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## The Advocate, December 13, 2007

Minnesota State University Moorhead

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# The ADVOCATE

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

## IFO works to avoid faculty strike

### MnSCU reps deal with union to negotiate professors' contracts

By **ALYSSA SCHAFFER**

Editor

MSUM faculty might go on strike if contract negotiations don't go well in the next few months.

"Currently, the negotiations for a contract have broken down," MSUM Inter Faculty Organization (IFO) Faculty Association President Cindy Phillips said.

IFO is the union that represents faculty from the seven four-year universities in the MnSCU system, including MSUM, she said.

MSUM's faculty work under two-year contracts, and since IFO faculty contracts

expired on June 30, the IFO has been dealing with a group of MnSCU administrative negotiators.

A "Negotiations Report," written earlier this month, said: "After many meetings negotiating with the MnSCU team, it has become clear we have reached an impasse."

Because of the breakdown in contract negotiations, a mediator is being brought in, but there is still the possibility of a faculty strike, said Phillips, who is also an MSUM accounting professor.

According to Minnesota state documents, the Public Employment Labor Relations Act (PELRA) sets the terms and conditions for negotia-

tions between public employee unions like IFO and Minnesota public employers like MnSCU.

"Under PELRA, it is indeed possible for a union such as ours to strike," Phillips said. "A strike would come if we were negotiating a contract and we failed to reach an agreement."

IFO and MnSCU negotiators will meet with a mediator during the spring semester, but there is some concern that the new legislative session might negatively impact negotiations.

"It's hard to know what kind of pressure the legislature might bring to bear on the situation," MSUM Dean of Arts

and Humanities and MnSCU administrative representative Kathleen Enz Finken said.

However, the negotiations have gone well, so far, Enz Finken said.

"This bargaining session was probably the most civilized and productive session we've had in a long time," she said.

Economics professor and IFO negotiator Oscar Flores-Ibarra said he believes the contract will be settled when negotiations resume some time in late January or February.

"As far as I know, there is no date set for the negotiations at this time," he said.

Schafer can be reached at [schaal@mnstate.edu](mailto:schaal@mnstate.edu).



### Celebrate with Scorch

Compete to win a \$20 gift certificate to the Bookstore from our coloring contest

FEATURES, PAGE 3



### Finals frustration

Stress of final exams takes a toll on struggling, tired students

OPINION, PAGE 4

## Walking around the mistletoe

### Media blitz makes MSUM holiday news in 1989



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Former MSUM President Roland Dille, dressed as Santa Claus, shows his Christmas spirit as he listens to the holiday wishes of two children. Dille was involved in the 1989 MSUM "Mistletoe Crisis."

By **TIM STULKEN**

Staff Writer

"Mistletoe hung where you can see; every couple tries to stop. Rockin' around the Christmas tree," are lyrics from the Christmas classic, "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree."

This song has been a holiday favorite for years, but the mistletoe mentioned might not be the fun holiday gimmick it is made out to be. MSUM learned this the hard way in 1989.

In what Former MSUM President Roland Dille would later call, "The Mistletoe Crisis," campus received international media attention for banning mistletoe.

"People thought that I was being too politically correct and some people felt that I was being anti-Christmas," Dille said.

In 1989, psychology professor Margaret Potter questioned mistletoe's effects when the department secretary hung some mistletoe in the office.

"A couple of other faculty and I were talking about the fact that perhaps this wasn't the best thing to have in a high-traffic area," Potter said. "I suggested to the secretary and the department chair that this big clump of mistletoe be moved, but they didn't see that as necessary."

Potter thought the mistletoe might promote sexual harassment or inappropriate workplace behavior among professors, students and colleagues.

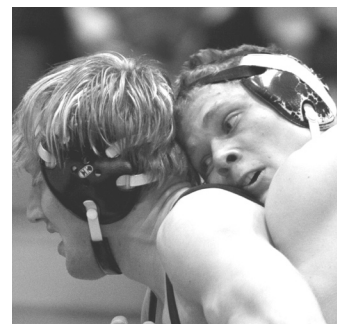
TO MISTLETOE, BACK PAGE



### Tuning in to MSUM

Residence hall TV channel shows student-selected movies

A&E, PAGE 8



### Wrestling time

Dragons overcome the Cobbers with eight wins, set their sights on top ten

SPORTS, PAGE 9



## Security Report

11.27-12.3

- 12.4 Suspicious odors in Snarr
- 12.4 Suspicious odors in Library
- 12.5 911 hang-up in CMU
- 12.6 Computer misuse in Library
- 12.6 Suspicious odors in Snarr
- 12.6 Vandalism in Holmquist
- 12.6 Motor vehicle accident on 9th Avenue and 14th Street
- 12.6 Motor vehicle accident on 9th Avenue
- 12.6 Animal at large in Lot S
- 12.6 Suspicious odors in Snarr
- 12.7 Assist MPD in Grantham
- 12.7 Assault on officer in Lot E
- 12.7 Alcohol/ narcotics offenses in Snarr
- 12.8 Theft/ larceny in Grantham
- 12.8 Noise complaint in Holmquist
- 12.9 Parking violation in Lot E
- 12.10 Vandalism in Grantham

### Advocate meetings 4:30 p.m. Mondays in CMU 110

The Advocate would like to invite any interested students to their weekly meetings in The Advocate office. Pick up an application today and apply to be a sports writer, staff writer, cartoonist or photographer. Fun times!

### Students inducted in Spanish honors

The Upsilon Sigma chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society at MSUM, inducted eight new members on Nov. 15.

Those inducted were: Kate Shorma, Deborah Pestka, Stephanie Simonson, Julie Laqua, Amy Kurash, Chesa Schultz, Jen Enquist and Emily Schraw.

These students have been recognized for their devotion and love for the Spanish language and the culture of Spanish speaking cultures, but particularly for their academic success at the university.

### FirstLink hotline looks for volunteers

FirstLink is looking for volunteers to answer our 24-hour a day hotline and suicide line. Benefits include experience in the human service field, expanding your resume, gaining knowledge of community resources, extensive training and working with a diverse population.

The winter training session begins Jan. 5. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Jenny at (701) 293-6462 or jennyn@myfirstlink.org to schedule an interview.

### 460 to graduate this winter semester

MSUM will award degrees to more than 460 graduates during its winter commencement program at 2 p.m. Dec. 21 at Alex Nemzek Fieldhouse.

Commencement speaker is State Representative Brita Sailer (DFL-Park Rapids), a 1975 MSUM art graduate now serving her second term in the Minnesota House representing District 2B.



KAYLA WHITAKER / THE ADVOCATE

Junior Brady Moen, left, and sophomore Brandon Heimer play "finger swords" while members of the Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU) leadership team look on.

### Film students debut short works

Come check out MSUM Film Studies Final Screenings. Beginning Filmmaking will showcase their work at 6:30 p.m. today (Thursday), Video Production will screen at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Techniques of Directing will present at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, and 16mm Film production's work will show at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

All screenings are free and open to the public and will be held in Weld Auditorium.

### PSEO students should not sell books

This is a friendly reminder to PSEO students to not sell their PSEO course books at book buy-back. They must return their books to the office in the Bookstore as soon as they are done using them during finals week.

If they do not return their books to the Bookstore, they will be responsible for paying the cost of the books.

### Painting Guild holds sale

Members of the MSUM Painting Guild will be holding a holiday sale today (Thursday) Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Center for the Arts gallery foyer.

The art sale will primarily consist of art student work from the MSUM painting classes and some pieces from the art and design faculty donation. The sale will include a variety of subject matter including figurative, landscape and abstraction.

### Buyback ends on Wednesday

The Bookstore, along with the Nebraska Book Company, will host the Fall semester buyback Monday through Wednesday.

Please bring with the textbook any CD's, manuals, booklets, etc. that came with the textbook, even if they were not used or required for the class.

Please check before selling back a book that you are not taking the continuation class in spring 2008.

### Exhibit showcases student work

A collection of photographs featuring the town of Cooperstown, N.D., will be on display from now until Dec. 28 in the Library, an exhibit inspired by a Frank Gohlke, who presented a workshop at the university this fall.

The photographs were taken in a single day—Oct. 20—by 13 students, Gohlke and mass communications professor Wayne Gudmundson.

## The ADVOCATE

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www.mnstate.edu/advocate

The Advocate is published weekly during the academic year, except during final examination and vacation periods. 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 at The Advocate office in CMU Room 110 or e-mailed to us at [advocate@mnstate.edu](mailto: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.

"If you looked like Janice Dickinson, you'd be mad all the time, too."

The Advocate is prepared for publication by Minnesota State University Moorhead students and is printed by Davon Press, West Fargo, N.D.

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The Advocate is always looking for talented writers, photographers, columnists and illustrators. Meetings are held at 4:30 p.m. every Monday in CMU 110.

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

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Illustrators: John Berdahl, Nicole Nelson, Derrick Paulson

### SECURITY UPDATE

Director of Campus Security Michael Parks



## Officer assaulted

By AMY LEARN

Staff Writer

### Officer assaulted

A student patrol officer was violently assaulted by another student at 2:30 a.m. on Dec. 7 in Lot E. The officer, while on patrol, noticed a car stuck in the snow. When he went over to help, the very intoxicated driver of the vehicle snapped.

The driver punched, kicked and pushed the officer. The officer suffered minor injuries and the driver was formally charged. The records show that he received second degree DUI, fifth degree assault, and an alcohol offense.

### Broken door

Campus security is looking for the individuals who vandalized the north door in Holmquist. They received the report at 8 a.m. on Dec. 6.

The door was broken as well as the window. If anyone has any information, please contact campus security.

### Partnership works

The MSUM housing staff and campus security work as a team to solve residential issues.

"We work in partnership. They do a good job of letting us know what is going on," Parks said.

An example of the teamwork happened on Dec. 12 around 1 a.m., when a resident assistant in Nelson contacted campus security about underage drinking taking place on her floor.

The Moorhead Police were called in, and the three females and one male all received minor in consumption.

Learn can be reached at [AmyL228@hotmail.com](mailto:AmyL228@hotmail.com).

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ILLUSTRATION BY KENNETH BUTLER

## Dragon 'Claws'

(The Advocate coloring contest)

The Advocate has its own coloring contest for willing participants. Blow off some stress from finals with this holiday rendition of MSUM's mascot (Scorch) and slip it under the door of CMU 110, the Advocate office, by 5 p.m. on Dec. 21. Please include your contact information.

The winner will be announced in the Jan. 10 Advocate. Winners will receive respect from The Advocate editorial staff and a \$20 gift certificate to the MSUM Bookstore. Students, faculty and staff are invited to participate in the contest.

## Luo frees the koi with a final splash

SEGMENT 3

Luo was tossed back into reality as the koi started flopping and flailing in his arms, struggling to breathe.

"Hold on. We're almost there," Luo said.

He felt himself losing grip, and tried to tighten his arms. He could feel his aquatic friend cringing.

Traveling as fast as he could with a hundred-pound koi, he didn't lose motivation.

With the pier now in sight, Luo heard voices behind him. Slightly turning his head, he saw Mr. Chang and his wife, the owners of the restaurant trailing behind him, waving their fists in the air.

Knowing that his job was no longer existent, a race ensued. The Chang's were not far behind.

"You deserve better, big guy," he whispered to the fish.

Luo heard a faint, painful, bubble come from his arms. "Big girl." Luo didn't even entertain the idea that this gigantic, finned creature could be feminine.

He glanced down at her, noticing her glowing golden scales; the white on her scales now gone. "What's going on? What's happening to you?!"

He approached the pier, finding his way to the water.

Luo heard the Changs screaming. "You give us back that fish! That fish is not yours!"

Luo lowered the koi into the water as gently as he could. "There! Swim away, quick!" But the koi, now in the water, turned its head to him, just treading water in place.

"Leave! They'll catch you!" No response.

Thousands of glossy, golden bubbles started emerging, surrounding the koi, as the koi's glow radiated stronger, rippling through the water, turning it metallic as well. Luo's jaw hung open. He resembled a fish, himself.

"Thank you," said the koi. "Uh, you're welcome..." Luo could barely speak.

"Because of your kindness and selflessness, you have saved me. I must return to my home now, but good things will come your way. I wasn't lying when I said you would be rewarded."

With that, the koi vanished, and Luo stood as the angry Mr. and Mrs. Chang yelled. "You are fired." That was all that was said, their faces set with anger and disdain.

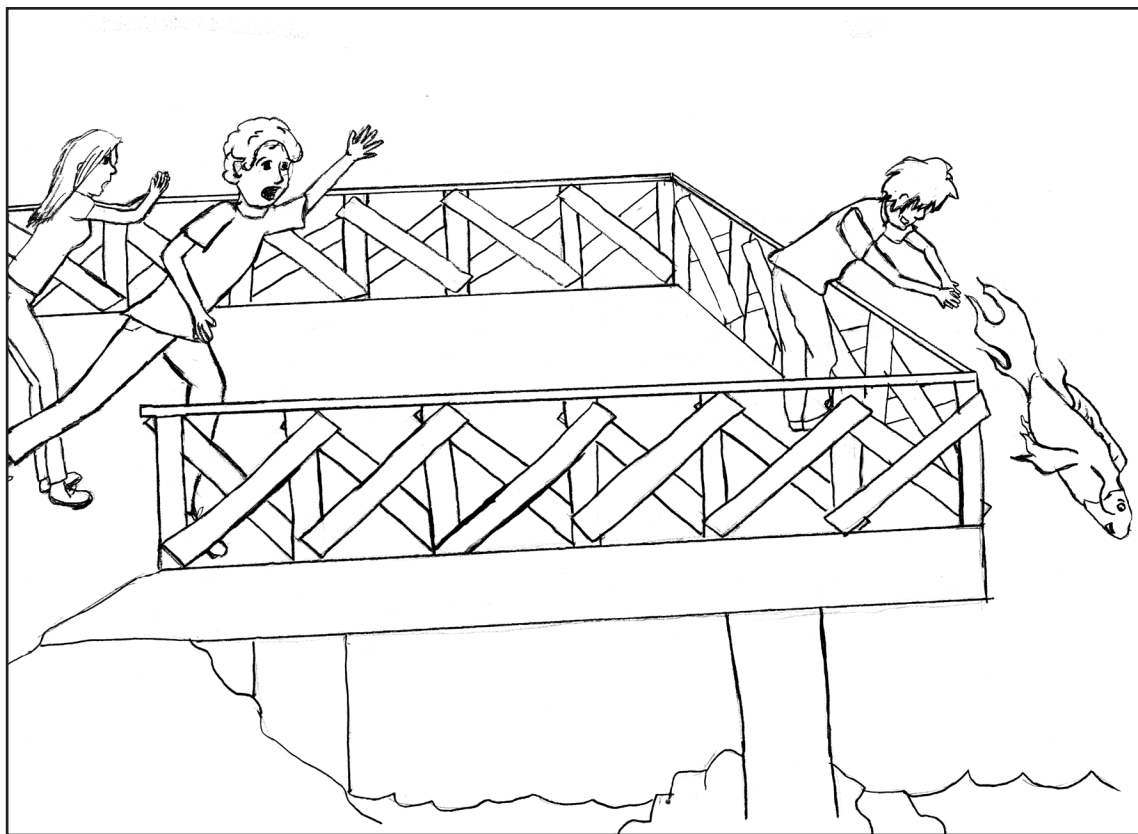
Luo hung his head, put his hands in his pockets and began walking home. He couldn't afford to lose his job, but knowing he saved the koi was worth it.

Just then, he realized there was something in his hand. He quickly pulled his fist from his pocket and opened it to find a wad of hundred dollar bills... and a gold scale.

He looked back at the water to see a flash, hear a splash, then nothing. He smiled to himself as he continued home.

The end.

This segment was written by sophomore Ashley Taborsky.



BRITTANY KNUDSON / THE ADVOCATE

The Advocate has begun a creative writing project in the hopes of garnering reader participation in the newspaper. An ongoing story written by members of the MSUM community will be published weekly. Interested students, faculty and staff should e-mail [advocate@mnstate.edu](mailto:advocate@mnstate.edu) for a chance to write their segment. Although Luo's fishy tale is complete, beginning with the Jan. 10 Advocate, a new creative writing piece will be started.

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## Advocate editorial board

Alyssa Schafer  
Editor

Ben Sailer  
Opinion Editor

# Finals are stressful, but don't have to be miserable

As of this writing, we're currently in the midst of finishing up the last issue of The Advocate for the semester, and that can mean only one thing: Finals are here.

For many, those last three words are a cause for panic and hysteria. With so many tests to study for, projects to work on, and not nearly enough time to get it all done (at least that's the way it feels), it's not hard to quickly begin to feel burned out. It's not uncommon for students to hit an academic wall after being placed under so much pressure after several grueling months of classes throughout the semester.

Fall semester finals can be especially shocking for freshman who have never faced the hard reality of end of semester exams in a college setting before. Finals are stressful for everyone, but even more so for those who don't know what to expect.

If you happen to be a freshmen charging headlong into the final exam period, there are some things you can do to make the experience less painful for yourself: Get plenty of rest and set aside an adequate amount of time for yourself to study.

It might be hard to do when your life is full of many other things to distract you, but this is a time you really do need to buckle down and get things done.

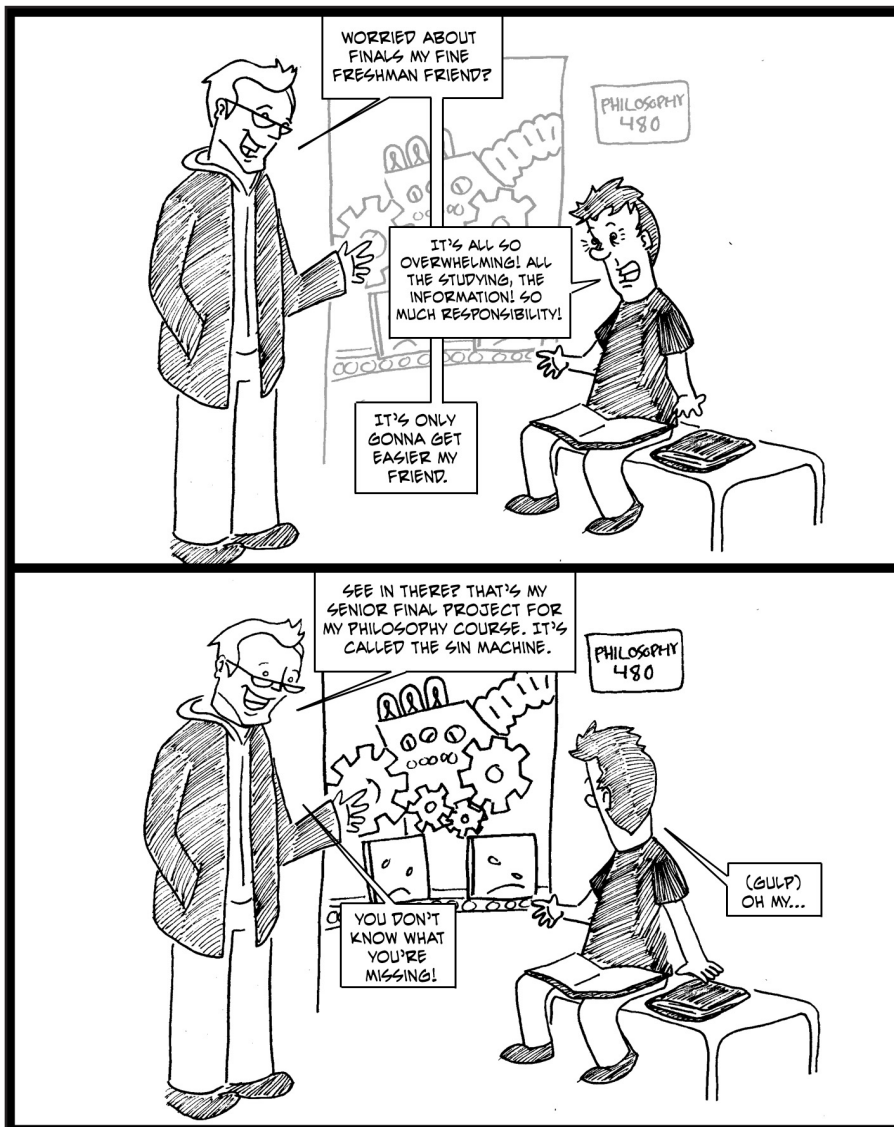
It might help to find a quiet place to study. There are plenty of secluded places in the Library where you can study undisturbed. If you study better with other people around (because some people actually do), you might want to try to limit the number of people you have around you in your study space. Finding someone else in your class to study with is always a winning strategy too.

If you're worried you won't be able to survive under the sheer weight of your workload this time of year, just remember you'll stand a far greater shot at success if you just work as hard as you can, rather than procrastinate and cause yourself unnecessary additional stress.

With that said, we here at The Advocate wish you all the best of luck. We'll see you again in January.

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](mailto:advocate@mnstate.edu).

Illustrations by John Berdahl / The Advocate



# Is God still allowed?

## Reader feels God's presence fading

Yes, I could be wrong about this. The last link to God: On the surface, it doesn't seem right. What I'm thinking about is that music on our campus may be the last link to God that is "allowed." The theme of God and His works has endured in music for a long time.

It's even in some of the music that I am not personally drawn to. But, I think now of the classical stuff from a hundred or more years ago. Of course, there is a lot of contemporary Christian music being pumped out that does not attract me, except for the truth I hear in the words.

In our choirs and some of our orchestral and band

works, we are still allowed to make about and sing about God.

It may be allowed in some of the poetry written today too. I am not aware. I hope it is allowed in our theology department. Sorry, I haven't talked to them much about it.

This may be too narrow of me for not knowing.

I hear that most of our early American universities were founded on the truths discussed in the Bible. That's way back to most of us.

I had a lot of doubts about God and His existence when I was much younger and getting out of the Navy. I was around some smart people who thought this way. I felt

of lost and uncomfortable. I regained some security when singing in a community and university chorale thing while I was UND and failing in my pre-med program (I like the sciences, but not a great student, partly because I'm readingly challenged).

I hope others write in and tell me that God is "allowed," live and well in other departments here on campus. I truly enjoy my time here and feel I'm partly wrong in this concern for God's fading presence.

Gary N. Skorheim  
MSUM student

# Police ride-along fun, informative

## Quiet night for local law enforcement

By doing a ride-along with a police officer, one can gain insight into what it is like on a typical day in local law enforcement, as I did.

In order to accompany a police officer for a ride-along for a four-hour block of time, I had to first undergo and pass a background check. The police department checked for both a criminal history and traffic related offenses against me. Once I had completed and passed the check, the Moorhead Police Department called me back to set up a date and time for the ride along to occur.

Last Friday, I chose to do a ride-along with the Moorhead



Sherry Witt  
Columnist

Police Department from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. with one of the Moorhead police officers.

The start of the four-hour shift was a quiet one.

There were five police officers on duty with little calls or incidences. At 11 p.m. the police force was expanded to 11 or 12 officers.

Also, around 10:30 p.m., we responded to our first and only call of the night. The call that we responded to was dealing with a smell of narcotics

coming from an apartment in a complex on the south side of town. The possession of narcotics is not only a problem in the community, but it has been a problem this semester here at MSUM, according to the security report, and a Moorhead K-9 officer who has responded to calls at MSUM.

After responding to this call, there were a few calls and some traffic stops between 11:30 p.m. and 2 a.m.

Overall, it was a quiet and insightful night.

Been on a ride-along?  
E-mail Witt  
at [sherry.witt@gmail.com](mailto:sherry.witt@gmail.com).



## Community creates holiday spirit

Christmas cheer still sparkles in small Minnesota towns. Those of us who live in places like Willmar, Moorhead and Albert Lea don't need "the ghosts of Christmas" to visit us in our sleep in order to inspire the Christmas spirit, as Charles Dickens resorted to with the hard-hearted Ebenezer Scrooge character in "A Christmas Carol."

Instead, a plethora of local practices builds traditions.

"I got to hide the pickle on the Christmas tree this year," my friend and coworker Liz exclaimed.

This is a German custom,

where adults hide a pickle (now an ornament shaped like a pickle) on the tree, and whichever child finds it first gets a prize.

Until this year I didn't appreciate the feel that our community creates for Christmas.

Last week, I ran into the local grocery store, Hornbacher's. The radio said the temperature was "hovering around the donut," a.k.a. zero degrees, so I left my keys in the car to be sure it would still be running



Leigh Wilson-Mattson  
*Columnist*

when I returned; like the usual small-town resident, I fully expected it to be there when I returned. I dashed inside, greeted by the Salvation Army bell ringer, who is the local police chief (who also goes to my church).

"Well, hi there, Leigh," he began, before proceeding to fill me in on which football

teams were playing that night and whom he was rooting for.

Winter sports in Minnesota bring up another local custom: the ice house.

"My dad parked the ice house on the front lawn," a friend of mine said over dinner, "and plugged in the space heater and invited his friends over to have a beer."

Another friend at the table chimed in: "Mine did that, too!" Forget about watching to see if the birds are flying south for the winter; we in Minnesota just keep an eye out for the ice fishermen moving off the front lawns and

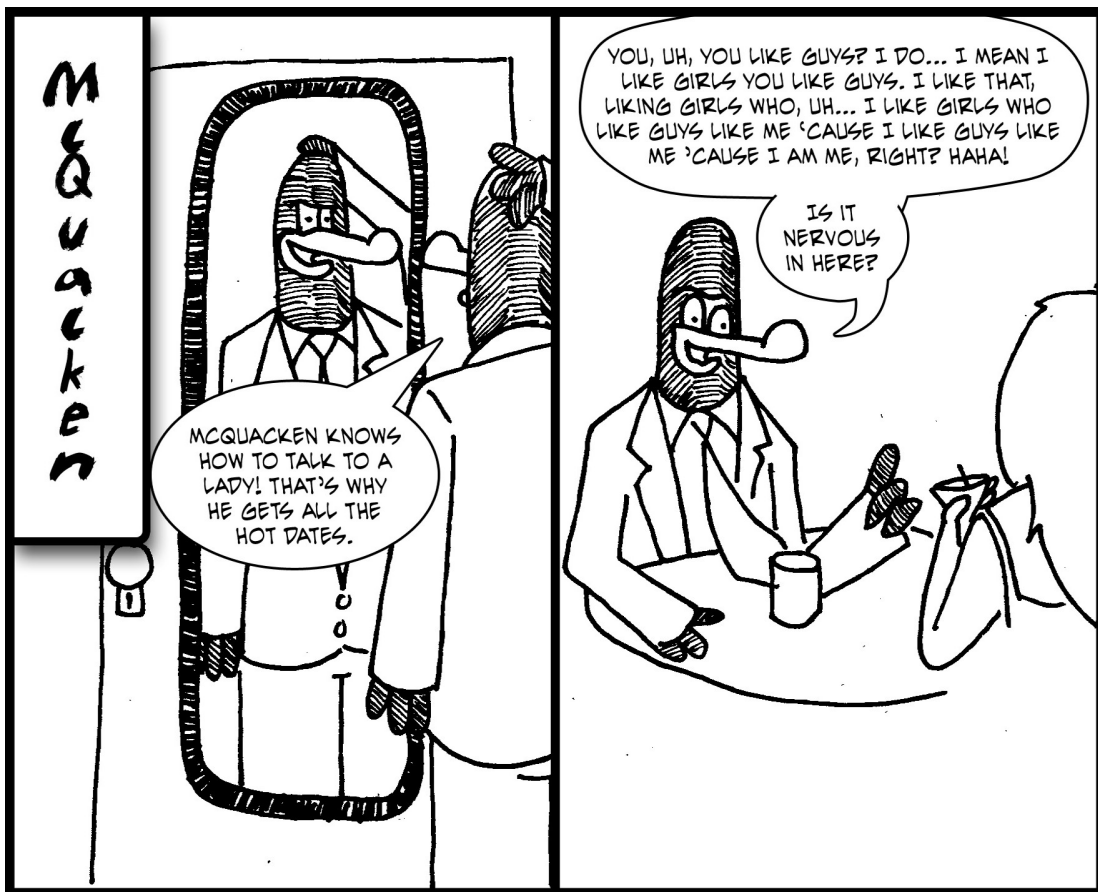
onto the frozen lakes.

Although it's too cold outside to fling open the windows and yell "merry Christmas" in the streets, as Scrooge does to spread his good cheer; our homes are as warm as the paintings depicted in the Norman Rockwell's paintings, often seen on calendars here.

Indeed, we do have sleigh rides at the Hjemkomst Center, along with 12-inch icicles hanging from the houses.

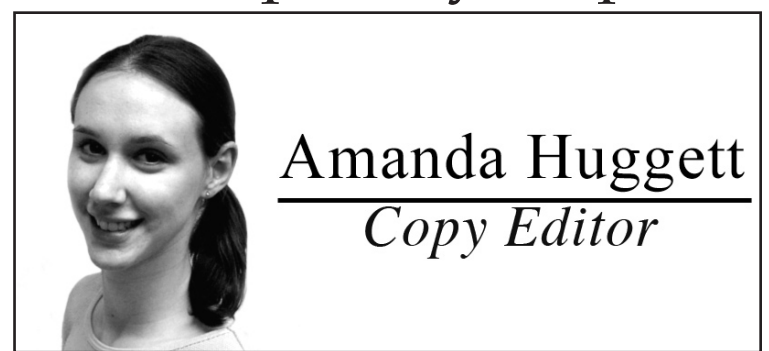
Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and Happy New Year from Moorhead to you.

E-mail Matson at [wilsonle@mnstate.edu](mailto:wilsonle@mnstate.edu).



## Celebrity lives

The rich and the famous deserve privacy, respect



Amanda Huggett  
*Copy Editor*

Janice Dickinson is always up to something catty. Just recently on the Today Show, she called Jennifer Love Hewitt healthy and Tyra Banks fat. I don't know about you, but I am getting pretty sick of average-sized women getting ridiculed for having curves. A short while before the Today incident, Perez Hilton called Jennifer Love Hewitt a desperate has-been. Readers of his blog posted comments about Jennifer letting herself go because her body has changed since her days of "I Know What You Did Last Summer."

Wouldn't it be nice if non-celebrities actually looked up to those in the limelight and respected their lives? Decades ago, celebrities had personal and private lives and didn't have to worry about being photographed in their sweats at the grocery store. In our day and age, we have become obsessed with knowing what celebs are doing 24/7. The consequence is that we know most all of their secrets and they become "one of us."

With the holidays coming up, I wanted to inspire our readers to remember what is important in life. Sure, keeping up with celebrity gossip is fun and entertaining (I am certainly guilty of this), but it should not become an obsession. Remember what you are thankful for and let those who you love and have made a difference in your life know that they're appreciated. So, while Paris Hilton is off making her own brand of champagne (true story), just remember to not take certain things for granted.

MSUM has almost three weeks off for Christmas break. Take the time that would normally be spent on homework to spend some quality time with your family and friends. Do things that truly make you happy and come back next year refreshed and ready to start a new semester, and good luck to those graduating in December.

Do you remember what you are thankful for?  
E-mail Huggett at [huggetam@mnstate.edu](mailto:huggetam@mnstate.edu).

## Happy holidays for everybody

Ah, America. We're the freest and most accepting country in the world. We're so politically correct that even politicians can't keep up with what they're supposed to say anymore.

The holiday season is upon us and it has struck me that all mention of "merry Christmas" has been replaced by "happy holidays." Now this seems reasonable, since not all people in the U.S. are Christian, and no one wants to exclude anyone or make them uncomfortable.

However, look around you as you drive, shop, eat out or get together in any public place. Especially in Fargo-



Samantha Kveno  
*Columnist*

Moorhead, we are inundated with signs of Christmas; not the holidays, specifically Christmas. Christmas trees, wreaths, Christmas lights, nativity scenes and stockings abound.

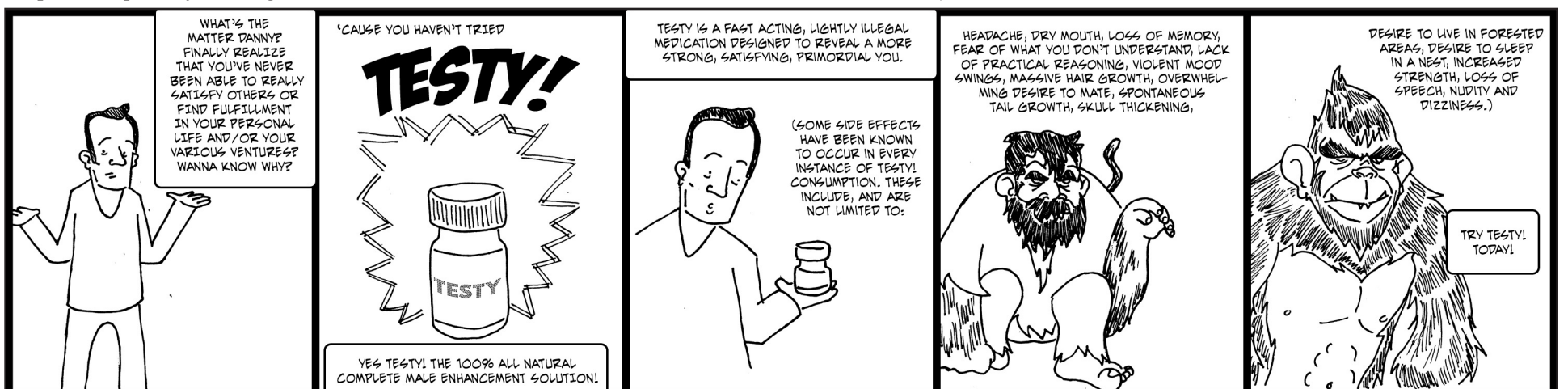
One cannot turn around without seeing a Christmas-specific decoration while at the same time, well-meaning employees smile and wish you the happiest "holidays."

And I have made this case all without mentioning the

barrage of Christmas music on public airwaves. Don't get me wrong; I'm not bitter toward Christmas. I love it. It's my favorite time of year, but I think that if we're going to change the words from "merry Christmas" to "happy holidays," some changes in décor may be in order as well.

So to all you fine readers out there, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza, and Happy New Year. Oh, and to all you Costanzas, Happy Festivus—get the aluminum pole from the crawl space and enjoy the airing of grievances.

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## Flip it to the Dragon Channel

### Student-chosen movies play nightly in residence halls

By **ASHLEY TABORSKY**  
Staff Writer

Popular, student-requested movies. Completely free access. Every night of the week. What could possibly be that good?

The Dragon Channel. Unfortunately, for everyone off-campus, the only stu-

dents who receive the Dragon Channels are those living in the MSUM residence halls.

The Dragon Channel is split between two stations: channels 82 and 83. Channel 83 shows the movies, play-times, and dates available. Channel 82 plays the movies, according to the times shown on 83.

The Dragon Channel has

been around for more than 15 years, and, originally, it didn't play movies. It played safety videos and gave information about snow days. It was for informative purposes only.

Nowadays, it's still used to get out current MSUM events, but it's geared more toward student entertainment.

Sophomore Josey Fog, MSUM's programming coordinator, has taken on the job of running the Dragon Channel.

The Dragon Channel began at the Ballard desk, in the days when Campus Security operated out of the Ballard desk, too.

Since then, it has moved around a couple of times and now operates in the basement of

Ballard. In the past, students have run the Dragon Channel but the EPC has recently taken the Dragon Channel operator title.

"Movies are from around \$100 to \$200," Fog said. "I e-mail Residence Life Cinema choices, and they just send the movies in the mail. We can only afford to get 12 movies a month so that's why a lot of movies get played over and over."

The EPC is a new position, and Fog is currently blazing the trail.

"The best part about my job is meeting people on and off campus," Fog said. "I'm able to get a lot of sponsorships to help pay for movies."

The unique feature about the Dragon Channel and its movies is that it is entirely student chosen. Students are encouraged to e-mail Fog suggestions as to what they want to see on TV.

Student suggestions go directly to the top of the list, but if not enough people e-mail titles, it is up to Fog to look for popular films and choose what he thinks students will enjoy.

"One thing that has sur-

prised me about the Dragon Channel is how little feedback I get from the residents. If people send in request for movies, they're probably going to get them," Fog said.

Occasionally there are technical difficulties, or problems with the movie itself. These problems include the movies ending early, the wrong movie showing or no movies showing at all.

"The Dragon Channel is still run by VHS, so that's why sometimes movies start halfway through or they start an hour late. Sometimes they don't rewind correctly or don't get switched out right.

"Also, VHS players can get too cold in the winter and not play correctly. When there is a problem it's extremely helpful when people e-mail the Dragon Channel," Fog said.

Bored on a Friday night? Living in the dorms? Support the Dragon Channel, and flip on channel 82.

For more information or to request movies, e-mail Fog at fogjos@mnstate.edu.

Taborsky can be reached at ash\_tabby@hotmail.com.



KAYLA WHITAKER / THE ADVOCATE

Sophomore Josey Fog changes tapes for the Dragon Channel every week. Once a month, Fog also picks which movies show and makes sure everything runs smoothly.

## MSUM photography exhibit aims lens toward small town

By **GWENDOLYN WILLIAMS**  
Staff Writer

Throughout the month of December, the Lord Library has on display a photo exhibit that captures the heart of a small town that is unknown to some.

Made possible through a grant from MSUM's Dille Fund, mass communications professor Wayne Gundmudson, art

professor Don Clark and a team of 13 students spent their time in re-creating the history and beauty of Cooperstown, N.D.

"Growing up, I never thought I would want to do photography in North Dakota. It's a plain, but with taking pictures, it can be amazing and you will realize that something as simple as a small town has a lot to offer," said

senior Stephanie Graner.

The project was inspired from a class project in the documentary photography class titled, "Small Towns."

"We wanted to take pictures of a place that was big enough, but small enough to get through in one day without tripping over each other's tripods," Gundmudson said.

The inspiration for the project, however, was made pos-

sible by one man who has been a top figure in American landscape photography, Frank Gohlke, who presented a workshop at MSUM this fall.

His work has been displayed in places such as the Modern Art and Metropolitan Museum in New York along with the Art Institute of Chicago, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris.

"Being a student, it's really hard getting your stuff up and I have been really fortunate at Moorhead State to be up for the fourth time in a gallery," Graner said.

The exhibit will be expanded in the spring with more photos and displayed at a café in Cooperstown named "Post

Office."

In the photos taken on one cold day in October, Cooperstown had a lot to offer these students including the Sheyenne River, abundant wildlife historical tours and a picturesque River Valley.

Cooperstown displayed its history and modern town for all to see.

"No matter where you are, you can find things that are visually interesting whether that is through the lens of a camera or by just walking or discovering," Graner said.

The display will be shown until Dec. 28 in the library.

Williams can be reached at Moorheadchic85@yahoo.com.

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JON LAMBERT / ADVOCATE PHOTO EDITOR

Photographs of Cooperstown, N.D. will be on display now through Dec. 28 in the library.



REVIEW

## 'The Golden Compass' goes in the wrong direction

By **MAX HEESCH**  
Staff Writer

Fantastical realms, talking beasts, heroic characters and a legendary quest to save the world. No, this isn't another review for "The Lord of the Rings," but rather for the new film adaptation, "The Golden Compass."

For all its aspirations, this new trilogy, from the same studio that released "Rings,"

tries to be like "Rings," but fails in the attempt.

However, it should be said that the "His Dark Materials" novels from British author Phillip Pullman bear little resemblance to those of J.R.R. Tolkien's tales of Middle Earth. As independent as the novels are, though, the movies are a completely different story, and it is clear, which is better in the long run.

"The Golden Compass"

takes place in an alternate universe from ours. A place where talking polar bears rule the north and people's souls exist outside their bodies in animal forms known as "daemons." This world is overshadowed by an evil authoritarian government bent on controlling everything, including people's free will.

Enter Lord Asriel (Daniel Craig) who discovers a substance known as Dust, which when boiled down is actually the source for original sin. The Government, known as the Magisterium, feels this discovery is heresy and attempts to thwart Asriel's efforts.

Drawn into the Dust conflict is his niece, Lyra (Dakota Blue Richards), who, along with her daemon, Pantalaimon, is given a mysterious device that can tell the truth. With this device, which resembles (You guessed it!) a golden compass, she sets out to find the source of the Dust, as well as stop 'the Gobblers,' who have been snatching children around the area.

But before she can, the sinister Mrs. Coulter (Nicole Kidman) begins to pursue her, wanting possession of the compass for the Magisterium.

As Lyra makes her way north to help the children, she makes the acquaintances of a variety of characters who aid her on her journey.

This list contains, but is not limited to: Lee Scoresby (Sam Elliot), a cowboy-like aeronaut; Serafina Pekkala (Eva Green), the queen of the witches; and Iorek Byrnison (Ian McKellen), an armored bear who is an exiled prince of his kind.

Each of these characters adds a little something to the film, especially Iorek, the bear that loves to fight everything.

However, with such a large cast and a grand sweeping plot, much is left to be desired for this film. Many things could be added to the movie to make it better, particularly the script, adapted by director Chris Weitz, who also happened to direct "American Pie."

The big flaw here is that they keep piling on characters and not adding enough depth or development to any of them. The only character we truly know about in the film is the polar bear, and his story is the first to wrap itself up.

Other flaws in the film are the fault of New Line Cinema.

Even though the two stories have a different feel to them and do not progress the same way, the studio clearly meant for "The Golden Compass" to be the next "Lord of the Rings" and produced it that way.

The studio also tried to get every celebrity they could to be in it, even if they play minuscule parts with one line or less, such as Christopher Lee, Kathy Bates and Kristen Scott Thomas.

In contrast to another the recent novel-to-film franchise, "The Chronicles of Narnia," the supposedly anti-religious undertones in "The Golden Compass" are barely felt, as the controversial content has been watered down, much to the dismay of fans of the original books. This was done to make the film more commercially viable, which still didn't work because of protests from the Catholic Church.

Despite its flaws, "The Golden Compass" should still appeal to fans of both the fantasy genre and the fans of the books.

Heesch can be reached at [maxheesch@hotmail.com](mailto:maxheesch@hotmail.com).



SUBMITTED PHOTO

In "The Golden Compass," Dakota Blue Richards plays Lyra, a girl entrusted with a mysterious device that tells the truth.

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DUMAS B-DAY PARTY
- DEC. 28 TOO MANY BANJOS  
WITH PISTOL WHIPPIN  
PARTY PENGUINS
- DEC. 29 TBA





# Men, women sweep games over weekend

By RYAN STIEG  
Staff Writer

## Men find winning ways again, Strouth scores 1,000th point

The Dragon men's basketball team entered this weekend on a low note.

The Dragons had dropped their last two games to St. Cloud State and Concordia-St. Paul, and were hoping to get back on track. They did it in a big way, beating Bemidji State by 15, and Minnesota-Crookston by 21.

The first half of Friday's game was close.

Senior Blake Strouth led MSUM with 15 points at the break, and was holding on to an eight-point lead. The telling story was that both teams were ice-

cold from beyond the three-point arc. The Dragons were 3-11 and the Beavers were 2-11.

In the second half, MSUM pulled away for good. A 16-point run built up a huge lead, and junior guard Ryan Rozell put on a show off the bench in relief.

The junior led the Dragons with twenty points, Strouth finished with 19 and senior center Kyle Nelson added 12 points and 10 rebounds to give MSUM a 70-55 victory.

Saturday's night's game was a blowout from the beginning,

The Dragons jumped out to an early 21-6 lead, and never looked back. MSUM played very strong, defensively holding the Golden Eagles to just 49 points and outrebounding them on the defensive end 24-17.

"We played really nice defensively, and we made a lot of runs off of our defense," head coach Stu Engen said. "Jamal (O'Neal) was very active on the boards, and that really helped us out."

The Dragons also balanced out their scoring with everybody contributing to the effort.

"We played really nice defensively, and we made a lot of runs off of our defense."

Stu Engen  
Men's Head  
Basketball Coach

"We had a nice mix going tonight, and it was great to see Nelson and Rozell get going this weekend," Engen said.

The highlight on defense

of the first half was a monstrous block by Nelson and the second half's highlight was Strouth scoring a bucket for, totalling over 1,000 for his career as a Dragon. Only 17 players including Strouth have accomplished the feat.

Strouth led MSUM with 14 points on the night, while O'Neal added 10 points and led the team with nine rebounds.

Strouth was happy about hitting the 1,000-point mark, but was more pleased with

his team.

"It is a big accomplishment for me, but I'm happier with how we played tonight," Strouth said. "Our goal has been to hold our opponents under 50 points, and we did that."

Engen also had nice things to say about Strouth.

"He's had a great career. He's our steal leader and he had four assists without a turnover last night. He's a very mature leader," Engen said.

The Dragons face the Bulldogs of Minnesota-Duluth at home on Tuesday. According to Engen, they'll be a tough task.

"They are a tough program, and they've had lots of success here in the past," he said. "It will be a test similar to St. Cloud. We have four games at home next and we really want to win these home games."

Game time is 8 p.m. at Nemzek.

## Women sneak away with two close wins

Just like the men, the Dragon women's basketball team was coming off a disappointing loss to Concordia-St. Paul.

Needing two victories to keep pace in the NSIC, the women got both this weekend, beating Bemidji State and Minnesota-Crookston.

The game against Bemidji was like a dogfight, as the teams were deadlocked at the half, 37-37. Seniors Allison Swenson and Jessica Fesenmaier led the Dragons with 11 and 10 points. MSUM also outrebounded the Beavers 26-21 in the first half.

In the second half, the Dragons played better overall, shooting better from the field and from beyond the arc.

Swenson also stayed hot, scoring 17 points in the second half to lead the team with 27, while Fesenmaier finished



PHOTO BY JON LAMBERT / ADVOCATE PHOTO EDITOR

Senior guard Blake Strouth scores on a steal against Bemidji State Friday night. Strouth holds the MSUM steals record.

with 18 points and 10 boards to give MSUM a 81-76 victory.

Saturday's game was slightly different. The Dragons came out strong in the first half grabbing a lot of offensive rebounds and playing well as a team. Senior Shelley Soule and sophomore Allison Nash-Gerlach led the team with nine points each.

In the second half, MSUM made poor decisions shooting the ball. Weak defense helped the Golden Eagles close the gap to eight points. However, Fesenmaier got hot scoring all of her 13 points in the second half. This helped the Dragons hang on for an 82-74.

Even though she was happy that they won, Dragon head coach Karla Nelson was not happy with how the team played, especially on the

defensive side of the ball.

"I thought we played pretty awful," Nelson said. "We couldn't play half-court defense, and we couldn't contain dribble penetration. Winning ugly is better than

"Winning ugly is better than losing pretty, but if we don't get better defensively, it is going to be a really long year,"

Karla Nelson  
Women's Head  
Basketball Coach

losing pretty, but if we don't get better defensively, it is going to be a really long year."

Soule and Nash-Gerlach agreed with their coach's assessment.

"We got the win," Soule said. "I think we underestimated them. I think we did a few things right, but we need to get better at our perimeter defense."

To accomplish that, Nash-Gerlach explained: "We need to start trusting each other, helping each other out and holding each other accountable."

The women play Minnesota-Duluth next on Tuesday.

According to Nelson, they need to play a lot better overall.

"We have to play better defense," she said. "We need to rebound better too. We also need to go inside and out offensively, and our post players have to stop being intimidated by their post players."

Game time is 6 p.m. at Nemzek.



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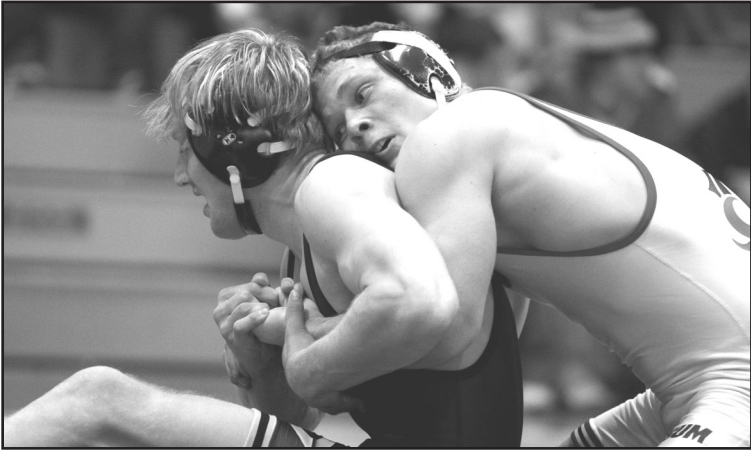


PHOTO BY JON LAMBERT / ADVOCATE PHOTO EDITOR

Junior Tyler Tubbs gains hand control on his opponent in the 157-pound match. Tubbs won the match, 8-5.

## Dragon wrestlers crush Concordia

By **TIM STULKEN**  
Staff Writer

The fiery breath of the Dragons turned the Cobbers into popcorn Dec. 5 as MSUM beat Concordia College 30-7 in the Dragons' first dual of the season.

The Dragons came away with eight wins. Joe Werner, 125 pounds, won 10-6.

"Werner had a good match," junior 197-pounder Matt Nelson said. "He wrestled well and came away with the victory."

Nelson also won his match, beating his opponent 9-3. "We all wrestled well," he said. "Concordia has improved a lot over the years, and we only gave up two matches."

Also winning were nationally ranked, junior 141-pounder Kelly Janke, who pinned his opponent in 3:50, and Derek Bombstad, who won 5-3. Senior 149-pounder Shane Walton won by default. Walton is also currently ranked sixth in his weight class. Junior team captain, 184-pounder Tyler Tubbs, won 8-5. Tubbs, also third nationally ranked, said that he felt the dual went well.

"Everyone wrestled tough,

and we were able to win the majority of the matches and come away with a good win," he said. "I feel I definitely could have wrestled better than I did, and there's plenty of room for improvement. I'm going to keep working hard and getting better every day and prove what I can do."

Two of the more exciting matches produced wins as well. Junior 165-pounder Rockie Stavn came away with a 7-4 victory after a takedown in the last couple of seconds. Freshman heavyweight Jon Swart also had a takedown with seconds remaining to win 3-1.

Head coach Keenan Spiess said that the team wrestled well. "A lot of the matches could have gone either way," he said. "We had a shot at winning nine of the matches, but I would have been happy with seven, so getting eight is pretty good."

Spiess said that during practice the team has been working on finishing the match strong.

He said the dual against Concordia showed improvement in this area, as all of the players wrestled hard to the finish.

**TO WRESTLING, PAGE 11**

## Chaussee splashes into records, nationals

By **JENA REED**  
Staff Writer

MSUM senior diver Sarah Chaussee received two awards from the North Central Conference this past week.

"It's not unusual for us to have a nationally ranked swimmer or diver," head coach Todd Peters said. "Sarah has even been one for us in the past, but it is a pleasant surprise."

Chaussee was the NCC diver of the week and was also recognized for posting a national qualifying score of 260 on the 1-meter board and a 267.30 on the 3-meter board.

"It took a love of the sport to get to where I am," Chaussee said. "Diving came easily to me and it was fun. It took a lot of years of steadily getting better, dedication and just a genuine love of the sport."

Chaussee has been diving for a total of 10 years, and has been diving with MSUM for four.

While diving with the Dragons, she has found coaches very supportive, in addition to the support her family provides.



TRAVIS EHRICH / THE ADVOCATE

Senior diver Sarah Chaussee received a total score of 381.8 for 10 dives in the 1-meter dive at the Dragon-Cobber Invitational. She has already qualified for the 2008 NCAA Division II National Swimming and Diving Championships in Columbia, Mo.

"It's fun to see Sarah having fun again. She is having more success now than she did when she felt she had to dive, but now she is just enjoying the sport. It's really fun for all the coaches to watch," Peters said.

This spring, Chaussee will be moving to the Twin Cities for a graphic design internship.

Because Chaussee's eligibility doesn't end until after the spring season, she will be able to practice with her high school team and compete with the Dragons at the spring tournament.

Although Chaussee has little time for anything but school and athletics, she manages to have a job at Copies Plus and also enjoys art and reality television. She has little time for other hobbies, but Chaussee does very well balancing her schoolwork and diving.

"Diving is a big-time commitment, but the coaches really understand that schoolwork is a priority, so if I need to miss a practice it's OK," Chaussee said.

Reed can be reached at [sportychica333@hotmail.com](mailto:sportychica333@hotmail.com).

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1/4 - 8 p.m. @ **U. of Mary**  
1/5 - 8 p.m. @ **Northern State**

#### Women's BBall

12/21 - 4:30 p.m. @ **Michigan Tech**  
12/29 - 7 p.m. @ **Valley City State**  
1/4 - 6 p.m. @ **U. of Mary**  
1/5 - 6 p.m. @ **Northern State**

\*Home games are in CAPS.

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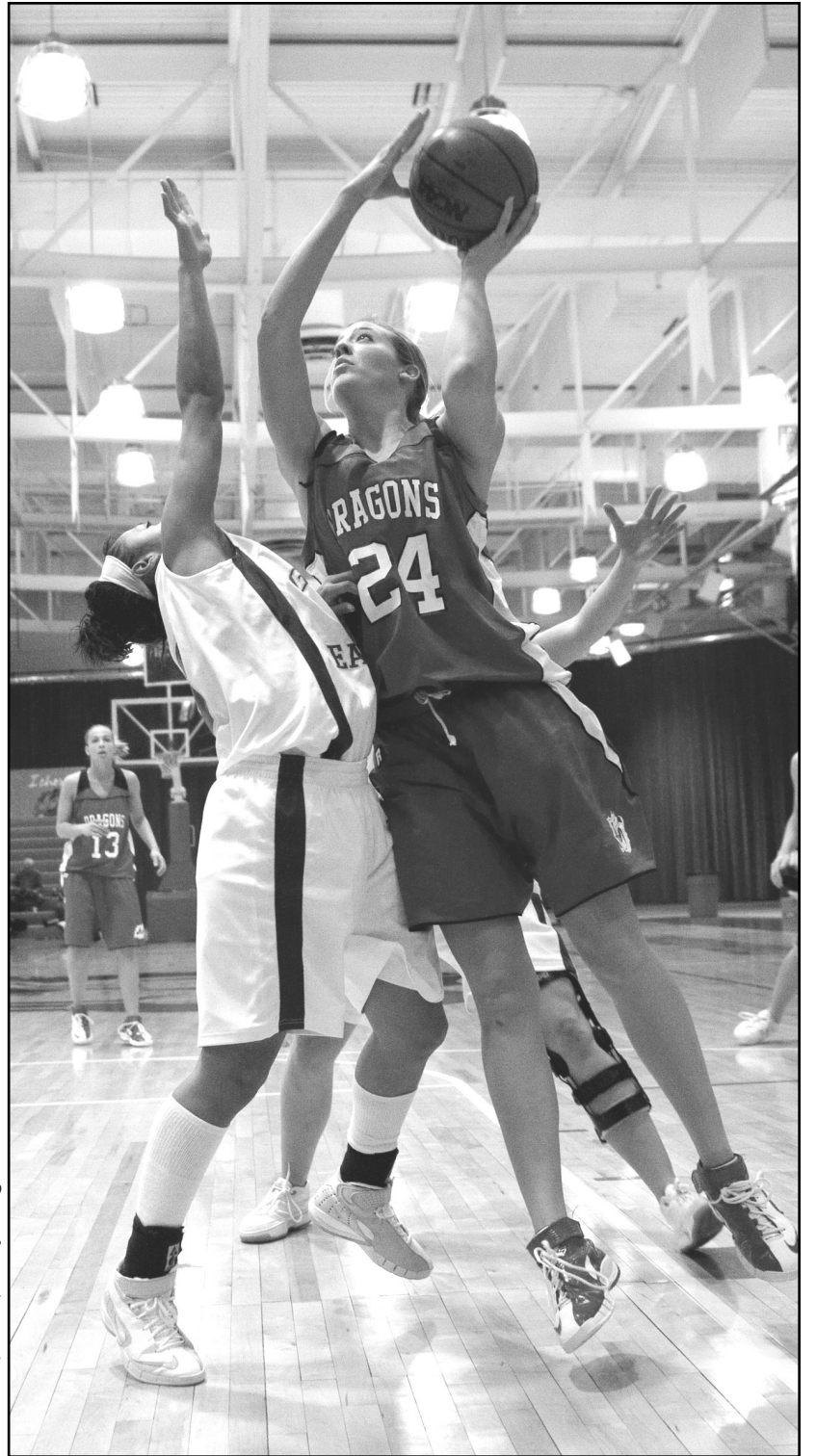


## Dragons score NSIC victories



JON LAMBERT / ADVOCATE PHOTO EDITOR

Head coach Stu Engen delivers a speech to the men's basketball team Friday night at Nemzek, where the Dragons demolished Bemidji State's Beavers, 70-55.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sophomore forward Alison Nash-Gerlach shoots over the head of a UM-Crookston player at Nemzek Saturday night. The Dragon women defeated the Golden Eagles 82-74, with Nash-Gerlach leading the Dragons with 16 points.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## WRESTLING, FROM 9

"The guys have been learning what we have been teaching them," he said. "It's great to see improvement."

Spiess said that the team will continue to improve and work hard to be competitive.

Tubbs said that the team hopes to do well throughout the season.

"Some of our team goals are to win the conference and to place higher at nationals than we did last year," he said. "We want to get every one of our guys to that national tournament."

Nelson agreed with Tubbs saying that he hopes for the team to be ranked in the top 10 nationally

"I expect the rest of the season to be very fun and exciting," he said. "We have a lot of tough competition coming up with division III power house Augsburg College, national duals, and of course NDSU.

"The Midwest has some of the best wrestling in the nation, so it will be fun to see how the season turns out."

The Dragons had a strong opening dual, led by their captain, Tubbs.

Nelson said they put in a great team effort and hope to continue to compete well.



Dragon senior Matt Nelson, wrestling at 197 pounds, goes head to head the Cobbers' Tony Neumann on Dec. 5 in Nemzek. Nelson defeated his opponent 9-3.

MSUM's record is 1-0 and the team next wrestles at the Terry Haws Dual Meet Invitational on Dec. 15 at the Warner Palaestra in Collegeville, Minn.

Stulken can be reached at [stulketi@mnstate.edu](mailto:stulketi@mnstate.edu).

JON LAMBERT / ADVOCATE PHOTO EDITOR

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## Misc.

PREGNANT? You have options. Pregnancy testing, counseling, limited ultrasound exams - Free & Confidential. 701.237.6530 (Fargo) or [www.firstchoiceclinic.com](http://www.firstchoiceclinic.com).

Students, do you need a ride home for the weekend, holidays, or want to split the cost travel in these times of expensive gas prices? Sign up for the Tri-College Ride Board at <http://www.tri-college.org/rideboard.php>. This tool helps a student's pocketbook, aids in keeping a clean environment and allows students easier travel access.

## Now Hiring

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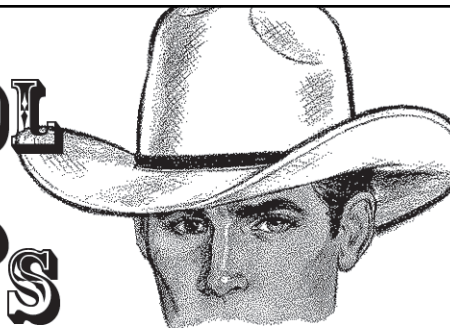
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## MISTLETOE, FROM FRONT

"At that time, most people probably never thought about it that way," Potter said. "They just saw it as a fun tradition, and didn't think about the

fact that some unwary person who happened to be under the mistletoe might not see it that way."

After Potter had raised these questions, someone

with connections to the media heard about the discussion and passed it on. Soon, Potter received calls from local television stations. The media reported that Potter had filed a grievance about the mistletoe.

That report was inaccurate because Potter had not taken any formal action at all, but had simply raised questions.

"The media over-reacted," Potter said. "It was a slow news period; this was something that seemed to challenge a Christmas tradition and was fun to talk about."

Soon, Potter received national attention from a story published in the "New York Times."

"I must have been on 20 radio stations from Las Vegas to London."

**Roland Dille**  
Former MSUM President

She began getting interviewed for various talk radio shows and was interviewed in many different places, including

Los Angeles, Chicago, Palm Beach, Fla., and even Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Media from across the globe asked Dille to explain why MSUM had an "anti-Christmas" mistletoe mentality.

"I must have been on 20 radio stations from Las Vegas

to London," Dille said.

Potter said a lot of the reporters did not care whether they had their facts right, just so long as their story was interesting.

"All the media attention became somewhat bothersome," Potter said. "I came to really feel for people who get a lot of media attention for much more serious, even tragic, events."

Even though Potter never filed an official complaint, the media frenzy that followed caused many to look at the issue seriously to determine whether or not mistletoe could potentially cause inappropriate office behavior.

Stulken can be reached at [stulketi@mnstate.edu](mailto:stulketi@mnstate.edu).



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