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MSUM has Professor of the Year

Wallert named top teacher in state by Carnegie Foundation

Advocate staff reports

The Carnegie Foundation announced today professor Mark Wallert has been named the Minnesota Professor of the Year for the Advancement of Teaching. Wallert is one of 46 professors nation-wide selected for the honor.

Dean of the college of social and natural sciences Ronald Jeppson and vice president of academic affairs Bette Midgarden nominated Wallert for his teaching, research he has done and his outreach efforts.

Wallert has been at MSUM since 1990. As a professor in the biosciences department, he began finding ways to

expand the department and make it a better place for students to learn. He replaced the

usual labs with more researchdriven projects and is helping create a biology/chemistry double major with an emphasis in bio-



chemistry and biotechnology, and developing teaching techniques to include research and inquiry based learning.

To further promote his department and research he has written many grant proposals for the department, bringing in around 1.3 million dollars for bioscience studies on campus.

He was also a part of initiating the outreach program between the college and area teachers and students. The program unites students and professors from MSUM and students and teachers in the MSUM community to work together to discuss new ways of teaching or hold labs in the new Science Lab building.

"As a graduate student, one of my professors started each lecture with a quote from a famous scientist," Wallert said. "One of them was from Albert Einstein: 'It is nothing short of a miracle that the

modern methods of instruction have not yet entirely strangled the holy curiousity of inquiry.' Then the professor continued to give one of his classically boring and monotone lectures. That's why I eventually became a warrior for change.

"Best of all, I get to change lives myself by sharing my enthusiasm for science one student, one class, one department and one institution at a time."

Wallert will be in Washington D.C. to accept his award, as well as meet with legislators to ask for their continued support of higher education and the sciences.



On a mission

Volunteers from St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center ready to lend a hand

FEATURES, page 3

Article 1

hall make no law respe or prohibiting the fre ne freedom of speech, people peaceably to vernment for a redres

Offensive or not

Freedom of speech applies to everyone even if their beliefs aren't popular



Going pro

Members of MSUM's orchestra join the ranks of F-M Symphony

A&E, page 6



Slam dunk

Dragon men's basketball team wins season opener 85-68 on home turf

SPORTS, page 8

Going back to Go

Strategy game challenges AI

By GLENN TORNELL

Special to The Advocate

If just one student in Andrew Chen's Artificial Intelligence class next semester manages to create a computer program that can beat a skilled player in the board game Go, everyone in the class gets an A.

Sounds intriguing. But they might have a better chance at winning the Powerball.

"A computer program has yet to beat a strong amateur Go player," says Chen, a professor of computer science and information systems at Minnesota State University Moorhead. "Yet sometimes a fresh perspective is all that's needed to solve a problem."

For years, the Ing Foundation of Taipei has offered a \$1.6 million reward for the first computer program to defeat a strong amateur player. No attempt was ever made to claim the prize.

An ancient board game developed in China more than 4,000 years ago, Chen said, Go may be the most popular game of strategy in the world today, with more than 100 million enthusiasts, most of them in China, Japan and



Professor Andrew Chen instructs Joanna Swanson in the ancient Chinese board game Go.

South Korea.

Yet it's hardly a blip on the Economics. screen in the West, except among some intellectuals.

Remember in the movie "A Beautiful Mind" when mathematician John Nash (played by Russell Crowe) sits in Princeton's courtyard ruminating over a strange looking board game dotted with what looked like small white and black stones? That was Go, and his frustration at losing that game, in part, inspired him to pursue the mathematics of game theory, which won

him the 1994 Nobel Prize in

"It was just a coincidence that I even found a Go board on campus" said Chen, who grew up in New York and played his first game of Go as an undergraduate. "The game had been stored in a closet at the campus International Programs office for about 12 years."

It was only checked out once.

Chen selected Go as the subject for the final paper in his ☐ GO, back page

Secretary of state candidate visits campus

By LINDSEY YOUNG

Managing Editor

2006 candidate for secretary of state for the state of Minnesota Mark Ritchie visited MSUM Monday to talk with students about his campaign against current secretary of state, Mary Kiffmeyer.

Ritchie has been traveling the state to promote his grassroots efforts to seek the endorsement of the DFL party and meet with groups to discuss his, and their, concerns about Kiffmeyer's recent comments and proposals regarding voting. He specifically wanted to talk about what she is doing to make it difficult for students to vote.

"The secretary of state has the discretion to help or hinder how students can vote on campus," he said. "They can make it welcoming or hostile."

Ritchie said he's found that students tend to have the most negative experience when it comes to voting. Many encounter obstacles, such as students living in resident halls not being allowed to vote because they cannot provide a utility bill as proof of residence.

"I'm working to oppose these obstacles and encourage participating," he said. Ritchie is hoping to work

☐ RITCHIE, back page

NEWS BRIEFS

P Report 11.09 - 11.14

- 11.09 Student safety concern in
- Library. 11.10 Personal safety concern in Science Lab.
- 11.10 Motor vehicle accident on 14 St. S.
- 11.10 Trespass of real property in CMU/Kise.
- 11.11 Alcohol offenses in Ballard.
- 11.11 Minor consumption in Nelson.
- 11.12 Item found in Library.
- 11.13 Drug offenses in East Snarr.
- 11.13 Alcohol offenses in Lot A. Verbal harassment in Dahl.
- 11.13 Vandalism in Center for 11.14 Arts.
- Medical response in
- 11.14 Lommen.
- 11.14 Vandalism in Weld.
- 11.14 Theft in East Snarr.

A cappella concert to help Red Cross

The a cappella group Almost 6 will perform at 7:30 p.m. today (Thursday) in Centrum Hall on the Concordia campus. All are welcome attend.

Proceeds will be given to the American Red Cross to assist Hurricane Katrina victims.

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Student senate asks for your input

During last Thursday's meeting student senate passed a motion recommending the Drive-A-Dragon taxi program fare increase to \$4 per person, per ride. The motion is only a recommendation and all options remain on the table.

Students should contact the student senate office to discuss any suggestions or concerns they may have with the Drive-A-Dragon taxi program by calling 218-477-2150, or by e-mail at stusen@ mnstate.edu or attending a student senate meeting held Thursdays in the CMU 205 at 5p.m.

Red Cross and MSUM plan event

The Red Cross MSUM are planning to form a human-made red cross at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 21 on Nemzek football field.

The event is to raise money for the Red Cross. Red glow sticks will be sold for \$1 at the door. Volunteers will direct attendees on the football field to form a red cross.

Hendrix will not have flu vaccine

Hendrix Health Center is advising everyone to get a flu shot this year.

Vaccines for university employees will be offered at 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov 21 in Owens C.

Call 477-2211 with any ques-

Anderson to speak about work in Africa

At noon today (Thursday) in MacLean 171 (Womens Center) Pastor Randy Skow-Anderson and others will speak about their recent work in central Africa.

Also, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. today (thursday) in MacLean 165 there will be a lecture on what can be done with a degree in foreign languages.

The grand prize winner of the international photo contest will be announced at 9 p.m. on Friday.

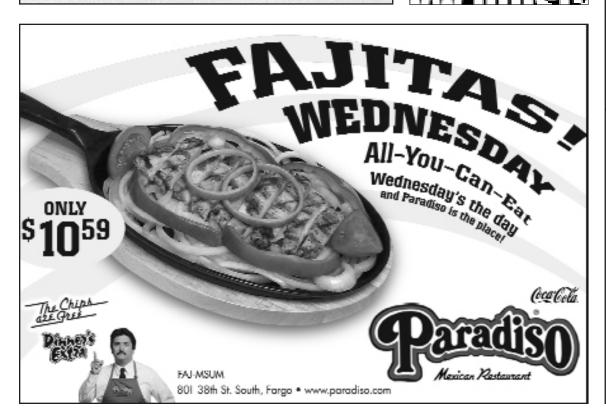
For more information on any event listed here, please contact the MSUM Office of International Programs by e-mailing them at stdyabrd@ mnstate.edu, or by phone at

Hendrix plans event for ICE campaign

On Nov. 21st, 2005 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. the Hendrix Health Center peer educators along with the F-MAmbulance Education Program will be kicking off an ICE (In Case of Emergency) campaign. They will have a table in Flora Frick where students and faculty can pickup an ICE card and ask questions.

International dance night announced

International Dance Night Tri-College welcomes all students from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Friday in the MSUM Underground; tickets are \$3 in advance, \$5 at the door and can be purchased in the International Programs Office, Flora Frick 151.



720 Main Ave.

Moorhead, MN 56560

Workshops set for technology

Instructional Technology will sponsor free workshops for MSUM faculty and staff today (Thursday) untill Nov. 23. The workshops will be held in the LIT center, Library

Registration and information about the workshops can be found at www. mnstate. edu/instrtech/CalendarOf Events/calendar.htm

For further questions, contact Rhonda Ficek at 477-2339 or e-mail ficek@mnstate.edu or Barb Hoppe at 477-2596, hoppeba@mnstate.edu.

Upperclass honors scholarship offered

Upperclass honors apprentice scholarship applications are available online at www.mnstate.edu/finaid/ upperHA.htm.

The scholarship is a \$3,500 annual award for the final two years of a student's attendance. The requirements include being an MSUM student with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher by the end of the fall semester and must carry 12 credit hours.

SPJ announces candy corn winner

Jay Pickthorn won \$50 and the jar of candy from the Society of Professional Journalists' Candy Jar Contest.

Sodexho to host retirement party

Sodexho will host an open house for catering supervisor Annette Stephenson's retirement. The event will be between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Dec. 6 in CMU 101.



Animation festival to be held in Weld

The MSUM film studies department is presenting an animation festival starting at 2 p.m. on Nov. 20 in Weld Auditorium. The event continues at 6:30 p.m. on Nov.

Admission prices at the door will be \$2 per film. For more information, contact the MSUM film studies Department at 477-4622

ADVOCATE

Located on the lower floor of Comstock Memorial Union Room 110 News Desk and Editor's Desk: 477-2551 Advertising: 477-2365 Fax: 477-4662

The Advocate is published weekly during the academic year xcept during final examination and vacation periods.

Opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily th ne college administration, faculty or student body.

The Advocate encourages letters to the editor and your turn ibmissions. They should be typed and must include the write me, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occ ation and any affiliations. Letters are due Monday at 5 p.m. ar can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off at The Advocate
office in CMU Room 110 or e-mailed to us at: advocate@ nstate.edu. The Advocate reserves the right to edit letters and oes not guarantee the publication of any letter.

Could you call him a pigfucker? That might make me feel bette

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The Advocate is always looking for talented writers photog-Monday at 4:30 p.m. in CMU 110.

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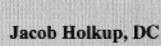
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FEATURES

Lending a helping hand

St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center volunteers in community

By BARBIE PORTER

Features Editor

Chris Yarnal, St. Thomas Aguinas Newman Center coordinator, has visited a variety of underdeveloped countries: Bolivia, Guatemala and Jamaica. Although Yarnal was there to give, he ended up taking far more from the residents of the villages.

"Their family life was so strong," Yarnal said. "I guess when you look back it makes sense. The struggle, I guess, makes them stronger."

Yarnal currently coordinates opportunities for students to experience the personal satisfaction gained from volunteering. Throughout the school year, every month, students have the opportunity to dedicate their time to those in

During the first week of the month Yarnal arranges to cook supper for the residents in the Dorothy Day house. Yarnal tries to avoid common meals like pasta and hot dishes while mantaining his budget. At their last visit Yarnal and the students cooked chicken and rice. After the meal was placed on the table, they joined the residents for dinner.

"It's a family-type atmosphere and it breaks down the stereotype of them being on drugs or that they don't want to work," Yarnal said.

During the second week of the month students visit with the elderly at Evergreens or Eventide. They play bingo with the residents and spend time with those in the memory care unit.

"The contact there is pretty much one-on-one," Yarnal said. He said students have gotten frustrated answering the same questions. "But then they remember, 'I could be like that someday," he said.

Halloween students

painted pumpkins with the elderly in the memory care unit and during the Christmas season they will be singing Christmas carols.

During the third week of the month the group participates in a variety of volunteer work, such as delivering food baskets, raking leaves in senior citizens' yards and helping build a Habitat for Humanity

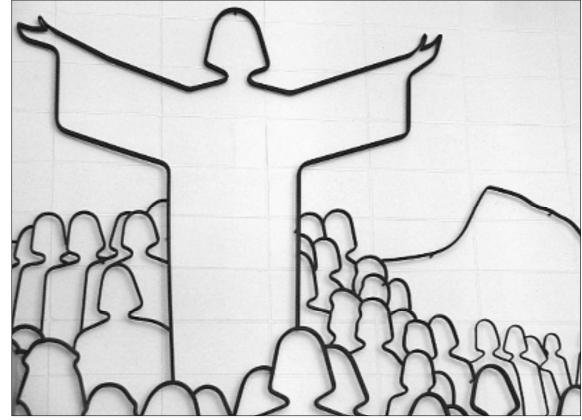
They will team up with Habitat for Humanity again during the Homeless Awareness week Nov. 13 - 20. A group of students associated with the two organizations slept in cardboard boxes on the night of Nov. 16. The students experienced what people living on the streets deal with the night after the regions first snowfall.

Over winter break, Jan. 2 - 6, Yarnal will bring a group of students to Winnipeg for the annual mission trip. The volunteers will spend time at a shelter for men who were just released from prison. They will help them fill out job resumes and share interview skills. Students will also serve at a soup kitchen, spend time in a shelter for children and possibly visit a hospice clinic for AIDS patients. Yarnal set up most of the activities through the use of the Internet and the help from the archdiocese in Winnipeg.

Yarnal recalls his most memorable MSUM mission trip to Chicago that took place two years ago.

The shelter they worked at was called Lake View, but it was nowhere near the lake. It sat in the center of Chicago's graffitti filled streets.

"Chicago's got different neighborhoods," Yarnal began. "You could be in a very nice Italian neighbornood, turn a corner and all of



This design welcomes visitors as they walk through the front Newman Center doors.

a sudden you're in a neighborhood you don't want to be in after dark."

Yarnal says most of the homeless residents were black. There was a distinct smell of poverty in the air, a body odor induced by the lack of showering facilities.

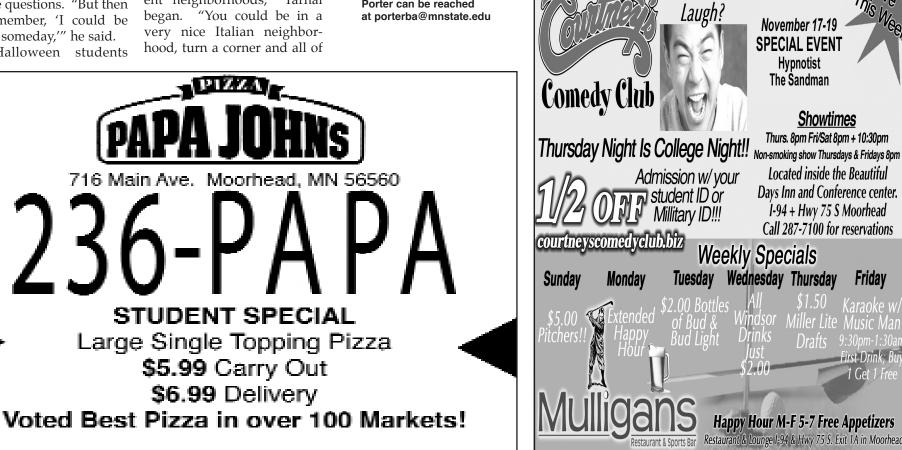
"The students were touched by these children who lived with nothing," Yarnal said.
"To see people take a step back and really appreciate what they will have and will want to give back from that."

Yarnal says anyone who is interested in volunteering their time should speak to him for further details. Yarnal can be reached at newman@ mnstate.edu.

Porter can be reached



Need a Good



Advocate editorial board

Alicia Strnad Editor

Lindsey Young Managing Editor

Ashley Johnk Opinion Editor

Abortion insert represents freedom to speak opinions

Last week, an organization called the Human Life Alliance placed a paid advertising insert in The Advocate. The anti-abortion piece included testimonials from people who had or almost had abortions, abortion statistics, information on fetal development and graphic descriptions of abortion procedures, along with articles on topics such as "Reproductive Racism" and "The Silent Grief of Abortion."

The response to this insert was immediate. The Advocate received several phone calls and e-mails from students and staff. Some applauded The Advocate for "getting the truth out" and "telling it like it is," while others slammed us for "promoting a radical agenda" and discouraging women from getting "a legal, potentially life-saving medical procedure."

One caller said she was planning to sue us for "spreading false information" through the supplement. She said inserting the supplement into our paper made it look like The Advocate, the school and (because MSUM is a public school), the state all condoned the Human Life Alliance's message.

When I spoke to her on the phone, she said, "I just want to know if you saw this magazine before it ended up in your paper and why you put it in your paper if you did. I also want to know if you consider it a mis-

I did preview the insert and OK'd it to run in The Advocate. I knew that many people would not approve of the supplement, but I believed they have a right to state their opinion. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech for everyone—regardless of whether we agree with that speech or not. We accepted their money for the ad not because we endorse or condone their position but because we endorse freedom of speech. We would also allow an abortion rights group to place ads for the same reason.

I don't consider allowing the insert to run a mistake. If the Human Life Alliance called tomorrow and asked to run this piece again, I'd allow it. I know some people found the material offensive. Abortion is an issue people don't agree on, but I believe strongly that everyone has the right to voice his or her opinions. Just because you don't agree with what someone says doesn't mean you can stop them from saying it, anymore than they could censor you if they didn't agree with you.

That's the beauty of the U.S. Constitution. I hope students at MSUM are pleased each week when they pick up The Advocate to know that its content has not been censored by anyone and students are free to raise their voices. I know I am.

> Alicia Strnad Advocate editor

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.

The Bill

Ratified Decer

Article I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Except when I don't like it. Article II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security

Letters to the Editor

Pro-life insert misleading

The supplemental advertisement from the Human Life Alliance is littered with misleading and false statements. As a result it has little purpose beyond preaching to the MSUM Collegians For Life choir.

First of all, like much of the pro-life literature, the advertisement is misleading when it writes that abortion was legalized in 1973 and offers figures on the number of lives (born and unborn) ruined as a result. By the late 1960s abortion was legal for wealthy women (most of whom were white) in America as they had the means to travel to one of the 20 states or several European nations that permitted abortion.

Hence the United States Supreme Court ruling in Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973) did not legalize abortion as much as they legalized early trimester abortions for the middle class. Playing fast and loose with the facts is not going to win you

While the advertisment pres-

ents a hip and secular image of young (and noticeably mostly white and suburban middle class) college students that have no political agenda, the reality is that the Human Life Alliance is trying to mask its political agenda and the narrow religious origins of this agenda with secular glitter. This is misleading, just as it is misleading, not to mention offensive, to equate support of reproductive freedom with support of racism.

As a Jewish-American, the desire by some pro-life advocates to equate voluntary family planning with the Holocaust is deeply offensive and only serves to turn me and most other Jewish people or human rights advocates off from any claims that you may make.

Yes, many early advocates of reproductive health were racist and elitist, and you will find that until fairly recently the majority of people in the "civilized" and "uncivilized" world that said or did anything were racist, ethnocentric, sexist, xenphobic and

homophobic. The movement to dismantle racism and bigotry is still on-going to this day, despite what some people (i.e. certain MSUM student senators) may

If the contemporary reproductive freedom advocates cannot be divorced from a racist past, then pro-life advocates are in trouble because a major force behind the initial 19th century movement to outlaw abortion in America was a sexist and mygionist attack on midwives by the male dominated medical profession.

Furthermore much of the contemporary support by many pro-life advocates of abstinencebased sex education is equally degrading to gay and lesbians as was the notion that the persons of color, the poor or the disabled ought not to be allowed to have a sex life or a family.

> **Edward TJ Brown** MSUM junior

DARS program to benefit students

Thank you for your article on the DARS/CAS advising programs which are being implemented to help students with degree program progress and transfer course articulation. The created in DARS work best for students who began their studies at the university fall semester 2005 and beyond.

Students who started before

not taken any transfer coursework may also find that the DARS audit works well.

major programs and emphases ses into DARS, this advising 477-4318. within these programs being tool will be of great benefit to students and their advisers in determining course selection for each semester and the progress students are making in their major program. If you

fall semester 2005 and who have have questions regarding DARS/CAS implementation or how to use either system please feel free to contact the As we add additional major Records Office at 477-2565, or programs and their empha- the Advising Support Center at

> Jim Anderson **Assistant Director** of Admissions

Send all letters to the editor to advocate@mnstate.edu. Thursday, November 17, 2005 Page 5, The Advocate

Cover your ears, stay warm, winter is here

I grew up on a farm in North Dakota. I rode the school bus every day from kindergarten to ninth grade. I distinctly remember the bus driver checking to make sure I had snowboots, a hat and gloves during the winter. If any of the three were missing I'd get

kicked off. The school district didn't want news of a frozen third-grader splashing county newspaper headlines after a winter stall.

I don't ride the bus anymore. But I still bundle up at the first sight of cold weather. I think



everybody else should too.

Remember "A Christmas Story?" Remember when the mom bundled up Randy, Ralphie's little brother? Randy was so swaddled that he could barely walk. That's what I look like from October to April.

My friends hate my hats. They you are doing really well!

hate them so much that they give me cuter ones as presents. I appreciate the cute stuff. But somehow, I always grab a blue and gray creation decorated with navy fabric nubbins. It looks like wool with the measles. I don't care. It's the warmest dang hat in the

world. I might look freakish, but my head is a lot more comfortable than a naked one.

Knitting has made a strong comeback. I saw more wool on the MSUM campus last year than in my entire life. Some of you are doing really well!

But every winter day I see somebody running around with an unbuttoned jacked, no gloves and, of course, no hat. Usually a guy. I ache for your ears, boys.

Do you know who I find attractive? Men who don't have frostbitten ears. They hear better, plus there's no chance that an earlobe chunk will fall onto my lap during cuddling.

Maybe you think there's no time to find gloves before your first class.

There's any easy solution—connecting them with a string and leaving them inside your coat sleeves. If you e-mail me, I will personally sew your mittens

onto a string for you, just like your grandma did in the 80's.

Being warm doesn't have to be dorky. Last year my mom got me new long johns for Christmas. I'm wearing them right now. They're a far cry from the pink and blue waffled creations I used to don; these babies are black, silk and dead sexy.

Get on the bus, folks. Be cool like Randy and me. Bundle up.

Do you like to knit? E-mail Alexa at ortsal@mnstate.edu.

"When the 'larm gives out the warning," we learn nothing

Every thing I needed to know about high school I learned from the gang at Bayside High. Well, not really. But growing up, I still religiously watched "Saved By The Bell" four times a day.

When I got home from high school I would first watch two episodes on

TBS and then I would flip it over to USA for another dose of teen comedy.

There were about three simple parts to each "Saved By The Bell" episode.

The first part is that no matter what one of the cast members, sometimes it's two or more, is exposed to a great opportunity usually involving a member of the opposite sex. The character has to make a decision. The decision they make is usually a bad one, and all their friends warn them but they still make the wrong decision anyway.

The second part of the episode involves the character going through with the bad decision and getting into trouble and then usually fighting with their friends or having to lie to cover Jeremy Chura
Sports Editor

up their mistake.

By the end of the show the character, who is usually Zack, realizes that he made a big mistake and all his friends forgive him no matter what and everything is back to the way it should be at Bayside.

Now I don't know what dream world the gang lives in, but where I come from everything doesn't work out in 22 minutes. If you fight in school, you get suspended. If you drink and drive, you get a minor.

I recently went out and bought season five on DVD. Now I know this has been out for a while but I missed seeing "Saved By the Bell" on TV and I needed my fix of this corny cult classic.

One of the very first episodes I watched was the one where

the gang goes to Ox's house, a dumb member of the football team, for a keg party to celebrate homecoming.

In this episode, Zack, Slater and Lisa drink too much, but Zack thinks he is still able to drive the gang home.

Of course this is where the second part of the episode begins. Zach knows deep down that it is wrong to drink and drive but he does it anyway.

Well, as the gang is driving home, they are singing along to "Wild Thing," driving intoxicated. Then Zack takes his eyes off the road and hits a telephone pole.

Now in order to not get in trouble the gang has to lie to Zack's dad about what happened to Lisa's mom's car, and we all know that lying to our parents is wrong.

For all but the last few minutes of the show, the gang has to keep lying until they become so tangled up in their lies that they finally come clean, a thing they should have done in the first place. In the end, even though Zack gets grounded and loses his car, everything seems to work out and Zack learns a very valuable lesson.

Another thing about "Saved By The Bell" that made no sense was that in the middle of season five they completely replace

Jessie and Kelly with a new girl named Tori Scott who has Kelly's girl-next-door looks and Jessie's feminism.

There is no explanation as to why Jessie and Kelly are suddenly gone and Tori becomes accepted into the gang, something that takes weeks to months at a normal high school.

I also loved how they used the same classroom for everything. In one episode the room across from Belding's office would be the math room. Then in another episode it would be the science room and in a Tori episode the room was the Teen Line/ Rap Room.

One of the other things about Bayside that did not made sense was the fact that the gang seemed to be the only characters who had depth—all the other students where either dumb jocks, geeks, dorks, nerds, valley girls or just fillers.

I guess what I am trying to say is that Saved By The Bell did not make sense. I mean sure they were trying to tell us to make the

Now I don't know right decisions and not make the wrong ones like the characters made.

what dream world the gang lives in, but where I come fromeverything

But to tell the truth, all along we knew what the right decisions were.

I did not learn any-

I did not learn anything from that show, but I still watched it because it was fun watching the gang

getting into their weekly conundrums.

doesn't work out

in 22 minutes.

Screech: dork or stud? E-mail Jeremy at churaje@mnstate.edu.

Llama and Panda



"I no longer see the validity of coming to class on Mondays."



Orchestra students turn pro

Five student musicians awarded seats with F-M Symphony

By S. HACKING / A. ORTS

A&E Editor/ Staff Writer

The seesawing rhythm of the violin and cello bows in the MSUM orchestra came to a brief halt during a rehearsal of Joseph Hayden's "Nelson Messe" at the Tuesday evening practice.

"Back to 30. Softer, soft ... shhhh," said Kirk Moss, director of orchestral and string education activities, motiondents to resume playing.

" he said. "Now

we've got a rhythm."

This fall, five orchestra members upgraded the rhythm and melodies they learned at MSUM to the professional level when they were awarded seats with the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra.

Lucas Bernier, percussion; Katelin Stanek, violin; Kiyotada Ota, percussion; Thane Nelson, cello; and Haley Rydell, violin, are all students and professional musicians.

Lucas Bernier

Bernier never expected to trade his spikes for a pair of marimba mallets.

"It just kind of happened," Bernier said of his percussion career. The Larimore, N.D., native enrolled at MSUM to play football, but the gales of fate pushed him in a more musical direction.

When MSUM percussion studio director Kenyon Williams suggested Bernier audition for the F-M Symphony, he accepted the challenge. He's now in his second year with the company. Bernier enjoys playing with an experienced orchestra.

"Just playing professionally—it's a great experience," he said, while acknowledging



JAY PICKTHORN/ PHOTO EDITOR

Haley Rydell rehearses with the MSUM orchestra for an upcoming combined choir and orchestra concert at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. She began playing her violin professionally with the F-M Symphony Orchestra this fall.

I think it's really exciting because we get to play alongside teachers and mentors that we've had for years.

Haley Rydell

MSUM sophomore

the responsibility that accompanies the honor. "We gotta play perfect."

Katelin Stanek

Stanek, senior, is a professional musician, full-time student, and full-time employee at West Acres All Stop.

She tries to practice every day because of the difficult music she plays with the F-M Symphony. However, her work schedule at the BP station creates conflicts with the time she spends practicing the ethereal melodies of classical composers.

"It's pretty nice as gas sta-

tions go," Stanek said. "But I can't practice there, of course."

Stanek is majoring in orchestra education and would like to teach beginning orchestra students.

She said auditioning for the F-M Symphony was an intimidating experience. The musicians received several excerpts of music to practice and also had to perform a 3minute solo.

"Bernard Rubenstein (F-M Symphony conductor) was the person with the clipboard telling us what to play, so that was intimidating," Stanek said about her audition.

Kiyotada Ota

"I was so afraid because everybody there was so talented," Kiyotada Ota said about his audition for the F-M Symphony. "I felt like I was being watched and listened

Indeed he was. Kiyotada

Ota, a percussionist, is one of MSUM's most seen and heard musicians. The F-M Symphony, MSUM orchestra, Fuego Tropical and various ensembles all claim him as a member.

☐ ORCHESTRA page 7



Katelin Stanek plays her violin for MSUM orchestra and the F-M Symphony Orchestra.

Director praises students

By SARA HACKING

A&E Editor

Kirk Moss, director of orchestral and string education activities, attributes the number of string-instrument students awarded seats in the F-M Symphony Orchestra to the recent emphasis the music department has placed on the string music program.

"The fact that we have three stringed-instrument players in the F-M Symphony is certainly an indication that the program is moving in the right direction and has a lot of momentum," Moss said.

Katelin Stanek, violinist, also attributes the success of the students to faculty members in the music department.

"We've recently gotten ... new professors that have added life and excitement to the program," she said.

Thane Nelson, cellist, said Moss allows the students in the F-M Symphony to skip MSUM orchestra practice during the week of their professional concerts.

Moss said the MSUM orchestra also schedules its concerts so they don't conflict with F-M Symphony concerts. He said accommodating the symphony schedule is a win-win situation.

"When you can surround university students in a professional environment with other adults and musicians there's a learning that's going to take place because of the environment," Moss said. "Things more easily taught through experience than any one single course."

☐ **DIRECTOR** page 7





Page 7, The Advocate Thursday, November 17, 2005

Special 'Carol' plays for kids at MSUM

By ALYSSA SCHAFER

Staff Writer

A holiday word association—"A Christmas Carol:" Dickens, Scrooge, Tiny Tim and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. Everyone knows the story of this beloved Christmas tale, but this year the MSUM theater department is putting a new spin on the classic story.

Theater arts department chair Craig Ellingson has adapted Charles Dickens' original "A Christmas Carol" into a shorter version for the theater department's annual children's theater production.

"We bring in about 8,000 to 10,000 elementary school students," Ellingson said.

"Because their schedule is such that they have to come in ... and get out in an hour, we design shows to run between 45 and 50 minutes."

Although this is a relatively short production, the cast and crew have been working hard to perfect it over the past four weeks. Junior Matthew Pitner, who plays Mr. Dickens, said the cast did not have a lot of time to put the production together but having Ellingson as a director helped things run smoothly.

"Craig is, I think, a very playful director. He will let you go off, and he'll let you try whatever you want," Pitner said. "If you have suggestions he'll take them into consideration, which I really appreciate.'



Cast B member Amanda Noce comtemplates her hairdo before a rehearsal for the MSUM production of "A Christmas Carol."

This production requires a dual cast because of the incredible time demands of holding two productions a day for seven days straight. The two casts each have 14 members.

Despite the fact that they are reading the same script, the actors each bring something unique to their role. As a result, the two shows are very different.

Junior Timothy R. Lane, who plays Scrooge in Cast A, does not think of this production as a children's play, but rather as a serious play with a heartfelt ending.

"This is a show that you have to take seriously, especially if you're playing Scrooge.

The comedy will come out with the other characters around you," Lane said. "You don't have to be the funny guy on stage. In fact, you want the kids to hate you."

Because there are only 14 members in each cast, the actors must wear many different hats—literally. There are two people in each cast, one male and one female, who play four different roles. For example, in Cast A Senior Greta Frank plays Fan, Belle, Christmas Present and Mrs. Cratchet.

"I'm a very versatile character. All the female (parts)



PHOTOS BY: SARAH VOEGELE/ THE ADVOCATE

Brandt Wolf transforms Colton Jensen into one of Charles Dickens' classic characters from "A Christmas Carol."

are big roles, but they are compacted into one person," Frank said.

Besides Frank's multiple roles, the primary female character is that of Mrs. Dickens. Junior Greer Webster, who plays Mrs. Dickens for Cast A, feels the relationship between Mrs. Dickens and her husband is what binds the production together.

"Mrs. Dickens is the narrator. I react and try to incorporate (the Dickens's love story) into the story that's going on. Mrs. Dickens is the life, the soul and the passion behind Charles Dickens' writing," Webster said.

It seems that every member of the cast is working hard to bring passion to this revamped version of the Charles Dickens classic. This show is very important to the theater department because it will be entered in an upcoming theater festival.

"It is the first children's show in a very long time that we get to nominate for the American College Theater Festival, which will be held this January at MSUM," Frank said. "This show has been special because we are going to be able to get it reviewed and nominated."

Public performances of "A Christmas Carol" will be held Nov. 19th at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in Hansen Auditorium.

Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for faculty, staff and senior citizens, \$6 for Tri-College and under-17 and free for all MSUM students with ID.

> Schafer can be reached at lyss_05@hotmail.com.

☐ ORCHESTRA from 6

Ota's career started in Nakafurano, Japan. When he was 5 years old a pre-school teacher chose him to play the bass drum.

"I was one of the bigger guys," Ota said.

Kiyotada came to MSUM with an early childhood education degree in his sights. Percussion soon pulled him away, however.

Although Ota loves percussion, he admits that it often stresses him.

"I want to believe that I've decided the right way," he said about pursuing a career in music. "I just don't wanna give up."

Thane Nelson

Eighteen-year-old Nelson, cellist, earned a seat in the professional orchestra this year and is pursuing a respiratory therapy degree at NDSU and is a member of the MSUM orchestra.

A MSUM cello instructor

□ DIRECTOR from 6

The challenge of reaching for more difficult repertoire also pushes the students in the level of music they play, he said.

"I'm just very proud of the students for the work they're doing here at the university and how they're representing us in the professional community," Moss said.

Hacking can be reached at sarahacking@hotmail.com. encouraged Nelson to audition for the F-M Symphony and Thane said the sympho-

ny members welcomed him, despite his young age.

But when asked to identify an orchestra-related difficulty he quickly answered, "Counting. We played a bunch of Latin music at the last concert."

He loves performing music, but plans to keep his cellist status at hobby and weddingmusic levels.

Haley Rydell

Rydell, sophomore, began college as a business major, but soon realized she would rather stand in front of an orchestra than work behind a desk. She switched to music education and wants to be a high school orchestra director.

"I realized I didn't want to work in the corporate world," she said. "I just wanted to do music."

Rydell said acceptance into

a professional orchestra was a nice boost to her confidence.

"I think it's really exciting because we get to play alongside teachers and mentors that we've had for years," she said. "I grew up going to symphony concerts."

Moss is proud of the students and the discipline they maintain to balance their work, school and music schedules.

"Our students this season have really been able to rise

to the occasion and meet their obligations here at the university and at the orchestra," he said.

> Hacking and Orts can be reached at advocate@mnstate.edu.



Dragons leave Lions out in cold

Hensley's slam-dunks spark crowd in home opener



JAY PICKTHORN / PHOTO EDITOR

Senior Cedrick Hensley shoots the ball Tuesday night during the Dragons home opener against Trinity Bible College. Hensley had 28 points in the Dragons' 85-68 win over the Lions.

By STEVE HARTMAN

The Dragon men's basketball team started their regular season off on a frigid Tuesday night at Alex Nemzek Fieldhouse with a 85-68 win over Trinity Bible College, Ellendale, N.D.

Senior Cedrick Hensley started the game off for the Dragons with two 3-pointers and ended the game with a couple of crowd-pleasing slam-dunks.

"We played well together," Hensley said. "Even when the game got close."

Hensley tallied 28 points to lead the Dragons going 3 of 6 from 3-point range. He went 12-for-16 overall from the field.

Junior Salumu Rajabu added 14 points for the Dragons going 7 of 8 from the field.

"Salumu had some nice inside scores along the baseline," head coach Stu Engen said.

Sophomore Lee Isaacson and senior Marcus Ebow both added 11 points for the Dragons.

Isaacson went 2 of 3 from the field and 7-for-8 from the

free-throw line while Ebow went 4 of 10 from the field. He also made 2 of 3 from the free-throw line.

Hensley also led the Dragons with 10 rebounds. Sophomore Kyle Nelson added eight rebounds while freshman Jamal O'Neal had seven.

At the half the Dragons were leading the Lions 43-25 but the Dragons only made 53.6 percent of their shots going 15 of 28 from the field.

The Dragons also had 11 turnovers in the first half compared to the nine the Lions

"They've (Trinity) been playing with people," Engen said. "They're sneaky."

Lions forward Rex Causey began the second half with five straight baskets to cut the Dragons lead down to 13.

Jordan Nowell led the Lions with 20 points. Nowell went 6 for 16 from the field and made four 3-pointers. He was also 4-for-5 from the foul line.

Vaughn Jordan added 17 more points for the Lions. He was 6 of 11 from the field.

For the game, the Lions made 37.1 percent of their shots going 23 of 62 while the Dragons shot 31 of 56.

Eighteen of Hensley's points came in the second half as he and Rajabu sparked the Dragons to victory.

MSUM held a huge rebounding edge with 45 rebounds compared to the 21 the Lions ended up with.

The Lions played a scrappy game and gave Engel's squad problems all night.

'Their five guards created match-up problems," Engen said. "We were a lot better defensively going small, but offensively against their zone we struggled."

The 1-0 Dragons will head to Chadron, Neb., to compete in the Chadron Classic, Nov. 18 and 19.

On Friday they open play against Johnson & Wales College, Denver at 7 p.m.

On Saturday the Dragons will play Chadron (Neb.) State, the hosts of the tournament, at 9 p.m.

The next home action for the Dragons will be Tuesday Nov. 22 at 7:30 p.m., when the red and white hit the hardwood against Upper Iowa, Fayette.

> Hartman can be reached at hartmast@mnstate.edu

VOLLEYBALL- NSIC ‡ TOURNAMENT

Dragons v. Mustangs Round 2: Same place, bigger stage

By STEVE HARTMAN

Staff Writer

The Dragons will face the same team that knocked them out of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference vollevball tournament last week at 5 p.m. today (Thursday) in

MSUM will play Southwest Minnesota State, the team that

31-19 less than one week ago, in the NCAA Division II North Central Regional Tournament at the Gangelhoff Center at Concordia-St. Paul.

"We're looking forward to beating them when it counts," head coach Tammy Blake-Kath said. "This is what we have practiced all year for."

Last Thursday in the opening round of the NSIC swept Winona State 30-25, 30-14, 30-18.

Sophomore Tina Lensing led

the Dragons with 18 kills while senior Sigourney Schaffer added 17 more kills. Junior Jesseca White tallied

12 digs for the Dragons with sophomore Julie Vancura adding 45 assists.

On Friday the Dragons faced Southwest Minnesota State, a their regular season matches

Schaffer led the Dragons with 24 kills while freshman Calla Oftedahl added 26 digs.

White added 16 digs while sophomore Cortney Marr and junior Becky Anderson both had 10 digs for the Dragons.

Vancura added 52 assists and 13 digs for the Dragons.

The Dragons are now 25-5 beat them 30-25, 30-32, 30-19, Tournament, the Dragons team the Dragons have split overall and 10-4 in the NSIC.

The winner of today's match will face the No. 1 seed Concordia-St. Paul on Friday at 8:30 p.m.

"Any time out get to regionals you have a feeling of excitement," Kath said. "We just have to take it one game at a time."

> Hartman can be reached at hartmast@mnstate.edu

WOMEN'S ! BASKETBALL - EXHIBITION

Late run lifts Hawkeyes over Dragons

By JEREMY CHURA

Sports Editor

The University of Iowa defeated the Dragons in women's exhibition basketball with the help of Tiffany Reedy, who scored five points in 40 seconds to break a second-half tie, leading the Hawkeyes to a 84-75 win Sunday at the Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

"With six minutes to go, it was 66-67," head coach Karla Nelson said, "and they (Iowa) went on a little bit of a run and took the lead and that was kind of the game."

Junior Jessica Fesenmaier and sophomore Allison Swenson both tallied 16 points for the Dragons while sophomore Melissa Sexton had 12 points.

Swenson made 100 percent of her shots going 3-for-3 from the field and making 10 of 10 from the free-throw

Fesenmaier went 6 of 9 from the field and 4-for-4 from the line. She also added seven rebounds and four blocks to lead the Dragons.

Sexton had all her points coming from the 3-point line where she went

At the half, the Dragons led the Hawkeyes 44-40.

"We handled ourselves very well," Nelson said. "We were kind of unsure of what people would see out of us but we handled the situation great."

From the field the Hawkeyes were outshooting the Dragons 47.1 percent to 44.1 percent at the half.

Crystal Smith led the Hawkeyes with 27 points while Tiffany Reedy and Krista VandeVenter both added 11 points.

Reedy also led the Hawkeyes in rebounds with seven.

The Hawkeyes out shot the Dragons 46.5 percent to 44.6 percent on the game from the field.

"We did some things really well," Nelson said. "So I was just proud of the overall effort."

On Wednesday the Dragons traveled to Seattle University for their first regular season game. Wednesday's game

was not over when The Advocate went to press.

Friday the Dragons will travel to Central Washington (Ellensburg, Wash.) for a 1 p.m. game. Then on Saturday they are off to Seattle Pacific for a game at 5 p.m.

"At this point you just feel good about the things you are doing," Nelson said. "We'll just have to keep improving each day."

> Chura can be reached at churaie@mnstate.edu

WRESTLING

Wrestlers clobber Cobbers

By JEREMY CHURA

Sports Editor

The Dragon wrestling team took to the mats last Wednesday (Nov. 9) and defeated Concordia 40-3 in their first dual of the season.

"It could potentially be one of best Dragons wrestling teams in the last 30 years," head coach Keenan Spiess said of his team. "We got some better talent and we got more upperclassmen."

Senior Dave Burgard pinned Leland Brincefield in four minutes, 21 seconds in the 125-pound class.

"They don't seem to react any differently," Burgard said of having to face wrestlers 10 years younger than him. "I kind of have got used to it now."

"I ran into a few rough spots," Burgard said of his first few matches but he is feeling "pretty good."

Sophomore Troy McFarland beat Kevin McBride by a score of 7-6 in the 133-pound weight class.

Senior Ben Keen defeated John Fradette in the 141-pound division 6-5.

Peter Hayes, a sophomore, beat PJ Mack 3-1.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY:

Volleyball vs. Southwest Minnesota State at Regional Tournament in St. Paul, 5 p.m.

Nov. 18:

Volleyball at Regional Tournament

Men's basketball vs. Johnson & Wales at Chadon (Neb.) Classic, TBA

Women's basketball at Seattle Pacific, TBA

Women's swimming at South Dakota, 6 p.m.

Nov. 19:

Volleyball at Regional
Tournament
Men's basketball vs. Chardon
State at Chadon Classic, TBA
Women's basketball at Central
Washington, TBA
Wrestling at Cobber Open, TBA
Women's swimming at
Nebraska-Omaha, noon
Cross Country at NCAA II
Championships, Pomona, Calif.,
noon

Nov. 22:

Men's basketball vs. Upper Iowa, 7:30 p.m.

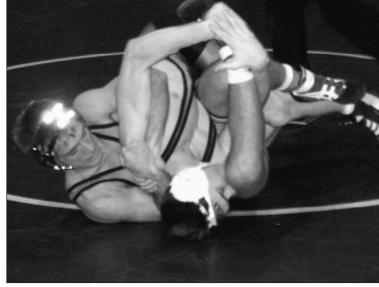
Nov. 23:

Women's basketball vs. Jamestown College, 6 p.m. Wrestling at Augustana, 6 p.m.

WANTED SPORTS EDITOR

The Advocate is now accepting applications for Sports Editor beginning Spring '06.

Drop off your application in The Advocate office in the CMU 110.



CHAD WESSELS / THE ADVOCATE

Freshman Steve Carlon wrestles in the Bison Open on Saturday. Carlon finished fifth in the 133-weight class.

Concordia's Lee Rahrlien beat freshman Tyler Tubbs in the 157-pound division by a score of 6-4.

Junior Nate Baker pinned David Ahmed in three minutes flat in the 165-pound class.

Junior Skip Toops beat Luke Vetsch by a score of 5-3 in the 174-pound class.

Senior Tony Soderberg defeated Tony Neumann in the 184-pound class 10-2.

Freshman Josiah Bush, a 197weight class member, pinned Ed Oehlers in 2:27.

In the heavyweight match, junior Joseph Facchinni pinned Preston Lyles in 3:29.

On Saturday the Dragons participated in the 36th annual Bison Open wrestling meet.

Freshman Steve Carlon placed fifth in the 133-weight class by defeating Dan Kerr of Dickinson State.

Keen came in second in the 141-pound division by falling 10-1 to Manuel Rivera of the University of Minnesota.

Baker finished second to

Concordia's Lee Rahrlien Minnesota's Matt Nagel 3-1 in beat freshman Tyler Tubbs in the 165-pound class.

"I felt really good going into the Bison (Open)," Baker said. "I just couldn't get everything going that I planned."

Sophomore Rockie Stavn placed fifth in the 174-weight class by forfeit over teammate junior Daniel Graham.

Soderberg finished fifth in the 184-pound division by beating teammate freshman Matt Nelson 5-2.

Senior Chris Tuchscherer came in second in the heavy-weight class to Cole Konrad of Minnesota. Tuchscherer got pinned in 3:44.

On Saturday the Dragons will make the trek to Concordia for the Cobber Open at 9 a.m.

"There's always the competition in the room," Spiess said.
"The younger wrestlers pick up things pretty fast."

Chura can be reached at churaje@mnstate.edu

SWIMMING & DIVING

Swimmers place high at St. Cloud Invitational

Advocate staff reports

On Saturday the Dragon swimming and diving team traveled to St. Cloud (Minn.) to participate in the St. Cloud State Invitational.

In the 200-yard freestyle relay, the Dragon team of junior Crysta Johnson, freshman Kristine Loge, freshman Lauren Baalman and freshman Krystle Ross finished fourth.

Sophomore Melissa Erickson finished sixth in the 100-yard backstroke in 1 minute, 7.43 seconds.

In the 100-yard butterfly junior Jenna Nace tied for fourth with a time of 1:03.61.

Baalman finished third in the 200-yard freestyle in 2:03.84 while Johnson was sixth with

a time of 2:07.58. She also placed fifth in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 57.29.

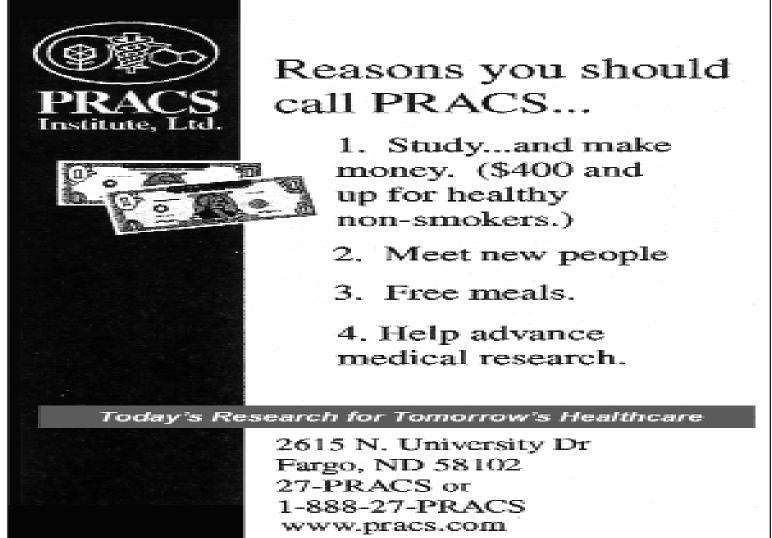
Baalman also placed fourth in the 400-yard individual medley with a time of 4:58.35 while sophomore Barbie Brooks was fifth at 5:01.07.

In the 400-yard medley relay, Brooks, Erickson, Nace and Johnson placed fourth with a final time of 4:21.22.

Junior Sarah Chaussee came in third in the 1-meter diving event with a score of 322.65. Chaussee was also third in the 3-meter with a score of 361.4.

The team of Brooks, Erickson, Nace and Loge finished fifth in the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 1:59.06.





Thursday, November 17, 2005 Page 10, The Advocate

Protection or invasion of privacy?

Students voice concerns over residence hall security debate

By THERESA FLOER

Staff Writer

Four guys, one girl, alcohol and a closed door. Ever wonder what happens behind those walls?

Within their first year of college, many women and even some men, drop out because of untold reasons. Many times the reasons are that they are victims of rape or sexual assault. Think Moorhead is any differ-

According to Campus Security's annual crime report, nearly all incidents of forcible and non-forcible sexual offenses happen in residence halls.

Residence halls are supposed to have a higher level of safety and security than living off campus. Security is boasted as a positive aspect of living on campus, but look at the statis-

The issue of privacy versus security is a sensitive subject. Both director of security, Ferman Woodberry and head of housing Beth Conner said there is still much to discuss.

Campus Security provides a walking security 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, but that doesn't seem to be enough to keep the statistics of crime down on campus. That is because most of the incidents that occur happen within resident halls, said Dahl RA Kemioni Oluwakemi.

"Yes, security should be able to patrol the residence halls, because most incidents that happen on campus are in the resident halls," she said.

Current regulations say an RA has to escort campus security through resident buildings if and when an incident occurs that requires security to report. The concerns students are having are once security has reached the building been escorted to the scene, how much could happen? Presently, residents are asked to look out for one another, but how many would react? There are also concerns regarding the safety of RA's. How many of the female RA's could handle a man double her size?

These are all questions former student senator Adrian Welle wants answers to.

According to Welle, one of the main reasons for not allowing security within resident halls is protection of privacy. Resident halls are looked on as student's homes. However, Welle said a home, whether it's a 3-bedroom apartment or a one-room dorm room, should get the same security.

"In a regular apartment, the streets are allowed to be patrolled by security. What is so different then, to patrol the hallways-the streets of resident's homes?" Welle said security should be there to patrol the hallways to take action when it is needed.

Campus security only wants

to protect residents from becoming statistics. However, freshman resident hall member Emma Dillinger presents a different perspective.

"I would almost feel intimated, even if I wasn't doing anything wrong," she said. "Even though it may make resident halls safer, at the same time it would almost invade my privacy."

Dillinger also believes that security should have a reason to enter the residence halls. "They shouldn't be able to come up anytime they want," she said. "They should only be able to react to problems."

The debate between privacy and safety, or Housing Versus Campus Security, may continue. Student input may be required to reach a conclusion that will both keep students safe and give them the same privacy off-campus students have. Students wishing to voice their opinion should contact Woodbury at 477-5869 or fermanw@mnstate.edu, or Connor at 477-2118 or connerbe@mnstate.edu.

> Floer can be reached at t_flo7@hotmail.com



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Rethinking public policy responses to the misuse of alcohol and other drugs

Thursday, December 1, 2005

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Gaede Stage

Roland Dille Center for the Arts

Minnesota State University Moorhead











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Schedule and Speakers

1:00-1:30 p.m. • Welcome and Opening Remarks

Pamela Jolicocur, President, Concordia College

Susanne Williams, Interim Provost, Tri-College University, and Assistant to the President, Minnesota State University Moorhead

1:30-2:00 p.m. • Keynote Address

Karin L. Walton, Director, North Dakota Higher Education Consortium for Substance Abuse Prevention

2:00-2:20 p.m. • Break

2:20-4:45 p.m. • Moderated Panel Discussion and Audience Q&A **Panelists**

Karin L. Walton, Director, North Dakota Higher Education Consortium for Substance Abuse Prevention

Terry Dwelle, State Health Officer, North Dakota Department of Health

Dianne Mandernach, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health

Joel Kettner, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Manitoba

Doneen Hollingsworth, Secretary of Health, South Dakota

Pamela Jolicocur, President, Concordia College

Roland Barden, President, Minnesota State University Moorhead

George Wallman, Vice President for Student Affairs, North Dakota State University

Dick Schaefer, Director of the Touch Love Center, Fargo, and Licensed Addiction Counselor

Whitney Frahm, Sophomore, English Writing and Mass Communications, Concordia College

Michelle Walter, Junior, Social Work, Minnesota State University Moorhead

Stephanie Martin, Senior, Hospitality and Tourism Management, North Dakota State University

Christopher Magnus, Chief of Police, City of Fargo

Morrie Lanning, (R-9A) Minnesota House of Representatives

George Sinner, Former Governor, State of North Dakota

Moderator: Dick Gross, Deputy Director and Legal Counsel, North Dakota Consensus Council

4:45-5:00 p.m. • Closing Remarks and Observations

George Sinner, Former Governor, State of North Dakota

5:00 p.m. • Reception

Guests may park in lot C or A (enter from 9th Ave. South), next to the Roland Dille Center for the Arts.

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Misc.

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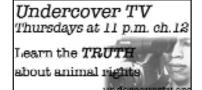
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BACK PAGE

☐ GO, from front

Chen selected Go as the subject for the final paper in his class because most approaches to Artificial Intelligence can be considered in the context of solving the Go puzzle, he said, making it a compelling way to wrap up and discuss the main concepts in the class...

"I hope it will keep students interested, unify many of the concepts in the class and encourage them to have a common goal when they discuss the course material," he said.

Artificial intelligence, AI for short, is the science of trying to make machines or computers seem intelligent, Chen said, "or at least as intelligent as a human being."

Although still in its infancy as a science, he said, the products of AI research are part of today's everyday world, from the spell check on your computer and your bank's ATM machines to medical and automobile engine diagnostic programs to the unmanned Predator spy planes that fly over Afghanistan and Iraq.

"I personally own a robot vacuum cleaner, another product of artificial intelligence" Chen said.

The science behind AI, he said, involves imitating characteristics from human intelligence, then applying them as algorithms in a computer

friendly way.

But what exactly is human intelligence? "Good question," Chen said. "That's part of the mystery still challenging AI: learning more about how humans think."

It wasn't until the development of the electronic computer in 1941 that technology was available to create machine intelligence.

Science fiction was quick to latch on to the early hype, creating the evil Hal 9000 computer in the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey" and the congenial R2-D2 from "Star Wars."

Then in 1997, when IBM's one and a half ton Deep Blue computer beat world chess champion Garry Kasparov, AI came to the attention of the world as a very real possibility.

Computers mastered chess, Chen said, because they could be programmed to leverage a moderate amount of chess knowledge with a huge amount of blind, high-speech searching power.

That kind of search power, however, isn't very useful against Go, a game that thrives on subtle strategies, complex patterns and the kind of intuitive knowledge humans excel

Go is a deceptively simple game with the object of capturing and defending territoIt requires a deep understanding of human intelligence and how that works or comes about. ... Only as more insights come about will we be able

to determine how to apply that to the field of artificial intelligence.

Andrew Chen

Computer science professor

ry, Chen said. It's played on a board divided into a grid of 19 horizontal and 19 vertical lines. Two players, one with 181 black stones and the other with 180 white stones, take turns placing their stones on the intersections of the grid.

In Japan, Korea and China, whole schools have been created where people devote their entire life to the game. Newspapers cover Go tournaments regularly and each of the countries has Go channels on cable television.

The rules of Go can be learned in minutes, Chen said, but it can take a lifetime to master the game's depth and complexity.

"One reason computers can't play a competitive game of Go with even an average player is that there are too many possible moves to consider," Chen said. "Another reason is that it is difficult for a computer to look at an in-progress game and determine who is winning and by how much. Skirmishes are occurring all over the board."

To win at Go, Chen said, a computer must be endowed with the ability to recognize subtle, complex patterns and to draw on the kind of intuitive knowledge that is the hallmark of human intelligence, including that ineffable concept of common sense and the basic logic of learning from mistakes and successes.

That, Chen said, will involve research in several specialized branches of AI, including genetic algorithms, probability theory and evolutionary computations.

"It requires a deep understanding of human intelligence and how that works or comes about," he said. "The field of cognitive science has been leading that trail of research and only as more insights come about will we be able to determine how to apply that to the field of artificial intelligence."

Chen said another course offered at MSUM next semester, the Philosophy of the Mind, also addresses those issues from different perspectives.

Meanwhile, Chen's class, will concentrate on the basics of AI, from learning how to think in a methodical, precise and nonambiguous manner necessary to imagine how a computer might "think," to understanding the principles involved in problem solving.

The class is open to any student interested in the subject and doesn't require programming skills.

"But it's a 400-level course," he said, "so evaluation of student performance will focus on comprehension and understanding of concepts, the ability to solve problems, and the ability to integrate knowledge".

Go, a game that rewards patience and balance over aggression and greed, may offer insights into understanding its own complexity.

"For the field of AI to progress will require the transference of knowledge about how natural biological intelligence occurs to the process of making artificial intelligence. It's an incredibly complex puzzle."

AI researchers may have learned a lesson from an old Chinese proverb: "Chess is a battle, but Go is war."

We've won some battles, Chen said, but the war is far from over.

☐ RITCHIE, from front

Ritchie is hoping to work with students to find the campuses where students had the most problems with voting and fix them. He also plans to speak out against proposals that make it difficult for students to vote and to let students know what's going on with the state as far as voting opportunities and the importance of voting.

Emily Wolf, Ritchie's campus organizer, has been helping him get the word out about his campaign by getting in touch with campus organizations and individuals. Ritchie thinks it's important to involve students in his campaign because they have a history of being essential to many grassroots movements.

"Students bring a perspective of the future that's crucial to a grassroots campaign," he said.

Students who wish to get involved in Ritchie's campaign can find out more at his Web site, www.MarkRitchie06.net.

Young can be reached at youngli@mnstate.edu.



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