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The Advocate, December 9, 2014

Minnesota State University Moorhead

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Briefs

CAMPUS CALENDAR

12.9-12.20

12.9	7:30 p.m., Jazz Combo Concert, Fox Recital Hall	12.18	1 - 3 p.m., Commencement Ceremony, Nemzek
12.12	7 - 9 p.m., Holiday Pops Family Christmas Concert, 314 Broadway, Fargo	12.20	4 p.m., WBB vs Northern State, Nemzek 6 p.m., MBB vs Northern State, Nemzek
12.17	9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Giving Tree of Hope and Connection Fair, Fargo Civic Center	12.20	2 p.m., MBB vs Jamestown College, Nemzek

SENATE UPDATE

12.4 Meeting

- The meeting included committee reports and discussion regarding organizational changes within the Senate.
- Senators will be meeting with administration for meet and confer this upcoming Thursday.
- Members will continue to meet with constituents concerned about the Mosaic Center.

Students are invited to attend Senate meetings Thursdays at 6 p.m. in CMU 205.

SECURITY UPDATE

11.26-12.4

- 11.26:**
- Reckless driver in G-3 lot, Moorhead PD responded
 - Hit and run accident in G-7 lot
- 11.30:**
- Marijuana odor complaint in Ballard, one cited by Moorhead PD for possession of drug paraphernalia, referred to OSCAR
- 12.2:**
- University alcohol violation in Neumaier, two referred to OSCAR
- Marijuana odor complaint in South Snarr, one cited by Moorhead PD for possession of small amount of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, referred to OSCAR
- 12.3:**
- Vehicle break-in/attempted theft in G-7 lot, MPD responded
 - Theft in Grantham, MPD responded
- 12.4:**
- Theft from locker in Bridges

Safety Tip of the Week
To report a problem, contact Public Safety at 218-477-2449.

Be prepared for winter weather and keep a basic emergency kit in your vehicle. A snowbrush, jumper cables, flashlight, and a first aid kit are just a few items to have on hand.

The Advocate

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The Advocate is published weekly during the academic year, except during final examination and vacation periods. It serves as a voice for students and an outlet for information important to them.

Opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or student body.

The Advocate encourages letters to the editor. 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. Friday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off at The Advocate office in CMU Room 110 or emailed 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.

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The Advocate is always looking for talented writers, photographers, columnists and illustrators.

Contact the editor for more information or attend staff meetings on Sunday evenings.

Josie Gereszek, editor-in-chief
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Ethan DeGree, photo editor
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Ellen Rossow, features editor
Samantha Stark, A&E editor
Thor Thompson, sports editor
Kristin Miller, copy editor
Zana Pommier, copy editor
Cameron Seibold, online editor
Robert Plemel, business manager

MSUM Briefs

The Advocate named November Student Organization of the Month

The Advocate is pleased to announce our November Dragon Pride award as Student Organization of the Month.

Dragons AfterDark hosts Open Mic and Cozy Crafts Night

Dragons AfterDark will host an Open Mic and Cozy Crafts Night on Tuesday from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.

There will also be horse drawn carriage rides, an ugly sweater contest, great food and holiday crafts.

Open mic sign up is located in every residence hall, the CMU info desk, or contact edingerer@mnstate.edu or andersogar@mnstate.edu.

MSUM grad, comic dies after falling from Mexican ruins

Comedian/actor Gus Lynch

of White Bear Lake, Minn., died Nov. 30 after a fall at the Coba Mayan ruins in Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, where he was vacationing with his family in Akumal. His injuries included a punctured lung, a broken pelvis and broken ribs. Although he initially survived the fall, he later went into cardiac arrest.

His death resonated in Fargo-Moorhead, where Lynch, born Jason Gustine, was a fixture in the theater department before graduating from Minnesota State University Moorhead in 1996.

Sign up for snow removal alerts

The City of Moorhead has modified its Snow Removal Declaration procedures. When a Snow Removal Declaration is issued, continue to follow the city's year-round no parking signs posted on streets and avenues throughout the Blue Snow District.

Follow @MSUMoorhead and @MSUMPublicSafeT on Twitter and sign up for e2campus texts to stay up to date on the latest emergency updates.

Announcements will also be made on MSUM's website and through local news stations.

Alumni gather in NYC

MSUM will be hosting an alumni gathering Dec. 20 in New York City. President Anne Blackhurst will join as a special guest.

The gathering will be at O'Reilly's Bar & Kitchen at 21 West 35th beginning at 5 p.m. with an informal program at 5:45 p.m.

President Blackhurst will share some updates from the land of the Dragons and most importantly, provide lots of opportunity for alumni and friends to share stories and memories from their time on campus.

World News

Eleven killed in failed hostage rescue bid

Eleven people were killed during the attempted rescue mission in Yemen. U.S. special forces led a raid on Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula in the village of Dafaar in Shabwa province in a second attempt to rescue Somers. Locals say nearly a dozen others were killed during the ensuing clash, including a ten-year-old boy and a woman, as well as a local Al Qaeda leader and possibly other militants. Not all of the casualties have been identified.

North Korea denies participation in SONY hack, describes it as 'righteous'

Although North Korea has denied any role in the Sony Studio hack, the Hermit Kingdom praised the breach that effectively shut down one of the largest movie companies. Via the Korean Central News Agency, a government spokesman issued a statement describing the hack as a "righteous deed," while also claiming North Korea played no role in it.

"We do not know where in America the SONY Pictures is situated and for what wrongdoings it became the target of the attack nor do we feel the need to know about it," the statement said. "But what we clearly know is that the SONY Pictures is the very one which was going to produce a film abetting a terrorist act while hurting the dignity of the supreme leadership of the DPRK."

The film in question, James Franco and Seth Rogen's "The Interview," has outraged North Korea since its release was publicly announced. In June, North Korea vowed "merciless counter-measures" if "The Interview" hit theaters.

Gas leak forces thousands to flee Chicago hotel

Thousands of people were forced to evacuate a hotel in suburban Chicago and 19 were hospitalized following a chlorine gas leak.

First responders came to the Hyatt in Rosemont, Illinois around 12:40 a.m. Sunday to investigate a noxious odor spreading throughout the ninth floor. Authorities say the evidence of powdered chlorine "suggests an intentional act."

The leak occurred while the hotel was hosting the Midwest FurFest, an annual convention that "celebrate[s] furry fandom, that is, art, literature, and performance based around anthropomorphic animals," according to Furfest's website.

Many of the guests were dressed in animal costumes when they were forced to evacuate. Police allowed guests to return around 3:30 a.m. The leak is currently being investigated as a criminal matter.

Central Park five seeks another \$52M

The five men who were wrongly jailed for raping a Central Park jogger in 1989 are seeking \$52 million in additional compensation.

The Central Park Five already

received \$41 million this year in a settlement with New York City after they filed a federal suit. The group is now seeking damages from the state in the Court of Claims, reports the New York Daily News.

The five men were all teenagers when they were convicted, and each served between six and 13 years in prison.

"When you have a person who has been exonerated of a crime, the city provides no services to transition him back to society. The only thing left is something like this — so you can receive some type of money so you can survive," said Raymond Santana, who spent nearly seven years behind bars.

The first hearing in the case is set for Wednesday.

Rolling Stone amends rape accuser blame

Rolling Stone updated its initial statement regarding its now infamous University of Virginia article, placing the blame on its own publication rather than "Jackie," the rape accuser featured prominently in it.

The publication received flak for appearing to blame reporting mistakes on a rape accuser rather than its own staff.

The Sabrina Rubin Erdely article was called into question after some of Jackie's details could not be corroborated, including the fact that the man who allegedly orchestrated the brutal gang rape did not belong to the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity named in the article.

News

FACELIFT, FROM FRONT

through that, asking ourselves 'how will this meet our priorities?'"

With daylight as first priority, stage one of the renovation involves the addition of lounges, a welcoming area, and large windows.

"This campus is going to start buzzing," architect Heidi Neumueller said.

The west side of the CMU near the library will particularly see a facelift.

"The work that will be done is going to be transformational," architect Kathy Wallace said. "So

many walls are going to be opened up that when you enter this building from the west, you will not recognize it."

An outside courtyard will feature seating areas. Inside, mid and lower-level lounges will be overlooked by a welcome desk. There will be a lounge above this addition that will also receive daylight.

"You're not going to be confronted with a dark corridor, but instead you're going to have an experience and see this campus really open up,"

architect Ash Lettow said.

Architects are also working at improving social spaces in the CMU.

"I think having lounges available to everyone on campus is important," homecoming coordinator Nikki Nouwen said. "Fireplaces and the coffee house feel will make the CMU an enjoyable place to hang out."

With multiple lounges on every level, there will be plenty of spaces for students to hang out, study, and eat lunch with friends. Many will also feature fireplaces.

"There are going to be so many places that make it possible to people watch, check out for your friends, and just see what's going on," Wallace said.

Each lounge will have substantial seating areas, tables, and outlets. Some walls will be covered in dry erase paint to better enable organization meetings and announcements.

The CMU will still have private spaces for meetings and confidential conversations. Conference rooms will continue to be available to reserve

as well as areas for individual groups.

With the idea of shared student involvement spaces, many groups will be consolidated into new spaces.

A proposed shared programming office would hold officers and coordinators of the Dragon Entertainment Group, AfterDark, and Homecoming. Close by will be the Student Senate offices and what's been dubbed the Mosaic Center.

The CMU's west end will be fenced off May 4, 2015 in preparation for the renovations to be completed in 2016.

EUROSPRING, FROM FRONT

enrollment is the autumn's absence of main lecturer for the course Dr. Allan Chapman, who usually makes an annual visit to campus for recruiting sessions as well as a guest lecture. Haak said it was difficult to tell how much of an impact the missed visit had for enrollment.

"It's hard to tell. He's a great ambassador for the program," Haak said, though she added that health concerns prevented Chapman from making the visit to campus during a previous year, and that had not affected enrollment.

Despite challenges faced by the program, steps are currently being taken to address what upcoming years will mean for the continuation of Eurospring.

A committee consisting of Haak, other faculty, Dean Tim Borchers and Josh Pietruszewski, a student who attended Eurospring in 2013, will be meeting to discuss the future of the program.

"I wanted to help do my part in keeping the program up and running," Pietruszewski said about accepting the position on the committee, adding that

"one thing we have been discussing is a Eurospring minor."

The proposed minor would incorporate both the study abroad program, plus classes here on campus. The committee will be meeting to discuss this and other options for keeping the program alive.

Overall, Haak said that members of the committee tend to be "passionate about study abroad."

They're not the only ones. Haak said that throughout the five years she's been involved with the program, she's heard the same feedback from students — the

consensus calling it a "life-changing" experience.

The benefits of the program go beyond the eight weeks spent abroad, according to both faculty and students.

"Having gone on Eurospring, I feel like there's no situation I'm afraid of anymore," said mass comm. senior and Eurospring 2013 participant Carrie Thayer. "In eight weeks I had years' worth of experience."

Thayer added on hearing the news of cancellation, "I was really sad that there was a chance people would miss out on the experience I've had. Clearly there are

still people who want to go."

Pietruszewski agreed.

"Eurospring makes you realize there's another world out there," he said. "When I first heard it was cancelled, I was shocked."

Despite news of the cancellation and lingering uncertainty over the future of the program, both students and faculty remain hopeful that future students will be able to reap the benefits of Eurospring.

"No one has told me that this is going away forever," Haak said. "I want to be hopeful about the future of the program."

FERGUSON, FROM FRONT

The multiple groups then merged into one, with the topic of debate predominantly concerning police brutality, linked with racism: would Brown or Rice have been shot had they been white?

This fundamental question stimulated passionate opinions, causing great discomfort for many attendees. In the case of Tamir Rice, it was argued that racial profiling was created through the combination of ethnicity and "gun" possession,

ultimately leading to his death.

In retaliation, it was commented that Officer Loehmann used his firearms for protection, having been misinformed by the dispatcher that Rice was wielding a legitimate weapon.

The phrase "racism still exists" was repeatedly mentioned by individuals. It was stated that within society, we have been conditioned, through years of racist commentary and actions, to subconsciously treat

the black community in a certain way. This extends to all stereotypes, and it's clear that even today we are still stuck in a judgmental mindset.

It was commented that Loehmann had "every right" to shoot Rice, which caused some tension within the group. The general consensus was that the police aren't always accountable for their actions: when their life is "threatened," they are permitted use force.

But how do you judge the extent

to which a person is considered to be a threat? In Tamir Rice's case, the danger was illusory. It was argued that the police should have used intelligence to perceive the reality of the situation: a 12-year-old was playing with a toy gun.

Some individuals claimed that there was not enough evidence, particularly in the case of Michael Brown, to charge Wilson for his actions. However, both the deaths of Tamir Rice and Eric Garner were

caught on camera by surveillance or personal footage, and still the officers in question were not charged.

As the event drew to a close, it became clear that the issues addressed were not new; racial equality is still a prevalent issue, and has been for decades. It is with hope that discussions like this continue to encourage learning through the opinions of others, preventing the infection of racism spreading throughout the community.



Congratulations 2014 Graduates, MSUM's Newest Alumni!

We are proud of your success and welcome you to the Alumni Family! Stay connected. For information on special Alumni exclusives, gatherings, alumni Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn networking and connecting with other Dragons across the world, go to mnstate.edu/alumni.

Register on the website for a free Alumni account to access the Alumni directory worldwide and receive monthly e-newsletters, updates and more.

Best Wishes!
MSUM Alumni Foundation

Opinion

Have yourself a stressful family Christmas



BY JORDAN SCHROEER
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After surviving the perils of finals week, you now have to survive something no professor gave you a study guide for. You have to face your relatives and endure another family Christmas.

At first, you're excited at the prospect of heading home to your old room, which is quite possibly storage by now, and chatting with the family. Along with your parents and siblings at the holidays, come grandma, grandpa, aunts, uncles, cousins and that person in the corner no one knows the relation to.

Going to family Christmas

can be compared to a midnight run to McDonalds. Sober. It sounds like fun at first. You're even excited. "It's been forever since I've had the McRib," (known as Aunt Cheryl) you think. Then you get there, look around and can't help think everyone seems a little weird.

Uncle Dean is the first to notice you. "How's it going, College Boy?" He puts extra emphasis on the words College Boy because he never went past high school.

You're obliged to give the generic, "Oh, it's good."

He notices the different clothes you're wearing compared to the loose jeans and hoodies you wore in your small town high school. While you're not dressed for a formal dinner, you decided to go with a flannel, cardigan, skinny jeans and leather boots. Stylish.

"Look at you all 'in style,'" he snarks. "You turn into one of those hapsters?"

"Uh, they're called hipsters and no. I just like how it looked," you reply with a smile even though you want to kick him in the rear with your "hapster" leather boots.

At this point, you take notice of the food and snacks being served and mention something

about how hungry you are. This will allow you to escape your uncle's interrogation while being completely friendly.

As you're moseying on over to the food, Grandma Elsie lets out a shriek of joy. "Oooooohhhh! Come over here my Little Helper."—your nickname since age 5.

"Grandma!" You're actually happy to see her, especially after the conversation with your uncle. You know she won't question your clothing choice because she can't see all that well.

"My boy, how's college? Did you get A's? Are you staying warm? Is the food good? Are you eating enough? How's your roommate? You talk to your cousins lately?"

Finally, she asks the big question. "You chasing around any girls?"

That makes 15 minutes before someone brought up dating life. "Oh Grandma, you know you're the only woman I have time for in my life."

This one really gets her. It's a great way to avoid the subject with flattery. She's going to repeat that line to her friends with hearing aids at fellowship after church next Sunday.

By this time, one of your

other family members will offer to fill Grandma's coffee. That's your chance to quickly leave and get the food.

You're dodging relatives and conversation like landmines in war. However, you can't dodge them all. BOOM! You've been hit.

Aunt Karen grabs your arm as you're walking away with a plate full of delicious food (The one thing your relatives can do well is cook, and it shows).

"My, my, my," your aunt mutters while looking you up and down. She's up-to-date with her fashion sense, so the clothes won't be the topic of this conversation. It's something worse.

"Are you eating, dear?" Yup, there it is, the inevitable discussion of weight. You're too fat, too broad, too narrow or too skinny.

"Oh, I'm definitely eating more than enough," you say, showing her your overflowing plate of green bean casserole, ham and mashed potatoes.

"Well, you're looking awful thin. Too skinny. You know girls like a real man with some shoulders to grab."

You didn't think it could be done, but your aunt successfully brought your weight and dating

life into the same conversation within two minutes of meeting her.

"Well, I'm not looking to impress any girl right now," you reply. In fact, you're not looking to impress any girl, ever. If your extended family knew you were trying to impress men of the same persuasion, the next family gathering would be held in a church.

Your aunt keeps going on about how she met your uncle in college, so you really should keep your options open.

"I'm gonna grab a beer," you say walking away at the same time. Doesn't matter if you're under 21—you need it.

Finally, no one is talking to you, and you can sit down at the table. Looking around, you start to think the kids' table wasn't all that bad, and you start to miss your friends sitting around the tables at Kise.

The McRib wasn't worth it. You leave the McDonald's just feeling bad about yourself, promising to never return.

But every year around this time, you go back on the promise. After several months, Aunt Cheryl seems like she might be enjoyable to chat with again.

How to be a thrifty gifter this year



BY JESSICA GULSETH
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As college students, some days it's a struggle to afford more than a bag of pizza rolls for dinner, gas to get to work and socks that don't have holes in them. So when it comes to buying gifts for the holidays, I want to pull my hair out.

Christmas is the time of year when everyone is filled with love and happiness. Peppermint mochas, furry boots and snowmobiling are in season, and you want to tell everyone you love them.

You also want to buy your friends and family that one gift you know they really want. It's always a battle between what you want and what your bank account says you can afford.

While it's the thought that counts, the past years have made for a few pathetic seasons of gift giving. However last year, I was determined to give my family great gifts.

Last Christmas I managed to buy my mom a Google Nexus and a pink case to go with it. I bought my dad a rifle case, a fancy Bear Grylls survival knife, and a case for his new tablet. For my sister, I bought two pairs of jeans from American Eagle, her favorite place, an orange tablet cover and a rifle case (my family likes to hunt). I spent about a hundred dollars on each person, so roughly three hundred dollars. Now that was just for my family, that didn't include any of my friends, colleagues or roommates.

So, now you might be asking, how did she do that? Well, I saved, and I saved a lot. Here are 10 ways to cut back and get the gifts you want.

1) Start saving early. This seems like a no-brainer, but sometimes you don't realize how beneficial it can be until you crunch some numbers.

Let's say you get paid every two weeks and you put \$10 aside every time for a whole year; that's over 500 dollars. Maybe you can afford \$15 or \$20 every two weeks. It can only go up from there.

2) Make your list before Black

Friday comes around. The earlier the better. If you know what you're getting everyone, you can keep an eye out for sales. If you make a list ahead of time, you can shop year-round. A few dollars here and there won't empty the bank as fast as binge shopping on Black Friday.

3) Give a gift you can make at home. It's cheaper and many view homemade gifts as the most thoughtful of all.

"Homemade gifts can help save a ton. Look on Pinterest for crafty ideas if you're crafty, or if you have a crafty friend, do a trade," junior Tomi Thompson said. "Another cool idea for presents that aren't usually expensive are 'nights.' Put together a basket of popcorn, a couple five dollar movies and a bottle of wine; you're spending less than you would on a movie in a theatre."

4) Reuse, recycle or buy all your gift-wrapping necessities at a dollar store. You can buy a roll of wrapping paper, a bag of bows and tape at a dollar store cheaper than anywhere else.

If you can, reuse boxes and bags from past Christmases. I like to use old newspaper and fun colored bows. You can use the comic section of the newspaper to give the recipient a gift and a laugh or two.

5) Go in on a gift for your

parents with your siblings.

"My siblings and I usually team up on gift giving and buy something a little more expensive for one another," Brian Ashburn, MSUM graduate, said. "It usually saves a bit of money and we give nicer gifts."

Maybe you also want to buy your mom a tablet for Christmas, and instead of spending a \$100 you could spend \$50 or \$25.

6) Sell your stuff. Maybe you once loved Gilmore Girls so you have every season on DVD, but you always end up watching it on Netflix — sell them. Have clothes that don't fit anymore? Sell them. Have CD's and DVD's that just collect dust? Sell them.

Some people have a hard time getting rid of their belongings, but you could have piles of money lying around and not even know it.

Clothes Mentor, Plato's Closet and My Best Friend's Closet buy gently used clothes. Pawn America buys anything from jewelry to musical instruments. Websites like Ebay, Amazon and Craigslist allow you to sell just about anything. There are many ways to get rid of your unused and unwanted items for a little extra money.

7) Donate plasma and participate in AXIS studies. Both Fargo and Moorhead have

Biolife plasma donation centers that allow you to donate plasma for money. The donation takes about an hour, and you can donate twice a week for a total of up to \$70 each week. If you donate every week for a month that's \$280. Donate for a couple months and it'll add up quickly to equal a nice Christmas fund. There is an AXIS study facility in Dilworth where you can participate in a study and earn some extra cash.

8) Work temporary jobs. Offering to shovel your neighbor's driveway when it snows can add up fast, even if you only charge \$10. Sometimes people need a pet sitter while they're away for the weekend. You can baby sit or clean houses on occasion. Just before the holidays people with large houses might be looking for someone to help clean. People who are moving may need help, whether it's cleaning or moving.

9) Find other ways to cut back on spending. If you can't pick up extra work, don't have things to sell or don't like needles, cut back on the name-brand items.

Carpooling, eating at restaurants less, and buying generic items will help you save. Skip the movie and pizza this week. Dine in and watch a movie you already own.

THE ADVOCATE
By the students, for the students.

Opinion

Advocate Editorial Board

Seasonal sadness slowly sinks in



BY KIT MURRAY
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While looking out the window, a gray and cloudy day is before us. Snow is slowly falling from the sky, and kids across the street are playing together, tossing each other to the ground and enveloping themselves in the white abyss. It's the most wonderful time of year.

This may not be true for all of us. Seasonal depression hits many people, especially in this area of the country, and it hits us hard.

Asking anyone I know what their favorite season may be, odds are I would not get winter as their response. Why do we dread this cold, miserable season every eight months? If we live here, we should learn to enjoy it the best we possibly can.

I've decided to create a list to help those in need of a smile when the weather negatively affects one's mood. A few things that have worked for me may not work

for someone else.

A ritual I continue every day has proven to be especially effective throughout this time of year. Each morning, and throughout the day, I sit down and meditate with my thoughts and make a cup of tea. It may seem simple, and to those who hate tea, try coffee, hot chocolate, or even a warm cup of milk. It's something that warms our bodies when it's beyond freezing outside. Tea, especially Christmas blends, help me realize how glorious the little things are.

Sleep. Ask my roommate, who is half bear, how important sleep is in her life. It is the most natural form of meditation; it simply clears our mind. There is nothing more luxurious than a Sherpa throw, a soft pillow and a mattress. If a little extra sleep isn't appealing, grab a good book and snuggle up on the couch next to the fireplace.

Consider investing in light therapy. Many people swear by this, and use it often throughout winter. There are many places that sell light boxes which mimic outdoor light to provide vitamin D, which is essential in each and every one of our lives.

Volunteer. This one is dear to my heart, especially during the holidays. So many people around us are in need and giving back is rewarding in more ways than one. It's an incredible way to appreciate the community and to spread genuine kindness to those in need.

Exercise. Grab a friend, go to the gym and encourage each other on the elliptical.

Go lift some weights, run around the track with a buddy. Or, hit two birds with one stone and grab a cup of coffee while going on a walk with a friend.

"I exercise at least five times a week, it gives me tons more energy," said student Fay Dawson. "Soup for lunch is a must. October to January is soup season! I get excited to buy new winter accessories too! Also, do not forget about beautiful Christmas is with lights, presents, and family."

Treat yourself. This is my absolute favorite phrase in the entire world. Why? Because think about it; what reason is there not to treat yourself? Just aced an exam? Treat yourself. Worked a long shift? Treat yourself. Fell on the ice and bruised a knee? Treat yourself.

"I usually have a lot going on with school and other activities that always keeps me busy," Onize Ohikere, mass communications major, said. "A good movie and a cup of hot chocolate is enough to cheer me up when I need a break."

Most importantly, be kind to yourself. It is so important to take care and make sure needs are attended to.

Winter is hard, but there are ways to spread and find cheer in many different places. Sometimes we just need the willingness to look.

Whether or not these methods are backed by science is beside the point. Find what works, stick with it and don't let the dreary and bitter days of winter get you down.

Defeating the dreaded finals



BY WILLIAM LEWANDOWSKI
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Finals are on everybody's mind, which means studying is in the air, but is all this cramming really worth it?

When students inefficiently cram for finals, they blank out when it comes to taking the test. I'm not saying that going to the library for six hours straight is wrong, but for all students taking finals, there are a few key tips I suggest taking into account when studying for finals.

First is spaced review. Take one subject at a time and study for about 20 minutes. Take a short break, then return to work for another 15 to 20 minutes and repeat. This way of studying ensures a fresh return to studying.

Something one of my professors told me was most attention spans last about eight minutes when focused on one thing. So, taking these quick breaks will really help when cramming.

The next thing to assist finals cramming is getting a healthy dose of sleep each night and a wholesome breakfast in the morning.

Getting enough sleep is crucial and may be difficult with a long to-do list on the mind, but it is worth it in the long run. Studying when well-rested proves to help retain memory and information needed for those finals. Having an average eight hours of sleep replenishes awareness and keeps the immune system going.

Getting an essential breakfast, too, proves to wake up the mind and body, causing motivation and energy needed for those lengthy study sessions. Also, eating a balanced breakfast and staying away from sugary cereals will maintain focus, fight hunger throughout the day and ward off unhealthy snacking.

Additionally, use study skills to gain an advantage. When studying, use time management to make sure every subject gets its own allotted time. With more dense subjects, students may want to have more time for that class compared to a basic class that only needs a quick 45 minutes worth of time.

For most subjects, making a master study sheet composed of essential points and key concepts is useful.

With a class like chemistry, for example, a student will want to skim through each chapter and take out the important vocabulary, main topics and important points and problems, and compile them into a well-organized review

packet. This is a useful tool when needing more of a comprehensive look onto what will most likely be on the test.

Another tool may be going online and taking practice exams based on the class. For some classes it may be easier than others.

Something that may benefit even more is making a practice exam predicting some of the questions that may be on the exam. Also, teaching classmates the content proves to be a better memorization tool for both students.

One last thing to keep in mind: steer away from negative thought. When it comes to finals everyone becomes stressed. There are projects due, cramming and studying to do. Setting aside time to eat is needed. Everybody is just ready to call it good enough and give up for the semester.

Stress, anxiety, and craziness are flooding the campus; experiencing all this makes everything tough for everyone. Stress causes the immune system to become weak, sleep is lost and motivation depletes.

When it comes to all of this stress, keeping a positive outlook and a motivated attitude will keep any student going.

Remember, study well with the right tools, the best mentality and healthy sleeping and eating practices. All of these things will ensure a beneficial study time and a better outcome when taking the exams.

I hope everybody has a terrific finals week and finishes the semester successfully.

Black rights nothing to be offended by

In light of discussion and media attention surrounding the recurring phenomenon of unarmed black men — and children — dying at the hands of police officers, America has been hurled into a discussion of race and law enforcement.

During the conversation, certain white people have somehow found a way to take personal offense in being forced to acknowledge the violence black Americans are subjected to on a daily basis by people entrusted to protect the safety of all citizens.

Despite the fact that some people think it's up for debate about whether a 12-year-old deserved to be executed in the street, despite an officer being recorded choking a black man to death and facing no punishment, despite Darren Wilson not only escaping punishment for shooting an unarmed teenager, but profiting from it as well, there are some white people who still feel attacked by the mere discussion of racism in the United States.

But here's the thing — calling out racism does not equate to hating white people. It equates to hating racism. If you don't categorize yourself as a racist, there really is no reason to take offense.

More importantly, this conversation is not about white people. The feelings and comfort of white people cannot continue to be prioritized over justice for racially-motivated violence.

The process of seeking that justice has to start with full acknowledgement that the issue of police brutality in America is not only a power issue, but also a

racial one. Though some might argue that race didn't play a role in the shooting of Mike Brown, the Klansmen amongst Darren Wilson's supporters celebrating his non-indictment would indicate otherwise.

This is why the refrain "black lives matter" shouldn't be derailed with "white people matter" or "all people matter," because that should be obvious at this point. We're saying black lives matter because they do. We're saying black lives matter because black people have been told throughout history that they don't. We're saying that black lives matter because saying that black people are important does not negate the importance of white people; it never has and it never will.

And so in the midst of rising tensions in racial issues in the United States, it's important to avoid derailing imperative discussions about the protests in Ferguson with criticisms of looting and violation of property.

No one approves of looting. No one is happy about the people taking advantage of a terrible situation and destroying other people's property. No one is advocating for destruction. Who's especially bothered by it? Ferguson protesters, whom the destruction affects most.

Derailed conversations about racism is not going to resolve anything. Ignoring the issues doesn't make them go away.

If you're sick of hearing about racism, help to dismantle the systems of oppression that perpetuate it. The sooner the better. Lives depend on it.



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Features

Film prof. awarded Professor of the Year

BY ZANA POMMIER
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MSUM boasts many proud titles, including the coldest college in the U.S. and the cheapest tuition in the state. Despite this, the Dragons continue their scorching pride with their proudest achievement: more Minnesota CASE Professors of the Year than any other school in the state. This year, the film department boasts Kija Kristjansson-Nelson as the 11th holder of the title at MSUM.

Even with her success, her humbleness defines her character.

"I work with extremely talented and really engaging faculty members so I think that any one of them could be a CASE Professor of the Year as well," said Kristjansson-Nelson.

Despite her title, her achievement is dull compared to her accomplishments, which range from helping students rake leaves in the community to working for the art department on the TV show "Law and Order: Criminal Intent."

Kristjansson-Nelson's career with Law and Order "was a really fantastic experience — crazy hours and working on really exciting shows...for me, film is a medium that combines so many different aspects of life...To

me it's a medium that I can never get bored with."

Although it was exciting, she missed the creative process and doing her own work, so she decided to focus on teaching.

After enrolling in graduate school, she was shocked to be responsible for a class of undergraduate students.

"I kind of assumed that as a teaching assistant you'd be in the background, but they were like 'okay here's your class.'"

Despite being planted into a position of authority, this hit-or-miss method helped her decide that teaching was right for her.

"As a kid I think being a professor was too abstract in a way," said Kristjansson-Nelson, "It's extremely challenging, but it's a challenge that I enjoy. I think the best part of it is getting to work with students. They're all so different in what they want to do."

Kristjansson-Nelson currently teaches undergraduates of all levels. Her favorite students to work with, however, are freshmen and seniors.

"Those two groups of students in many ways couldn't be more different, but oddly they're kind of similar because they're both going through a very big life change ... I spend a lot of

time teaching to transition," she said.

Kristjansson-Nelson is senior animation major Anthony Ring's advisor and senior seminar project mentor.

Upon realizing he needed a class to graduate that wasn't being offered, she offered to set up an independent study to fulfill his requirement.

"I think that she's really nice to do that in order to help me graduate on time," Ring said.

Despite the time Kristjansson-Nelson spends in class with students, she still finds time to go above and beyond.

Between mentoring student projects, she visits sets and helps take students on field trips, including the South Dakota Film Festival.

Between helping students, she even has her own projects to work on. She is currently working on a hand-drawn animation, in addition to other projects that are in the planning stages.

Despite helping so much and rarely having time for herself, her future plans remain at MSUM.

In five years, she sees herself "in the basement of the Center of the Arts teaching a new group of amazing filmmakers that will go on to do amazing things."



MNSTATE.EDU
Kija Kristjansson-Nelson is the 11th MSUM professor to be named Minnesota's Professor of the Year.

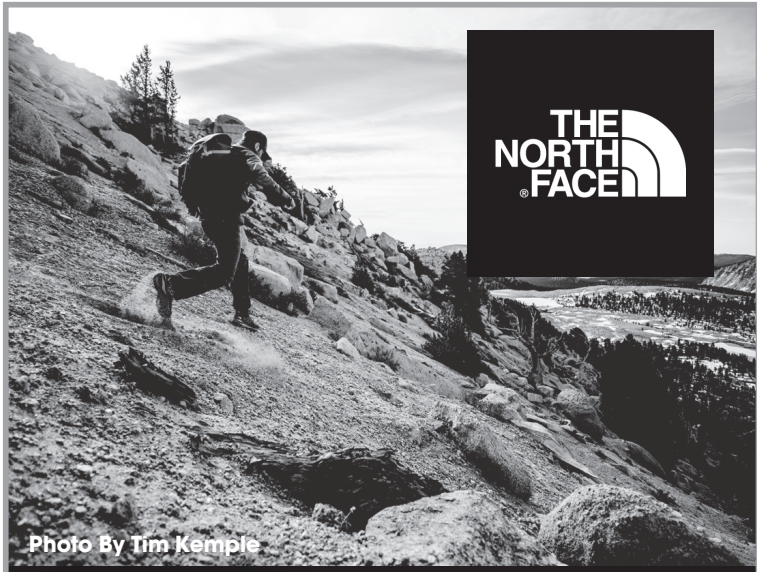


Photo By Tim Kemple

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National Student Exchange offers alternative to overseas exchanges

BY ABIGALE REILLY-REED
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Ever thought about being an exchange student, but thought it was too scary or expensive? Well, the National Student Exchange (NSE) program is another option.

Sherry Estrem, the NSE coordinator at MSUM, says that NSE is a group of about 175 institutions throughout the U.S. that have worked together to allow students to go on exchange to their institution for up to a year.

Students have many options within those 175 schools. They can go to 49 of the 50 U.S. states, Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands. Delaware is the only state that students cannot go to because they don't have any schools in the program.

"It is usually an easier step for students to take," Estrem said. "It is not as expensive [as an international exchange]. They have an opportunity to experience different teaching styles and different environments, but it's still relatively close to home."

"I wanted to experience going to a different school in a different area of the country without leaving MSUM," junior Laura Baker said. Baker went to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in the Spring of 2014.

Unlike going on an international exchange, students don't have to be at a certain grade level. "Anyone who is a full-time student at MSUM that has completed at least one semester with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher [can do it]," Estrem said.

The only other restriction is that a student cannot have any

holds on their account, whether it be with the business office or student conduct.

This makes it an easier option for students who want to experience something new without having to wait until they are in their higher level courses. They can just take general courses that will transfer easily to MSUM. Baker took a couple of each saying that she really enjoyed the change.

"I feel like I actually learned something. The classes were less complicated. I learned a lot while I was there," she said.

Another notable aspect of NSE is that students have options on how to pay. They can either choose to pay the resident tuition price at their host university or pay tuition at MSUM. That way students can choose the cheapest or easiest method.

Baker chose to pay to the university she attends. This can be good sometimes, but in her case, Baker ended up paying a lot more because she wasn't able to get as many grants as she would have gotten going to MSUM.

Students can also go together, meaning their applications will be reviewed as a pair. There is a good chance of being accepted, even as a pair. "Two years ago 100% of the students got placed at their first choice school," Estrem said. "Last year two got placed at their second choice. All students get placed. We send out about 40 students a year. We bring in about two."

The application process is easy. All that is needed is a filled-out application, a personal statement of why the student wants to go, two letters of recommendation (one from faculty or staff on campus) and

the \$175 application fee. These need to be turned in by the first Friday in February; the next is Feb. 6, 2015.

Estrem said interested students should visit with her for more information at Owens 206, attend the informational meetings or go to the website, NSE.org.

The website allows students to search for different colleges by major so they can find one that fits their needs. All a student needs to do is plan with their advisor on what classes they should take. "Every class they take comes back on their transcripts to MSUM," Estrem said.

When Estrem talks with students after they come back they tell her that it was the "best thing they ever did." This is easily understood because the three top choices for students to go to is Hawaii, California and Colorado.

"I really enjoy working with the students through the process and to hear about their experiences when they return," Estrem said. "It's a life-changing experience for them."

This experience can really affect the students who go. "I think about it all the time. It was very scary, even though my boyfriend that I have dated for two years was there [living in Georgia] I was still on my own," Baker said. "I learned about my independence and it would be different if I went there for a vacation than living there."

Baker has advice for interested students: "Don't be afraid to go if you want to go somewhere," she said. "It is a very scary, very surreal feeling when applying."

Still, she said that she would love to go back and do it all over again.

Features

Popular app adds money-sending feature

BY LAURA BAIER
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Food, new purchases at the mall and silly faces you would only want your top friends to see are some of the pictures sent back and forth through one of the most popular apps featured on your smartphone called Snapchat.

Released Nov. 17, Snapcash is the newest feature on Snapchat, allowing its users to send money to people in their contacts. It gives users the option to link their Snapchat account to their bank account in order to send and receive money.

Snapcash is working with a company called Square, which allows you to send money through a mobile phone or email, to make such a feature possible.

In order to send cash to a friend the user will enter the dollar sign

along with an amount of money in a private message. Snapchat will recognize the dollar amount and a green payment button will appear, the user will then tap that button which will then send their payment.

The person receiving the money has 24 hours to accept it or it will disappear and the money will be transferred back into the sender's bank account.

With this new release, there are also concerns of security and how easy it might be to hack into someone's bank account.

"We set out to make payments faster and more fun, but we also know that security is essential when you're dealing with money," read Snapchat's blog article about the new feature.

"Square has a ton of experience in this area and our teams have been hard at work to make Snapcash a great experience for everyone." Snapcash also puts a

limit to how much money you can send: \$250 is allowed per week to first-time users, which gradually moves up to \$1000 per week. These restrictions can be changed with the confirmation of identity through Square.

Though Snapchat has stated that it is a secure feature, people are still questioning it.

"Chances of me linking my debit card to use Snapcash? Zero," tweeted David Lorr, entrepreneur.

Zach Williamson, creator of Wordstagram seemed to agree when he tweeted, "Snapcash sounds like a great way to get my bank account info stolen."

Still a relatively new feature, not many people have posted reviews after using the app. Students themselves are still trying to figure out how they feel about it.

"Snapcash seems like an unnecessary addition to

the app," said senior Shelly Sommers. "If I were needing to transfer money to someone, I wouldn't think of Snapchat as my first outlet to do that."

People have expressed their concerns about encouraging users to pay for nude photos through the app.

"It doesn't seem like a secure way to handle transactions and the whole system reeks of trafficking of pornographic photos," sophomore Kyle Sperle said. "People might start sending money in exchange for nudes through the app which makes it an awful idea."

Snapchat isn't just about sending photos of your day and videos capturing your funniest moments anymore, but instead an advanced app that can do much more.

Snapcash is only available to those over the age of 18 and living in the United States.



TRUTOWER.COM

Since its launch in July 2011, Snapchat has seen a variety of updates, including the addition of Snapcash in November.

Awareness of online presence imperative to future success

BY CAYNE MCCASKELL
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In January 2011, a student from an Illinois high school posted a Facebook status ranking 50 of his female peers based on physical appearance and alleged sexual encounters. He was later suspended from school and arrested for disorderly conduct.

Although his story is unusual, anyone with an online identity is subject to the sharp eye of teachers, employers, and law enforcement. Saying the wrong thing can quickly escalate into disciplinary and even legal action, so avoiding slip-ups on social media is a benefit to students with a still-budding career.

The Internet is here to stay, and being able to use it properly can be a crucial skill for a both a student's personal and professional life.

"One rule that I have always heard is to ask yourself, 'How would I feel if what I had written online was on the front page of the newspaper?'" said journalism professor Theresa Hest. "It's a good idea to have someone else read a message that might be risky before you send or post it."

Hest said keeping a post's audience in mind is vital to keeping up appearances. The larger your audience, the more careful you need to be about what your message is saying, as everyone will have their own interpretation, she said.

Lines must also be drawn between the content of text conversations between friends and composing a Facebook status for a company's page. Input from others can help fine tune a message to minimize possible misinterpretations or controversy.

Another often-overlooked rule is to avoid posting about illegal activities online. This is more common with

teenagers and young adults who are either unaware of who can see what they post, or just simply want to show off. Although seemingly harmless, such posts can be troublesome in the hands of administrators, law enforcement, and potential employers who look up social media profiles.

"The most important thing is obviously to not post about anything illegal," political science freshman Terry Starkey said. "That's kind of a no-brainer, but stupid kids get in trouble for it all the time."

In other cases, "joking" about things like death threats, bomb threats and rape are also problematic. Though people don't always mean what they say, threatening posts are often reported and handed over to law enforcement, who must take them seriously.

"If the message is something that might be borderline, wait a half hour before you send it, and see if you feel the same way after a short break," Hest said.

When you're behind the wall of a computer screen, it's easy to quickly fire off a nasty comment and move on, but it's important remember that it can lead to real life implications, she said. Most schools and workplaces have policies on cyberbullying, and some states even make it illegal.

Outside of punishment, comments can often be seen by anyone and reflect their author as a person. Internet communication is static, unlike verbal communication. A tweet or status made three years ago and forgotten about can be easily brought up or screen-capped and haunt its poster for a long time. Though what was said may have been important, most of the time it's just not worth it.

Bottom line, a person's online profile is a reflection

of them, as well as their school or company. A defining story is that of Justine Sacco, a public relations executive who was fired for a questionable tweet. Before boarding a flight from London, England, to Cape Town, South Africa, she tweeted "Going to Africa. Hope I don't get AIDS. Just Kidding. I'm White!" Her professional career was over the moment she hit send.

Although not foolproof, a way to avoid getting into difficult situations is to make personal profiles private. Almost all websites have privacy features that protect who can see content, and sites like Twitter and Instagram allow users to completely block profiles from being viewed by anyone unless they are given permission.

Blogs and profiles online can also be run without using a person's real name or photos. This allows users to comfortably express who they are and explore their interests without judgment.

Withholding full statements of identity online removes some of the constraints of having to keep up a perfect image and allows media users to fully take advantage of the Internet without employers having a window into their lives.

Still, blogs and profiles are still traceable to their creator via IP addresses and email addresses, so legal implications still apply.

The Internet has changed the way humans interact with each other forever. It's a place where revolutionary ideas are shared and where creativity can blossom. But it is not a separate reality. Use it to your advantage, but always use it carefully.

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Features



DRAGON MEN SHAVE FOR A CAUSE



ETHAN DEGREE • degreeet@mnstate.edu

Members of MSUM Kappa Sigma and a handful of MSUM staff members participated in "Shaving for a Cause" last week. The event raised money for testicular cancer research through students and staff purchasing votes for the participants' new beard styles. More than a dozen men sacrificed their beards for the cause, including Alex Menke (top left) and student body President Cody Meyer (bottom left) whose beard was shaved into a "monkey tail" (right).

Intramurals offer alternatives to get Dragons active

BY MACKENZIE GEER
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Want to get involved with recreational sports in a competitive, yet fun way? MSUM offers intramural and club sports for students.

Intramurals and club sports give students the opportunity to get active and to get involved on campus. They also give students the opportunity to meet new people and get to know other students on campus.

MSUM offers intramurals many different levels depending on the students' skills. The sports that offered include volleyball, basketball, flag football, cricket, soccer, tennis, mat kickball, dodge ball, ice hockey, bean bag toss, ultimate frisbee, badminton, wiffleball, softball, battleship H2O, inner tube basketball, capture the flag, grass volleyball, sand volleyball, muggle quidditch, trench ball, ping pong and pool/billiards.

Students who want an even more competitive team can sign up for a power team. These teams are more intense and offer more professional games.

MSUM also has CoRec teams with both male and female players.

Intramurals are flexible. Sports such as tennis and badminton are offered as singles or doubles. Indoor volleyball

can be either two-on-two, four-on-four or six-on-six. Soccer can be indoor or outdoor. Basketball can be either three-on-three or five-on-five.

Registering for intramurals is easy at IMleagues.com. This site also allows students to see their playing schedule and see their team's stats and rankings.

On IMleagues.com, students also have the opportunity to join an intramural team as a free agent. They are able to join as many leagues as they want. Students are also able to view all other members of teams, and they can ask to join a team.

One way to officially join a team is to go onto IMleagues.com and accept the request from the captain of the team.

Some sports cost more than others. For example, flag football is \$20 per team while volleyball is \$40 per team.

MSUM now offers online registration and credit card payments can be made through imleagues.com/mnstate.edu. There is also an option to pay with cash or check deposited to the Intramural Office in Nemzek 122.

MSUM does not give refunds to students once the league has begun. This rule applies to outdoor sports if the league is cut short due to weather or other elements that cannot be controlled by the Rec Sports Department.

If students fail to pay their registration fee on time, the whole team will be taken out of the league.

For students who do not want to commit to a sport, but still wants to be active, MSUM intramurals offers special events that do not require pre-registration. Special events usually occur every other Thursday evening.

One event is Procrastination Pool Party at Nemzek. This event has this title because it is on Dec. 10, which is study day. The pool party is at 1 p.m. Students are encouraged to bring their friends and go to the Nemzek pool to enjoy swimming, games and fun.

Some spring events include grass volleyball, glow in the dark dodge ball and battleship H2O. Battleship H2O is offered in the swimming pool in Nemzek, and it is a life size version of the game, Battleship. There are four people per team and each team gets a canoe. The goal is to sink the other canoes only using shields and buckets.

Club sports differ from intramurals with the fact that club sports travel to play teams. Club sports are similar to college level teams, but the university does not support them.

MSUM offers baseball, fencing, lacrosse, rugby, soccer,

tae kwon do, olympic wrestling/martial arts, rock climbing and co-ed soccer.

Club sports are also flexible. Each student is responsible for the amount of time that he or she wants to put into each sport. MSUM wants to make sure that the student's schoolwork comes first.

Students also have the freedom of making their own club. All they have to do is go to mnstate.edu/intramurals-club-sports.com and go to the club sports forms page. Under that tab, students are also able to register their club and see the student organization handbook.

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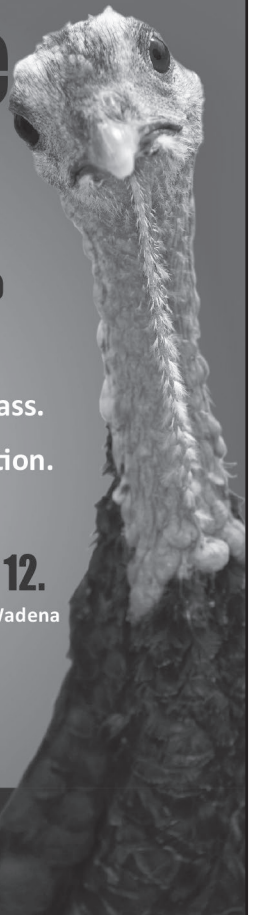
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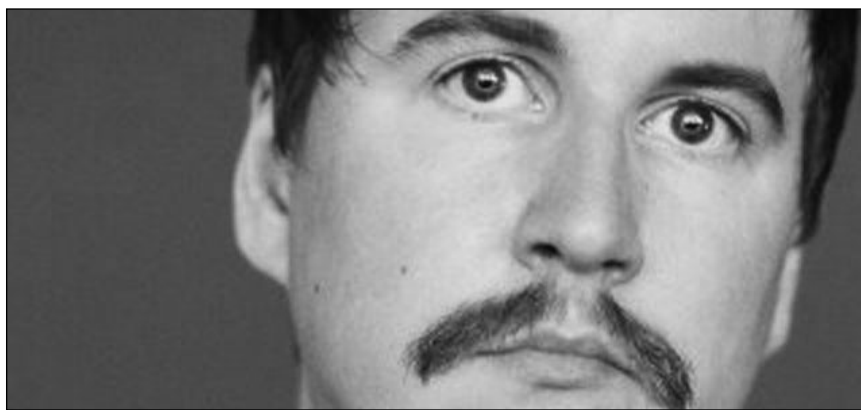
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Album review: “Vapor City Archives” lacks innovative ideas

INDUSTRIALPARASITE.COM

North Carolina-born artist Travis Stewart has produced and composed more than a dozen albums under various aliases since his first independent release in 1999.

BY CAMERON SEIBOLD
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“Vapor City Archives” is the final part of a project by artist Travis Stewart, AKA Machinedrum. The project is based off of a number of vivid recurring dreams Stewart had about a fictional city. Each track on the main release of the series “Vapor City” represented a different district of the fictional dream city.

Soon after the album’s release, an interactive website was launched allowing fans to ‘unlock’ the various districts of Vapor City, granting them access to exclusive content and unheard music. Unfortunately, this final part of the series, while still a solid listen, largely re-hashes stems and ideas from the previous releases in the series with few innovations.

Machinedrum is well-known for incorporating juke and jungle elements into his songs. Tracks like “2 B Luvd,” “Boxoff,” and “Only 1 way 2 know” are all straight forward Machinedrum songs that

embody his well-known style of rolling juke/jungle. That being said, they feel so similar to other tracks he has already made that there really isn’t much to be gained here.

“The project is based off of a number of vivid recurring dreams Stewart had about a fictional city”

On first listen I felt like I had already heard them and knew what was coming at every turn.

Even though tracks “Hard 2 Be” with it’s scattering Rashad style percussion and “Safed” with it’s gorgeous guitar fingerpicking are essentially the same style, they are far

more solid as stand-alone tracks. They still sound very similar to Vapor City, but they bring a few new elements that make it worthwhile to stick around for.

Tracks “Vizion (Centered),” “Endless <3,” and “Tried & True” are all on the sci-fi ambient soundtrack side of Machinedrum, filled with lush atmospheric synth swells, vintage arpeggios, and ghostly vocals. These Machinedrums cuts often remind me of a mixture of Burial, Boards of Canada, and Vangelis.

“B Patient” makes an attempt at a sparse bassweight style of dubstep, but ultimately comes up a little lackluster. The passages of warping bass, sparse percussion and atmospheric clicks just don’t seem to match up with the more uplifting sections of Burial style vocals chanting “hold on” and warm fuzzy synths, and the unfortunate pairing really waters down both sections.

“More than Friends” is a definite change of pace for “Archives.” The poppy

synthetic vocals are definitely reminiscent of artists on up-and-coming electronic label “PC music,” and the trademark Machinedrum breaks and guitar picking hold it together as a pretty solid track that differentiates itself from anything else in the “Vapor” series.

Almost every song on this release is similar to another track on the main “Vapor City” release, from the Burial-esc off-kilter percussion, pitched down 80’s vocal samples, and juke and jungle style percussion, it’s all still mostly the same.

There are many recycled elements from one release to the next with a few exceptions. However, a Machinedrum track is still a Machinedrum track, and even the tracks that aren’t as exciting or innovative are still technically good, and are a welcome addition to Machinedrum’s large library of music.

“Vapor City Archives” by Machinedrum was released Nov. 11, and is available from the label Ninja Tune.

For fans of: Boards of Canada, Burial, footwork, jungle.

Professors combine talents with Lines and Notes

BY MAUREEN MCMULLEN
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The collaboration of music and poetry is a familiar concept for faculty members Kevin Zepper and Terrie Manno. Though the English professor and piano professor have creatively crossed paths for several years, the duo recently merged their work to include their original composition and poetry.

“As we’ve seen each other over the years, crossing paths in various kinds of meeting, we’d talk about our individual work and he’d say, ‘You know we should do something together,’” Manno said. “Finally a few years ago I said, ‘Let’s just do it; let’s get coffee, and figure out what we can do that could possibly be interesting. We came up with this idea, and it’s just blossoming from there.”

Manno and Zepper performed Lines and Notes, a free showcase of their most recent collaborative work, Wednesday at Stoker’s in the HoDo’s basement. The venue’s mellow ambiance offered a cozy setting for the performance.

“Look at the atmosphere; we’ve got brick walls, we’ve got cool art, it’s intimate; it’s like we’re in somebody’s front room or the basement,” Zepper said. “I didn’t want it to be huge, and they said, ‘Sure, let’s do this.’” Lines and Notes featured

Zepper reading a variety of his poems accompanied by Manno’s piano performance, which featured her original compositions as well as sampling from iconic music including “Star-Spangled Banner” and Beethoven.

Though Manno’s seamless musical pairing to the inflections in Zepper’s poetry flowed effortlessly, the two meticulously arrange each piece to ensure a well-executed performance.

The orchestration of each piece usually starts with one of Zepper’s poems, which he records and turns over to Manno to set to music.

“Mostly, the poetry comes first, but occasionally the music will come first; I’m sure it’s going to flip-flop as we go along,” Manno said. “We sort of developed the choreography in our practices; the music is very strategically selected, composed and performed, in a very specific way to best communicate what the poetry is saying.”

As Manno and Zepper continue to harmonize their art forms, the collaborative process gains momentum.

“When we first got started, it was kind of like getting started to ride a bicycle,” Zepper said. “Now that we’ve worked together and we’ve done performances, and we’re getting a bit more comfortable with each other, it’s coming a little easier. There was a piece called ‘Artemis’ for

example, we nailed that jauntiness down in two practices, and then, bam! We have it. She would play it and say this is where I hear that, and I would read it through and then I could hear it.”

Though the process has become a little easier for the two, they make sure not to spend too much time trying to resolve creative hang-ups.

“Sometimes poems don’t work with the music... you can’t force it,” Zepper said. “There are songs that we have sitting there, and there are poems that we have sitting there that don’t have their matches yet. Both of us are patient, like, ‘I don’t know if this is working,’ but more often than not, it does. You don’t have to make them work right this minute. There are plenty of things we can do in the meantime.”

Though collaborations with their original work is a fairly new concept for Manno and Zepper, they plan to continue hosting events like Lines and Notes, including future performances at Stoker’s and tentative performance on campus.

“In terms of doing poetry in particular, you have to be your own agent; you have to talk to people and say, ‘I think this might be good,’” said Zepper. “If you wait for somebody to ask you, it’s probably not going to happen. I would guess if we asked to do this in May, I’m sure we could arrange that.”

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Sports

Dragon men pummel Presentation College 111-40

BY MEG KEIM & THOR THOMPSON
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The MSUM Dragon men's team is dazzling the NSIC with an impressive start on the new season. With an undefeated record, the Dragons are starting strong with hopes to improve their team from last year. They ended last season winning the NSIC conference championship and hope to advance further this season.

They went to 9-0 last Tuesday as they soared past the Presentation College Saints from Aberdeen in a 111-40 win, while also racking up Coach Chad Walthall's 200th win. Saturday, they improved to 10-0 with a 81-63 win over U-Mary from Bismarck.

Presentation College lost its 15th straight to a team in the NSIC Tuesday, with their last win coming in 2007. Scoring just eight points in the first half to the Dragons' 61, the Saints started slow. The Saints didn't score for 13 minutes to go into the half at 8-60 with the Dragons playing impressively. Ngijol Songolo opened the second half making some big plays and giving Jordan Riewer a rest. Leading all scorers on the team with 16 points, Songolo ended up being a factor in the game.

The stands were full with fans as they watched the Dragons defeat the

Saints. A sea of red and black, the fans were with the team the whole way. With free-throw competitions and a gymnastics routine, the fans patiently awaited the second half of the game.

The Dragons allowed 32 points to the Saints in the second half and started making some plays and hitting three-pointers. They moved the ball around well and played efficiently while racking up points to end with 111.

The Dragons earned Coach Walthall his 200th career win Tuesday, 84 of which were at MSUM. In his fifth season as the Dragons' coach, he's been improving the team since his arrival in 2009. In his 200th win, MSUM lead the entire game. The next game, played Friday, had the Dragons return to playing teams in the NSIC.

The next test for the Dragon men came in the way of the fellow NSIC member Minot State Beavers. The hot-streak continued for MSUM as they shot over 58 percent from the field and over 50 percent from three-point range. The attack was extremely well-balanced with six Dragons in double figures, lead by Tyler Vaughn's 15 points and six assists.

Moving to 10-0 after defeating U-Mary, the Dragons have shown that they deserve their No. 19 ranking. After competing valiantly last year in the NSIC, the high ranking doesn't



The Dragons jumped out to a 61-8 lead in the first half with the offense finding its groove.

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come as much of a surprise as last year's team was young and hopeful. Becoming 3-0 in the NSIC, the season seems to be starting off with

the Dragons on fire.

The next game is Monday at 7 p.m. in Alex Nemzek Fieldhouse where the Dragons hope to improve to 11-0

against Mayville State, a non-NSIC team. The next two games are away but they will be back home on Dec 20.



Sophomore Forward Matt Nelson throws down in the route of Presentation.

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Tanner Kretchman puts up a runner against Presentation College last Tuesday.

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Balanced attack drives MSUM past U-Mary

BY KYLE WAHLBERG
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It started with a tipoff win for the Dragons, and suddenly spiraled out of control as the Dragons put on a shooting clinic as they sent the University of Mary home with a big defeat 81-63 in Northern Sun Intercollegiate action.

The Dragon men's basketball team (10-0, 3-0 in NSIC play) scored the first 15 points of the game en route to a huge game offensively. The run would last more than six minutes. The Marauders (2-5, 0-3) would miss their first eight shots while MSUM would hit four of

their first seven. The Dragons were shooting and making them early. The Marauder's first basket came with 13:35 left in the half. MSUM senior guard Jordan Riewer lead everyone with a game high 24 points.

"I think we played really well," said Riewer. "Our M.O. this year has been to shoot the ball and I think we started off good."

A 20-point advantage early for the Dragons was all they needed to down a Marauders team thirsty for the upset.

"I thought the first 15 minutes were great," said MSUM men's basketball coach Chad Walthall. "I thought we had an

edge to us and I thought we lost that edge during the final five minutes of the first half."

The Dragons would show no signs of fatigue after their 99-64 win Friday night against Minot State. They would go into halftime leading 42-26.

"A lot of our games earlier this year were back-to-back," said Riewer. "Up in Alaska we played three games in three days, and in Missouri we played two games in two nights, so I think that experience helped us to get prepared for conference games."

The Dragons didn't slow down in the second half as they scored the first basket and kept

on rolling.

The teams would exchange baskets back and forth over the first ten minutes of the second half. Mary would close the gap to 14, but MSUM would continue to make basket after basket.

The Marauders would commit eight fouls through the first 14 minutes, giving the Dragons the edge in free throw attempts.

The Dragons evened the scoring through the starters with a combined 59 of the teams first 68 points. A three-pointer by Prescott Williams with five minutes to go put the lead out of reach as the Dragons would

push the score to 71-53.

Tyler Vaughn and Williams would carry the team in the second half as the Dragons cooled down offensively and focused more on defense.

Riewer, after a hot first half, would remain quiet throughout the second half until his first basket nearly 15 minutes into the second half.

After that point, Riewer would make three straight baskets for the Dragons extending the lead to 21 points. Riewer would end the game with 24 points as the Dragons look next to their games against St. Cloud on Friday and Duluth on Saturday.

Sports

Dragon women's young team takes care of Marauders

BY KYLE WAHLBERG
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The MSUM women's basketball team may be young, but their play was that of an experienced team on Saturday night.

After scoring only 35 points in the first half, the team exploded for 52 points in the second half to down the University of Mary in Northern Sun Intercollegiate action 87-75.

The Dragons (3-4, 2-1 in NSIC play) controlled things early, forcing the Marauders to play catch-up for most of the game.

Down 15-9 early on, the Dragons started the comeback, slowly chipping away at the lead. Junior Heather Strese led the Dragons with her team and career high 24 points.

Strese, who averages 7.2 points per contest, channeled her inner 'Kobe' as she put together her best effort of the year.

The Dragons as a team shot almost 40% from the field but had nearly double the amount of rebounds as the Marauders, leading that category 53-28.

The Dragons hit 30 of 36 free-throws en route to a big game for the team.

"As a team we played very well," Strese said. "We came out really well and had our game plan and stuck to it."

Her team wouldn't let her down either. Fellow junior guard Megan Roehrich matched basket-for-basket with Strese as the Dragons would go on a 15-4 run to take the lead and wouldn't let it go with six minutes left in the first half.

Improvement is something these Dragons need night-in and night-out.

As a group with no seniors, they rely on juniors like Strese and Roehrich to step up and lead this team that has five freshman.

"It plays a part because everyone is looking at someone to do something instead of someone doing this," said Karla Nelson, MSUM women's head basketball coach. "It was nice to see some people knock some shots down and get that confidence on the offensive end."

The Dragons showed some



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Junior forward Heather Strese goes up for a bucket against Mary on the way to her career high of 24 points.

signs of fatigue on the tail end of a back-to-back. They struggled early with shooting from beyond the arc, however they held the Marauders scoreless from three-point range for the first 10 minutes and ended the first half leading 35-27.

"It was a little sloppy, but I thought both teams on a back-to-back brought a lot of energy," said Nelson. "I'm seeing improvement here and there for us, which

is important because we are such a young team."

The Dragons continued well as a team, evening out the scoring between the team, giving themselves a comfortable lead but the Marauders would close the gap to 3 points with 13:11 left to play due to some strong play in the post, but the Dragons would score 7 straight to take control of the game.

Baskets by the Marauders

on two possessions cut the Dragons lead to 4 with two minutes left to play. But Strese hit a clutch three-pointer to extend the lead to 7.

"I felt really confident in practice this week," Strese said. "I came in this weekend knowing I had to pick it up and I built up a lot of confidence throughout the week."

Something this group showed, getting their first sweep at home of the same team since 2006.

MSUM women finish strong at the line to seal win vs. Minot State

BY TOMI THOMPSON
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The Dragon women were the stars at Nemzek this weekend as they came up with two NSIC victories.

The Dragon men and women both had two conference matchups at home this weekend. Friday they took on the Minot State Beavers and Saturday the U-Mary Marauders.

Friday night's game started out tough for the women. The Beavers had a 13-point lead early in the game and MSUM trailed 32-27 at the half.

Hitting free-throws was key for the Dragons, hitting 31 of 36 from the line. The Beavers were also hurt by 21 turnovers. The women battled for the final eight minutes.

They went on a 14-6 run over the Beavers and led 56-53 with three minutes on the clock.

The game came down to the wire for the Dragons, who were up by only one with less than a minute left in the game.

Sophomore guard Morgan Banasik came up with a key offensive rebound for the Dragons, which lead to sophomore guard Natalie Van Whye heading to the foul line after the Beavers fouled to stop the clock.

Van Whye and junior forward Heather Strese hit key free throws in the final seconds to secure the Dragons victory.

The Dragons beat the Beavers 64-60.

Strese scored a then career-high 17 points and went 8 for 8 from the free throw line.

Van Whye scored a career-high 14 points and hit 10 of 11 free throws.

Van Whye said there was

pressure to win against the Beavers.

"The only thing I was thinking was we need to get stops and score," Van Whye said. "We just kept going after them little by little and finally pulled it out."

Other key players for the Dragon women included Banasik, with four assists and four steals, junior guard Meghan Roehrich, scoring 13 points and four rebounds, and redshirt freshman forward Drew Sannes, who came off the bench with eight points and four rebounds.

Van Whye said a victory

Friday put the team in a good position. "That win really meant a lot because we could have been 1-5 after that which doesn't put us in a good spot.

That victory meant we can play with teams and we can make a comeback," she said.

Van Whye said team goals moving forward include taking one game at a time and continuing to get better each game.

After a great weekend for Van Whye, she hopes to keep up her personal success as well.

"My goal is to come with that mentality every game and pitch in with scoring because

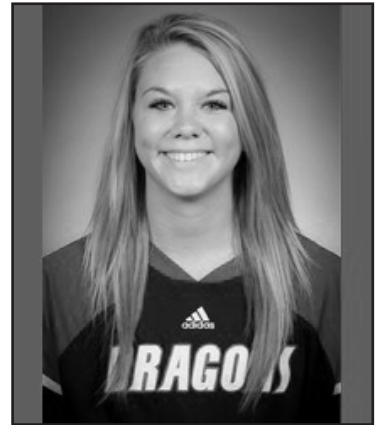
we definitely need that," said Van Whye.

Roehrich said the win was more than about numbers.

"The sweep this weekend was huge for us," Roehrich said.


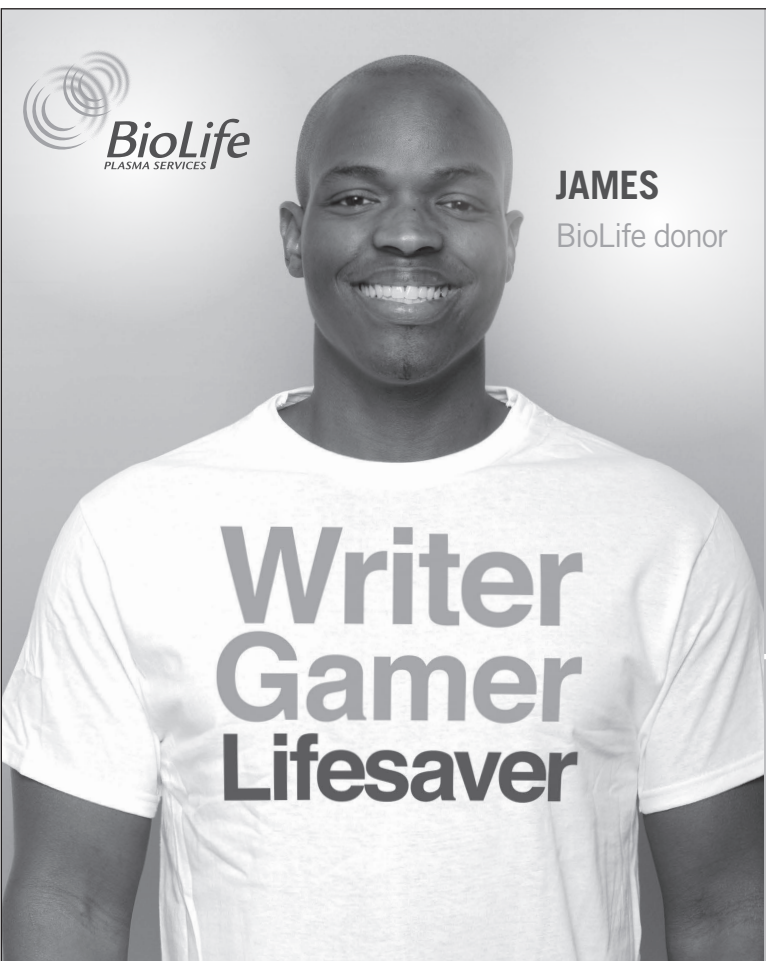
"In our league, sweeps at home are a must because winning on the road is tough. We had a great team effort all weekend and I think these wins showed huge character of our coaches and players."

The Dragons hit the road for two conference matchups with games at St. Cloud State (6-0, 3-0 NSIC) and Minnesota-Duluth (4-3, 2-1 NSIC) on Dec. 12 and 13.



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Sophomore guard Natalie Van Whye had a career-high 14 points, going 10-11 from the free-throw line.

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SPACES, FROM FRONT

"In theory it's a good idea to put people of individual identities together, but you shouldn't force them to. They should be able to do it on their own."

Payne said collaboration is beside the point, as it's already happening. It's safety that's a concern for the affected spaces, she said.

"The reason that a lot of these spaces are autonomous is because they're safe spaces," Payne said. "There are a lot of people who utilize the space who have experienced things because of their identity, or just have experiences as a woman, where other people may not be as sensitive to those types of things in their language or rhetoric or their behavior, so by putting us all together, that really negates the safety of the space."

Psychology senior Sara Rundlett sees safe zone training as a necessity for the Mosaic Center to have even a chance at success.

"With no one on campus required to attend safe zone training, this project is deemed to fail and only promote the white, heteronormative, able-bodied, cisgendered privilege that the rest of campus is seeped in," Rundlett said.

The push for safety in spaces is not students' alone.

"I'm really inspired by the efforts that our president has made in addressing sexual assault on this campus and I just would hope that she listens to the women students on this campus and others who are really advocating for a space that is theirs and that we can work toward helping to keep the Women's Center autonomous, and potentially reimagine what that means for the Mosaic Center," Falcón said.

She said in light of studies which indicate women's centers as a necessity for women on campuses, it would be unwise for MSUM to eliminate its own.

"Each building should have a space that is safe for women to go to, so I feel like the Women's Center being in Bridges is already a conciliatory step that we have taken," Falcón said. "It's a concession to have this one dedicated space for women on campus, so to eliminate that is a pretty powerful statement coming from a woman-led administration."

Last week, Payne and other students distributed a zine to inform other students of their concerns.

"After multiple meetings with administration, I really still felt that my concerns weren't being heard or respected," Payne said. "I was looking for a different avenue to bring about my concerns where I felt like maybe they might be validated and heard because they just hadn't been by the administration."

The publication's cover was characterized by the illustration of a raised middle finger. It criticizes the proposition of the Mosaic Center and its supporters' mention of "casual collisions," a term intended to establish the fostered collaboration between groups the center would bring.

"When I think of a collision, it's a violent accident that isn't supposed to happen," Payne said. "I don't want to have a collision of any kind with anybody, especially if I have an intersectional identity with a racist homophobe or someone who's just



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Students affiliated with the Women's Center protest outside a renovation meeting in the CMU Tuesday.

overall hateful."

The zine also argues that should the Women's Center be relocated to the CMU, fewer students will use it as a result of lost convenience.

Speech-language pathology senior Nora Heilman is also involved with the Women's Center. She too, says student needs aren't being met with the proposed renovation.

"The ongoing battle proves that students are not heard during this process — quite the contradiction considering it is their space," Heilman said. "If students are heard, the Women's Center will remain autonomous, which is vital to the safety of the students who occupy it."

The center is unique in its fight against the move in that the space is not only closely affiliated with an academic major, but also the product of years of student activism.

Shortly after the department of women's and gender studies' development in 1971, students earning their minor in the program began planning, developing, and cultivating what would become known as the Women's Center. When the space became a reality, WGS faculty would teach the department's classes while directing the center's programming.

By 1988 it had been closed. When the residence hall in which it was located was found to have asbestos, renovations began and the space disappeared. Administration had no plans to bring it back. That's when three women's and gender studies minors hosted a press conference to state that significant action was about to be taken, should administration not comply with their demands for the center's return. That's all it took, and it came back.

"There have been significant fights about the Women's Center since then as well," Falcón said.

She says the center's origins are reason enough for administration to leave it alone.

"The most distressing aspect of all of this is that this was a product of student activism and it's clear that students are passionate about their access to that space and their voices have not been heard in the process," she said. "We have an activism that's connected with the scholarship that we teach in our classes, but we fear that those connections might be broken in merging the Women's Center into this different alignment."

Falcón says faculty, too have been overlooked in decision making.

Wahlberg said the benefit of having the groups in a communal

space is "the opportunity for higher visibility on campus and also greater impact" by creating "casual encounter opportunities" between students.

In an interview with Fox News, CMU director Layne Anderson said the proposed center is about showcasing diversity.

"Affirming diversity on our campus is critically important," he said. "And one way that you can do that is ensuring that there is physical space allocated that pronounces diversity to our students and the importance of that."

But students say the proposed renovation does not send that message.

"They are strategically making the rest of campus outside the Mosaic Center less diverse," Rundlett said. "Casual collisions' will only occur now within the Mosaic Center and eliminate the possibility that they will, and do, happen at any of the other safe spaces on campus."

Siqueiros argues that the merging of spaces hinders addressing intersectional issues. He sees the proposal as a way for the school to benefit from the problems students with marginalized identities endure.

"The idea of the Mosaic Center as this happy get along space is window dressing for something that is potentially bad that this campus is trying to hide by creating this unified space," he said. "We're all being tokenized."

Rundlett agrees.

"Being asked for your opinion because it's valued and important is very different than being asked because the university wants to appear that they are concerned with the voices of marginalized students," she said. "The process has been incredibly insulting, hurtful, and exclusionary."

With the project remaining largely student-funded, hope remains that their demands will be met.

"If that's where our money is going, then I don't approve of that, especially if it compromises my safety at this school that I have to come to every day," Siqueiros said. "If anything, take the money we have so far and put it toward something else that doesn't create this segregated atmosphere and also an unsafe one."

But question remains if, and when, that will be.

"At a certain time the administration is going to need be able to speak to student needs," Falcón said. "If students are saying they don't want that space, administration has to address what it is that they want."