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Thursday
March 10, 2005

The ADVOCATE

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

Students accused of selling drugs in Nelson

By BRONSON LEMER

Editor

Two MSUM students have been charged with selling cocaine out of their Nelson dorm room.

Former MSUM student Caitlin Keese and sophomore Marnie Johnson each face two charges of first-degree controlled substance crimes. The two students were summoned to appear in Clay County District Court on March 21.

According to court records, police received tips last April from people who observed Keese handling cocaine and

marijuana in room 565 of Nelson. Keese and Johnson shared the room.

Campus Security director Ferman Woodberry said that a student living in Nelson filed a complaint about Keese and Johnson.

The students no longer live in Nelson.

Following an April 15 search of the room, police found 21 grams of cocaine, \$230 in cash, drug paraphernalia, a digital scale and photographs of Keese and Johnson using cocaine and marijuana.

If convicted, Keese and Johnson could spend up to 30 years in prison.

The case raises awareness about

drug use at MSUM. Housing director Beth Conner said drug awareness training for resident assistants and housing staff is conducted each summer before fall semester.

Moorhead police officials and Campus Security officials train resident assistants on what to look for and how to report drug use in the residence halls, Conner said.

The community awareness training helps students detect drug use in residence halls.

"We train the community to watch out for drug use so students can serve as their own community monitors,"

Conner said.

Woodberry has ideas for improving security in residence halls.

In November, Woodberry proposed having a full-time security officer patrol residence halls. Woodberry and Conner later agreed to have an officer conduct random security checks.

"I think RAs and students are becoming more and more comfortable with them," Woodberry said. "The question is how do we work together with everyone to make it safer in the residence halls."

Lemer can be reached at blemer@hotmail.com.

STUDENT DEBT

Average debt pushes \$19,000

By SARA HACKING

Staff Writer

If you are a student who is afraid to view your MSUM financial record because of student debt, you are not alone.

The average MSUM student graduated with \$19,209 in student loans in spring 2004. That number, compared with the average debt of \$16,584 in 2001 and \$17,369 in 2002, shows a steady increase in the debt students face when they enter their professional lives.

An increase in loans students graduate with should come as no surprise after a tuition increase of 15 percent this year.

MSUM students are not alone in their financial challenges. MSUM financial aid director Carolyn Zehren said MSUM is "keeping fairly consistent with the national average of what students are borrowing to complete a four-year education."

According to a recent study released by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, the average number of students who take out student loans increased by 30 percent between the 2001-02 and 2003-04 academic years.

Zehren said MSUM President Barden "has been very committed to avoiding tuition increases."

She added that a reduction in state finan-

cial support to universities has to be made up through tuition. She said part of the reason for the increase in student loans is that grant eligibility has not kept pace with the increase in tuition.

Chris Bemboom is a fifth-year senior majoring in physical education, math education and health education. He has seen his tuition increase by approximately \$1,000 dollars each semester since his freshman year.

"I don't like it," Bemboom said. "It seems like a dramatic rise." As his tuition has drastically increased, Bemboom received less and less financial aid.

Minnesota grant support has been almost flat, and there has only been a little increase in the Pell grant, which has flattened out in recent years, Zehren said.

"When grants aren't increased, students rely on student loans," she said. "Students don't have money to pay, and families are unprepared to cover the cost of education."

Junior Wendy Sandmann has to fund her education entirely by student loans. She doesn't have an income, and her parents are only able to assist her by paying for essentials such as groceries. Although her student loans are on track with what she expected to borrow when she began college, Sandmann is concerned about starting her life after college with so much debt.

Sandmann put her debt in perspective: "I'd much rather be in debt with student loans than with credit card debt."



Zehren

□ DEBT, back page

Managing credit key to debt-free life

By SARA HACKING

Staff Writer

While debt from student loans is an inevitable part of the college experience for many students, Beth Renner, the district manager for US Bank, said credit card debt is more financially damaging.

She reminds students that a delinquent student loan payment is treated just the same as any other loan payment and can impact credit barrel reports for seven to 10 years.

Renner said when stu-

dents begin their college career, they are also beginning their financial career. She said students should understand the subject matter and learn how financial decisions can work to their advantage or disadvantage.

"I'd encourage every student to feel comfortable enough to sit down with their banker," Renner said. "They're more than willing to take the time to speak with students about their credit."

She also said the most common financial mistake students make is overdrawing their checking account.

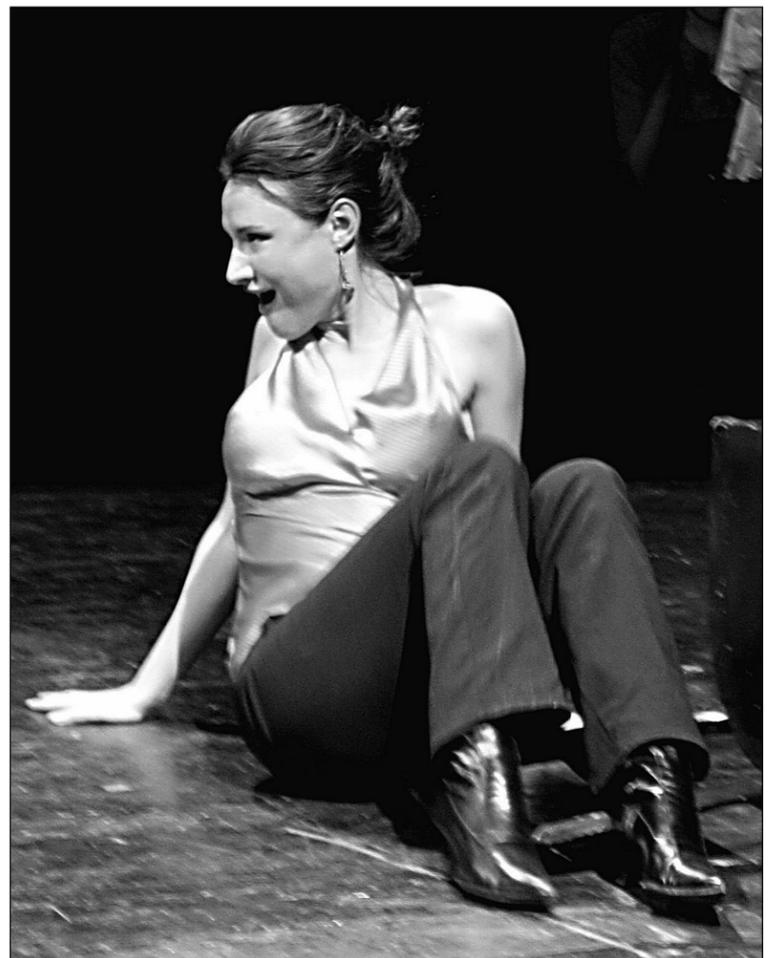
"It becomes very punitive, very quickly."

Renner said students don't always realize how quickly money is taken from their checking accounts, and that there is very little float time. She encourages students to keep track of their checking account balance.

Fortunately, there are local organizations that exist to help people who need financial advice. The Village Family Resource Center has a Financial Resource Center that provides individual

□ CREDIT, page 10

Women's roar



JAY PICKTHORN/THE ADVOCATE

Senior Sarah Glasser performs the skit "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy" Monday during MSUM's production of "The Vagina Monologues."

Science students, professors lobby

By KELLIE MEEHLHAUSE

Staff Writer

Biochemistry and biotechnology faculty members and students rallied to request funding at the Minnesota Capitol Feb. 21. They testified in front of the House Higher Education Finance Committee, the Senate Education Committee, and the Senate Higher Education Finance Committee.

Faculty members Ellen Brisch, Mark Wallert and John Provost, as well as seniors Jessica Heck and Dylan Voge and juniors Kathleen Mitchell and Rachel Sang, presented reports to committee members.

"As a student, I was trying to provide a story, a name, for members of the legislature to correlate with the university when they were making these decisions regarding funding," junior Kit Mitchell said.

According to Wallert, Minnesota faculty members hope to educate legislators about bioscience and to simultaneously encourage higher education funding in time for Gov. Tim Pawlenty's 2005-06 budget proposal and the 2005 legislative session.

MnSCU has asked for approximately \$292.6 million in capitol

□ BIOLOGY, back page

Security Report

2.25 — 3.6

- 2.25 Liquor law violation in Holmquist.
- 2.26 Alcohol violation in Neumaier.
- 3.2 Fire alarm sounding in Science Lab.
- 3.3 Bad checks written in Bookstore.
- 3.4 Harassment in Bridges.
- 3.4 Alcohol violation in Snarr.
- 3.6 Intoxicated individual in Neumaier.
- 3.6 Parking Violation in Lot E.
- 3.6 Vandalism in Snarr.

Host a table for international event

Any organization that would like to host a table for the Celebration of Nations should visit the office of international programs in Flora Frick 151 to fill out a form. Forms are due by March 14.

For more information, call the office of international programs at 477-2956.

GLBT community discussions held

Lynn Peterson and Anita Bender host "Queer Talk" at noon Thursdays in Hendrix Health Center 104. Come to learn about the GLBT community in a safe environment.

GOT IDEAS? CALL US!

477-2551

Hendrix offers kickboxing class

The Dragon Wellness Center would like to offer free informal kickboxing classes to students. Those interested in attending a class should e-mail wellness@mnstate.edu and specify when the class should be offered.

Homeland Security workshop planned

A homeland security procurement overview workshop will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. March 17 in CB 105.

Rodney McGee, the director of the Procurement Technical Assistance Center, will lead the workshop. The workshop will introduce the structure of the homeland security program.

Cost for the event is \$30 per person.

For more information, contact Jackie Seifert at 477-2289 or seifert@mnstate.edu.

File for positions on student senate

Filing is now open to apply to run for a seat on student senate.

Many positions are open to student candidates including president, vice president, treasurer and academic senator seats.

To file, go to mnstate.edu/stusen.

For more information on joining student senate, call 477-2150 or visit the office in CMU 116B.

Student leader of the month awarded

The student organization advisory committee announced Emily Hagen as the student leader of the month for March. The Campus Activity Board nominated Hagen.

Others nominated were Anya Hommadova, Douglas Magerum and Saquib Sheikh.

Nomination forms for April are available in CMU 229 or online at mnstate.edu/osa. Nominations are due by March 28.

OSA now taking nominations

Student organization nominations for honors will be announced at the Student Organization Spring Awards Banquet.

Awards for adviser of the year, student leader of the year, school spirit and others will be handed out.

Nomination forms can be picked up in the office of student activities, CMU 229. Forms are due by Friday.

Health talk focuses on breast cancer

The Women's Health Series will feature a talk about breast cancer with cancer survivor Christine Norton at 7 p.m. March 21 in Science Lab 118.

Norton is a political activist with the National Breast Cancer Coalition.

Wellness Center extends hours

The Wellness Center is now open from noon to 8 p.m. Saturdays.

The center is also open from 6 a.m. to 12 a.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Storyteller shares gifts with women

Area women are invited to hear Mary Louise Defender share her wisdom as a Dakotah/Hidatsa storyteller. Defender will present at 7 p.m. Monday at Moorhead Senior High.

Defender uses storytelling to share her knowledge and respect for cultures and to build communication between cultures.

For more information, contact Mary John at 331-0110 or Donna Norquay at 284-3466.

Civic responsibility seminar planned

Take the Lead will sponsor a seminar on community responsibility titled "Why Bother?" Civic Responsibility Today," from 4 to 5 p.m. March 22 in CMU 208. The seminar will cover how to get involved in the community and why it's important.

For more information or to hear about other Take the Lead opportunities, contact the office of student activities at 477-2790.

Logo contest winner announced

Shelly Szudera is the winner of the office of student activities logo contest. Szudera received \$100 for her design, which will serve as the official OSA logo.

Awards available for study abroad

The deadline for applications for scholarships to study abroad is approaching. Several scholarships are available. For more information or to pick up application materials, go to Frick 151.

The ADVOCATE

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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.

"You can smooch randoms...maybe let a random touch your butt..."

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The Advocate is always looking for talented writers, photographers, columnists and illustrators. Meetings are held every Monday at 4:30 p.m. in CMU Room 207.

Contact the editor for more information or come to the meetings.

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Breakdown: Have a safe, fun vacation

ADVOCATE STAFF REPORTS

The Hendrix Health Center and the Peer Educators would like to offer Spring Break advice to all students.

No matter where you plan to spend your break—abroad, some place warm and sunny or the living room couch—it's important to remember to make good choices.

Having a safe Spring Break trip begins before you leave. Make sure someone who is not on the trip knows where you will be going and your plans while there. If you are going somewhere unfamiliar, don't travel alone. Be sure to have a map, cell phone and a safety kit along for emergencies.

Plan a budget for the trip. This involves making plans to carry as little cash as possible. Travelers checks are a good way to keep money—if stolen, they can be cancelled through the bank you bought them from. Avoid abusing credit cards. If the trip takes you overseas, be sure to check current exchange rates and taxes.

Considering the purity and quality of the water in the area is also important when traveling abroad. If you are concerned about the water supply, only drink purified water from a bottle. Use the same precaution when brushing your teeth. Request drinks without ice cubes when dining out.

Traveling somewhere far away from Moorhead's chilly spring weather is a popular choice for many Spring Breakers. Many are tempted to shed their heavy winter wear and bask in the sun. More than 1.3 million people will be diagnosed with skin cancer this

year alone. To lessen the risk of cancer, wear sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15. Cover exposed skin with hats, sunglasses and light clothing.

Protection is also necessary in more intimate situations. Be sure to always use condoms to protect yourself from infections and pregnancy. Also be aware of you and your partner's STI/STD status. If you're unsure of get tested immediately.

Alcohol is usually a big part of Spring Break festivities. Too often people get caught up in the fun and forget to watch for warning signs of potential danger.

Keep track of drinks, don't leave your glass unattended and only accept drinks from the bartender or server.

Rohypnol, GHB and Ketamine are all drugs that are commonly used as "rape drugs" and can be put into unattended beverages. Rohypnol is especially dangerous because it's odorless, colorless and dissolves easily in any beverage.

Rape drugs impair judgement, inhibition, motor control and memory, as well as cause dizziness and confusion. Watch out for yourself as well as your friends. Be aware of how much you drink, and don't let a friend leave with a "new acquaintance."

If a friend who has been drinking becomes unconscious or semi-conscious, has cold, clammy, pale or bluish skin, is breathing slow or is vomiting in their sleep, they may have alcohol poisoning. Call 911 and don't leave the person unattended.

If you are attacked, remember your elbow is the strongest point in your

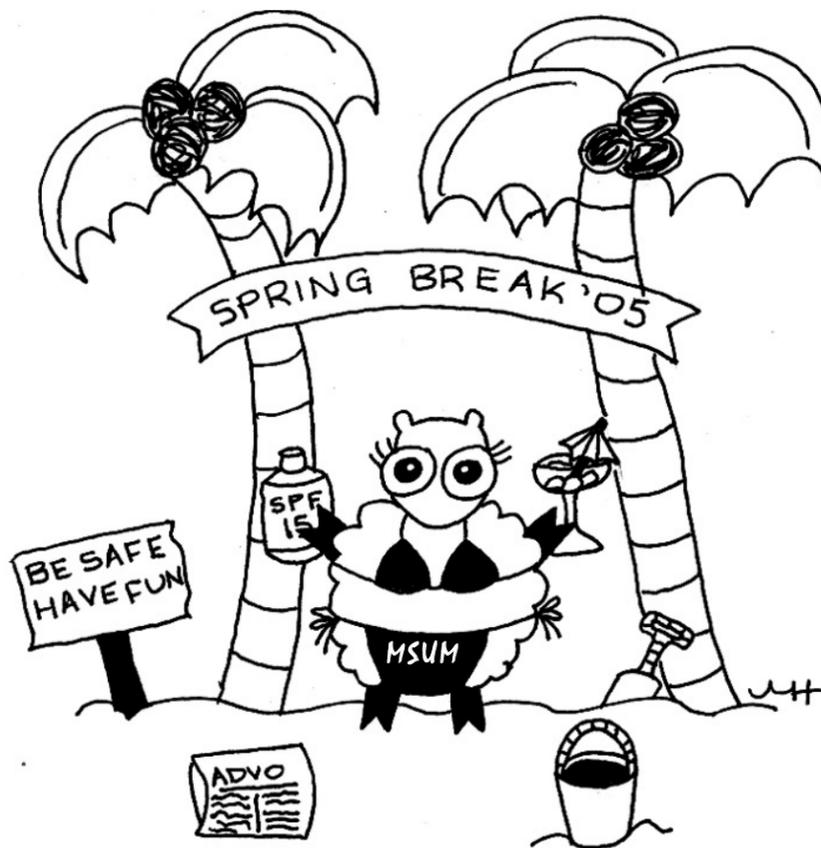


ILLUSTRATION BY MEREDITH HOLT

body—use it. An attacker with a gun will only be able to hit a moving target four times out of a hundred, so if you are able to, run.

If you or a friend are raped, call 911. Don't shower, bathe, change clothes or clean up the area—you might wash

away clues that can identify the attacker. Call law enforcement and report an assault.

By staying smart over Spring Break, you can make sure you'll only make fond memories.

Fun classes provide refreshing alternative to lecture hall

ADVOCATE STAFF REPORTS

Every university offers classes such as biology and freshman English, but more and more schools are beginning to offer courses such as "Philosophy and Star Trek" (Georgetown University), "The American Vacation" (University of Iowa) or "The Art of Walking" (Centre College in Danville, KY).

Before meeting with advisers and planning next semester's classes, some students opt to consider some of the classes MSUM offers that

go against the grain of a normal classroom experience.

Taking a welcome break from monotonous hours of lecture or lab work by enrolling in classes such as country dancing, bowling, or T'ai Chi Chih are ways students can relax as well as learn.

If you're looking for a way to add some fun into your class schedule, try taking some of the following classes: world religions, step aerobics, social problems, yoga, beverage management, intro to filmmaking, Chinese calligraphy.



Above left: Senior Ashley Hallberg (left), sophomore Bert Smith Jr. and senior Jennifer Anifson dance to "Cotton Eye Joe" during country dancing. Above right: Hallberg and sophomore Steven Mikolich practice a two step. Below: students practice a group dance.



JAY PICKTHORN / THE ADVOCATE



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Drugs, felonies in residence halls reason enough for more security

Two MSUM students are facing felony charges for selling cocaine from their room on the 5th floor of Nelson. Moorhead police officers searched the room last April and found 21 grams of cocaine, along with \$230 in cash and other drug paraphernalia.

Events like this make people wonder about the safety of MSUM's residence halls.

In a November editorial, The Advocate advised the housing department to accept Campus Security director Ferman Woodberry's proposal to have a full-time, non-student security officer patrol the residence halls at night.

While the proposal is still in the planning phase, it is definitely a step in the right direction. If nothing else, this most recent event makes people aware that something needs to be done about security in the residence halls.

In April 2003, a student was physically assaulted in the ninth-floor Nelson bathroom. Every week, The Advocate prints the security report, and every week students deal with problems in residence halls such as assaults, thefts, noise complaints and sexual assaults.

Some students have voiced their concerns about these problems. They don't feel safe in their dorm rooms.

Now, on top of it all, students have to deal with drug use and sales in the residence halls.

It's enough to make any student leave the convenience of the residence halls for off-campus apartments.

The housing department and Campus Security officials are still discussing the issue, but something needs to be done right away.

Events such as assaults and drug searches make any potential student shy away from living in our residence halls. Parents of potential students also see these issues and deem MSUM's residence halls unsafe.

A full-time security officer may be just what this university needs to improve safety and living conditions in residence halls.

Otherwise, we'll continue to have students living in fear in their own homes.

MSUM DORMS



'BERG
2005

Vote for Alicia

Political aspirations focus on improving quality of life for me

In this age of red states and blue states, I often think about running for political office.

People say they run for office for a variety of reasons—to right wrongs, to combat injustices, to stand up for their beliefs, to improve the quality of life for others, etc.

That's not how I see it. For me, the reason for running is simple: to improve life for myself.

I often say more people ought to think about what affect their actions will have on me before they make decisions.

On the surface, this seems like an incredibly selfish doctrine, but in practice, it makes a lot of sense.

Picture this: You're at the bar, you've been drinking heavily, and you're preparing to go home for the night. Should you drive?

To arrive at an answer, simply think, "How would my driving drunk affect Alicia?"

Well, on the off chance that I might be on the road, you could be endangering my life, and that's a definite no-no.

So, to better enhance my quality of life, you should call a cab.

Another scenario: It's 2 in the morning. You have a paper due at 8 a.m. You haven't started it. You know there are places online where you can buy papers. Should you purchase one?

Again the answer is no. Let's



Alicia Strnad
Columnist

say you turn in the plagiarized paper and the professor finds out. Tired of rampant plagiarism, he or she decides to use an electronic submission to check papers for plagiarism from now on.

Then I have that professor next semester and have to go through the whole pain-in-the-ass process of submitting my papers through a computer program. You've just had a negative impact on my life—how inconvenient for me.

If I did run for public office, all of my decisions would be like this: based on me.

Let's say I ran for student senate president and was elected. You could be certain that none of my votes would be based on what would be best for you.

For example, when it comes to funding, I'd recommend that the student activities budget committee give The Advocate 10 times its current budget, but I'd probably cut funding for groups with which I'm not involved.

I'd also try to get the university to schedule more events

for things I would be interested in. Enough of the same old football games—let's get Michael Moore or Kevin Smith to come speak on campus.

Of course, the rest of the university could be helped by what's best

for me. I hate the way tuition keeps increasing, so I'd do my best to not only stop tuition increases, but to bring tuition back down to an acceptable level.

The cut in price would be great for me, but others would benefit as well. If I help

other people in the process of helping myself, great. Mostly though, I'm just in it for me.

A representative democracy is great in theory, but it's just too hard for one person to represent the needs of thou-

sands.

That's why, given the opportunity, I would focus on representing just one person: myself. I would do whatever was necessary to make my own life better.

So, if you want to cast a write-in vote for me in the upcoming student senate elections, go ahead.

Just remember: a vote for me would truly be a vote for ME.

How do you affect Alicia?
E-mail her
at aliciawithay@cablone.net.

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.

How rude: etiquette lacking in classroom

Since we were born, we have been programmed to behave a certain way.

We know we're supposed to eat with silverware. We understand that interrupting someone is rude. We have learned to say "excuse me" when passing gas.

So why are so many students oblivious to being respectful in the classroom?

The following subjects are my absolute pet peeves concerning students and their lack of etiquette in the classroom:

Cell phones: Cell phones are an etiquette nightmare in any situation, particularly within a classroom. For the sanity of your fellow students, leave them home or turn them off.

I appreciate the effort of those who put it on vibrate,

Britta Trygstad

Photo Editor



but we can still hear it. In fact, vibrating cell phones may be even more of a distraction. There's nothing quite like seeing a purse vibrate across a desk while the student pretends it isn't his or her phone. We know it's your phone. Turn it off.

Talking: I didn't pay \$300 to hear about Billy's latest conquest or how drunk Sally got on Thursday. If I cared, I'd just go to the mall and eavesdrop.

That's why students have a social life outside class. If it's really important, pass a note.

Whispering: You know the

sound mice make when they scurry across the kitchen floor? That's what people with sensitive ears (like myself) hear when someone is whispering.

It's just loud enough to be bothersome, but too quiet to decipher.

Music: I love music. I love listening to music. I love walking around campus with headphones on, enjoying music.

I don't love listening to a muted version of "If I Were a Rich Girl" through someone else's headphones during a class lecture.

Disrespect: Be respectful to your professors. Yes, it's true—professors can sometimes be really difficult, and it may seem like they don't know anything. But they were obviously hired by the univer-

sity for a reason.

If you hate your professor, don't take it out on them by arguing with them in class.

Be respectful to both your professors and your classmates and bring up your issues to them after class or during their office hours. We don't have the time, nor do we care, about your issues with the professors.

Illness: If you're sick, stay home. I don't have time to get sick.

Food: So, we all eat in class. We can't help it if we are hungry. With such busy schedules, sometimes the only time to eat is in class.

However, if you are eating in class, try to keep it down. Crinkling of potato chip bags and opening and reopening soda bottles gets awfully annoying after a while.

Also, if you're in a classroom with computers, avoid touch-

ing the keyboards until your hands are clean. I guarantee the next person using the computer will not appreciate Pringles grease on their fingers after using the keyboard.

Packing up early: What is so important that you need to pack up your stuff before the teacher is done speaking? It takes a whole 20 seconds to pack up your bag and put on your coat after class. Do you really think you're going to get to Kise that much faster?

Spring Break is just two days away. Take the time to relax, breathe and get in touch with your inner scholar. We only have half a semester left together. Please allow some of us to learn something. Please be respectful.

What drives you crazy in class?
E-mail Britta
at shadowedfire@hotmail.com.

Spring Break plans second to procrastination

Midterm has taken its toll. I can't think straight. I can barely see straight. I'm surprised I can walk straight.

I can't remember the last time I was under this much stress. It was most likely during finals week last semester, but I have apparently repressed those memories.

The most upsetting thing about my situation is that my current stress level is in direct proportion to the amount of putting-off I did throughout the first part of this semester.

Procrastination is great—while you're doing it. Then, if you are like me, you wake up one morning and realize you have to study for three midterm exams and finish a



Cassie Tweten

Columnist

couple of research papers.

I am so stressed out right now that the littlest things push me over the edge. If I think it's too cold outside when I'm walking to class and I run into someone I know, I will go on a two-minute rant about how I hate winter.

I get in arguments with my friends about little things that I would usually just laugh off. I'm even showing physical signs of anxiety, such as shakiness.

I'm sure the gallons of coffee I have recently consumed

aren't helping, but I don't think I can make it to spring break without that bitter-sweet caffeine.

At least I'm not alone. Maybe it's a bit sadistic, but knowing that college students all over the country

are experiencing the same test anxiety and fatigue as I am makes me feel a bit better.

The other day, while waiting in line at the Dragon Stop for some of that black wake-up juice, I overheard someone say, "I've been so busy with midterms I haven't showered in three days."

I've overheard a few other strangely comforting statements around campus in the past week.

"I am so tired I could fall asleep right now."

"I turned in my paper, so I am going home because I can't stay awake in class."

"I think I am going to sleep right through spring break."

It's good to know that I'm not the only one who crams for exams in the middle of the night and finishes homework assignments (that I've had all semester to do) at the last minute.

Sometimes, in a sleepy haze, I imagine myself coming back from vacation fully refreshed and ready to take on the rest of the semester.

I would like to say that I'm going to stay on track for the remainder of this school year. I know I should take time to prepare myself for finals, and I know I should try hard to get my homework done as soon as it's assigned.

I also know I won't actually

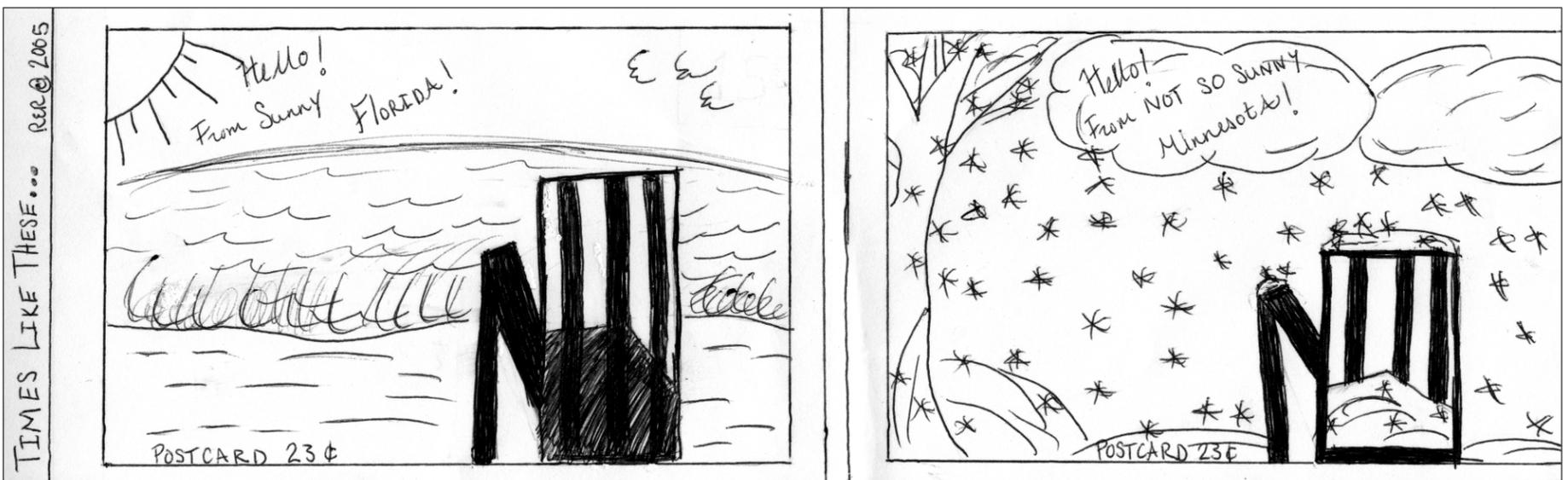
stay on task, and I'll probably end up cramming even harder for finals than I have for midterms.

Procrastination has become a part of my life. So have stress and anxiety. I will probably continue to put things off and then complain about how stressed out I am for the rest of my life.

I do, however, plan to take it easy this spring break. I know I should look into stress management techniques while I have some free time, but I probably won't get around to it.

Instead, I'm going to procrastinate and enjoy my week off. I don't even plan to sleep through it.

How are you handling your midterm stress?
E-mail Cassie
at cassie_with_a_y@hotmail.com.



Arts & Enterte

Capture the Flag Local band grabs attention

By REID MESSERSCHMIDT

Staff Writer

Capture the Flag is now more than just a game you play at freshmen orientation.

Fronted by Kevin Carollo, an English professor at MSUM, and featuring Rob King on drums and MSUM grad student Adam Quesnell (a.k.a Guinness Paltrow) on bass. The band has played only four shows but is already garnering much attention.

"So far I've been pleasantly stunned at how positive the experience is," Carollo said.

Unlike many local bands whose influences stem mostly from punk, hardcore and jam bands, Capture the Flag's brand of guitar-driven indie-pop has more in common with the Pacific Northwest indie scene—groups such as Modest Mouse and Built to Spill.

"It's more intricate than the three- or four-chord punk song, but not like math rock or emo. There's a real pop base to it. We rock out, we turn on the distortion, but there's a melody there," Carollo said.

Capture the Flag came together less than a year ago when Carollo answered an ad that King, who had never previously been in a band, had posted looking for like-minded musicians.

While living in Minneapolis Carollo put together a rough concept album

on an eight-track in his basement called "Capture the Flag," and the band took off from there.

Quesnell, who played guitar then, but not bass, joined the band in October. This lack of experience may be a detriment to some bands, but Carollo sees it as a good thing.

"It's at the point now where we've had four gigs, and we're still a new band. On stage it's sort of volatile. It's actually a really exciting time. We never really know what will happen," Carollo said.

Volatility and rock may be about the last things you would expect from an English professor, but Carollo said this band and his day job have very little to do with each other. He's been in bands before that have felt like grad student bands, but this time around it's different.

"I feel like it's definitely a different persona ... I'm there to rock," he said. "I don't feel like a grad student band or a prof in a band. We're doing some songs that I feel are really catchy that we can take on the road."

They'll be bringing those songs to Ralph's tonight with special guests Marpas Apram and Senzuri for a benefit concert for "The Tooth," a local satirical newspaper. There will be a \$4 cover charge.

Messerschmidt can be reached at reid1234@aol.com.



Kevin Carollo (far left), an MSUM English professor, Rob King and MSUM grad student Adam Quesnell make up the guitar-driven, indie-pop band, Capture the Flag. The band can be seen tonight at Ralph's



Plains Art Museum displays diversity

By AMANDA JUNSO

Staff Writer

The Plains Art Museum opened "ArtView: Windows to the World: Refugees and Immigrants in Fargo-Moorhead" on Jan. 27. The exhibit runs through April 17.

This showcase features text and photographs by Meg Luther Lindholm of

Fargo. The purpose of the exhibit is to make the community aware of immigrants and refugees who live in the area and those who work at the Cardinal IG factory in Fargo.

Since every person's experience is different, Lindholm said it's important that each person's story is heard.

"The importance of this exhibit is to learn more about people from other

countries and to break down different barriers that have been created," Lindholm said. "I'm hoping it will appeal to a broad amount of people who are interested in diversity in the community."

Many immigrants and refugees living in the F-M area have gone through various challenging experiences, such as poverty and war.

For the past two years, Lindholm has been trying to capture their stories and learn about their lives as they are today.

"I've been pinpointing people who are interesting in order to tell me about their lives here," Lindholm said.

"The people who came from different countries are not small in number, which is why we need to learn more about them and not have people view it as us against them."

The Plains Art Museum, which is located at 704 1st Ave. N., is open to the public.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. Admission for students with an I.D. is free, adults \$3.00.

Lindholm encourages everyone to visit the exhibit in order to become educated about the different people around us.

Junso can be reached at ajunso2004@hotmail.com.



The Plains Art Museum will feature text and photography by local artist Meg Luther Lindholm. Her work focuses on the experiences of refugees and immigrants who now live in the Fargo-Moorhead area. The exhibit runs through April 17.

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Artsy Alternatives

ertainment

Across the Ocean

MSUM professor brings cultural art to the Rourke

By JOSEPH BOUSHEE

Staff Writer

Zhimin Guan has something special to show for his 10 years of U.S. citizenship. The MSUM art professor will show many of his paintings, drawings, pastels and lithograph prints in his exhibition, "Ten Years Across the Ocean," at the Rourke Art Museum in Moorhead.

"It's more about the conclusion of 10 years in the learning and creative experience. It's also a celebration of my 10 years of residency," Guan said.

Most of the exhibit's pieces come from work Guan did between 1997 and 2004. Guan said selecting artwork for the exhibit wasn't an easy task.

"It took me many weeks to think about the installation," he said.

The exhibit reflects much of what Guan contemplates during his life. "My concern is always about our human cultural growth and human impact," Guan said.

"(The exhibit makes) social comments on cultural growth, the negative impacts of

anxieties, tensions and human desires," Guan said.

"Ten Years Across the Ocean" focuses on figurative images in a surreal landscape. Guan uses artistic aspects such as space, light and atmosphere to bring out the landscapes.

He creates a sense of tension in the pieces by using contrasting tough landscape, smooth human flesh and broken torso. Guan's pieces make the viewer pay close attention to all of the details that make the artwork come together.

Guan will also be displaying a series of ocean landscape pieces he calls "His Pacific Ocean." The works were inspired by his memories of the Pacific Ocean. They took him only one year to complete.

The source for Guan's work, and this exhibit, comes from the works of many European, American and Chinese artists.

Guan is also inspired by sculptural art. He has been painting for more than 20 years but has had an interest in art since he was young.

When he is not reading philosophical literature, Guan said he is either "painting or preparing for painting."

He teaches beginner through advanced painting and drawing classes at MSUM.

Some of Guan's other artwork is included in the permanent collections of the Plains Art Museum.

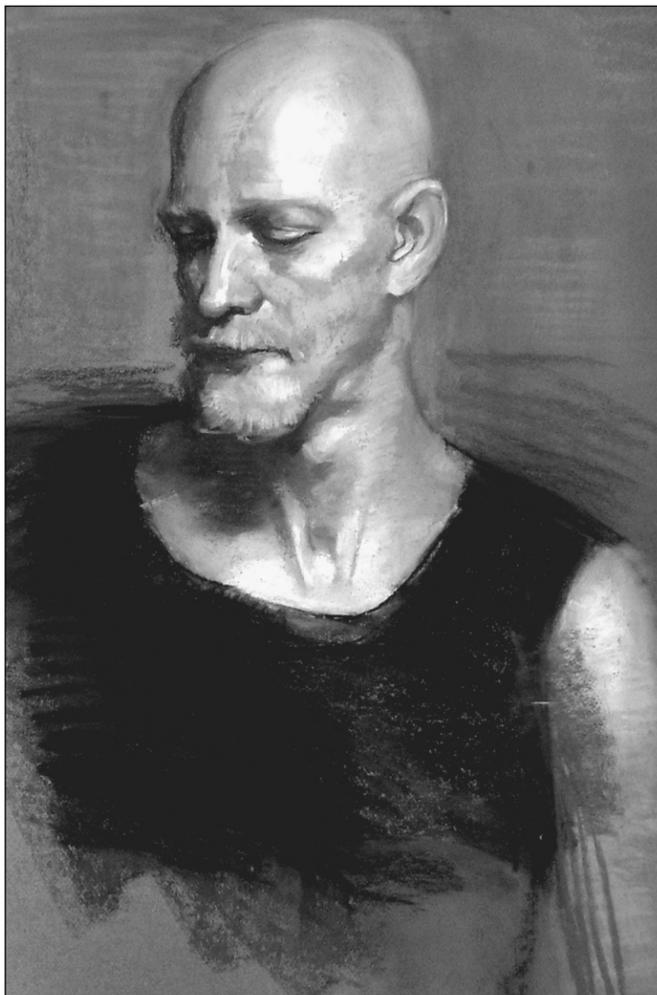
Guan's exhibit opens to the public at the Rourke Art Museum Sunday from 1:30 to 5 p.m. and runs until April 10. Guan will lead a gallery talk at 2 p.m. Sunday.

He plans to talk about his personal painting experience, 10 years of American life, conceptual influences and a synthesis of his technique.

"I will be trying to generate comments on my work. This is considered a review of my effort," Guan said.

More information about Guan and his artwork can be found at his Web site: zhiminguan.com.

Boushee can be reached at ibousheevsa@yahoo.com.



MSUM art professor, Zhimin Guan will display his exhibit, "Ten Years Across the Ocean" at the Rourke Art Museum through April 10. His art exhibit celebrates his 10 years of residency in the United States.

Above: "Gail," pastel. Right: "Earthy Nude," oil on panel. Below: "Golden Autumn #2," on canvas.



Sam Fedele and JJ Boyd
Courtney's Comedy Club,
Moorhead
Tonight, Friday and Saturday
8:00 p.m.

Jazz night at Basie's
Ramada Plaza Suites,
 Fargo
Tonight, 7 p.m.

Cat Sank Trio
Red Bear Grill and Tavern,
Moorhead
Tonight, 8 p.m.

Blue Wailers
Hotel Donaldson, Fargo
Tonight, 9:30 p.m.

Cosmic Kibosh
The Empire, Fargo
Tonight, 10 p.m.

Top 10

- 1 Nic Armstrong and the Thieves, Greatest White Liar
- 2 LCD Soundsystem, LCD Soundsystem
- 3 Doves, Some Cities
- 4 And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead, Worlds Apart
- 5 Robbers on High Street, Tree City
- 6 General Patton vs. The X-Ecutiioners, General Patton
- 7 M.I.A., Arular
- 8 Hillstomp, One Word
- 9 Fiery Furnaces, EP
- 10 Capitol Years, Let Them Drink

Know your Top 10

#3 Doves, Some Cities

Doves are back with a remarkably affecting record that gives the listener a real insight into the mindset of band members Jez, Andy & Jimi.

Doves are Manchester sweethearts eager to grab your attention if they haven't already. "Some Cities" is the band's third full length.

The previously club influenced trio have worked with Tricky, New Order's Bernard Sumner, Happy Monday's Steve Osborne and Primal Scream's Max Heyes.

Let's celebrate a band who've been around for over ten years and who keep on getting better and better with each release.

Courtesy of KMSC



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: NSIC Tournament

Bridesmaids

MSUM falls in NSIC championship



LIZZIE STARK/THE ADVOCATE

Senior guard Dana Weibel leads MSUM in scoring with 14 points a game and also leads the NSIC in free-throw percentage.

By DUSTIN MONKE

Sports Editor

It wasn't the storybook ending the MSUM women's basketball team wanted.

Neither was it a horror story. The Dragons won their first two games of the NSIC tournament before falling to Concordia-St. Paul 86-78 in the conference championship Sunday at Alex Nemzek Fieldhouse.

"We didn't have any balance," MSUM coach Karla Nelson said. "We didn't have anything consistently positive happening."

Concordia did. The Golden Bears, who ended MSUM's 12-game home winning streak, had six players score in double figures.

Senior Jennifer Pozzani scored a game-high 24 points and grabbed six rebounds for the Golden Bears.

"(Concordia) had some spring in their step," MSUM freshman forward Allison Swenson said.

Swenson provided a much-needed spark off the bench and scored team-highs of 19 points and 11 rebounds.

"We wanted to win it on our floor," Swenson said. "They rattled us for some reason, got us out of our offensive flow."

Concordia shot 42 percent from the field, but hit 6 of 11 from the 3-point arc in the first half.

NCAA Division II National Tournament North Central Regional at Grand Forks, N.D.

Games Friday
At Betty Engelstad Sioux Center

No. 1 North Dakota vs. No. 8 Fort Hays State
No. 4 Concordia-St. Paul vs. No. 5 Metro State of Denver
No. 3 Regis vs. No. 6 Minnesota-Duluth
No. 2 MSUM vs. No. 7 St. Cloud State

"Everybody was making 3s," Concordia coach Paul Fessler said. "We wanted to stay as spread out as possible."

It was the first NSIC tournament title for the Golden Bears, who won the regular season championship last season, but took second place in the tournament.

Despite the loss, MSUM earned the No. 2 seed in the NCAA Division II National Tournament's North Central Regional.

Nelson said if she had to pick between winning the NSIC regular season title or the tournament championship, she'd still stick with what MSUM has already earned.

"I'm certainly not going to cry about this," Nelson said.

The Dragons will face North Central Conference foe St. Cloud State, who earned the No. 7 seed, in the first round on Friday.

The Huskies defeated the Dragons 82-72 in early December at Nemzek.

Concordia, which earned the

No. 4 seed, will open the tournament against No. 5 seeded Metro State of Denver.

"We already knew we were in," Fessler said. "It was more of a challenge to see if we could do this."

Dragons set wins mark

MSUM set the school record for most wins in a season in its 67-55 home victory against Northern State Saturday in the NSIC semifinals.

Dana Weibel and Lindsay Hartmann led the Dragons (24-5) with 14 points a piece.

Freshman center Jessica Fesenmaier, who earned all-conference first team honors over the weekend, scored 12 points and pulled down six rebounds. Jackie Doer added 13 points in the win.

Miranda Boepple scored 18 points for the Wolves, who ended their season at 17-12.

MSUM rolls Winona State

Fesenmaier led five Dragons in double figures, scoring a

SECOND, page 9

MONKE BUSINESS: Key to success

Nelson still has a winning formula



Dustin Monke
Sports Editor

Around mid-semester last fall, I wrote a column praising the MSUM women's volleyball team.

Now, here we are. Spring break starts this weekend and for the second time this year, it's time to sing the praises of a Dragons team, not tear them down.

The Dragons women's basketball team has marched into the NCAA Division II tournament off the best season in team history.

Last weekend, the Dragons missed out on an NSIC championship sweep, losing to Concordia-St. Paul by eight points in the playoff title game.

It begs the question: What is women's basketball coach Karla Nelson's secret formula to success?

What can she tell other MSUM coaches who need a new formula to get back on track?

The 2005 NSIC coach of the year is underfunded, just like ever other team at MSUM. Yet she has been indisputably successful over her five-year career.

You want an answer. Here's the best that this guy could

come up with: Balance.

Nelson has built a team with so much parity it's tough to beat them.

The Dragons aren't loaded with athleticism or even a superstar player. The same can't be said for NSIC playoff champion Concordia-St. Paul.

But somehow MSUM found equilibrium between its post and perimeter players, forcing teams into troublesome defensive schemes.

St. Cloud State, which the Dragons will face in the first round of the national tournament, found a way to break through the scheme and steal one of the five victories away from the Dragons.

That was December though. A lot has changed since then.

The Dragons have matured and figured out how to play with each other.

Sophomore center Jessica Fesenmaier and freshman forward Allison Swenson are proof of this.

Fesenmaier held the Dragons together down the stretch and Swenson propped them up in the conference tournament.

These two are, without a doubt, the building block for the Dragons' future.

With these two in the post and the emergence of freshmen Melissa Sexton and

MONKE, page 9

MEN'S BASKETBALL: NSIC Tournament

Winona State edges MSUM in double OT

By PAUL MARQUARDT

Staff Writer

The MSUM men's basketball team suffered a season of missed opportunities.

Their season-ending loss was no different.

Winona State persevered through two MSUM comeback attempts to earn a 98-86 victory in double overtime Friday in the quarterfinals of the NSIC tournament at McCown Gymnasium.

The Dragons (8-20), seeded No. 8 in the playoffs after a dismal regular season, faced an uphill battle heading into the tournament.

But MSUM still had some fight left in them and gave No. 1-seed Winona State a battle.

MSUM senior forward Chris Anderson tied the game 69-69 on a 3-pointer with 39 seconds remaining.

That was where the score remained until the end of regulation.

"We rallied down that second half stretch, getting turnovers and applying the pressure," MSUM coach Stu Engen said.

MSUM and Winona State each had five players score in double figures.

Anderson led the way with 20 points while freshman Blake Strouth scored 18 points, grabbed eight



WINONA STATE 98, MSUM 86

MSUM senior Chris Anderson hit two 3-pointers, one to send the game into overtime and another to send it into double overtime, before the Warriors pulled away.

rebounds and had four steals.

Senior Eddie Small had 14 points and nine rebounds while senior Deandre Buchanan scored 13 points and senior Ridas Globys netted 11 points.

Sophomore Zach Malvik, who hit five 3-pointers, scored a game-high 29 points for the Warriors (23-10). Freshman John Smith added 18 points and 15 rebounds.

The Dragons played consistent and focused basketball in the first overtime.

Winona State held a 75-70 lead when MSUM mounted its comeback.

Warriors freshman Jonte Flowers fouled MSUM senior Deandre Buchanan, who made a pair of free throws to narrow the lead.

Winona State built a 77-74 lead until Strouth made a layup with 17 seconds

OVERTIME, page 9

ON THE TRACK with Brooke Wehri

Wehri conquers injury, heads back to nationals



LIZZIE STARK/THE ADVOCATE

MSUM sophomore Brooke Wehri has qualified for two national tournaments, first in diving as a freshman, now in track and field.

By JEREMY CHURA

Staff Writer

Despite winning the past two NSIC women's indoor pole vault championships, Brooke Wehri's future in the sport is uncertain.

"It all depends on what my back can handle," explained Wehri.

Last November, the MSUM sophomore found out that she had two disc bulges in her lower back.

"I'm limited on what I can do," Wehri said. "I am not supposed to touch my toes or tie my shoes. I have to bring my shoes (up) to me."

As a freshman last March, Wehri competed in the 1-meter diving event at the NCAA Division II swimming and diving national championships in Buffalo, N.Y.

Wehri, who holds four MSUM diving records and placed 16th at last year's nationals, is now forced to stay out of the water due to her injuries.

"I had a lot of accidents with diving," Wehri said. "I hit the board pretty good once and had to have stitches right before conferences."

Wehri said she would love to continue diving, but a fear still exists.

"Before nationals last year ... I had panic attacks," she said. MSUM sophomore pole vaulter Matt Jahnke, who has supported Wehri in the pole vault this season, said when athletes have a prob-

lem like Wehri's, most would take it easy.

But Wehri still manages to give her all during competition.

"She has great heart," Jahnke said.

Wehri, who admits she has a fear of flying, said taking the plane trip to Boston for the national championships is on her mind more than the pole vault competition.

The sophomore also acknowledged she is nervous, yet confident about the actual event.

"I'm coming in as an underdog. Nobody really knows who I am," Wehri said.

"There is no pressure going onto me."

MSUM track and field coach Keith Barnier, pole vault coach John Heath, along with Wehri's fiancé and mom are all flying out to support her at nationals.

But Wehri said something will be missing.

"I wish my teammates were going," Wehri said. "I told my teammate Jill (Mostad) that you better have your phone on because I'll be calling you every day."

Wehri, who is currently ranked No. 6 in NCAA Division II in the pole vault, brought the Dragons to a higher level this year, according to Barnier.

"She brings consistency at a very high level," Barnier said.

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□ OVERTIME, from 8

remaining, which brought the Dragons within one.

MSUM was forced to foul Winona State senior Jon Urbach, who made a pair of free throws to lengthen its lead to 79-74 with 9 seconds left.

But, with less than 3 seconds left in overtime, Anderson sank his second game-tying 3-pointer to send the game into a second overtime.

Unfortunately, Winona State broke the game open with ball pressure and pulled away, outscoring MSUM 19-7 in the second overtime.

MSUM, who loses seniors

Ben Aalto, Anderson, Buchanan, Globys and Small, now faces a possible rebuilding phase.

But, the Dragons have a trio of freshmen in Strouth and forwards Kyle Nelson and Lee Isaacson, who bring the Dragons a talented building block.

"There's going to be a lot of change, we're losing a lot of good players," Engen said. "I'm going to miss them. I really am."

Marquardt can be reached at speedracer787b@hotmail.com.

2005 SOFTBALL SEASON PREVIEW

Loaded contenders

Dragons gear up for run at NSIC title

By DUSTIN MONKE

Sports Editor

Rhonda Denbow inherited a fortune.

The first-year MSUM softball coach takes over a squad loaded with seniors and coming off the best season in team history.

"I believe we are, without a doubt, contenders," Denbow said. "We have quite a few people who have played and are leaders."

Among the Dragons top returnees are: seniors Alicia Nelson, shortstop; Amanda Parker, outfielder; Kylie Rogalla, third baseman; Sonjia Schuurmans, pitcher and DaLee Wilkinson, outfielder.

Schuurmans, a lefthander, led the Dragons with a .359 batting average and compiled a 13-11 record with a 2.21 earned run average from the mound.

Rogalla led the Dragons with nine home runs and 33 RBIs last season and batted .341.

"Without a doubt, they're veterans on the field," Denbow said of the seniors.

Nelson has been a mainstay in her three previous seasons and did the same last season, batting .318 with 61 hits.

MSUM also returns juniors Megan Bemboom, Michelle Preston and transfer Shawna Swavee.

Bemboom and Preston earned experience on last year's team, which finished third in the NSIC.

Sophomores Lyssa Caradori, Kelsey Fehl, Amanda LaPlante and Amanda Lyon and fresh-



LIZZIE STARK/THE ADVOCATE

Senior Kylie Rogalla, background, led the Dragons in home runs and RBIs last season.

men Anna Rajdl, Julie Vancura, Jessica Winter and Alex Dooley will also be competing for time.

"If you go down to juniors, sophomores and freshmen, they all bring some kind of talent to help the team," Schuurmans said.

Vancura, a lefthanded pitcher, and Dooley, a former Colorado all-state first team catcher, have a chance at becoming a formidable defensive tandem.

"I'm very excited about this season," Denbow said. "They should be enjoyable to watch."

The Dragons have a tough road ahead if they want to keep the reputation they built last season.

Concordia-St. Paul, picked first in the NSIC preseason

coaches poll, began its season by competing in tournaments in the Southern United States.

"Our main goal is to beat Concordia and go on to regionals," Schuurman's said. "We do feel this is the year."

Southwest Minnesota State and Winona State were tied with MSUM for second in the preseason poll.

And they've already started out strong, beating the University of Mary, the No. 2-ranked team in NAIA, 6-2 and 9-0 in a doubleheader.

"We're going to have to be on the top of our game every time we step out against those contenders within our conference," Denbow said.

Monke can be reached at newenglandtigers@yahoo.com.

□ MONKE, from 8

sophomore Lindsey Anderson as young go-to perimeter players, the Dragons will still have a full stable after their four seniors leave.

Don't forget the rest of the freshmen who received plenty of playing time as part of MSUM's rotation this season and the talented crop of recruits.

It could be pretty easy for the Dragons to fall apart after next season. But, Nelson and the core returners won't let that happen.

I wouldn't expect a repeat of this year. But don't worry, it won't take too long for them to get back to the top.

Monke can be reached at newenglandtigers@yahoo.com.

TENNIS

MSUM drops three

The MSUM tennis team dropped three matches over the weekend.

St. Scholastica defeated the Dragons 9-0 on Friday, the University of Minnesota-Duluth topped the Dragons 8-1 on Saturday and Bemidji State beat MSUM 5-4 on Sunday.

Senior Kathryn Helget, sophomore Rose Milless and freshman Heather Buesing each won singles matches against the Beavers. Helget and Milless also teamed to win in an 8-1 doubles match. **Advocate staff reports**

NCAA DIVISION II WRESTLING

The MSUM wrestlers compete in the NCAA Division II national championships this weekend at Omaha, Neb. Here are the competitors:

Name: Scott Ahlf
Weight: 133
Year: Freshman
Dual record: 9-4
First round matchup: Matt Mosser, West Liberty State College
Notes: Has the No. 2 seed in the North. One of two MSUM freshmen going to nationals.

Name: Ben Keen
Weight: 141
Year: Junior
Dual record: 14-1
First round matchup: Wade Killgore, Central Missouri State
Notes: Has the No. 3 seed in the North. Won NSIC title as freshman.

Name: Danny Meyer
Weight: 149
Year: Junior
Dual record: 6-3
First round matchup: Pacifico Garcia, San Francisco State
Notes: Won the 149-pound title at Dragon Open. Has the No. 4 seed in the North.

Name: Rockie Stavn
Weight: 165

Year: Freshman
Dual record: 11-3
First round matchup: Eric Laskia, Ashland
Notes: Has the No. 4 seed in the North. Won his last six duals to close out the season. One of two MSUM freshmen going to nationals.

Name: Eric Hageman
Weight: 184
Year: Senior
Dual record: 7-3 (174), 2-2 (184)
First round matchup: Mike Corcetti, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
Notes: Has the No. 2 seed in the North.

Name: Chris Tuchscherer
Weight: HWT
Year: Junior
Dual record: 14-1
First round matchup: Kipp Cullin, Western State
Notes: Transferred from NDSU to MSUM this season. Won 14 consecutive matches before falling to Nebraska-Omaha's Les Sigman in the North Region championship. Tuchscherer's biggest obstacle to a national championship may be Sigman, who is the two-time and defending NCAA Division II national champion at heavyweight. Had four pins this season. Had 32 career wins before transferring to MSUM.

Compiled by Casey Moen, Staff Writer

□ SECOND, from 8

team-high 17 points in their 89-64 first-round home victory against Winona State March 2.

Swenson added 14 points and six rebounds while Thon scored 12 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Weibel chipped in 11 points while freshman Jessica Trautwein scored 10 points.

Amanda Evans scored a game-high 22 points for the Warriors (3-23). Evans was 4 of 7 from 3-point range. Kim Dreyer added 19 points for Winona State.

Dragons earn NSIC honors

MSUM took four NSIC post-season individual awards last weekend.

Nelson earned the NSIC coach of the year award.

Fesenmaier, who averaged 13 points and six rebounds a game, was named to the NSIC all-conference first team.

Senior guards Jackie Doerr and Dana Weibel were both named to the second team.

Monke can be reached at newenglandtigers@yahoo.com.



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Online courses offered for special ed

By RACHEL ROE
Staff Writer

MSUM is receiving a grant for an online Special Education Licensure Program slated to begin fall 2005.

The Round 4 eCurriculum Grant, "Reaching Out to Learners," is designed to improve access for rural and non-traditional students seeking additional special education (SPED) teaching licensure.

Faculty members Britt Ferguson and Katherine Anderson wrote and proposed the grant.

"Through redesign of courses to an online delivery format, it is our aim to meet the needs of students who are at a distance, especially in rural areas, who are non-traditional learners and who are from varying ethnic backgrounds," Anderson said.

"Reaching Out to Learners" involves four licensure programs: early childhood special education, physical and health disabilities, emotional and behavior disorders and developmental disabilities.

The grant, valued at \$103,750, provide stipends to faculty members and outside consultants, "or to pay adjuncts to teach and release faculty for project work," Ferguson said.

The grant will also be used to employ a SPED student tech to provide technological support for the redesign and to purchase a limited amount of equipment and software for the program, Anderson said.

The grant is funded from spring 2005 to summer 2006. The SPED department had to comply with the grant's requirements. The department will create 15 online courses, related field experiences and make student teaching fully available for three consecutive years, from fall 2006 to fall 2008.

Candidates for the online courses are students who have already obtained or are eligible for special education teacher licensure in Minnesota and are pursuing additional licensure in the four areas. The program will use chat rooms and discussion boards.

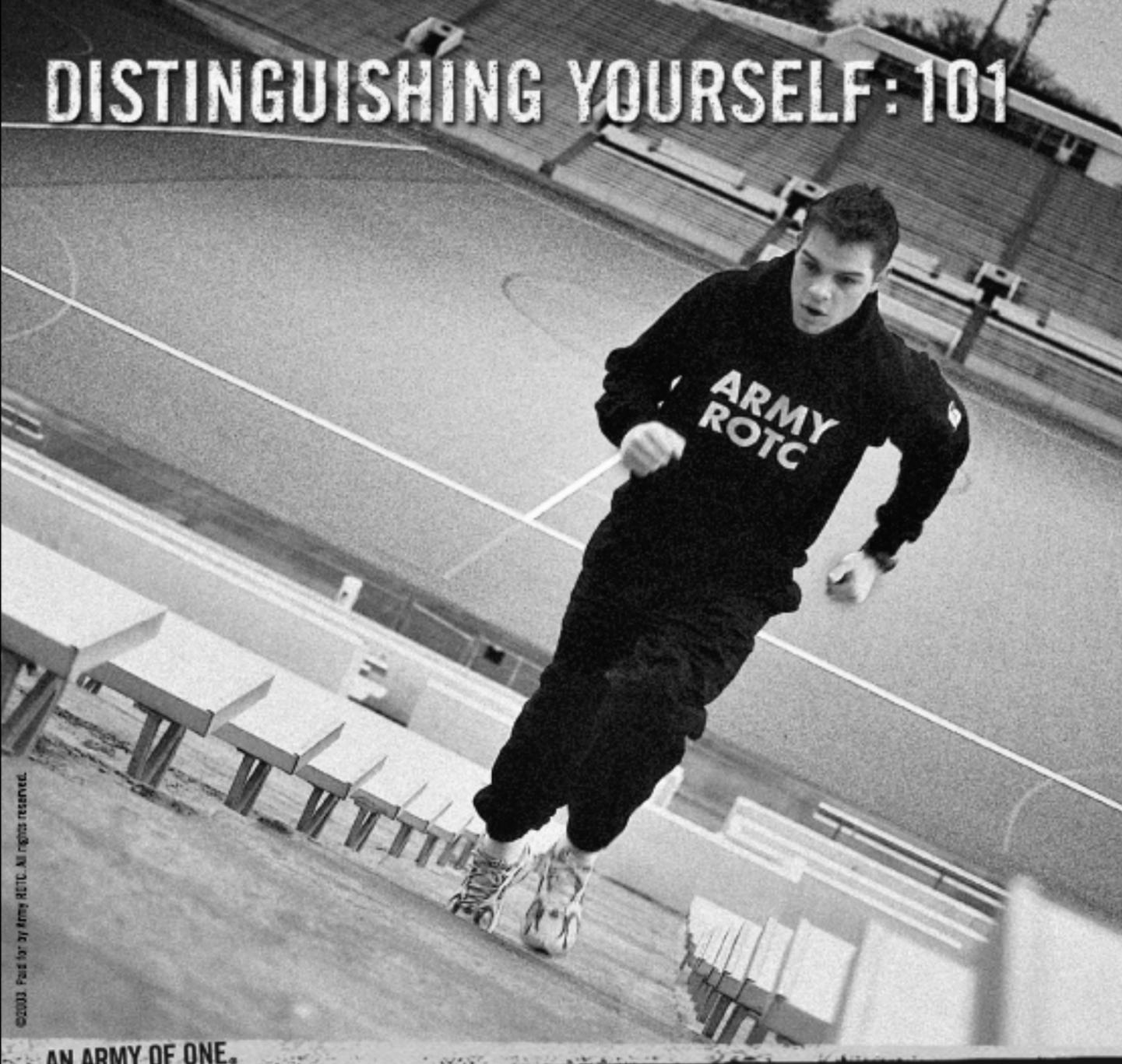
"We may also incorporate the use of live mentors in the candidate's geographical area," Ferguson said. "Field experience and student teaching, of course, will be live and in person, but in the candidate's geographical area."

While the use of online courses for conceptual knowledge isn't an entirely new concept, online instruction, learning and improving skills is more challenging, Ferguson said.

The department plans to offer five courses in fall 2005 for students to take online.

"Reaching Out to Learners" will follow specific phases of development from traditional classroom format to online format, with help from faculty members.

Roe can be reached at roera@mnstate.edu.



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BACK PAGE

Thursday, March 10, 2005

DEBT, from front

Zehren said loans subsidized by the federal government where the interest is paid for the student are the first loans students. Students must meet eligibility requirements for these loans. The other direct loans are unsubsidized by the federal government. Zehren said all students qualify for these loans.

If these loans aren't enough, Zehren said the gap is filled by alternative education loans. She said these are good loans, but they come with additional requirements, such as higher interest rates.

Zehren said the average indebtedness of students includes all loans. The greatest increase in average student loan volume comes from alternative loans.

Although students receive entrance loan counseling before they can receive their first loan and exit loan counseling before they graduate, Zehren is concerned that students don't always realize the

seriousness of acquiring debt. She said student loans are meant to fund tuition, books, room and board and not nonessential items.

Zehren said lifestyle options and choices play a role in the financial situations of students.

"Don't spend what you don't have," she said. "Don't buy things you don't need."

Zehren is concerned that students aren't looking to the future and are choosing to defer worrying about their debt.

She urges student to go to the National Student Loan Data System at nsls.com to use their loan calculator to determine how long it will take to pay back their loans. Zehren said students should do this before taking out loans in the first place.

"Do that and be a responsible consumer," Zehren said.

Hacking can be reached at sarahacking@hotmail.com.

BIOLOGY, from front

projects in the 2005 legislative session. MSUM alone is asking for \$11.1 million for continued science renovations to Hagen.

"The biology department does an intense amount of research with undergrads," Brisch said. "While we think it critical, it is really taking a toll, and it can't last forever. We need course recognition, and that requires funding. Without programs like the biology programs, scientists won't be trained, and Minnesota won't be as strong of a bioscience state."

According to Wallert, the biggest challenge for MnSCU is the budget. The government normally pays a certain percentage of student tuition to MnSCU, yet in recent years they haven't been paying.

To date, the government owes \$138 million for enrollment adjustments, which the governor's budget claims will not cover. The system also needs \$66 million for new pro-

jects. If all of this comes through, tuition will only increase four percent, and if an additional \$62 million is added to the above total, then there will be no increase whatsoever.

"The government misses that once you build something to a certain point, you need to keep on building," Wallert said.

Each day, one faculty member and one or two students gave a 10-to 15-minute presentation. Then the committee asked questions. The faculty generally presented information on the biology program.

Students, on the other hand, discussed personal experiences at MSUM and attempts to further their education.

"I specifically focused on my major, my research, why I came to MSUM, my experience here thus far and my goals and plans for the future," Sang said.

Until a revised budget is released, the impact of its

influence remains hard to measure. MSUM students, whether a part of the biology program or not, can still play a part in bringing more funds to higher education. Students and faculty agree that the best action is to write to your local congressmen and women, explaining your educational goals and why higher education is important.

"I think students need to prove to the lawmakers that the tax dollars they win in the state legislature for college students is not going to fund keg stands and Spring Break trips," Voge said. "But that students really do have a passion for their education and will eventually take Minnesota to the forefront of scientific research and development in such fields as medicine, agriculture and biotechnology."

Meehlhause can be reached at meehlhke@mnstate.edu.

CREDIT, from front

financial counseling as well as occasional presentations on campus to educate students about money issues.

Financial counselor Duane Emmel said The Village's presentations on campus typically deal with cell phones, credit cards and the impact of credit on credit history. The Village also speaks to the senior year experience class about general budgeting issues.

Emmel said the individual counseling offered at The Village helps students analyze their

spending, budget, examine the amount of debt and evaluate possible lifestyle changes.

There is hope for students who are in a lot of financial trouble.

"Seek help," Emmel said. "A lot of time if you wait, it only gets worse. Don't continue on building debt. You have to address the issue."

Go to helpwithmoney.org for more information about The Village's financial services.

Hacking can be reached at sarahacking@hotmail.com.

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