

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-RIVER FALLS Student Voice

Could cat hunting become
Wisconsin's new pastime?
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March 18, 2005

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Betz formally introduced to campus

Derrick Williams
Co-Editor

Newly appointed Chancellor Don Betz visited campus Monday where he was formally announced by UW-System President Kevin Reilly as the 12th chancellor to president over UW-River Falls. The announcement was held in the Student Center in front of nearly 200 students and faculty.

"I am feeling very pleased to be here to introduce Chancellor Elect Don Betz to the community and the University," Reilly said. "UW-RF and the River Falls community are, I think, really fortunate to have Don taking over the helm of the university here."

"I hope to meet with student groups right away. I will be out among students. You'll find me at student activities,"

**Don Betz,
Chancellor elect**

the University, Betz discussed his pleasure in being selected to be chancellor, as well as the excitement he and his wife, Suzanne, have in coming to the community.

"Suzanne and I are just really honored to be here today," Betz said. "We've only been on campus for a little while, but we already feel at home. It is no secret that if you're ever from outside of Wisconsin and you talk about the really strong education systems in the country, that the UW-System is on everybody's short list. I was very pleased that the UW-System was interested in me."

The main theme of the announcement was not only to introduce Betz, but also outline

his plan for the University once he arrives here to take over for Interim Chancellor Virgil Nylander July 1.

"I will not bring a specific program and place it in the center of these people lives," Betz said. "What you will see me doing, however, is meeting with virtually every constituency and stakeholder on and off campus to understand the strengths, the weaknesses, the opportunities and the threats out there to the institution. What I plan to bring here is a sense of openness and receptivity."

President Reilly thinks that Betz's experience will help him succeed in his new role.

"I think Don's diverse background and experience in higher education and his intelligence vigor will energize the students, the faculty, the staff, and the community around the institution," Reilly said.

Betz is especially excited to begin the process of meeting

people on campus.

"We are very eager to meet the students," Betz said. "I hope to meet with student groups right away. I will be out among students. You'll find me at student activities."

While Betz is excited to begin work here, he was quick to point out that he will not be alone. He described his wife, Suzanne, as being pivotal in his role as chancellor.

"Suzanne is my better two-thirds," Betz said. "I value her counsel so much, she is a valued confidant. I hope to use her in a volunteer capacity to help me."

UW-RF, according to Betz, is not going to sit around during a transition period while he acclimates to the position and surroundings.

"We see a great future for this University in the context of its role in the region as well as its role in the state," Betz said. "The notion of standing aloof is not a viable option."



Photo by Derrick Williams

Chancellor Elect Don Betz addresses faculty, staff and students in the Student Center March 14.

HOUSE GOES UP IN BLAZE, STUDENTS GAZE



A residential house near campus started ablaze on March 10. It was one of two house fires in the area the fire department responded to that day. Many curious students looked on.

Photo by Eric Ebert

Credit cards cause chaos

Students' lack of knowledge, responsibility leaves expenses

Nick Koecheler
Staff Writer

Many students travel over spring break to warmer places than the frigid Midwest, but students can get in over their heads with credit card debt while having fun.

According to UW-River Falls Student Health & Counseling Services, a spring break vacation costing \$1,200 can end up totaling \$2,235 if a student only makes the minimum payments at 18 percent interest for seven years.

Not all students realize how important credit ratings are.

"Your credit rating is more important than your GPA," said UW-River Falls personal finance professor Charles Corcoran.

Corcoran recommends that students start out with a debit card. Since a debit card takes money straight out of a bank account, debt can't be incurred because only actual funds are used.

"By starting out with a debit card, you are practicing responsible credit use," Corcoran said.

Debit cards shouldn't be used for online purchases though. If a thief gets ahold of a debit card, then they can make many purchases and clean out the entire bank account.

Credit cards are considered a

wiser choice for online transactions. If a credit card is stolen, then the cardholder is only held liable for a small amount.

Corcoran warned against overusing a credit card.

Your credit rating is more important than your GPA,"

**Charles Corcoran,
Personal finance
professor**

"Students shouldn't get sucked into using a credit card and then only paying the minimum payment every month," Corcoran said.

Corcoran suggested practicing responsible credit card use by reserving it for convenience purchases. When the credit card bill comes pay it in full or, if you have to use a credit card for a multi-installment purchase, make sure the use of the purchase outlasts the amount of time it takes to pay it off.

Corcoran said many students get in way over their heads with debt.

"If a student doesn't have a job, no credit card. Period," Corcoran said.

Keven Syverson, Student Health coordinator warns against using credit cards to pay for tuition. The interest of using the credit card is more than if a student takes out a loan.

According to Student Health &

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See how students feel about minimum payments, Page 4

University vehicles drive many student organizations

Derrick Williams
Co-Editor

Many student organizations and faculty attend conferences, meetings and other off campus events that require transportation for all their members. What isn't well known, though, is that of the 60 vehicles UW-River Falls owns, around 20 of them are available to student organizations and faculty to facilitate their transportation needs.

"There are 20 vehicles that are general-purpose fleet vehicles that are used by students, faculty and staff for official university business," Facilities management director Waldo Hagen said.

Fleet vehicles are rented out every day for a wide variety of needs.

"Any number of activities that people use fleet vehicles for," Hagen said. "They rent them from our department."

Many students, however, aren't aware that fleet vehicles are available to students. Stephanie McLaughlin, president of Campus and Community

Fighting Hunger and Homelessness, doesn't think it is common knowledge that the vehicles are available for student organization use.

"Normally, if we go anywhere we'd car pool," McLaughlin said.

About two years ago, McLaughlin became aware the cars were available when her group needed to transport some local youth to a nursing home for a volunteer day.

"It was kind of a pain in the butt," McLaughlin said. "We called facilities and filled out an application, but we needed a driver over 25, which was difficult."

The reason McLaughlin needed a driver over 25 was because when renting a 15 passenger van, a 25 year old driver is required.

That is not the case with the other vehicles according to Hagen.

It isn't that the administration hides the fact that people can use fleet vehicles, but it just isn't well-known information, according to Sean Blackburn, student organizations coordinator.

"Usually the president of an organization is aware," Blackburn said. Not all groups are eligible however, to use the vehicles, but the majority can.

"Student groups that receive an annual budget are eligible to use them," Blackburn said.

This includes groups like Habitat for Humanity, but groups like the pottery club, which do

See CARS, Page 7



Photo by Derrick Williams

A fleet of University-owned vehicles bask in the sun behind the Facilities Management building. Some of these vehicles are open for use by student organizations.

LOCAL

Bloodmobile back on campus

On April 5 and 6 from 12- 6 p.m. the Bloodmobile will be on campus. The event will take place in the River Room of Rodli Commons.

Anyone can sign up to donate blood, or volunteer with the Red Cross. There are sign up sheets in the Leadership Center. Students should sign up early to assure a donation time.

There will be a contest between all student organizations, residence halls and Greek organizations. Each group will be awarded one point for each full pint of blood collected, or an hour spent volunteering.

The Red Cross is hoping for as large a turnout as back in the fall.

Day of Silence comes to River Falls

On April 13, the UW-River Falls chapter of the Gay Straight Alliance is sponsoring the nationwide cause known as the Day of Silence.

Students can sign up to participate in this event on April 4, 8 and 11 all between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Student Center. If anyone wants to participate but is unable to sign up on any of those days then there is a meeting in South Hall's Alumni Room on April 12, at 8 p.m.

All persons who sign up to remain silent cannot speak from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. At 5 p.m. there is a breaking the silence rally along with an open mic. activity. To conclude the day from 8 p.m. to midnight there is a drag show and dance.

Class schedule for next fall available

For all students who wish to view the class schedule for the fall of 2005, now is the opportunity.

The new class schedule is out on eSIS. Once students log into the site all they have to do is enter the term number, 1062, and search for classes they wish to take.

Advising sessions begin on April 4, and the first day of registration for upper level students in the Honors Program and graduate students begin on April 11. After that, seniors may begin to register on April 12.

If anyone has questions or concerns, they may contact Judy George in the Registrars office.

REGIONAL

Hudson searches for new superintendent

Over the course of this past week, the Hudson School Board Personnel Committee and board members gathered to reduce the candidate pool for the district superintendent job.

The current superintendent, Ron Bernth, plans to retire in June after being a part of the Hudson district for 16 years.

A majority of the applications came from around the area, but one applicant comes from Kentucky.

They plan to have the final two candidates named by the last week in March so they can be invited to Hudson on March 29 and 31 to tour schools, meet staff and see the surrounding areas. The Hudson faculty and public will also have an opportunity to meet each of the candidates on both days from 4-5 p.m. The event will take place in the Hudson High School cafeteria.

Curriculum cuts bring gloom to Ellsworth

Recently there has been talk about curriculum cuts in the Ellsworth school district. With all that has been discussed, it caused quite a concern from the public at the most recent school board meeting.

There is a concern that specialty classes, like foreign languages, might be the first to go. Rick Clausen, the German teacher, brought his case to the school board and stressed the importance of learning a foreign language.

Educators are also retiring in specialized areas, which leaves the fear that their positions may not be filled if the curriculum goes through big cuts.

If positions are not filled it will be more difficult for teachers and students. Teachers will have to pick up all the required classes that the retired teachers taught, and therefore will not have as much time to teach electives. That leaves students with very little options in the electives category. This also means it is more likely that the class size will increase.

The Ellsworth School Board has made no decision yet on the curriculum cuts.

NATIONAL

Spelling bee cancellation sparks controversy

Recently, in Lincoln, R.I. the official of the school district attempted to cancel the annual spelling bee.

Community members wrote letters to the newspapers asking that the decision be reversed, they also called and sent e-mails to the leaders of the school and community.

Superintendent John Tindall did not expect all this attention, but after it all began he quickly gave permission to reinstate the spelling bee.

The outcry in the community shows popular spelling bees have really become in the past few years.

One of the reasons for this popularity is the way it increases a student's self-esteem and helps them to reach goals.

Sex education classes lacking

A study that was done in Illinois showed that health teachers spend close to 12 hours of in-class time discussing the topic of sex education. But in that time they skipped over three topics including: birth control, sexual orientation and abortion.

The survey was given to 335 teachers of middle and high school aged students at 201 schools in the state.

One-third of the teachers stressed the importance of abstinence for girls who wish to avoid becoming pregnant and contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

The remaining two-thirds did not cover topics such as birth control. For teachers who did cover the topics, they were discussed very briefly.

According to the *Chicago Tribune* around 19,000 teenage girls had children in 2002, which is a decrease from the past 10 years.

Schools in the area are not required to have sex-ed classes, but senators from Illinois are attempting to obtain a grant that can be used to fund sex-ed classes.

Graduate students aid tsunami victims

Graduate students from the University of Washington plan a mission trip to aid tsunami victims in Thailand. The school hopes to send 1,000 students on what they call a "Mission of Hope." They also hope to put \$1 million into the Thai economy in an attempt to boost the economy.

From March 18 until June 30, groups will be leaving for Thailand for an eight-day tour.

Anyone who is interested in more information can checkout the Web site www.springbreakrelief.org.

Briefs compiled by Sarah Packingham
Assistant News Editor

STUDENT SENATE

Funding requests meet Senate opposition

Contentious motion passes with 6-5 vote

Eric Quade
Co-Editor

Although budget deadlines were looming, Facilities and Fees Board chair Nick Sirek kept his composure when Student Senate members began questioning the board's requests.

The most heated debate centered on the second part of the board's budget request and whether or not Senate should support higher Joint Foods, Residential Living, University Curriculum Committee and Municipal Services fees. Some senators questioned how Senate could justify raising many of these fees when these are the exact services students have been the most outspoken with complaints.

Senator Nick Cluppert said students have been dissatisfied with Chartwells in particular, so he was hard-pressed to think of good reasons to give Joint Foods more money.

Sirek said Chartwells is not out to make a profit and is mostly dependent on student meal plan fees to pay for the service it provides. To this end and to better sell its "take five" and "upper option" meal plans, Chartwells proposed to raise the 10, 15 and

19 meal plan rates so it could offer the "take five" and "upper option" plans more lucrative.

Some senators were also concerned about Residential Living's proposal to raise room rates by 6.5 percent across the board to pay for new carpeting, laundry room improvements, sofas and mattresses. Cluppert in particular said he was concerned because UW-River Falls is known to have a relatively high proportion of low-income students.

"With all of these other rate increases, I just worry students are getting priced out of school," Cluppert said.

After much debate the motion passed by a slim 6-5 margin.

The first and less controversial part of Sirek's budget request was for a recurring \$15 student fee for the next 20 years to help fund a new Health and Human Performance building with updated facilities, which met very little resistance.

Two senators majoring in health and human performance, Katy Leisch and Lindsey Burdick, said the current facilities are in horrible repair and are in desperate need of replacement.

Cluppert was concerned that students might get stuck funding the building project only to have the state cancel the plans after collecting student money for years.

"So couldn't students end up losing money if the state rejects the plan?" Cluppert said.

Sirek said that even in the unlikely sce-

nario where the state cancels the plans, the money students raised would remain under student control.

The proposed Health and Human Performance building would require 15 percent of its funding to come from student fees because it would serve not only academic uses, but would also be open for student "leisure" uses, Sirek said.

Senator Cali Smithback said students would lose out if Senate failed to fund a new facility. Tuition might be cheaper if Senate opposed the building's funding, Smithback said, but inadequate facilities might force health and human performance students to go to another school.

Ultimately, the student fee to help fund the building project passed with only Senator Jeremiah Zitzow opposing.

Unanimous consent passed the last and least controversial part of Sirek's motions. This final motion was to approve fees necessary for Textbook Services, Student Health Advisory and Special Technology Committee.

In other Senate-related news:

•Lacey Felmlee's appointment to a Student Senate seat was approved by unanimous consent. Felmlee will sit on Senate for the remainder of the 2004-05 academic year.

**STUDENT SENATE
WILL MEET AGAIN
MARCH 29 AT 7 P.M. IN
THE REGENTS ROOM OF
THE STUDENT CENTER.**



Photo by Micheal Foley

The UW-RF physics department opens the observatory in CSH once a month for public viewing sessions. At these sessions, students, faculty and the public come and use a 16 inch telescope to view objects in space.

UW-RF keeps eyes on night sky

Derrick Williams
Co-Editor

The UW-River Falls physics department has once again offered use of their observatory to the public Tuesday night.

Students, faculty and the general public brave chilly weather once a month to make use of the observatory the physics department runs in Centennial Science Hall, according to Observatory Director Glenn Spiczak.

"We'll do this once a month while school is in session and maybe once or twice during the summer," Spiczak said.

More observatory sessions are scheduled for April 4-7 and May 2-5 from 9-11 p.m. Viewing sessions are on the first clear night of the week, not every night, according to Spiczak.

Physics professor Eileen Korenic also leads a discussion

prior to the viewing session.

"I always give a talk every time we have a viewing session and I try to have it be related to something people will be observing," Korenic said.

The University just purchased a new telescope in 2003. It is a 16-inch Meade computer-controlled LX200GPS Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope. With the telescope, it is possible to see galaxies and star clusters in deep space, Spiczak said.

"We don't have to know where it is in the sky to look at it," Spiczak said. "The telescope can do it for you."

The old telescope was replaced in 2003 when the dome that houses the telescope was replaced because of hail damage. Removing the old one required the roof to be removed and a crane to be brought in to remove it from the building, according to

Spiczak.

A couple from Ohio who are amateur astronomers purchased the old telescope from the University, along with the damaged observatory roof.

"They took the old dome and took the telescope and dome away on a flat bed," Spiczak said.

The new telescope is smaller than the old one, but according to Spiczak, it was still an upgrade.

"The old one was a bit larger, but it was cumbersome to maneuver and you had to know where to look at," Spiczak said. "Our goal is to operate it remotely and display the images electronically on a screen so when it is chilly we don't have to be up there."

The viewing sessions are usually a big hit with students and the public, according to Korenic.

"We always have a good turnout," Korenic said. "We usually have more students than anybody, but it is open to the public as well. Sometimes students bring roommates, family and friends."

Spiczak has an e-mail list of 100-200 people interested in the viewing sessions.

Despite the popularity of the sessions, there are limitations to how many sessions that can be done during any given month, Korenic said.

"We usually do observing sessions before first quarter moon because if we do it any other time, then the moon is so bright that we can't see anything but the moon," Korenic said. "We are limited to that one week per month when we can see some of the things that are fairly dim that come out when there is very little moonshine."

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

Compiled by Micheal Foley
Photo Editor

Feb. 25

Nathan J. Phillips reported the theft of an O-Lot parking pass from his unlocked vehicle parked in the O-Lot. This is the second time in two months that Phillips' parking pass has been stolen.

March 7

W.W. Grading reported the theft of a truck crossing sign (valued at \$400) at Sixth St.

March 8

Christopher R. Stolp backed into a vehicle driven by Robert D. Moody at 124 S. Second St.

Kristin C. Loney reported the theft of a bottle of hydrocodone (valued at \$35) from 515 E. Cascade Ave.

Ann E. Lawton was cited for violating a traffic signal.

Employees of Ecologic Furniture reported property damage (valued at \$150) to a vehicle tire and the theft of several miscellaneous items (valued at more than \$900).

March 9

Ashley E. Nelson reported property damage (valued at \$2,000) to a vehicle parked at 117 W. Church St.

Tom Weiss reported a burglary at the Newman Center at 427 E. Cascade Ave. Two speakers (valued at \$300) were taken. This was the second time in two weeks speakers have been stolen from the Newman Center.

Jerome M. McNamara was cited for a seatbelt violation.

March 10

Joshua T. Thygesen reported a vehicle parked too close and blocking a driveway at 221 S. Fourth St. The vehicle, owned by Crystal L. Nelson, was towed.

Travis J. Weber backed into a vehicle driven by Ashley E. Kocak at 1457 Wildcat Court.

March 11

Cory K. Ellis was fined \$164 for an ID violation and \$164 for underage consumption at 107 Elm St.

Joshua J. Hansen and Nathan L. Hansen were each fined \$226 for obstructing an officer at 107 Elm St.

Jessica E. Haton reported the theft of her O-Lot parking pass from a vehicle with a previously broken window.

March 12

Zane E. Ringhand was fined \$243 for property damage and \$367 for second-offense underage consumption at Johnson Hall.

Emily S. Nierenhausen was fined \$288 for a second-offense ID violation and \$164 for underage consumption at the 300 block of S. Main St.

Bethany Barnett reported an incident at Parker Hall involving a disruptive male subject. Thomas J. Irrgang was cited for underage consumption and disorderly conduct.

March 13

Sara M. Medick reported property damage (valued at \$100) to her vehicle parked in the K-Lot.

March 14

Kristen M. Johnson was cited for a seatbelt violation.

**Have ideas for news
briefs?**

**Please e-mail them to
sarah.packingham@uwrf.edu**

Students compete for gold washer RF holds Wisconsin history

Sara Tischauser
News Editor

Students in the Ag Olympics were not competing for prestigious Olympic medals but for gold, silver and bronze washers on bailer twine.

The Ag Olympics were held March 16 at Lab Farm 1 and were put on by Block and Bridle. The event had teams of six students participate in various events, Lindsay Starr, Block and Bridle president, said.

These events included a milk can relay, a hay bale toss, an obstacle course, tug-of-war and a milk chug contest, said Bristol Donahoo, Block and Bridle member and chair of the Ag Olympics committee.

Donahoo said there are usually 10 teams of six members that participate and about 50 spectators who come to the event. She said, as a spectator, she had her

favorite event to watch.

"I liked watching the people climb over the round bales," Donahoo said. "It is just entertaining."

Shane Westphal, a marketing communications junior, said he participated in the Ag Olympics as a freshman.

"I had never done it before," Westphal said. "It was a great way to get to know people in the college."

Donahoo said one of the reasons students participate in the event is for the competition.

"They enjoy doing some of the events and enjoy competing in the events," Donahoo said.

Donahoo said the Ag Olympics serves two purposes.

"We have it just for a fundraiser for Special Olympics and get support for agriculture," Donahoo said.

According to the Special Olympics-Wisconsin Web site

(www.specialolympicswisconsin.org), the mission of the Special Olympics is "to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with cognitive disabilities."

Tom Goerke, a professor of animal science and Block and Bridle advisor, said Block and Bridle started using the Ag Olympics as a fundraiser for Special Olympics about 10 years ago.

"We probably raised \$2000-\$2500 for the Special Olympics [in the past 10 years]," Goerke said.

Goerke said the number of participants increased once the entry fees started going to the Special Olympics.

Donahoo said all campus organizations are invited to participate in the event, but it is usually College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental (CAFES) organizations.

Starr felt there were two reasons students participate in the event.

"It is a way for clubs to participate in a worthwhile cause and it is a fun event," Starr said.

Starr said each of the teams pays a \$15 fee to participate in the event. This money goes to the Indianhead (River Valley) Special Olympics, which is in the northwest Wisconsin region. This way, she said, some of the money may come back to St. Croix and Pierce County.

Starr said, through this event, Block and Bridle could improve its relationship with the community.

"It is a way for our club to participate in a community event," Starr said.

Starr said this was the 21st consecutive year that UW-River Falls students have participated in the Ag Olympics.

Goerke said the prizes have varied over the years going from cash, to bags of candy, and to the gold, silver and bronze washers on bailer twine that is now given to the winners.

Brian Hogenson
Staff Writer

Two organizations are working to preserve the heritage of the River Falls community for generations to come. Located in a rural town of more than 12,000 people are the Area Research Center and the River Falls Historical Preservation Commission.

The UW-RF Area Research Center, located in the bottom floor of the Chalmer Davee Library, is home to thousands of documents relating to Wisconsin's history and also the university archives. Opened in 1962, it is one of 12 Area Research Centers located throughout the state. The 12 Area Research Centers work in conjunction with the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison.

"Instead of having all the historical documents in one place, they are spread out so students and community members throughout the state can do historical research," Stephanie Zeman, director of the Area Research Center at UW-RF, said.

Walker Wyman started collecting historical documents at UW-RF in 1939. Wyman collected items that documented the social history of the area and the university, as opposed to the political history that is most often documented.

"Wyman wanted to know what the common men and women's lives were like," Zeman said. "We really have Dr. Wyman to thank for starting this."

Other states have tried to duplicate the success of the Wisconsin Historical Society's Area Research Center program, but haven't had the same success, mostly due to funding problems.

The UW-RF Area Research Center is funded through the university as part of the budget for the library. The Wisconsin Historical Society owns some of the collections, while the university owns the rest.

"We have strong support from the university and the state for

funding and housing," Zeman said.

Zeman says another factor in the success of the program in Wisconsin is that having the historical documents and collections spread out over 12 Area Research Centers allows items to be circulated around the state for viewing by everyone.

Each Area Research Center is unique to its area. The Area Research Center at UW-RF specializes in the four county areas encompassing Burnett, Polk, St. Croix and Pierce counties.

Included in the collections of documents are original letters home from Civil War soldiers, diaries from farm wives and newspapers dating back to the mid 1800s.

Walk-in donations, including diaries and manuscripts, make up a lot of the collections. Municipal and county documents from River Falls and surrounding towns are also included in the collections. There is also a large collection of books relating to Wisconsin history.

Zeman says the Area Research Center isn't just for history students. Agriculture students have used the Area Research Center to see how tracts of land were used in the past. Members of the community have used the Area Research Center while working on finding the genealogical histories of their families.

The River Falls Historical Commission designates local structures as being historical. Structures can be identified as historical by the River Falls Historical Commission and also be recognized state-wide and nationally.

According to Dena Mleziva, city planner of River Falls, two structures in River Falls have been recognized by the National Register of Historic Sites. Both of those structures are located on the campus of UW-RF.

Those structures are North Hall and South Hall, located on opposite sides of Cascade Avenue.

North Hall was built in 1914, with the east section of the build-

ing being added in 1927.

South Hall is the oldest building on campus, built on the foundation of the original Normal School building of 1874. The limestone for the original foundation was mined from a local quarry. At over 100 years of age, South Hall is considered by the National Register of Historic Sites to be the most historic building in River Falls.

The River Falls Historical Preservation Society identifies structures in the city that meet the commission's criteria for being historical and could also one day be recognized by the state or the National Register of Historic Sites as being historical.

Among the criteria established by the commission are that the structure needs to exemplify the history of the nation, state or community, identify with a historic figure, have something unique about its architecture or be identified with important historical events.

A 1990 architectural survey of the city identified 24 structures that meet the criteria for the National Register of Historic Sites.

The River Falls Historical Preservation Commission has recognized three local structures as being historical. Those are the Junction Mill (Smoke Stack), W.P. Knowles House and the R.S. Freeman House.

The Junction Mill helped the city be a major player in the production of flour during the 1860's and 1870's. The Junction Mill also represents the first settlement of River Falls. The W.P. Knowles House and the R.S. Freeman House represent the homes of some of River Falls' earliest settlers.

In the future, there's always the chance that more of River Falls' historical structures will be recognized by the commission or added to the National Registry of Historic Places.

"There are a number of structures that have been identified as possibly meeting the criteria," Mleziva said.



Photo by Micheal Foley
Dan Cunningham participated in the milk chug contest and helped the Block and Bridle team take first place.

Grant provides funding for campus-wide discussion group

Katrina Schmidt
Staff Writer

For many college students, dealing with stress, anxieties, feeling overwhelmed and even depression are as common as the daily studying. According to the American College Health Association's, National College Health Assessment (NCHA), a survey distributed to UW-River Falls students in 2003, 96.3 percent of UW-RF students "felt overwhelmed" by all they had to do one or more times within the last school year.

UW-RF's director of Student Health Services Alice Reilly-Myklebust and Terry Brown, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, are working together to provide students, faculty, staff and the community with opportunities to learn more about how to deal

with these issues.

Next fall, UW-RF and community members, will have the opportunity to participate in reading "College of the Overwhelmed: The Campus Mental Health Crisis and What To Do About It," written by Richard D. Kadison and Theresa Foy DiGeronimo. They will also be invited to participate in discussions concerning these issues common on college campuses.

A \$2,500 grant, proposed by Brown and Reilly-Myklebust, was awarded to the university for purchasing approximately 30 books, and to bring co-author Kadison, chief of mental health at Harvard University to speak. The Association of American Colleges and Universities' (AACU) Bringing Theory to Practice (BTtP) Project funded the grant.

According to the BTtP Web site,

www.bringingtheorytopractice.org, the BTtP project goals are to advance student learning and improve the quality of students' education, development, health and commitment to civic engagement.

Using information provided by Kadison as well as the book discussions, Brown and Reilly-Myklebust hope to initiate an informed campus-wide discussion on the status of student mental health at UW-RF, as well as to take steps toward addressing issues raised by reading the book and having the discussions.

"Our grant is to start a conversation on campus among staff, faculty and students about mental health issues," said Brown, who has dealt with students' mental health issues that can affect their academic performance, and who is also a member of the UW-RF mental health

subcommittee.

Brown and Reilly-Myklebust hope this grant also serves as a teaching mechanism for many faculty and staff who have to deal with the situation.

"Faculty and staff often don't always know to approach a student and a delicate situation," Gretchen Link, Student Health Services counselor said. Link, who deals with students struggling with these issues as a counselor, has seen the affects mental health issues can have on students firsthand. "Part of what the grant addresses is just a growing statistical implication across the country, not just here, that more and more college students are wrestling with some basic mental health issues like depression, anxiety and stress," Link said.

While it does appear that more students are seeking help, there seems to be a trend that more issues are becoming more complex as life speeds up.

"Some of the issues are getting more complex and severe," Reilly-Myklebust said. "It is going beyond mental health issues to just kind of life skills sorts of things."

Some of these basic life skills for college students include situations like living with many different people at once, juggling schoolwork and jobs and their relationships with the people that they have in their lives.

It was not clear at the time of this article how the students, faculty, staff and community members will be chosen to participate in the project; more will be decided closer to Fall 2005, Brown said.

Depending on the turnout for the trial of this project, SHS hopes to use the results to apply for more grants and services to improve student health services on campus.



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EDITORIAL

Students get shaft while faculty/staff get special passes

Parking is a perpetual issue for this campus. With students being the consumer that makes this institution a possibility, why are faculty and staff given special treatment when it comes to available parking?

UW-River Falls, being a self proclaimed "commuter campus," has the added pressure of students who drive from the Twin Cities to school everyday on top of the already tight parking spaces for administration, faculty, staff, students who live on campus, visitors et al.

Considering this University resembles a service for students, more so than a corporation where business is done, why is parking availability unfairly distributed? At places like Target, Wal Mart and Econo Foods, employees park far away from the front doors and allow the customers to park near the entrances.

At UW-RF, however, employees (faculty/staff) are given special passes which let them park close to the building. Obviously, students aren't even allowed to purchase these faculty/staff passes. Customers (students), however, are given passes to park in lots as far away as

There is no larger annoyance for a student than arriving on campus, only to circle the buildings searching for a parking spot in vein. As they walk around the corner on Third Street and look at the meter lot, on their way to North Hall, they see eight empty spaces that are only allotted to faculty/staff permits.

lot west of North Hall. The removal of the meters was to allow for more faculty/staff parking permits which students are not allowed to acquire. Why are faculty and staff held to a higher esteem than students when it comes to the parking issue?

There is no larger annoyance for a student than arriving on campus, only to circle the buildings searching for a parking spot in vein. After conceding defeat, the student parks five blocks away and scurries along knowing that the ten-minute walk will inevitably make him or her late for class. As they walk around the corner on Third Street and look at the meter lot, on their way to North Hall, they see eight empty spaces that are only allotted to faculty/staff permits.

This is another constant problem in C-Lot, which is on the east side of North Hall behind the church. This lot is reserved for faculty/staff permits but is hardly half full on any given day. There is always parking available, assuming you're willing to pay the parking fine.

With the University constantly passing the buck when it comes to parking, the onus falls to the community. The city of River Falls, last year, passed parking regulations on city streets surrounding campus because of the overwhelming strain parking puts on the residential streets. This only adds to the burden students face by forcing them even further away from campus.

Solutions rest in a plethora of places. The University could bite the bullet and erect some kind of parking facility, structure or other lots. Although a parking ramp may not be the best solution, the addition of lots would certainly help ease the burden on students.

In the short term, however, it would be prudent to put faculty, staff and students on an equal playing field. Either make all lots require permits that are available to everyone, or simply make every lot a metered lot available to everyone. At least that way the University isn't playing favorites.

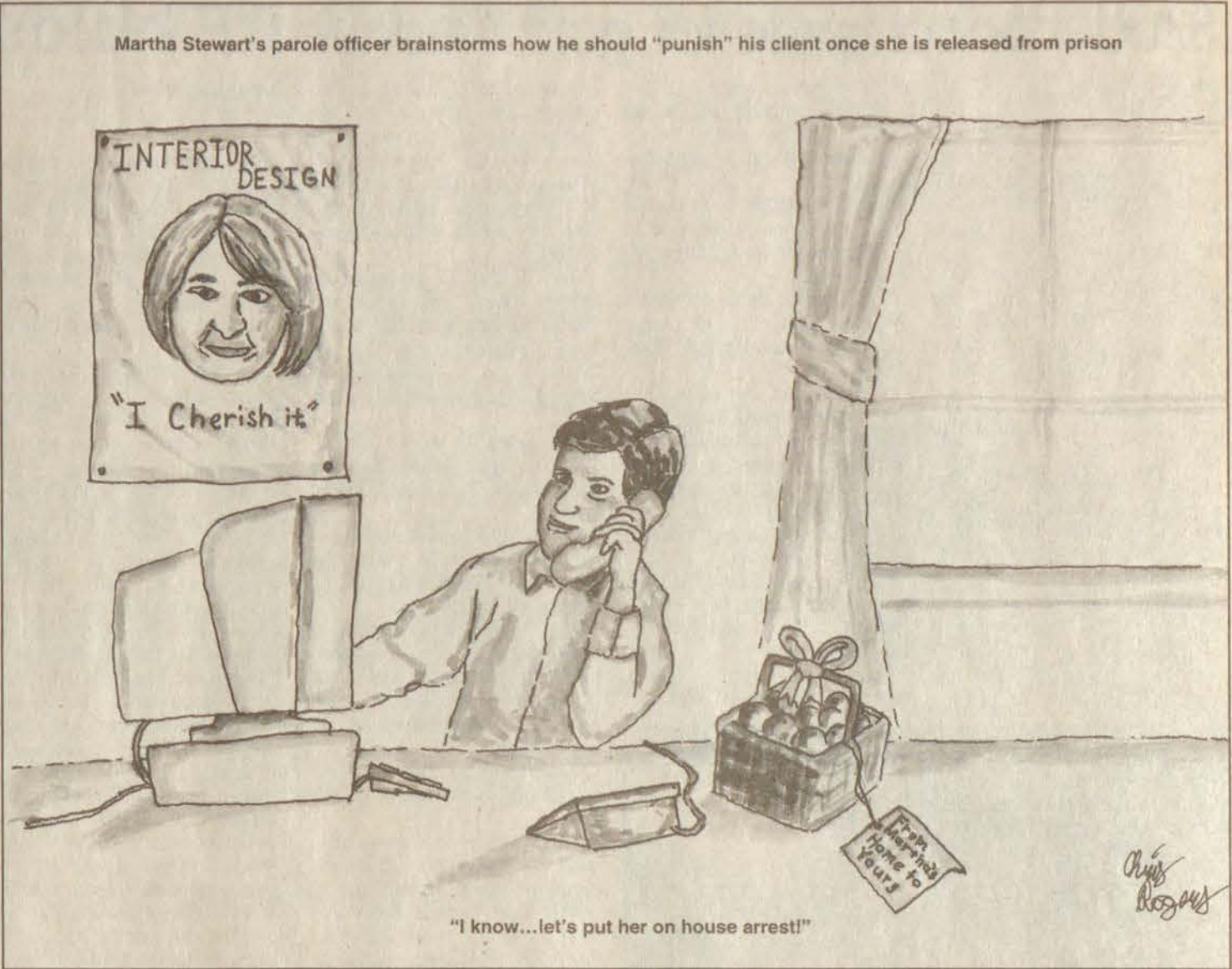
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VIEWPOINTS



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations to senator's achievements, encouraging smart voting

It is with great pleasure that I compose this letter. No, it's not just because spring break is rapidly approaching; it's also because of the small but significant changes our Student Senate has made over the past few months. After last year's election fiasco and the very low voter turnout, the Election Committee and entire Senate has redeemed themselves by running ads and promoting this year's election. Congrats to all the student leaders who made these improvements fruitful.

Despite a few criticisms last year and this year, I am glad to know that most senators kept an open mind and listened to students' concerns. As election day draws near and the next generation of senators make their bid

for office, lets support their efforts by making this year voter turnout the largest ever. Keep abreast on candidates and their positions and vote accordingly. Remember, it is about the best candidate for the job, not the most popular; and we have one day and one chance to vote, go please take advantage.

Leon Gbee
student

Student tired of misplaced blame, complaints have little merit

In my five years here I have heard students complain about the same things year in and year out: Parking, whether or not they should HAVE to attend class and tuition.

The truth is that, River Falls is a relatively inexpensive place to get a great college education. Going to class is a major part of

college. No matter what there will never be enough room for everyone to park close to campus. So why do we continue to attack administrators, professors, and worst of all, the parking office? I have also learned in the past five years that, professors don't give grades, students earn them.

I have never had to park extremely far away from campus no matter what time I got here. The parking office only gives you tickets when you are parked in the wrong place. Also administrators are always working to make this a more economic, efficient, and overall good campus. The problem is that they cannot please everyone. That is my biggest problem with the articles written. It isn't that I don't think it would be nice to have accessible parking, I also hate paying tuition, and I hate going to class probably more than anyone, but these issues will never get solved by attacking school administration and personnel. I understand the

right to an opinion, but this is ridiculous.

Jeremy Kerg
student

For once in your life, have a voice. Submit letters to the editor. E-mail them to student-voice@uwrf.edu or drop them off at 304 North Hall. Offended? Angry? Professor got you down? Write to us, get published. Letters can not be anonymous.

GUEST COLUMN FROM THE VIEWPOINTS EDITOR

Taking action, avoiding senseless whining

How much of a person's life is spent whining about stupid stuff and how much additional time is spent listening to other people do it. I'll get the math and psychology departments on that and get back to you with the figures, but for now, I'm guessing it's way the hell too much.

Now I would be the biggest liar and hypocrite in the world if I went on talking about how much I hate complaining while claiming that I never do it myself. In fact, a good amount of my freshmen year here was spent complaining about how I hated everyone and everything about this stupid little town.

All this daily bitching from myself and others really got me down. After listening to so much of it for so long, I finally started to tell people (and myself) to do something about it. Change, make it better. I admire people who complain and then follow up the complaint by actually taking action. That is a positive thing about complaining; it has the possibility of making a big difference.

The *Student Voice* did a form

of "complaining" in an editorial a couple of weeks ago about certain sidewalks not getting shoveled. After that piece came out, those sidewalks were promptly taken care of. See how nice that works?

I had a student contact me recently who didn't like some of the editorials that have been written in some of this newspaper's past issues. He kept e-mailing me to tell me all the reasons why he didn't agree with things that had been written. This was great, but he didn't want his opinions to be printed. I told him that just

sharing all this with me wouldn't really do too much. I was interested in what he had to say, but letting me print his opinion would have the propensity to actually have an impact. That is why I encourage you all to vent your frustrations constructively through some kind of action. If you don't like something on campus or that was printed in the *Student Voice*, don't just whine

to your roommate, have the balls to get on your computer and write a letter to the editor. People feel the same way as you do, so speak up for yourself and all of the others sharing your views. We can learn from other's opinions and maybe take into account a point not previously considered.

The topic you are complaining about and want to take action on doesn't have to be something as extreme as changing major legislation on campus. If you're bored in this town and complain every night about the redundancy of those

same old bars or that you've already seen the one movie in town, realize that you can leave. Go to the next town over and enjoy a drink at one of their hick bars. Also, those large cities known as Minneapolis and St. Paul are not that far away. Gameworks in Block E is a great place to go watch middle-aged men and women in suits and ties drinking beer while playing Dance Dance Revolution. In Uptown, my per-

sonal favorite, you can break out of your comfort zone and try sushi, Thai food, or see an independent film.

For those of you lacking money or transportation, revert to your childhood or even high school creativity. It really scares me but I'm already starting to begin some conversations with "when I was young." I tell my younger sisters that I never had video games or internet pinball when I was a kid so I would play outside and be creative. If a lack of entertainment means that creativity is facilitated then UW-River Falls should breed a high number of future creative masterminds with the lack of interesting things to do in this town.

So basically the message is: if you don't like it, change it. I applaud and admire those of you who complain and either change the problem yourself or inspire others to. Please don't be lame and keep complaining about things that you have the ability to change. You're just wasting yours and other's time, and let me know if you're one of the people who want to get out of this town and do something new. I'm always game.

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Student Voice

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

per person per week will be accepted. The student retains reprint rights to all published material.

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

Single copies of the *Student Voice* are free. If you wish to purchase additional copies for 50 cents per paper, contact the editor. Printing costs are paid for through student fees.

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Opinions on more than just politics

I am horrendously offended. It seems some people believe the columnists don't have opinions. It is my belief that an opinion doesn't always have to be about campus government. When we limit ourselves to what others say is important, we lose a piece of ourselves.

The great thing about writing is that you can't please everyone. No matter how hard you try, there will always be someone to criticize and berate what is important to you. When I first found out that to be a columnist for the Student Voice I could write about anything, I was overwhelmed. I'll never be able to interest everyone, I thought in dismay.

Perhaps a reader may not see the relevance of a column at the time, but it seems that just reading about a different person, a person not like everyone else can open your mind to the differences in the world. The more others try to shape and change the topic a writer chooses, the more the story loses meaning to the writer.

I, personally, would rather not write a column about politics. Due to last year's elections, the topic is on the verge of becoming trite. I would much prefer to be given free will to write about something which per-



CAITLIN NIMM

tains to my life. If you wish to read about politics and student government goings-on, read a news story. That's what reporters are for.

We aren't really all that different are we? Everybody has Grandparents, everyone has a family of some sort, and everyone enjoys a good laugh. So why must we fill each empty space of the Student Voice with politics or complaints or some sort, of statement about how nothing is ever good enough and our society will never meet our expectations? Banter about the job campus organizations are doing representing students is on the verge of exhaustion. I'm sure there are people out there who enjoy reading about the ghastly state of the world and the corruption we fail to see, but everyone doesn't. Some people enjoy an occasional column about the Gay 90's or someone's thoughts about love.

Maybe the columnists of the Student Voice should be voicing their opinions more about things that "matter," such as politics and government issues but who decided what "matters?"

Recently, I dug through the archives of past Student Voice columns. I wanted to find out what that seemingly unattainable "opinion column" really was. I looked at a

few of Kyle Weaver's September 2003-October 2003 columns in particular: "Temp Housing Tempts Academic Fate," "Smoking Ban Smells Worse than Smoke," and "It's Not Just Greek to Me." The first two columns were about smoking, something the writer doesn't do, and temporary housing, somewhere the writer has never lived. As I read the columns and tried to keep my eye lids from snapping shut I noticed a lot of numbers and quotes. Is this the recipe to an opinionated column? I felt like I was reading a news story. The third column, however, seemed to have some actual relevance to the writer's life. The writer was a member of a fraternity on campus. Everyone should join a frat, you'll learn about different cultures, the message implied. The column was more of a ploy to get more fraternity members, but it was still an opinion.

Is this, right here, even a relevant issue? It's like my mom always says, "You put a piece of yourself out there when you write and the paper comes out and the next day it's got coffee grounds on it." I put a bit of myself out, a bit of my experiences, a bit of my life, in the hopes that maybe one person; one single minute person, will feel something. It doesn't matter what I do or how hard I try. In conclusion, I will indeed, continue to write about whatever I want.

Alumnus slammed, then props given to Pres. Bush, finally

Here's an opinion: Kyle Weaver's letter to the Student Voice was arrogant, self-centered and, most importantly, in vain. Kyle, if your message was intended to be sincere you missed by a long shot. Your tone was filled with frustration and anger--feelings that don't hold ground in persuasion. If you truly cared about the well-being of the Student Voice, then you should have chosen a more assertive route. Perhaps a letter to the editor that doesn't accuse writers of writing "senseless diatribes" or not having a "damn opinion" would have worked well. You see, Mr. Weaver, instead of inspiring us to write more opinionated articles, you just pissed us off. Sonni will continue to write about his love for alcohol; Majak about his love life; Greiman about his faith-based beliefs; Nimm, Clarke, Thoreson, et al. about what tickles their fancy when they pick up the pen. There are plenty who appreciate the columns we write, and if you aren't one of them, don't read it. Now I move to a more important issue.



BENJAMIN JIPSON

bush-league (excuse the pun) election, and the infamous 9/11 attacks ensued. America was left to make sense of the matter and Bush knew something had to be done. Osama bin Laden was the obvious target, but we couldn't "smoke him out" of his caves. After dispatching scores of troops to Afghanistan, Bush felt the need to target Saddam Hussein because of his refusal to surrender his weapons of mass destruction. Saddam said he didn't have any

and the UN weapons inspectors couldn't find any either. But what the hell, if Bush says there are weapons in Iraq, then they must be there. Besides, we couldn't find bin Laden, and someone needed to pay for 9/11, right? After Bush's 48-hour ultimatum to Saddam expired, Operation Iraqi Freedom was underway. Homes were destroyed, and many lives were lost. Destruction and murder is never justifiable.

Good job, Bush, for getting rid of the Middle-East asshole. The Iraqi elections were a step in the right direction too, but there had to have been a better way to go about it. Building some allies and getting the "OK" from the UN would have been a better and much more appropriate route. Bush definitely shouldn't have had to sacrifice thousands of American troops and kill innocent Iraqi civilians. He should have spent more time devising a better plan to free Iraq and less time on the golf course. We never did find that bin Laden guy, did we? But we're onto Iraq, though, so that should be the focal point.

The real test is yet to come. Saddam's out and elections were held, but will democracy prevail? Time will be the determining factor, and it'll take a lot of it. Iraq is still subject to car bombings and bloodshed to this day. In order to ensure a safe Iraq, the United States will be forced to occupy Iraq for another five, ten, maybe twenty years or more. Soldiers will lose their lives and Americans will have to sacrifice more money for the war effort. Bush cooked the feast, ate it and marveled over how good it was, but now it's time for him to clean the dishes and put them in the cupboard. That's the part no one likes doing and there will be a lot of complaining if he doesn't do it properly. No doubt Bush didn't have much class pursuing the war in Iraq, but class is something that waved bye-bye to him long ago. Keep a close eye on Iraq in the next several years and stay classy, River Falls.

Living less in length is really living more

They say that you are only as old as you feel, which is nice, but it is just something boring people say to make themselves feel younger. If you are 50 years old and feel like you're 25, then you probably haven't lived life the way you should have. Whereas, if you're 22 and feel like you're 40, then you know that you have done something right.

Let me explain. If you have lived a clean, healthy life you are going to live longer and your doctor will be happy with you, which is fine if you choose to live out your life being spoon-fed by a nursing student. They all have stories. The "safe life" people have stories, but they are generally bad and start with, "This one time I studied so hard for a test, I stayed up all night - I even missed Survivor." Wow. That was a

good one.

On the other hand, it is the people that get out and try something new and different that have the interesting stories. I have a friend who is exactly that person. Call him Jeff. So, I told Jeff about this rope swing that starts about 40 feet up on a cliff that I had tried. The only hitch being the dead trees that had fallen into the lake below the rope swing. It was crucial to swing out and let go the first time. Seems easy. Jeff did not listen. He goes, we all cheer. Then he swings back in but can't reach the ground so swings out again, and again, and again - a total of 12 times. Finally he just lets go back first, falling 40 feet onto the dead trees resting just above the water. Then rolls like a log

into the water. We were laughing too hard to help him, so he had to swim to the boat with gouges covering his back. He asked how it looked, to which the only response was, "Fine." Ozzfest two years ago: Jeff decides he wants to have a good time. After many drinks, Jeff is heavily intoxicated and gets to a point where he is crawling army style on his hands and knees up a hill to get more alcohol, only to roll down the hill and puke. At the same time he claims people from Wisconsin handle their alcohol better because "we have moo cows," (I still have no idea what that means). Handle it he did, until we heard the scream of a girl. A



AJ OSCARSON

girl who Jeff ended up urinating on (without realizing it) and then he immediately passed out. Being the only sober person for miles, I dragged him into my tent, where he would stay for about 15 hours. My other friend Mitzy, however, felt athletic enough to jump over Jeff's corpse still inside the tent. Mitzy is about as athletic as a drunken mule and ended up rolling through two walls of my tent - then passed out. I spent the rest of the night with people staring at me from outside the tent saying, "Hey dude, you got a hole in your tent." Thanks. I guess what I am saying is that you can get out and use up your life or you can save it, study, and be cautious in everything you do, or live your life right and create stories that will last a lifetime, even if it is a shorter one.

Continuing traditional trip to Beer City, USA

HEY! Get up! Get up! Get outta here! GONE! There it is folks, the sweetest call to ever grace a listener's ears in all of professional sports. Finally, the end of drinking away this stupid waste of four months called winter. Bob Uecker and the baseball season are near at hand.

In little less than four weeks my buddies and I will once again embark on a trip to our Mecca. We've decided that the tradition we will carry with us from these college days will be an annual trip down to Beer City, USA for the Brewers' home-opening weekend series.

This trip is our spring break. We may not be doing the traditional venture down to the beaches of Mexico or Florida, but let me tell you about a brat and a High Life on the shores of Lake Michigan in mid-April. Life is about the simple pleasures and firing up a grill listening to Brewers pre-game in the shadows of Miller Park is just that.

Last year when we went it was nothing

short of a drunken sideshow, but then again that's pretty much everything we do. The first game, one of us had to be told not to bang on the building; his rebuttal was that we were trying to start a rally. Little to his knowledge, the game was already over.

That night after we finally reconvened at the van, we headed to Cudahy. Now if you have ever made the joke about a bar on every corner in every Wisconsin town, this is the place to actually see it in action. Literally ever street corner for as far as the eye could see had a red 'open' sign. Most of the pubs were nothing more than someone's living room and you entered what use to be the house's front door. Needless to



MIKE SONNI

say, we are headed back there this year. Hopefully I won't have to close the bars down by myself this go around. It was interesting having both a 17-year-old girl who was there with her trailer-park mom hit on me, along with the 5 foot 4 inch middle-aged bartender. I can never turn down a free drink. The rest of the weekend was as crazy as we could have hoped. I woke up Saturday after using a cheeseburger for a pillow and that night ended up sleeping in the van on a side street in Madison during a snow storm.

On that note, lord knows what we will run into this year down in Milwaukee. Whatever it is, we will face it head on with at least a buzz, a warm belly, and a brat in hand. Also, if you get the urge this spring and summer to listen to some great baseball and an even better announcer, tune into 106.3 FM WEVR. And remember, Milwaukee will no longer be just a drinking town with a baseball problem.

Columnist criticized for lacking opinion, reveals big one

I was a little ticked when I read Kyle Weaver's letter to the editor a couple weeks ago. I've enjoyed the voice columnists this year, and people have told me they've enjoyed my writing as well. So, when Weaver implied that we don't have "a damn opinion," I was a little put off. But then I was confused. What opinions are you looking for? My Race and Ethnicity colleagues (cheers to Laura, Rob and Melissa) and I had a short round table discussion and a debate on the various merits of pineapple rings versus pineapple chunks last week. We chatted about how crazy it is that rings taste better but one has to chunk them up to eat them. It is my opinion that pineapple rings are better than chunks. It's defi-



AMY SCHOBERT

nitely my opinion, but who cares? It's a rather worthless opinion.

Then there are the middle ground opinions. Opinions that some people care about; some don't. Like those "support our troops" magnets that are sweeping the nation as we speak. It's my opinion that they're a huge waste of effort, time and money and they border on obnoxious. So you spend four dollars or whatever at the local grocery store on one. You've done your part, right?

Well, I think that they really don't support our troops and you know that someone is making a profit off them but it's not the soldiers who are seeing that money. It's my opinion that if you really want to support the troops, sit down and write a lonely soldier a letter, or put together a little care package. There are better chances of them getting mail than magnet money. Ask the people at the VFW or the post office how to get in touch and support troops; someone knows of soldiers in need of a friend back home.

Then there are the opinions guaranteed to tick people off. These are the fire and brimstone, spit flying, pulp-pounding opinions that are good at

splitting the masses right down the center. Religion, politics, abortion and gay rights are good ones. Yes or no, those are your options! Stuff like (wait for it ... this is going to get the Christians howling) ... It's my opinion that Jesus didn't die on the cross. You can already see the steam rolling and spit flying. Veins are popping and people are seeing red. But I believe that Jesus was drugged before being crucified and taken from the cross before he died. Yeah. I go along with the torture, beating, humiliation, etc., but I don't think He died up there. We're so blinded by our need to think

he died for our sins; we refuse to think maybe He didn't die. Same thing with Mary Magdalene; I don't think she was the whore the Church makes her out to be. So, it's my opinion that the Church is hiding way too much from the people.

Next time Kyle, be more specific. I'm sorry we can't always piss and moan about what's wrong with the University, student senate or the government. Friday should be a feel good kind of day, and I'd much rather read about AJ's latest run in with pizza in his air filter than deal with one more "how UW-RF done me wrong" song. So bring on the Gay 90's stories, the poems, the cell phone stories and the high school sweetheart chat.

Are you ok with making minimum payments on a credit card?



Molly Deans, senior
"I pay it off every time."



Eric DeWald, sophomore
"No, because I do not want to pay more for something that I already bought."



Laura Halverson, sophomore
"No, I heard that if you have a 2000 dollar credit load it will take 31 years to pay it off making minimum payments."



Jeff Olson, freshman
"No, I always pay more."

Photo poll by Theresa Theobald

Fastpitch drops opener to St. Scholastica

Tara Sowle
Sports Information

The women's softball team started their season Friday night with a double header against St. Scholastica at the Rosemount Dome. They lost the first game 6-0 and the second game 8-0.

"It's a rough way to start the season," head coach Faye Perkins said.

The Falcons had only one hit and three errors, while St. Scholastica had 10 hits and three errors. In the first game, the only hit for the Falcons came from Brittany Rathbun in the bottom of the fourth inning when she hit a double to right center.

St. Scholastica scored one run in the second and fourth innings and four runs in the third.

Falcon pitcher Leah Vanderploeg started on the mound and took the loss.

She worked two and one-third innings, allowed six hits and four earned runs. She also walked four and struck out one.

Rathbun worked the final four and two-thirds innings. She allowed four hits. She allowed two runs, one of which was earned. She walked one and struck out four.

In the second game, the Falcons scored five hits and four errors.

St. Scholastica scored eight runs on 12 hits and committed only one error. St. Scholastica had one run in the first and fourth innings, two runs in the

third and four in the sixth.

Third basemen, Emily Evans, had the most hits for the Falcons with two. Her first hit was in the first inning with a single to center field and the other was a line drive double down the left baseline in the fourth.

Other hitters for the Falcons were Amanda Wojnowiak and Emily Stahl who hit a single into center field in the third inning, and Breamber Syverson had a single in the fifth inning.

Ashley Bertrand pitched for the Falcons. She allowed eight runs and seven earned runs, while walking five and striking out six.

Perkins said that she was pleased with her freshman pitching and said Ashley James played well behind the plate.

Perkins knows her team will need to work harder in order to be competitive.

"This game showed us what we need to work on. We need to work hard to get to where we need to be to be competitive in the WIAC."

The players also feel it is important to work hard in order to be competitive in the upcoming season.

"My role as a captain is very important," senior Megan Blakeley said. "We all know our common goals that we are working towards as we move on in the season."

The Falcons will play in Orlando Fla. next, competing in the Rebel Spring Games from March 19-26. They are set to begin the games by taking on Westminster on March 20 at 8:50 a.m.

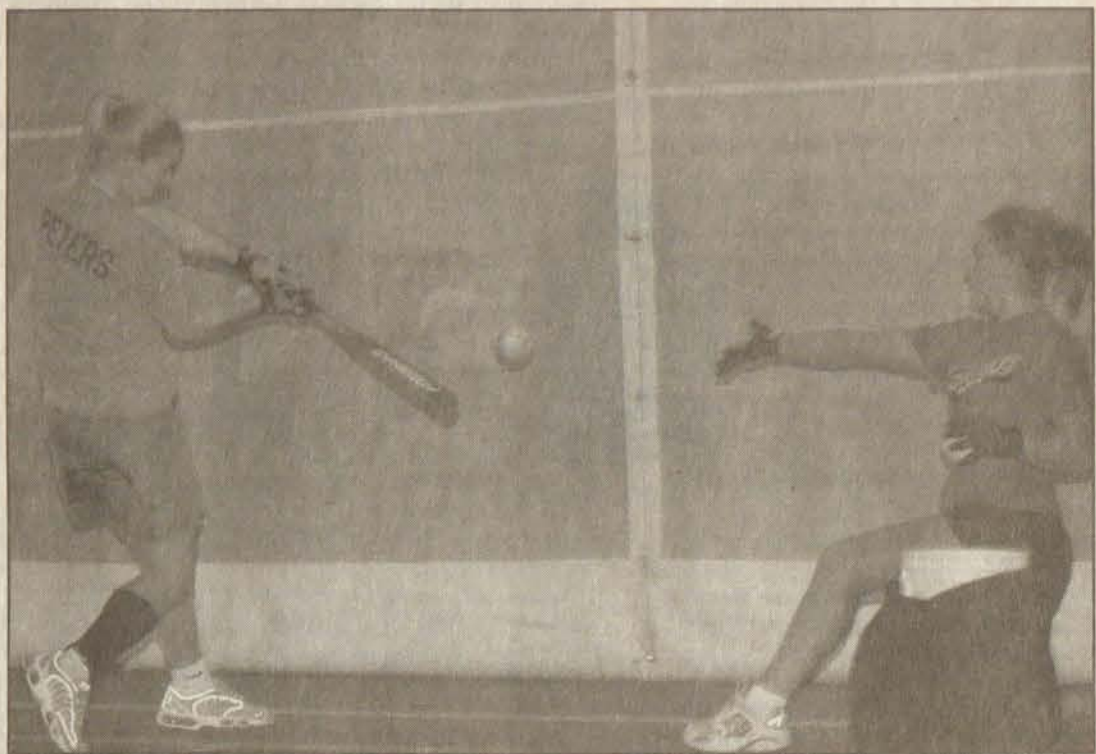


Photo by Corey Hargreaves

Teammates freshman Amanda Peters (left) takes batting practice from a fellow teammate against the net at Knowles Center. The fastpitch team plans to take its game on the road during spring break, where they will travel to Florida.

Four-year veteran guides fastpitch team from the mound in 2005

Corey Hargreaves
Sports Editor

When the UW-River Falls fastpitch team takes the field this season they will be led by many team veterans. One of their leaders, in particular, has been a major part of the team since she was a freshman.

Senior co-captain Leah Vanderploeg, a biology major from Cable, Wis., has shown leadership from her position on the mound for the Falcons.

"Leah comes back as a four-year starter, where she was an All-conference honorable mention," head coach Faye Perkins said. "Leah provides excellent leadership."

Vanderploeg came to UW-RF primarily because she knew she would be able to play and be a

big contributor for the team.

"Faye watched me in a few of my games my senior year," Vanderploeg said. "When I visited with the team before I made my decision, the team looked like they had a blast. It all worked out well."

Vanderploeg doesn't mind taking on the role of a captain, even though it may be challenging at times.

"My experience so far has been great," Vanderploeg said. "Being a pitcher you have more pressure and just need to relax and throw."

Her senior co-captain Megan Blakeley feels Leah's contributions and experience will help guide the team in the 2005 season.

"The team looks up to the pitcher," Blakeley said. "She's

always upbeat and positive and never gets down. Our jobs as captains are to let the team know that we are all working together."

Vanderploeg feels that this year's team will have great success because of the relationships and closeness of this year's players.

"We have the best team camaraderie in and out of practice," Vanderploeg said. "We hang out with each other and have team dinners at some of the players' houses. There are no prima donas on this team."

Vanderploeg said that since the team clicked so well this year, they are able to progress even more at practices, and are able to know each other better on and off the field.

"The coaches take care of the

practices," Blakeley said. "Leah and I take care of other elements that go along with being on a team."

Vanderploeg also has many hobbies that keep her busy when she isn't playing with her teammates.

Off the field, Vanderploeg enjoys Rollerblading, skiing, going to movies, hanging out with her friends and spending time with her boyfriend Luke.

Looking at the season ahead, Vanderploeg wants to lead her team in their first big test in Florida.

"Our pitchers this year are very strong and a lot alike," Vanderploeg said. "With this team there aren't really any dislikes, except for how much time it takes up, but in the end it's all worth it."

Random thoughts from yours truly

Please allow me to borrow your attention for the next few minutes while I fill you with useless garbage that has no purpose whatsoever.

If you're reading this, you are one of those students who chose to stick around for spring break, at least until classes ended on March 18.

For all of those other students that chose to bail early, you're missing out on some pretty exciting stuff around this campus. I'm talking about classes where students could care less to be in because their focus is on the final "have a good break" speech from their professor, who probably is focused on their own plans.

What are the plans that everyone is thinking about? Is it a trip to Mexico, Colorado, La Crosse or a last minute plan to Florida? Heck, it could even be traveling as far as the edge of River Falls where you'll be making some extra dough that will give you the up against everyone else who blew their money at some random club with people they didn't know.

Unless you're on the fastpitch team, the only shots you and your fellow athletes will be taking or the only scoring that will be involved over break won't involve a court ... unless you do something insanely crazy, then you may end up in court ... and nobody wants to go to court in Mexico.

Anyways, the purpose of spring break is to have a break. While it may be a good idea to get ahead in some of your classes, especially if you are doing nothing, don't forget to have some fun. That PS2 that's been sitting under your TV is damn near ready to e-bay itself, so you might want to either play it, or keep it a good distance from the computer.

On the other hand, if you will be over a thousand miles from your homework over break, like myself, more power to you. If this is the case and you are thinking about your work, skip checking in to the hotel and check your self in to a clinic.

While soaking up the sun, it is, however, a good idea to have reading material with you, so it at least looks like you're doing something else besides scoping out the scenic environment around you.

Allow me to briefly explain what I plan on doing.

Before leaving the airport in Mexico, I will be confronted by a guard and forced into a strip search after getting off the plane. Nice way to find out the old doctor back home forgot to remove some hardware of my now repaired leg.

Next, I plan to unpack in my new dwelling, otherwise known as the Holiday Inn. Shortly after that, I'll head to the beach and let the rest of the week unfold from there.

In closing, I wish everyone a safe journey to the very distant or very close adventure that you may take from River Falls. Oh yeah, thanks for your time, cause that's two minutes you can't have back.



COREY HARGREAVES

Something to say in a time of nothing

There's not really anything going on campus sports wise except softball and I going to be honest, I know nothing about the softball team. According to the schedule they are playing in a tournament in Orlando over spring break. I'm driving to Ohio over the break, so they'll probably have a better time than me. Maybe there will be a great beach on Lake Erie.

I think this may be a good time for me to just write some random thoughts about the current issues in sports. Not to mention the fact that I have not bashed anyone all year, and being the cynic that I am, I'm getting restless writing all this positive stuff.

The NCAA tournament brackets came out last week and once again the selection committee made some questionable choices at best. The decision to use the dreaded RPI in their selection of the teams that make the tournament, even though the committee claims it is only one of many tools they use, is still mind boggling to me. Why must we use computers to make every decision in college sports.



MIKE KLEES

Every one is so worried about being fair that they pass the job onto the computer which in turn screws it all up. How is Washington a number one seed and Louisville a number four? According to some nerd's Mac that's the way it is and there is nothing you people who actually watch the games can do.

At the same time the tournament is getting underway, some baseball's top athletes and executives will be standing in front of congressional hearings getting questioned about steroid use. Is it just me or does Congress have better things to do?

Like say, the war in Iraq or the country's failing school system. I know they view steroids as a national health risk, but if these guys were in the WWE there is no way these are being held.

Although it would be great to see the wrestlers try to act like they're not hopped up on steroids. Rafael Palmeiro will be testifying at the hearing, so maybe we will get some insight into how the steroids interact with Viagra, which according to the com-

mercial changed his life for the better.

Finally the NFL is continuing its quest to dominate the sports world 12 months a year by putting NFL combine workouts on the NFL network. They already got people addicted to the draft and now they have us watching a guard from Northeast Louisiana State run the 40.

Of course people are eating it up and ignoring the end of the NBA season and spring training. They should hold congressional hearings about the NFL, which I think could legally be considered a drug. They'll get some random fan on the stand talking about how he got fired from his job because he had to stay home and watch how many reps Mike Williams could do. Personally, I'll hold off worrying about where the Vikings are going to find a kicker until August, and enjoy the other major sports.

I just read this to myself and it sounds a lot like an Andy Rooney bit on 60 minutes. I guess I've been programmed by my dad's Sunday ritual of watching Rooney's witty discourse and then everyone invading the living room to watch Touched by an Angel. What is the deal with old people and CBS?

VARSITY SPORTS WEEK

Sunday, March 20

Softball vs. Westminster (Orlando, Fla.), 8:50 a.m., vs. Fontbonne (Orlando, Fla.), 2:20 p.m.

Monday, March 21

Softball vs. Westminster (Orlando, Fla.), 8:50 a.m., vs. Western Connecticut State (Orlando, Fla.), 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 23

Softball vs. Carthage (Orlando, Fla.), 4:10 p.m., vs. Millikin (Orlando, Fla.), 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 24

Softball vs. Eastern Connecticut State (Orlando, Fla.), 12:30 p.m., vs. Millikin (Orlando, Fla.), 4:10 p.m.

Friday, March 25

Softball vs. Ramapo (Orlando, Fla.), 8:50 a.m., vs. Allegheny (Orlando, Fla.), 10:40 a.m.

Wednesday, March 30

Softball at St. Mary's 3 p.m.

Friday, April 1

Fastpitch at Calvin, 3 p.m.
vs. Case Western Reserve, 5 p.m. (at Grand Rapids, Mich.)

TOP PERFORMERS



Emily Evans
Fastpitch

Third baseman Emily Evans lead the team with hits in the battle against St. Scholastica, with two. Her hits were in the first inning, where she delivered a single to center field and later had a double down the left field line in the fourth.



Brittany Rathbun
Fastpitch

In the match against St. Scholastica, Rathbun pitched the final four and two-thirds innings. During her play, she allowed four hits and allowed two runs one was earned. She also walked one and struck out four.

SCOREBOARD

Fastpitch

WIAC Standings	W	L
Eau Claire (4-2)	0	0
La Crosse (2-1)	0	0
Oshkosh (2-2)	0	0
Platteville (0-0)	0	0
Stevens Point (0-0)	0	0
Superior (0-0)	0	0
Whitewater (0-0)	0	0
River Falls (0-2)	0	0
Stout (0-2)	0	0

March 11 Results

St. Scholastica	014 100 0 - 6 10 3
UW-River Falls	000 000 0 - 0 1 3

Name (Pos)	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Breamber Syverson 2b...	3	0	0	0	0	1
Emily Rodgers cf.....	3	0	0	0	0	2
Jessamy Schwartz ss....	2	0	0	0	0	2
Emily Stahl ss.....	1	0	0	0	0	1
Emily Evans 3b.....	3	0	0	0	0	0
Amanda Wojnowiak pr...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leah Vanderploeg p.....	1	0	0	0	0	0
Brittany Rathbun p.....	2	0	1	0	0	0
Michelle Heuser rf.....	3	0	0	0	0	0
Ashley James c.....	2	0	0	1	0	0
Carolyn Guisinger 1b...	2	0	0	0	0	1
Jamie Falck lf.....	2	0	0	0	0	1
Totals.....	24	0	1	0	1	8

UW-River Falls	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
Leah Vanderploeg....	2.1	6	4	4	4	1	11	16
Brittany Rathbun....	4.2	4	2	1	1	4	19	20



Credit history, rating crucial

CREDIT from Page 1

Counseling Services, one in four students in the United States has credit card debt that totals more than \$3,000.

"High credit card debt is a source of high stress," Syverson said.

However, statistics show student credit card debt at UW-RF is lower than the national average.

In 2000, student credit card debt at UW-RF was \$422 per student, while the national average was \$694 per student. In 2003, student credit card debt at UW-RF was \$415, while the national average was \$553 per student.

"Many students don't really need a credit card," Corcoran said. "Students should stick to checks."

Corcoran said years ago a person either qualified for a credit card or they didn't.

"Today, all lenders will say 'yes'," Corcoran said.

Corcoran suggested checking credit history since more than 70 percent of credit histories have errors in them. Students should not only be looking for errors, but should also be looking for items that aren't on their credit history that should be.

The University of Minnesota discovered in a study done in 2001 that credit card debt can also affect a student's mental and physical health.

Corcoran suggests that students visit the Web site www.bankrate.com. There is a site, students can learn more about credit card debt and other

financial topics such as loans and mortgages.

Students can now get free credit history reports each year thanks to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Students can request their history by visiting www.annualcreditreport.com or by calling 1-877-322-8228.

There are three companies that keep track of credit history: Experian, Equifax and TransUnion. With the new legislation, a person is entitled to a free report from each of the three agencies per year. Corcoran suggested making a request every four months so one can check on their credit history three times a year.

Students in need of help with credit counseling can contact Family Means at 1-800-780-2890.

"Don't be sucked into becoming a slave to credit cards," Corcoran said.

Vehicles available to student organizations

CARS from Page 1

not receive an annual stipend from LDPB, are not eligible.

"A student cannot walk up and say 'I need a vehicle,'" Hagen said. "Only recognized organizations can."

According to Hagen, around 20 of the 60 University-owned vehicles are fleet vehicles while the remaining 40 are considered work vehicles.

"They belong to different departments. The farm has a few

vehicles. Facilities does, too," Hagen said.

The vehicles that the University owns are all purchased by the state.

Generally, after a fleet vehicle reaches 100,000 miles, the state allows the University to purchase a new vehicle, Hagen said.

That is why our fleet includes 20 vehicles that are four years old or newer.

"All vehicles, with a few very rare exceptions, are purchased with a state contract," Hagen said. "We do not deal with individual dealerships ever."

Throughout the last 6-8 months, though, a new directive from Governor Jim Doyle required the University to sell six vehicles in its fleet, going from 66 to 60 total vehicles. The vehicles sold netted about \$9,100, according to Hagen.

"The money we collected went back to the governor's general fund," Hagen said.

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Pizza will be served.

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Toilet creates stir, provokes thought

Sometimes I ask myself, "Is a toilet art?" You probably recently asked this yourself if you walked past the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. There is a toilet sitting on a stump outside of KFA being displayed as art. As far as toilets go, it is pretty average. No padded seat or anything. Just a white porcelain toilet. So as I looked at it I thought, "A toilet on a stump? Cool!" But I also wondered about the artistic merits of a toilet and whether one can legitimately be considered artwork. Simon Wilson says that yes, a toilet can be artwork.

Simon Wilson is an art expert living somewhere in Great Britain. He was quoted as saying "...the idea that the creative process that goes into a work of art is the most important thing - the work itself can be made of anything and can take any form." Wilson made this statement in an online BBC News article while commenting about the selection of Marcel Duchamp's "Fountain" as the most influential modern artwork of all time by 500 art experts in December 2004. The "Fountain" is, as described by people in the artistic community, a urinal. This urinal beat out works by Picasso and Warhol, to name just a couple. This isn't your typical pee-stained, pubic hair-speckled urinal. This is a urinal that recently sold for \$1.1 million at auction. And yet, this is a urinal that, if you put it in a lineup with 10 other urinals, you definitely would not be able to identify it. So if a urinal can be considered the most influential piece of modern artwork of all time, then the toilet outside KFA ought to be right up there. After all, you can do more than just urinate in a toilet. That's gotta count for something.

But as Wilson said, it is the creative process that goes into a work of art that counts, not what the artwork actually looks like. So I looked at a picture of Duchamp's "Fountain," with all its artistic urinal qualities, trying to figure out what it means. At first all I could think of is, man, I need to tinkle. After a while, I came to the conclusion that it means: Hey look! It's a urinal on display in an art museum! As for the creative process that went into coming up with this

artwork, my guess is Duchamp was on a deadline to submit some artwork and was fresh out of ideas. In frustration, he ripped the urinal out of a restroom wall and, not knowing what else to do, signed his name to it and called it art.

Duchamp also has a well known piece called "Bicycle Wheel," which - prepare to be surprised - is a bicycle wheel. But it's not just any bicycle wheel. It's a bicycle wheel attached to a stool. This is a seriously valuable piece of artwork being housed at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. People go to this museum to see this piece and marvel at the amazing genius of Duchamp.

"That's amazing!" they say. "It's a wheel just like the one grandpa has in his garage. You know, the one that grandma is always trying to throw out. And it's attached to a stool that - gasp! - looks just like grandpa's stool!"

But I did not bring Duchamp up to point out that he had a lot of spare time and easy access to a junkyard. I bring Duchamp up to show that the toilet outside KFA is not only legitimate artwork, but also potentially museum-quality work that could be sold for millions.

The big question is, what does the toilet outside KFA mean? And what is the creative process that went into creating it?

I think the toilet symbolizes the depth of despair the artist feels about his finances, as related to the sale of his artwork. To make his point, he strategically placed the toilet in a public place where people can gauge his despair, and perhaps feel compelled to buy some of his artwork.

Creatively, the artist clearly got his inspiration from the Dadaist artistic movement, but worked in a clever shout-out to Duchamp himself.

Okay, so I totally don't think this toilet means anything. The creative process probably involved little more than a keg of beer, a truck, several frat boys, and one very scared toilet. All they wanted was to get people to go. "Hey, there's a toilet outside!"

And you know what? They succeeded.



ERIC HENNING

Dinner raises money for eradication of polio

Eric Ebert
Assistant Editor

UW-River Falls students that are part of the Chamber Singers ensemble took a trip back in time to provide entertainment and help eradicate Polio.

The River Falls Rotary club, with the help of the UW-RF Chamber Singers, organized a dinner to raise money for the eradication of Polio.

According to the Rotary International Web site, since 1988 Rotary International, along with partner agencies, has achieved a 99 percent reduction in Polio cases worldwide.

The River Falls Rotary club organized the dinner and asked the Chamber Singers to provide entertainment for the attendees.

The Chamber Singers chose a madrigal theme from the Renaissance era for the dinner. Along with various types of music, the Chamber Singers performed an updated script from an older madrigal feast.

Chamber Singer Pat Callaghan said they adapted the script to the songs and sang throughout the dinner.

Tickets for the dinner, held March 11 and 12, cost \$35 and included dinner and the entertainment provided by the Chamber Singers. Although the Rotary club paid for the meal and made a contribution to UW-RF, the remainder of the money went to Polio eradication, Rotary member Marty Matousek said.

"It feels really, really good to have a project like that," Matousek said.

Rotary International is close to eradicating Polio

worldwide and hopes to accomplish 100 percent eradication this year.

"Polio has been eradicated from almost every country in the world except seven," Matousek said.

Despite the serious reason for the dinner, the madrigal theme added a lighthearted side to the meal.

"Polio has been eradicated from almost every country in the world except seven."

Marty Matousek, River Falls Rotary Club member

Costumes were used to add to the madrigal theme of the dinner

Chamber Singer Joe Aherns said he was the only member who had any theater experience and was responsible for collecting the costumes. Aherns also served as the jester of the show and introduced upcoming songs.

Other interesting methods were used to help raise money for Polio.

Each night stocks were set up and local Rotarians and Chamber Singers were locked up until money was raised to free them. UW-RF director of choral activities J.W. Park also participated and was locked in the stocks until \$90 was raised.

Aherns said the audience was great both nights and the Rotary people seemed to enjoy it too.

Even though Polio isn't a factor in the United States, Callaghan estimates that between 150 and 175 people attended the event.

"It went very well," Callaghan said. "It got rave reviews."

Matousek agrees with Callaghan and said everybody was impressed with the singers and the quality of the costumes and speaking parts.

"It was great," Matousek said. "They did a great job."

Off-Campus Entertainment

Duran Duran

Tuesday, 3/22
7:30 p.m.
Xcel Energy Center
Saint Paul, Minn.
\$38.25 - \$83.25

Los Lobos

Wednesday, 3/23
7:30 p.m.
Pantages Theatre
Minneapolis, Minn.
\$38

Tommy Chong

"The Marijuana-Logues"
Friday 3/25
7:30 p.m.
Minneapolis, Minn.
\$29.50 - \$39.50

Kenny Chesney

Saturday, 3/26
7:30 p.m.
Xcel Energy Center
Saint Paul, Minn.
\$49.50 - \$59.50

Steve Earle

Sunday, 3/27
7 p.m.
First Avenue
Minneapolis, Minn.
\$19

Kelly Clarkson

Wednesday, 4/6
7:30 p.m.
State Theatre
Minneapolis, Minn.
\$37

John Mellencamp

Wednesday, 4/6
8 p.m.
Xcel Energy Center
Saint Paul, Minn.
\$33.25 - \$43.25

Nelly and the St Lunatics

Wednesday, 4/7
8 p.m.
Northrop Auditorium
Minneapolis, Minn.
\$52.50 - \$59.50

Lonestar

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

George Carlin

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

Sean Hannity with the AM 1500 All Stars

Friday, 4/15
8 p.m.
The O'Shaughnessy
Saint Paul, Minn.
\$25 - \$35

Bill Engvall

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

Snoop Dogg

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

Maroon 5

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

Moby

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

Slipknot

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

Lewis Black

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

Velvet Revolver

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

just go...

Drink Recipes

Canadian Dog' Nose

Ingredients

- 6 oz. Beer
- 4 oz. Tomato juice, chilled
- 1/2 tsp. Tabasco sauce
- 1 1/2 oz. Canadian whisky
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- freshly ground pepper
- salt

Pour the Canadian whisky, tomato juice, Worcestershire sauce, and Tabasco sauce into a shaker with ice cubes and stir well. Pour into a chilled Collins glass. Add beer while slowly stirring. Sprinkle with salt and ground black pepper.odka and sour mix into a shaker. Fill with sprite, shake, and strain (or roll) into a glass.

-Because there's nothing more refreshing than a dog's nose. And if that nose is Canadian, you know it's a party.

Cheery Coke

Ingredients

- Several dashes cherry brandy or cherry cordial
- 1 1/2 oz. dark rum
- Cola
- Lemon peel

Combine rum, brandy and a little cola in a chilled double Old Fashioned glass and stir well. Fill with cold cola and stir gently. Twist lemon peel over drink and drop into glass.

-It's a Cheery Coke, not a Cherry Coke.

GO DADDY-O



Photo by Theresa Theobald

Two students learn a few swing dance steps last Friday at the UW-River Falls Swing Dance in Brandy's. The event was held to raise money for the Jazz Ensemble. The UW-River Falls Jazz Ensembles 1 and 2 played big band jazz music while UW-RF dance theater artistic director Mari Kline coached dancers on their moves.

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Starting salary is \$7.25/hr. In addition, those wishing to stay on campus will have dorm rooms available at a very reduced rate.

Applications are available at the main office (room 102) of the Maintenance and Central Stores building (behind McMillan) between 7am to 3:30pm weekdays.

Open season on Garfield?

Conservationists, farmers weigh in on proposal

Patricia Bruhn
Staff writer

Silencing the cat's meow in an attempt to save Wisconsin's song bird population could cause a lot of fur and feathers to fly.

A proposal by La Crosse firefighter Mark Smith states that hunters in Wisconsin make free-roaming domestic cats an "unprotected species" that could be shot by anyone with a small-game license.

Smith's proposal will be placed before hunters on April 11 at the Wisconsin Conservation spring hearings in each of the state's 72 counties.

The Conservation Congress, a five-member elected body, advises the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Legislature on natural resources issues such as what to do with the ever-burgeoning number of feral cats threatening the bird population.

According to a study by UW-Madison graduate student John Coleman and wildlife ecology professor Stanley Temple, cat densities reach more than 100 animals per square mile; several times more than all similar-sized wild predators such as skunks, foxes, and raccoons combined.

Wisconsin DNR attorney Tim Andryk said the vote of the Conservation Congress will be "an advisory recommendation" to the state legislature.

"I think it is awesome, but I don't think this proposal will change much," UW-River Falls CAFES conservation major Theresa Cahalan said. "It may just define un-owned, free-ranging cats as an unprotected species."

Cahalan said the proposal will undoubtedly cause a rift between cat lovers and those, like Smith, who see the killing of free-ranging cats as the way to stop these cats from killing wild birds.

"Cat lovers are throwing a fit, but if owners are not taking responsibility for



their pets, something has to be done," Cahalan said. "Cats are formidable predators and will kill even when they are not hungry. The birds don't have a fighting chance."

Coleman and Temple, who trapped more than 100 cats and analyzed their stomach contents during a five-year study, have estimated that 38 million song birds and millions of smaller mammals are killed by free-ranging domestic cats each year in Wisconsin.

"It's obviously a very controversial proposal," Temple told the Leader-Telegram. "But I think there really is a basis for having a debate about it."

The problem is so severe that in 1997 the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) began a national campaign to educate cat owners about the threat to birds from cat predation.

"Like many cat owners, I once thought my cat was supposed to roam outside," coordinator of the ABC's new Cats Indoors campaign Linda Winter told Minnesota DNR Fish and Wildlife Today. "But the fact is that it's better for cats and for wildlife if they stay indoors."

Wildlife officials believe the only way to reduce the damage to birds by free-ranging cats is for cat owners to keep their pets indoors. Many municipalities

Photo illustration by Micheal Foley

currently have ordinances that require cats to be kept indoors or on a leash.

However, these measures are rarely enforced, causing some bird fans to take matters into their own hands.

"Cat owners need to take responsibility for their animals," said Michael Kaltenberg, UW-RF CAFES professor of forestry and environmental education. "Killing is not a particularly positive action, but it has its purposes. It could have a sizeable impact on keeping them [feral cats] in check."

For some farmers, stray cats also threaten the health of their farm cats and

some of their livestock.

"Stray cats bring in diseases from farm to farm, and being a farmer, I can't afford to give all my cats rabies and other shots. It's too expensive," UW-RF CAFES agriculture education major Jon Wantoch said. "I say make them fair game."

Wisconsin DNR wildlife biologist, Nancy Christel said the predator-prey relationship between cats and birds is unbalanced.

"Birds and mammals are not only losing habitat to development, but they are gaining an extra predator that is not part of the natural wildlife relationship," Christel said. "This prey relationship is causing serious problems for some wildlife species."

Wisconsin DNR studies have found that the two most common causes of death for rural cats are disease and being run over by cars.

Christel said, "For the good of cats and birds, it is best to keep pet cats indoors."

Cat management tips

• Keep cats indoors. If let out, then keep cats on a tether, in a fenced area or enclosed runway.

• Neuter cats or otherwise prevent them from breeding.

• Keep feeders and bluebird houses away from trees or posts where cats can get to them.

• Don't feed stray cats. This maintains high cat densities that kill or compete with wildlife.

• Don't release unwanted cats in rural areas. Take unwanted cats to an animal shelter or humane society for adoption.

Tips provided by Wisconsin DNR wildlife biologist Nancy Christel

NOW SIGN UP for 2005-2006 Fall Housing & Meal Plan

ON-LINE RESIDENCE HALL SIGN UP

- You will need to know your Falcon Account username (example: w2500000) and password.
- Go to <http://www.uwrf.edu/student-services>
- If you will be requesting a current student or a new incoming student as a roommate, you must know his/her eSIS ID (example: w2500000).
- Projected Fall Semester double room rate is \$1975.00.

REMINDER: Residential Services will be enforcing the Board of Regents' policy that all 1st and 2nd year students live in the residence halls.

In order to be eligible to live off campus, you must have at least two complete years of full-time course study **OR** have received an exemption from Mr. Larry Testa, Director, Residential Services, to live off campus for the 2005-2006 academic year.

If you have signed up for 2005-2006 Fall and are eligible to cancel your housing contract (must fall within one of the above guidelines to be eligible to live off campus), you will receive a refund of your housing deposit **if canceled in writing by May 1, 2005.**

If you are planning on taking 1-Term classes next year, please note Grimm, McMillan, Hathorn and Johnson Halls will be open over Semester Break.

Throughout the sign-up process you may view the contract booklet on-line at www.uwrf.edu/student-services/rs/pdf/contract.pdf.

March 14 - 29 FROM 7:45 - 4:30 P.M. SINGLE ROOM SIGN UP

The following wings/floor will have single rooms next Fall: 1st North Crabtree, 1st East Parker, 1st West Grimm, 1st East McMillan, and all of 1st floor Johnson.

Students will be assigned to these rooms based on the number of semesters they have lived on campus at UW-River Falls. Ties will be broken by the number of credits earned as of February 1, 2005.

The projected Fall Semester single room rate is \$1025.00. If you would like to apply for a single room, please stop in the Student Services office, 211 Student Center, between March 14 - 29 and complete the single room agreement.

The actual single room assignments, along with a single room waiting list, will be made by the Residential Services staff on Wednesday, March 30. You will be notified of your assignment by Monday, April 4, 2005.

APRIL 4 - 5 AFTER 8:00 A.M.

A current hall resident may reserve a space in his or her present room On-Line.

APRIL 6 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO NOON

As part of the residence hall ten-year master plan, we are adding single room wings/floor. **No returning student will be allowed to stay on the above listed wings/floor.** April 6 has been set aside for you to choose an open space in your current residence hall. See the letter in your campus mailbox regarding the procedure to follow.

APRIL 7 - 8 AFTER 8:00 A.M.

A current hall resident may reserve a space in his or her present residence hall On-Line.

APRIL 11 - 15 AFTER 8:00 A.M.

Any current student may reserve a space in any hall On-Line.

If you have questions regarding sign up, please email us at housing@uwrf.edu

ON-LINE MEAL PLAN SIGN UP

Sign up for your Fall Semester meal plan now!

Choose your Meal Plan when you do your Residence Hall Sign Up. Your 2004-2005 plan DOES NOT carry over to the new academic year.

All Freshmen and Sophmores residing in the University Residence Halls ARE REQUIRED to participate in one of the approved meal plans.

Projected 2005-2006 Fall Semester Board Rates:

- 19 Meal Plan \$925 w/ \$30 bonus points
- **New** Flex 19 Meal Plan \$1099 w/ \$30 bonus points
- Any 14 Meal Plan \$895 w/ \$30 bonus points
- **New** Flex 14 Meal Plan \$1047 w/ \$30 bonus points
- Any 10 Meal Plan \$860 w/ \$30 bonus points
- **New** Flex 10 Meal Plan \$1005 w/ \$30 bonus points
- Take 5 Meal Plan \$832 w/ \$165 bonus points
- ****Upper Option** \$575 w/ \$50 bonus points

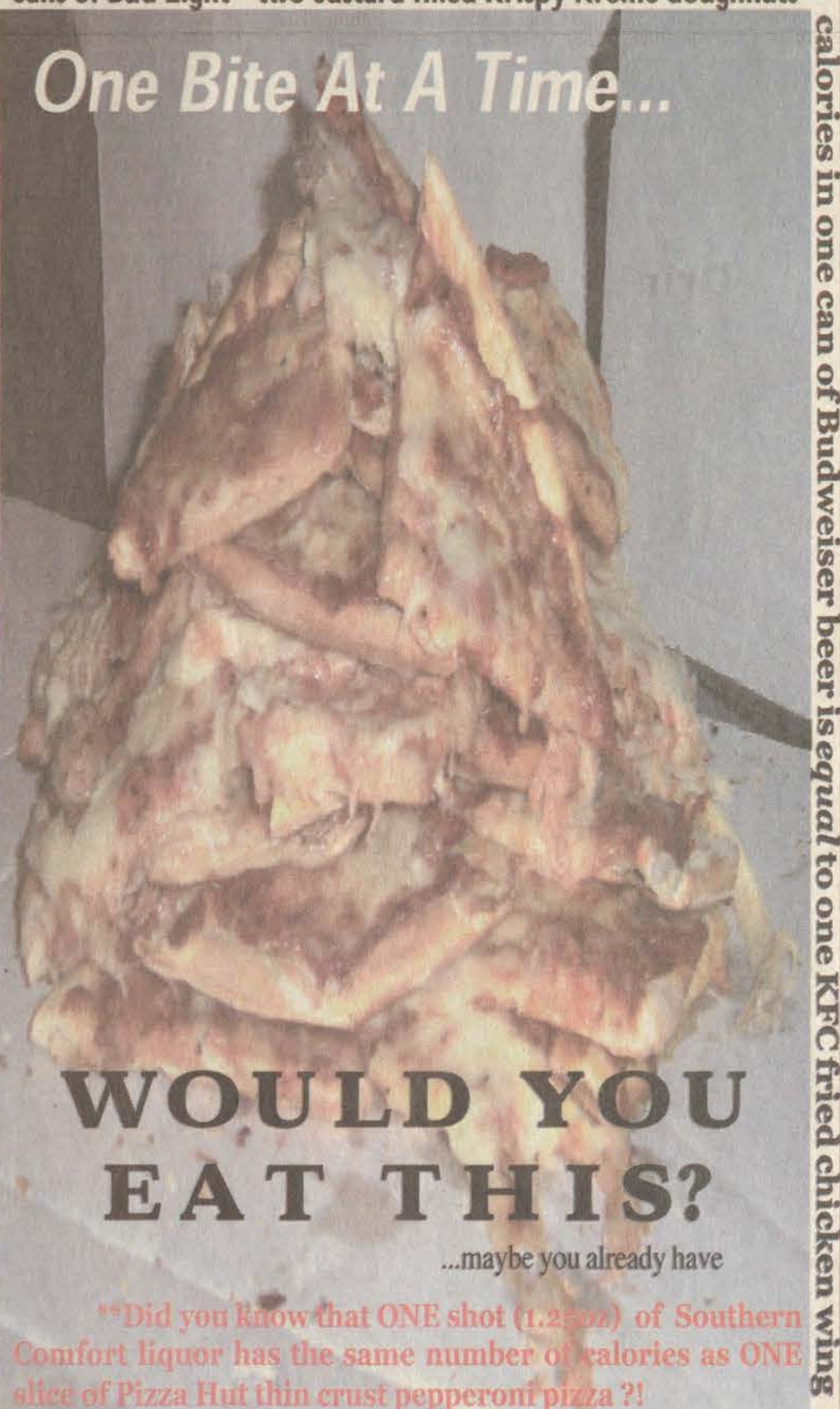
**** The Upper Option Meal Plan does not meet the mandatory requirement for Freshman and Sophmores residing in the University residence halls. It is for students that are not required to participate in a standard plan. (Juniors, Seniors, commuters, 21 years old, those with independent status)**

Detailed information regarding the meal plans can be found on our Food Services web site at www.uwrf.edu/student-services/fs.

Contact the Food Services Office at food@uwrf.edu if you have any questions.

570 calories = one 8oz Margarita = one small Oreo Blizzard = 4.5 cans of Bud Light = two custard filled Krispy Kreme doughnuts

One Bite At A Time...



WOULD YOU EAT THIS?

...maybe you already have

****Did you know that ONE shot (1.25oz) of Southern Comfort liquor has the same number of calories as ONE slice of Pizza Hut thin crust pepperoni pizza ?!**



Student Health Services 425-3293

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

- Alpha A
- Beta B
- Gamma Γ
- Delta Δ
- Epsilon Ε
- Zeta Ζ
- Eta Η
- Theta Θ
- Iota Ι
- Kappa Κ
- Lambda Λ
- Mu Μ
- Nu Ν
- Xi Ξ
- Omicron Ο
- Pi Π
- Rho Ρ
- Sigma Σ
- Tau Τ
- Upsilon Υ
- Phi Φ
- Chi Χ
- Psi Ψ
- Omega Ω



Stereotyped

An in-depth look at changes in Greek life from alcohol to academics

Eric Ebert
Assistant Editor

The Animal House image of hazing and hooligans, parties and practices has dominated campus stereotypes about Greek life for many years.

Greeks are rarely thought of as the over-achieving campus leaders, devoted community supporters and academic scholars. Yet many of today's politicians and business executives have ties to a sorority or fraternity at their alma mater.

Greek life has experienced many changes over the past 40 years, especially in the areas of hazing and academics.

However, traditions of hazing date back much farther than 40 years.

Brian Hansen, writer for CQ Researcher Online, wrote an article entitled "Hazing" in 2004, which covered hazing throughout society.

According to Hansen, Greek life in the United States began in the early 1800s, but early Greek hazing rituals were pretty tame. However, the first hazing death occurred more than 100 years ago in 1873.

Throughout history hazing incidents became more severe, and starting in 1970, began heavily incorporating alcohol.

According to Hansen, in 1980 a student at the University of South Carolina passed out and choked to death after fraternity members urged him to drink large quantities of alcohol.

UW-River Falls Greek advisor Sean Blackburn said during the mid 1980s the Animal House image grew to its peak.

"Because when people don't think, that's when we get in trouble," Blackburn said.

But through the late 1980s and early 1990s, the national Greek community worked to confront the stereotypes and bad behavior.

In 1997, the North-American Interfraternity Conference, an organization that promotes the advancement of fraternities, encouraged its 66 member fraternities to maintain alcohol-free chapters.

According to Hansen, that same year the fraternities of Phi Delta Theta and Sigma Nu banned drinking, beginning in 2000.

However, some Greek organizations still practice hazing even though national policies ban it.

Aaron Taber, a member of Theta Chi Fraternity, was subjected to hazing during his first year at Arizona State University.

Although Taber was told he would not be hazed, during the initial pledge ceremony initiated brothers made the pledges take four shots of alcohol.

"A lot of hazing comes flat-out from alcohol," Taber said. "I thought Theta Chi was a stereotypical Animal House fraternity."

Throughout the first year of Taber's membership to Theta Chi at Arizona State, he and other new members were yelled at and blamed for problems.

"You really learn to bite the bullet there," Taber said.

Despite experiencing hazing first-hand, Taber said the worst incident he witnessed happened after his initiation.

In this incident a new member, already sick with pneumonia, was kidnapped, stripped down to his boxers and thrown in a dumpster filled with ice-water in January. The brothers then threw other things, like mustard, on him for two hours, Taber said.

Taber later reported the chapter to the Theta Chi International Headquarters.

"I definitely didn't take part in any of the hazing," Taber said.

Fred Benson, alumnus brother of the Zeta Sigma chapter of Theta Chi at UW-RF, shares Taber's views on hazing.

"I never enjoyed hazing myself. [I could] never bring myself to do it," Benson said.

Benson joined Theta Chi in the spring of 1970 and also experienced hazing.

As a pledge Benson was forced to wear a pledge helmet and carry a pledge log (a large piece of wood). Since 1970, Theta Chi has adopted a national anti-hazing policy and an alcohol-free house policy.

"People who haven't done what Theta Chi has done are taking a lot of risk," Benson said.

Other local fraternities and sororities have adopted similar policies regarding hazing and alcohol.

The Alpha Psi chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR)

came into existence at UW-RF in 1968.

Glen Groth, an AGR member, said during the 1950s and 1960s things like hazing and drinking went unchecked by many fraternities.

However, fraternities across the nation have realized that hazing doesn't benefit chapters. Groth said AGR was one of the first fraternities to nationally adopt a no-hazing and no-pledge policy.

AGR member Jason Berdan agrees that hazing has never been important to their chapter.

"Our alumni wanted no hazing from the word go," Berdan said.

The Gamma Phi chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma (Tri Sigma) sorority has been at UW-RF since 1969 and shares similar views on policies involving hazing.

Tri Sigma practices a zero-tolerance policy with hazing.

"We're really strict on alcohol and hazing policies," Katlyn Kaiser, president of Tri Sigma, said.

Because of their zero-tolerance policy toward hazing, Tri Sigma has been able to focus more on academics. Tri Sigma maintains grade point average and other standards for its members.

"We all really focus on school," Kaiser said.

This focus has allowed Tri Sigma to achieve a high group GPA, which averaged 3.7 during the 2004 spring semester. Kaiser said they are really proud of their grades, which is one of their main sorority focuses.

Fraternities and Sororities at UW-RF also practice different recruitment policies

Fraternities on campus have relatively few restrictions to how and when they recruit, but UW-RF sororities participate in a more restrictive process called formal recruitment.

During formal recruitment, some current sorority members disassociate from their sororities to lead potential new members through the recruitment process without influence from one group.

Throughout the week of formal recruitment, potential new members are introduced to all of the sororities on campus. At the end of the week, new women are extended bids based on which group likes them and which group they like.

Developing these recruitment policies and advising Greek life has also created career opportunities.

Blackburn, who started at UW-RF in January, said being a founding father of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity at Virginia Tech got him started on his current career.

Since graduating in 2001, Blackburn has served as advisor for Delta Tau Delta and directed a Greek housing complex at Virginia Tech.

Blackburn said Greek life here isn't as prominent when compared with other campuses. While Greeks comprise about 4 percent of the campus, it could easily be around 10 percent, Blackburn said.

As part of his new plan for Greek life, Blackburn wants Greek organizations to grow by 10 percent each year for three years.

However, to make this goal, Blackburn said Greeks must become more visible on campus and do things that display community service. Greeks must also be at or above the average campus GPA.

"We'll see how the grades turn out," Blackburn said. "I'm hoping for good things."

Some good things have already come from the UW-RF Greek system. With all of the stresses associated with college life, Greek life has kept some students on campus.

"There is more than one time I could've walked away from this university," Berdan said.

But because of the life-long friendships Greek life developed, Berdan said he couldn't walk away from 50 of his brothers.

For others, Greek life has built a foundation of memories.

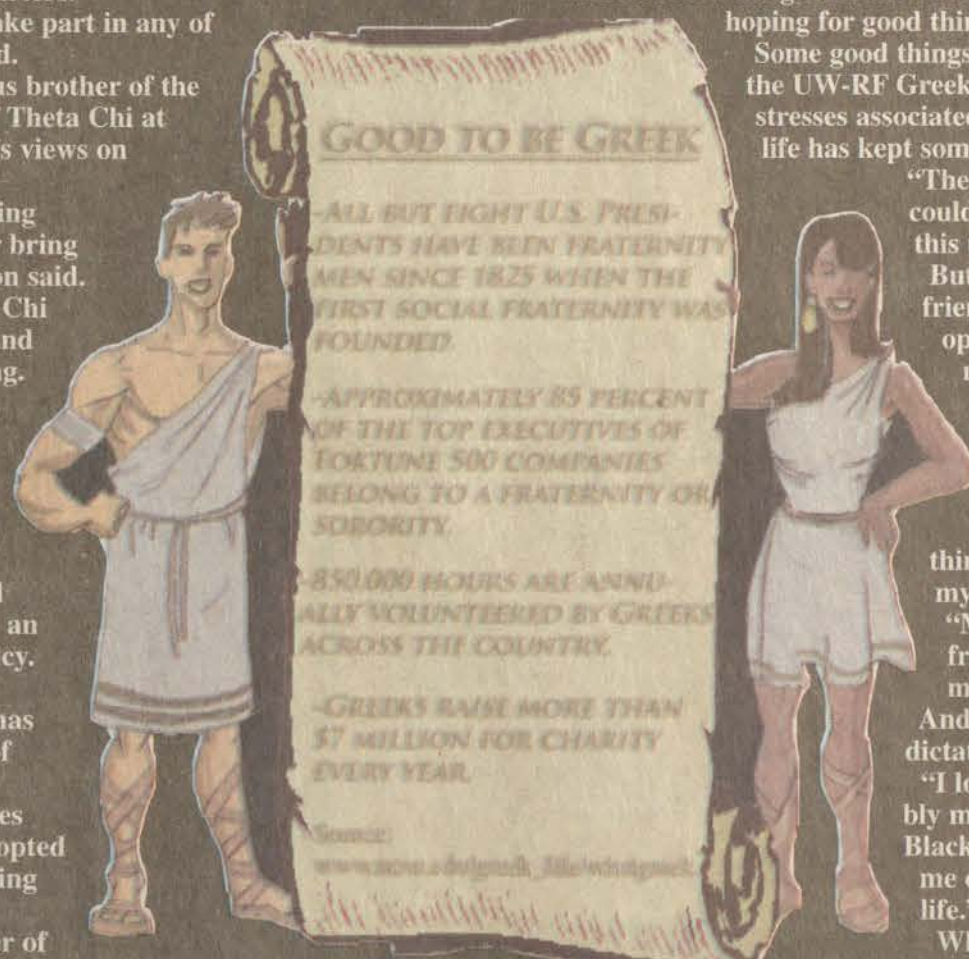
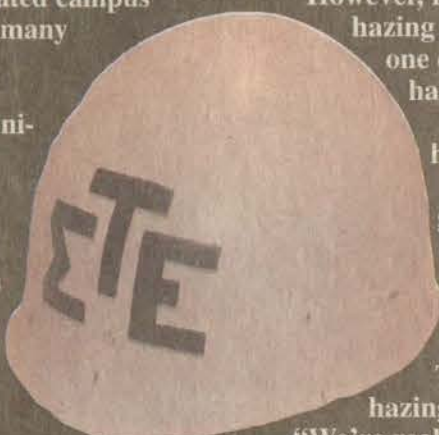
"I like having something to do and doing it with my sisters," Kaiser said.

"My favorite memories from college will always be my Sigma memories."

And for a few people, it even dictates the course of their life.

"I love my experience, probably my best year in college," Blackburn said. "It propelled me on this whole course of my life."

Which only confirms the saying that: "Greek is for life."



Graphic by Neng Yang