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The Bulletin (Newsletter/Journal)

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5-1975

## The Bulletin, volume 75, number 2, May (1975)

Moorhead State College

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### Recommended Citation

Moorhead State College, "The Bulletin, volume 75, number 2, May (1975)" (1975). *The Bulletin (Newsletter/Journal)*. 133.

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# a LETTER to PARENTS of moorhead state college students office of the president

We are reaching the end of another academic year. Commencement, originally scheduled for Saturday, May 24, will be held on Friday afternoon, May 23. As we neared the end of the fiscal year we realized that we should avoid the added expense of a Saturday's overtime pay for the staff who have to prepare Nemzek Fieldhouse for the exercises.

There was a brief flurry of student objection at the loss of a day of study for final examinations, and I was reminded of all the Mays in the past when student protests on campuses around the country made life so difficult for college administrators. Not that I needed such a reminder; in recent weeks, as the last act of the Viet Nam tragedy was played out, those of us on college campuses remembered the years of protest, years not so very long ago but so different in mood from today as to seem to belong to a distant past.

Parents of graduating seniors will recognize the accomplishments of their sons and daughters as a triumph of hope. Colleges are dedicated to the futures of the young people who come to them; in good times and in bad, in years when expectations of the future are high and in years when expectations are muted, it is hope that makes the college enterprise important and worthwhile to those of us involved in education.

This letter goes to parents of students who have been accepted into next fall's freshman class. You know, better than anyone, how complicated has become the decision as to whether or not to go to college. Unemployment and inflation, doubts about the job market and rising costs of education it is these that make the decision difficult and not, I hope, doubts about the value of learning.

Last summer, back at the small town where I grew up, I watched the wrecking of the school building where I had spent so many years. The north wall had been knocked down and I could look

directly into the classrooms, into the room on the first floor where I had started kindergarten a few months after the Crash of 1929, into the room on the second floor, which had been my ninth grade home room in the year of Munich; and into the third floor where we had tried to study English on the day after Pearl Harbor. I had gone off to that war, but I had also gone on studying English and teaching it.

It is no doubt a sign of age to remember one's private life in the context of public events, but it is useful to me to think of the disasters that both I and the world survived and to remember that education not only helps us to understand history but also helps us to meet the challenges of every age.

Our young people will make the history of their own time. They will make errors, they will act unwisely, as people always have. Whatever has caused error, whatever has led to unwise action, it has not been that people have known too much, have understood too well. There has, in short, never been a time when there has been too much education.

## College Costs

Rising costs have come to education as they have to every other part of American life. By the time this letter reaches you, we will know what our tuition charges will be for next year. Governor Anderson had asked that tuition be frozen, but the Legislature, in putting together the budgets for many state programs, found this to be impossible. At this moment, it would seem that we can expect about an eleven percent increase.

Charges for room and board have already been established for next year. For a double room with 21 meals a week, charges will go from \$993 for this year to \$1161 for next year. Next year, for the first time, it will be possible for students to choose a 10-meal food plan. The cost



will be \$63 less for the year than the regular plan. The reasons for the increase are, of course, obvious: higher food costs, higher prices for fuel oil and electricity, and an increase in wages for custodial and food service workers.

Rising costs, are, unfortunately, not new in higher education. In 1964-65 tuition for the year for an undergraduate student who was a Minnesota resident was \$191.25. In ten years it has increased 88 percent to \$360 this past year.

Ten years ago the total annual cost for educating a student at Moorhead State College was \$814.00, of which the student paid 30 percent in the form of tuition and the State appropriated the remaining 70 percent. This year the annual cost reached \$1790.00 (a 120 percent increase) with the student paying 25 percent of the cost.

Following is a comparison of some of the basic student costs:

**Annual College Costs - 1964-65 and 1974-75**

Item	1964-65	1974-75	% Increase
Tuition	\$191.25	\$360.00	88%
Student Activity Fees	45.00	108.00	140%
Room and Board	660.00	993.00	50%
Total	\$896.25	\$1461.00	63%

Some of the reasons the college activity fees have risen 140 percent are that students now enjoy the benefits of a \$2.5 million dollar Student Union and they are provided health services, neither of which were available in 1964-65.

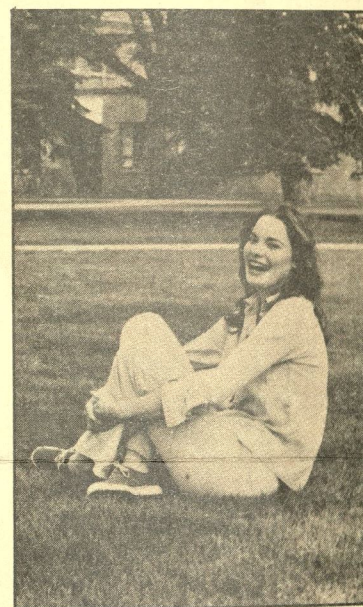
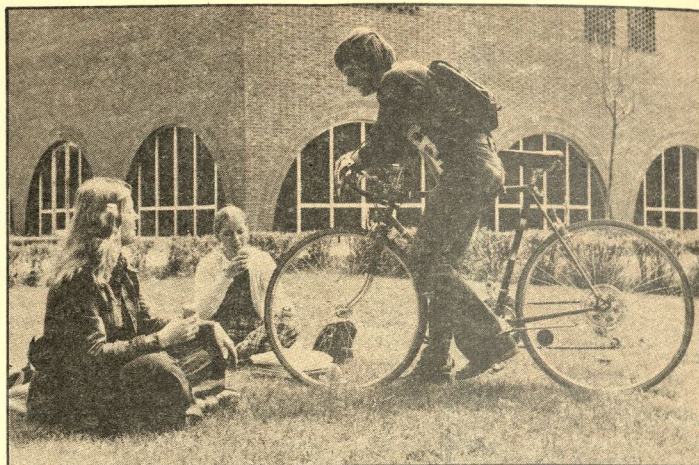
The room and board rate compares favorably with the nation's colleges and universities and is competitive in the local private housing market, which is one of the reasons nearly 2000 students have chosen to live in residence halls on campus.

Rising costs make us ask searching questions about what we are getting for our money. As you can guess, this is one of my favorite topics. Let me be specific about two programs.

## Foreign Languages

Following the Second World War and later after Sputnik, the Russian accomplishment that made us ask so many questions about American education, the study of foreign languages became very popular. In recent years, despite everyone's knowledge of our complex international relations and our hopes for international understanding, the study of foreign languages has fallen off. There is now evidence that more students are choosing to learn other languages.

At Moorhead we offer French, German, Spanish, and Norwegian. Norwegian is the most recent addition and it is also the fastest growing. Along with courses in language, it is possible to take courses in the history, literature and culture



of Norway and the Norwegian-American Immigrant experience as parts of a minor in Scandinavian Studies.

Spanish can be taken in a major program and also as part of the Latin American Studies Program, which offers a wide range of courses in Central and South American areas of study.

All language teaching at Moorhead makes use of technology. German has carried the new techniques farthest, with video-taped classroom presentations, audio-tape reinforcement in the language lab, and computerized self-instruction and drills.

## Change in Liberal Education

About a year ago several national educators announced a new project called Change in Liberal Education. The project called for proposals that would improve the teaching of liberal education — chiefly in the general studies required of all students regardless of major — and that would



## EVENTS CALENDAR

### June 8-22

Tri-College Summer Chamber Music Workshop.  
MSC and Concordia Campuses

### June 9, 7:30 p.m.

Film—Weld Hall Auditorium, Free

### June 16-30

Senior Art Show - Kristi Swee, CA Art Gallery

### June 16, 7:30 p.m.

Film—Weld Hall Auditorium, Free

### June 23, 7:30 p.m.

Film—Weld Hall Auditorium, Free

### June 25-28, 8:40 p.m.

Straw Hat Players, *Ah, Wilderness* by  
Eugene O'Neill - CA Auditorium

### June 30, 7:30 p.m.

Film—Weld Hall Auditorium, Free

### July 2-5, 8:40 p.m.

Straw Hat Players *Finishing Touches* by  
Jean Kerr - CA Auditorium

### July 7-11

Firebird Cheerleader Camp

### July 7, 7:30 p.m.

Film—Weld Hall Auditorium, Free

### July 9-12, 8:40 p.m.

Straw Hat Players *The Good Doctor* by  
Neil Simon - CA Auditorium

### July 14-25

Senior Art Show, Ms. Sally Hornbacher, CA  
Art Gallery

### July 14, 7:30 p.m.

Film—Weld Hall Auditorium, Free

### July 16-19, 8:40 p.m.

Straw Hat Players *The Championship Season*  
by Jason Miller - CA Auditorium

### July 21, 7:30 p.m.

Film—Weld Hall Auditorium, Free

### July 23-26, 8:40 p.m.

Straw Hat Players *Scapino!* by Frank  
Dunlop & Jim Dale - CA Auditorium

### July 28-August 8

Senior Art Show - John Fogg, CA Art Gallery

### July 28, 7:30 p.m.

Film—Weld Hall Auditorium, Free

### July 30-August 2

Straw Hat Players *When You Comin' Back,  
Red Ryder?* by Mark Rydell - CA Auditorium

### August 4, 7:30 p.m.

Film—Weld Hall Auditorium, Free

### August 6-9, 8:40 p.m.

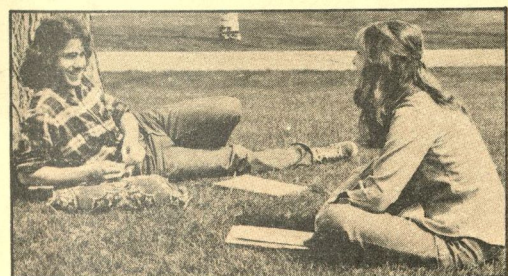
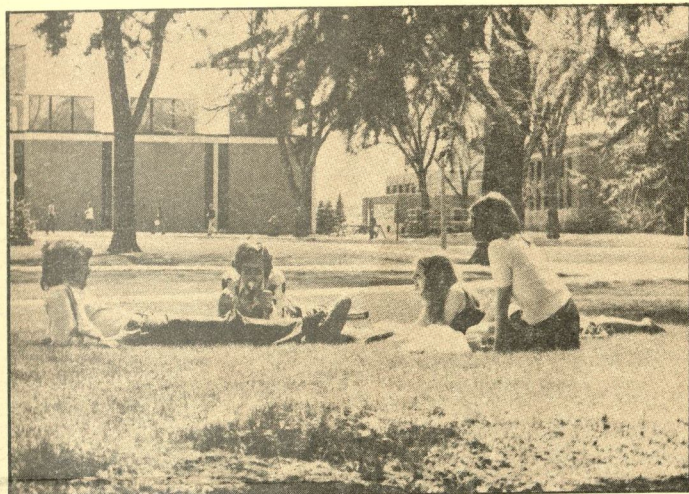
Straw Hat Players *Stop the World, I Want  
to Get Off* by Leslie Bricusse & Anthony  
Newley - CA Auditorium

### August 11-15

Pepster All-Star Cheerleading Conference

### August 11

Film—Weld Hall Auditorium, Free



influence other colleges to make changes. About 200 proposals were submitted and 23 were finally selected for the project, including the one submitted from Moorhead State.

Our program, which will be developed over the next year, will provide the full freshman year's work for about 200 students. Students will study six periods of change and conflict, beginning with primitive times and ending with the future.

The study of primitive times will begin with two weeks in the wilderness of northern Minnesota where students will be put through the experience of creating communities and given insights into the origins of law, of science, of literature and the arts, and of social organization. Throughout the year, students will play roles that will lead them to reenact the experiences of people in each of the periods studied.

This seems to me to be an exciting program, and it gives me a good deal of satisfaction to have it receive national recognition.



With the Bicentennial celebration now officially underway, there are many activities of the College directed toward a consideration of the past. Moorhead State was, so far as I can tell, the first college in the country to begin a Bicentennial project with the first of its four Bicentennial Summers in 1973. In giving official recognition to the project, Lieutenant-Governor Rudy Perpich, chairman of the Minnesota Bicentennial Commission, praised the program saying, "Not only was this the first Bicentennial program to be operational in Minnesota, but it was developed and launched entirely by those at Moorhead State without any assistance from federal or state Bicentennial agencies. We consider it a privilege to endorse it as an official Bicentennial project."

During the first summer, special attention was given in classes, lectures, and other activities to The Great Plains: Past, Present and Future. Last summer the topic was The Great Depression and this summer the topic will be Our Ethnic Heritage.

An important part of our celebration is an Old-Fashioned Fourth of July, which will be held again this year and to which you all are, of course, invited.

## Straw Hat Players

No one can talk about summer at Moorhead State without mentioning the Straw Hat Players, the summer drama series of our Theatre Department. More than 14,000 people attend the plays each

summer, in the series now in its eleventh season. Among the plays that will be offered this summer are Eugene O'Neill's *Ah, Wilderness* which opens the season on June 25, Jean Kerr's *Finishing Touches* which runs from July 2-5, Neil Simon's *The Good Doctor*, July 9-12; *That Championship Season* by Jason Miller, July 16-19; *Scapino!*, July 23-26, *When You Coming Back, Red Ryder?*, by Mark Rydell, July 30-August 2; and the hit musical, *Stop the World I Want to Get Off*, August 6-9.

## Pre-registration

A summer pre-registration period has been scheduled for Monday, July 21 through Friday, July 25 for new freshmen and transfer students. Information about the pre-registration period will be forwarded in June. It is an excellent opportunity for our new students to become more familiar with our campus community. If it is not convenient to pre-register in July, you will be able to register during the two-day orientation and registration period on Monday and Tuesday, September 8-9. Classes begin on Wednesday, September 10.

Parents and students are always welcome to visit the campus anytime throughout the year. We would be pleased to arrange appointments in advance of your visit with faculty members or the administration.

*Rolene Dille*

the BULLETIN  
moorhead state college  
moorhead mn 56560

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