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THE ADVOCATE

online at www.msumadvocate.com

Thursday, Feb. 10, 2011

MSUM's weekly student newspaper

Moorhead, Minn.

Vol. 40 Issue 18

Parking ticket hike boosts profits

BY KELSIE O'KEEFE
okeeke@mnstate.edu

Since raising parking fines last semester, the number of tickets written by Public Safety officers has decreased while their fine revenue increased.

In 2010, Public Safety collected about \$49,000 less in parking fines than in 2009. This year, after raising fines by \$15, they are back on track to make over their average \$140,000, though according to Mitch Osland, interim security director for Public Safety, officers have written fewer tickets.

Osland attributes the decrease in parking tickets and ticket revenue to several factors.

"I would say the difference is due to changes in how Public Safety is addressing parking as a whole on campus, as well as students are parking better and the addition of more parking spaces in the last few years," Osland said.

Public Safety officers have also noticed a difference in the number of tickets written.

"Since the ticket prices have gone up, statistically they've showed, yes, we have wrote less tickets," said Sgt. Brent Halverson, Public Safety patrol supervisor. "We don't have facts saying 'well it's because the prices are higher.' Could that be a reason? It sounds pretty likely that people thought 'oh well it's just ten bucks,' but now it's \$25."



JESSE TRELSTAD • jrtrelstad.com

MSUM Senior Derrick Warnecke finds an expired meter while out on patrol.

Increased fines, added parking spaces, improved signage and no longer ticketing for clutter on the mirror except in cases where the permit number cannot be seen (this was quite a few tickets in previous years) have also decreased ticketing.

Halverson and Patrol Supervisor Sgt. Brian Klinnert think the three major factors accounting for the decrease are increase in parking fines, new signs and changing the permit parking range.

This year, Public Safety has

changed how they handle the housing and commuter permits. The permits allow students to park in both commuter and residential lots.

"It opens up more parking for sure," said Halverson. "If you had a green housing permit because you lived in Snarr and you parked in a commuter lot you got a ticket. Well now you can do both; they're interchangeable."

Next year, there are plans to change the permits to one color, having just a general student permit.

"It's safe to say they are looking into further ways to simplify the parking process," Halverson said. "Three years ago we had all these different lots with all these specific instructions and it makes it difficult for the students who are new here, or even for students who have gone here for three years, it makes it very difficult for them to navigate campus. They're trying to streamline that and make it so that if you have a permit you can park in three-fourths of the lots. That's what

PARKING, BACK PAGE

Gudmundson travels with Mike

Photography professor appears on BBC radio show to talk about Fargo page 9



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Budget cuts may lead to staff layoffs

BY MATT LECH
lechma@mnstate.edu

Expected cuts to higher education funding by Minnesota legislators have made layoffs at MSUM a likelihood, and will mean changes for students.

"Many of the new legislators have gone in saying 'we were elected to cut,'" President Edna Szymanski said.

MSUM expects state cuts to result in a loss of \$5.8 to \$7.5 million from the school's current state appropriation of \$25.7 million.

Szymanski believes the cuts will have a negative effect.

"They are decreasing your affordability and at the same time decreasing what we contribute to the region's economy. The fewer that can afford this, the fewer who will be able to pay good taxes back into the state," she said.

Students will have an opportunity to voice their concern regarding the cuts during Rally Day on Feb. 16 in St. Paul.

Grant Hagen, who serves as Minnesota State University Students Association campus coordinator and off campus senator for Student Senate, describes Rally Day as, "a civil demonstration of students that want to show legislators that we care about the rising cost of tuition and that we do not want to see any more cuts to MnSCU's state appropriation."

Student Senate Vice President Kimberly Ehrlich believes attending Rally Day is vital.

"If we don't have people in St. Paul, they won't know we care. They have to know we care or else they won't care," she said.

Allan Branstiter, president of the Student Senate, said a cap on tuition increases is expected, meaning the cost won't be able to be made up by greatly raising tuition.

"If we get a cap on tuition in place and the state cuts our budget, we are going to lose professors, and we don't want that to happen. That is our main goal on the 16th, to make sure they don't cut our funding," Branstiter said.

LAYOFFS, BACK PAGE

Students sound off on rental companies

BY CHARLY HALEY
haleych@mnstate.edu

It isn't unusual for college students to complain about noisy neighbors or being unable to pay rent. Those are only a couple of potential problems associated with renting an apartment. However, despite those problems, several students are renting in a variety of off-campus locations in the F-M area.

Sophomore Kyle Fogarty lives in Southgate Apartments in Fargo, renting from Goldmark Properties.

"I think they are pretty solid," he said. "I haven't felt any type of unfairness personally."

The only problem that Fogarty has encountered was when his roommate's car was towed while it was parked in a free parking lot, and Goldmark wouldn't reimburse the \$250 ticket.

Sophomore Kayla Duffney, also renting from Goldmark, agreed that they are a good company to rent from.

"It's good rent — cheap," she said, "and the rooms are very good in size and space." Duffney lives in Oxford Apartments in Fargo.

Both Fogarty and Duffney would recommend students to rent from Goldmark at either Southgate or Oxford Apartments.

Senior Jordan Houselog is also happy with his living situation. He lives in Park East Apartments in Fargo, which is owned by independent management.

"It's the best place I've lived so far, and that includes on campus," Houselog said. "There's a pool; there's kind of a workout area; there's a sauna; it's not too far away from campus."

He recommends Park East to other college students.

However, Houselog has also lived in Park School Apartments in Moorhead, and he didn't like them.

"It was like an old school building that was renovated into apartments," he said, "and it was really bad to live in. I mean, there were all brick walls, so there was like no insulation; it was really cold in the winters and we had to pay for heat and electricity, so that got really expensive."

Houselog said that while Park School was part of Bison Properties, he didn't think the problems with his living situation

were a result of Bison.

"The guy that we rented from, he was really nice and really accommodating," Houselog said.

Senior Anne Stromstad also knows what it's like to be annoyed by a living situation. She lives on one floor of a house that has been split into apartments and rents from Harmon Properties.

"Someone was kicking in our back door," she said, "and (Harmon) replaced the back door with a security door, and it continued to be kicked in and it hasn't been fixed since. Or one

of our doors didn't lock — we have like four doors — one of our doors didn't lock and it took a few weeks to get a new door, so we were living for a while without a locked door."

Stromstad has also experienced strife with her neighbors.

"We've had some issues with the person living below us," she said. "He's loud. Very, very loud. And they smoke inside, and so we've been trying to call about that and it hasn't been taken care of."

APARTMENTS, PAGE 8



DANELLE BLOTTER • The Advocate

These south Fargo apartments are one of many apartment options for students.

Campus Calendar

2.10-2.16

- 2.10 6:30-9:30 Cinethusiast Meeting
7-8p.m. Go Pink Education
Speaker SL 101
8-10p.m. Improv Comedy
Show CMU
8:30-10p.m. Chi Alpha Meeting
- 2.11 8:30-9:30a.m. Science
Olympiad CMU
9a.m.-5p.m. Bake Sale &
Secret Valentines
10:30a.m.-1:15 p.m. Dragons
Afte Dark
- 2.12 7a.m.-2p.m. Law School
Admissions Test HA 208
9a.m.-5p.m. RA Recruitment
CMU
11:30a.-1:30p.m. Retired
Teachers Luncheon
- 2.13 2-4p.m. Festival of Singing
CA 150
2-3p.m. Planetarium The Case
of the Disappearing Planet BR
167
- 2.14 10a.m.-3p.m. Single
Awareness Day CMU

11a.m.-1p.m. Swing Dance
CMU table
- 2.15 3-4p.m. College Success
Workshops MA 278
- 2.16 3:30-4:30p.m. College Success
Workshops MA 278

News Briefs

Obamacare to become graphic novel

To some Obama is a superhero, to others a supervillain. Now his signature legislation, health care, is getting its own starring role in pop-culture with a big new comic book. The Boston Herald reports that MIT health-economics guru Jonathan Gruber plans to explain the complicated Obama healthcare plan to 300 million Americans in a graphic novel. Gruber, who helped Mitt Romney institute universal health care in Massachusetts, says his three comic-loving kids encouraged him to use the graphic novel format. Farrar, Straus and Giroux's Hill and Wang division releases Gruber's book this fall.

Three teens killed in Juarez

Three teenage boys, two of them American citizens, were killed at a car dealership in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico on Saturday. They were aged 15 to 17; one was found dead in a white Jeep, and the other two were found dead in a courtyard. One of the boys, Carlos Mario Gonzalez Bermudez, lived in Mexico and crossed the border each day for school. Police are unsure of what the motive was in the killings. There were two other triple homicides in Juarez

Spring offers two-screen smartphone

Sprint unveiled a new two-screen smartphone Monday. The gadget, called the Echo, has two 3.5-inch screens. When lined up side-by-side, the Echo will take on some tablet functionality, with users able to drag items from one screen to the other. Kyocera's U.S.-based unit makes the Echo.

MSUM Briefs

Financial literacy lecture on Feb. 17

Village Family Services' financial coordinator, Duane Emmel, will lecture on financial literacy on Feb. 17 in CMU 203 from noon to 1 p.m. The event is free to everyone, and Emmel will advise on topics such as, credit, budget and buying a car.

Emmel's lecture is one of five free financial literacy seminars in the month of February being held on MSUM's campus and in the F-M area.

The financial literacy lectures coincide with Ally Financial's free online tutorials. Visit www.smartedgebygmac.com to learn more about general finance.

These events are sponsored by MSUM's PRSSA and Ally Financial Inc. as part of the national Bateman Case Study Competition.

Movie reviewed on campus Feb. 17

A special screening of the film "Off and Running" will be held Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in King Hall 110. Discussion will follow the screening with special guest Avery Klein-Cloud, "Off and Running" co-author and star.

"Off and Running" is the story of Brooklyn teenager Avery, a track star with a bright future. She is the adopted African-American child of white Jewish lesbians. Her older brother is black and Puerto Rican, and her younger brother is Korean. Avery decides to write to her birth mother. The response throws her into crisis. She struggles over her "true" identity. When it seems as if her life is unraveling, Avery decides to pick up the pieces and make sense of her identity, with inspiring results.



Security Update

Interim Director of Public Safety

Mitch Osland

An odor investigation occurred in East Snarr on Jan. 31. The source was unable to be located.

An exterior light on Maclean Hall was reported smoking on Jan. 31. It was found that the filament had started on fire but had put itself out before Public Safety arrived. Maintenance was notified.

A motor vehicle accident occurred in Lot D on Jan. 31. The Moorhead Police Department was called to take the report as it happened on the street and not in the parking lot.

Vandalism was reported in East Snarr on Jan. 31.

An odor investigation occurred in Neumaier on Feb. 1. The source was unable to be located.

A blue light emergency phone was activated in Lot V-5 on Feb. 2. An individual was transported to the local hospital.

Vandalism was reported in East Snarr on Feb. 3.

A smoking violation was reported outside Holmquist on Feb. 4. An individual was referred to campus judicial.

A vehicle was found to have alcohol in plain view. The owner was notified and alcohol was destroyed. The individual was referred to campus judicial.

Drug paraphernalia was found in Lot E on Feb. 5.

A sexual harassment report was taken in Nelson on Feb. 6.

Class offered: collaboration for children's success

MSUM is offering collaboration for children's success class March 24 and 31 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and April 2 from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The workshop is intended for a diverse audience including human service professionals, social workers, educators, nurses, counselors, family therapists and other professionals who work with children. Participants will develop collaborative strategies to address issues such as bullying, suicide prevention, body image and stress that are prevalent in children today. Practice in conflict management and listening skills will be included.

The course is available for undergraduate or graduate credit in education, ED 490/590, social work SW490/590 and nursing NURS 490/590, for graduate

credit in counseling CNSA 590. Participants also have the option of taking the class for non-credit.

Collaboration for children's success is taught by Dr. Dorothy Suomola, a retired faculty member of MSUM's College of Education and Human Services. She has served as a superintendent, principal and teacher in the public schools in Minnesota. She is also a Licensed Associate Professional Counselor and mediator. She holds a doctorate in educational administration from the University of Minnesota and master's degrees in English and community counseling from MSUM.

For more information or to register contact MSUM's Continuing Studies at 218.477.5862 or e-mail contstdy@mnstate.edu.

The Advocate

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The Advocate encourages letters to the editor and your turn submissions. They should be typed and must include the writer's name, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due 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. 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.

"There were some fly honies there."

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The Advocate is always looking for talented writers, photographers, columnists and illustrators. Contact the editor for more information.

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Park East Apartments

Art students create Seagrave Studios



Jessica Fleming • The Advocate

Sophomore Anna Mladnick is a co-founder of Seagrave Studios, located in the basement under the Red Raven.

BY CHARLY HALEY
haleych@mnstate.edu

The most recent artistic endeavor for art majors Anna Mladnick and Aeron Maurbjorn isn't a painting, sculpture or drawing — it's a basement.

On Jan. 1, the two MSUM sophomores opened Seagrave Studios in the basement below the Red Raven Espresso Parlor on Main Avenue in Fargo.

Seagrave consists of studio space for artists to rent and a gallery that operates out of the Red Raven.

"We're the walls of the Red Raven and the basement," Mladnick said.

Both Mladnick and Maurbjorn live above the Red Raven with three of the coffee shop's owners.

Maurbjorn initially approached Mladnick with the idea of opening a studio last summer.

"I don't even remember exactly what the original idea was," Maurbjorn said. "Just like, art-centered living and providing living, work and exhibition space in one unit."

Mladnick said they considered the idea throughout the summer.

In the fall, she and Maurbjorn started looking at locations. When they found the building on Main, they thought it was perfect.

"I can't imagine anything else being in that building and working as well and using all the space," Mladnick said.

After discovering the building, Mladnick approached the Red Raven owners with the idea.

"I went to the Red Raven and I just started talking my face off

basically," she said, "and they were into it."

The Red Raven and Seagrave Studios moved in on Dec. 1. They call the entire building Stationhouse Cooperative, as a name to encompass Seagrave, the Red Raven and the upstairs living space.

After the move-in, Mladnick and Maurbjorn were busy renovating the basement for Seagrave.

"It was finals, and Aeron has a son, and I model for art classes, and so juggling having a job and finals, and then trying to get (Seagrave) up and running, it was a challenge," Mladnick said.

Maurbjorn agreed.

"Christmas break wasn't a break at all," Maurbjorn said. "That was totally just renovating the basement and getting it ready."

But the work seems to have paid off because Seagrave is now open, and as co-directors, Mladnick and Maurbjorn are happy with the results.

Mladnick described how they have already reached some of their goals for Seagrave.

"We want Seagrave to be as much of a community as it is a workspace for artists," she said. "The gallery right there for them as an outlet for their work is great. And also with our studio renters, we've kind of strived to find people who do have a strong sense of motivation and are self-driven and you know, care about the community."

Mladnick said they have a diverse group of renters, including a mother who crochets, a beginning web designer, oil painters, high school teachers and college students.

While Mladnick and Maurbjorn

are happy with Seagrave, they both want to continue the studio's progress.

"One thing that we're working on with Seagrave for our renters and for the community is doing workshops, demos and lectures," Mladnick said.

With all the work they've put into opening and running Seagrave Studios, Mladnick and Maurbjorn haven't had much time to work on their own art, but neither seem to mind.

"It's kind of funny," Mladnick said, "like, when professors or people say 'I haven't seen any of your work yet' or 'What are some of your most recent paintings' or whatever, and I'm like 'Well, um, my most recent piece of art thus far is the basement, Seagrave Studios.'"

But working on Seagrave has been educational for Mladnick and Maurbjorn as artists.

"The best way I learn, I feel, is to just do something," Maurbjorn said. "Operating a gallery will just give us both a way better idea about how to deal with gallery owners and what to expect in the future from ourselves and from them."

Mladnick and Maurbjorn are working on Seagrave's next art show in collaboration with Midwest Mud art co-op, the Erotic Show. The show is has been an annual Valentine's Day event in Fargo.

"We're just really happy that we've had the privilege of hosting it this year," Mladnick said. "It is in a bigger space than it has been in the past few years, so we can do more things with it, like we can have the date auction and the fashion show and we can have burlesque and everything."

Another change Seagrave is making to the Erotic Show is that there will be no art entry fee.

"We want our gallery at Seagrave to be really mindful of college students and emerging artists who maybe don't have an extra \$10 or whatever to, you know, put into it into an art show," Mladnick said.

For more information on Seagrave Studios, contact Mladnick and Maurbjorn at seagravestudios@gmail.com or search for their group on Facebook, "Seagrave Studios."

To read more from this writer, view her blog at charlyhaley.blogspot.com

F-M voices celebrate singing

BY KRISTIN KIRTZ
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A small town girl with a deep love for music, Robin Allebach grew up in Menahga, Minn. She was one of 11 children and it was there she found her love of singing.

Now she is bringing her love of music to more than just her students. This year Allebach will be holding the first annual Fargo Moorhead Festival of Singing.

"I wanted to involve MSUM students and faculty because there are magnificent talents here and I thought this would give more opportunities to them and make MSUM shine," Allebach said.

The festival has three different performance dates and locations. The first performance is Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Messiah Lutheran Church in Fargo.

The second show is on Feb. 13 at 2 p.m. in the Fox Recital Hall.

The last presentation is on Feb. 17 at 12:15 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Fargo. All three performances will be

free will offering.

Planning this festival was a little tiring and there was a lot of busy work, but Allebach enjoyed it.

"Seeing the excitement on people's faces made it exciting for me," Allebach said.

She is thrilled to be putting on this festival and said,

"I hope that people are lifted for a moment."

"I want it to be noisy and a walk down memory lane. It will be a fun night. Take a break from work and studying and come celebrate music and singing."

Allebach has sung in operas. She traveled all through Europe and also visited Israel and the Congo during her tours.

"My father was a minister so it started with singing around the piano and at church," Allebach said.

Eventually life brought Allebach back to this area. She isn't touring anymore but still keeps music a top priority in her daily life by giving voice lessons at MSUM.

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<p>Thursday, February 17 NATTY NATION Bob Marley's Birthday Bash 10PM Show • 21+ • Aquarium</p>	<p>Monday, February 21 MOVING MOUNTAINS 6PM Show • All Ages The Aquarium</p>
<p>Friday, February 25 TRAMPLED BY TURTLES 9PM Show • Ages 21+ The Venue @ The Hub</p>	
<p>Wednesday, March 2 RYAN BINGHAM & THE DEAD HORSES 9PM Show • Ages 21+ The Aquarium</p>	<p>Friday, March 4 HAIRBALL 9PM Show • Ages 21+ The Venue @ The Hub</p>
<p>Thursday, March 3 BLIZZARD MUSIC TOUR NELLY, 3OH!3, SICK PUPPIES 6PM Show • All Ages • Scheels Arena</p>	
<p>Sunday, March 6 UMPHREY'S MCGEE 7:30PM Show • All Ages The Venue @ The Hub</p>	

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DOKKEN & QUIET RIOT • Friday, March 18 • Ages 21+ • The Venue @ The Hub
LOUIE ANDERSON • Saturday, March 19 • All Ages • Fargo Theatre
DROWNING POOL • Thursday, March 24 • All Ages • The Venue @ The Hub
CHAMPAGNE CHAMPAGNE • Sunday, March 27 • Ages 21+ • The Aquarium
THAT 1 GUY • Saturday, April 2 • Ages 21+ • The Aquarium
THAT 1 GUY • Sunday, April 3 • All Ages • The Aquarium
G LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE • Tuesday, April 26 • All Ages • Fargo Theatre
LEO KOTTKE • Saturday, April 30 • All Ages • Fargo Theatre
THE MOODY BLUES • Wednesday, June 8 • All Ages • Bluestem Center for the Arts

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Advocate Editorial Board

Wrong time, wrong place for higher education budget cuts

Higher education is currently a target of newly elected legislators attempting to reduce Minnesota's deficit. While the deficit needs attention, it is unwise to attend to it at the expense of higher education.

Cutting funds now will accomplish momentary financial relief while making the state economy more susceptible to future recessions.

The logic is clear: college educated individuals are less likely to become unemployed, and they enrich the state's economy with higher paying jobs and therefore higher taxable incomes.

The state deficit requires nuanced and thoughtful actions by legislators. Disinvesting in future prosperity by cutting higher education funding is neither.

The budget cuts will also decrease the value. Tuition will be raised up to the tuition cap and professors will be laid-off. In poor economic times, reducing affordability and value for the state's youth is an unfortunate mistake.

Lawmakers have difficult decisions to make, and it may make political sense to cut college and university funds. It does not make economic sense, though, and that is what matters.

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 any 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.

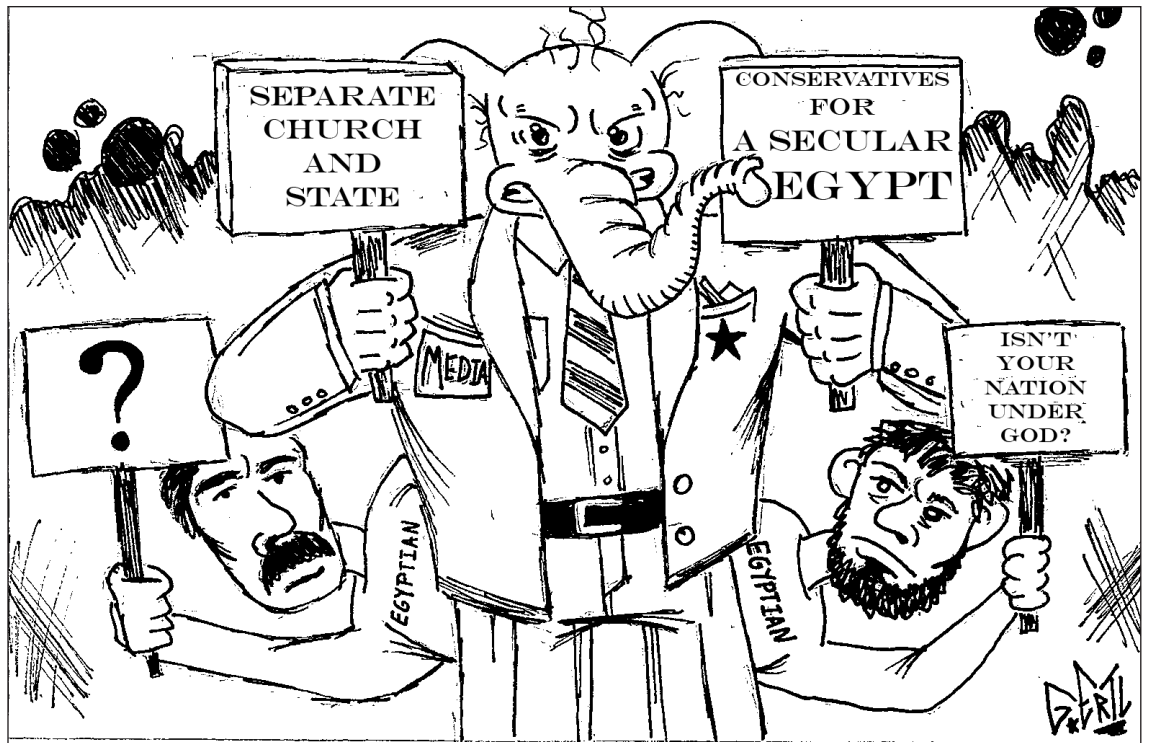


Illustration by Grant Ertl

Let Egypt decide

BY MATT LECH
lechma@mnstate.edu

"Leave already, my arm hurts," read a sign held aloft by an Egyptian protestor. His sign was aimed at President Hosni Mubarak, whose government is widely recognized to be corrupt, undemocratic and keen on torture. Because of such recognition, most would side with the Egyptian people here. However, cable news, especially that conservative one, will caution that we should be careful what we wish for. After all, Mubarak was an ally in the War on Terror, and what if "radical Muslims" take Mubarak's place?

I will never argue that religion has a place in politics. It doesn't. By its own admission, religion is founded on faith and not evidence, and is therefore irrational. A secular government is required by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights for this reason.

Egypt will hopefully follow us in that regard.

What is interesting is that it is American conservatives who are reminding us how important it is to keep religion out of politics. This is pretty rich, coming from the "Christian right," and deserves some exploration.

These patriots, who "love our Constitution," would quite like to have the Ten Commandments in front of public buildings. They would very much like Creationism and Intelligent Design taught alongside evolution in our public schools. Finally, if possible, they would like to determine who is allowed to marry the person they love.

Hypocrisy target practice aside, should we worry about "radical Muslims" taking control of Egypt? The protests in Egypt have not been religiously motivated; Islamic slogans don't appear in the chants or signs of the demonstrators.

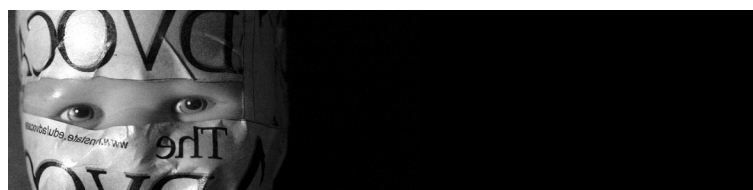
The Muslim Brotherhood has been mentioned frequently, and as one of the more organized groups in Egypt they could perhaps benefit from Mubarak losing power. However, the Muslim Brotherhood is

not a terrorist organization, it is a conservative political movement based around religion. It has officially opposed violent acts since it was founded in 1928 and has advocated for democracy in Egypt.

As with any political movement, especially a religious one, there is a chance that it could betray these professed values once in power. But in the case of Egypt it is a tremendous leap to suggest that the Muslim Brotherhood, who has had an insignificant role in the protests, will take power and turn Egypt into a theocracy. If it does, Egyptians will have to protest once more.

If, however, Egypt is able to outfit its government with a democracy that successfully expresses the will and protects the rights of the people, what they decide to do with it isn't our concern. It would be unfortunate for religion to play a large role in their government, but real democracy should be supported even if we don't agree with the particulars.

To read more from this writer, view his blog at mattlech.blogspot.com



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Playing the game of love

BY STORMY GREENMAN
greenmanst@mnstate.edu

It's February again and with Valentine's Day right around the corner, love is in the air. This month sees more marriage proposals and declarations of love than any other month out of the year. Unfortunately, the pressure to make everything perfect is just as overwhelming as ever.

For players of massively multiplayer online role-playing games there seems to be a trend picking up speed which might just take the pressure down a few notches. Instead of professing their feelings here in the real world, they're going virtual using their favorite online games to deliver their message. Some gamers are even going as far as virtual reality marriages. Scoff all you like but in today's world of online social networking and dating is it really that far-fetched?

Most online games incorporate a variation of the Valentine's Day holiday as well as several others. The following is from wowhead.com and is a description of the World of Warcraft Valentine's Day celebration to give you an idea of what it's like:

"Love is in the Air (Feb. 6 - 20) is a celebration of love and friendship during which players share gifts and

candy, and the air is filled with perfume and cologne. This holiday is based on the real world customs of Valentine's Day."

This holiday is one of 12 celebrated yearly on the WoW servers that parody real world holidays. In addition to adding depth and culture to the game world, the holidays are meant to shake things up a bit by temporarily distracting players from the normal quest lines that make up the game. All the same, gamers have increasingly used the props generated for this and other holidays (in this case ranging from candy hearts and boxed chocolates to picnic baskets and roses) to woo their gamer girls and vice versa.

My first encounter with this phenomenon was shortly after I joined the WoW server. Upon logging into the game, my boyfriend at the time showered my character with rose petals and presented her with a box of chocolates. Apparently, he had spent the previous day gathering everything and preparing to ambush me when I logged in and although I have to admit it was extremely corny and nerdy, it was also rather sweet.

Although most online games, including WoW, do not incorporate dating and marriage into their plotlines and thus do not recognize dating or married couples, there are some that do. The first games to officially recognize this phenomenon were Ultima in 2001 and Everquest

in 2006. In both games the support staff aided the player's endeavors by catering, decorating and managing party crashers at the ceremony. This was taken a step further in 2010 when Everquest launched a marriage package purchasable with real world money. This pseudo expansion allows players access to a private chapel and magic wedding rings, as well as other marriage themed items.

Unfortunately, one possible drawback to game 'srecognition is that to my knowledge none of the games have developed a system for divorce short of deleting your characters, giving a whole new meaning to the phrase "til death do you part." With the time, effort and financial investment involved in playing and leveling characters, I know I personally would have a hard time committing.

A word of caution: Although the virtual world is a fun place to hang out and your in-game friends may think you're the absolute king/queen of the nerds for wooing your gamer girl/guy in virtual reality, the real world is where your relationship really matters. Be sure to follow up any in-game romance with a romantic night here in the real world where he/she can brag about the nerdiness of what you just did online to your non-gamer friends.

Stealing the heart of the season

BY MEGHAN FEIR
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Since Valentine's Day is approaching, maybe I should start talking about Easter. I mean, come on; Easter will already be here in two to three months. We need to prepare. We need to buy plastic grass for our baskets filled with Cadbury Eggs and jelly beans before the world runs out.

Before you scoff at me for jumping too far ahead, please realize I was using extreme sarcasm.

Marketing and advertising strategies these days have grown to be annoying. Do we really need to see ghosts, skeletons and candy corn in August? Why can't we let turkeys, Pilgrims and Native Americans enjoy their limelight without Rudolph hogging the stage three months prior to Thanksgiving? The only holiday I can think of that doesn't overshadow the previous one is the Fourth of July. This must be because flags get more than one holiday to be admired.

As someone who starts planning what her next year's Halloween costume will be by Nov. 1, you could say I am the worst of the worst when it comes to planning too far in advance. However, my love for wearing costumes and taking on different identities is the reasoning for my hypocrisy, so give me a break.

Apart from that little side note, the point is this: How am I supposed to enjoy the preparation for the upcoming celebration when the holiday occurring five months later is being advertised?

When I was frolicking in Target in the teens of

December, I was shocked and angered by the display of pink and red hearts which had overtaken two aisles by force. These shelves, which should have been displaying eggnog scented candles or fake pine trees, were tainted by Cupid's presence.

The message I am attempting to embed in your brain is to enjoy each holiday for what it is and when it occurs. I ruined my season of Christmas music enjoyment by letting it seep into my brain too early. I did not carry through on my "no Christmas music is to be played until the day after Thanksgiving" rule, which in turn made it less special when the Christmas season officially began.

Enough about the other holidays though. It's almost Valentine's Day. Let's savor the holiday of love, sweetness and flirting. It is time to enjoy the rise of jewelry commercials, the abundance of stuffed bears that have recorded songs by Lionel Richie trapped in their innards and the excess of chalky candies that have heartwarming messages like "Made4U" written with edible ink. It's time for roses, not carnations; for Lindt chocolates, not Food Club; for frill, not grunge; for classic romantic comedies that display the acting skills of Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks. No Tim Burton films allowed. It's an excuse to give guys and gals flirty Valentines without seeming like a creep. So, go out and buy your Care Bear and Disney Princess Valentines (two of my favorite varieties), and please — send me one.

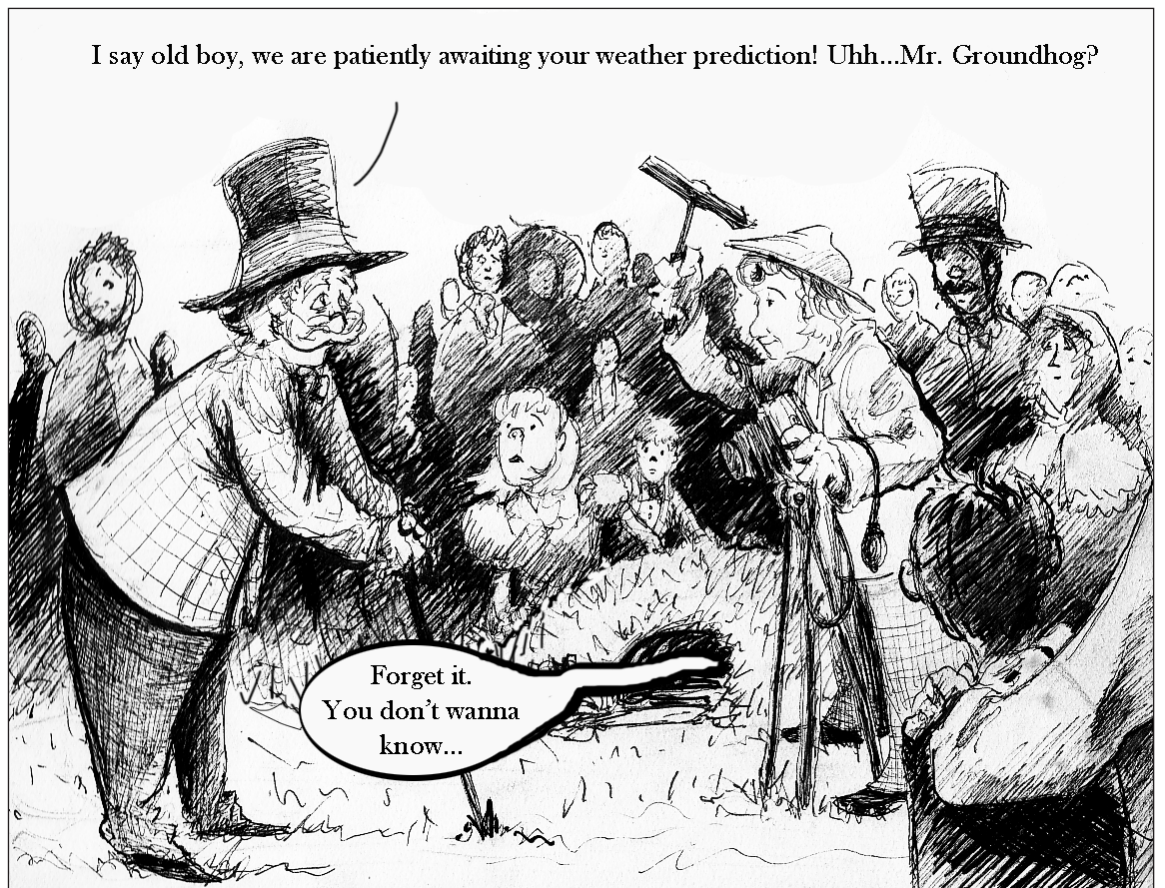


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Removing snow around campus: 'A lot to tackle'

BY JOHN ENGER
engerjo@mnstate.edu

Any student who has attended MSUM for more than a few months has most likely seen the campus snow plows clearing sidewalks.

MSUM keeps three full-time snow plow drivers on staff: Cyle Copacek, Mike Branter and Gary Lacher. All winter long, their job is to keep the campus free of snow, and it's not easy.

"There's over 10 miles of sidewalk on campus," Copacek said, "and there's over 30 acres of parking lot. We've got a lot to tackle."

Logistically, the process is not as simple as just pushing snow. There are a number of areas that have top priority.

"We have a schedule of handicap students that are in motorized chairs," Branter said. "So we try to make sure that's clear so they can make it to class."

After clearing those important routes, the plows move on to the rest of the side walks if it is still before the main rush of students. When the flow of students becomes too thick, they move to the parking lots, but even those are cleared in a specific order.

"We'll plow over where the commuters will be coming first and the staff," Copacek said, "because the residence halls, their vehicles are already there. So they're going to be there all day."

The snow gets hauled in dump trucks to the youth hockey rink between Main Avenue and 20th St., east of campus. So far they have dumped nearly 3000 loads.

Plowing out a college campus comes with difficulties, namely, visibility and student safety.

"The thing is, if they look at the loader (snow plow), especially the skid steer, and they can't see my face, I can't see them," Branter said. "If you can't see me I can't see you. As much as I'll try, there's a cab in the way. There's the frame of the loader in the way. There's not a lot of visibility side and back in those things."

The lack of visibility coupled with the sheer number of students has resulted in a few close calls.

"I like not having to trudge through snow," said Weston Honkomp, MSUM business major, "but I think they (the plows) are pretty dangerous. I saw a chick nearly get smoked the other day."

In tight spaces, maneuverability also becomes an issue.

"We're backing up with big



CHRIS FRANZ • chrisfranzphoto.blogspot.com

MSUM's snow plowing staff dumps the snow in the hockey arena parking lot located on east Main Avenue in Moorhead.

equipment," Lacher said. "We've come very close and in fact I dinged a car one time a couple years ago. At times it's slippery underneath so as big as that machine is, it will sometimes just dance along a foot, two feet, before

it will stop— sliding sideways."

The plow drivers have one piece of advice for pedestrians: "Take your iPods out when you're walking down the sidewalk." Copacek said, "There's lots of obstacles out there and if the

students and staff that are on campus use a little common sense it really helps us out."

To read more from this writer, view his blog at blockplane.blogspot.com

Theater class fills dragon core

BY JOHN ENGER
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Believe it or not, there is an interesting way to fulfill a division eight credit of the Dragon Core. The class is the theatrical world, the professor, David Wheeler.

The class is relatively new, but Wheeler has been working on it for some time.

"We've been working at it three years," Wheeler said. "At first, I just tried it out. But now we've got a permanent class number for it."

The theatrical world covers exactly what you might expect.

"We are looking at theater from the perspective of Asian theater and European theater and American theater," Wheeler said. "Just sort of an all-over-the-world approach to it."

In terms of course work, it's a

little off-the-wall for a DC class.

"There's a big project where (students) will do a presentation on some aspect of world theater," Wheeler said. "I've had students talk about Vietnamese puppet theater, and all the way from that to the 'Lion King.' They're doing verbal things. They're working in groups."

Of course there are reading quizzes along with the creative work, but that's not what students seem to think about.

"We get to watch a lot of videos," said Billy Schnase, theater major and student in the theatrical world. "And we get to put on mini performances of the plays."

Though there are theater majors in the class, many students in the theatrical world have nothing to do with theater.

"My adviser told me I should

take it," said Chris Jelinek. "Something different, something fun, and it gets my Core almost done. It sounds interesting and I'm up for anything."

Professor Wheeler also mentioned that his class shouldn't wreck any GPA's.

"It's not a very difficult course. If you don't show up and do it, you're going to be in trouble, but if you're sort of present and working on it all the time, it will go really easy for a student."

For those interested in taking the theatrical world, talk THTR 420. Also keep in mind that the class will most likely only be offered during the fall semester to encourage higher enrollment.

To read more from this writer, view his blog at blockplane.blogspot.com

RAs face ever-changing job

BY ANDREW JASON
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No day is a typical day for Aaron Muller, or any Resident Assistant for that matter.

Muller, a RA on first East Snarr, said the job of a RA changes on a day-to-day basis. However, to be an effective RA one has to be many things.

"The perfect RA would be enthusiastic, a leader, optimistic and a self-motivator," Muller says.

James Taylor, a desk manager and former RA for Snarr says that RA's job descriptions require many different things. RA's are required to put on three programs a semester, decorate their floors and most of all they have to be a friend to all their residents.

"Most of our day is listening to residents and then finding help," said Muller. "We're the one friend that's going to find help for you, no

matter what."

RA's are constantly helping their residents. Whether it's helping find a tutor for math or helping them deal with a rough break-up, it's the job of a RA to always be there.

"Interacting with your residents and seeing them grow throughout the year is a major pro of the job," said Muller.

But it's not all fun and games though for RA's — they can feel underappreciated.

"You decorate your floor and then your residents go and tear them down," Muller said. "It's very disheartening. They don't realize how much effort you put into it."

Many RA's get into being an RA because of the incentive of free room and board. According to Taylor, being an RA comes out to being about 15-20 hours a week. Taylor points out that this is a good price to pay for free room and board.

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Student explains difference in sorority life

BY ERICA ANDERSON
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Although MSUM's sorority row is more like a sorority block, other universities around the country have a Greek life resembling those you might see in the movies.

MSUM senior Joely Davidson began her sisterhood with the Gamma Phi Beta sorority at MSUM, but with the opportunity to study nationally at University of Oregon in Eugene, she was able to experience a much larger and supported Greek life.

"Oregon has 10 sororities and 12 fraternities," Davidson said. "They thrived and were so much more recognized on campus than we are here."

Nicole Kahler, Gamma Phi Beta president, thinks that the prominence of Greek life is the main difference between large campuses and smaller ones.

"Large campuses that have Greek life generally see larger numbers of potential new members during recruitment and chapters have more members," Kahler said. "I also feel that often times the members of smaller chapters get to know each other better."

Davidson agrees with Kahler. Joining Gamma Phi Beta as a freshman in 2007, she hadn't been involved in many extra curricular activities in high school and she wanted a change of pace.

"I wanted to be more involved and have a close group of friends," Davidson said. "When you actually join a sorority, you have it — they

aren't only your friends but they are your family."

Her junior year, Davidson applied for and was accepted into the University of Oregon for one year of studying nationally. The program is similar to studying abroad, but within the U.S.

Although she remained in the same sorority, life was different. The slogan of "Connect, impact and shine" was the same and their core values of "Love, labor, learning, loyalty" were not altered but the social side of being in a sisterhood did.

At MSUM, Davidson lived in the sorority house with 12 other girls. In Oregon, there were 54.

"I had a really close-knit group in Oregon," Davidson said. "About 5 of us girls were super close but you didn't get to know everyone. Here at MSUM you get to know every single girl."

Another difference is how the housework gets done. Gamma Phi Beta at MSUM has a rotating schedule of everyone living in the house and each share the responsibility of cleaning up. In Oregon, the girls didn't have to do anything, Davidson said. Oregon's chapter hired "houseboys."

"They were just boys that were hired," Davidson said. "They cleaned the dishes and distributed meals to us."

The larger sorority also had a "housemother," who was a motherly figure the girls could go to for support, and cooks who made the meals. MSUM's chapter doesn't provide that either.



CHRIS FRANZ • chrisfranzphoto.blogspot.com

The Gamma Phi Beta sorority house is located on 10th street near campus.

"The responsibility is on us (at MSUM)," Davidson said. "Over there we had other people whose role it was to clean the house and do the dishes and cook the food."

Oregon's Gamma Phi Beta also offered an additional living arrangement, too. A "sleeping porch" was set up for the new freshman to sleep in.

"Imagine in the military when they have barracks and there is 20 bunk beds," Davidson said.

Rooms are based on seniority.

Davidson had her own room because she was a junior but her room had two closets and two dressers. One set was for her and one was for her "roommate" who was one of the freshman who kept her things in Davidson's room but slept on the sleeping porch.

"You don't get to know your roommate there as you would at MSUM," Davidson said.

Although differences are eminent, Gamma Phi Beta as a whole supports causes in the same way throughout

the country. Campfire USA Camping for Girls is the national philanthropy of Gamma Phi Beta and each chapter does their part in helping the cause; Gamma Phi in Eugene has a pancake feed, MSUM serves spaghetti. Although changes occur from chapter to chapter, the focus of the sisterhood remains the same.

To read more from this writer, view her blog at ericanderson.blogspot.com

Nichole's satisfies

BY DANIELLE VOIGT
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Despite being open for eight years, Nichole's Fine Pastry in Fargo has continued to demonstrate that the Midwest can surely be fancy, too.

When it "feels like" -22 degrees out, there isn't much I venture out for. Actually, I only leave my nice little cocoon of blankets for food. Food brings people together, brings people joy and also an occasional unwanted bathroom visit. But, within two days I went to Nichole's Fine Pastry three times. It might have had to do with the fact that I was severely homesick and the only cure for that is a stomach so far stretched you can barely breathe. But even so, that provides comfort to the many students who are frozen on this arctic tundra for the next four years of their lives.

Nichole's Fine Pastry sells a variety of desserts, bakery items and, recently, lunch items and homemade gelato. The European-style desserts consist of perfectly cut bars, a Midwest staple, a variety of cakes and pies, tarts, specialty dessert towers, crème brûlée and assorted chocolates. All of these options were too much for my disheveled mind.

Walking up to the counter and being stared at like I was an untouchable, I got nervous and let two people go ahead of me. Staring at the delicious pastries, I couldn't wait any longer. I walked up, pretended to know what all those French words were and ordered three things: one caramel pecan bar, one blackberry lime tower and a blackberry lime Italian soda, a flavor pairing suggested by the cashier. I walked slowly to the corner table

because most people eat like cows so I didn't want to be disturbed. I took a bite of the specialty tower, sunk into my chair and moaned "mmhm" so loud that my boyfriend said "I'll have what she's having."

I was observing the chefs the whole time I was eating; they were all so busy refilling the pastries and sandwiches. They reminded me of the mice of Cinderella, meticulously placing each grain of sugar in the mixing bowl to make a sparkly masterpiece. The owner, Nichole Secker, could barely be seen because of her baseball cap and constant movement to finish one dessert and start a new one.

Her attire can be compared to the environment of Nichole's as well. It is so casual but so elegant at the same time. Anyone can walk in there with a baseball cap, order a crème brûlée and pretend they are in France or forget about the stresses of everyday life. The food is fancy but the atmosphere is one of the most comforting things during the cold winter. The local art on the walls helps customers appreciate the frost-bitten land they live in and the warm-hearted people that surround them creates a coziness that is hard to leave. That is, until the glare of someone who has been waiting for a table for 15 minutes but that is only because it is almost always busy.

All in all, Nichole's Fine Pastry is a little slice of something that is like nothing else here, smushed in between the patty lands and testosterone-influenced steakhouses that is Fargo.

To read more from this writer, view her blog at daniellevoigt.blogspot.com



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Incoming students academically unprepared

BY CHARLY HALEY
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A report released on Jan. 19 by MnSCU and the University of Minnesota shows an increased number of high school graduates attending Minnesota colleges academically unprepared, specifically in math.

According to the report, "Getting Prepared: A 2010 Report on Recent High School Graduates Who Took Developmental/Remedial Courses," 40 percent of Minnesota's recent public high school graduates enrolled in public higher education in Minnesota have taken at least one developmental or remedial course within their first two years of college, and of all the developmental credits taken by those who graduated high school in 2008, 50 percent were in math,

23 percent were in writing and the rest were in other subjects.

Associate professor of math Ellen Hill said she sees some unpreparedness at MSUM.

"Some of them are unprepared specifically in math," Hill said. "Some of them are unprepared, just for any kind of college ... If a student comes in and they're just slightly underprepared for college, you know, they're prepared in everything but one thing, it does have a tendency to be math, because it's a thing that you have to remember. So if you don't take math for your senior year in high school, you've had a year and a half to forget ... you really do have to remember well, your high school algebra to do well in college algebra."

Math major and former math tutor Nicole Anderson agrees with Hill that part of the issue

could be when high school students don't take a math class their senior year.

"Those students who had difficulty with math, or just didn't like it, would take the minimum and be glad to be rid of it," Anderson said. "Then, when they get to college and have to take more for their major or some other reason, they might be behind or have forgotten what they had learned previously."

Shirley McCaslin, guidance counselor at Fargo North High School, said Minnesota public high schools require three years of math, and North Dakota schools recently raised their requirement from two years to three.

McCaslin said there are college preparatory classes that high school students are advised to take, but the students also have

options for taking non-college preparatory classes to meet the graduation requirement. In math, the recommendation is to study algebra I, geometry and algebra II.

For students who enter MSUM unprepared for math, there are two math development classes, MDEV 102, in preparation for MATH 102 Introduction to Mathematics, and MDEV 127, in preparation for MATH 127 College Algebra.

"Those are the developmental classes that they would be talking about in (the MnSCU and U of M report)," Hill said. "The MDEV classes that we have set up — we call it MDEV 127 for mathematical development to immediately go to MATH 127."

Hill said the classes are meant to be taken immediately after each other to avoid the memory issue

that she said often contributes to math unpreparedness for incoming freshmen.

Hill said with the Corrick Center closed, the math department is expecting an increased enrollment in MDEV classes.

"We're trying to basically guess how many more sections we'll need," she said.

In addition to the MDEV classes, math assistance is available in a tutor lab in the math department for all math classes, and another tutor lab for students in MDEV, MATH 102 and MATH 127.

To read more from this writer, view her blog at charlyhaley.blogspot.com

Women's studies broadens its reach

BY ERICA ANDERSON
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There are majors that MSUM is well known for, while others remain slightly out of sight. The women's studies program is part of the latter, but maybe not for long.

In January, women's studies professors Claudia Murphy and Linda Fuselier spoke at the Mellon 23 Workshop on Feminism and Science in California. The topic: the success of the women's studies program at MSUM.

Fuselier, the chair and director of the women's studies program and associate professor of biosciences, has been a part of this success by bringing a new facet to the program: the Women in Science certificate.

Beginning in the fall of 2009, MSUM launched MnSCU's first and only certificate program for women in science with the goals of increasing knowledge of science, technology, engineering and math careers.

"It is estimated that the

attrition of women from the STEM marketplace results in a \$1.5 billion loss to the USA economy each year," Fuselier said.

Countries such as Great Britain have already jumped on this band wagon by hiring feminist scholars and women's studies professionals to make up teams that make decisions about health, medicine and public policy.

"We see a new frontier for out women's studies scholars in STEM disciplines," Fuselier said. "And the opportunity to bring into STEM, graduates with fresh ideas that will help to reclaim our community's global advantage in science and engineering fields."

The Women in Science certificate is made up of four classes that students of any major can participate in. The classes include Dragon Core 4L, WS 247 Perspectives and Intersections, Bio/WS 300 Biology of Women and WS 407. Each course, besides WS 247, is a Dragon Core class.

MSUM is one of the few universities that offers a

Women in Science certificate.

"The University of Wisconsin in Madison has a similar program after which we modeled our curriculum re-design," Fuselier said. "But I do not know of any other universities that have a certificate program within women's studies that is specific to women in science."

With completion of the Women in Science certificate, in combination with any major, Fuselier said it tells future employers that one can recognize the importance of diversity to the global marketplace, are current in studies of contemporary science and health fields and are able to think more globally than many other job applicants.

For more information on the certificate, email Fuselier at linda.fuselier@gmail.com.

To read more from this writer, view her blog at ericaanderson.blogspot.com

APARTMENTS FROM FRONT:

Like Stromstad, Duffney has also had issues with her neighbors.

"Our neighbors have complained about us 'stomping' when we're really just walking around," she said.

Neither Duffney nor Stromstad blame the management for the disputes with their neighbors.

"I like them (Harmon Properties)," Stromstad said, "but not our living situation. They seem really friendly and they acknowledge when something's going wrong, but they haven't done anything about it for some cases."

Stromstad said that even with the problems she has experienced, Harmon is the best company she has rented from in the F-M area. She has previously rented from Coldwell Banker First Realty and RKAK Realty & Property Management.

"(At Coldwell,) when we moved in, it wasn't cleaned and they lied about that, from what we understood, on the sheet you fill out when you check in," Stromstad said. "And the same thing happened with RKAK. When we checked in it wasn't cleaned, but when we checked out they started deducting all our money, we hardly got any of our deposit back ... and they didn't put any reasons why it was

deducted or anything."

Stromstad would recommend students to rent from Harmon, but not RKAK or Coldwell.

Mark Wagner, property manager for Coldwell, explained that Coldwell is "third party property management," meaning they do not own the building that they manage.

"We manage according to what the owner wants," he said, "and every owner is different."

He said several developers in the F-M area have been targeting college students with free Wi-Fi, study rooms and exercise rooms, but none of the buildings he manages through Coldwell offers these facilities.

"The buildings I manage are just strictly apartments," Wagner said.

He also said that many developers in the area are trying to cater to the 55+ demographic. He estimated the buildings he manages to have only 25-30 percent college students.

Representatives from Goldmark and Harmon declined to comment.

Representatives from RKAK could not be reached.

To read more from this writer, view her blog at charlyhaley.blogspot.com

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Students could find path at career fair

BY RACHEL LEINGANG
leingara@mnstate.edu

Students nearing graduation and entering the job market may find career fairs a helpful option in the employment search.

The Minnesota State Universities Job and Internship Fair in Minneapolis on Feb. 21 offers MSUM students and alumni the opportunity to meet employers and potential career paths.

The professional atmosphere shouldn't discourage students who may not feel ready to network.

"Employers have a very positive view of college students," said Cindy Norberg, career specialist and assistant director of Career Services. "Because employers know that students are on the edge of new information because they have new degrees, it's a really advantageous time to

interact with employers."

Jesika McCauley, a communications studies major, attended the Tri College Career and Internship Fair and found a promotions internship with the Fargo Redhawks.

"You need to go because you won't ever get another opportunity where you can just go and talk to multiple employers at one time," McCauley said.

After deciding to attend, students need to be prepared and ready to show off their professional skills.

"Do the research on the employers before you go," McCauley said. "The employer wants to know how you are going to help them, like what your connection is going to be with them."

Norberg also suggests checking out which employers will attend and knowing about their company.

"The paramount thing is to research employers in advance," Norberg said. "A lot of students ask me how many, I suggest research at least 5, but have a good idea about 10. You don't need to be able to win a trivia competition about the company, but just enough so that you know a little bit about their mission, what kind of industry they are, what are they roles they're hiring for."

Attendees need to be dressed to impress (most likely in a suit) and bring professionally printed copies of their resumes.

Students with majors that don't have clear-cut career paths should not be discouraged, but can use career fairs to market their skills or explore possible jobs.

"A common misconception is that employers are looking for certain majors, and that's not always the case," Norberg said.

"What employers are looking for is a very specific set of skills. Your major should not determine whether or not you go to a career fair, but the companies that attend should determine whether or not you go. If there are three companies that you could see yourself working for on that list of 100, it's worth the money to go."

Career Services offers a Prepare for the Fair workshop on Feb. 17 at 5 p.m. in CMU 205. Norberg also recommends that students come in to the Career Services office to get their resume reviewed, as employers expect that level of preparedness.

"The key is professionalism and preparation, and if you've got those things going, you'll be fine," Norberg said.

To read more from this writer, view her blog at rachelleingang.blogspot.com

Yosakoi dance team dwindles

BY KIMBERLY KRESSIN
kressinki@mnstate.edu

Students looking for a cultural experience and a workout all at the same time may want to join the Yosakoi dance team on campus.

Yosakoi is a Japanese dance that combines traditional dance movements with modern music.

The MSUM Yosakoi dance team has performed at various events this school year, including Japan Night, Pangea and the talent show in the fall.

While Yosakoi teammates say that their dances seem to be popular among students, membership has been dwindling.

"There were six members when I joined, then there were five, and now there's three. It's kind of sad," said Cyemione Herbert, MSUM freshman, who joined the team this fall.

"If you like dancing and you're not that good of a dancer, it's all right, we won't kick you out. This isn't 'Survivor,'" she said.

Herbert said her parents' military experiences got her interested in Yosakoi.

"My dad mostly went to the Asian countries ... he'd always come back saying 'you need to see this.'"

MSUM junior Yuichiro Yoshida has been leading the team for two years and said the dance is a great way to educate the Midwest about Japanese culture.

"When I came to the United States, I thought that people knew about Japan, but I realize that people don't really, but people like this dance," Yoshida said.

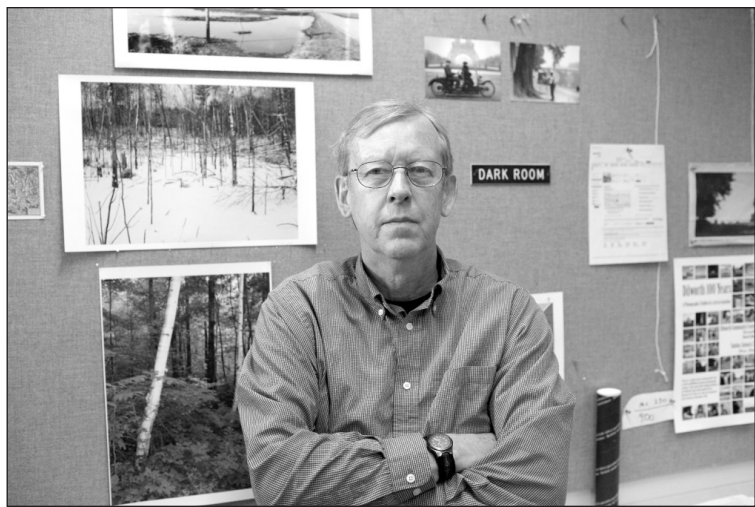
The team has held various dance workshops in the CMU with small turnouts.

Arati Gurung, MSUM senior, attended a recent workshop and said it's worth checking out.

"I really had a lot of fun and I hope that I can keep coming," she said, adding that the dance is a great "mini workout."

The team hopes to perform at a few more events this semester and encourages students to join. Interested students can contact Yoshida at yoshidayu@mnstate.edu.

Photography professor featured on BBC



CHRIS FRANZ • chrisfranzphoto.blogspot.com

MSUM professor of photography, Wayne Gudmundson, recently took part in the BBC World News radio series, "Travels with Mike."

BY SADIE JONES
jonessad@mnstate.edu

Wayne Gudmundson, professor of photography at MSUM, was recently featured in a five part documentary radio series, "Travels with Mike" on BBC World News.

"Travels with Mike" is a radio series produced at Duke University in commemoration of John Steinbeck's "Travels with Charley."

Steinbeck, a writer from New England, traveled around America in a pickup and makeshift camper with his standard size poodle,

Charley, and wrote about how the people in the different towns he encountered lived their lives.

John Biewen came up with the idea of "Travels with Mike" to commemorate the 50th anniversary of "Travels with Charley." He planned to revisit some of the key locations Steinbeck visited and talk to people from the area, substituting a poodle for a microphone.

Biewen contacted Gudmundson and asked if he would be willing to participate.

"When John Biewen called me out of the blue, I was very

surprised," Gudmundson said. "He asked if I would be interested in doing this and I thought it would be kind of fun and we've communicated since then about the project so it was fun when it kind of got on BBC World News."

Steinbeck, after visiting the F-M area, continued to travel down Highway 10, where he encountered the famed Buffalo Alice sign.

"It's a great sign because I always kind of wonder, 'Who is this person Buffalo Alice?' But unfortunately it's two cities in opposite directions, Buffalo and Alice. Well Steinbeck went to Alice and from there he headed west," Gudmundson said. "So (Biewen) called me very early on and said he had this idea and he had a pilot and would I be interested in spending a day with him out in a road doing this radio stuff and I said I'd be delighted because I thought it'd be kind of interesting because I like the landscape of North Dakota."

The two met and, after driving around Fargo-Moorhead and Cassleton, drove out to Alice and camped in a location they thought was close to where Steinbeck may have visited.

"I drove and he asked the questions and we just did it all on the fly," Gudmundson said. "It

was fun seeing someone ... I'm a documentary photographer so I kind of know about my business of making photo documents, visual documents, but it was fun to have someone who is very good with radio, with that medium, to work with him. It was very interesting to work with him."

The broadcast appeared on BBC World News, where a friend of Gudmundson's, John K. Johnson, was able to hear it in his home in Singapore.

"(It was) total surprise at the odd juxtaposition of our friend's Moorhead voice in our Singapore kitchen," Johnson said. "(I said) 'Hey, Jenny! You hearing this?' (and she said) 'Yeah, It's Wayne!'"

"It was kind of fun, especially when I got this very cryptic note from a friend of mine living in Singapore," Gudmundson said.

To listen to the broadcast go to <http://travelswithmike.org/archives/7>.

To read more from this writer, view her blog at sadielizjones.blogspot.com

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Athletics hosts Go Pink event Festivities hit home for one basketball player

BY MICHAEL SMITH
smithmi@mnstate.edu

This year's Go Pink event, hosted by the MSUM Athletics Department, drives home its purpose as a basketball player deals with a family sickness.

"I found out the day before practice started (this season) that my mom had breast cancer," junior guard Jake Driscoll said. This is not the only member of Driscoll's family that has been affected by the disease; his aunt, grandpa and grandma have each been diagnosed with a form of cancer.

"(The event) has always been big to me, having people in my family affected by cancer," Driscoll said. "This year, it is happening right now so there is a little more emotion in it for me."

The festivities started last Saturday with the Freeze Your Fanny for a Cure, a 2-mile run on campus. The event then moved to the Fargo Civic Center to watch the F-M Derby Girls.

"It's really grown to be a good tradition," event planner Gloria Riopelle said. "Hopefully, we build awareness for the young men and women."

Riopelle was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006. Today, she is cancer-free.

All proceeds from the event go to the Sanford Roger Maris Cancer Center in Fargo.

"I was over at Roger Maris last week and when you walk into the place and it's full, that just solidifies the reason why we do this stuff," Riopelle said.

The women's basketball team will slightly break tradition this year, as they will not be wearing their pink jerseys.

"We really tried to keep our expenses down just because we want to give as much (as we can)

to Roger Maris," Riopelle said.

The team will don Go Pink T-shirts during warm-ups.

Driscoll kept his mother's illness to himself and didn't reach out to his teammates right away.

"Not a lot of (my teammates) knew until this week," Driscoll said. "I kind of kept it to myself. My cousin is on the team, so he obviously knew right away and couple other guys I have known since elementary (school) or high school so they also knew."

Both men's and women's basketball will face University of Minnesota Duluth as the event culminates on Friday night basketball. The men's team was defeated by one point in their previous meeting with Duluth earlier this season. The women were victorious in their last meeting with the Bulldogs.

"(The event) has always been big to me, having people in my family affected by cancer. This year, it is happening right now so there is a little more emotion in it for me."

- Driscoll

"(We need to) try and play hard all the time. Defensively, we need to step it up," Driscoll said. "It is probably going to be a close game and we just have to keep fighting and see how we end up. I talked to my mom today and she said 'Go out there and play your best.'"

Events like this offer a caring environment and show Driscoll that he is not alone in his pain.

"It is good to have the support. It help me stay positive," Driscoll said.

To read more from this writer, read his blog at smithmi.blogspot.com



Courtesy of MSUM Athletics

List of Go Pink Events

Today

Educational speaker and certified wellness coach Ann Dolence presents "Coaching Yourself to a Lifetime of Wellness" at 7 p.m., in Science Lab 118. The event is free and open to the public.

Friday

Dragon Basketball vs. Duluth
6 p.m. (women's), 8 p.m. (men's), Alex Nemzek Fieldhouse.

Other festivities at the games include:

Red River Boys Choir sings the national anthem.

Acro Lites & Acro II teams perform at half-times.

Go Pink Silent Auction – bid & win various items.

Purchase Go Pink t-shirt & get a free wristband at the games.

*For more information or to donate a silent auction item, contact MSUM Athletic Department or e-mail riopelg@mnstate.edu or visit www.msumdragons.com or call 218-477-5824.

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Tennis evens up record, prepares for home match

BY MICHAEL SMITH
smithmi@mnstate.edu

The women's tennis team has been on both sides of a shutout in the early stages of this season.

The Dragons were held winless during the season-opener, losing 9-0 at St. Cloud University. Bouncing right back, the team swept the University of Mary the next day.

"St. Cloud is really tough, they were first in our conference last season," senior team captain Susan Gilkerson said. "We knew they were going to be hard but I think we played well."

With the frigid weather outside, the team is forced to practice and compete indoors at Courts Plus in Fargo. Practice hours are later than most MSUM teams, the players take to the courts from 9-10:30 p.m.

"It's late but you get used to it," Gilkerson said.

Gilkerson, a Brooking, S.D., native has been playing tennis since seventh grade but faced

some difficulties when she brought her game to MSUM.

"When I came as a freshman I had never played inside before and it was really hard to get used to it," Gilkerson said. "Now, I really like it. There is no wind, there is no sun and everything is equal. For the most part, our season is all indoors because there is just not enough nice weather."

The players compete in both singles and doubles tennis. So far this season, Gilkerson has been teamed up with junior Jenessa Winey.

"Our coach mixes up our doubles a little bit," Gilkerson said. "Sometimes he will switch up partners just to see if the chemistry works better between them. For doubles especially, we are starting to get to know each other a lot better. We are working better as a team. We are still a little bit rusty because the season is really new."

The tennis team has only played two matches so far this

season and looks to improve as the season continues.

"I've definitely improved a lot just by actually winning and getting to the finish line of the match," Gilkerson said. "You improve so much. There is a big difference between your first day as a freshmen and your last year as a senior. Just hitting more balls and (developing) more consistency can help us improve."

The Dragons welcome St. Benedict to Courts Plus this Saturday at 5 p.m. for their first home match of the season.

"I'm excited because we can have fans watch us and it is where we practice everyday," Gilkerson said. "I hope it is a good season. We have a lot of (upperclassmen). We are an older team and we have a lot of experience. If we play well we can make a good season out of it."

To read more from this writer, read his blog at smithmi.blogspot.com



Column: AP rewards outrageous behavior Vick honored for overcoming self-made problem

BY MICHAEL SMITH
smithmi@mnstate.edu



The Associated Press recently named Philadelphia Eagles' quarterback Michael Vick NFL Comeback Player of the Year.

This was Vick's first full season since he served nearly two years in federal prison for his role in a dog-fighting ring. He is the first player to comeback from jail and win the award.

On the field, Vick had the stats

deserving of the award but his off-the-field antics have cast an appropriate but negative shadow over everything he is associated with.

He finished the recently completed season with 21 touchdown passes and only six interceptions, the fewest in a season in which he played 12 or more games.

No matter how impressively he plays the game, he tortured animals with no pity and no remorse — prior to being caught at least.

According to the court documents, made available by the Associated Press, Vick had a "blood-stained fighting area" along with "animal training and breeding equipment, including a 'rape

stand'" on his property when a search warrant was served in 2007.

Overall, 53 pitbulls were rescued from the property owned by Vick but inhabited by his nephew in Smithfield, Va.

The NFL shouldn't reward that behavior even if Vick has said and done all the right things since he was released from prison.

The award should be given to an athlete that overcomes an injury or obstacle and not to someone who creates their own problems by breaking the law.

Vick made millions of dollars during his NFL career and it is horrible this is how he chose to spend some of it.

Vick didn't hurt a person, but if you

have ever heard a dog whimper, you know that they feel pain and it takes a sick person to beat them and in some cases make them fight each other to the death.

Vick is allowed a second chance for his mistakes, just like everyone else — he has already been let back into the NFL and made the Pro Bowl team — but this is a shame.

Some of the dogs that fought at Vick's command won't get a second chance so he should feel fortunate that he was able to be rehabilitated.

To read more from this writer, read his blog at smithmi.blogspot.com

Sports reporter needed

The Advocate is looking for a reporter to cover MSUM sporting events over the weekend. If you are interested in this opportunity please contact sports editor Michael Smith at smithmi@mnstate.edu

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PARKING, FROM FRONT

they're looking at right now, the different options to make that happen."

This year Public Safety also isn't ticketing the residential lots after 4:30 p.m.

"That right there is going to drop our ticket numbers, that's a time of the day that we're not even ticketing anymore," Klinnert said.

Although fines have increased, Public Safety officers haven't been any more lenient on offenders.

"I don't think our enforcement policies and practices have changed at all," Halverson said.

Klinnert agreed.

"You're either guilty of the offense or you're not," he said. "I don't think it would be fair for us to play favorites with that. We haven't changed anything as far as our policies are concerned, but I have heard informally from other officers who work that they're having a harder time finding them."

Osland has heard the same from other officers.

"I heard from many of our officers at the beginning of the school year how much harder it

was to find violators compared to previous years."

Osland said he sees this as a good thing.

"My view, which I have been very vocal on the past years, is that writing tickets cannot be viewed as a revenue source, but as a necessity to effectively manage our limited parking spaces and ensure that everyone — students, faculty, staff and visitors — are following the policies that have been enacted," he said. "If we begin to look at it as a revenue source we run the risk of not being objective or fair in enforcement of the policies, but merely trying to write as many tickets as possible whether they are legitimately given or not."

Public Safety's focus the last year has been looking at ways to reduce costs rather than looking at the revenue.

"We have gone from having a full-time staff member and two to three students in the parking office throughout the year to just a full-time staff member, resulting in a savings of payroll for the parking office as well as we have had reduced hours in the enforcement payroll," Osland said. "We are

currently short staffed and looking at getting back to better coverage for enforcement staff during the peak day hours which account for a lot of the decrease in tickets and as soon as the new director of Public Safety starts on Feb. 23, this will be a focus for our day shift."

Because the director of Public Safety isn't responsible for the parking budget, it's difficult to make adjustments when it's unclear how much money is being taken in and being spent, Osland said.

In a conversation with Vice

President Dan Kirk, Osland said "I have attempted to reduce the student payroll for parking, but not knowing if we are losing more than we are saving or if we are saving more than we are losing makes it impossible to know."

Though Osland said tickets should not be viewed as a source of revenue, raising fines has put Public Safety back on track to make their average profit once again.

To read more from this writer, view her blog at kelsiookeefe.blogspot.com



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Derrick Warnecke, MSUM senior, finds an expired meter while out on patrol.

LAYOFFS, FROM FRONT

Szymanski and members of her cabinet met with the Student Senate on Feb. 3 to discuss the possibility of retrenchment, meaning layoffs of permanent employees.

"I don't see any way at this time that we will be able to avoid layoffs," Szymanski said, "so my job will be to do the least amount of harm and the most amount of good. Some people will get hurt, and some people will be unhappy."

As far as students are concerned, Szymanski said, "We will minimize the impact on students, and we will not be closing any undergraduate degree programs."

Administrators are looking at phasing out one graduate program, however. Szymanski declined to name the program, but said, "There aren't a whole lot of students in that program, which is why it will get phased out in all probability."

The problem, Szymanski said, is cost recovery. "It is not ethical, I believe, for undergraduate students working on their first degree to subsidize those who will come back for a graduate degree."

Szymanski doesn't expect to cut many more programs than the one, however.

"It will probably be confined to just that one because we already eliminated most everything else that was really low enrollment," she said.

For undergraduates, Dean of the University College Denise Gorsline said class sizes could be affected.

"We're not talking about taking a 30 person class and making it 60," she said. "But some classes, like astronomy, have 100 people where 110 would be okay." Gorsline also said student teachers will help with the larger classes.

Through the cost saving process, Szymanski says students are the priority. "I will do everything I can to protect the majority of the students," she said.

To read more from this writer, view his blog at mattlech.blogspot.com

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