



Falcons recruit freshman fullback Owen Schmitt. See B2

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Smokers may be asked to observe radius

Open forums show opinion mixed among smokers, non smokers; Chancellor to make final policy decision

Jen Cullen and Kyle Weaver
Editors

To some UW-River Falls students walking through a cloud of cigarette smoke to get to class is a meaningless obstacle. To others, it is the worst part of their day.

Now a recent proposal brought to UW-RF Chancellor Ann Lydecker by the University Committee on Health and Wellness to impose a 25-foot smoke-free radius around campus buildings is pitting the two diverging opinions against each other.

Proponents say the policy is based on student feedback; they want to help students protect other students from secondhand smoke. Smokers aren't so sure it's that big of a problem. They argue the University could be spending its time on something more important.

Two open forums were held this week to gather student input from smokers and nonsmokers about the proposed policy.

Although there is no scientific reason for choosing 25 feet, Jennifer Elsesser, UW-RF tobacco education coordinator, said a radius would give people the option of avoiding secondhand smoke near building entrances. It

will also prevent smoke from going into buildings through open windows and ventilation systems.

"The policy is not anti-smoker," Elsesser said. "It's anti-smoke and the problems it causes."

But some students are reluctant to say secondhand smoke is as big of a problem as it's made out to be.

"I don't think walking through a cloud for one second is that big of a deal," sophomore Mary Staiger said.

But, as it stands right now, students and staff won't be making the decision about whether the policy should be implemented.

Based on notes taken by Dean of Students Roger Ballou at the open forums held Wednesday and Thursday, Lydecker will make the policy decision and its implementation.

"After this, the ball will be in her court," Ballou said.

Ballou wasn't certain when the policy would be enforced if signed by Lydecker. He suspected a spring semester start date.

While it's unknown when and if the policy will take place, the Committee on Health and Wellness already has the basic ideas mapped out.

The radius would be enforced based on an honor system; no penalties would be enforced for students who choose to disobey the policy.

Ashtrays would be placed in what Elsesser called "sensible" places on campus. Decals would be placed on doors stating the policy.

Elsesser is hopeful the policy will become reality.

See RADIUS, A6



Photo by Eric Ebert

Ben Neeser would no longer be able to light up outside KFA if a current proposal is passed to require students, staff and faculty to stand 25 feet away from each building on campus.

BUGGING OUT



Photo Illustration by Teresa Schmitt

The Asian Beetle has overtaken UW-River Falls and this is not an unusual behavior for the species. In the late fall the beetles congregate in large numbers on the sides of homes and other buildings trying to work their way inside. They are looking for a warm place to hibernate during the winter. The beetles come in through small cracks, crevices, natural breaks in window panes, door jams or foundations as temperatures decrease. There is an attraction to lighter colored buildings and especially to those illuminated by the sun. When the temperatures warm up during the spring, the beetles begin showing movement and try to exit the buildings they hibernated in for the winter. The best way to get rid of the beetles once they enter a building is a vacuum.

Information gathered from:
www.doyourownpestcontrol.com

Mayor acquitted of battery charge

Jen Cullen
Editor

After a two-day jury trial last week, River Falls Mayor Eric Amundsen was acquitted Friday of a misdemeanor battery charge.

The charge resulted from an incident that took place last October in a downtown River Falls alley behind Bo's 'N Mine Bar on Main Street.

Amundsen was accused of striking UW-River Falls student Robert Klingforth with a baseball bat in the elbow and back.

Amundsen pleaded not guilty to the charge last December.

The fight began when Amundsen said he was defending a friend who was being beaten up by Klingforth and another man.

In the police report, Amundsen

told police he saw the situation as "threatening" and felt the bat was necessary.

When Amundsen testified, he admitted to hitting Klingforth in self-defense. Amundsen's lawyer, Aaron Nelson, said the bat was used because the other men were bigger than Amundsen.

The bat used in the incident was never found.

Amundsen was facing a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or nine months in prison.

Four other individuals were given \$162 citations for their involvement in the incident.

Amundsen will face another jury Jan. 16 in connection with a separate incident. Amundsen was charged last February with disorderly conduct. He was accused getting into a verbal fight with City Council member Tom Parent outside of Whole Earth Grocery.

Amundsen pleaded not guilty to the charge and could face up to a \$1,000 fine and 90 days in jail if convicted.

Conceal, carry: Opinions vary

Wisconsin Legislature discussing bill enabling residents to conceal registered firearms in public

Danielle M. Garvey
Staff Writer

A state Supreme Court ruling last month gave Wisconsin residents the right to have concealed weapons in their homes or their privately owned businesses.

The Wisconsin Legislature is trying to take it one step further.

A conceal/carry bill currently being discussed by the State Legislature would enable Wisconsin residents to carry concealed firearms in public. Wisconsin would join 45 states that have already passed similar bills.

According to wire service reports, public hearings on the bill with the joint committee of Wisconsin Assembly and Senate members will begin shortly.

The bill, as it is currently written, prohibits conceal/carry permit holders from carrying weapons in taverns, police stations, sheriff's offices, state patrol stations, prisons and jails. School grounds and school zones would continue to be prohibited as dictated by the current law.

While colleges and universities in Wisconsin are currently not exempt, Wisconsin Senator Sheila Harsdorf, is pushing for an amendment to be made to the bill.

Harsdorf said she supports the bill on the basic premise that citizens have the right to protect themselves.

Virgil Nylander, UW-River Falls vice chancellor for administration and finance, said he hopes that if the bill gets passed, UW-RF will be one place where guns are not allowed.

Harsdorf said the bill would allow law-abiding citizens to protect themselves, their business and family.

Not just any resident, however, would be allowed to carry a concealed weapon.

The Legislature is currently looking into the details that allow for protection as well as exemption.

With the restrictions, Harsdorf said residents must be

at least 21 years old and mentally competent to carry a concealed weapon. They cannot be chemically or alcohol dependent or have any felony convictions and also must undergo a background check.

Harsdorf said the bill would give citizens the freedom to carry a weapon in places where they don't feel very safe.

Although some faculty and students said the bill would make them feel safer, others disagreed.

Senior Niki Siedschlag said the bill would give too many people the opportunity to use a gun as a first resort in a conflict. She said it would also make criminals out of law-abiding citizens.

"It's scary," Siedschlag said. "I don't like the idea of my professor or classmates having weapons on campus."

James Pratt, UW-RF communications professor, agreed.

"Handguns should be banned," Pratt said. "I feel very unsafe being surrounded by other people that are armed."

Senior John Laughlin said he would feel less secure if people had guns on campus.

"If you walk out your front door and are so afraid that you feel you have to carry a gun to feel safe, it is not the time to have a gun," Laughlin said. "It's time to hire a psychiatrist."

Pratt said he doesn't feel as safe in Minnesota since their bill has passed.

Kathleen Olsen, professor of speech communication and theatre arts disagreed.

"I don't worry about people carrying concealed weapons," Olsen said. "How do I know they don't have them now?"

Olsen said she would not carry a weapon on campus or around town, but would consider putting one in her car or taking a handgun camping.

Grounds crew works harder as campus grows, budget shrinks

Mike Foley
Sports Editor

When many current students have long since graduated, the green UW-River Falls campus could be reduced to a brown dust bowl. The campus buildings that now stand among mighty trees and lush shrubs could be dull brick structures in conjoined sandlots.

As the most-recent round of budget cuts strike UW-RF grounds maintenance, the campus grounds-keepers are working to prevent such a future.

Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Virgil Nylander realizes the groundskeepers face tough times as the campus grows.

This year grounds maintenance has a \$34,000 budget. The department took a 5 percent cut totaling about \$1,700. This is only the most recent round of cuts to hit grounds maintenance.

"The result of these continuing budget cuts will be a general and gradual decline of the University's grounds," said Grounds Maintenance Supervisor Manny Kenney. "You will also notice some services may take longer than they have in the past. Maybe snow won't



Photo by Mike Foley

Outside the Kleinpell Fine Arts building, a groundskeeper mulches leaves. The grounds maintenance budget took a 5 percent cut, about \$1,700.

be removed as quickly because our equipment is down, but it will still be removed."

Most department budgets were also cut about 5 percent. Some were cut more and some less, but 5 percent is reasonable, Nylander said.

Though upkeep of campus grounds is important to administrators, it isn't as important as academics.

"Our first priority is instruction," Nylander said. "That is what we are, an education institution. Even

though it would hurt terribly, I would rather see a few more weeds growing in the grass than fewer teachers in the classrooms."

Nylander is also concerned that a decline in campus beauty would affect student and faculty recruiting and retention. He said when people visit campus, how it looks affects their decisions to attend.

While letting a few more weeds

See CREW, A6

BRIEFS

Study abroad fair

There will be a Study Abroad Fair Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Falcon's Nest of the Student Center. Contact the office of International Programs at 425-4891 for more information.

Travel to Belize

The Belize study tour will meet Oct. 15 at 4:05 p.m. in 141 KFA. Students interested in participating in the spring break study tour should attend. Students interested in joining a summer study tour or an internship or other volunteer opportunities should also attend or speak with professor Edward Robins.

Benefits Fair

There will be a Benefits Fair on campus Oct. 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Regents Room of the Student Center. Tentatively, a representative from Humana, Atrium, Blue Cross, Valley Health, TIAA-CREF, Lincoln National and Long Term Care will be attending. There will also be a representative from Employee Trust Funds in the afternoon to answer any questions regarding health insurance.

Pre-Med Society

The UW-RF Pre-Medical Society will meet Oct. 14, at 6 p.m. in the fish bowl of Centennial Science Hall.

Immunization Clinic

There is an immunization clinic offered in the Kinnickinnic room of the Student Center Oct. 29 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Appointments

are not necessary. For questions or more information contact Student Health Services at 425-3293.

Deadline extension

The deadlines for the deposit and fee payment for the J-term Irish Literature and Politics class in Ireland have been extended. There are still a few spaces left for the class/tour. Contact Ken Olson at 425-3537 for more information

Book Fair

The Tomorrow's Educators Club will be holding a Scholastic Book Fair from Oct. 13 to Oct. 16 in the lobby area of the Wyman Education building. It will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

Cheerleaders Needed

UW-RF Falcon Cheerleading is looking for members to fill the winter season's basketball and hockey squads. Tryouts will take place Oct. 14-16. If you have any questions call Sara Conrad at 425-2850.

Study Abroad in Taiwan

Students can study in the fall or spring semester at Shih Hsin University in Taiwan. Tuition, room and board are free; deadline is Oct. 24. For more information visit the International Programs office in 105 Davee Library.

Benefit Dinner

There will be a World Food Day benefit Dinner Oct. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Journey House. A \$5 donation is suggested. The donation goes to a local food shelter

Tennis courts inadequate for play

Mike Longaecker
Staff Writer

It doesn't exactly conjure up images of Wimbledon. They are flanked to the south by a massive crane, scores of construction trailers and the roar of passing cement trucks. To the east -- where spectators stand--is a bare plot of dirt stretching the length of the courts.

Welcome to tennis at UW-River Falls. Due to construction of the new residence hall and budget shortfalls, the tennis facilities at UW-RF are what Head Women's Tennis Coach Lee Lueck called the worst he's seen.

"I've been to eastern Wisconsin universities, all state universities, many Minnesota universities," Lueck said. "I've yet to see a high school with worse tennis facilities than UW-RF."

The noise of passing construction vehicles, as well as dust levels produced from the nearby construction site pose significant challenges for Lueck and his players.

"I had to yell at the top of my lungs to the players at practice," Lueck said of the noise.

Lueck joked that at one point, the dust levels on the court made for "real clay court tennis."

Senior tennis player Jordan Anderson said that at times there has been "a big dust cloud that covers the courts."

The UW-RF women's tennis team currently practices and competes on the four courts behind Crabtree Hall. Lueck said he has to put 12 players on four courts -- a situation he says detracts from singles play.

"Players have not been able to work on the singles game strategies or get in condition to play competitive singles," Lueck said.

Amanda Gray, a senior tennis player, called the lack of courts "bad for coaching."

Lueck said he needs a minimum of six courts to bring the facilities to a minimum standard.

Athletic Director Rick Bowen agreed.

"Our problem currently is not the quality of the courts, but the number of courts available," Bowen said.

Although the courts behind Crabtree Hall were re-surfaced last year, Lueck said they are the last remaining vestiges of playable courts on campus. He said that two upper courts at Crabtree have been removed for new day care.

The still-standing courts closest to the Ames Teacher Education Building have been condemned for play by the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, Lueck said. He noted that the Ames courts are slated for destruction for the new Student Center's parking lot.

Trying to get the problem resolved, Lueck and Assistant Coach Tim Thum



Photo by Eric Ebert

Condemned tennis courts behind the Ames Teacher Education Building leave the UW-River Falls women's tennis team to practice on insufficient courts behind Crabtree Hall.

have turned to the University's administration for help.

Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance Virgil Nylander has put in a request to the state's Building Commission for the construction of six new courts, proposed to be located behind the Knowles Physical Education building.

The proposed space is currently occupied by the women's softball field. The existing men's baseball field, which, according to the request is no longer used for varsity athletics, would be converted into the women's softball field.

The cost of the new facilities is \$201,500. Funding would come from the state's general fund, according to the proposal.

Anderson said that new courts "would be really nice."

For Bowen, the reality of new tennis facilities remains grim.

"I was very excited about getting new tennis courts when I thought the new HHP building was going to be a reality in the next three to five years," Bowen said. "It appears that this now is just not going to happen."

According to Campus Planner Dale Braun, the University won't know until the second week of November if the proposal will be on the state's agenda.

Despite the conditions of their home courts, the women's tennis team is currently 12-1 in overall play.

STUDENT SENATE

King booted from Senate ballot

Eric Quade
Chief Copy Editor

The tension level at last Tuesday's Student Senate meeting was tangible, as Senator Joan Wierzbza successfully motioned for the removal of James W. King from the Student Senate's electoral ballot.

The motion stemmed from an anonymous grievance filed against King, stating he "had a large sign in the Leadership Center that was supporting people to vote for James W. King."

Secondly, the grievance states that King "made his large sign with materials from the Leadership Center" when such student-funded materials should be free from political use.

Responding to the criticism, King stood up from the audience and argued he was denied due process guaranteed by the Constitution. King said he could appeal the Senate's ruling following the grievance if he wished, but there was no mechanism for him to challenge the grievance itself.

During the discussion part of the motion, both sides of the issue chimed in.

Ethics Chair Charles Packard said the Senate had no choice but to take action against King.

"We can't just let this go," Packard said. "The by-laws say we have to punish him."

Senator Leon Gbee felt the issue wasn't so easily decided. Gbee reminded senators of the trouble

they have run into trying to keep all their positions filled and wondered if they should not reconsider.

"Given all the work he's done for students, I think Jim King deserves a second chance," Gbee said. "He didn't kill anybody."

Although he could, in theory, recover from losing his name on the ballot via Senate appointment, King may still face disciplinary fines.

Under by-law article 6, section B, number 2, the penalty for using state tax dollars, tuition or segregated university fee money for campaigning includes a "monetary fine" along with the loss of "the violator's right to run in a Student Association election."

In other Senate related news:

—A motion officially instating the Legal Services program passed. This new program has currently signed one lawyer, allowing students to receive limited, free legal advice. Legislative Affairs Chair Katie Kneissel, the program's founder, is trying to get more lawyers to join the cause.

—A motion to support the proposed 25-foot non-smoking radius around campus buildings was tabled until next week's meeting, pending a campus-wide forum on the issue scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday of next week to be held in the Student Center's International Room.

The Student Senate will meet again next week at 7 p.m. in the Regents Room of the Student Center.

New senators share plans for year

Senate welcomes nine of eleven candidates

Kate Camplin
Lucas Pokorny
Staff Writers

Though the element of surprise associated with winning was non-existent, the nine new student senators elected last week are excited to start their duties.

Of the eight names on the ballot, seven were elected. Two additional senators were elected as a result of write-ins. The new senators are: Joe Eggers, Johnathan Gavin, Katherine Leisch, Jessica Erickson, Samantha Hanson, Adam Koski, Leon Gbee, Jeremy Kerg and Mara Bryan. James King, whose name was on the ballot, was also elected. At the Tuesday night meeting, however, Senate voted unanimously to remove King's name from the ballot. The vote-in response to King's illegal use of student funds for campaigning-nullified the votes he received. As a result, King was not appointed to a senator position. King was given a chance to speak on his own behalf at the meeting. Since there are still Senate seats open, King has the option of reapplying for the position.

Some of the student senators began their term sharing thoughts on the most talked about issues at UW-RF.

Leon Gbee

Gbee is a foreign exchange student from Sudan, Africa. He is a junior at UW-RF majoring in sociology. Gbee's response about the pro-

posed smoking radius is the result of his personal encounters.

"The smoking radius is a good idea because some people when they smell smoke get irritated, like me," he said. "People that want to have fun and smoke can go farther away and have fun smoking and not have to worry about people telling them not to smoke."

Samantha Hanson

Hanson feels implementing the smoking radius on campus would be difficult.

"I think that there is no way they are ever going to be able to enforce this rule, so there shouldn't be one. Smokers and non-smokers should just treat each other with common courtesy."

Hanson, also a freshman, is from Osceola, Wis.

Katherine Leisch

Leisch decided to run for Senate for a few reasons.

"I really have an interest in politics and the process. Also, my brother-in-law went here and he was involved with it and had a really good experience."

Leisch, a freshman from Dresser, Wis., sees the parking issue as something that will only be getting worse.

"I understand and agree that the community of River Falls has priority over commuters and that the city wants to 'alleviate traffic congestion,'" Leisch said. "However, I often hear my peers (who commute) criticize the newly implemented parking system and I sympathize with them, especially as winter approaches. The trek to class will prove to be a bit more than uncomfortable."

Adam Koski

Koski is a freshman from River

Joe Eggers: 155 votes	Samantha Hanson: 135 votes
Johnathan Gavin: 155 votes	Adam Koski: 128 votes
James King: 136 votes	Leon Gbee: 124 votes
Katherine Leisch: 154 votes	Jeremy Kerg: 35 votes
Jessica Erickson: 147 votes	Mara Bryan: 23 votes

Source: Student Senate office.

Falls and is majoring in social studies. Koski questions how much of an impact Senate can have when it comes to unavoidable tuition increases.

"A lot of this comes from the state and I am not sure how much Student Senate is able to help out."

Jessica Erickson

Erickson feels that the tuition increase may be a necessary evil. "I would rather pay more for tuition then see programs and classes be cut."

Erickson, a sophomore from Pepin, Wis., believes that Senate is a good starting point for future political aspirations. She ran because she feels strongly about letting people know about what is going on and helping them.

Mara Bryan

Bryan, a senior majoring in elementary education, ran for Senate because she has seen a lot of changes on campus and decided to become involved.

Bryan commented on the importance of student evaluations of professors and that they need to be

updated. "We need open-ended questions in order to get student input," she said.

Joe Eggers

Eggers, a freshman majoring in political science, ran for Senate hoping to help other students.

Eggers also feels student evaluations are important.

"I believe students have the right to evaluate teachers," he said. "After all, we are the ones paying their salaries, we should have at least some say in what goes on with professors."

Jeremy Kerg

Kerg is from Eau Galle, Minn. He ran for Senate because he felt with the lack of student athletes involved in Senate, he could be an important voice.

Kerg believes that the parking situation is unfair for football players.

"I have a problem at Rammer Field because some of our student athletes have to pay to park at Ramer only to go to practice."

Johnathan Gavin was not available for comment.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Crabtree resident urinates on furniture

Anne Cloeter
Staff Writer

—Friday morning, a resident of Crabtree Hall called Public Safety after Josh J. Dahlke, 18, urinated on his furniture. After he pushed the resident out of the room, Dahlke climbed in the top bunk of the resident's bed. A Public Safety officer and a River Falls police officer arrived and pulled him out of the bed despite his resistance. Dahlke admitted to drinking 10 beers and received a \$243 underage consumption citation.

—Katie J. Faruour, 18, was found allegedly intoxicated and sick in a bathroom in Crabtree Hall Saturday night. An RA called Public Safety and an officer spoke to her in the bathroom. Faruour admitted to drinking four beers and was issued an underage consumption citation for \$243.

—Saturday night, River Falls police officers were called to South Main Street for a noise complaint. Nicholas R. Terry, 20, answered the door and the officers proceeded to ask questions about the loud music that caused the noise complaint. Officers suspected that Terry had been drinking and issued a \$164 citation for underage consumption. In the apartment, they found a stop sign and bike sign that belonged to the city. Terry stated that the signs had been there when he moved in and they did not belong to him. The officers confiscated the signs.

—Sunday morning, an RA in Stratton Hall reported an allegedly intoxicated male on the second floor. Both Joshua J. Novak, 19, and Sean A. Callier, 19, were found in the room and admitted to drinking earlier that night. They each received a \$243 ticket for underage consumption.

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Student decision makers visit to ‘speak their minds’

United Council General Assembly gives students chance to be heard

Brianna Biebighauser
Staff Writer

UW-River Falls will be invaded by approximately 100 students Oct. 17 and 18, as the United Council hosts its General Assembly for the second time in the past two years.

“Last year we hosted one and so this year we weren’t supposed to be up to the plate,” Student Senate President Matt Schuelke said. “But since other campuses had prior engagements, River Falls stepped up and opted to host it.”

The United Council of UW students is a student-powered organization that focuses on building relationships with political parties in order to represent the UW System, said Jeff Pertl, president of the United Council.

The General Assembly is a meeting in which representatives from UW campuses and UC members come together to discuss issues that affect the UW system. Topics range from student fees to the new Add-A-Regent bill. There are approximately eight GA’s a year.

After a 5 p.m. check-in Friday, students will break off into committees that include shared governance, women’s issues and legislative. While in the committee meetings, an agenda for the next day will be formed.

“This is a student directed organization,” Pertl said.

“So, even though an agenda has been established, any person at any time may bring up a new topic for discussion.”

Around midnight the group will break for the evening. They will come back the next morning to conduct a large meeting in which everyone is invited to speak up about the topics being discussed.

Schuelke said this is a great platform for students to come out and “speak their mind” about present issues. “Students pay into this organization,” Schuelke said. “I feel it is important that they have a chance to get involved.”

With larger schools such as Madison and Milwaukee in the mix, the influence of a smaller school such as UW-RF comes into question often, Pertl said.

“Each school has a certain amount of votes depending on their size, but they’re all scaled so that one doesn’t have all the power,” Pertl said. “River Falls and a lot of other four-year schools really have the ability to move issues when they come together.”

Schuelke remains humble about the role that River Falls plays in the United Council and admits that their involvement in the UC is not outstanding, but definitely “average and better than some.”

Whether they’re taking center stage or just another piece of the puzzle, Schuelke and other Senate members are excited to have the GA back at UW-RF.

“Overall, I think it’s going to have a positive impact on this campus,” Student Senate Diversity Issues Director Lisa Weinreich said. “Since it’s on our campus, UW-RF students are able to come and be heard.”

Tentative plans for the next General Assembly are for December at the University of Wisconsin-Rock County.

BEATLE BRASS

Photo by Teresa Schmitt

Junior Jordan Warfield and four other members of the Cascade Avenue Brass Quintet, a student-led ensemble composed of members from the UW-RF Brass Ensemble, played a concert in the amphitheater Oct. 8. The group likes to play a lot of music from the Beatles.

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EDITORIAL

Cancer shouldn't be a laughing matter

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Usually a sorely under-reported and unheard of problem at UW-River Falls, the Student Senate Women's Initiatives Committee is launching a button campaign to raise awareness about the issue.

The committee is currently working on two button designs. Apparently, one of the buttons will read "love the boobs." The other will read "save the bosoms."

What a horrible and degrading way to raise awareness about a serious and emotional issue. Far from funny, breast cancer should be symbolized by something more honorable, not a catchy saying that makes people laugh, roll their eyes or feel uncomfortable.

Sure, the buttons will effectively catch people's attention and probably bring in a lot of money to donate to charity. It's just too bad people will probably buy them for all the wrong reasons.

It's great the committee wants to make money, but the line needs to be drawn somewhere; the negative underlying theme of the buttons isn't worth the agony they could bring to some people.

The buttons will merely be something people buy for a good laugh, to stick on their backpacks as a joke or to make fun of. Maybe next time a political entity wants to raise awareness, they should use a slogan that's a little more politically correct.

Many breast cancer survivors undergo mastectomies and lose either one or both breasts. Wearing a button that says "love the boobs" or "save the bosoms" is degrading and offensive. The buttons would only be making light of a traumatizing event.

Without a doubt, more men will probably purchase the buttons. But not in an attempt to become aware. More than likely, the motivation behind their purchase would fall in line with thinking the button is a great sexually-related decoration.

While committee members have the right idea in trying to raise awareness, they should have thought about the repercussions of their actions. Some serious thought should have been put into their slogan decision. A simple pink ribbon or common slogan would have sufficed. If the committee is concerned about making more money for a charity, they should ditch the demeaning idea and do some more campaigning.

Setting up tables, making posters and having speakers about breast cancer would all be acceptable ways of educating the campus and making students and staff more aware about the

issue at hand.

Instead, the buttons will merely be something people buy for a good laugh, to stick on their backpacks as a joke or to make fun of.

Apparently, nobody on Senate realized what a horrible idea the button slogans are. At this week's Senate meeting, the senators—both old and new—sat silently and without opinion as the Women's Initiatives Director Barb Lind excitedly told the Senators about the buttons.

A few giggles probably could be heard throughout the room. That should have been the first red flag. But nobody said a word. The Senators sat there and stared like deer in the headlights. Either they were in shock at the absurd idea or didn't put two and two together to realize the idea was anything but good. Instead of questioning the button slogans and wondering if it would be in the best interests of all the students at hand, the senators gave it the thumbs up without thinking twice. Let's hope that Senate isn't so quick to follow along on other important issues.

Maybe next time a Senate committee wants to raise awareness, they should use a slogan that's a little more politically correct.

SENATE REPRESENTATIVES

President:	Matt Schuelke
Vice President:	Brandon Bruder
Finance:	Joan Wierzba
Women's Initiatives:	Barbara Lind
Legislative Affairs:	Katie Kneissel
Diversity Issues:	Lisa Weinreich
Shared Governance:	Emilee Driscoll
Parliamentarian/ethics:	Charles Packard
Student affairs,	
academic services:	Nick Cluppert
Senators at large:	
Tim Bowers	Dave Crass
Samantha Hanson	Bobby Pederson
Adam Koski	Joe Eggers
Leon Gbee	Johnathan Gavin
Jeremy Kerg	Kathryn Leisch
Mara Bryan	Jessica Erickson

Student Senate meetings are Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the Regents Room of the Student Center. The Senate office is located in the Leadership Center. For more information about student governance call 425-3011 or visit www.uwrf.edu/student-senate

Elton John, musician and NFL expert speaks to Jay Leno about Rush Limbaugh



"I'm glad he got fired, I don't know why ESPN hired him in the first place."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lawyer here for more than rent issues

Last week a very well written article was in the Student Voice entitled, "Lawyer to aid students with landlord disputes." Judging by the title and the content of the article, a student would be led to assume that the Legal Services program created by Student Senate was purely for landlord/tenant issues. This is not the case.

The Legal Services program does involve land-

lord/tenant issues, but the lawyer is open for so much more. Joe Boles, the lawyer involved in the program, is willing to discuss any issue that affects students. From driving violations, to drinking tickets, to public indecency, the lawyer is willing to answer questions on many topics so he can help as many students as possible.

Students can use this service by stopping by the

Student Senate office in the back of the Leadership Center and ask for Joe Boles' phone number at any time. He does ask that the calls stick to emergency situations only.

Katie Kneissel
Legislative Issues Director
Student Association Student Senate

Smoking ban smells worse than smoke

I am not a smoker nor have I ever been, unless the occasional celebratory cigar or pipe counts.

I've made my choice and I don't think any less of people who have made theirs. That's what respecting other people's choices and cultures is supposed to be about.

But now those ideals are being challenged. The University, it seems, is considering telling smokers to take a 25 foot hike.

In order to reduce non-smoker's encounters with second-hand smoke, a 25 foot smoking ban is being considered for adoption around all campus buildings. That means smokers you see outside the Kleinpell Fine Arts building and the Student Center will be asked to move out from their shelters onto the lawns and sidewalks, thus giving up their freedom to smoke where they want—as long as it's outside.

Some of the facts being pulled from a Student Health Services survey state that 93.2 percent of students surveyed feel they should be protected from secondhand smoke.

Though surveys of this type are rarely completely representative—the surveyors have not surprisingly omitted its margin of error—I must admit that the number includes me.

I feel I have a right to not inhale someone else's cigarette smoke. But I don't expect smokers to relocate because I choose to protect my lungs. I practice a little-known technique called holding my breath. With a little discretion, it really doesn't cost me or smokers anything. It can even be fun at times, especially if you do it for a really long time.

Tobacco Education Coordinator Jennifer Elsesser said in the first of the two open forum meetings, held on Oct. 8 and 9, that the proposal is not anti-smoker, it's anti-smoke. Elsesser also said that one objective is to create barriers to encourage smokers to be healthier and to quit.

Smokers, who already must smoke outside and endure the weather year round, must now stand 25 feet from the building and be rained or snowed on. In addition to being cold, they'll now be wet and unshielded from the wind.

This isn't a healthier option, it's a great way to catch pneumonia; and it's for their own good.

In considering the issue, the open forums were facilitated by Dean of Students Roger Ballou, who took notes on behalf of Chancellor Ann Lydecker.

Those are some pretty important people paying attention to this issue, especially when there are incredibly more important issues they could be dealing with. Perhaps enormous budget shortfalls aren't enough to keep them busy.

Furthermore, the new proposal would require an already overworked and underpaid Facilities Management staff to hold off on fixing toilets, mowing lawns and emptying trash cans to place "signage, receptacles, etc. in appropriate and non-intrusive locations around our campus buildings," according to a campus-wide e-mail Lydecker sent.

Instead of having stubborn non-smokers tough it out and hold their breath for a second or two while they walk past we're wasting human resources on signs and ashtrays.

The issue has even been taken up by the Student Senate.

In addition to a Senate motion by Diversity Issues Chair Emilee Driscoll to support the proposal, two senators favored the motion at the Oct. 7 meeting by complaining. Both claimed they could smell cigarette smoke from their third floor dorm room windows.

I highly doubt that in either case the offending smokers were directly below the windows, especially considering that many dorms on campus have already asked smokers to maintain a 25-foot radius. For the sake of argument, though, I'll assume they were directly below. The smoke would still have to travel at least 20 feet, probably more, to reach a third floor window. If 20 vertical feet aren't enough of an air cushion, who's to say 25 horizontal feet are. Never mind the fact that it wouldn't have been all that difficult for them to simply shut their windows and wait 10 minutes for the smoker to leave. Let's

KYLE WEAVER

face it. Sometimes smoke is going to blow into your open window.

Thankfully, the motion was tabled until next week's meeting so that, perhaps, senators can more thoroughly examine the proposal's implications. I would argue that they probably haven't up until now.

The argument was also made that the proposal mirrors other UW System campuses. So what? Do we have to be exactly like every other campus in the system? I'm very proud of the fact that I go to UW-RF and not to UW-Stout or some other campus. But it sounds to me that UW-RF is being encouraged to jump off a proverbial bridge like other campuses.

The proposal would have smokers maintaining their 25-foot no-fire zone on an "honor system" basis. By that they mean to turn smokers against each other and non-smokers against smokers. Some smokers I've spoken with said they won't observe the radius. Good for them. But I happen to know there are plenty of whiny non-smokers who will be nagging them for it.

The college experience, we are taught, is supposed to open our eyes to differences in people. Some people are of different races. Some people have different sexual preferences. Some people choose to pollute their lungs with tobacco. But none of them should be limited to sitting in the back of the bus, staying in the closet or smoking 25 feet from campus buildings.

"I feel I have a right to not inhale someone else's cigarette smoke. But I don't expect smokers to relocate because I choose to protect my lungs. I practice a little-known technique called holding my breath."

Have a problem with something written in the Voice? Write a letter to the editor. Letters must be signed and have a valid phone number. Drop yours off at 304 North Hall by Wednesday at noon.

Student Voice

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

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

Letters concerning coverage or content should be directed to: Editorial Board, 304 North Hall, UW-River Falls, 54022.

The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of

the newspaper's adviser, student population, administration, faculty or staff.

All letters to the editor must be legible and contain a first and last name and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published.

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 per person per week will be accepted. The student re-

tains reprint rights to all published material.

All letters to the editor, news releases and briefs, display ads, and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon for inclusion in Thursday's edition.

Single copies of the Student Voice are free. If you wish to purchase additional copies, contact the editor. Printing costs are paid for through student fees.

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Editor
Jen Cullen
Assistant Editor
Kyle Weaver
Front Page Editor
Tiffany Shelman
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Karyn Nelson
Anne Cloeter

General Manager
Kate Marzinske
Ad Manager
Jess Erlitz
Business Manager
Dawn Stoffel
Adviser
Pat Berg
Editorial office: 304 North Hall
Phone: 425-3118
Business office: 304B North Hall
Phone: 425-3624
Fax: 425-0684
E-mail: tsveditor@uwrf.edu
Website: www.uwrf.edu/student-voice

Saved by civil liberties; a great 'technicality'

My last column left off while I was discussing the nefarious effect of the U.S. Patriot Act upon our precious civil liberties. This week I would like to relate a personal tale of why I am thankful for the protections of the Constitution, now threatened by John Ashcroft and his power-mongering ilk.

Less than a year ago, I was sitting in class when I was interrupted by a UW-River Falls program assistant requesting that I immediately phone my sister. When I returned the call, I discovered that my mom and sister had been visited by a police officer asking about my whereabouts. This was perplexing, since other than financial mismanagement caused by my impoverished student lifestyle, my life will sadly never be fodder for a true-crime thriller or a sleazy biography. My anxiety-prone mom was in panic, but I chuckled, as I knew I could not possibly have done anything that could get me into trouble.

My calm waned as the Keystone Cop shenanigans of the area police department—not River Falls, but not far away—left me twisting in the wind for one and a half days wondering what they wanted with me. The officer could not talk to me over the phone and her "schedule" did not permit an investigator meeting. When I was finally able to see the investigator I learned about what I had been doing and where I had been in a local depart-

ment store. Photographs were taken and I was told they would be used as "mug shots" with those of other suspects in a line-up. The officer said I would discover the results of this process in about one week. A month later the Keystone Cops were still working and I did not find out the results until I, after several failed attempts, finally reached the investigating officer.

I knew I was not guilty, but as a psych major I am keenly aware of the preponderance of psychological evidence that points to the unreliability of eyewitness testimony. I did not want to be misidentified and put through the meat-grinding judicial process, having my reputation tarnished based on faulty eyewitness account. Fortunately, everything worked as it should and despite the excessive waiting and lack of communication from the police, I was officially declared free of suspicion.

Given the unprofessional, ham-fisted handling of the incident by the Keystone Cops I was glad to live in a country that guaranteed due process of law, so I would not be rotting in a jail pending their investigation, held incommunicado or subjected to coercive interrogation.



JIM MACTAVISH

My case is a minor example, though it did not seem so insignificant to me at the time. However, the need for civil liberties protections and due process can be seen in larger miscarriages of justice in America's past: the "anti-subversive" Palmer Raids, the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, the persecutions of the McCarthy era, J. Edgar Hoover's politically motivated surveillance of civil rights and anti-war activists and politicians, the mid-1970s abuses by the CIA and NSA who used electronic surveillance to spy on anti-Vietnam War activists and the release of several death row inmates based on new DNA evidence that proved many who were convicted were not guilty—to such a worrying extent that Illinois' conservative Republican governor George Ryan halted death row executions.

The Constitutional protections against police overzealousness, honest mistakes and occasional ineptitude are important for all American citizens, despite the fact that they are often derisively referred to as mere "technicalities" impeding investigation. In these times of media sensationalism and national crisis, law enforcement and intelligence officers are bound to make mistakes or surrender to overzealousness in what they, rightly or wrongly, believe is the pursuit of jus-

tice. As history shows, the blanket of suspicion can be cast quite wide and without the protection of our rights innocents—perhaps even you—can be swept up by hysteria or mishap.

If Ashcroft and his ilk have their way, my advice to you is: Don't write a check in a department store where something untoward is occurring. Being in the wrong place at the wrong time could be hazardous to your life and liberty, because in Ashcroft's America all those lovely Constitutional rights that kept my uncomfortable situation from escalating into a thoroughly unjust one will be ancient history.

To insure that those rights do not become ancient history, here are a few sources for you to, as Public Enemy put it so well, "Fight the powers that be."

American Civil Liberties Union: <http://www.aclu.org/>
Elaine Cassel's Civil Liberties Watch: <http://babel-ogue.citypages.com:8080/ecassel>

Lawyers Committee for Human Rights: <http://www.lchr.org>

Saint Paul Bill of Rights Defense Committee: <http://www.stpaulbordc.org>

Senator Russ Feingold, a consistent critic of the Patriot Act and sponsor of legislation to roll back some of its most intrusive provisions: <http://feingold.senate.gov>.

It's up in the air with Schwarzenegger

Oh well, it's only California. And it will only be for three years. That's what I thought when I heard Arnold Schwarzenegger was elected governor in the California recall election.

If I were a Californian, I wouldn't have voted for Schwarzenegger. My feeling was a body builder and a movie star couldn't possibly be qualified to run a state's government. I figured he was probably running for the publicity and his ego. Why would he want to trade in the glitz and glamour of the movie star life to become a stodgy politician?

But then I watched his first press conference as governor-elect. I was pleasantly surprised. He was wearing a nice suit and his comments seemed to be genuine. That's what you gotta do to be a successful politician, have a nice suit and seem genuine. Maybe California will be OK.

I don't know if Schwarzenegger is qualified. I don't know if he really knows how to fix California's budget deficit, or solve any other problems facing the state. But via

his wife Maria Shriver, he is a part of the Kennedy family. A more blue-blooded political family doesn't exist, and I don't think they

ERIC HENNING

will let him botch it up. The family name is at stake. He will have a good team of advisors

behind him helping him formulate policy, and he can always bend the ear of a Kennedy. Yeah, California might be all right.

Schwarzenegger's election is good for politics. The election results prove this. Estimates show between 65 and 70 percent of California's registered voters cast a vote. The state hasn't seen voter turnout that high in a gubernatorial race since the 1970s.

Forty-five percent of the voters didn't want Gov. Gray Davis recalled. Fifty-five percent did. Undoubtedly, many cast a vote because of the unusual circumstances of the election. Others probably cast a vote for the porn star or Gary Coleman, simply

because it would be funny to do so. But overall, common sense prevailed. The leading challengers to Schwarzenegger were more or less legitimate politicians. The runner up (not counting Gov. Gray Davis) was Cruz Bustamante, the current Lt. Governor under Davis. Bustamante was followed by state Sen. Tom McClintock. Peter Camejo was a distant fourth. Larry

Flint (yes, he actually ran) didn't make an impact. Yes, California actually showed some common sense at the polls.

Schwarzenegger isn't the first movie star to become a politician. Ronald Reagan was a more successful politician than movie star. Who's to say Schwarzenegger isn't the next Reagan? It could very well happen. If Schwarzenegger has success in California, I wouldn't be surprised if he moves on to bigger and better things. President

"He was wearing a nice suit and his comments seemed to be genuine. That's what you gotta do to be a successful politician, have a nice suit and seem genuine. Maybe California will be OK."

Schwarzenegger may not be all that far fetched. But then again, the political career of Jesse Ventura didn't last. Maybe Schwarzenegger will wind up going the way of Ventura. After all, there is more money to be made in the private sector than as a politician.

When guys like Ventura and Schwarzenegger are in office, politics gets more widespread media coverage.

These guys are interesting and unique, not just another stuffed suit. Politics gets fun and the public pays more attention. The coverage usually is about trivial matters, but some coverage about real issues will get through as well. And that's a good thing.

Time will tell if Schwarzenegger is in over his head. But right now, I think California will OK. But either way, Jay Leno and Conan O'Brian are going to have a lot of fun.

Let me shop in peace at the mall

Leave me alone. Let me shop in peace.

Those are the words that I long to shout as I walk through the mall. It would seem that many of the more enterprising telemarketers, perhaps fearing for the safety of their jobs, have found a more stable form of employment: as aggressive product marketers at shopping malls. From the time I entered the mall until the time I left, it was constant harassment.

To start with, I entered the mall through a major department store's cosmetics and fragrance section. Big mistake. But since there was only one exit from the store into the mall itself, I was doomed. Perhaps guys may be safe from this particular form of harassment, but since I am a female who obviously wears

makeup, I was immediately accosted by cosmetic salesgirls. Many of these particular girls took their products way too seriously, and looked like some sort of drag queen gone horribly wrong—Yet I'm supposed to be influenced to buy from them?

"Oh, would you be interested in trying our new long-lasting lipstick? Here let me show you how it would look on you..."

At this point, I usually recoil in horror, as she approaches me with some hideous variety of bad lipstick. Quick, fake right, run left—there's an opening. Run. But of course, I'm not even close to being free, for now I am in the dreaded fragrances department. All at once, I am descended upon by half a dozen sales clerks, all offering me a sample of so-and-so's latest scent. The trouble is, a person can't just accept one sample. At least six are thrust upon you, so I end up shoving all six into my purse at once, where I promptly forget about them. Two days later, all of the smells have intermingled in my purse, leaving it smelling like a small animal has died in there. At least it was a small animal with expensive perfume tastes. I suppose it could have been worse though; the sales clerks could have sprayed the per-

fume directly on me.

At last, I make it out into the main mall area. Not that I'm any safer out there. Oh, great, here it comes: "Lady, you must try our new nail cream. Just let me remove the nail polish from one of your fingers."

Remove the nail polish from one of my fingers? Oh, hell no. I spent forever polishing these things, and now you want to take it off? Unfortunately, "No" doesn't seem to be in the salesguy's vocabulary. He continues to follow me for at least 30 feet—until the next kiosk of marketers takes over. In this case, they really are telemarketers in that they are hawking new cell phones. Usually, though, my standard line of "Can you hear me now? No" gets them to back off.

Then, I am in military territory, as one member or another of the armed forces tries to recruit me. I

BLYTHE CRISWELL

greatly respect them but I just have no desire to become one of them. To avoid a confrontation, I dive into the nearest store. There, if I can get past the greeter who offers me a complimentary bra fitting/cup of herbal tea/hand massage, I am finally free to shop—for the time being. Thirty seconds later, the first salesperson shows up to ask if I need any help. I say "No thanks, I'm good" to eight different clerks at one-minute intervals, before the first salesperson comes back to offer "You know, our plus-sized section is in the back." At this point I leave, braving the uniformed recruiters as I make a dash for the food court. Once at the food court, I am assaulted by a cacophony of food service workers yelling out the greatness of their product. "You, big girl, you try king-sized taco?" That does it, I've had enough. I dash out the nearest exit, and decide to just walk through the parking lot to my car, instead of braving the gauntlet of salespeople again.

At the car, I make a decision: I am going to Wal-Mart. With the exception of one friendly old guy greeting me at the door, I am left to shop in relative peace. Unless there is a guy hawking cell phones here too. "Hey, Can you hear me now?"



Consumer products not what they seem

Sometimes you just have to sit back and laugh at some of the crazy stuff going on in the world.

Recently it was reported in the newspapers around the United Kingdom that the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), a section of the Department of Defense in the United States, had found a small WMD...a whisky manufacturing distillery, that is. Located on a small island called Islay, the Bruichladdich Distillery broadcasts pictures of its distillery process on-line. When one of its web-cameras broke, the owner received—much to his astonishment—an e-mail from the DTRA questioning why the camera wasn't working and when it would be fixed. According to the agency, whisky and weapons of mass destruction go through some very similar processes. You guys probably didn't hear about this story because...well...the last thing America wants to do is make any section of our national security team look like a herd of boneheads.

Having lived in Scotland now for, oh, almost two months I can guarantee you that they are not a threat to the national security of the United States. Granted, I don't know everything about this country, but I'm pretty confident on this one. Call it intuition perhaps.

So this story got me thinking. What other places in the world might be a threat to us? You never know who is going to come after us

next—apparently the DTRA was afraid Scotland would, at least for a little while. I did a little surfing on the web and found some other places that perhaps the DTRA should spy on. These factories, like the Bruichladdich Distillery, appear to be "threats" to American security. Here are my suggestions:



LIZ ABLETT

1) Factory A is located in Newfoundland, Canada. This factory is well known in Canada for its Peppermint

Knobs, candy kisses and flavored syrups. It is a big supplier of confections in Canada. I've always had my suspicions about Canada. Our northern neighbor sits up there just so innocently; I bet they are up to no good. I'm sure "flavored syrups" is just a code term for some kind of really big stinky weapons. Deep in the vats that they make those peppermint knobs in is probably a huge mixture of biological weapons. They are just waiting for the moment to spray America with lethal doses of peppermint...hey, that would be kind of yummy. Anyway, Canada is definitely a threat to our national security.

2) Factory B is a factory located in Hong Kong that makes various toys such as construction

trucks, racing cars and plastic houses.

Remember how all your toys used to have those little stickers on them that said "Made in Hong Kong?" Perhaps this was used as a plot to make us think that Hong Kong is nice—after all they must be if they are making toys—but deep down in this factory I bet they are plotting something very bad. Sure they say they are making toys but what are they really up to? Making weapons of mass destruction if you ask me.

3) Well if you haven't been convinced by the last two, maybe this one will make you believe we have other enemies in the world besides Saddam. The DTRA should definitely be interested in Factory C, a manufacturer of sugar and sweeteners located in Birkerød, Denmark. You know that white substance that they make that they claim is sweetener? Ha. Nice try. Americans are not stupid, we know it is anthrax.

Mind you, these are just random companies I chose and to protect the innocent—oh boy here I go with that again—I didn't put in their real names. After all you'd have to be a little bit off to name a factory A, B or C. As silly as it all may seem I think our country is diving into a pool of distrust. What's going on in this world when we insist that we can't trust our own allies and must resort to spying on a distillery ran and owned by their well-meaning civilians?

What do you think of the 25-foot smoking ban around campus buildings?



Erich Hughes, Graduate Student

"I think it's lame. If it's outside then what does it matter if you're 25 feet away or 40 feet away. It just doesn't make much sense."



Anika Thoner, Sophomore

"I think it would be great, but I don't know how they would enforce it."



Avery Tucker, Senior

"After class I want to go out and have a cigarette, but I also realize that cigarette butts are some of the grossest things to see on the ground."



Marie Thompson, Senior

"It would be more useful around the dorms. When I lived in the dorms I lived right above the smoking area and it stunk up my room. I had to shut the window."



Brad McCann, Senior

"I think it's a good idea, when it's 20 degrees out and all the smokers are huddled around the door and I have to walk through it, I don't think that's fair."



Erin Swenson, Senior

"I think it would be nice to walk out of buildings and not be surrounded by smoke, but it doesn't bother me too much."

RADIUS from A1

As a result of two grants Student Health Services has received—one from the American Cancer Society and Tobacco Control Board respectively—the Committee on Health and Wellness has taken great interest in educating students about the risks of smoking and secondhand smoke. Included in the educational process is the push for the 25-foot radius.

Money from those grants has been used to pay for Elssesser's part-time position, to hire interns, market, promote and educate.

But results from the 2002 Core Alcohol Survey, which took results from a random sample of approximately 1,200 students, are what Elssesser said really drove the idea home.

Elssesser said the survey showed that 93.2 percent of UW-RF students believe "people should be protected from secondhand smoke."

Those results are what Elssesser called "very compelling."

"The data really spoke to us," Elssesser said. "This is something that goes along with what the student body feels...you can't just pass something because you feel like it. The community has to be ready."

UW-Eau Claire is the only other school in the system without a smoking radius policy.

While the survey shows that a majority of UW-RF students are ready to make the change, some students-smokers and nonsmokers—think the policy is a waste of time.

"I don't see the point in beating it over so much," said freshman Adam Fuller. Fuller felt the real problem wasn't the secondhand smoke, rather cigarette butts scattered about campus in unsightly places.

Grounds Maintenance Supervisor Manny Kenney agreed.

Since he and his staff are in charge of keeping the

campus clean and presentable, he sees first-hand the waste produced because of cigarettes.

"Our flower beds start to look like ash trays," Kenney said.

Another concern smokers had was enduring rain and snow in order to smoke. Some even said they would refuse to observe the radius in foul weather.

Fuller said smokers would all "balk a bit" when it came to abiding by the honor system.

And while smokers said they had the right to smoke where they pleased on campus, proponents of the policy felt it was an issue of convenience.

"They should wait to smoke and hope it doesn't rain," said sophomore Melissa Collins.

Sophomore Sadie Quasius said that since many people smoke when they go to parties, not only will the radius make people unhappy, it will probably rarely be obeyed.

"People go to parties every weekend," Quasius said. "When they come back, they're gonna have their last smoke on the stoop."

But Elssesser and UW-RF Health Educator Keven Syverson hope the inconvenience will be one more reason for people to want to kick the habit.

According to the Core Alcohol and Drug Survey, 74 percent of students who smoke, want to quit before they graduate. If those numbers ring true, students should be looking forward to moving away from buildings and closer to quitting.

"There is no better time for students to quit," Syverson said. "In a weird way, we hope this makes smoking a bit more difficult and helps them out."

If the policy isn't approved by Lydecker, Elssesser said the committee will continue to educate people about the dangers of secondhand smoke to gain support for the policy.

Lydecker will announce her decision before the Great American Smoke Out Nov. 20.

CREW from A1

grow on campus isn't going to ruffle many feathers, grounds maintenance covers other areas that people will notice if they are left alone.

Four full-time groundskeepers and two seasonal groundskeepers, along with a handful of students, take care of many things. They mow grass, remove snow and care for trees and shrubs. They also install new landscapes, remove litter, fix potholes, set up for special events outside and paint lines on all the varsity, club and intramural athletic fields.

"The grounds maintenance crew is responsible for everything that's outside the buildings," Kenney said. "If it's outside and it's not mechanical we take care of it."

One of the things making groundskeepers' jobs more difficult is worn equipment. Many of their trucks and mowers are outdated and need to be replaced, Kenney said.

"We have a truck that was built when some students were born, in 1985," groundskeeper Mike Polta said.

When equipment breaks, repairs are made and the patched machinery

goes back into service. There isn't enough money for new equipment. Kenney said he doesn't expect there to be any soon. Groundskeepers take the equipment failures in stride.

"We've done so much with so little for so long that we feel like we can do almost anything with nothing," Polta said.

Just because budgets shrink, doesn't mean the crew's workload is getting smaller. In fact, as the campus grows, the groundskeepers are asked to care for additional areas.

"Our workload is not getting less, it's getting greater," Kenney said.

The University has added 30 percent more parking spaces through the last 10 years, Kenney said. It has also added a new teacher education building and plans to add a new daycare center and residence hall. Grounds maintenance will be asked to care for these areas in the future as well.

While the budget cuts are hurting his ability to care for the University's grounds, Kenney is grateful the administration hasn't

decided to cut a staff position.

"It's a lot harder to make up funds than it is to make up a person," Kenney said. "And it's a lot more humane to cut funds than jobs."

The groundskeepers' jobs may be safe now, but some of them feel like they aren't being treated as well as they deserve.

Polta, who earns \$11.25 per hour, said sometimes the groundskeepers must take on roles as general laborers or furniture movers.

When old refrigerators needed to be moved into dumpsters, groundskeepers were called. Those situations distract the groundskeepers from caring for the campus.

That kind of work makes some groundskeepers feel disrespected.

"This place is run like a plantation," groundskeeper Dave Rustad said. "We are the workers in the fields and North Hall is the big house where we're not allowed."

"This place is run like a plantation, We are the workers in the fields and North Hall is the big house where we're not allowed."

**Dave Rustad,
UW-RF groundskeeper**

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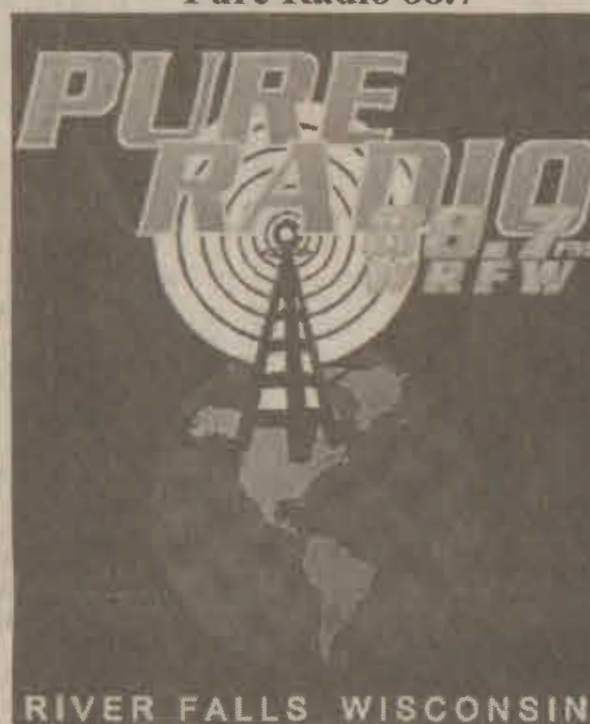
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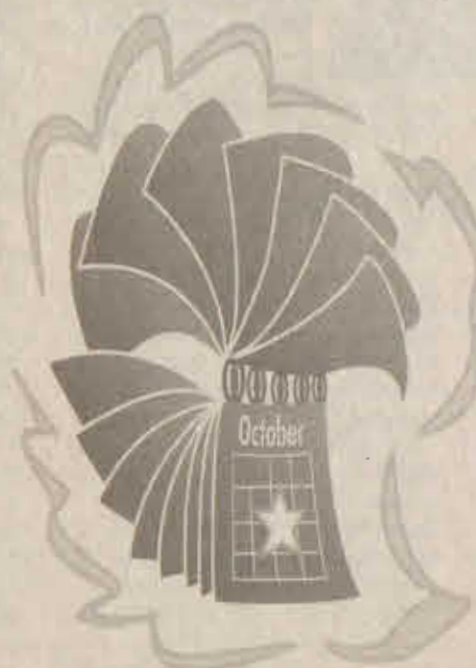
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Section B

Tennis stuns Oshkosh

Two tough WIAC
rivals still remain
on RF schedule

Sports Information
UW-River Falls

Last week, the UW-River Falls women's tennis team won both matches they competed in, including an important WIAC win over UW-Oshkosh.

Against Oshkosh, the Falcons won four of six singles matches and one of three doubles matches to earn a big 5-4 win Friday afternoon at the Crabtree Courts.

The conference win will be a big plus for the team as it tries to climb in the final WIAC standings. The loss was the first for Oshkosh in four dual meets. Last year the Titans beat the Falcons, 9-0.

The doubles competition was played first and the Falcons managed only one point. That came from the No. 1 team of Jordan Anderson and Amanda Gray. The No. 3 match was close as the team of Becky Briese and Sarah VandenHoek lost, 9-8 (8-2). The No. 1 singles player for Oshkosh competed at No. 3 doubles.

The Falcons would have to win at least four points in the singles competition to win the match. And that's exactly what happened. Picking up points in the singles were No. 2 Gray, No. 4 Amber Weissinger, No. 5 Briese and No. 6 VandenHoek.

"Beating Oshkosh got us over the hump of beating a good team," Coach Lee Lueck said.

Anderson and Gray are now 13-0 this year at No. 1 doubles. Briese also stayed undefeated in singles. She is 4-0 at No. 5 and 9-0 at No. 6. Leah Baron, who normally plays at No. 4 singles, missed the match with an injury. That forced Weissinger and Briese to move up a spot and VandenHoek to move into the No. 6 spot. All three picked up key wins.

Earlier last week the Falcons beat Hamline, 9-0. The Falcons won all six singles matches in straight sets.

The Falcons, now 12-1 overall and 3-1 in the WIAC, next travel to UW-La Crosse on Saturday, Oct. 11 for a WIAC match against the Eagles.

"We play the two toughest teams in the state in our next two matches - La Crosse and Eau Claire," Lueck said. "Saturday we will be without two starters, but we'll go to La Crosse and do what we can do."



Photo by Mike Foley
Amber Weissinger returns a volley during the No. 4 singles match against Oshkosh Friday at the Crabtree Courts.

Golfers finish season sixth in conference

Sports Information
UW-River Falls

The UW-River Falls women's golf team placed sixth in the WIAC Championships held last weekend in Platteville.

Leading the Falcons was Casey Ambers, who shot a 91-95 and finished with a two-day total of 186. She placed 22nd overall. Gabe VanDyk was next for the Falcons and 26th overall. She shot a 98-92 and finished at 190. She was followed by Kara Coughlin, who shot 98-93 and finished at 191 and in 28th place, Ellen Berndt, who shot

99-95 for a 194 total in 30th place, Angie Christiansen, who shot 99-101 and finished in 35th place with a two-day total of 200 and Kristen Berreau, who shot 105-97 for a two-day total of 202. She placed 38th. Par for the course was 71.

Eau Claire's Susan Karlman won the individual title with a two-day total of 165. She was three shots ahead of Oshkosh's Jennifer Young.

Oshkosh won the team title for the second year in a row with a 680. Eau Claire was next with 686 followed by Platteville 720, Stevens Point 723, Whitewater 739, River Falls 761 and Superior 872.

Soccer drops tight non-WIAC match to Northern Michigan

Sports Information
UW-River Falls

The UW-River Falls women's soccer team finished the week with a 2-1 record in non-conference games.

The Falcons have a big week with two WIAC matches. On Wednesday the Falcons are at UW-Eau Claire and on Saturday UW-RF travels to UW-Superior. The Falcons have a 4-10-1 series record against UW-EC and they are 9-0 against UW-S. The Falcons have not surrendered a goal to UWS in the series. The Falcons are 8-2 overall and 3-1 at the halfway point in WIAC play.

The Falcons beat Bethany Lutheran, 4-0 and Concordia-St. Paul, 2-1, in overtime before dropping a 1-0 decision to NCAA Div. II Northern Michigan.

Northern Michigan's Kerri Vandervelden scored the only goal of the game to help lead her team to a 1-0 win Saturday afternoon at Ramer Field.

Vandervelden scored her fourth goal of the year at 45:47.

Falcon goalie Belinda Miller and NMU's Jamie Rocho both made eight saves. NMU had 24 shots and UW-RF finished with 14. Rachel Vilders led NMU with six shots and Ashley Peterson led the Falcons with four.

Amy Jensen scored the game-winning goal, on a penalty kick in overtime, to help lead the Falcons to a 2-1 win at Concordia-St. Paul.

Jensen scored her fourth goal of the year at 116:43 to lift the Falcons to their eighth win of the year. Katie Rooney gave the Falcons a 1-0 lead

at 28:27 when she scored her first goal of the year. Ashley Peterson and Sarah Carlson picked up assists. It was Peterson's third and Carlson's second assist of the year. Con.-St. Paul tied the game at 50:42 when Rachel Vitense scored. That set up Jensen's game-winner in the second overtime.

The Falcons outshot the Golden Bears 12-5 in regulation and 4-2 in the overtimes. The Falcons had a 16-7 advantage in shots for the game.

Falcon goalie Apryl Jennrich made five saves to raise her record to 8-1. She had three saves in the second half and one in each overtime session.

They didn't allow one shot in a 4-0 win against Bethany Lutheran at Ramer Field.

Peterson opened the scoring at 29:02 off a corner kick. A little more than 10 minutes later, Jensen put the ball in the net. The second goal came at 39:27. In the second half, the Falcons continued their unrelenting attack. Miranda Pogulis scored off an assist from Sarah Carlson at 49:58. Michele Lynch added an unassisted goal at 68:56 for the Falcons' fourth goal of the afternoon.

Falcon goalkeepers Jennrich and Miller didn't have to make one save to get the shutout win. Jennrich played 69 minutes while Miller played 21 minutes. Bethany Lutheran's goalie Melissa Peymann had a busy day, making 18 saves.

Jensen led the Falcons with eight shots. Pogulis took seven shots while Peterson took four. River Falls took 37 shots and held Bethany Lutheran to none.

Volleyball squad beats up on conference bottom feeders

Mike Foley
Sports Editor

The fifth-ranked Falcons volleyball team beat two low teams on the WIAC totem pole last week. They defeated UW-Superior on Oct. 1, 30-17, 30-13, 30-22, on the road. On Oct. 4, they returned to Karges Center and beat UW-Stevens Point, 30-15, 30-17, 30-22.

The Falcons have now won eight consecutive matches and boast an overall record of 18-2 (4-0 WIAC). Since UW-River Falls beat ranked opponents UW-Oshkosh and UW-Whitewater at

Karges to open WIAC play, the team has hit its stride.

The team traveled to Superior for its first Wednesday night match of the season Oct. 1 and downed the Yellowjackets in three games.

Middle hitter Melissa Tvrdik and right side hitter Nina Petersen slammed 10 kills each and combined for five block assists. Molly Schock and Logan Kiesch had nine digs each. Kiesch added four service aces. The tandem of setters Erin Oberholtzer and Amy Lundberg paid off for the Falcons again. Oberholtzer had 25 assists and Lundberg had 10.



Photo by Mike Foley

Senior setter Erin Oberholtzer shows off her game face at a recent match.

Head coach Patti Ford has been pleased with both setters' play in her 6-2 offense. In this offense, when a setter reaches the front row in the rotation, a new setter and a new hitter come into the game.

"It gives me three hitters in the front row at all times," Ford said. "It makes the defense think about our hitters more."

On Oct. 4, the Falcons took down UW-Stevens Point, who had just come off a tremendous high from beating UW-Stout the night before. They felt no highs against UW-RF, losing in three quick games.

The Falcons' statistics looked very similar to the

Yellowjacket match. Tvrdik put down 11 kills and Kiesch added eight. Oberholtzer and Lundberg paced the team with 26 and nine assists respectively. Freshman libero Kat Krtnick led the team with 18 digs while Kiesch added 11.

Kiesch has played well this season, posting decent numbers in both kills and digs. She also has one of the best serves on the team. In 19 matches this season, the 5'8" junior averages 10.7 digs, 7.3 kills, 1.4 total blocks and 1.5 service aces per match. Even though she only leads the team in one category, service aces, she contributes in every aspect of the game.

"She is a hidden gem," Ford said. "When teams look at us, they see our big three hitters and they try to key on them, but Logan can come in and also has the ability to score for us."

The Falcons will now move up to WIAC totem pole and face UW-Eau Claire on the road Oct. 8 at 7 p.m.

The Blugolds lost a match to the Falcons in four highly-contested games in a tournament in Eau Claire Sept. 27. Neither team won any game by more than three points.

After a trip to Central (Iowa) for a tournament next weekend, the Falcons will finish off their WIAC schedule with matches against Platteville, La Crosse and Stout. La Crosse is also 4-0 in the WIAC and the two teams could be playing for home court advantage in the postseason tournament when they meet in La Crosse on Oct. 18.

"We are hitting a tough swing in our schedule," Ford said. "We have four conference matches under our belts, but we have four conference matches left that will be really tough. People are going to be chasing River Falls and how we respond will be the determining factor."

Cross country teams take fifth, seventh at Colfax short course

Quarford runs 5K
in 16:38, Koznick
runs 3K in 11:23

Sports Information
UW-River Falls

The UW-River Falls men placed seventh of 11 teams and the women were fifth of 14 teams at the Midwest Long-Short Course Cross Country Challenge race held Friday in Colfax.

The men placed seventh with 114 points and the women were fifth with 81. Macalester won the men's team title with 18 points and Eau Claire won the women's with 38.

The men ran the 5,000-meter course and were led by Jason Quarford who finished 21st overall in 16:38.4. Kevin McDonough was next for UW-RF in 16:41.2. He placed 26th overall.

The women ran the 3,000-meter race and Amanda Kozicky led the team with a ninth place finish in 11:23.7. Marian Christen was next for the Falcons in 21st place in 11:32.1.

The women are running without one of their top athletes. Marlene Yaeger twisted her ankle recently and will take a few weeks to rehab.

The Falcons will run next in the Winona Invitational on Oct. 18. Action starts at 10 a.m.

Women's Team Results:
Eau Claire 38, Macalester 39, St. Thomas 48, Northwestern 62, River Falls 81, St. Olaf 125, Augsburg 140, Stout 177, Hamline 178, Luther 180, St. Catherine 184, Superior 191, Winona 218, North Central 278

Men's Team Results:
Macalester 18, Eau Claire 39, La Crosse 53, Augsburg 59, St. Olaf 88, Hamline 107, River Falls 114, Stout 138, Bethel 142, Superior 189, Northwestern 196

Student journalist learns tough lesson from critics

I made a mistake in my last column. Apparently, everyone who uses the weight room facility in May Hall has to pay a fee, even varsity athletes.

Five loyal readers were kind enough to point out my bone-headed error in letters to the editor.

Thank you very much. Thank you for picking up the student publication. Thank you for reading my opinion piece. Thank you for reading it again this week. Thank you for being a part of my learning process at UW-River Falls.

I am sorry that I made the mistake. I am sorry so many people were offended by it.

I got the bad information from the same sources I got the cheerleading information from. Though the information my source gave me was incorrect, those people are not to blame.

I committed the cardinal sin of journalism. I believed my sources without checking up on them.

Furthermore, I only chased one side of the story. While my actions as a journalist were embarrassing, they were far from malicious.

I had no intention of shedding a negative light on student athletes. I wasn't out to make them look bad or corrupt. I simply heard some astonishing information and shared it with my readership. I wasn't trying to alienate my student athlete audience.

It wasn't a professional thing to do and all I

ask from my readers is to understand that I am a student. I am learning the journalism trade with every article or opinion column I write. I am a beginner and I still make mistakes when I shoot photos or design pages.

I committed the cardinal sin of journalism. I believed my sources without checking up on them.

aren't wasted week after week when I forge my thoughts into decipherable text for students, staff and faculty to scrutinize and criticize.

One letter to the editor, from students Jon Pieper and Greg Spahn, asked "What if the writers for the Pioneer Press or Wall Street Journal followed the trend set by Foley? Could we trust anything that we read?"

I believe that by making mistakes in this learning environment will make me a stronger journalist when I write for the Pioneer Press or the Wall Street Journal someday. The journalists who work for those publications had to learn the same lessons I did two weeks ago.

Perhaps they learned it from a textbook or a mentor, but they still had to learn it. Sure, I learned this lesson the hard way, but it's a lesson

that I will never forget and will never repeat.

I can add this lesson to the long list of things I have learned since I began my pursuit of a career in newspapers.

I have learned how to conduct interviews, take photographs, write news and feature stories and design newspaper pages among many other valuable things. This lesson moves toward the top of that long list.

The final point I would like is that two of the letters to the editor last week had poor information regarding gymnastics at UW-River Falls.

Pieper and Spahn wrote, "What we don't understand is how he can suggest that the UW-RF gymnasts should teach cheerleaders 'flashy floor routines to spice up their cheers,' when the gymnastics team was cut from this University two years ago."

In addition, Marie Thompson wrote, "It would be very difficult for the cheerleaders to practice with or get ideas from the gymnastics team because the sport was cut two years ago, along with wrestling and baseball."

If these letter writers had read my column more carefully they would have realized that I wasn't referring to a varsity gymnastics team at this campus, but a club team that uses space on campus to practice.

Though I thank these letter writers, along with the other two letter writers, Rick Bowen and Anna Poulter, I believe they could have learned from my mistake and checked their facts before making themselves look silly in print.



SCOREBOARD

Football
WIAC Standings

La Crosse (4-0)	1	0
Oshkosh (4-0)	1	0
Whitewater (3-1)	1	0
Eau Claire (2-2)	1	0
Stevens Point (3-1)	0	1
Platteville (2-2)	0	1
Stout (2-2)	0	1
River Falls (0-3)	0	1

Volleyball
WIAC Standings

La Crosse (19-3)	5	0
River Falls (18-3)	4	1
Whitewater (16-6)	3	2
Eau Claire (14-6)	2	2
Platteville (14-7)	2	2
Oshkosh (16-7)	4	3
Stout (13-9)	1	3
Stevens Point (8-16)	1	4
Superior (8-16)	0	5

Oct. 8 results	
River Falls	33 21 28 28 -1
Eau Claire	31 30 30 30 -3

RF (kills-assists-aces-digs-blocks)
Lundberg 0-10-0-5-0, Krtnick 0-0-0-21-0, Schock 1-0-2-9-0, Kiesch 12-0-3-17-1, Braun 2-0-0-10-0, Brune 5-0-0-2-0, Halverson 5-0-2-10-0, Brandt 7-0-1-4-5, Oberholzer 2-40-0-15-1, Petersen 11-1-0-5-4, K. Thompson 1-0-1-0-0, Tvrdik 11-1-1-6-1.

Oct. 4 results	
Stevens Point	15 17 22 -0
River Falls	30 30 30 -3

Soccer
WIAC Standings
Stevens Point (9-2-2) 4 0 1
Whitewater (9-1-0) 4 0 0
River Falls (8-3-0) 3 2 0
Oshkosh (9-3-2) 2 1 1
Stout (7-5-0) 2 3 0
La Crosse (5-4-0) 1 2 0
Eau Claire (5-7-1) 1 2 0
Platteville (2-10-0) 1 4 0
Superior (4-6-1) 0 4 0

Soccer
WIAC Standings

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

Oct. 8 results	
River Falls	0 0 -0
Eau Claire	2 1 -3

1st half
23:53 EC Zellner (Fry, Foltz)
27:48 EC Zellner (unassisted)
2nd half
76:15 EC Zellner (Bahlmann)

Oct. 4 results	
Northern Michigan	0 1 -1
River Falls	0 0 -0

1st half
No goals scored
2nd half
45:47 NM VanderVelden (4) (unassisted)

Oct. 3 results	
----------------	--

River Falls 1 0 0 1 -2
Concordia-St. Paul 0 1 0 0 -1

1st half
28:27 RF Rooney (Peterson/Carlson)
2nd half
50:42 CSP Vitense (5) (Rockney, Angle)
Overtime 1
No goals scored
Overtime 2
116:43 RF Jensen (penalty kick)

Tennis

Eau Claire (3-1)	3	0
River Falls (12-1)	3	1
La Crosse (3-1)	3	1
Whitewater (6-2)	1	2
Stout (2-4)	1	3
Oshkosh (2-3)	0	2
Stevens Point (1-4-1)	0	2

Oct. 3 results
River Falls 5, Hamline 4
Singles
No. 1: Blanch (O) def. Anderson (RF), 6-2, 2-6, 6-2
No. 2: Gray (RF) def. Treu (O), 6-2, 6-4
No. 3: Young (O) def. Knobloch (RF), 6-2, 7-5
No. 4: Weissinger (RF) def. Baur (O), 6-3, 6-3
No. 5: Briesse (RF) def. Drechsler (O), 6-3, 6-1
No. 6: VandenHoek (RF) def. Marsicek (O), 6-2, 6-1

Doubles
No. 1: Anderson-Gray (RF) def. Treu-Young (O), 8-2

No. 2: Jarnusz-Drechsler (O) def. Knobloch-Baron (RF), 8-3
No. 3: Blanch-Baur (O) def. VandenHoek-Briesse (RF), 9-8(8-2)

Golf

Oct. 4-5 results
WIAC Meet
Team Place: 6th of 7
Individual Scores:
4-UW-River Falls 386 - 375 - 761
22 - Ambers 91 95 186
26 - VanDyk 98 92 190
28 - Coughlin 98 93 191
30 - Berndt 99 95 194
35 - Christiansen 99 101 200
38 - Berreau 105 97 202

Cross Country

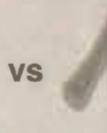
Oct. 3 results
Midwest Short-Long Course Meet

Men
Team place: 7th of 11
Individual results:
21 - Quarford, 16:38.4
26 - McDonough, 16:41.2
30 - A. Olson, 16:46.7
37 - Cardinal, 16:54.5
41 - M. Olson, 17:03.5

Women
Team place: 5th of 14
Individual results:
09 - Kozicky, 11:23.7
21 - Christen, 11:32.1
24 - Phelps, 11:33.8
27 - Jacobs, 11:41.0
33 - Kveene, 11:59.3

SHOWCASE HOME GAME

Soccer



UW-RF vs Marian

Sunday at noon at
Ramer Field

The Falcons bring an 8-2 record into this weekend's action coming of their second loss last Saturday, a 1-0 setback to Northern Michigan. Sarah Carlson leads the Falcons in scoring with eight goals on the season while Ashley Peterson leads the team in assists with three.

VARSITY SPORTSWEEK

Friday, Oct. 10

Volleyball at Central Invite 5:15 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 11

Volleyball at Central Invite 12:30 p.m.
Football at Whitewater 1 p.m. on WRFW
Soccer at Superior 2 p.m.
Tennis at La Crosse 10 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 12

Soccer vs. Marian noon

Thursday, Oct. 16

Tennis at Eau Claire 3:30 p.m.

TOP PERFORMERS



Aaron Olson
Cross Country



Amber Weissinger
Tennis

Olson finished 30th overall at the Midwest Long-Short Course Challenge last week. Cross country coach Don Glover said that Olson "was sick all week but came back and ran a great race."

Weissinger won two matches last week to help the Falcons to two wins. Against Oshkosh she moved up from her No. 5 spot and won at No. 4 to help the Falcons stay in contention for the conference title.

Holy Schmitt: Freshman runs through defenses

Eric A. Page
Assistant Sports Editor

Owen Schmitt isn't majoring in physics at UW-River Falls, but he does have a keen understanding of Newton's first law of motion: An object in motion stays in motion unless acted upon by an opposing force.

Schmitt, a freshman fullback on the Falcon football team, has used the football field as his laboratory to prove Newton's theory again and again this fall. He has stayed in motion for more than 116 yards per game. The fact that he has been stopped for negative yardage only once yields that an opposing force has been hard to come by.

"I love to carry the ball," Schmitt said. "I love to run someone over; it is probably the best feeling in the world."

Schmitt is a 6-foot-1-inch 220-pound wrecking ball on cleats. He runs the 40-yard sprint in 4.6 seconds. The sheer force that results when he rumbles down the field is enough to make any defensive back quiver.

When Falcon coach John O'Grady said at the WIAC media day in August that the Falcons had "shored up the fullback position" this year, he did so with the smirk of a gambler about to lay down a royal flush.

The coach knew what he had before Schmitt even stepped on the practice field.

The fact that Schmitt, a native of Fairfax, Va., ended up donning the Falcon red, is really "a fluke," O'Grady said.

"We're so lucky to have him here," O'Grady said. "He rushed for over 1,200 yards in a tough Virginia conference. If he had gone to high school around here, he'd be playing for the [University of Wisconsin] Badgers."

Not that Schmitt was without opportunity on the East Coast. O'Grady said he was being recruited by the University of Maryland along with several Division I-AA schools.

Schmitt's 900-mile journey west to UW-RF from Fairfax was not that of the typical college freshman leaving home. For Schmitt, it has been a homecoming.

Schmitt was raised in Gilman, Wis. His parents divorced when he was young and his mother, Serena, moved to Fairfax when Schmitt was in second grade. He and his two younger brothers stayed behind and lived with their grandparents.

His grandfather, Duane Jensen, played football for the Falcons and was a member of the undefeated 1958 team.

Jensen and O'Grady have coached together at the Kenner Football Camp in Gilman for several years. O'Grady said that a few years ago some of Jensen's grandchildren were at the camp. One of them was Schmitt.

"He was a little shaver at the time," O'Grady said. "He was small and getting knocked all over. It was kind of funny."

The summer before Schmitt entered eighth grade he and his brothers left Gilman to join their mother in Fairfax. It wasn't until four years later, when Schmitt was entering his senior year of high school, that he and O'Grady were reunited.

Schmitt walked up to O'Grady and said, "Hey coach, remember me?" O'Grady, whose image of Schmitt was the "little shaver" from years before, did not.

O'Grady looked at Schmitt's highlight tape and concluded that he was out of the Falcons' league.

"I told him that I thought he was going to have some opportunities and that if he ever needed any advice in the recruiting process to call me," O'Grady said.

Schmitt went back to Fairfax for his senior year and the two kept in touch.

O'Grady began recruiting Schmitt. As the year went by and Schmitt narrowed his choices, UW-RF emerged at the top of his list.

"Nothing really worked out in Virginia, so I just decided to try something new and come down here and play," Schmitt said. "The fact that [the Falcons] give the ball to the fullback 20 to 30 times a game didn't hurt."

Through three games Schmitt has carried the ball 22 times per game and as of Sept. 27 his 116-yard average was good for second among NCAA Div. III freshmen.

O'Grady said Schmitt has brought toughness to the field that the Falcons sorely needed.

"I told him not to practice twice one week because he had a bad hamstring, but he refused to sit out," O'Grady said. "I had to have the trainer come onto the field and convince him to go in and ice."

Schmitt just wants to play. "I don't like being taken out," Schmitt said. "Practice is my opportunity to get better. Why take a day off when I can get better?"

Teammate John Peterlik noticed right away that Schmitt was different from other freshmen.

"He knows how to get himself ready, physically and mentally," Peterlik said. "It's unreal how strong he is for a kid his age."

Like any freshman, Schmitt misses his family. Leaving his mother, brothers and a girlfriend behind in Virginia hasn't been easy for him.

"It's hard when you go from seeing someone everyday to talking to them on the phone for 10 minutes once a week," Schmitt said.

Being at UW-RF has given Schmitt an opportunity to reconnect with his grandfather after four years of being away.

"It is great to see him. He only got to see me play a couple times in high school, so he has become a die-hard Falcon fan," Schmitt said of Jensen.

Schmitt, who plans to major in either health and human performance or sports marketing, has set his sights on eclipsing the 4,000-yard career rushing mark and is excited about being a part of a Falcon football resurrection.

"I know there is a lot of winning tradition here," Schmitt said. "I don't like to lose and I know a lot of

people don't like to watch a losing team, but I think we're going to turn it around."

Three games into his freshman year, Schmitt admits the Falcons have a ways to go before climbing into the WIAC elite, but said they are closer than people think.

"Our young players are going to step it up and play like veterans," Schmitt said. "We have made a lot of stupid mistakes. If we eliminate those, we are going to have a good season."

A football season can be taxing on an athlete's spirit and run their emotions to extremes.

Newton was right though.

Through it all Schmitt has remained in motion, a perpetual element in the Falcon backfield. He has tread the rough waters into collegiate athletics, shedding tacklers like birch bark, searching for the next opposable force.

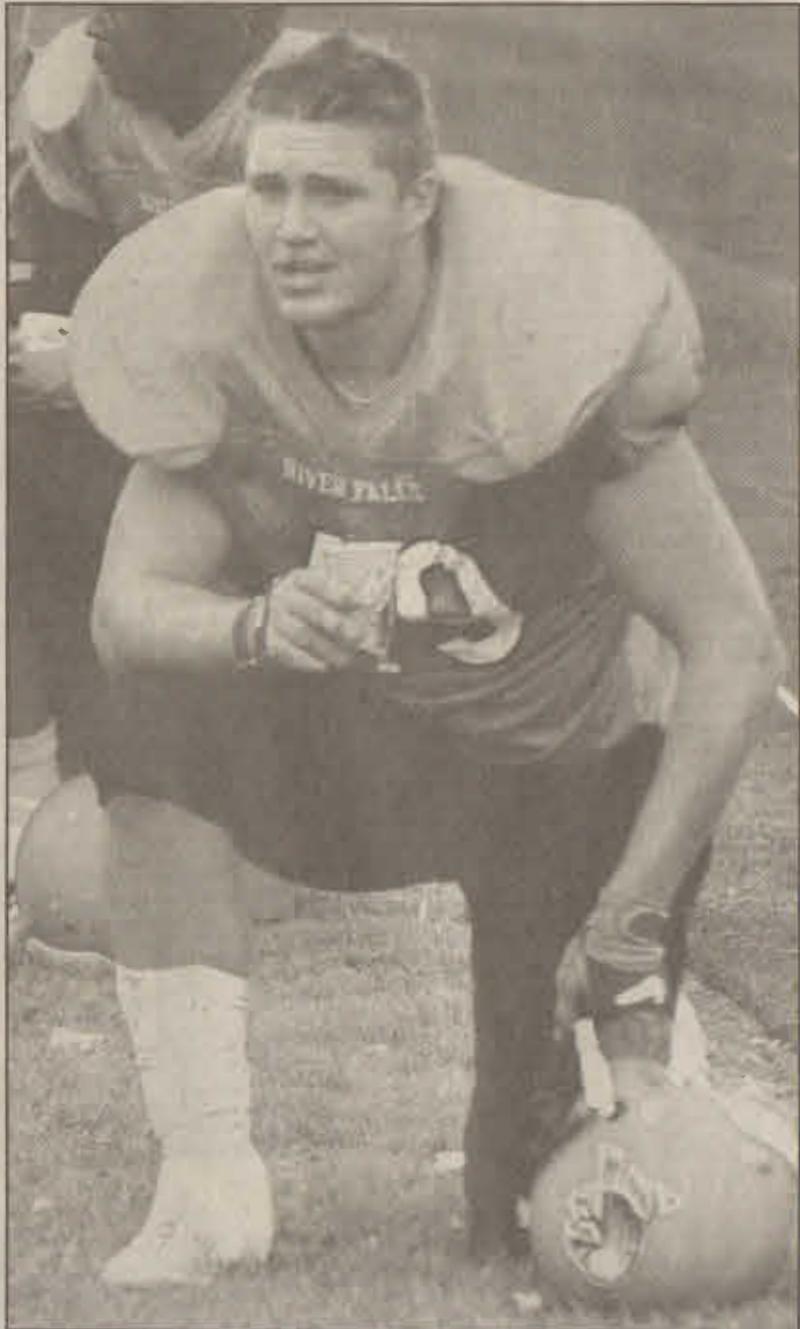
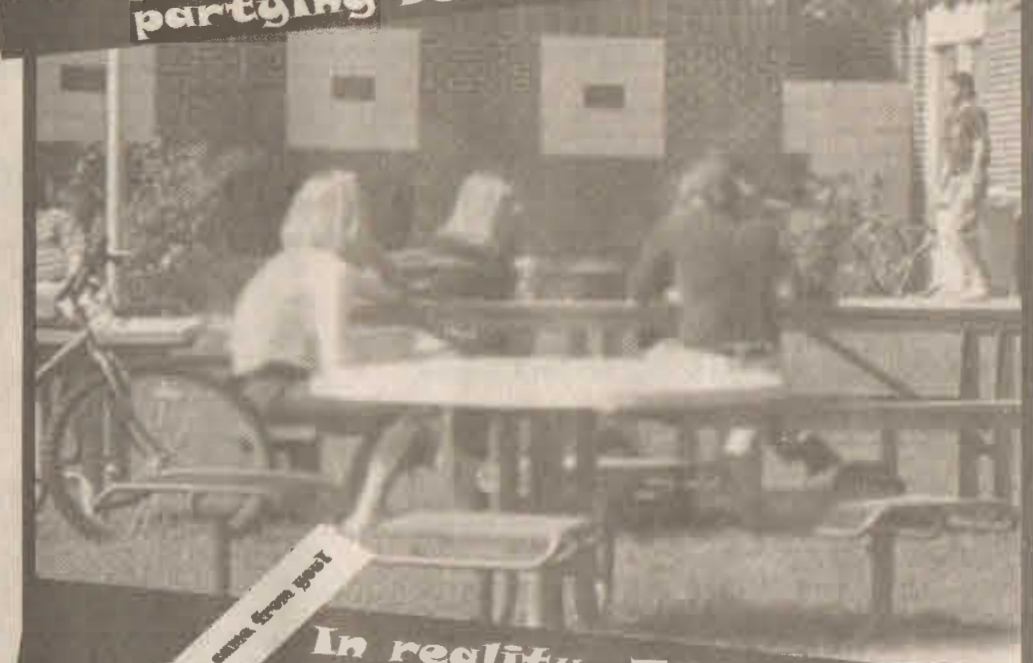


Photo by Eric A. Page
Fullback Owen Schmitt takes a moment to catch his breath. The freshman serves as the Falcon offense's work horse.

Reality Check

Ever hear that college students put partying before academics?



In reality, 72.2% of UWRF students don't allow alcohol to interfere with their test performance or other class projects!

One drink = 1 beer, 1 mixed drink, OR 1 shot
UWRF Core Alcohol & Drug Survey Data ♦ May 2002
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Students get 'fair' chance to jump-start careers

Julia Lepisto
Staff Writer

UW-River Falls students should think twice about career planning steps, unless they want to be flipping burgers and asking if customers want to super size value meals for the rest of their lives.

Because of the current economy, career enhancers such as the Career Fair—which will be held Oct. 15 in the Karges Gymnasium—may not be available in the future if students quit taking advantage of it, said Carmen Croonquist, director of Career Services.

"We typically have around 95 employers at the Career Fair," Croonquist said. "Our numbers are slightly down this year because of the struggling job market."

Croonquist also said if students continue to decline in taking part of such opportunities, the end result would be a loss for them.

"Last year we had a hard time filling interview schedules for employers who came to campus to recruit students," she said. "As a result, we have now lost those employers, who have decided to go to other campuses instead of ours."

With about 77 companies attending the fair this year, she hopes this year's fair will be beneficial for both students and businesses.

"Right now the job market seems to be making it a little longer process than in years past to land a job after graduation," Croonquist said. "Recent reports, however, indicate the economy is slowly coming around."

The main benefit for students, Croonquist said, is the ease and convenience of the fair.

"It's a less intimidating environment than cold-calling employers," she said.

Kristin O'Connor, coordinator of the 2003 Career Fair and a UW-RF junior, said there are many reasons for students to attend the fair.

"At the fair, students can network with employers to develop resource connections, learn about internship and job opportunities and discover trends in their field of study," she said.

Not only will students be able to shake hands with workers from various industries, they will also be able to gather valuable information on important work force skills, interviewing, résumé building and communication enhancers.

"Students can learn the dos and don'ts of business etiquette, as well as conduct on-the-spot informational interviews," O'Connor said.

According to the UW-RF Undergraduate Post-Graduation Reports, a survey given to graduates of UW-RF from various fields, more than 50 percent of the 561 respondents obtained jobs in their



File photo

Students get the opportunity to talk to prospective employer at the Career Fair. This year's fair will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 15.

field of study within three months of graduation. Annual first year salaries varied according to job type, ranging from \$22,000 to \$50,000.

In the Twin Cities, employment numbers have seen both increases and decreases, according to the Minnesota Department of Economic Security. Changes varied according to job type. Fields such as health care and education have seen increases up to 30 percent, while manufacturing and company management numbers have decreased by almost 15 percent. The changes reflect fluctuation between the years 2000-02.

Career Fair tips

- *Create a portfolio
- *Practice interviewing
- *Conduct informational interviews on companies

Weird neighbor provided laughs, craziness

This week I would like to tell you a story about an odd woman I will call Karen. While this might not be exactly newsworthy, it was the main topic of conversation in our house for years. As my next-door neighbor for the last two-and-a-half years, she has been the bane of my existence. She finally moved out a week ago.

Hallelujah.

She moved in during my friend's 21st birthday party. Right away we knew she was strange. She acted like a hippie who had a little too much fun back in the 60s. She was always flitting around the yard, soliloquizing about nature. She decorated a woodpile with feathers and candles. When we mowed the yard, she was upset because it didn't look natural.

It was my displeasure to find her sunbathing in front of my bedroom window almost everyday. One time two of her women friends were oiling her up, one at her feet, one at her shoulders. That was a sight to besen. She also liked to change in front of the window and she shared a room with her 16-year-old son. That kid will have some problems.

One night I was awakened by the sound of beating drums. I looked out the window to find her half-naked, beating a bongo drum, yodeling and dancing around our fire pit. I was so awed by the spectacle, that I called my mother to come see, because I knew no one would believe me.

She must have thought of our duplex as a commune because she stole our firewood, walked into our half to borrow sugar and sat on our porch, when she has her own porch. She also found it acceptable to open the bathroom window while one of us was showering to ask if she could borrow the vacuum.

Another time I heard something hit the window. A woman was standing in the yard, throwing rocks at our second-story window. When I asked her what she was doing, she said she was trying to get our attention to ask where Karen was.

SARAH MATARA

Apparently, she had never heard of knocking. She also did me the favor of taking my mail. She said that when the mail carrier accidentally put my mail in her box, that she would throw away my "junk mail" so I didn't have to deal with it. So that's why I was missing credit card statements.

For her grand finale, she tried to break into our house. While in my bedroom, I heard banging on the front door. When I went into the kitchen, the door was heaving; it sounded like a battering ram. As the lock popped and the door swung open, she found me standing open-mouthed before her.

"Oh, I didn't know you were home," she said. "Can I borrow your vacuum?"

For her touching farewell, she left a note with a dead rose on our door, telling us we had been lovely neighbors. It was also written on my Discover bill. I feel so sorry for her new neighbors.



HOROSCOPES

By staff psychic Eric Henning,
who is an all right kind of guy

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

You know those ladybugs that aren't really ladybugs? You know, those orange and black polka dotted bugs that fly and flit all over the place, like into your eye, and are just covering your window screen? There's one in your hair.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

You are very demanding of your coworkers, especially that one guy. You ask lots of favors of him, which has him wondering what's in it for him. Buy him a Mountain Dew (not diet please) and everything will be cool.

ARIES (March 21-April 20)

"Do you wanna have sex?" This is a very bad pick up line to use on women. On the other hand, this is a very good pick up line to use on guys. I predict you'll be hearing it soon.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

You like it when guys hold the door open for you. You think it is polite and gentlemanly. FYI, he's checking out your ass.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Everything is going to be peachy for you, Gemini. You're just one of those people that has it all going on. You're like a lucky rabbit's foot. If you find people trying to stroke you, it's for luck, nothing else.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

You know those ladybugs that aren't really ladybugs? The ones that look like ladybugs, but are really some kind of out-of-control foreign invader, and are just swarming outside your door? They are going to take over the world.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

You are wondering what the future holds for you, and you look to me for the answer. Darned if I know. I can't even remember what I had for breakfast.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

Aren't the Student Senate's "Love your boobs" and "Save the bosoms" breast cancer awareness campaigns just a little bit offensive? This is the sort of serious thoughts you Virgos are having. Relax. The members of the Student Senate are elected to represent you and care about your opinions. Stop by their office and tell them what you really think.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

It might be your birthday today. You will get raging drunk and swing from the chandeliers tonight. You don't have chandeliers in your house, so you're going to be in a bit of trouble.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Rumor has it Scorpios rule the lower half of the human body. I have no idea what this means; they just come to me. If you know, fill me in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Give that guy, who seems nice enough, a chance. Not all guys are scum. Most are, but not all. He might surprise you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

It's a good week to be a Capricorn, unless you live on the fourth floor of McMillan Hall. I'd watch your back if I were you.

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