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Against the odds
MSUM transfer student uses disability to promote wheelchair basketball.
FEATURES, page 3



Reel 'em in
Fargo Film Festival hits downtown for third straight year
ARTS, page 6



Unstoppable
Women's basketball continues torrid pace with weekend sweep.
SPORTS, page 8

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Feb. 27, 2003

The ADVOCATE

An award-winning newspaper published weekly for the Minnesota State University Moorhead community

SPECIAL REPORT

MSUM's New Center: 30 years of myths

By **TERI FINNEMAN**

News Editor

As the New Center celebrates 30 years as an alternative admission program for MSUM, 30 years of myths as to the founding, purpose, name and goals of the Center for Multi-disciplinary Studies have followed.

Since the program's beginning in 1972, more than 1,000 students have gone through the New Center and graduated from MSUM.

Not bad for a program

Editor's note: This is the first in a two-part series. This week explores the history of the 30-year-old program. March 6 focuses on the program's benefits for current students.

stereotyped as remedial, often doubted by MSUM faculty and supposedly started by an MSUM president for his daughter, said Maureen Jonason.

Jonason, a former MSUM New Center professor, has spent the past few years working on a 300-page dissertation

about the other side to MSUM admissions.

"I think it's an outstanding program. If you're a state university receiving state funds, you have a moral obligation to do everything you can to help them [students] succeed, and that's what the New Center is all about," Jonason said. "You have some students who have faced really serious challenges in their lives and are giving them a chance to show their intelligence and ability in an

□ **NEW**, back page



SUBMITTED PHOTO

New Center professor Mary Ann Hanna taught in the alternative admission program during its 15th year.

Theater students host pro-peace reading campaign

By **ERIN BELISLE**

Staff Writer

Even in the face of widespread protest, war happened to ancient Greeks, and it happens to modern Americans.

In "Lysistrata," Aristophanes' ancient Greek comedy, the title character organizes a campaign for women to abstain from sex until the end of the Peloponnesian War. This anti-war comedy inspired a recent worldwide pro-peace demonstration against the war on Iraq.

At 7 p.m. Monday, MSUM theater students will join a world of pro-peace readings of "Lysistrata."

Theater professor Craig Ellingson said students in his Acting Styles class will perform a modern version written by Adam Webster.

"The themes and passion behind 'Lysistrata' is so applicable to what's going on today," Ellingson said. "I hope to entertain [the audience], but also to educate and inspire them to make a change."

Ellingson emphasizes the project is "pro-peace," rather than anti-war.

Senior theater major Rhonda Kohl is part of the group performing on Monday. "It is an extreme approach [withholding sex] and not one realistically done, but it's symbolic of having power without resorting to violence," Kohl said.

The reading will be held in the Center for the Arts in the Art Critique Room. Admission is free, but donations will go to North Dakota Peace Coalition.

For more information, contact Craig Ellingson at ellngson@mnstate.edu or visit www.lysistrataproject.com.

Belisle can be reached at belisler@mnstate.edu.



JASON PROCHNOW/PHOTO EDITOR

Two-point delivery

Senior Marlon Samuel converts a layup Friday in the men's basketball game against Winona. See page 8 for the story.

MAT bus co-op to continue next year

By **TERI FINNEMAN**

News Editor

Transportation co-ops between MSUM and local businesses have proven successful this year as more than 13,000 free Metro Area Transit bus rides were given to MSUM students, faculty and staff last semester.

Cindy Sogn of the MSUM parking office said the service will again be available next year.

"More students are coming to campus with vehicles because a lot of them have part-time jobs to pay their way through school," Sogn said. "That makes a lot of congestion in the parking lots. Even if somebody does have a vehicle, [the bus] is an option to consider."

Sogn said the bus service will continue to be funded by the university rather than student fees. The parking office and president's office funded the \$22,000 co-op for 2002-03.

"I think it [MAT usage] is really going to increase after people have tried it and seen it's a nice option," Sogn said. "The ones who have tried it have really been favorable

about it. I think it's something we'll see more and more of as our area gets bigger. A lot of people are doing it just out of convenience rather than actual need."

Lori Van Beek, transit manager for Moorhead's MAT, said numbers are going steadily up as another 3,860 rides were given to members of the MSUM community in January. Van Beek said NDSU statistics showed a large increase in riders during the second year, and she hopes to see the same at MSUM.

"People start to get a trust in it," she said. "The second year should be a wonderful year for the program and hopefully show us we need to continue."

Van Beek said there looks to be a 5 percent cut in the MAT state grant for 2003, a 10 percent cut in 2004 and a 5 percent cut for 2005. Therefore, talk has already begun on how to be more cost-effective.

Van Beek said a north and south route are available during the evening, but one route may be cut and the other extended in order to save on cost.

"That's just an idea that we

□ **BUS**, back page

Davis offers perspective on racism, Klan

By **GINA RONHOVDE**

Staff Writer

Grammy-award-winning pianist Daryl Davis spoke at MSUM last week about his encounters with one of America's most controversial institutions: the Ku Klux Klan. "After 134 years of nothing but violence and hatred, it is time we get to know one another on a social basis, and not under a cover of dark-

ness," Davis explained.

He was pelted with rocks, splintered bottles and debris while carrying the American flag for his Cub Scout troop at a parade in Boston.

In his 20s, when he was already an up-and-coming musician, Daryl was attacked by a racist police officer.

Driven by the need to understand those who, without ever having met him, hate him because of his skin color,

Daryl decided to seek out the roots of racism.

Davis found that the Klan is not only entrenched in the southern states; it was in his own neighborhood. He set out to meet Roger Kelly, the Imperial Wizard of the Invincible Empire Knights, of the Ku Klux Klan.

After the first encounter (where Kelly posed for pictures, with an agreement "as long as we don't have to stand

with our arms around each other"), the two slowly formed as close a friendship as a black man and a Klansman can.

Through Kelly and others, Davis began to explore the Klan, gaining real insight into its workings and members' minds.

Using music to bridge the white man's plight and the

□ **DAVIS**, page 9

Cartoonist to lecture Saturday

"A Day in the Life of an Editorial Cartoonist" by Trygve Olson will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Riverview Place, 5300 12th St. S., Fargo. The course is free of charge.

Olson will discuss how cartoonists get ideas, answer questions, show slides and demonstrate woodblock printing. Olson is an adjunct faculty member in art/illustration at MSUM.

Graduate school workshop planned

Career Services will host a graduate school search workshop from 1 to 2:30 p.m. today (Thursday) in CMU 208.

Juniors will have an opportunity to learn where to begin and seniors will be helped with specific questions and getting ready for campus visits.

No registration is necessary. The workshop services are free. For more information, call Career Services at 236-2131 or stop by CMU 114.

Sigma Tau Delta hosts prose slam

Sigma Tau Delta, MSUM's English honor society, will sponsor a poetry and prose slam at 7:30 p.m. March 6 in the conference room of the Red Bear. There is a \$3 admission fee.

Everyone is invited to read and/or watch. Readings are to be kept at a three-minute time limit. No singing or dancing allowed. Cash prizes are available for top winners.

Audubon club presents lecture

The Audubon will have its monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. today (Thursday) in Concordia's Science Building.

The program will deal with Spencer Meek's experiences on a two-week general wildlife safari to Tanzania in 2000 and a five-day extension into Kenya.

MPD, security improve cooperative substation

By TERI FINNEMAN

News Editor

The Moorhead Police Department continues to add to its campus substation as crime prevention, juvenile services, restorative justice and landlord divisions were among those added to the Campus Security building last week.

Nancy Taralson, community placing coordinator, said the move was necessary after the school district - which owned the building the divisions were located in - needed to reorganize and take the building down.

"This [moving to the campus substation] seemed like a logical move for us, to be in a shared facility," Taralson said.

Mike Pehler, director of Campus Security, said the MPD made its first move into Campus Security in February 2002.

"It's been working great. The first move was basically the beat officers and so patrol officers would have a place to do reports and interviews," Pehler said.

"Lt. Greg Anderson worked both here and at the main station, which gave us a great deal of daily contact to deal

“

The impression is that [Romkey Park] is still a difficult place to live and, statistically, that's not true.

Nancy Taralson
Community placing coordinator

with any issues or situations that may have come up."

Pehler said Anderson has since transferred back to the main station, but seven other officers took his space at the substation.

He and Taralson said the changes will work to benefit the MSUM community as well.

"The restorative justice program is an alternative way of letting the citizens have some say in criminal events that have occurred to them," Taralson said.

"They might meet face to face with the offender and work together to come up with a punishment. Some of the victims are of [campus] car vandalisms and how the crime impacted them. It can be used in any situation."

She said the new location also aids her research and implementation of a grant for Romkey Park.

"Actually being in the neigh-

borhood that we're focusing on is a real plus," Taralson said.

"There's been a real change in this neighborhood for the better. The impression is that it's still a difficult place to live and, statistically, that's not true."

Pehler said working with landlords and developers has improved the neighborhood's situation.

Taralson said serious crimes in the area have gone down from 376 incidents in 1998 to 161 in 2001.

"In order for landlords to continue to experience success in this neighborhood, they need to be able to convince the community that this is a good neighborhood to live in and we're trying to help do that," Taralson said.

School resource officers, DARE and the noise division were also transferred to the MSUM substation.

"Probably the only thing that might be added [in the future] is if services were added to the existing Campus Security or to Nancy's area," Pehler said. "It's a full house."

Finneman can be reached at crusher69@hotmail.com.

THE Hap 2.27 - 3.6

Happenings and Events

2.27 KMSC/LCM "Open Mike Show," noon to 1 p.m., CMU main lounge, free.

2.28 MSUM orchestra, 8 p.m., Glasrud Auditorium, free.

THE Security Report 2.17 - 2.22

- 2.17** Fire alarm in Neumaier
- 2.17** Theft in Ballard
- 2.17** Fire alarm in Center for the Arts
- 2.18** Fire alarm in Grantham
- 2.18** Burglary in Nelson
- 2.19** Non-injury traffic accident in parking lot W-1
- 2.20** Vandalism in South Snarr
- 2.20** Simple assault in Nemzek
- 2.20** Fire alarm in Center for the Arts
- 2.21** Two liquor law violations in CMU
- 2.22** Theft from library
- 2.22** Vandalism hate crime in Dahl
- 2.22** Six liquor law violations in Neumaier

The ADVOCATE

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"Call me if your toilet's backed up so you can't get in the elevator."

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"I forget that I'm handicapped all of the time until I look into a mirror."

— MSUM sophomore Keith Newerla

Altering perceptions

Outspoken Newerla breaks stereotypes with athletic feats

By JOE WHETHAM

Sports Editor

Different is a word that makes Keith Newerla cringe.

However, he's had to overcome that stereotype since childhood.

He spent prolonged periods of time in hospitals and eventually his stays — and surgeries — became more frequent. But Newerla never questioned hospital life; he just figured every 5 years old went through the same ordeal.

"I thought going to the hospital and doing all that stuff was what every kid did," Newerla said. "When you're 5-years-old, you don't realize you have a [disability]."

Born with congenital spastic diplegia, a type of cerebral palsy, Newerla has since come to terms with his disability. But the MSUM sophomore, a recent transfer from Southwest State University, Marshall, Minn., isn't looking for sympathy.

"I forget that I'm handicapped all of the time until I look into a mirror," he said. "I'm like, 'Oh yeah, I'm in a wheelchair.'"

Despite his inconveniences, Newerla has remained relatively active since junior high. Athletics, notably basketball, horseback riding and rugby, have been a focal point of his life. Taking care of mobility — through constant activity — is a high priority, Newerla said.

"Athletics is important," he said. "Not only is [athletics] recreation, but it gives you good self-esteem."

For 10 years, Newerla has ridden horseback during the summer. He's ranked No. 2 in division one at a national level on the National Disability Sports Alliance and Pal-O-Mine Equestrian advanced rider list.

Last July, Newerla placed second in his first international competition at the Inner Vision Championships in Huntington, N.Y., a show that featured riders from six different countries. Through horseback riding, Newerla

has competed across the United States. Although riding has come naturally to him, Newerla said he hopes more diligent training will produce an invitation to the world championship trials in October.

"I never had to train too hard because everything just came natural," Newerla said. "My goal for this year ... is to make it to trials for the world championships."

Currently a member of the Minnesota Ice rugby team out of the Twin Cities, Newerla began playing wheelchair rugby with the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association Jets in high school.

Newerla's love for basketball also began in high school after watching New York Knicks' games. He joined a community team — the Nassau County Kings — during his freshman year, motivated by the fact that colleges offer scholarships to wheelchair basketball players.

"I wasn't really good, but I loved the game," said Newerla, who received a scholarship to play wheelchair basketball at Southwest State in fall 2001. "When I found out there were college teams, my goal was to just play there. I didn't care how good I was."

In Newerla's freshman year at Southwest State, the Mustangs held a preseason rank of No. 2 in the nation, but dropped to No. 24 by playoff time in March. He transferred at the beginning of the 2002-03 season, unhappy with the school's atmosphere and distance from his girlfriend, MSUM junior Jennifer Frederick.

"Southwest State is so small and if I wasn't playing basketball, it wasn't enough for me," Newerla said. "When you transfer out of state, you lose a lot of credits, so it just made sense for me to stay in Minnesota."

Newerla's commitment and drive for athletics hasn't gone unnoticed. He's been featured in segments of the "Today" show and "Oprah." Newerla, along with the Pal-O-Mine Equestrian program, has also been featured in the New York Times.

The Pal-O-Mine Equestrian program and Newerla have stayed in touch with Matt Lauer, co-host of the "Today" show.

Adjusting to a disability

Aside from Newerla's athletic success and carefree attitude toward his disability, mobility has always been a concern. Some days, he

said, he forgets about his condition.

"But then there are days where everything I want to get is on the top shelf," he said. "There's days where every little thing just pisses you off. You have your bad days, too."

Newerla said his condition stemmed from a lack of breathing at birth, which stunted messages from his brain to his spine.

In a 2002 report from The United Cerebral Palsy Association, cerebral palsy affects an estimated 500,000 Americans. In Newerla's case, it damaged his balance and motor skills. His condition kept the muscle in his legs from relaxing, which affected the development of normal bone growth.

"All of my muscles are tight, so my bones want to grow, but my muscle doesn't let it," said Newerla, who has had five surgeries since birth. "If the learning part of my brain would've been affected, I'd be mentally retarded."

"CP is a funny thing, if you don't know people with it, sometimes you can never see it."

"You can see people waddling around a little bit and they can have CP or you can see people in a wheelchair that can't even talk. Stephen Hawking is the smartest man in the world, but he can't talk without a machine."

Newerla has the capability to walk, but said he experiences extreme fatigue after a half a mile.

MSUM wheelchair basketball?

Although there are only five sanctioned NCAA wheelchair basketball teams in the United States, Newerla said a team at MSUM is very possi-



JASON PROCHNOW/PHOTO EDITOR

Keith Newerla, recently transferred from Southwest State University in Marshall, Minn., is a nationally ranked horseback rider.

ble. There are an estimated 180 community or club teams throughout the country, Newerla said, and almost all of those teams are eligible for competition in leagues.

"I would love to start a team here," Newerla said. "Whether it's a community team or a college team, ide-

ally I'd love to start a college team.

"There's not very many college teams in the country and disabled people deserve the same amount of opportunities as people who can walk."

□ NEWERLA, page 8

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Student senators waste time on technicalities

Student senators have spent the last two meetings bickering about a technicality instead of spending time on issues that affect students.

The issue involves President Peter Hartje, who had a financial issue at the beginning of spring semester that prevented him from registering for classes. He didn't get financial aid last fall because he was a part-time student, so the university put a hold on his account until he could pay for last semester's tuition.

In order to take classes this semester, Hartje worked things out with faculty members and the administration so he could take a full-time credit load but register later in the semester. Until this month, Hartje was attending 12 credits worth of classes at MSUM, but on paper he wasn't technically a student.

Hartje didn't inform the senate about his situation because he considered it a personal issue. But word of his situation got out when the student payroll office discovered he wasn't eligible to receive paychecks.

Since then, senators have been criticizing him for not being more upfront about his situation. In the past two meetings, nearly five hours has been devoted to debating whether Hartje should be "reprimanded."

Even though Hartje is a public figure on campus and elected by students, when or how he pays tuition is no one else's business. The student senate constitution requires that a president be a full-time student, but as long as Hartje was resolving the problem and attending classes, he has been a student.

The only mistake Hartje could be accused of was taking a part-time load in the fall, which jeopardized his financial aid. But student senate supported this decision in their Aug. 29 meeting when they passed a motion that allowed Hartje to take 10 credits.

Devoting the better part of two meetings to this issue was pointless and a huge waste of time. Hartje is currently registered as a full-time student and his status as a student at the beginning of the semester is nothing more than paperwork.

Furthermore, the action against Hartje was petty and political. The motion wasn't to punish or impeach Hartje, but it was to simply state in the minutes the senators' disapproval of his actions.

MSUM students don't care what senate's minutes say; they care about how much tuition is going to cost next fall and how the budget problems will affect class sizes. A common perception on campus is that our student senate doesn't do anything. The past two meetings have done nothing to disprove that.

That's a shame, because senate has accomplished several things this year for students and has the potential to do a lot more. The most recent project — the \$2 taxi ride program — will have a great impact on students and has already generated a lot of interest.

These campus leaders have the potential to make a positive difference at MSUM this spring, but spending time on irrelevant issues isn't going to accomplish anything. It's time they get back to business.

The opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or student body. The Advocate encourages letters to the editor and Your Turn submissions. They should be typed and must include the writer's name, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due by 5 p.m. Monday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off in The Advocate office or e-mailed to advocate@mnstate.edu.



Student doubts fairness of special registration

Enrolling immigrants in "Special Registration" dispenses to these students a special education in paranoia politicking, fueled by a bin Laden-laden label-making machine, attempting to create order by laddering out and ironing out any inconsistencies to the empowered ideal of American sovereignty. It seems to me that no situation can be as pimplly as pinching "third world" persons actively pursuing ascension up the ladder of knowledge for their country, person and/or financially oppressed banner.

Imagine yourself in a country where you're supposing freedom from scrutiny, yet everywhere you go you see and hear propaganda pointing scopes at your roots while honing in on your gene's seams. It would take a great deal of trauma for me to leave the land of the free and the home of the brave to become a mental slave, which could be why immigrants choose to reverse the discord of the origin of their statistically barren according to popular American rapport by and through an American education to vacation from a prison established by, quite possibly, thought police similar to Orwell's 1984 red-flag-writer in 1949. This INS

Letters to the editor

mass interrogation adds fuel to a freezer-burning two-year frost-front at home on American soil.

If one "Group 2" or "Group 3" person was feeling a bit hostile, something conceptually similar to this old west cattle drive and tagging tactic might just make a mountain out of a molehill. I praise Jesus that the student immigrants sent to the Twin Cities are the best of the best from the countries they represent and that their tendency for kindness combined with their desire for a taste of American freedom outweigh any negative connotations they might be harboring.

This auto-flagging for double-tagging (immigrants and non-immigrants) on American soil disturbs me in my ignorant Ellis Island fleeting fantasy because any TIME we bounce the youth of a struggling nation's internationally accepted uplift players, we're messing with our military's placidity and the emotional, the psychological and possibly the physical lives of America's children.

Bank shots behind us: a country claiming six percent of the world's population while making

50 percent of the world's pollution should recycle something other than distorted perspectives fished

up from such forgetful pasts as Nazi Germany's concentration camps overseas to Japanese concentration camps (which most oftentimes slimed families of affluence because of an inherent fear of infiltration) left behind us here on American soils. If the U.S. wishes to net swishes on INS jump-shots (i.e. Sam's two-day notice) and slam dunk the jargon-filled puffed-up summed-up but ambiguous evil ball in order to lace us all together in an uplifting Vitality we need to consider whether or not we're treating our guests with respect or not.

Did the U.S. INS herd these student immigrants up into buses or did they have to pay their own way to Minneapolis? I'm asking because Sam's too shaken to speak, and rightly so. If bussed, it parallels the plight scenario in "Night" by Eli Weasel where they're hurried half-naked to the cattle cars to disembark to deeper concentration; else, will they be reimbursed for their cursed situation as far as gasoline goes?

Dan Kennedy
MSUM senior

Money better spent on PBS, homeless

I don't usually wake early enough to watch Sunday morning television. Unlike the excitement of Saturday morning cartoons, television on Sunday seems to put me back to sleep. However, a few Sundays ago I happened to be awake early enough to catch some quality Sunday morning programming.

BRITTA TRYGSTAD

Advocate columnist
"Best of all, by joining the club, my life would be enhanced by the power of God!"

As I was flipping through infomercials and morning church, I finally stopped on "The Hour of Power." Typically, I only give church shows enough time to preach one Bible quote at me, but I think there was this crazy looking eight-year-old playing the piano and it drew me in like a sucker.

To humor myself, I watched a little longer.

While the holiest of California actors was preaching to the television, he suddenly went into this 20-minute infomercial on why I

“

Basically, by using religion and national pride, the Eagle's Club is an elaborate scam to sucker money out of ignorant worshippers.

should join their exclusive club. For a minimum \$600 donation, I could become a member of "The Eagle's Club." Not only would I be supporting one of "the largest TV congregations," but I would receive a really pretty porcelain eagle statue (or a wonderful pen set).

Best of all, by joining the club, my life would be enhanced by the power of God!

Basically, by using religion and national pride, the Eagle's Club is an elaborate scam to sucker money out of ignorant worshippers.

It's no big surprise, really. Other organizations and companies use people's self worth to scam their money. Take for instance "get-rich-quick" schemes and "lose 10 pounds in 10 days" claims. We all know that we probably won't become millionaires or wafer thin

supermodels, but the thought of it is very tempting.

Maybe this is just another example of how capitalism has influenced American thought. By spending money, we all can become thinner, happier, and lead healthier lives.

Now, don't think that I'm a complete tightwad with my money. Someday, when I have more than 75 cents in my pocket at one time, I'll donate to PBS or NPR. At least those organizations supply a little more honesty to their campaign. Plus, I really enjoy watching "Antiques Road Show."

To those of you who may have been tempted by the people at "The Hour of Power," here are a few ways you can use \$600 to enhance your life:

Donate it to local charities such as homeless shelters, food shelves, or awareness programs.

Donate it to a museum or a library.

Donate it to a local school.

Donate it to public communications.

Within your community, \$600 can do a lot of good for a lot of people. There is no better way to attain self worth than to attain it by helping others.

Trygstad can be reached at shadowedfire@hotmail.com.

Give your Easter sweetie a Tinyphant gift

Trip to India leads to discovery of tree-produced, pet-sized elephants

This column is a repeat. It's the one where my parents buy me a goldfish instead of the dog I wanted so they can see if I am a responsible pet owner.



ADAM QUESNELL

Advocate columnist
"Upon further inspection this astute observer found that each cage housed a tiny elephant."

Hilarity ensues when I eat the goldfish in a satanic ritual leading to an old-fashioned stomach pumping. Now, for those of you who haven't moved on to the many zombie related comics in this paper, I understand that Easter is right around the corner and you're probably wondering what to get your Easter sweet-

heart. Usually I don't agree with Easter because I don't trust any holiday manufactured by greeting card companies and candy makers in the hopes of unloading a pile of sugar hearts. Now, back to my gift idea breakthrough.

Last summer The Advocate paid for me to take a trip to Calcutta for a story called, "Hot Spots to Travel in Fall: Calcutta." It was there that this reporter discovered a tiny shop at the westernmost edge of the great Bazaar specializing in rare and exotic Easter gifts.

They had everything from the lucky rabbit's head to imitations of the cloth Christ was supposedly wrapped in when placed in his cave-tomb (these make excellent wall-hangings). But it was neither the freeze-dried rabbit's head nor the "Official Acme Brand Christ Cloth" that caught my attention.

In the back of the shop there was a wall of tiny cages. Upon further inspection this astute

“ So, being the industrious American businessman that he is, Mike took a wicker basket and caught the falling Tinyphants, saving them from their doom.

observer found that each cage housed a tiny elephant. Each "Tinyphant," as they are lovingly called, comes with it's own display case and stylish silk scarf. Until that fateful day in Calcutta I had never viewed that many scarf-wearing tiny elephants before in my entire life.

The Advocate had sent money along for "acquiring information," and it definitely came in handy. I slipped the worker a fin and asked if I could speak to the manager. I was shocked when a mild mannered American emerged

from behind a beaded curtain. I learned that his name was Mike and that the Tinyphants were his discovery. That's right, discovery.

I was aghast when I learned that the hands of a God-like scientist in a sterile laboratory did not create these animals, but instead, they were harvested in the forests of South America. Mike was traveling through Brazil when he noticed a strange egg-plant-shaped seed hanging off of a lightning-struck tree. Mike observed this tree for days before the first Tinyphant hatched.

The base of the seed began to wriggle and writhe, and eventually a tiny elephant emerged from the sticky inside of the seed. This creature immediately fell to the ground, breaking its neck. Mike noticed this happening to the other seeds on the tree as well.

So, being the industrious American businessman that he is, Mike took a wicker basket and caught the falling Tinyphants,

saving them from their doom. He found out that when a particular breed of South American willow is struck by lightning, it begins producing Tinyphants. However, the little darlings wouldn't survive if there were no one there to catch them in a soft, blanket-lined wicker basket.

Mike, so far, has three trees producing about 50 Tinyphants per season. "They are relatively easy to care for," Mike said concerning the chihuahua-sized elephants. "They are to be fed Flintstones Vitamins and set to graze on any type of Chia-Pet."

Each Tinyphant costs \$250 plus shipping and handling (Flintstones Vitamins and Chia-Pet not included). So when you're thinking what to get that special someone on Easter-tines day, just remember the hottest word sweeping the Western pet market: Tinyphant.

Quesnell can be reached at slowlycountingstars@hotmail.com.

Protest those who start wars, not those that fight in them

I'm sure many of you are tired of the tirades for and against war that have been prevalent on these pages in the recent past.



JENEL STELTON-HOLTMEIER

Advocate columnist
"The casualties of war include more than those killed by bombs or gunfire."

But I ask you to bear with me just one more time. I feel I have something I need to say. In 1969, my dad was drafted to go fight in Vietnam. Later in life, when us kids were in the picture, he never talked about it. I heard about his leave time in Thailand and the exotic foods he ate, but Vietnam

was never mentioned. When movies like "Platoon" came out, he would go over to his sister's to watch them. He didn't want us kids to see that part of his life.

In 1996, my dad died. It was Memorial Day weekend. He chose to die then. He was tired of fighting a cancer that, according to statistics, he shouldn't have had. He only fit into one of the six risk categories that were established for this cancer and that one was that he was, well, a "he."

Why did he develop this cancer, which is a type that is fairly rare in the United States? No one can say for sure at this point, but what they can say is that the occurrence rate of this cancer seems to be growing in a particular group: Vietnam veterans with exposure to Agent Orange. The government's stance: it wasn't us.

Thousands of veterans who were in the Persian Gulf during

“ On the contrary, I am against this possible war because I'm not sure that G.W. knows what he's doing.

Desert Storm are developing unexplainable illnesses. Some, like Kevin Shores here on campus, are confined to wheelchairs. Others aren't that lucky. Why? No one can say for sure but there is some speculation about chemical exposure ... and not necessarily from the enemy. The government's stance: we don't know.

During Desert Storm, I sat with a friend of mine as each personnel update came across the television screen. I saw the tension as he waited to hear, hoped not to hear, the name of his father.

I am not against this possible war because I have disdain for our troops. My brother-in-law is an Army helicopter pilot. My little brother is a member of the 142nd National Guard unit (though he's still at home to finish his senior year of high school). I have nothing but respect for the job that they do. I have nothing but respect for their willingness to do that job.

On the contrary, I am against this possible war because I'm not sure that G.W. knows what he's doing. Two weeks ago, Jeremiah Bohn mentioned that we should be demanding answers rather than protesting. I protest to demand answers. I protest to make others aware of questions that I feel haven't been answered. I protest to make others aware of the questions that have yet to be asked. I'd rather attempt in the ways available to me to obtain

answers than to support sending more of our brothers, sisters, friends, parents, etc., into a situation where they will come back like my dad or Kevin Shores or the many others. My protests are directed toward the administration, not the troops.

The casualties of war include more than those killed by bombs or gunfire. The pain extends beyond the time of active war. Do we really know what we're getting into? And, if (when) we do get into it, where do we go from there? When the fighting is over and if we win, what do we do with the country we have turned upside down? What do we do with those who will be left to suffer on their own, like my dad and Kevin? G.W. has the power to send us in. But he's not the one who has to explain it to our children.

Stelton-Holtmeier can be reached at stelton@mnstate.edu.



Performing Arts Series presents ...

Innovative ballet comes to MSUM

By DANIELLE MACMURCHY

Staff Writer

Celebrating 10 years of dance and talent in Minnesota, James Sewell Ballet comes to MSUM at 7:30 tonight (Thursday) in Hansen Theatre.

Artistic director and choreographer James Sewell, traveling with eight experienced dancers, has brought his innovative ballet to 40 Minnesota communities, 25 states and Bermuda. The ballet company was established by Sewell in 1990 after decades of dance experience.

Sewell was born in Minneapolis and danced his first steps at the Children's Theatre Company School. At age 17, he moved to New York City to pursue his career. With a flair for dance and a heart set on success, Sewell established his ballet company. In 1993, Sewell moved the company to Minneapolis.

"[Minneapolis] has a great artistic climate with so many wonderful art organizations," Sewell said. "I feel lucky to be a part of this community."

After traveling and performing nationwide, Sewell has found that audiences in the Midwest possess an accepting attitude toward modern dance. "I'm not afraid to try new things here," he added.

This love for innovative dance shines through the group's current performance. They will bring three pieces to the stage tonight. The first of the three will be danced to "Opus 131," one of Ludwig van Beethoven's final

works. In the second piece, the dancers will reveal their choreography talent in a series of improvisations. The dancers respond to the subject of the music like people would in a conversation, Sewell said. The third piece deals with issues of the heart and will be danced to "Lover," by Richard Rogers.

"This dance company is always adding new techniques and new ways to shock the audience," said sophomore Kristi Keszler. "It's so great to see this type of culture come to our area."

Sewell wants the MSUM audience to walk away with a sense of surprise. He said people often think of ballet as it was 100 years ago, but today it is a continuing and aggressive art form.

Tickets can be bought in the MSUM box office or by calling 236-2271. Tickets are \$6 with a student ID.

MacMurphy can be reached at db_mac@hotmail.com.

Styx sails away with new album, 'Cyclorama'

Unexpectedly on tap this week is Styx, returning to the fold with their latest collection of vintage new songs. Styx occupies similar nostalgic territory with a venerable presence. From '70s arena rock to piano-led balladry to quasi-new wave arty pretension, they have crafted an extensive array of hits, leaving few across the land unfamiliar with the band in some way.

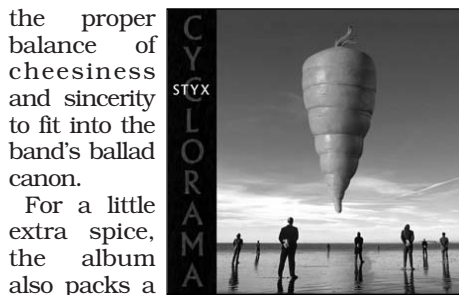
That familiarity is used for mostly good on "Cyclorama," the eleventh-twelfth release from this hoary band. In the last few years, Styx has become a mainstay on the revival circuit, and this album meshes well with the band's current identity. Original lead man Dennis DeYoung was jettisoned in 1999, but the band manages to maintain a sound that is consistent with the Styx of yore. Songs like "Waiting For Our Time," "Do Things My Way" and "Kiss Your Ass Goodbye" have enough rock guitar crunches and keyboard flourishes to mollify fans of the big, loud Styx. On the flip side, tracks like "Fields of the Brave" and "Yes I Can" have

the proper balance of cheesiness and sincerity to fit into the band's ballad canon. For a little extra spice, the album also packs a few off-the-wall moments. Billy Bob Thornton provides vocals for a little ditty called "Bourgeois Pig," taking the band in the direction of the Bloodhound Gang for 49 seconds (which, incidentally, is about twice as long as present day concert renditions of "Mr. Roboto"). "Kiss Your Ass Goodbye" features backing vocals by none other than the greatest band in the world, Tenacious D. The D also lend themselves to a pleasant little skit following the final tune. The final song itself is an oddity; something called "Genki Desu Ka" (from the Japanese, literally "Are you healthy?" but here used in the American Rock idiom as "Are you all feeling good tonight?!"), a song that sounds like a bastard hybrid of the Beach Boys and Pizzicato Five. All in all, Styx fares pretty well on this outing. Nothing extremely challenging



MIKE MATTHEIS

Music critic



or new happens on the album, but the songs complement the established core sound of the band. None of these tracks will be a new über-hit song, but the point of this release seems more to provide new tunes to play alongside the classics rather than to provide new classics. That isn't such a bad thing really, considering the fact that much of the band's current success is based on lucrative Styx Plays the Hits touring. Your taste for this album will depend on whether you love or hate Styx, but I'm guessing that if you hate them, you haven't read this far anyway.

Mattheis can be reached at matthem@mnstate.edu.

Quartets join forces

By SARAH OLSONAWSKI

Features Editor



Ying Quartet

Jazz and pop meet classical chamber music when the Turtle Island String Quartet and the Ying Quartet join forces Tuesday for an MSUM Performing Arts Series musical event.

Both groups are returning visitors to MSUM, although this is their first performance here together. The Ying Quartet's traditional repertoire, with the contrasting electric jazz/pop style of TISQ, should provide the audience with a musically diverse experience.

The Ying Quartet consists of four siblings from the Chicago area. They started to play at age 7, but they didn't form their professional group until 11 years ago. When they were younger, each of them chose to play a different string instrument. When Janet Ying, the youngest, chose the violin (because it was the only instrument left), they realized they had the perfect instruments for a string quartet.



Turtle Island String Quartet

Their parents were the reason for the family's interest in music. "Our parents are not musicians. They thought that music lessons were an important part of a well-balanced education with no intention of making any of us professional musicians. So, we have no one to blame but ourselves," Phillip Ying said.

Currently they are the faculty quartet in residence for Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester, N.Y. The group travels half of the year around the United States, Europe, Asia and Australia. While traveling, the group plays in concert halls as well as hospitals, schools and businesses.

"The opportunity to share great music with an audience, whether inside a concert hall or in the community, is always a thrill for us," Phillip Ying said.

TISQ's bold new trends in chamber music for strings have been in the making since 1985. The group plays a variety of styles including folk, bluegrass, swing, jazz, bebop, post-bop, classical Indian forms, funk, rock and hip-hop. They also explore improvisation and composition.

Based out of the San Francisco Bay area, the group tours about four to five months out of the year around the United States, Japan, Singapore, Brazil and Europe. With the constant performing, it's difficult to fit in practice time, said Evan Price, violinist for TISQ.

"We all share the feeling that it's important to play every day. On an average we spend something like 15 minutes to seven hours a day with our instruments," Price said.

The group will make its second showing in two years at MSUM. "We played at MSUM last season, although the performance was just TISQ alone, and we have looked forward to bringing our friends, the Yings, along," Price said.

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in Hansen Theatre. Tickets can be purchased in the MSUM box office or by calling 236-2271. Student tickets are \$6.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



James Sewell Ballet.

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Fargo Film Festival

Festival unites film lovers, makers

By **TERI FINNEMAN**

News Editor

Three days of 50 films, parties and mingling with film producers will hit Fargo-Moorhead Wednesday as the third annual Fargo Film Festival brings a bit of Hollywood to downtown Fargo.

Margie Bailey, executive director, said the Fargo Theatre decided to begin the festival after the movie "Fargo" became successful.

"It was kind of a challenge. We realized there was great intrigue [in the area]," Bailey said. "We wanted to create a venue for celebrating independent films and filmmakers, especially those not seen on a regular basis on the big screen."

Bailey said she began working with North Dakota Tourism, and the Fargo Film Festival debuted in 2001. Since then, Bailey said the audience has grown every year.

"This year, we had over 130 entries. A lot of films came from all over the country again," Bailey said. "I think it will be a really exciting film festival."

She said each year has a unique hook or a distinct personality. In 2001, the festival focused on the history of filmmaking in North Dakota. In 2002, the number of entries tripled and a American Indian voice category was added. For 2003, Bailey said a few new awards will be handed out.

She said pre- and post-parties also offer a fun twist to the festival.

"I think a lot of the reason for that is filmmakers — and those of us who like film — like to party and it's great networking," Bailey said. "You get a chance to talk to some people who are very knowledgeable in film at the festival. It's a force that rises up inside the theater and spills out into downtown."

Bailey said the student category is so competitive that not many local filmmakers make it into the festival. As a result, a local category was added.

"It's important to provide a venue, a screen and a voice to local filmmakers," Bailey said.

MSUM alumna and Fargo Theatre employee Caity Birmingham said she thinks the event is important for the community.

"People have chosen to submit to us," Birmingham said. "They're giving us their creative output to share with other people."

Birmingham said a number of hours go into preparing for the festival, as the Fargo Theatre begins receiving submissions in November. Categories range from narrative features (an hour or longer), narrative shorts (a few minutes to a half-hour), documentaries, short documentaries and student films.

"That's another reason for students to come. There are students from all over the country, Germany and England who have submitted films they made at the college level," Birmingham said. "It's really interesting to see what students at different colleges are doing and how they make a student film."

She said her favorite part of the festival is hanging out with the filmmakers and talking movies.

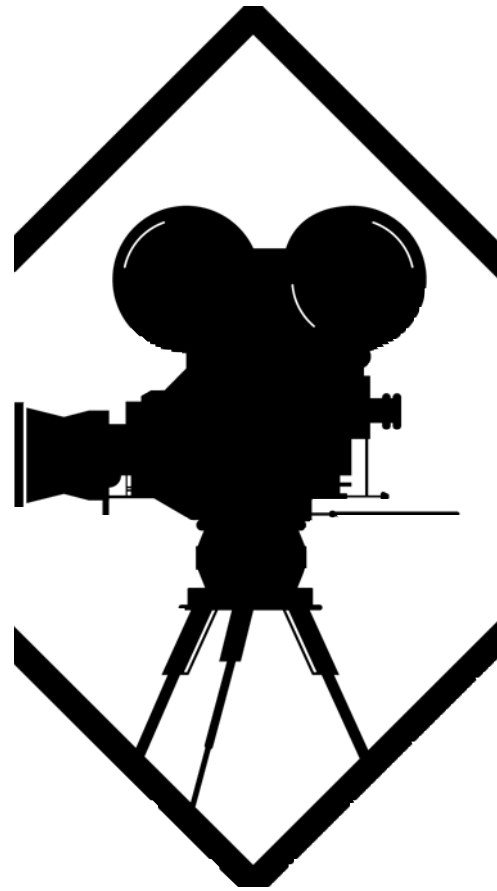
"[The festival] is a good opportunity for students to see films that they would not otherwise be able to see and be able to talk to the people who made the films," Birmingham said. "There's just a really good energy here when all the filmmakers are here. It's nice to have people from so many different backgrounds coming here just for the fun of celebrating film."

A variety of student ticket prices are available for the festival, which goes

through March 8. The Little Kahuna costs \$20 and includes all films throughout the festival. A daily pass is available for \$15 and includes all film sessions, luncheon and pre-parties.

An evening pass is \$8 and consists of all film sessions and pre- and post-parties for the evening session of choice. A movie ticket is also available for \$4 and includes one movie session. Tickets can be purchased at the Fargo Theatre.

Finneman can be reached at crusher69@hotmail.com.



Film festival runs through March 8

The Fargo Film Festival runs Wednesday through March 8. All events take place in the Fargo Theatre unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday begins at noon with a press conference. Films begin at 1:45 p.m. with "Signed, Stamped, Dated: The Story of the Typing Explosion," a documentary short by Gina Mainwal, Seattle, and runs through the 8:30 p.m. showing of the narrative feature "Searching for Wooden Watermelons," by Bryan Goldsworthy, Burbank, Calif.

March 6 begins at 8:30 a.m. with a

showing of the documentary feature "Delafield" by Mark Brodin, Minneapolis, and ends after the 9:30 p.m. show, "The Utopian Society," a narrative feature by John Aguirre, Aliso Viejo, Calif.

March 7 begins at 8:30 a.m. with the documentary feature "Venice: Lost and Found" by Brad Bemis, Venice, Calif., and ends at 11 p.m. with a student film, "Between Resistance and Community" by Jimmy Choi, Coram, N.Y. Screenings of some American Indian, local and student films will

take place from 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. in the Avalon Events Center, Fargo.

March 8 begins at 8:30 a.m. with "Ojibwemowin: Ojibwe Oral Tradition (Native American Voices)," a documentary feature by Lorraine Norrgard, Duluth, Minn., and ends with a selection of student films beginning at midnight.

For a complete schedule and list of films, see www.fargofilmfestival.com.

A sneak peek at three films to play during the festival

'Made You Look'

Placing the viewer as the star, "Made You Look" is an interactive film about decision making.

"Basically, it's about the choices we make and why we choose them," said director Anthony Bergman of Fargo.

Host Willy Wilkenson (Spencer Grove) gives viewers the illusion that they are making decisions. The film takes the audience through many situations like having dinner with a parent and getting into a fight.

Dealing with many emotions, such as jealousy and man's fear of commitment, the film is centered around the poor decisions people make when they are young.

"Made You Look" will play at 8:30 a.m. March 8 in the Avalon Events Center, Fargo.

'Bohimbled'

A fictional rockumentary, "Bohimbled" is a comic tragedy of a small-time rocker. Dissatisfied with his home relationship, band member Peter is seduced by an off duty waitress.

The film was written and directed by MSUM alumnus Phil Kerr of Fargo.

A Web site for the film can be found at www.geocities.com/bohimbled and includes a 30-second trailer.

"Bohimbled" will play at 7:55 p.m. on March 7 in the Avalon.

'The Fittest'

In "The Fittest," a 20-something couple is held up in their apartment while biological agents threatens them from outside.

Filmed in writer Kristen Teftifi's apartment in north Fargo, the film stars Janet Miller and Michael Lockow.

"The activity of doing it was truly exciting," said director Martin Jonason, a professor at MSUM.

The film will play at 10:25 a.m. on March 7 in the Avalon.

Compiled by Britta Trygstad, Staff Writer

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Merciless attitude



JASON PROCHNOW/PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore guard Dana Weibel plows over a Winona State defender during the Dragons' 73-62 victory Saturday. The Dragons, winners of 10 consecutive NSIC games, are ranked No. 10 in the North Central Region poll.

Dragons win 10th straight game with weekend sweep

By HAYDEN GOETHE

Staff Writer

For 10 straight games, the MSUM women's basketball team has been the definition of hot.

The Dragons continues to roll in W's whether they play well or not.

Friday night's affair with Winona (Minn.) State University was an example of finding a way to win, despite any struggles.

The first half was trying for MSUM, an effort that head coach Karla Nelson best described as "lethargic."

Winona State, 5-8 in NSIC play coming in, was paced by the long distance shooting of guard Jenny Johnson, who scored 12 points in the first half.

The Dragons' best answer at the time was freshman guard Brietta Bowerman.

Bowerman's ability to weave through defense and put up floating shots in traffic aided the Dragons early on.

"She is definitely the best penetrator on the team," Dragon guard Lindsay Hartmann said.

Leading 29-26 at halftime, MSUM made a concerted effort to use the post in the second half, as junior forwards Liz Klukas, Janna Davis, and senior forward Katie Doerr kept the Dragons alive, with sophomore guard Dana Weibel helping put



**MSUM 68
CONC.-ST. PAUL 59**

Sophomore guard Dana Weibel scored a game-high 22 points against the Golden Bears on Saturday.



☐ **WOMEN'S HOOPS**, page 9



JASON PROCHNOW/PHOTO EDITOR

Newerla, who played one-and-a-half seasons at Southwest State University, prepares to take a shot last week in Nemzek.

☐ **NEWERLA**, from 3

Greg Toutges, MSUM coordinator of disability services, said he would strongly support a wheelchair basketball team on campus.

"Last fall, we tried to organize an exhibition in chairs against the basketball team, but it fell through," Toutges said. "In three years, no one has indicated a desire to start a team [at MSUM]."

Until now.

Newerla, along with representatives from Concordia, NDSU and the YMCA on First Avenue in Fargo, all said the lack of participants would prove to be a major obstacle.

"There probably wouldn't even be enough to make a team," said Concordia counseling center director Monica Kersting. "Off hand, I'm not sure if there is anything in the community at this time. I definitely think tri-college is the way to go. If there was something available, we would definitely let people know."

Newerla said there has been a push to attract disabled students to MSUM and, during his first week on campus in January, he heard talk of a wheelchair team from a non-disabled campus visitor.

"Someone was at [MSUM] for a visit, the day that all those high school kids were here, and they said, 'Do you guys have a club wheelchair team,' and I said no," Newerla said.

Catherine Anderson, coordinator of disability services at NDSU, said she wasn't aware of any wheelchair basketball organization in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

"I'd say there's not enough numbers. We just don't have that many people in wheelchairs right now," Anderson said. "If something was set up, I would. It just hasn't happened. I think NDSU tries to support students with disabilities as much as we can."

Aside from numbers, Newerla said the team would need a coach, funding and a place to play to get the program off the ground.

Already established as a premiere team in college wheelchair basketball, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater received a \$10,000 donation from the Brett Favre Foundation in 2000.

"Money would be an issue for traveling," Newerla said. "A sponsor is a must ... that's what it's going to take for any team."

So who qualifies for wheelchair basketball? The common-sense approach would be individuals in wheelchairs, but Newerla said other non-wheelchair players qualify. Those who qualify for wheelchair basketball include amputees, people with a permanent injury and even an impairment that prohibits individuals from standard upright basketball.

"If you're missing a toe, you can play," Newerla said. "That's the going joke we were always saying back home — we need to find Michael Jordan and cut off one of his toes."

With a new voice on campus and support from multiple colleges, a wheelchair basketball team could be on the horizon in the Fargo-Moorhead community.

"I think since there's a push to get disabled people at MSUM, and I'm talking about people with physical disabilities, a sport that [MSUM] would be backing would bring in a tremendous amount."

Whetham can be reached at whethajo@mnstate.edu.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Dragons golden in homestand

By DUSTIN MONKE

Staff Writer

"We want to go out in style; we're not going to sit there and lose a game on our senior night," said senior forward Jake Kruse about last Saturday's home finale against Concordia-St. Paul.



**MSUM 86,
WINONA STATE 76**

Senior Marlon Samuel tallied 18 points and 11 rebounds in the Dragons win against the Warriors on Friday.



MSUM (16-8, 9-7 NSIC) went out in dramatic fashion, coming back from a 14-point halftime deficit to defeat the Golden Bears 81-78 in overtime.

The victory Saturday night marked the Dragons' first weekend sweep of the season, thanks in part to the 86-76 win over Winona (Minn.) State University on Friday night.

With the early fast paced action favoring the Warriors, the Dragons set out to slow things down and play their style of game.

"We wanted to slow it down, play our game, not play their game," said senior forward Marlon Samuel, who finished with 18

points and a game-high 11 rebounds.

The Dragons gained the upper hand heading into the locker room, leading 45-44 after senior guard Jared Bledsoe's circus shot gave MSUM the lead. Bledsoe finished with 19 points and six rebounds.

In the second half, the Dragons held the Warriors to only 22 percent shooting from 3-point range.

Engen said he was genuinely pleased with his player's performances.

"We've been tied or ahead at halftime, then we can't finish it off," said sophomore guard Ben Aalto, who finished with 16 points. "Most of the time it's when we can't get a defensive stop. [Last Friday] we got that defensive stop."

On Saturday, after trailing Concordia-St. Paul 37-26 at the end of the first half, the Dragons came out strong in the second session, going on a 14-2 run six minutes into the half.

The Dragons held their largest lead 60-46 at the 7:14



JASON PROCHNOW/PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore guard Ben Aalto drives past Winona State's Chad Barfknecht on Friday at home.

mark after a junior center Billy Halter canned a 3-pointer.

With 9.5 seconds remaining in regulation, the Dragons called a timeout with one last effort to win the game. But as they went to inbound the ball, the Dragons were called for a five-second violation and the Golden Bears regained possession with plenty of time for a final shot.

"I was disappointed that we were unable to execute the play," Engen said.

A last-second 3-pointer by Golden Bear center Ray Dawson was partially blocked and fell short, sending the game to overtime. It was the Bledsoe show in extra session, as the guard scored 10 points in five minutes, helping the Dragons solidify the victory.

Monke can be reached at dustin_monke@hotmail.com.

WOMEN'S HOOPS, from 8

them ahead.

A Weibel 3-pointer gave the Dragons a 54-53 lead with just over five minutes left.

Following a couple more Dragon baskets, Weibel put the game out of reach at 60-53 with a steal and layup.

"We played a great second half," said Katie Doerr, who finished with 19 points and 17 rebounds. "We played a little shaky in the first half."

Saturday's meeting with Concordia-St. Paul was arguably the team's biggest game since the 1984-85 season.

Weibel paced MSUM once again, helping the Dragons jump out to an early 16-6 lead and a 26-21 halftime advantage.

MSUM had an answer for every Concordia basket in the second half, shooting 56 percent after halftime.

The Dragons held on for a 68-59 victory over Concordia, placing the Dragons in a three-way tie for first place with the University of Minnesota-Duluth and Concordia-St. Paul.

Goethe can be reached at coomscorner8@hotmail.com.

DAVIS, from front

black man's rage, Davis traveled an uncharted road filled with highs and lows.

The president of the Black Student Alliance, Jannette Serckpor, an MSUM sophomore majoring in theater, said this lecture was the big closing event for Black History Month.

"I thought it was really great. I learned a lot," Serckpor said. "I didn't really know that much about the Klan before, and I don't know that many people right now, who would want to go sit down and learn about it."

Carolyn Barrett, an MSUM junior majoring in social

work, said she was inspired by Davis' lecture. "It was a real learning experience, and I thought he was a great motivational speaker overall for peace and changing socialization," Barrett said.

Ronhovde can be reached at ronhovgi@mnstate.edu.

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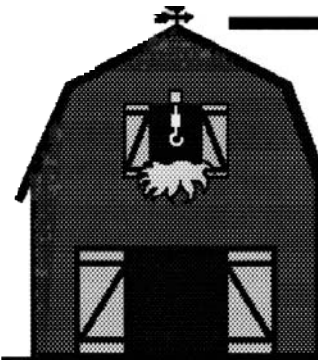
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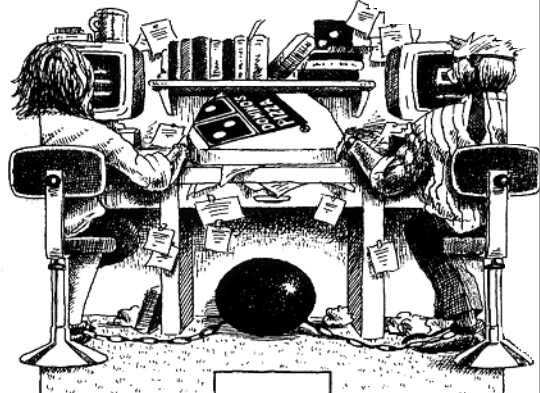
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PR class spreads word of Nutella

By JOE WHETHAM

Sports Editor

Move over Krispy Kreme, there's a new marketing machine invading MSUM's campus.

Posters, flyers, advertisements and events promoting Nutella, a chocolate-hazelnut spread, have flooded campus since the start of February. Behind the push to introduce the European-based Nutella are six individual teams in a mass communications public relations principles execution class.

"At first, nobody knew what [Nutella] was," said Trevor Vossen, who's part of a group in the class. "I thought it was candy. We've covered this campus really well. People I've talked to definitely have heard of Nutella [now]. I think we've done a really good job."

Each team has designed marketing plans, centered around a major event, as part of the nationwide Public Relations Students Society of America's Bateman Case Study.

"The tricky thing on our campus is, we have so many groups competing against

NEW, from front

environment completely different."

She said what began as a historical look at the alternative entrance program became a story about people and their success, skepticism and rumors.



Jonason

Jonason said one of the biggest myths about the New Center is how the program even began, as many people believe former MSUM President Roland Dille started the program when his daughter failed to meet MSUM admission requirements.

"It's a very nice story, but not entirely true," Jonason said. "His daughter never attended MSUM and never went to the New Center."

However, she said Dille's daughter did inspire him to start the program. As he watched his daughter resist achievement in high school, Dille realized there may be a number of students not living up to their potential.

"He was onto the idea that maybe test scores don't really evaluate your readiness for college after all," Jonason said. "That ended up being very true. So, she gave him the idea, but had nothing to do with it actually becoming a reality."

Jonason said MSUM was the only school in Minnesota at the time that had the standard of a 21 or above ACT score or 50 percentile rank as an admissions requirement.

"All of the other schools had open admissions. Dille argued that, without an alternative to MSUM, the people in the region were being denied access," Jonason said. "He proposed the program for under-prepared students to allow them into MSUM and give them a chance to succeed in college, even if their test



JASON PROCHNOW/PHOTO EDITOR

Senior Brady Gowin shoots blindfolded for a Nutella promotion during Friday's basketball game. Gowin and his partner, junior Kelsey Lundeen, split the \$100 prize.

each other," said Susanne Williams, director of communications for the president and teacher of the class. "It makes it a really fun class."

Williams said college students are the target audience for Nutella, which has been a hugely successful product in Europe since the 1940s.

Each group will submit its campaign to a New York-based panel in mid-March, and top groups will be invited to the national competition April 5.

Williams said she's confident a group in her class has a campaign worthy of national recognition.

"Knock on wood," she said. "That would be so awesome if we got one team out there."

At the Underground today (Thursday), a group will coordinate the European Invasion, a dance designed to promote Nutella. The event is scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. and end at 1 a.m.

Whetham can be reached at whethajo@mnstate.edu.

scores or previous academic record suggested they might not be."

Jonason said the 1970s was a period of great innovation and experimentation in education across the country.

"There was sort of this air of 'Let's try new things,'" Jonason said. "This program was set up to be experimental and it was highly experimental."

She said the program began with six faculty members, no classrooms and no completed concept of curriculum. Jonason said Murray Commons was actually built to be a second cafeteria, but when enrollment didn't climb high enough to make use of it, the alternative entrance program went in the building. Students sat around on cushions rather than desks.

"Their philosophical statement was 'We believe that students should be free, free to explore...,'" Jonason said. "It was very what we might consider new age."

She said the New Center has always been based on a credit

system, as opposed to letter grades. This created trouble in the early years with MSUM faculty who felt the program had no basis.

"They felt it would 'dilute' the student body by allowing in students who had 'no business being in college' and 'weren't college material,'" Jonason said.

This almost proved true as the first year of the program experienced difficulties. Jonason said many students weren't mature enough to take the responsibility to direct their education and thought the experience was one big party.

"Because there are no letter grades, there appeared to be no penalties," she said.

With only three of the six faculty returning for the second year, a new director was hired to shape up the program and make it more traditional. However, Jonason said the New Center's bad start clouded the program.

Finneman can be reached at crusher69@hotmail.com.

BUS, from front

have on the floor right now," Van Beek said. "We're going to finish out the school year night service — that ends May 3 — and then have the summer to plan for what happens in the fall."

Wade Kline, community development planner of the Metropolitan Council of Governments, said the Small Urban and Rural Transit Center designed a survey at www.surtc.org/msum to figure out how to serve the campus more efficiently.

"We'll look at what the information is saying: how far from campus do these folks live, when are they most often on campus and then look at that in relation to existing transit routes," Kline said. "It's sort of a thermometer of what the attitudes are out there."

He said the same survey received a decent response from NDSU faculty, staff and students, and he hopes MSUM also has a strong

response.

Jill Hough, director of SURTC, said the MSUM survey came out Feb. 18 and 185 students and 114 faculty had responded by Feb. 21. She said the survey will be available online until March 10, but may stay up an additional week if more responses are needed.

NDSU senior and Tri-College student Kristi Brink said she uses the bus three times each week.

"It's right by campus, it's free and it's always warm," she said.

The MAT offers service to MSUM from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The bus stops at 11th Street at :22 and :52 of the hour and at 14th Street at :03 and :33 of the hour. Students, faculty and staff must show an MSUM ID to ride the bus for free.

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