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Springing away
Students choose variety of activities for spring break festivities this year.
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Yo' mama
'Bringing Down the House' serves up laughs as it conquers the box office.
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Thrown to the wolves
Northern State upsets Dragon women in first round of NSIC tournament.
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Thursday
March 13, 2003

The ADVOCATE

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

Tech task force explores new wireless options

By **TERI FINNEMAN**
News Editor

Ideas to improve technology on campus through wireless systems, portable response and more computer-projector systems are in the works as the university's technology task force prepares its spring proposal.

David Crockett, vice president for administrative affairs, said the task force is developing a technology plan with a three- or four-year timeline.

"We are interested in the potential of wireless capability on our campus," Crockett said. "We have made a trip to Minnesota State University, Mankato and Northwest Technical College and looked at the capabilities of the wireless systems that those two institutions currently have in place."

Crockett said Steve Ness of Monet Mobile Networks has visited with him regarding wireless cards, but the university isn't looking to make an agreement at this time. However, individuals who purchased the cards would be able to use them on campus, he said.

Eric Friesen, senior sales representative for Monet Mobile Networks in Fargo, said a booth will periodically be set up at MSUM for students to learn more about wireless products.

"Students are one of the key demographics that we're looking at," Friesen said. "You can hardly go to class without seeing [a laptop]."

He said Monet has hardware and software for both laptop and desktop computers, and student discounts are available.

Rhonda Ficek, director of instructional technology, said the task force has discussed using two floors of the library for the university's wireless pilot program. She said access points will be mounted to the ceilings.

"If a student walked in with a laptop that had a wireless card, a group of students could sit in any student room and access the Internet without a phone line or an ethernet card," Ficek said. "We'll see how it goes and explore more opportunities on the campus."

She said the task force also wants to pursue some incentives for faculty who want to incorporate technology in the classroom.

"We had a series of focus groups with faculty represent-

WIRELESS, back page



JASON PROCHNOW/PHOTO EDITOR

Junior Joe Marty, Act-Up president, said the rally didn't attract large crowds, but several people stopped to observe.

Students display anti-war activism

By **JOE WHETHAM**
Sports Editor

Huddled around the flagpole at the center of campus March 5, senior Kevin Shores and a group of anti-war demonstrators were determined to make a statement.

Within 30 seconds, the protesters turned the school's American flag upside down and padlocked its pulley — stamping their defiance against possible U.S.-led military action against Iraq.

"Open your eyes, listen to the lies, and get off your asses," said Shores, a Gulf War veteran who served in the U.S. Navy from 1985 to 1988, shouting through a megaphone. "Look at our flag. It's upside down. It's in a state of distress, and are you willing to help? Wake up people."

Shores' 20-minute speech highlighted an otherwise low-key MSUM anti-war rally, which was sponsored by the MSUM Act-Up club, an organization committed to informing students about war-related issues. The organization, initiated just three weeks ago, created the four-hour event to encourage students to skip

class in protest of a possible war.

"We were kind of worried about how many people would actually get here before it happened," said Act-Up president Joe Marty, who had three days to plan the event. "The reason we started the organization was to get students more informed, not only about the war, but about all kinds of controversial political things."

"A lot of students don't take the initiative to find out what's happening, because they figure they're too busy with their stuff, and the government is taking care of government stuff. So we just want to get people informed."

In an effort to support the worldwide opposition to war, Act-Up coordinated the event with the nationwide organization MoveOn.org, which boasts nearly 650,000 subscribers to its e-mail list.

Every student who participated in the anti-war rally completed an online petition at MoveOn.org., Marty said. On Monday, the petition letter, along with a list of people who signed it, was delivered to

WALKOUT, back page

Professor's invention takes drudgery out of flossing

By **GLENN TORNELL**
Special to The Advocate

Flossing is like exercise. We know we should do it, but we don't.

Flossing is a pillar of dental hygiene. Not only does it prevent cavities, gum disease, tooth loss and bad breath, but according to some recent research, it may also reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke.

So what's the big deal about flossing?

"It's awkward, takes time, and sometimes it hurts," says Sayel Ali, a mathematics professor at MSUM.

Ali is an unlikely spokesman for public dental health, but he may have, so to speak, invented a better mousetrap. It's called the FlossMaster, a handy, lightweight and efficient little device that takes the drudgery out of dental hygiene.

"During a visit to my dentist, I got the usual lecture about flossing my teeth," Ali said. "Then I started thinking about why I don't floss as often as I should and what I could do about it."

Within two months, and after dozens of trips to the local Mac's Hardware Store, Ali

came up with a prototype of the FlossMaster by literally carving models from plastic pieces he found in the store's odd-sized bin.

For Ali, who grew up in a small Jordanian farming village, this is his first invention. He credits his handiness to his interest in science.

After maybe a dozen preliminary designs, he took his prototype to a friend in Indiana who owned a business with a plastic injection machine. That was in 1996.

Two U.S. patents later, Ali is ready to bring the FlossMaster to consumers. "All I need now is someone to help manufacture and market it," he said.

About the length of a toothbrush and twice as wide, the floss master looks like a miniature stun gun with two fork arms at its end, which serve as a bridge for holding the floss.

It includes a patented rubber stabilizer about the size of a sugar cube, which you bite on for leverage when flossing up and down. The stabilizer



GLENN TORNELL/SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

Math professor Sayel Ali invented the FlossMaster to make flossing easier.

rotates 180 degrees, one side to reach the upper teeth, the other for the lower teeth.

A slider, adjustable with your thumb, moves back and forth, at the same time oscillating the dental floss back and forth. "No hands or fingers in your mouth," he said.

"It takes a few minutes to learn, but once you do, it's like riding a bike," Ali said. "You never forget."

Most cavities and gum dis-

ease begin between your teeth where toothbrush bristles just can't reach. Brushing your teeth without flossing, it's been said, is like showering only 70 percent of your body.

The primary function of dental floss, Ali said, is to remove the invisible film of bacteria, called plaque, which constantly forms between your teeth. If not removed, it can accumulate and harden into something more troublesome, called tartar.

Both plaque and tartar can lead to gingivitis, an inflammation of the gums, and eventually to periodontal disease, where the bacterial toxins also invade the bones and structures supporting the teeth.

Most dentists suggest that flossing should take at least two to three minutes.

Some recent research indicates that these dental germs and their toxic byproducts may be released into the bloodstream, creating inflammation and infections throughout the body, including the cardiovascular system.

For details, contact Ali at alis@mnstate.edu, or visit his Web site at Flossmaster.com.

Tornell can be reached at tornell@mnstate.edu.

THE Hap
3.13 - 3.26
Happenings and Events

3.17 - 3.21
No class. Spring break.

3.24 - 4.1
MSUM senior art exhibit, Center for the Arts Gallery, free.

THE Security Report
3.3 - 3.9

3.3 Non-injury traffic accident at 14th Street South


3.4 Theft from motor vehicle outside Holmquist

3.6 Fire alarm in East Snarr

3.8 Vandalism in South Snarr

Shout it out! Quotable quotes

When preparing to travel, lay out all your clothes and all your money. Then take half the clothes and twice the money.



- Susan Heller, writer

Send letters to the editor to advocate@mnstate.edu.

Tech workshops offered for March

The following instructional technology workshops will be offered for free to MSUM faculty and staff this month: "What's new in instructional technology" will be from 11 a.m. to noon today (Thursday), "Supporting collaborative group learning with technology" will be from 9 to 10 a.m. March 27, "Creating style sheets with Front Page" will be from 9 to 10 a.m. today (Thursday) and "Software tools: image composer" will be from 1 to 2 p.m. March 24. Registration is available online at www.mnstate.edu/instrtech/workshop/workshops.htm.

For further information, contact Rhonda Ficek at 236-2339 or ficek@mnstate.edu or call Barbara Hoppe, 236-2596.

Nomination forms for students out

Nomination forms are available for the 2003 student organization awards banquet, which will honor students in leadership positions.

Forms are available in the Center for Leadership and Organizations in CMU 225 and are due by 4 p.m. March 28.

Nominations may be completed by any MSUM student, faculty or staff member. Award winners will be recognized during a ceremony April 16.

Housing plans volleyball tourney

Housing will sponsor a four-on-four volleyball tournament from 7 to 11 p.m. March 28 at the Nemzek field house to benefit Heifer International.

All teams must consist of no more than six MSUM students, faculty or staff members and must register by Friday.

Entry forms are located at the residence hall desks or at The Compass. The entry fee is \$10 for each participant.

Prizes for the tournament include \$120 for first place and \$80 for second place. All tournament participants will receive a free T-shirt.

Heifer International is a non-profit organization that helps impoverished families by supplying food and support.

For more information, call Steve at 236-2826 or e-mail anderst@mnstate.edu.

Study abroad scholarships out

Rotary International is offering a set of scholarships for students interested in studying abroad during the 2004-05 academic year.

The deadline to submit applications is May 16.

For more information and to receive the application form, visit www.mnstate.edu/finaid/external-scholarships.htm or contact George Davis at 236-2904.

Dean promotes women's conference

By TERI FINNEMAN

News Editor

Working to bring a South American scholar and possible future female presidents to campus is on the agenda for Peter Quigley this semester.



Quigley

Quigley, the dean of arts and humanities, said his goal is to try to add to the college through donations and grant writing in order to overcome university budget issues.

"Our question is 'What can we do for ourselves?'" Quigley said. "We're working ... to try to make sure that the college has deeper pockets when it comes to supporting its events."

Quigley said the university will find out later this spring if its been awarded a Fullbright Scholar in Residence for 2003-04. Quigley said MSUM's proposal requested a scholar from Central or South America to teach multi-cultural classes and offer students a new perspective.

"We talk a lot about multi-culture, but we're talking to each other," Quigley said. "The question is, what does

our country look like to someone from another country? What blind spots do we have since we're looking at ourselves?"

Quigley said the university's strong Spanish-language program and Fargo-Moorhead's Hispanic community were reasons why a Latin American scholar was requested.

"We have a Hispanic community that we are not as well connected to as we should be," Quigley said. "We'll be able to hear what we look like from this really different point of view. Intellectually, it's great. Our own faculty would be energized, and it would help internationalize our conversation on campus."

Quigley, a former Fullbright Scholar who worked in Norway, said scholars must have a doctorate and a decent record of research.

"It's a competitive process. It's a really good program and great for the community and for the scholar," Quigley said.

Another idea beginning to take shape by the dean's student advisory board and women's studies students is the First American Woman President committee. Quigley said the plan is to have a conference at MSUM that allows scholars from around the

□ QUIGLEY, back page

The ADVOCATE

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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 Monday at 5 p.m. and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off at The Advocate office in CMU Room 110 or e-mailed to us at advocate@mnstate.edu. The Advocate reserves the right to edit letters and refuse publication of letters omitting requested information. It does not guarantee the publication of any letter.

"How do you spell drinking?"

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MSUM students travel during spring

How to get money for \$pring break

By DANIELLE MACMURCHY

Staff Writer

Throughout the school year, college students look far into the future and dream of spring break to give them a week to relax from classes and studying. Students plan extravagant trips to warmer climates to escape the Minnesota weather.

While all this sounds fantastic, the dream becomes reality when the costs add up. To pay for the cost of gas, food, hotel accommodations and sometimes airfare, students at MSUM are looking for anything and everything to earn extra cash.

Students from Habitat for Humanity bought several items to raffle and sold Mary Kay products. They have done several fund-raisers, which have helped fund both the organization itself and the trips. Each individual in the group is also earning money for their own trip. "We're donating our own money and time," senior Nate Schadewald said.

Students from Campus Crusade for Christ are traveling to Panama City Beach, Fla. Each student is responsible to raise his or her own money. Many are relying on family and friends, along with extra hours at work, to help them pay for the conference.

After realizing the overall cost of an extravagant spring break, many students have been spending their time at the PRACS Institute, testing anything from pills to shots and earning from \$500 to \$1,500 a test. Craig Church, of the PRACS Institute, said 40 percent of their patients are college students. "We've put a lot of kids through college," Church added.

Not all students are willing to be experimented on for extra cash. Many are asking for more hours at work and trying to spend less.

MacMurphy can be reached at db_mac@hotmail.com.

Students ditch the books to help others

By DANIELLE MACMURCHY

Staff Writer

As the snow flies in Minnesota, many MSUM students are preparing for the long-awaited spring break. To escape the stress of studying, students are traveling around the globe visiting places like Florida, Mexico and even China.

Many students are traveling with a university organization. Habitat for Humanity is taking students to five different locations across the United States to serve those in need. Students in the organization can choose from these locations: Oakland, Calif., Miami, Valdosta, Ga., West Chester, N.Y. and Sun City, Ariz.

The students are planning on building a house for a family in need. They will work alongside construction workers, who will

train them, and other Habitat for Humanity teams.

Senior Nate Schadewald is a trip leader for the group working in Oakland, Calif. Schadewald said the team will be spending the week working seven-hour days and sleeping at a local church. "It's a personal reward," Schadewald said, "making use of your spring break instead of using the time for yourself."

During the 28-hour drive, Schadewald said he is excited to see the team bond.

Campus Crusade for Christ is another campus organization spending its spring break across the country. Over 25 students from MSUM will travel 22 hours to Panama City Beach, Fla., to join 3,500 stu-



ILLUSTRATION BY MATT KAUFENBERG

beach to share our faith and step out of our comfort zone."

He added that he is excited, "to see God use students from MSUM to change lives."

While many students plan to travel thousands of miles during their break, others are staying closer to home.

Six students from the mass communications department are spending their spring break in Alexandria, Minn. Under the direction of professor Regene

Radniecki, the students will work as interns at an Alexandria newspaper. The students will be given an unique opportunity to learn and experience journalism first hand.

for one of the many Campus Crusade spring break conferences.

Senior Randy Hochstatter is one of the leaders for the trip. "Students from all over the world will attend the conference," he said. "We'll go on the

MacMurphy can be reached at db_mac@hotmail.com.

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Excessive spring break drinking too dangerous to risk

Next week, thousands of students from across the country - including MSUM - will flock to spring break hot spots like Jamaica, Cancun, Daytona Beach, Fla., Miami, Panama City and California. Chances are most of them will drink alcohol.

Chances are some of them will drink so much they get sick or even die.

A Journal of American College Health study reported that the average consumption for men during spring break was 18 drinks per day, while the average woman drank 10 drinks each day. 40 percent of the men and one-third of the women reported being drunk daily. Of the 341 men and 442 women surveyed, more than half of the men and more than 40 percent of the women drank until they got sick or passed out at least once.

That same study also found that 58.4 percent of those students surveyed had trouble with the police; 58.9 percent of them were injured.

Another study, this one focusing on binge drinking, found that frequent binge drinkers are more likely to engage in risky behavior. Almost half of those surveyed (49.7 percent) had unplanned sex, while 52.3 percent engaged in unprotected sex.

These statistics paint a bleak picture of the problems associated with drunken spring break behavior. Add in the increased chance of rape, robbery and assault, and the risks are too much to face.

Instead of drinking until you can't stand up anymore, drink in moderation. If you feel you absolutely must drink until you're completely drunk, bring along a sober friend to make sure you make it home (or back to your hotel) safe and sound.

We'd hate to lose any readers.



Housing department dedicated to improve

Letters to the editor

After reading the editorial, "Students should speak out against campus hate crimes" in the March 6, 2003 issue, I felt discouraged. It made me doubt Housing's efforts to make living on campus a positive experience for all residents.

Hall Olympics, an incentive program encouraging diversity event attendance, is in its second successful year. For the first time since I have been here, RA candidates are talking about the importance of diversity and how they wouldn't have taken the time to attend events had it not been for the encouragement Hall Olympics provided.

24 student staff and three professional staff completed training and agreed to be Safe Zone contacts. No other department/organization on campus has more contacts than us. I am also part of the Safe Zone planning team.

During fall training our student staff had training on diversity through the use of skits, videos and discussion. This was followed by an introductory diversity workshop with other student leaders by an excellent trainer, Michael Nejman, and a follow up session specifically for housing staff.

Because staff enjoyed Nejman's training, I decided to attend the National Multicultural Training Institute where Nejman had been trained. So far I have been able to

offer a training session for the Admissions student staff.

My colleague Michael Wilde and I attended the Stop the Hate train the trainers program and gained programming options. Michael advises the campus Stop the Hate organization, and I co-chair the organization's development of a hate incident response team.

To develop partnerships and relationships with students of color, I, along with student staff, have been attending diversity organization meetings. This has been great for better communication regarding educational programs offered by organizations. It hasn't exposed us to the difficulties and daily indignities students of color face on campus, i.e. we haven't heard anything, but that doesn't mean nothing has happened.

We have trained our student staff and continue to discuss reporting incidents of hate, such as marker board writing, to campus security and housing supervisors immediately.

As a member of the MSUM anti-racism team, I have gone through both the Level I and Level II trainings. I helped organize a Level I training for 35 student leaders on campus; 11 of those were housing staff employees.

Despite these efforts, students

are being made to feel uncomfortable, and we are short of our goal that living in the residence halls is a positive experience for all students. It makes me feel like giving up, that the problem cannot be solved. It would be easy to give up and go back to living without choosing to fight against injustice. I will not give up, and I'm proud to say I am tired from fighting this fight; it means I'm working. My level of tiredness pales in comparison to the tiredness people of color feel on a daily basis in living with discrimination and racist/ignorant remarks.

A description about white privilege in the book "Why are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" has stuck with me. White privilege is like riding on a moving walkway: each step a white person takes multiplies movement forward. It is time for more white people to realize the privileges they have and turn around and walk against the walkway to become more "tired" as we all work to fight injustice. We need more residents, faculty and staff to join us in this process. I believe our efforts are significant, but not enough, and I will continue to work.

Ryan Sylvester
MSUM Area Director
Residence Life Depart.

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.



On the eve of entering drunken adulthood

Power hour better spent hunting lions rather than drinking to excess

I am writing this column nine days before the 21st anniversary of my illustrious birth. Yes, on March 18, nearly 21 years ago, I came into this world. I'm almost certain my mother didn't go without painkillers for the delivery, because at my birth, my cranium was roughly the same size it is today. My mom is

tough, but my head was the size of a basketball and my body the size of a small pony. I actually shrank after the birth. I was a baby and a half I tell you. Literally, my unformed conjoined twin consisted of merely a lower torso. I call him "the brother that never was." Even though my head was the size of a globe, my ears still appeared to be, quote my mom's obstetrician, "mutatiously large." In my youth the backs of my ears kept a constant sunburn due to the fact that my parents used them for the purpose of shading the deck chairs (they decided against the matching umbrella-covered table). But, I digress. The fact is, my 21st birthday lands smack dab at the beginning of spring break. SO,

“
Even though my head was the size of a globe, my ears still appeared to be, quote my mom's obstetrician, 'mutatiously large.'”

around for spring break will make sure I'm cleaning up vomit in a West Snarr bathroom on the morning of my birth. I can't wait to see the person who finds out that a second-hand chicken tender melt from Perkin's and a gallon of used green beer look like the remains of half-digested leprechaun when left in a urinal. Honestly though, I believe a power hour is about as silly as serious hazing at an MSUM fraternity. It's a rite of passage into a club that isn't all that exciting. I've been drunk before, I went to high school in a small town. I don't need to leave my mark on the bathroom floor of some local tavern just to prove I'm an adult. I might as well go hunt a lion as my rite of passage into adulthood. I

can see it now, me on the plains of Africa hunting the feral lion, tracking him for days, fasting until the kill. On the tenth day I find my opportunity to strike. I jump out of the bush with my spear, and upon seeing the beast up close, I freeze, defecate on myself and become dinner for the pride. I suppose in reflection of all this time I've spent inhabiting this blue planet, I've discovered many things. Some of the most important introspective conclusions I've made about my existence include: jokes about vomit are easy, I don't like olives of any sort and, finally, Star Wars: Episode II and the people that like it make me fear that the universe is truly devoid of a higher Quesnell can be reached at slowlycountingstars@hotmail.com.



ADAM QUESNELL Advocate columnist

"I might as well go hunt a lion as my rite of passage into adulthood."

Let the little things slide in life, learn to simplify

"Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity!" once said Henry David Thoreau. What a wonderful thought! But how, in such chaotic times, can we attain this concept? Back when I was in high school, I used to crave chaos. Not only was I immersed in it, but I think, subconsciously, I brought it upon myself. Two minutes of silence? Turn on the radio. Have a

day with nothing to do? Hey, there's always the mall. Are all my friends happy with each other? Bring forth some good ol' teenage drama. Since my life has become naturally chaotic, I've started to crave simplicity. It's not like I want to drop everything and move to the middle of North Dakota with a chicken and kernel of corn, but I think there is something about breaking it all down that makes me feel a bit content. Simplicity is simply a simple thing to make simple ... here are a few suggestions that could possibly help you simplify your life. Learn how to organize your time. Instead of running all over, not knowing where you should go first, figure it out ahead of time. The best way to organize your

“
Simplicity is simply a simple thing to make simple ... here are a few suggestion that could possibly help you simplify your life.”

how needlessly complicated their lives were; they seemed to dwell on every facet of their existence (I had once been the same). Afterwards, I realized how less stressful my life was since I had stopped allowing little things to bother me. I still stress over bad test grades and lost CDs, but I don't dwell on what people think of me. Learn to live without wanting. Wanting, more than anything, clutters our lives with ridiculous nonsense. Sure, it would be nice to have a new car, and I really wouldn't mind going to Seattle for spring break, but by needlessly wanting these things, I feel that I actually need to attain them. I think it's better just to see what happens; follow the course of life without needing your wants.

Recognize the difference between being simple-minded and leading a simple life. Nowadays, to lead a simple life, one must be open-minded and, perhaps, a bit empathetic. If you allow yourself to be ignorant and naïve towards the world (a.k.a. being simple-minded), it's impossible to uphold a simple life. If every new thing that pops up in your life is validity for chaos, there is no way your life can remain simple. "Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity! I say let your affairs be as one, two, three and to a hundred or a thousand ... We are happy in proportion to the things we can do without." -Henry David Thoreau Trygstad can be reached at shadowedfire@hotmail.com.



BRITTA TRYGSTAD Advocate columnist

"Since my life has become naturally chaotic, I've started to crave simplicity."

Student rally puts apathy of 'sheeples' on display

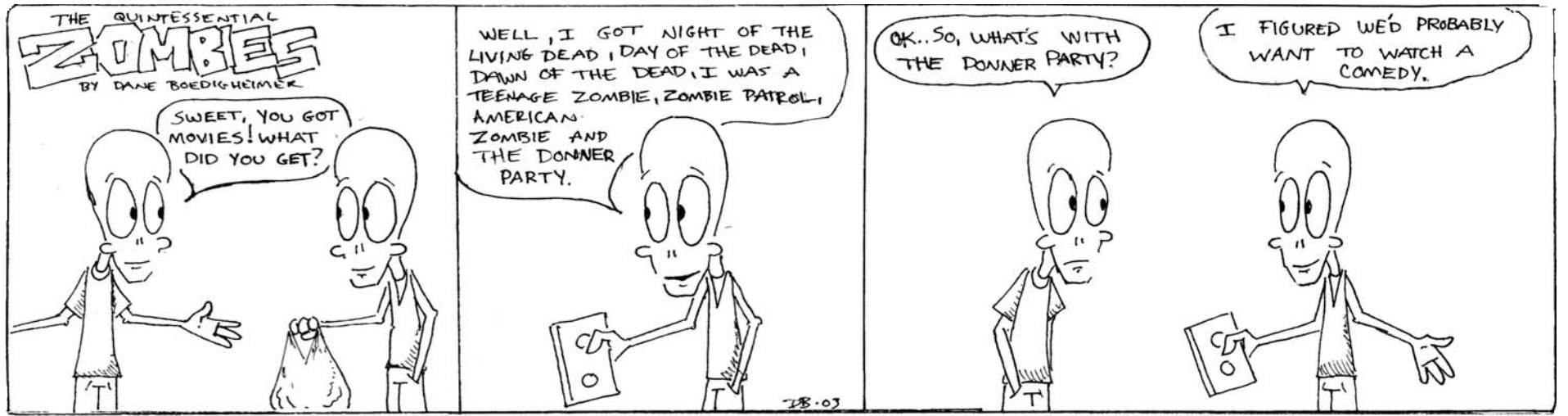
Helpless. That's how I felt after the student rally on Wednesday. I wasn't in the planning committees. I wasn't an all-day supporter. I wasn't even a walkout. I just stopped and listened while others walked by in an astounding show of indifference. I couldn't even keep it together. I cried as I listened to the words that were spoken and agreed with them all. I applauded the strength it took to call out and make a difference, and after all this emotional empathy, I stepped back

when there was a call out to have others speak. I thought to myself: I have things to do. I listened as the speaker moved and called the onlookers "sheeple," and pleaded with them to go out and protest and act as he was from the unlikely place of a wheelchair, with nothing but a megaphone to aid him. Meanwhile, others would walk by and shout things like, "I'd rather get drunk," or, "I'd rather defend my country," and were too

Your turn
busy high five-ing their friends to listen to the speaker explain that he was a Gulf War veteran and to look where it got him. I paraphrase due to a lack of clarity that I apologize for having witnessed this; I was ashamed for myself and my sheeple. I was no better. I wasn't speaking out. I just sat in my dorm and tried to

ignore the pain my carelessness was causing me. This situation is far from over, and I have the feeling many people will die before this is over. I don't want to be one of them. I'm sure you don't either. We mustn't let apathy take over. Try CNN over MTV or whatever for a day, and see if your little world isn't opened a little more. Just take the time to care, and who knows, we just might save the lives of thousands of innocents from getting butchered by

Bush. Ignorance will get us all killed. Just look at our leader. No, I'm not helpless nor hopeless. I have hope. People must see what's happening for what it is sooner or later, and maybe we'll be known as the generation that defeated the greatest villain of all. Our own lazy selves. Cole Flaata MSUM sophomore



'Bringing Down the House' rocks the house

By NATHAN SHIPPEE

Copy Editor

Culture collisions are great for the movies; comedy, drama—there are all kinds of angles on which to play when different kinds of people mix. "Bringing Down the House," the new Steve Martin/Queen Latifah comedy, fits into the large group of movies with race as a central theme. As a whole, it's a fun and entertaining film with just a hint of edginess to it. Unlike some racial comedies, this one isn't quite all meaningless fluff. There are a couple of weak spots, but the power of "Bringing Down the House" showed this weekend as it came in No. 1 at the box office with \$31.7 million.

The premise behind "Bringing Down the House" is that Latifah's character Charlene, a woman unjustly accused of robbery, ropes Martin's character, a powerful attorney, into helping her with an appeal.

With the juxtaposition of Latifah's inner-city style and Martin's admitted w.a.s.p. life, hijinks ensue, including Latifah trying to help Martin get his ex-wife back.

There are some amazingly funny scenes in this movie. Latifah teaching Martin how to act like a sexual dynamo is great, as are most of the scenes when these two performers have a chance to stretch out and do their stuff and not worry so much about relying on other characters.

Eugene Levy (from the "American Pie" movies) plays a great associate to Martin who becomes fixated on Charlene (until a person has seen Levy with his hair in "cornrows," they haven't truly laughed).

Betty White (yeah, the one from "The Golden Girls") plays Martin's sweet little (and extremely bigoted) neighbor admirably; some of the funniest stand-alone lines in the film belong to her. Martin's kids in the film are great, too—their fairly nuanced reactions and expressions actually make watching younger actors enjoyable for once. Overall, the strength of the movie is in the cast.

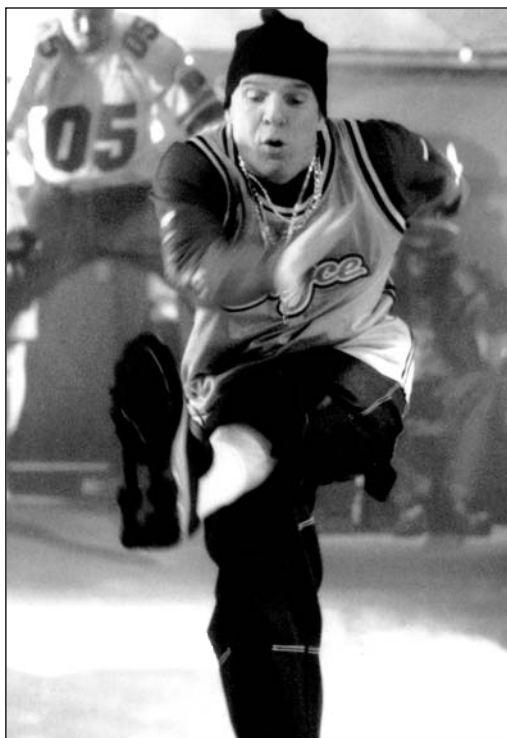
The main thing that can complicate the enjoyment of "Bringing Down the House" is the writing. At times, the dialogue and situations are extremely intelligent and nowhere near cliché, and most of the film stays out of stupid range. There are moments, however, when the point seems to be made that "white" or "black" can be summed up in how people talk. True, it's usually an easy laugh when Steve Martin says something ending in "yo' mama," but the scenes in which the movie relies too much on that kind of humor tend to get old quickly.

Despite some humor that's a little insulting to the viewer's intelligence, "Bringing Down the House" delivers many intelligent (and loud) laughs through the talent of its cast.

For Steve Martin fans, there are plenty of great scenes to make up for a couple of stupid language jokes. There are even a few coherent statements about racial stereotyping, which is pretty rare.

Go see it—"Bringing Down the House" has a little fluff, but it's still got bite and intelligence. And Eugene Levy in cornrows.

Shippee can be reached at blindwillie9@hotmail.com.



Left: Peter Sanderson (Steve Martin) gets jiggy. Top: Mrs. Kline (Betty White) covers Georgey Sanderson's (Angus T. Jones) eyes. Below: Charlene Morton (Queen Latifah, center), flanked by Peter and Howie Rottman (Eugene Levy) tells off Peter's former sister-in-law.



ADVOCATE ALBUM REVIEWS:

Juliana sells out Kings of Leon record unusual yet classic rock

By MIKE MATTHEIS

Music Critic

The most negative contribution Nirvana made to independent rock was opening the floodgates for major label executives to snap up as many indie bands as they could find. This leads to three general outcomes for the bands.

Some are seduced by the big money to be found in multimedia stardom, so they sell out their original sound for the lowest common denominator (Sugar Ray, The Goo Goo Dolls). Some manage to achieve a bit of attention on their own and then survive as self-parodies (Offspring, Blink-182).

The rest refuse to alter their ideal, make low-selling records that fans love and, after fulfilling their contract, return to indie land as conquering heroes (Built To Spill, Melvins). Unfortunately, selling out is the most enticing of the three, and The Juliana Theory, one of the latest indie to major bands, would seem to agree.

The Juliana Theory was a band with strong punk rock credentials. They put out several records on the pretty well-regarded Tooth & Nail Records label that highlighted their songs as kin to circa 1998 Jimmy Eat World and Promise Ring.

Apparently, The Juliana Theory liked this blueprint so much that their newest album mimics the newest Jimmy Eat World and Promise Ring records by being calculated for maximum consumer potential, previous work be damned. This in itself is not necessarily a bad thing, but The Juliana Theory definitely works hard to make it one.

For instance, start with the inventive and inspiring album title "Love." This indicates, hey, The Juliana Theory loves you. Actually, they love a lot of things, but you are first and foremost. As a sign

of this devotion, they have taken the time to learn a few things about you, and they discovered that you love Creed. To prove they are willing to change to keep this love, they have shrugged off the devil's caress of punk rock to don the wings of the Creed rock you so adore.

Noting that you also have about you a love of Coldplay, the band spice up their loud, yet spiritual, love for you with a bit of gloomy Brit pop to make it all sound irrevocably sincere. And that's just in the first two songs.

Then, The Juliana Theory realizes that they also really love Creed and Coldplay themselves. Love them so much, in fact, that they devote the rest of the album to various combinations of these bands to prove that they're not lying here.

By the time the record stops, a promising emo punk band has been exorcised from The Juliana Theory. In its place stands a band not afraid to admit that they are full of love because they can now make sure that you get enough of the music you love. In theory, this doesn't sound so bad. In theory.

Mattheis can be reached at matthem1@mnstate.edu.



By JEREMY CHURA

Music Critic

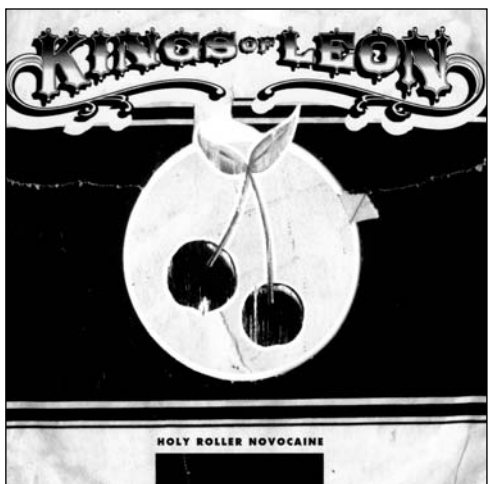
If you like '70s stoner music then you are going to love the debut EP from Kings of Leon called "Holy Roller Novocaine."

Brothers Caleb Followill, Nathan Followill and Jared Followill, along with their cousin Matthew Followill, look like four Midwest stoners from 1973.

Caleb Followill's vocals sound grainy like his larynx is 80 years older than he is. Their sound is like a combination of rock 'n' roll and rhythm and blues, with a lot of bass and organ.

The band is out of Nashville, Tenn. Because the brothers Followill grew up the sons of a preacher man, they had no real home and lived with relatives. Their name is Kings of Leon because both the Followills' father and grandfather are named Leon.

In general they are an unusual yet classic band.



In an article from their Web site, www.kingsofleon.com,

Caleb Followill describes four out of the five tracks from "Holy Roller Novocaine." He says, "'Molly's Chambers,' that's a song about a girl that, if you ever came across her and you get your opportunity, you'd better take it. Because ah, she might eventually mess you up, but it's worth it. The song tries to recreate the musical vibe of how she can captivate you."

"Wasted Times" is about people hiding who they really are," he explained. "Wicker Chair" is about seeing someone self destruct and knowing there's not really anything you can do about it; it's melancholy. 'Holy Roller Novocaine' is our most personal song."

The other track he did not mention was "California Waiting," which is about a man's life going way too fast, his girl not helping him and his need to be by himself.

Right now the Kings of Leon are in England getting ready to do a mini tour supporting The Coral. This band has great potential and I think that they will be a big hit once they start touring in the United States. But for now you can buy their EP off of RCA for under \$10, which is a great deal for such a good band.

Right now my doctor has just left me, and I must start using the medication he left for me. I am going to put on the Kings of Leon EP on a repeat mode and let this great medicine run its course.

Chura can be reached at gemdiamond@hotmail.com.

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NEWS & NOTES



Jackson



Eastlack

After stellar regular seasons, seven MSUM athletes — four in track and field, three in wrestling — will compete in their respective national championships Friday through Sunday.

Senior **Chris Nulle**, who went undefeated in the weight throw this season, enters Friday's Division II national championships in Boston with a rank of No. 4 (61 feet, 1/4 inches). Junior **Belinda Eastlack** holds the No. 4 mark in the weight throw (58-2 1/2) but is nearly six feet from the top two throwers. She finished third in the weight throw at last year's national championships as a member of NDSU's championship squad.

Junior **DaLee Wilkinson**, who transferred from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, last semester, holds to No. 3 mark in the pole vault (12-2). Sophomore **Tanya Salter** will compete in high jump this weekend, sitting in a tie for eighth place with a height of 5-6 1/2.

Junior 184-pounder **Ryan Kopiasz** highlights a group of three Dragon wrestlers vying for a national title in this weekend's Division II national championship in Wheeling, W. Va. Kopiasz will square off against **Tyler Jones** of South Dakota State University, Brookings, in the first round of the tournament. Jones, ranked No. 1 at one point this season, defeated Kopiasz 5-1 on Jan. 23 at Nemzek.

Senior **Mitch Jackson** will battle **Ronald Paterniti** of Gannon University, Erie, Pa., at 141 in first-round action. Junior **Desmond Radunz** contends with Wayne (Neb.) State College's **Jared Haberman** in the first round at 125.

It will take four consecutive victories to earn a national championship.

Notes by **Joe Whetham**/sports editor

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL — NSIC TOURNAMENT

Unexpected exit

Wolves oust third-seeded Dragons in first round of NSIC tournament

By **HAYDEN GOETHE**

Staff Writer

In a conference tournament full of surprises, the MSUM women's basketball team suffered through a shocking defeat March 5 in the quarterfinals of the NSIC tournament. Northern State defeated MSUM 75-65 at Nemzek.

The loss snapped the Dragons' seven-game home winning streak, with their previous home loss against Northern State on Jan. 10.

The Wolves showed tremendous grit in the post against an MSUM team that is considered to have the top post game in the conference.

"They worked harder on the boards," senior forward Katie Doerr said. "They got second and third shots every time they shot the ball."

The crowd of 400 got into the game as MSUM raced out of the gates to an early lead. Northern State (11-16, 8-10 NSIC) crawled back quickly, though. Carin Rambow, who scored 25 points for the Wolves in their victory over MSUM (16-11, 13-5 NSIC) in January, sparked the Wolves with 12 first-half points en route to 22 points in the game.

"She just stepped up," Dragons head coach Karla Nelson said. "She really came in and hit some tough shots."

Northern led 32-31 at the half, and in the second half, the Dragons could do little to counter.

With the post players moving out from under the basket, the Dragons failed to knock down their perimeter shots. Any



NORTHERN STATE 75, MSUM 65

A 33 percent shooting performance didn't help the Dragons much, who dropped their third consecutive game March 5. Sophomore guard **Dana Weibel** had a team-high 18 points.

Dragon shot was usually from the perimeter and often highly contested. And when it came to the always-uncontested free throw, MSUM still struggled.

The Wolves drilled 79 percent of their shots from the charity stripe, while the Dragons hit a measly 57 percent.

"When you miss them, it's a knockout punch," Nelson said.

By the time the Dragons found a way to maneuver in the post, there was no stopping the Wolves.

Baskets by juniors Erin Richgels, Janna Davis and Liz Klukas helped the Dragons remain within five for most of the second half, but a layup and 3-point basket by Liza Sizer inflated Northern's lead to 14 points.

Three-pointers by sophomores Jackie Doerr and Dana Weibel gave the Dragons one last gasp of hope, being down 64-56 with three-and-a-half minutes left, but MSUM never got closer than seven points.

Katie Doerr, the Dragons' lone senior playing in what was her final collegiate game, gave her all, posting 18 rebounds but scoring just



GLENN TORNELL/MSUM NEWS SERVICE

Junior forward **Liz Klukas** falls to the ground while battling a Northern State defender for possession of the ball during the Dragons' home NSIC playoff game March 5.

seven points. The loss was Doerr's swan song, an improper ending to a storied career.

"She gives the game everything she has, and she gives her teammates everything she has," Nelson said. "I couldn't ask for a better person to represent our program."

Katie Doerr capped her career as the second-leading rebounder in MSUM women's basketball history, including a 10.5 average this season to lead the NSIC.

Goethe can be reached at coomscorner8@hotmail.com.

MEN'S BASKETBALL — NSIC TOURNAMENT

Dragons fall to Bulldogs in championship game

By **DUSTIN MONKE**

Staff Writer

After two intensely competitive games in the NSIC tournament, the MSUM men's basketball team fell just short of capturing their first conference title in 21 years after falling 71-66 to the University of Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs in the NSIC championship game Sunday.

The Dragons (19-10, 10-8 NSIC) finished with one of their best records in school history. They won the most games in a season since the 1995-96 season when MSUM finished with a 19-8 record but still did not make it as far as this year's team did. Not since the 1981-82 season has a men's team finished with more wins in a season.

The Dragons' road to the title was not an easy task. Wednesday night the seventh-seeded Dragons shocked No. 2-seed Southwest State University, Marshall, Minn., 70-62 on their home court, advancing to the conference semifinals at the Concordia-St. Paul Gangelhoff Center. MSUM then defeated Bemidji (Minn.) State University 79-78 in overtime on a last-second shot to advance to the championship game.

MSUM 70, Southwest State 62

The Dragons never trailed the Mustangs. They led 35-24 at halftime. Senior forward Marlon Samuel led the Dragons with 18 points.

"He's a big reason we started playing better," assistant coach Ryan Looney said.

Samuel's inside shots proved to be the Dragons' main offensive key in the win.

"That's my home," Samuel said. "In and around the basket, within 15 feet." Samuel was named to the all-tournament team along with Bledsoe.

A main key to the Dragons' win meant shutting down Mustangs' senior guard Jacob Fahl. Fahl had scored an average of 24.5 points per game in two prior meetings against the Dragons, but this time would be different. The Dragons' defense held Fahl to 15 points on 31 percent shooting from the floor.

"He was pretty critical in their victory last time we played them," Samuel said. "Taking care of him is something we wanted to do."

MSUM shot a noteworthy 48% (25-52) from the field while the Mustangs were only able to convert on 35% (19-55) of their shots.

"It felt good to play well as a team and

to beat those guys," junior center Eric Prchal said.

Senior guard Jared Bledsoe was a multifaceted player again, putting in 16 points, seven rebounds, six assists and four steals.

Head coach Stu Engen summed up the upset in one sentence. "We defended very hard, we stood up to their pressure, and we finished plays offensively."

MSUM 79, Bemidji State 78 (OT)

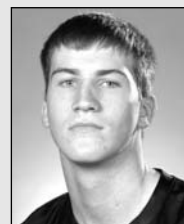
Saturday night the Dragons faced the No. 3 seed Bemidji State. The Beavers had knocked off the Dragons in both of their regular season matchups. The first meeting was an 89-60 blowout in Bemidji, and the second was a 91-68 drubbing at home.

In their third meeting of the season, the Dragons turned things around, winning in overtime 79-78 after a shocking and memorable last-second steal and basket by Kruse.

The Dragons called a timeout on their end of the court with 3.5 seconds left in the game. Looney said the original call was for a lob pass to Kruse. Staloch's inbound pass was just inches high for Kruse to handle, as the ball rolled out of bounds with only two seconds left.

SPOTLIGHT

Senior forward **Jake Kruse's** remarkable steal and fade-away jumper with two seconds left in overtime gave the Dragons a 79-78 victory over Bemidji State last Saturday in the NSIC tournament semifinals.



Kruse

With the game seemingly in hand, all the Beavers had to do was get the ball inbounds. It never happened.

Kruse, positioned in front of Bemidji State's inbound passer, jumped as the ball was being thrown, knocked it down behind his back, picked it up and shot a fade-away five-foot jumper as time expired. Kruse's shot bounced off the backboard and into the net to secure a Dragon victory.

"I just grabbed it and went with it," Kruse said. "I've never had a game-winner."

Bledsoe commented on the shock the Dragons felt after watching Kruse nail the winning basket. "You pause for a minute and want to pinch yourself; you

□ MEN'S HOOPS, from 8

think it's a dream," he said. An early start helped the Dragons. They held the Beavers, the No. 1 scoring team in the NSIC at 88.1 points per game, to only 13 points in the first 11 minutes of the first half.

The Dragons' balanced attack helped them get every starter in double figures.

Minn.-Duluth 71, MSUM 66

The Dragons once again entered their first NSIC title

game in the tournament's short three-year history, with an underdog mentality.

MSUM took control of the game early, jumping out to a 13-3 lead. It proved to be the Dragons' largest lead of the game.

Soon after falling behind, the Bulldogs brought junior guard Dusty Decker off the bench.

Decker, the tournament MVP, immediately lit up the Dragons, scoring 20 first-half points, including a 6 of 9 per-

formance from 3-point range.

"We did what we could to take him out," Looney said. "We gave up a few looks to a guy who had his career high."

The Dragons tried getting back in the game, with the help of baskets from Bledsoe and sophomore guard Ben

Aalto to get within 63-61 with four minutes left in the contest.

MSUM got one last shot to tie the game, down 69-66, but Bledsoe missed a 3-pointer. Aalto got the rebound but was fouled before he had a chance to take the shot. Aalto

missed the first shot of the 1-and-1 bonus.

"They were too big and too physical," Looney said. "We just ran out of gas at the end."

Monke can be reached at dustin_monke@mnstate.edu.

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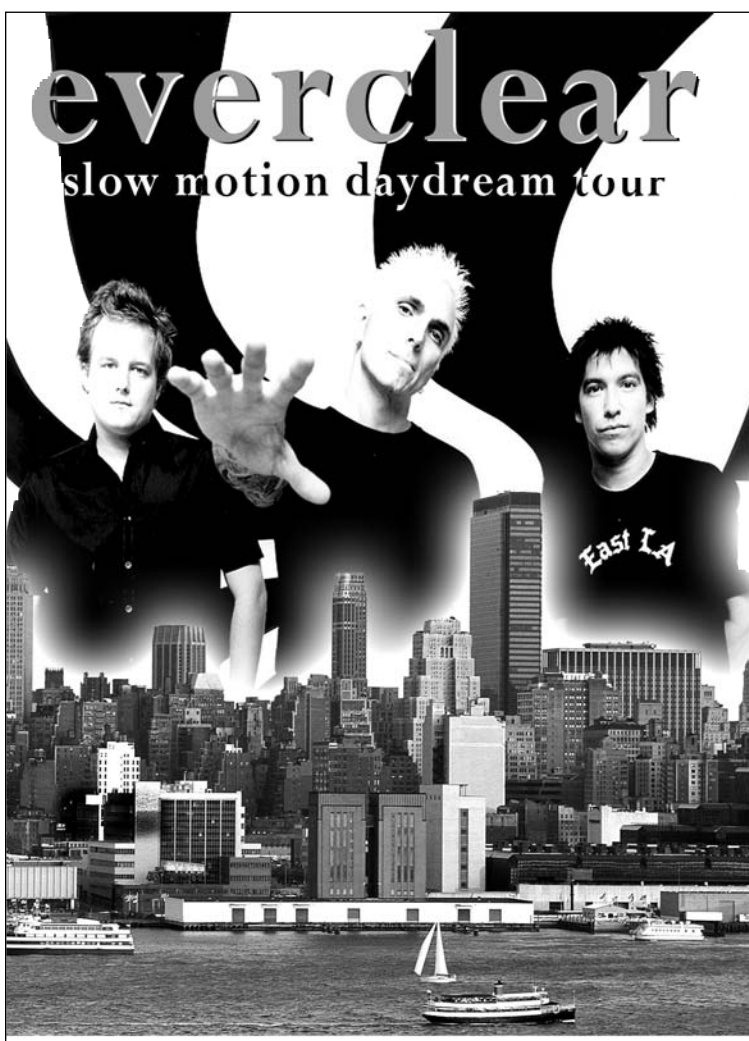
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One-, two- and three-bedroom apartments near MSUM. 1704 Sixth Ave. S., 915 18 1/2 St. S. and 912 10th Ave. S. No pets. Available May 15 and June 1. Call 284-6205, 232-9444 or 284-6286.

One-bedroom apartment May 1, heat/water paid. Intercom security. Quiet. No parties. AC, mini-blinds, ceiling fan. Certified crime-/drug-free housing. Close to college. No pets. 293-6764.

Two-bedroom, June 1 and Aug. 1. Intercom security, heat/water paid, AC, ceiling fans, mini-blinds. Quiet, no parties. No pets. Off-street assigned parking with plug-ins. Crime-/drug-free housing. 293-6764.

One-bedroom apartment located near campus. \$375. Utilities included. Call 701-219-1059. Lease starting April or May.

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WALKOUT, from front



SUBMITTED PHOTO

MSUM students were active in political marches during the Vietnam War. Former President Roland Dille says students were more informed on war during the '60s and '70s.

the 15 U.N. Security Council states.

Carrying a sign that read: 'The President stole my \$,' MSUM junior Sarah Marthaler said she is opposed to war.

"I think it's vicious to kill innocent people for dumb reasons, for any reason," said Marthaler, who was one of five members to start Act-Up.

Her fiancée, a member of the National Guard in Minnesota, was notified last week that his division would be activated by Saturday. Because of her fiancée's activation, Marthaler said she plans on getting married within the next two weeks.

Marty said there was little opposition to the Act-Up anti-war rally from students and faculty. In fact, one protester was given extra credit for skipping an English class to report on the event, Marty said.

"Some of the teachers are for [the event]," Marty said. "I know there are some that are against it, but they haven't said much."

MSUM English professor Sharon Scapple said although students skipping class for any reason will only work against them, she supported the idea of students attending the event.

"It would be their decision to cut class or not. But [students] should be involved in events that affect them," said Scapple, who was an active protester of the Vietnam War at the University of Wisconsin-Stout during the mid-1960s. "[Anti-war rallying] is really important. I don't know if people understand what Bush is

doing."

Roland Dille, who served as MSUM's president starting in 1968, has seen his share of student-led anti-war activism. During his first four years as president, Dille endured an anti-war confrontation of 2,000 students in the CMU and a two-week student walkout in the spring of 1970.

But Dille said he draws little comparison between anti-war activism 35 years ago and the efforts of students today.

"There's no comparison," Dille said. "The big issue back then was the draft. Either you had to stay in school or go to war. Every male student was given a life or death situation: either stay in school or go to war and be killed."

Dille said students today don't have a grasp of war's devastation. In stark contrast to the casualty-heavy Vietnam War, few American military campaigns since have resulted in deaths of U.S. troops.

That fact, Dille said, is the reason students today have less of an understanding of war than students in the '60s and '70s.

"Students are not well informed," Dille said.

Marty and the Act-Up club said they're committed to changing that.

"The goal of our organization isn't so much to start our own stuff as it is to get to students to participate in larger things," Marty said.

Whetham can be reached at whethajo@mnstate.edu.

WIRELESS, from front

tation from the departments and listened to what faculty had to say and what they felt was important," Ficek said.

Having more computer carts with projection capabilities is a priority, she said. The task force encourages faculty who need to replace office computers to purchase laptops.

"They can go into the classroom and plug into that projection system ... without the cart," Ficek said.

She said a number of faculty have also discussed how student computer fees are distributed, as some believe needs for specialized majors aren't being met.

"There are a lot more needs than computers when it comes to technology," Ficek said. "The arts and sciences [have] all kinds of equipment needs that are technology related but aren't computers."

Ficek said she'd also like to promote more online programs in order to improve accessibility for those unable to attend on-campus classes, as well as incorporate portable

response units and receivers into the classrooms. She said NDSU has the same system, which has worked well.

"We've had a lot of interest. As the professor asks questions, [students] respond by pressing a button on the unit," Ficek said. "It can be used for graded discussion, taking attendance and instant surveying of the group, instead of only two or three students doing the talking. You get everyone's opinion."

Eejay Smith, dean of social and natural science, said he thinks a main goal of the task force is to give students and faculty more control over how instructional technology is handled on campus.

"We need to make sure to provide a strong voice for the people who are actually using the technology," Smith, an information technology specialist, said. "We're looking at a limited budget and trying to give some priorities to some things."

Finneman can be reached at crusher69@hotmail.com.

QUIGLEY, from 2

world to talk about the history of women in politics.

"We want to talk about how so many women are now clearly poised to be ready for [the presidency]," Quigley said. "We'd love to get several of these kinds of women to appear at the conference. Hillary Clinton, Elizabeth Dole ... we'd like to have the conference kick off with a panel of five powerful women who are, at least in some people's minds, potential candidates."

Quigley said he'd like the conference to be international so scholars from other coun-

tries, such as England, could discuss how female political leadership has worked for their government system.

"The question seems to have disappeared in the past couple of years as to when we're going to see a viable female candidate," Quigley said. "We'd like to have the conference take place just before the fall 2004 election, so we'd get a lot of media attention."

Senior Kim Fedorenko said the idea is in the early stages, but she thinks it's a good cause.

"As a feminist, the idea of a

woman for president makes sense to me," Fedorenko said. "Why can't a woman as president be an option for people? I think it would be great to have a woman candidate."

Fedorenko said women comprise 50 percent of the country and should be represented as well.

"Just the idea of putting together this committee seems to me a very good step in this direction," she said. "I think it's a great way to get involved with campus activity."

Finneman can be reached at crusher69@hotmail.com.

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