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The Roland Dille Center for the Arts

Moorhead State University

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The Roland Dille Center for the Arts

Moorhead State University
Moorhead, Minnesota

Dedication Saturday, May 21, 1994

In tribute to Roland and Beth Dille and in
recognition of Roland Dille's retirement as
President of Moorhead State University.



**The Roland Dille
Center for the Arts Dedication
Saturday, May 21, 1994**

Moorhead State University
Moorhead, Minnesota

- 1:30 p.m.** MSU Wind Ensemble Concert on the Campus Mall. Dr. John Tesch, Conductor
- 2:00 p.m.** Dedication Ceremony
Musical Fanfare (composed by MSU students in honor of the dedication)
Remarks Dr. Terrence MacTaggart, Chancellor of the Minnesota State University System
Remarks Dr. Roland Dille, President of Moorhead State University
Presentation of Painting and Bronze Relief
- 2:30 p.m.** Courtyard Reception in the Center for the Arts
to 3:00 p.m.
- 2:30 p.m.** Open House in the Center for the Arts
to 4:00 p.m.
- Art Gallery**
Senior Student Art Exhibition
Piano selections by Dr. Terrie Manno
- Art Department**
Drawing from Costumed Model, CA 170
Carl Oltvedt
Glass and Ceramics Demonstration, CA 172/3
Robert Tom
Computer Graphics Demonstration, Mezzanine
Allen Sheets
Printmaking Demonstration, CA 164
Deborah Broad
- Thrust Theatre Lobby**
MSU Music Department Student String Quartet
- Thrust Theatre and Green Room**
MSU Speech and Theatre Department Exhibits and Videos
- 4:00 p.m.** **Recital Hall**
Cello recital by Dr. Nathan Davis

**A Tribute to Roland
and Beth Dille upon the
retirement of Roland Dille as
President of
Moorhead State University
Saturday, May 21, 1994**

Moorhead State University
Comstock Memorial Union

CMU Lobby

6:00 p.m. Music by the MSU Jazz Band. Ted DiSanti, conductor.

CMU Ballroom

6:30 p.m. Welcome and Dinner

Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Robert Badal, MSU Dean of Arts and Humanities

7:30 p.m. Selections by the Fargo-Moorhead Master Chorale. Lowell Larson, conductor.

7:40 p.m. Break

7:50 p.m. Comments

Mr. George Sinner, Chair of the Dille Fund for Excellence

Reading

Dr. Mary Pryor, MSU Professor Emeritus of English

Comments

Dr. Elizabeth Pegues, President of the Minnesota State University Board

Dr. Daniel Knighton, President of the MSU Inter-Faculty Organization

Dr. Roland Barden, MSU Vice President for Academic Affairs

Corey Elmer, MSU Senior Honors Student and Vice President of the
Minnesota State University Board

Dr. William Jones, MSU Vice President Emeritus

Dr. F.C. Richardson, Greetings from American Association of State Colleges and Universities

Morris Lanning, Mayor of the City of Moorhead

Dr. Kathryn Wilson, Director of MSU Athletics

President Paul Dovre, Concordia College

Program

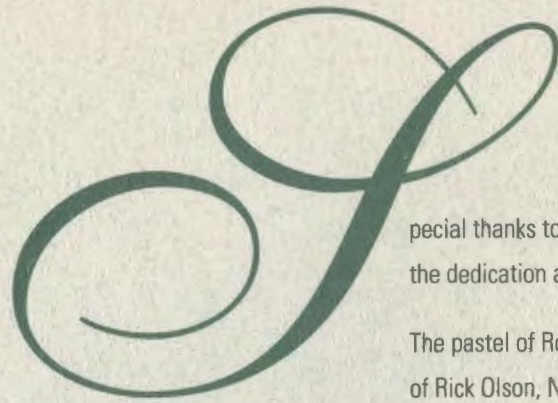
Presentation of Gifts

Ron Matthies, MSU Vice President for Public Affairs

Sharon Ferris, Assistant to the MSU Academic Vice President

Closing Remarks

President Roland Dille



pecial thanks to Alma Cater, Country Greenery, Moorhead, for the flower arrangements for the dedication and evening dinner.

The pastel of Roland Dille that will hang in the Roland Dille Center for the Arts is the work of Rick Olson, Naples, Florida, who studied at MSU from 1968 to 1972. The work was commissioned by the MSU Alumni Association.

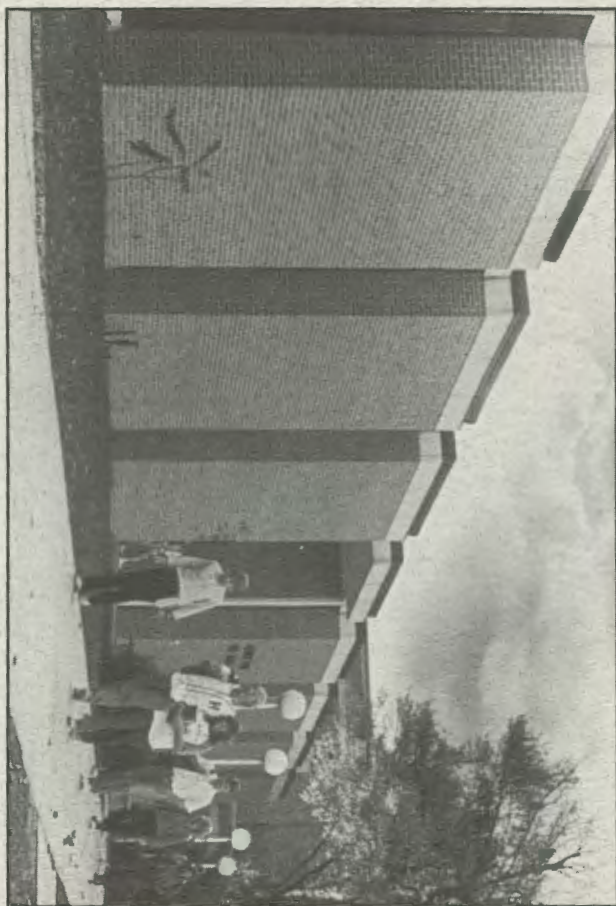


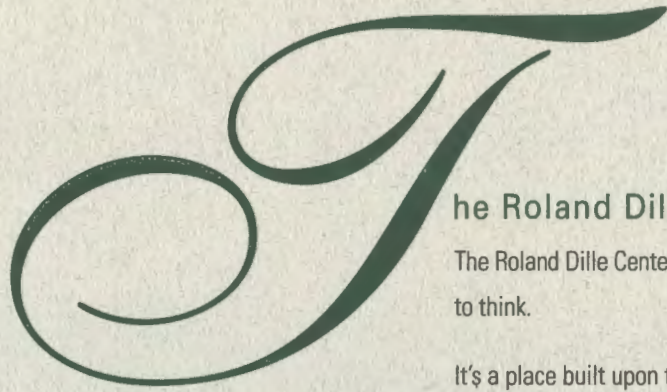
The bronze reliefs for the building were designed and created by P. Richard Szejt, professor of art at MSU since 1966 and department chair for 25 years who retires this year. The images include Roland Dille speaking in front of the Center for the Arts, flanked by his successor, Roland Barden, and his predecessor, John Neumaier. Roland Dille is also depicted in his role as Santa Claus. Beth Dille holds a basketball as testimony to her support of women's athletics. At the left of the relief, Roland Dille leads an academic procession. At the right, he plants a tree of life on the campus mall in recognition of Moratorium Day, Oct. 15, 1969. The relief incorporates lines from **Ulysses**, one of Roland Dille's favorite poems.



Dedication Planning Committee

Robert Badal	Dave Holsen
Sharon Ferris	Ron Matthies
Kathy Freise	Donna McMaster





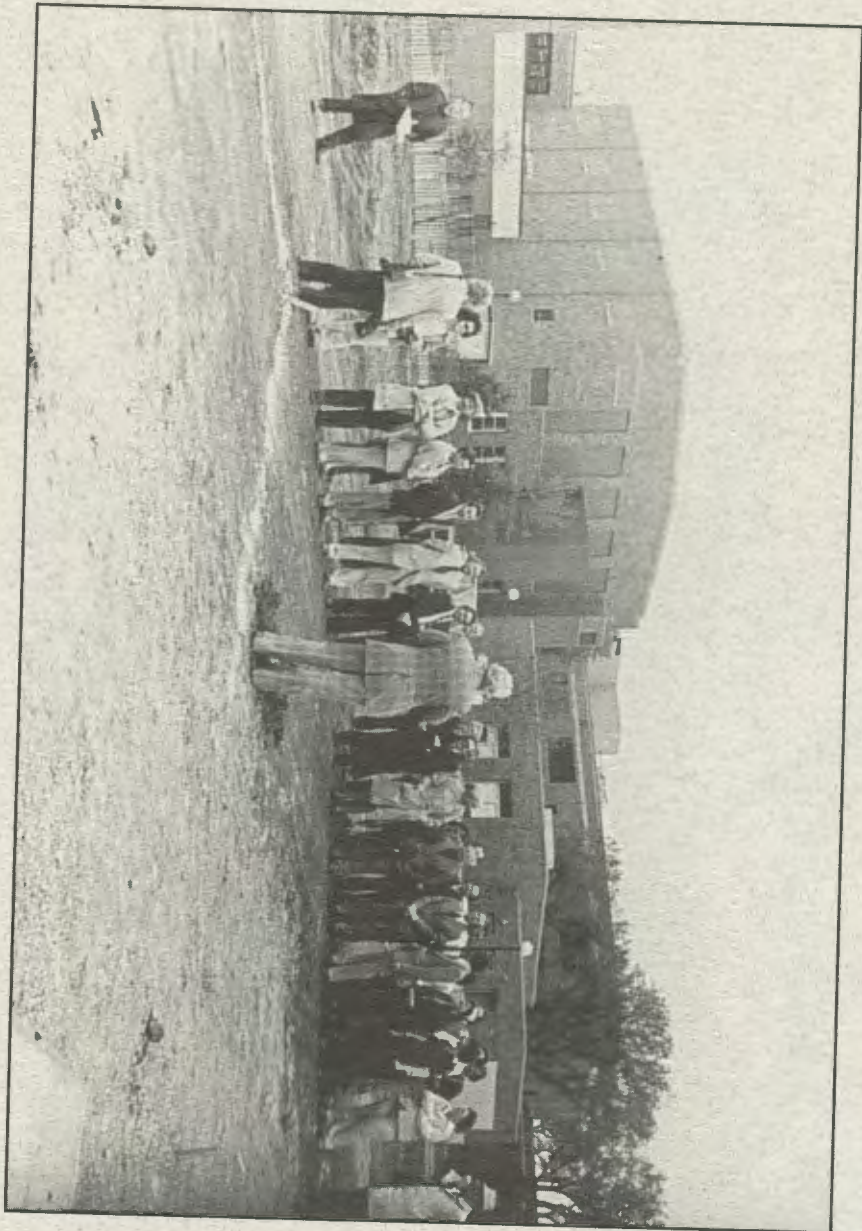
he Roland Dille Center for the Arts

The Roland Dille Center for the Arts is a place about bringing people together to feel and to think.

It's a place built upon the sounds of fugues drifting through hallways, the smells of painted canvas, the colors of rich costumes. It's where learning reaches beyond days and into nights, where community and campus meet to explore and to applaud.

Here, we come to watch actors bring stories alive. We listen to speakers who entertain and who enrage. We hear music and study sculpture stunning in emotion.

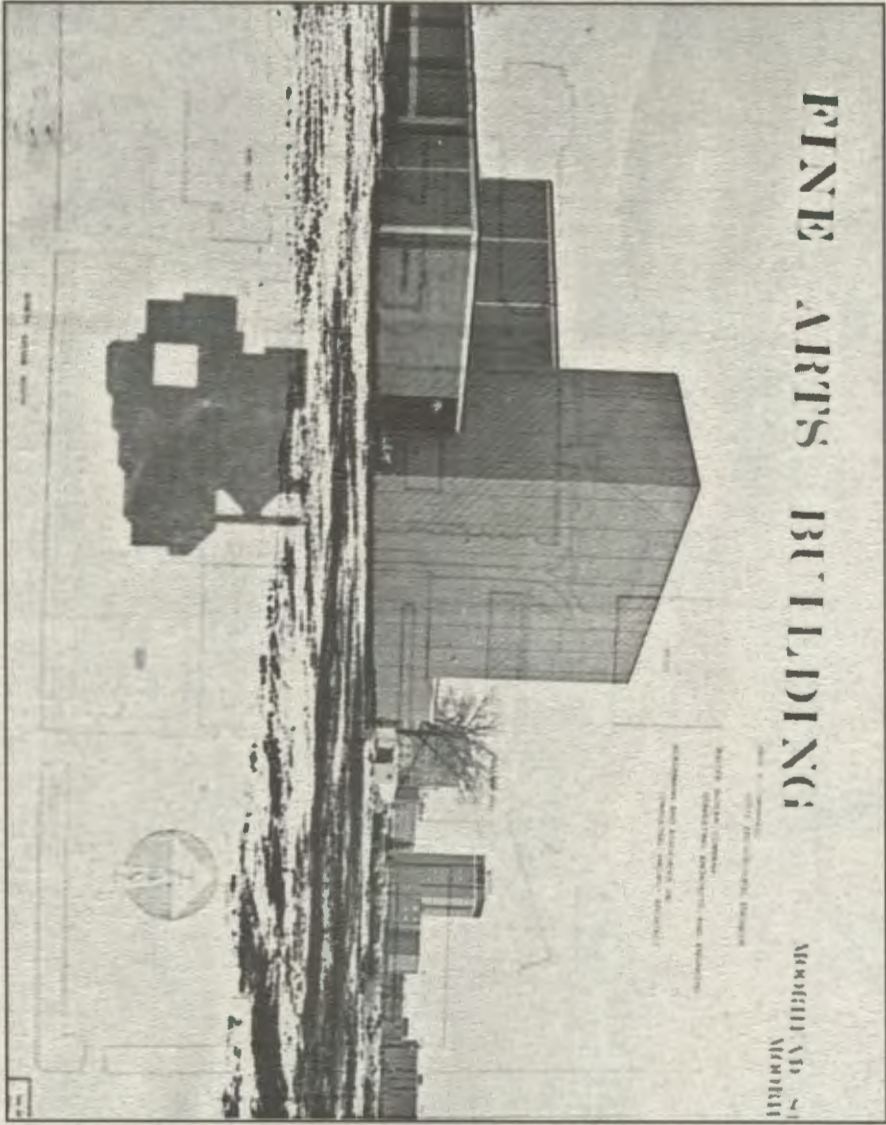
They have moved through this building for three decades, these works of art and their creators. Yet like the name now upon this place, they remain part of it. They remain part of us, doing nothing if not making us more alive than when first we came.





About the Building

- Completed in the fall of 1966 at a cost of \$1,620,000. With 78,000 square feet, it was designed to house the departments of art, music and speech/theatre.
- The building includes the Delmar J. Hansen Theatre, a 900-seat auditorium that is also the home of the Performing Arts Series. Along with an art gallery, the art facilities include studios for painting, drawing, design, pottery, glassblowing and sculpture. The music department includes a recital hall, band, orchestra and choral rehearsal rooms, music listening library, electronic music studios, a piano classroom and individual practice rooms. The department of speech and theatre facilities include a seven-story stage area, scene shop, green room, dressing rooms and a costume shop. A \$2.5 million addition to the building in 1979 added an art wing, scene shop and thrust theatre.
- The architects were Stegner, Hendrickson, and McNutt of Brainerd, Minn., and Foss, Engelstad and Foss of Moorhead. The state architect was A.J. Nelson of St. Paul and the coordinating architects, Hammel and Green, Inc., St. Paul.
- The general contractor was J.E. Krieg and Sons of Fargo, N.D.; mechanical contractor, Miller Sheet Metal Co., Moorhead; and electrical contractor, Reger Electric Company, Fargo.
- The Center for the Arts was erected during the administration of Gov. Karl F. Rolvaag by authority of the Minnesota State College Board and Moorhead State College officials Dr. John J. Neumaier, President, and Earl Herring, Administrative Dean. Roland Dille, then Academic Dean, presided at the facility's dedication ceremony on Feb. 17, 1967.



- Activities during the original dedication week included a lecture by actress Mildred Dunnock, an exhibition by sculptor Frank Gallo, a German art song concert by Linda Tjecknavorian and a concert by famed soprano Eileen Farrell.
- Nineteen Steinway pianos were delivered to the facility in September, 1966, weighing some nine tons and valued at \$60,000.
- A production of "Oliver" on the new stage starred MSU alum Lenus Carlson, who had just launched what would become an international opera career.
- On April 16, 1966, the new building was named. Several motions were made and withdrawn, and a motion to name the building "Kennedy Center for the Arts" was defeated. Dr. Clarence Glasrud's motion, seconded by Dr. Delmar Hansen, to name the building "Center for the Arts" was carried. In the discussion it was indicated that this would allow further consideration of the possibility of naming the building for a person or a family at some future time.
- Current number of majors in each department housed in the Center for the Arts: art, 211; music, 179; speech and theatre, 155. Patrons enjoy Straw Hat Theatre productions each summer, children's theatre productions and Performing Arts Series events. Thousands of additional audience members attend convocations, lectures, recitals and concerts in the building.



A large, stylized, dark green initial letter 'R' in a calligraphic font, positioned at the beginning of the first paragraph.

oland Dille

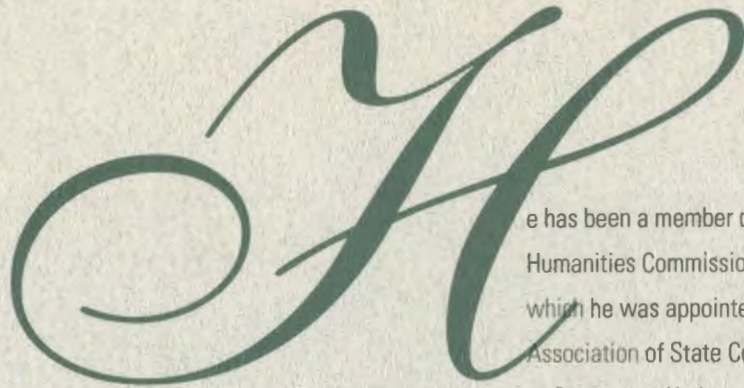
Roland Dille has been President of Moorhead State University for 26 years. He was born Sept. 15, 1924, near Dassel, Minn. After graduating from Dassel High School, he served in the army infantry in Europe during World War II.

In 1949, he graduated from the University of Minnesota, earning his bachelor of arts degree in English summa cum laude, and was elected a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

After teaching at Dassel High School for a year, he returned to the University of Minnesota, where he earned his Ph.D., specializing in modern British literature.

He has taught at the University of Minnesota, St. Olaf College and California Lutheran College. He came to Moorhead State University in 1963 as a member of the Department of English. He was named academic dean in 1966, and in 1968 he became MSU's eighth president. On leave of absence in 1982, he served as Acting Chancellor of the Minnesota State University System.



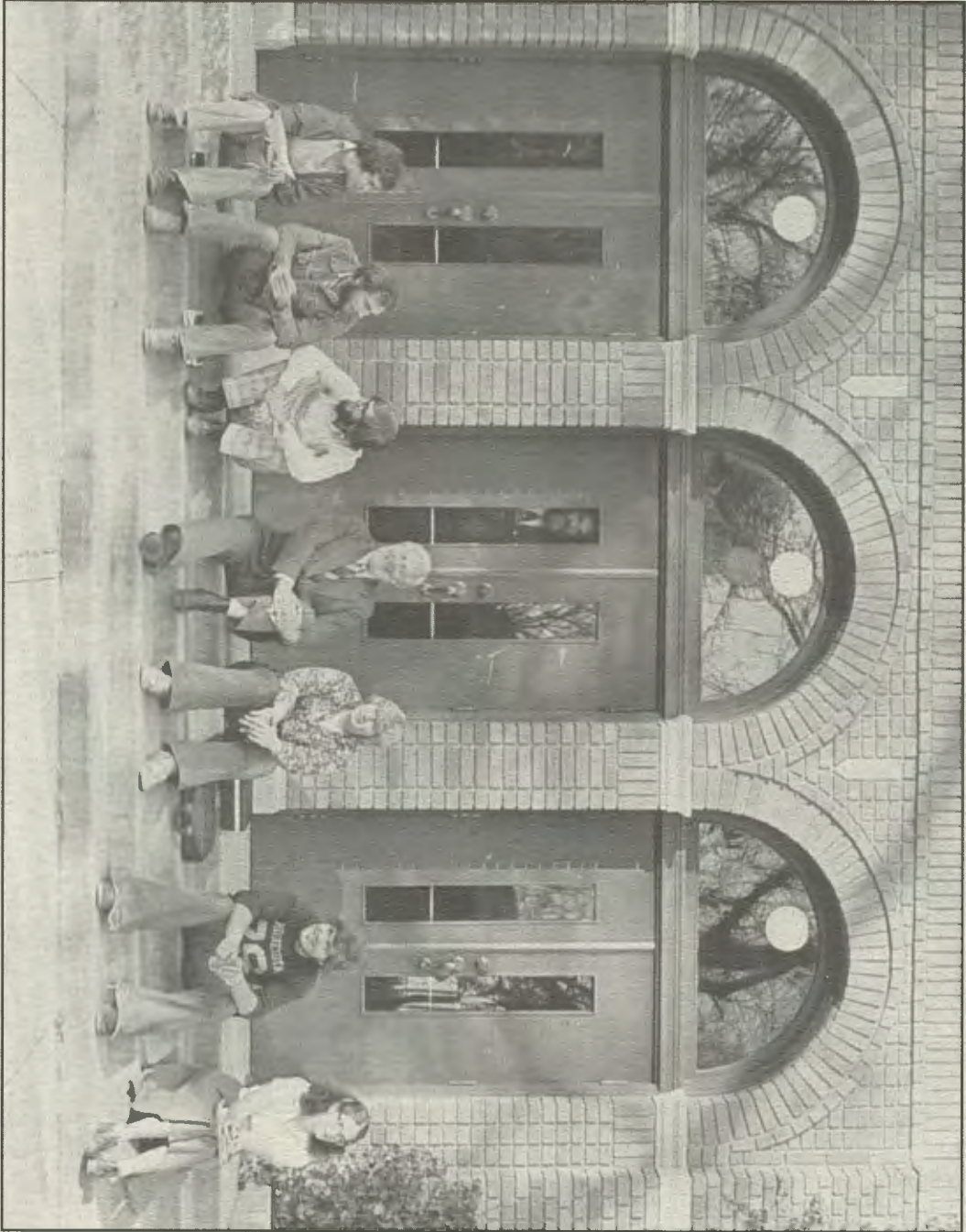



e has been a member of the Commission on Minnesota's Future and of the Minnesota Humanities Commission. He was a member of the National Council for the Humanities, to which he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter. He is a past chairman of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and past president of the Moorhead Chamber of Commerce. He is a recent Chair of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

In 1988, he was named one of the 100 most effective college presidents in America. The annual award given by the Minnesota Humanities Commission has been named the Roland Dille Award. He is president of the Red River Valley Heritage Society.

Dr. Dille is the author of numerous articles in literature, education and local history. He has been a member of educational missions to Egypt, Greece, Taiwan, France, England, Spain, Thailand, Malaysia, China, Japan, Korea and South America.

He and his wife, Beth, have four children and six grandchildren. Their daughter Deborah, married to Tim Jollymore, is a senior claims examiner with the Department of Labor, San Francisco; Martha Dille is a program supervisor and counselor in the Minneapolis Youth Diversion Program; Sarah, who lives in Atlanta, is a Lutheran pastor and a doctoral candidate in theology at Emory University, and Benjamin, married to Sharon Ueber (MSU class of '88), is an official at the American Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela.





Roland Dille and Moorhead State University

It's been three decades since Roland Dille came to MSU, 26 years since he stepped into the President's Office and started his strong, steady guidance.

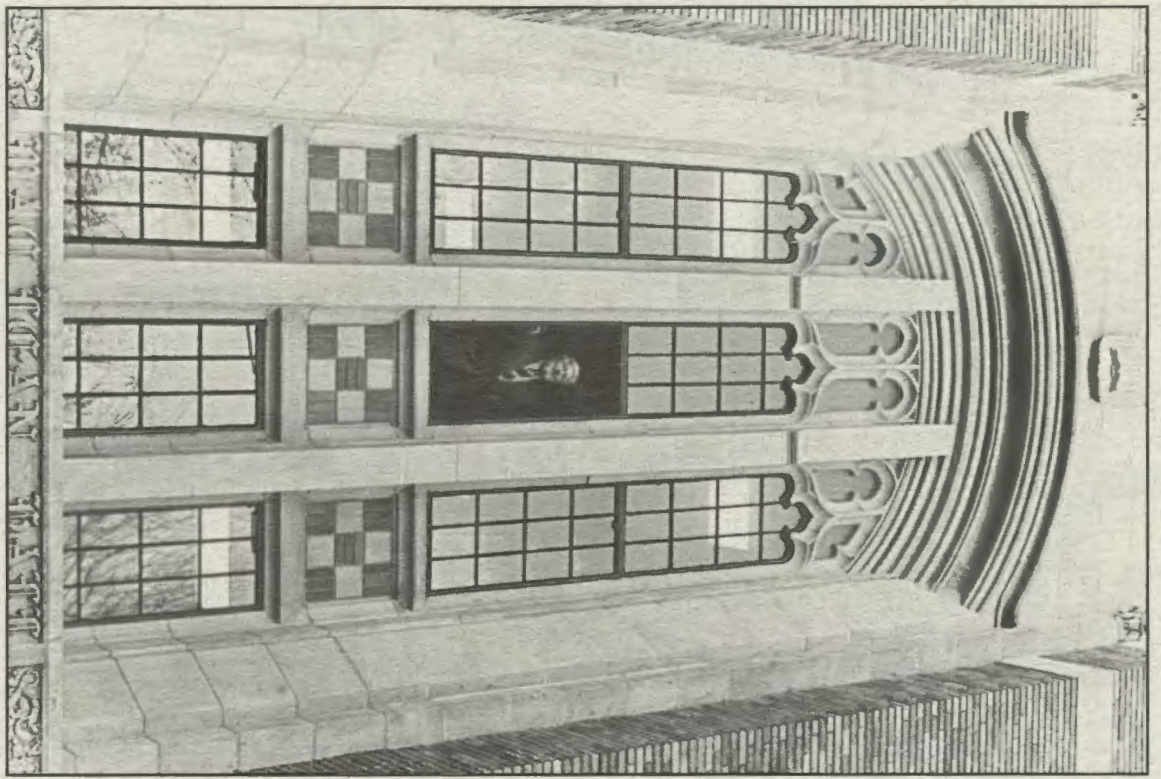
About that time, the voices of protest howled. The North Vietnamese launched their Tet offensive and both Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. were assassinated. On this campus, the issues sizzled. Professors advised students on draft dodging. The student newspaper sneered with four-letter words, and got shut down.

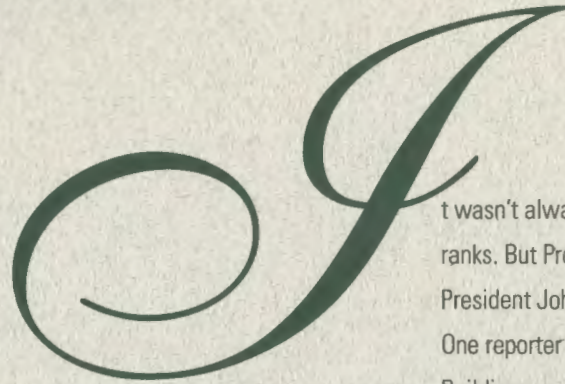
President Dille was threatened with harm to his children, and moved his desk away from the office window—just in case.

Since that time, he has steered MSU to give students a sense of the greater world and of contributing to it as working, voting, living people. That's what MSU has always been about, even when the entire school had 29 students in 1888.

President Livingston Lord set the tone, training teachers as active citizens and making the campus a critical part of the community, ready to lead. A decade later, President Frank Weld met the challenge of escalating numbers of students and built a faculty that helped students prepare to reach forward into the world.

The years passed, and our campus changed with them. Four-year degrees were adopted, football teams were formed, the campus became Moorhead State Teachers College.





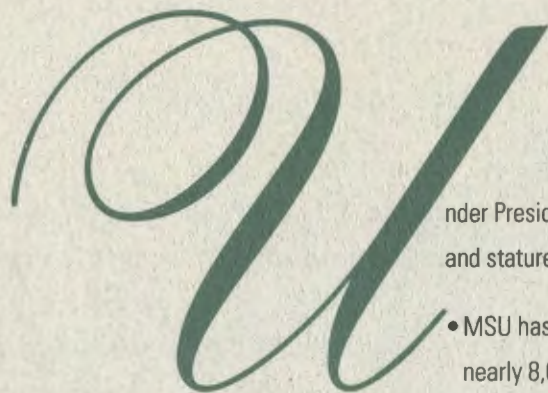
It wasn't always easy. Old Main burned in 1930. Two world wars cut finances and student ranks. But Presidents Raymond MacLean and Otto Snarr guided MSU through those times. President John Neumaier was instrumental in establishing MSU as a top-flight institution. One reporter even called it the Harvard of the Midwest. Students flowed to the campus. Buildings went up, and the vital energy that still marks our campus sparked.

That's when Roland Dille stepped into the office of President, an office that overflows with books and boxes of books, markers of his extraordinary commitment to learning.

Today, more than 8,000 people enliven the campus, with opinions as diverse as each of them. That's a point of pride here—people who think for themselves and who care enough about their world to argue for it. It's the kind of thinking upon which President Dille thrives.

He's said that a college can't promise anyone happiness. But it can help them find the freedom to know who they are, with words and thoughts that give them power over their future. The Report of the Commission on Post-Secondary Education in Minnesota quotes Dr. Dille's eloquent defense of learning:

"The culture of our college traces—indeed celebrates—the struggle to find order in chaos, the affirmation of human dignity, the sacrifices of heroes, the creation and change of institutions devoted to the public good. It celebrates the great ideas that have moved us, however slowly, forward, and the great works that have inspired, moved and given us serenity. It testifies to the good that follows the choice of reason over impulse, or the long view to the short view. It makes us skeptics and gives us faith. It helps us recognize our common humanity even as it teaches us to take joy in our diversity. Finally, by awakening in us a sense of possibilities, it makes us good citizens."



nder President Dille's unprecedented tenure, the University has grown in size, quality and stature:

- MSU has moved from a student body of 4,293 and a faculty of 263 to an enrollment of nearly 8,000 and a faculty of 435.
- A liberal studies requirement was developed to better support students' efforts to develop critical-thinking skills, gain new knowledge, integrate ideas and form sound opinions.
- Theatre, creative writing, music, visual arts—thriving at the heart of the campus—have enjoyed increasing emphasis and regional and national recognition.
- Highly regarded business programs now enroll a quarter of MSU's students.
- The New Center for Multidisciplinary Studies was established to aid non-traditional students as well as those students with special educational needs and interests.
- Teacher training programs have responded to changes and challenges; through the nationally renowned Student Teaching Abroad program, students can further their skills throughout the world.
- In athletics, MSU teams have attained their greatest success in the past 25 years, prompting the decision to meet the larger challenge of the NCAA. And, at an institution that values academics, participants are indeed student-athletes.
- Dr. Dille played an early leadership role in the Tri-College University, one of the premier consortiums in the nation that gives students and faculty access to courses and library resources at three higher education institutions in Fargo-Moorhead.