
- Print and Web resources to assist campuses in communicating more effectively with students about the importance of key liberal education outcomes and pathways to achieving them, and to assist students as they map their own pathways to and through college—and to success in life and learning.
- Innovative Campus Programs and Stories of Student Success.

Source: www.aacu.org

Initiative tries to educate people about need for liberal education

LIBERAL ED from Page 1

ness of what a liberal education is supposed to do and what skills a student is supposed to have when they graduate.

UW System senior program administrator and project director for the LEAP program, Rebecca Karoff, said she doesn't think people really have an understanding of what college is for.

"We know that it is very important for our students to graduate and get jobs," Karoff said. "It is the number one reason why people go to college, the number one reason why parents fund college education. But we think there are broader outcomes that graduates need to be conscious of."

Gorden Hedahl, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, agrees and thinks that people don't understand what is involved in a liberal education beyond what you learn in your major.

"What can we do to help people understand what the liberal arts are and how it can help them is the question we need to ask?" Hedahl asked. "What employers say is the most important things that our college graduates have are skills in communication and being able to think quantitatively, to be able to understand how the world works and to be able to speak and write and all of those skills that are really based in our traditional liberal arts programs all along. We need to help people understand that."

The AAC&U conducted two focus groups with high school seniors in Milwaukee to explore with students what their expectations of college were, why they were going to college and what they knew about liberal education. Humphreys said that the results were astounding.

"Very few students know anything about a liberal education; it wasn't even on their radar screen," Humphreys said. "The students have a good sense that they should go to college, but they don't have much depth to understanding exactly what they need to learn when they get to college. They really didn't connect to anything they were going to be asked to do when they got to college."

While Humphreys thought that these results were troubling, the focus group shed light on a much larger problem.

"More importantly and more disturbing, in a way, was that we put in front of them a list of the outcomes of a college education we evolved from discussions with business leaders and civic leaders and the folks who would eventually hire these graduates," Humphreys said. "What we found was that students didn't have a good sense of what those outcomes were. They had different priorities than that of civic and business leaders. There were a lot of things that academic leaders, business leaders and civic leaders think are important for students to work on and for the students were not really priorities at all."

Hedahl agreed, pointing to information he has received from employers as well.

"Specific job training skills change," Hedahl said. "What we have found is that the abilities to think critically, ability to communicate, ability to work in groups, ability to reason and analyze are skills that employers want. They can teach the specifics of the job, but if you can't think, then it is really hard. So these are the skills that employers really look for."

The goal of the AAC&U partnership with the UW System is to bridge the information gap. The best way for that to be accomplished, according to Karoff, is to promote the liberal education.

"We have several different approaches to help promote a liberal education and make it more visible," Karoff said.

Currently the UW System is working on a three-pronged approach to raise awareness of liberal education. This includes a campus component that asks faculty to explain to current students what they are gaining beyond simple professional skills. Also included is a focus on public advocacy to raise awareness among the average citizen. Finally, there is a still undetermined leadership component that will include a possible leadership council made up of business and civic leaders.

Hopefully, people will look at college as a civic good rather than a simple way to get a bigger salary, Karoff said.

SPIRIT from Page 1

Center, where many past and present students, faculty and staff reminisced.

"I came in 1968 and was chancellor for 17 years," said Chancellor Emeritus George Field. "I quit in 1985 and then I taught a couple of years and retired in 1996, and I'm still enjoying being here."

Most of Field's family - himself as well as his wife, Marcella Field, included - graduated from UW-RF.

"We have a lot of blood in this place if you go back to my mother and dad in 1923," Field said. "My mother and dad went to school here, my aunts and uncles went to school here, all of our children went to school at certain times here."

Many faculty members felt the day showed some of the impact that the UW System has for all of its alumni.

"We always have homecoming in the fall where alums come back, but I think that this is really to broadly acknowledge all UW alumni to show the impact that UW has on this day and all of our graduates from all the UW's, whether it be faculty and staff or students," said Interim Vice Chancellor Mary Halada. "We had a lot of faculty emeriti that have been here today, that just came over to say hi, which I think shows a loyalty to this institution, which is pretty special."

Halada also viewed this time of year as a good time for the celebration with alumni.

"Spring is a good time to celebrate," Halada said. "We've got honors things and award recognitions, so it is a good time to get everybody back."

Along with the opportunity to celebrate its past and future graduates, UW Spirit Day was also a chance to acknowledge the good in the UW System.

"It's a good idea; it brings attention to the positive things that occur because of the UW System," Nylander said.

SPARKS FLY ON STAGE



Photo by Corey Hargreaves

Hal Sparks came to campus to do his stand up routine. Sparks is known for his role on "Queer as Folk" and VH1's "I love the decades."

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Journalists examine many criteria to determine newsworthiness

The Pope, Britney have more in common than you think

Have you ever wondered why a particular story was considered newsworthy enough to be put on the front page, as opposed to being buried in the inside of the newspaper next to the brassiere ad? Every reporter dreads the brassiere ad. If he finds his article, which he put a lot of sweat and blood into writing, next to the brassiere ad, then he knows it sucked. Nobody reads the story next to the brassiere ad, because everybody is too busy looking at the ad and wondering how that bra model can look so content wearing just a bra.



ERIC HENNING

If this reporter wants his work to stay clear of bra ads and land on the front page, then he should remember the old saying, "If it bleeds, it leads." This cute little phrase helps journalists remember that stories about grisly murders and tragic traffic accidents are preferred to stories about how the local FFA chapter did in their national competition or how the farmer made a snowman with round bales. We'll still do the story about the FFA chapter and the round bale snowman, but it'll be next to the bra ad, not on the front page.

So what are the criteria a potential story needs to meet to be considered newsworthy? One of the most important things journalists consider is timeliness. As a general rule, the more recent the story, the better. For example, the death of Pope John Paul II is old news. It was a great story, but now it's yesterday's leftovers. The big story now is, what color is the smoke? Wait, that's old news too. The most timely angle to the pope story is that the new pope, who is from Germany, took the name of Benedict, making him like the 34th pope in history to call himself Benedict. So now journalists can write stories about why he chose that name, or research how many of the previous Benedicts wound up being child molesters, or whatever.

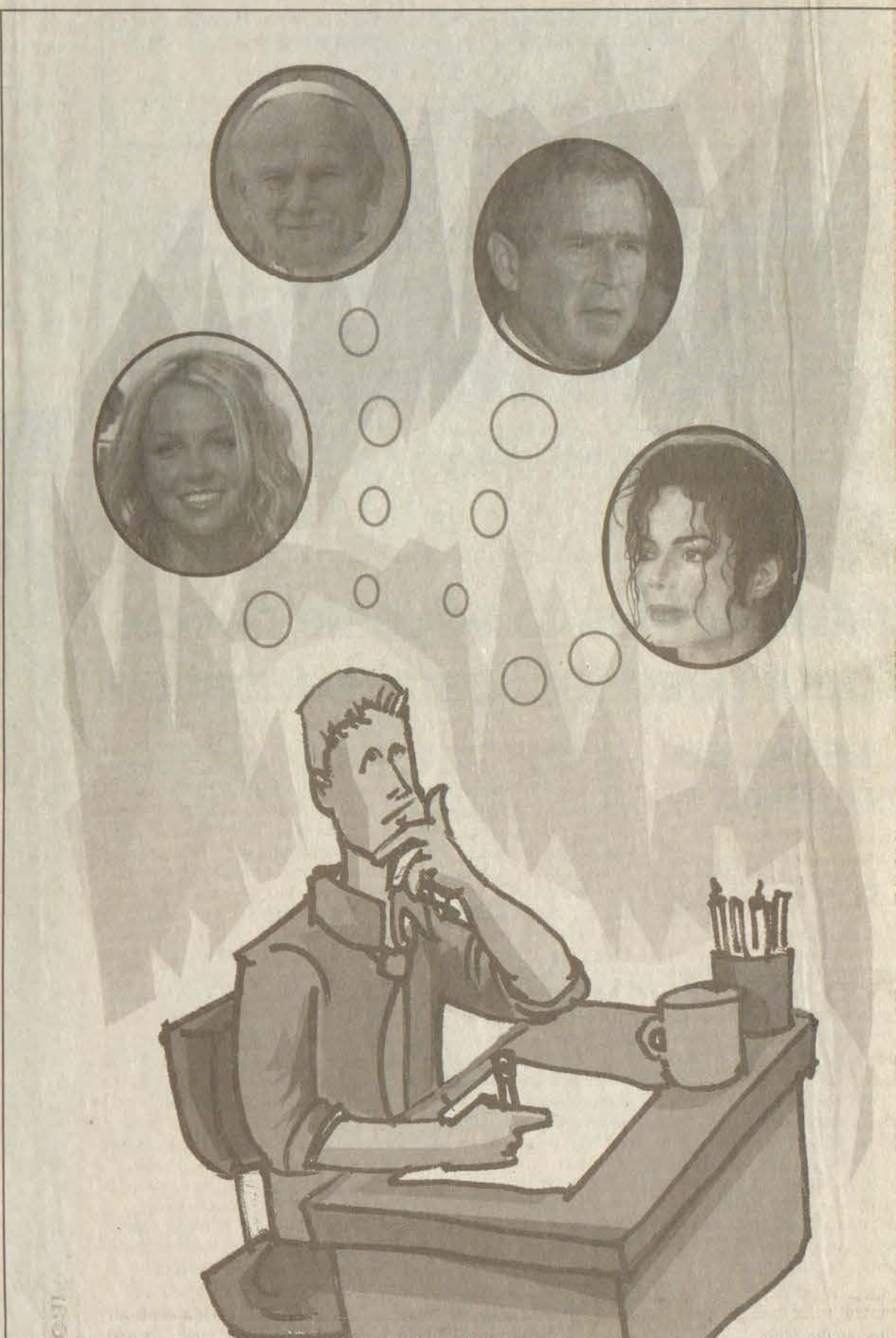
Speaking of child molesters, journalists know that ordinary people want to know every minute detail of celebrity trials because the only difference between their uncle Elmer's crime and a celebrity's crime is that the celebrity will get off scot-free and uncle Elmer will spend the next 20 years behind bars. So the general public is definitely interested in the celebrity trial, meaning journalists have to camp outside the courthouse and watch the celebrity get out of his car, wave to the dozens of journalists and enter the building. It was either cover this important story or do an in-depth piece on what's happening to social security. And let's face it, social security is boring. More on what Michael Jackson is wearing and less on social security, that's what we say.

People can make the news based on their prominence in society. For example, whenever President Bush makes a public speech, David Letterman will do a comical "George W. Bush" segment making fun of Bush's inability to speak the English language. The illegal alien who crossed the border yesterday can't speak the English language either, but Letterman knows the prominence rule of journalism and doesn't cover this story.

Another example is Britney Spears. Anything Britney does is newsworthy. When she got married, then divorced, then married to a man who just had a baby with another woman, the media covered the dickens out of it. And when she gets divorced next year, you can be sure that will be covered as well. Because she is a prominent citizen, and also because that gives a rea-

son to print her picture, which will boost sales among teenaged boys.

The level of conflict a story has is a good barometer of its newsworthiness. Remember Ron Artest? That conflict between a huge professional basketball player and drunken spectators was re-aired approximately two million times in the week after it occurred. Another example is the 2004 presidential election coverage. The political skirmish between John Kerry and George W. Bush received a considerable amount of media attention, much of it focusing on Kerry's Vietnam service record. It was a great ongoing conflict story of worldwide importance, though generally the public was more interested in what was going on with Michael Jackson.



Graphic by Neng Yang

A story with an unusual angle or twist will lift it from obscurity and into the realm of newsworthiness. For example, elderly people skydiving are not newsworthy because those 90 year olds are always skydiving nowadays. However, if that same 90-year-old man jumped from the airplane while having sex with a hooker, we journalists would be grossed out, but we would still do a story about it. Because, finally, there is a fresh angle to the elderly skydiving story.

I could go on with more examples on how a story becomes newsworthy, but this column is in the Offbeat section. And quite frankly, that's even worse than being next to a brassiere ad.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jerry Seinfeld
Wednesday, 5/11
7 p.m.
DECC Auditorium
Duluth
\$45 - \$75

Snow Patrol
Wednesday, 5/11
7 p.m.
Quest Club
Minneapolis
\$16.50 - US \$18.50

Lifehouse
Sunday, 5/15
7 p.m.
Fine Line Music Cafe
Minneapolis
\$18.50 - \$38.50

Jesse McCartney
Monday, 5/16
7:30 p.m.
State Theatre
Minneapolis
\$31

Keane
Tuesday, 5/17
7 p.m.
Northrop Auditorium
Minneapolis
\$25

Al Green
Friday, 5/20
8 p.m.
State Theatre
Minneapolis
\$39.50 - \$59.50

MITCH

By: NENG YANG



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Photo by Micheal Foley
Stephen Paulus was hired through the UW-RF Commissioned Composer Project, a student-funded project that contracts composers to write pieces for the University's ensembles.

World-renowned composer's work to premiere at UW-RF

Eric Ebert
Assistant Editor

Names like John Cage and Michael Torke may not be familiar to many of the students on campus, but these names are just two of many on a list of commissioned composers at UW-River Falls. The UW-RF Commissioned Composer Project is a student-funded project that contracts composers to write pieces for the University's ensembles. This year the project commissioned Stephen Paulus to write a piece for the UW-RF concert choir. "He was absolutely ecstatic that he got it," said Commissioned Composer Project president Kris Kulsrud. Kulsrud, an instrumental music education major, said the entire music department is involved with the project. Faculty members usually meet to decide who they want to commission years in advance, but the music department has been looking at Paulus for a while, Kulsrud said. Paulus' music is world-renowned, including a piece played during former President Ronald Reagan's funeral. Because Paulus is from St. Paul, Minn., he is also bringing a lot of local attention to the University. "It brings a lot of publicity from the Twin Cities," Kulsrud said. He has been contacted by several media organizations, including National Public Radio, Kulsrud said. Despite the prestige of the composer himself, the UW-RF Commissioned Composer Project has its own notoriety. "This is the 39th annual one we've done," Kulsrud said. The project is the longest running Commissioned Composer Project in the nation, Kulsrud said, and has been a host to many other famous composers of the past. According to the UW-RF Web site, composer and professor emeritus Conrad De Jong initiated the program in 1967 to ensure contemporary trends in American music would be included in the repertoire of UW-RF music students. UW-RF Music professor Lillian Tan has been at the University since the commissioned composer program's inception. Tan thinks all composers today probably know of the program. The program has received press attention numerous times, reaching audiences locally through the St. Paul Pioneer Press and even nationally through the Journal of the College Music Society. According to an article published in the Journal of the College Music Society in fall 1984, the project has made contemporary music at UW-RF like that of a "spring breeze, a vital, accessible, and self-renewing force."



Photo by Micheal Foley
Stephen Paulus (right) was commissioned to compose a musical piece for the UW-RF concert choir. The piece, entitled "Jubilate!," is scheduled for April 21.

This self-renewing force and the uniqueness of the program helped to bring this year's commissioned composer to UW-RF. "The Commissioned Composer Program is well known," Paulus said. "It's an honor to be involved." Paulus was on-campus April 20-21 to sit in on UW-RF music ensembles before the Commissioned Composer Concert April 21. Paulus' commissioned piece, "Jubilate!," was scheduled to premier at the concert. Paulus said he likes commissioning music pieces for a variety of sources. "I like a mix of schools, professional ensembles, solo performers," Paulus said. But as Paulus observed the UW-RF Concert Choir April 20, he said he was impressed by the caliber and musicianship at UW-RF. Paulus was amazed by the quality and commitment of the faculty and students as well. "It's fun to be here," Paulus said. Paulus is currently working on a musical piece for the Minnesota Orchestra. The UW-RF Concert Choir will perform Paulus' commissioned piece at the UW-RF Choral Ensemble Sunday.

An opinion without an owner is spineless at best

Being a journalist and a reporter for the Student Voice, I have noticed the enormous diversity of opinions at UW-River Falls. Displays like the Day of Silence or the College Republicans constant voice through letters to the editor are heartening signs of the pride of differing opinion on campus. In a society of free press and free expression (and personally as a journalist) I find that opinion is one of the driving factors of today's society. Yet one thing that still baffles me as an American citizen, is why someone would deliberately post an opinion and leave his or her name off of it. At the Student Voice we have a policy of not printing any letters that do not have names attached to them. This is for one simple reason - to verify the letter is the opinion of the person who wrote it and no one else. To me anyone who would write/post an opinion - negative or positive - without attaching a name to it is completely ball-less. Student Voice reporters and columnists attach their names to every story and opinion they

write. They not only risk their credibility, but also the credibility of the paper itself. Reporters in general are the true proliferators of free speech and the sole reason that the rest of the nation still has the right to express themselves in words and writing. Without a free press the government would have slammed the door on press and speech freedoms long ago. Meanwhile there are people out there who are ballsy enough to make highly opinionated comments and then not sign their names to them. Any spineless wimp can make an opinion if he or she doesn't have to own up to it. Recently another Student Voice colleague and I were surprised to find posters claiming the Student Voice was sensationalizing news and having a negative opinion. While this is a fabulous display of opinion, it means nothing because it isn't signed by anyone. And without attribution the opinion gets lost in the flood of other information on campus.

Instead of making it a Voice issue, my colleague and I decided to take matters into our own hands in a fun-loving way. As a display of our opinion we decided to proof-edit all the posters declaring the Student Voice's deficiencies. However, accompanying our opinion is one thing that sets it apart from all of the posters' creativity and opinion combined. OUR NAMES. I know many of you will see this as hypocrisy but the truth of the matter is I'm not afraid to let my opinion be known to the rest of the world. I will go to every extent to protect the freedoms of speech and press - primarily because my career depends on it. However, I do not condone opinions that are defamatory to other people or races. Hatred has no place and is purely a display of ignorance. But that is another issue all together. I hope this column exemplifies the risk that every reporter takes when he or she puts his or her name on a story or column. But if nothing else, the next time you want to express an opinion, have the balls to put your name along with it. I do.



ERIC EBERT

Any spineless wimp can make an opinion if he or she doesn't have to own up to it.

Fall 2005 editors selected

Editor



ERIC EBERT

Eric Ebert was selected to be the new editor of the Student Voice for the fall 2005. Ebert brings two years of experience in the newsroom serving as staff writer, assistant photo editor, photo editor and assistant editor.

Assistant Editor



AJ OSCARSON

AJ Oscarson will be the new assistant editor in the fall of 2005. Oscarson brings one year of experience as a copy editor and the front page editor to the job.

In a perfect world, everyone would write a letter to the editor.

If you have something to say, say it. Use the *Voice* as a way to tell people how you feel. All you have to do is write a letter, sign it, and leave it at 304 North Hall or send it as an e-mail to derrick.d.williams@uwrf.edu.

Freedom of speech is important. The *Student Voice* can be your voice.

PURCHASE A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE STUDENT VOICE!

Order now and receive a discount off the newstand price for next semester

If you drink ONE less drink per week for a year, you will save enough for a night out in a new outfit!

ONE DOLLAR A TIME...



What can you buy with \$143?

- A pair of Gap Jeans \$60
- An AE Shirt \$30
- An Old Navy Tank \$12
- Necklace \$12
- Applebees for two \$24
- A Starbucks Latte \$5

What to buy with the extra \$156?

- Jeans from Old Navy \$26
- Fossil Watch \$80
- Abercrombie Shirt \$12
- Tank of gasoline \$30
- Twins tickets for two \$8



Student Health Services 425-3293

According to the Core Alcohol and Drug Survey taken by you in 2002...54% of males drink 0-5 drinks per week, and 70% of females drink 0-3 drinks per week.

One less mixed drink, at an average cost of \$2.75 each, will save you \$143 a year!

One less beer, at an average cost of \$3.00 each, will save you \$156 a year!

It's time to move

Is off-campus living right for you?

Corey Hargreaves
Sports Editor

Congratulations. You've finally made it. You have upper-classman status. So why are you in the dorms? Is it because you don't want to leave the room that has been with you since day one, or do you simply not know what is out there for other living arrangements?

Many students who live on campus only know what is offered outside the dorms because they have received a flyer in the mail or know of other upperclassmen who have described their situations and experiences to the eager followers. Most of the companies, however, rely specifically on word of mouth to keep their advertising costs down and their renter turnout at a steady increase according to Jeanette Lange, a receptionist at Landmark Company.

"We don't usually do any advertising besides the mall sign out on the lawn to call Landmark Company" said Lange. "They (renters) usually find us before we find them."

The Clark Street spaces that Landmark Co. rents out are around \$660 a month, with two bedrooms, and an attached garage. They are two-level town homes with a bathroom on each level and a kitchen and living room on the main level, Lange said.

"Our customers have always had positive feedback when living at our town homes," Lange said. "We have a good property that has a lot to offer students."

Another apartment complex is the one located on Wildcat Court, rented out by Boisclair Co.

"We bought the properties on the north end of town in 2000," Shelli Stoddard of Boisclair Co. said. "We have had people that are between houses, or are in college, live with us since we've owned the place. It's nice to have loyalty."

Boisclair Co. offers numerous living arrangements. Starting with one bedroom apartments the company charges \$605 a month. The prices then increase to \$710 for a two bedroom or an \$850 a month charge for a three bedroom apartment. The company also has a special in which they charge \$655 a month if you rent for at least 13 months, Stoddard said.

Some of the features that the apartments offer are: a breakfast bar, new oak cabinetry, exercise equipment, a dishwasher and stove in each apartment and two parking stalls for each place.

Boisclair Co. also offers the option of buying a garage for \$40 a month.

One thing that makes these apartments stand out as an attraction to college students is the fact that Boisclair offers nine-month leases, so students don't have to break contract when the school year ends, Stoddard said.

The Sheridan apartments located behind Knowles Center is also known for being a place for college students to live when they move away from on-campus housing.

"I chose to live here because it's cheap," Erin Mc Conaughy, a resident at Sheridan said. "I didn't have a lot of options coming back from a semester abroad."

Sheridan does rank as one of the cheapest off-campus choices with right around a \$565 bill every month, including utilities, Mc Conaughy said.

Mc Conaughy also pointed out that the apartments aren't the most up to date living situations, but for the price, they work.

"The apartment is all around crappy, and can be noisy sometimes," Mc Conaughy



Photo by Corey Hargreaves

The Campusview townhomes are one of the options while choosing to live off-campus. Some of the housing options fill up quickly, leaving students without a place to live as they prepare to journey from the dorms.

said. "The walk to campus can be pretty long."

Sheridan offers coin operated laundry machines in the building. In the apartment, there is one bathroom, two bedrooms and a living room with a full kitchen. Also, each apartment offers two spots for parking.

The last apartments that will be mentioned are those owned by Sawdust City Real Estate.

Despite numerous attempts to reach the owner through phone calls, Sawdust chose not to comment on anything that their apartments have to offer students.

The company charges anywhere from \$1,340 a month to \$1,370 a month for each town home. In their town homes, they offer 5 bedrooms, a full kitchen and laundry machines free of charge. However, there is a charge for utilities that is right around \$30 a month. The town

homes are very close to campus, making them an excellent target for college students looking to move out of the dorms.

As for the reaction from the renters, Joe Schloegel said, "Simply don't rent from them."

"They have found ridiculous ways to fine us, like accusing us of egging cars when the people that supposedly reported us tried to explain to Sawdust that it wasn't us," Schloegel said. "We got charges out of our security deposit, and probably won't get it back."

Schloegel isn't the only renter from Sawdust who isn't happy with their management.

"Living off campus isn't too bad, except when having to deal with the landlord," senior Andy Ristau, a renter from Sawdust, said. "In most cases they charge you for something that needs to be repaired, and then don't fix anything."

For this reason some students choose to

remain on campus.

Becky Dobrinski, a sophomore at UW-RF, is planning on spending her entire college career in the dorms.

"I'm paying for all of my schooling, so I'm trying to cut down on extra costs," Dobrinski said. "Off campus you have to deal with utilities and here in the dorms it's easy."

Other students use the dorms as a back up plan when moving off campus doesn't go the way they had planned.

"I had a house lined up for this year, but then at the last second everyone bailed out on me," junior Ryan Peterson said. "It's been nice not dealing with landlords and other bills. Being on campus you have everything."

Staying on campus makes it easier to meet people and be involved, sophomore Shaun Priesgen said.

"Living off campus, you don't have people right there to do something with," Priesgen said. "If you live far from campus, you might have a tendency to not go to classes."

There are some students, particularly freshmen and sophomores, who have to spend the first few years on campus as a requirement at UW-RF.

"I think it's kind of dumb that they make you stay on campus your first few years," freshman Charlotte Kassera said. "With shortages for rooms, they should not require you to live in the

dorms."

Living outside of the dorms also has its benefits that make it worth moving.

"Living off campus, you'd have more freedom and no public safety," Dobrinski said. "There are more choices living off campus, like having a room bigger than a dorm room."

Ristau also enjoys some of the freedom that is allowed when living off-campus.

"Being in an apartment, I'm able to drink and grill out whenever I want to," Ristau said. "Here you really don't have to worry about being too loud for your neighbors, like while in the dorms."

Another major concern for people looking to move off campus is the availability of parking. Parking is a known problem around River Falls, and it is also a problem in some of the off-campus units. Most places offer two or three spots per apartment, making parking difficult, especially since some apartments can hold up to seven. The City of River Falls offers a street parking pass to all who can present a valid lease of where they are renting from.

"Parking is a big problem with living near campus," Ristau said. "Sometimes this means parking a few blocks away from your apartment."

Overall, it's a tossup to whether living off campus is right. There are differences that might be a challenge for some students, like keeping track of where friends are when not living in the dorms. It's issues like this that must be considered when making the transition from the dorms to the world outside the campus boundaries.

If you are looking for more freedom, your own personal space and are willing to put up with landlords and the extra costs of living away from campus, then moving to an apartment or town home is right for you.

CONSIDER THIS...

Some other costs you may have left out while living off campus:
(costs listed per person)

Garbage \$3 a month

Phone \$3 a month

Internet/basic TV hook-up \$9 a month

Utilities \$25-45 a month
(depending on use of heat)

Food \$50-100 a month

Something you should consider

After writing the story beside this column, there are a few issues I'd like to address that was briefly pointed out by fellow students. The issue involves a popular landowner in the River Falls area that goes by the name Sawdust City Real Estate.

Being a person who has rented from them the past few years, I wish I would have been more informed of how they actually go about the so called "business" that they do with those that rent their properties.

Enough beating around the bush, Sawdust flat out screws their residents over. Call me a bad person for coming right out, but from my understanding and speaking with a River Falls Building Inspector, it's time someone does get out and speak against their behaviors.

Examples are always necessary, so I shall begin. Lets start with our front door at my apartment. My fellow residents and I received a letter about our door on Sept. 9 2004, that was letting us know that we were being charged for a crack in the frame, which might I add had a brand new hinge put on covering the crack, that was added. The cost was estimated at \$200, which according to the inspector was slightly on the high side for a door frame.

We looked at it and analyzed that, yes, it was cracked. And since we didn't document the crack prior to our move in, we agreed to pay the cost ... since

we had already had the money removed from our deposit.

After, that we've received numerous hangings on our door to let us know that someone would be coming to repair the frame. Needless to say, no one came, and yet another sheet came giving us another day. We've built a collection of these notes, but have seen no result. A logical person at this point would say call them. Good luck.

Calling Sawdust consists of dealing with the rudest possible

receptionist a company could have. Upon calling to simply ask to speak with someone who could answer some question for me, I was hung up on, not once, but three times. Nice way to treat someone who is paying you on a monthly basis.

Oh yeah, and if you wanted to report this obnoxious employee to the owner, there's no way past the receptionist, so I'd suggest taking a road trip to Menominee, where the headquarters is located.

I'm not the only one who feels this way about the way this company treats those who lease from them. Joe Schloegel, who was mentioned in the story, told me how the company will try and dick their renters out of their deposit any way they can.

In closing, make a wise choice, do a little background on whom you may be renting from when you move off campus because you're locked in for a year. Sorry Joe, doubt we'll get our deposits back after this column, but hey ... as I see it, we never had it back.



COREY HARGREAVES



Photo by Corey Hargreaves

Living with numerous people off-campus, sinks can build up with dishes at a fast pace. This is one of the many challenges that students face while choosing to live away from campus housing.