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Briefs

CAMPUS CALENDAR

2.10-2.16

<p>Tues 2.10</p> <p>10:30 a.m., Dragon Frost Soup Feed, CMU main lounge</p> <p>5 p.m., "Missing: A Documentary" screening, LI 103</p> <p>8 p.m., Student spaces meeting, CMU 205</p>	<p>Thur 2.12</p> <p>6:30 p.m., Ekere Tallie poetry reading, CMU 101</p> <p>9 p.m., Battleship H20, Nemzek pool</p> <p>Fri. 2.13</p> <p>9 p.m., Dragons After Dark "Gatsby Dance," ROC</p>
<p>Wed. 2.11</p> <p>5 p.m., Arming Sisters, unique women's self defense class, CMU Underground</p> <p>6,9 p.m. "Space Jam" viewing, LH 104</p> <p>6:30 p.m., Religious Study Speaker Series, LH 118</p>	<p>Sat. 2.14</p> <p>Noon, Sing Our Rivers Red March, Fargo Public Library</p> <p>Sun. 2.15</p> <p>2 p.m., Planetarium show "Cosmic Colors," BR 167</p> <p>Mon. 2.16</p> <p>7 p.m., Planetarium Show "Cosmic Colors," BR 167</p>



MSUM Briefs

Award-winning poet returns to MSUM Thursday

Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie returns to MSUM to present a poetry reading at 7 p.m. Thursday in CMU 101. Afterward, she will sign the book of her first collection of poetry, "Karma's Footsteps," released by Flipped Eye Publishing in September 2011. Her book "Dear Continuum: Letters to a Poet Crafting Liberation" is forthcoming in spring 2015.

She is the Poetry Editor of the literary magazine African Voices. Her work focuses on women, race, ancestry, violence and the healing power of art. She has taught literature and composition at York College and Medgar Evers College in New York City. Her work "Strut," a collaboration with a photographer, deals with body image, self-acceptance and investigates the role of capitalism in women's issues about their appearances. If you are interested in joining her for lunch on Thursday between noon and 1 p.m., there are limited spaces available. Contact Jen Seviour at the Women's Center, MA 154, for more information.

Meeting regarding potential closing of student spaces taking place Tuesday evening

Concerned students at MSUM are hosting a meeting to discuss the potential closing of student spaces on campus.

Students from all organizations and spaces who will be affected by the proposed "Mosaic Center" are invited to share their opinions and collaborate on potential courses of action to make sure concerned voices continue to be heard. The meeting will take place at 8 p.m. in CMU 205. Feel free to bring other students. Some potential goals:

- social media activism
- poster campaign
- planning and strategizing meetings
- behavior expectations/ professionalism

Early Education Center becomes 4-star rated center

The Early Education Center has recently become a 4-star MN rated Center. Childcare centers in Clay County are now able to apply for

the MN Parent Aware rating system. Parent Aware is a quality rating scale that Minnesota preschools and childcare centers can opt in to. The MSUM Early Education Center received a 4-star rating which is the highest possible. More information about the rating system is available at parentaware.org.

Interested in film, pop culture or just witty banter?

Join Jessy Hegland and Mike Robinson every other Saturday at 3 p.m. for The Film Loop Radio Show. Listen online at dragonradio.org on tune in on KMSC 1500 AM. Like their Facebook "The Film Loop Radio Show" and follow them on twitter @filmloopradio for updates on topics and live feeds. "The Film Loop Radio Show" is made possible by Dragon Radio and The Film Loop, an on-campus discussion group for film lovers of all majors. For more information about the group, visit the Facebook page, "The Film Loop."

SENATE UPDATE

2.5 Meeting

- Public forum held with Jean Hollaar and Julia Roland from SAFR.
- Senate members were presented executive and committee reports.
- Senate discussed how to integrate core values into the hiring process and work done on campus.
- Tony Santos appointed as off-campus senator.

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

SECURITY UPDATE

1.30-2.5

- 1.30:**
- Marijuana odor in Nelson, one referred to OSCAR
- 2.2:**
- Medical in East Snarr
 - Theft in Nemzek
- 2.5:**
- Medical in Owens
 - Suspicious male in Library, Moorhead PD escorted individual to detox

Safety Tip of the Week

To report a problem, contact Public Safety at 218-477-2449.

It's the last week to vote for MSUM in the STANLEY grant contest

- Go online and visit <https://stanleysaferschools.com/> and vote for mnstate
- Tweet using #STANLEYSecurity and #mnstate
- Text unique school keyword mnstate to 334455

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.

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World News

Did Kayla's parents nix rescue operation?

According to a report in Foreign Policy, an unnamed military official said the parents of captured aid worker Kayla Mueller did not want the U.S. to launch a rescue mission but instead wanted her release negotiated. Her parents were reportedly worried a rescue operation would be "too risky," the report said. However, the official said the Joint Special Operations Command was never told outright to refrain from a rescue attempt, but they also never got enough solid information to present a plan to the president for approval. Neither the Mueller family nor a spokesperson for the National Security Council would comment. Families of other hostages have harshly criticized the Obama administration for its alleged insensitivity in handling hostage situations in which three Americans have been beheaded. ISIS announced on Friday that the 26-year-old Mueller died in a Jordanian airstrike.

Man attacks Coast Guard in Michigan

A male suspect is in custody after crashing his truck through the gate of the Grand Haven Coast Guard Station and assaulting personnel. The suspect allegedly made a threat regarding an explosive device in the truck. The police say he is not a resident of Grand Haven, and the incident is being called a "domestic act

of terrorism." The Coast Guard personnel are now safe.

17 year old arrested for mall shooting in Pennsylvania

A juvenile male, aged 17, has been arrested by Allegheny County Police for the shooting at Monroeville Mall on Saturday night that wounded three people. Police "images captured from social media and store video surveillance" were used to locate him. Two of the males, aged 20 and 60, were critically wounded and in Forbes hospital. One of them, the police say, was targeted. The third victim was a 47-year-old woman who went to the hospital with non-life-threatening wounds. The shooting took place on the ground floor of Macy's.

NBC's Brian Williams benches himself

NBC's embattled anchor, Brian Williams, has stepped aside from his nightly news duties for "several days" in the wake of embarrassing revelations that his tale of danger during the 2003 Iraq invasion may not have been true. In a statement posted on the NBC News web site, Williams said. "In the midst of a career spent covering and consuming news, it has become painfully apparent to me that I am presently too much a part of the news due to my actions . . . As managing editor of NBC Nightly News, I have decided to take myself off of my daily broadcast for the next

several days, and Lester Holt has kindly agreed to sit in for me to allow us to adequately deal with this issue. Upon my return, I will continue my career-long effort to be worthy of the trust of those who place their trust in us."

Japanese journalist's passport seized

A journalist who attempted to travel to Syria has had his passport seized by Japan. This is the first time Tokyo has made such a move and comes in the aftermath of the brutal murders of two Japanese hostages. The passport belonged to 58-year-old freelance photographer Yuchi Sugimoto who was planning to cover refugee camps. He said he had covered conflict zones in Iraq and Syria before and had not planned to enter areas controlled by ISIS.

New England to get several days of snow

Central New York and all of New England are bracing for yet another heavy winter storm, but this one is expected to last several days. The storm began on Sunday, and by Monday night southern New England was expected to face 12 to 18 additional inches of snow. The Boston area has the nation's oldest transit system, and has already been hit hard by January's blizzard, as well as subsequent storms. Even more daunting, perhaps, is record cold temperatures are expected next week.

Features

Adding pizzazz to a budget-friendly Valentine's Day

BY CRYSTAL BRANDEN
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Valentine's Day can seem unimportant to those not in a relationship, but for those who are, it can mean, among other things, celebration, admiration, relationship-building and to most, wallet-draining.

College students face many expenses, and with the strains of financial pressure, it can be hard to balance a day of romance that is affordable and enjoyable.

An ever-present challenge of Valentine's Day is finding something you both enjoy doing together. While dinner and a movie appear to be the go-to date night, to some the idea lacks thoughtfulness or pizzazz.

"I've always wanted something from the movies to happen to me: I would wake up with a little note next to me saying 'put this on and meet me

here.' When I get there, there's another note saying go here and so on and so forth until I get back to the house where rose pedals lead me to a candle lit dinner already prepared," said graphic communications freshman Alex Ridley.

Though the idea is a marvel for many, sometimes what is spectacular is not always practical. Sometimes just putting some effort into the day is all it takes to make it great. Making something, like a Valentine's Day card, filling a jar with happy memories between you and your partner or putting more effort into your appearance can go a long way.

"Simply making your own gift can mean a lot but won't break your bank," said social work freshman Kristin Dukek, "Girls like seeing you put in the effort to look nice for them."

A nice gesture could also be doing something your partner loves or enjoys but rarely gets

to do. It can show you care and notice what their interests are.

"I enjoy watching and doing improv, but I don't get to participate or experience it as much after graduating from high school. For me, going to an improv show would be something of a perfect Valentine's Day. I think it's a cool idea or gesture to share your interests with each other," said English education freshman William Lewandowski.

Events like improv and comedy shows and movie screenings are happening all over the community this Valentine's Day.

Fargo Billiards and Gastropub is hosting The Line Benders Improv Comedy Show: Valentine's Day Edition at 7 p.m. that night. At \$10 per person, it's a cheap way to enjoy your evening.

For those who enjoy exercising, the downtown Fargo YMCA is hosting free

Valentine-themed fitness activities open to the public from 1 – 3 p.m. If you can't wait to hit the pools, Fargo South High School opens its indoor pool from 1 – 5 p.m. for \$3.55 per adult or free to Courts Plus members. For those 21 and up, Courtney's Comedy Club has shows that night at 8 and 10:30 for \$12 per ticket.

Those interested in the arts can visit the Rourke Art Museum where student admission is a mere three dollars. The museum currently features a "Moorhead Picks" exhibit, which MSUM's very own President Blackhurst helped select.

The Main Fargo Public Library is also hosting a free-to-the-public Beethovenfest: Saturday Strings at 2 p.m. with a combination of live music and literature.

"I consider a nice Valentine's Day on a budget being a nice movie night — either one on Netflix, rented or one on TV

and snuggling, making a meal together and eating together after or before the movie, then making a dessert," freshman Amber Christianson said.

A common idea on Valentine's Day is to see a movie together, but to add a twist, the downtown Fargo YMCA is hosting a "Dive-In Movie" where attendees can enjoy a movie poolside or soaked from 4 – 5:30 p.m. The family-friendly movie showing is free to members or \$20 per adult for non-members.

If you want to try something new or different on Valentine's Day, try Rhombus Guys Karaoke which is open to all at 10 p.m., or visit the Sky Zone trampoline park which is open from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Pricing per person ranges from \$13 to \$26 depending on the amount of time a person wants to jump around.

It turns out Valentine's Day is full of possibilities for a good time.

After Dark kicks off weekend with annual Gatsby Dance

SUBMITTED

The 1920s-themed dance takes place Friday in the CMU Underground.

BY EMILY MEESTER
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As Valentine's Day approaches, students are making plans. For some, this means a romantic weekend or a day to appreciate relationships, new and old. For others, it means a weekend of Netflix and excitedly running to the store the day after to buy discount candy.

Whichever category you fall into, a Friday event could make the weekend even better. This year, Dragons After Dark and Saturday Soirée are teaming up to kick off the Valentine's Day weekend with the Gatsby Dance 9:30 p.m. – 1 a.m. in the CMU Underground.

But it's more than just a dance. Not only will there be a DJ and an opportunity to dress up in your best 1920s themed outfits, there will also be great food, a photo booth and the opportunity to make your own 1920s headpieces and fedoras.

"It's a great thing to do on a Friday night for all of our students living on campus and off," said Corin Puhalla, Dragons After Dark marketing coordinator. "A lot of students complain about not having a lot of things to do on campus, and we try to provide that opportunity."

He says the Gatsby Dance gives students a fun and cheap option for a pre-Valentine's Day date.

"It's the night before Valentine's Day, and we're hoping people will come, bring their Valentines, dance, get some crafts and food and take some fun pictures," Puhalla said.

The dance is scheduled near the end of a week of activities called DragonFrost. Organized by the Homecoming committee,

it's designed to add some fun for students who may be getting the mid-semester blues.

Tuesday features a soup feed in the CMU from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., and on Wednesday an ice cream social takes place in the same place from 1 – 3 p.m. Later are two free screenings of Space Jam, one at 6 p.m. and the other at 9 in Langseth room 104.

On Thursday, MSUM Intramurals is again hosting "Battleship H2O," a real-life twist on the classic board game which features players in canoes in the Nemzek pool, equipped with buckets and shields.

Those interested in *"It's a great thing to do on a Friday night for all of our students living on campus and off"*

participating can sign up in teams of four on imleagues.com.

Friday will include a "Go Pink" silent auction in Nemzek at 5:30 p.m., the DragonFrost royalty coronation and the Gatsby Dance.

Ending the week Saturday is the "Run Your Heart Out Fun Run" at 9 a.m. at Nemzek that will collect free-will donations for Go Pink scholarships.

The day's events also offer a ski trip. Interested students can sign up at the Info Desk in the CMU. The cost is \$30 for rentals, a lift ticket and transportation. The bus leaves at 11 a.m.

All in all, Puhalla says it will be a fun week full of events to brighten up the semester.

Stars align for student romance

BY JESSICA MCNUTT
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There are many reasons people decide to be together. For communication junior Leandra Schmidt, 21, and construction management junior Chase Zeller, also 21, they have many reasons for getting married.

The pair met as freshmen in a study group for their astronomy class a mutual friend asked them both to join. Immediately feeling a connection, they met up after studying to better get to know one another.

They say they both knew after just a few months they were meant to be. Zeller said they share similar views on marriage.

The day Zeller proposed to Schmidt was their one-year anniversary — April 14, 2014. They had tickets for the Harlem Globetrotters game that night and after eating lunch at Johnny Carino's, Zeller drove Schmidt around town in his Mustang. Confused, Schmidt kept asking where they were going, where he was taking her and when they would get there. Zeller kept looking forward and replying, "We will get there."

After building the suspense, they ended up at the top of the Moorhead Center Mall's parking ramp. They saw the view from the ramp overlooking Moorhead and the buildings of MSUM where they first met.

There, Zeller told Schmidt the reasons he fell for her in astronomy class and why a year later he was taking her to the highest ramp in Moorhead.

Since Zeller asked her to be his girlfriend on the ramp outside of her dorm freshman year, he thought it would be appropriate to take this step on a larger scale.

He got down on one knee and asked Schmidt to marry him.

Schmidt said yes at 2:14 p.m., 14:14 in military time.

"Now we can say we got engaged on April 14, 2014 at 14:14," Zeller said.

Schmidt always thought she'd get married after college. She says wasn't necessarily looking

for love; it just found her.

Zeller and Schmidt agree that trust and honesty are the most important elements of their relationship.

"The person you're going to marry is the person you should trust the most because they're the one you get to share your life with," Zeller said.

Though historically people often feel pressure from society to get married early, Schmidt believes it depends on a person's social groups. She said having single friends makes for less pressure than having married friends. Schmidt said she always needs to remind her friends that they are young and have lots of

time.

"Marriage is a big commitment that shouldn't be rushed," Schmidt said.

Zeller agrees.

"Getting married younger or older isn't better or worse," he said. "It just depends on if you're ready."

Schmidt and Zeller say they're grateful to have found each other at MSUM because they'll have more time to live and grow together.

"Getting married in or after college doesn't matter," Zeller said. "Once you know it's right, there's no point in delaying it. It's not when, but who you marry."



JESSICA MCNUTT • mcnuttje@mnstate.edu

Zeller and Schmidt plan to get married May 30, 2015 with close friends and family.

Opinion

Hope for filmmaking lies in diverse representation, recognition



BY JESSY HEGLAND
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A little over a year ago, after a few years of setbacks and uncertainties, I finally realized I want to be a filmmaker. It's a perfect medium to explore many interests, express myself and make changes in the world through the power of story with moving images.

What I didn't realize was what I was getting myself into — a male-dominated field that doesn't embrace diverse narratives from individuals who aren't white, straight and cis males (cis means you are the gender you were assigned at birth, not a trans individual), at least, in the mainstream. I prefer the independent realm, as it has given more of a voice to individuals like Native American filmmakers, women and LGBTQ individuals.

However, there needs to be more support of female filmmakers and the realization of the need to hear diverse voices, especially now that we are in the midst of a cultural shift.

One can see what is dominating the mainstream by simply looking at what is nominated for the Oscars this year — films about white, straight men made by white, straight men.

"But Jessy, what's wrong with

the menz?" Nothing is wrong with the menz, but what is wrong is these are the only narratives we are hearing, and the only images we are seeing.

The truth is, only 4.4 percent of the top 100 box-office domestic releases between 2002 and 2012 were directed by women. That means, if you do the math, 95.6 percent of all the movies in the mainstream media circuit were directed by men. That's way out of balance. In 2012, only 28.4 percent of all on-screen speaking characters in the top 100 were women.

Diverse representation has been out of balance for decades. American mainstream media has long been dominated by men, a fact backed by numbers and statistics and all of the objective proof you need. That doesn't mean that there aren't enough females and diverse individuals interested in the craft; quite the contrary. One needs only to look around the film department at MSUM, and see the diversity of faculty, international students, queer students, trans students, female students and students of color passionate about filmmaking.

There are diverse voices out there, but they aren't being given the chance to be heard or represented. There are six major studios that dominate the box-office films, and all six of those don't seem to be hiring female filmmakers or other diverse identities. This needs to change, and I believe it is already in the beginning stages of a shift.

An example lies in "Selma," directed and written by Ava DuVernay, an African American woman. It's a film about the 1965 Selma Montgomery Marches led by Dr. Martin Luther King for African American voting rights. The film covers the civil rights movement and shows true courage and the way to change society through nonviolence. It's

a film about an important part of our American history finally told from the perspective of a African American person. That it did not even get considered for Best Director in 2015 is outrageous; it's only nominated for Best Picture and Best Original Song.

Meanwhile, we have the wildly popular "American Sniper," directed by good ol' boy Clint Eastwood. It's a film that misconstrued the book by Chris Kyle, showing the main character as a person with a moral compass who struggled when he pulled the trigger to kill women, children and other 'savages' during the first occupation after 9/11 in Iraq (Chris Kyle's words, not mine. He even stated that he felt no remorse, and his only regret was not killing more — that he had gotten joy out of murdering them).

Indeed, films are art, and the filmmaker can tell the story and warp the truth all he wants. Think about this for a second: when was the last time you saw a person of Arabic descent shown in an American Film that was NOT depicted as a dehumanized terrorist? When was the last time you saw a film or played a video game with an Arab main character, instead of being the target that you shoot at?

This film, "American Sniper," has become the highest grossing war film in America. It is evidence of the backlash of the cultural shift — the fear to cling hard to the traditional modes of masculinity. It panders to the crisis of masculinity as Chris Kyle, with his muscles and phallic weapons, destroys, dehumanizes and murders women, children and other human beings.

I've noticed the people who religiously defend this film are men that pine to look like Bradley Cooper, and live vicariously through him in this film. A majority of old,

white men believe watching this film is a sign of true American patriotism — that you must follow blindly and not question the now immortalized, misconstrued god-like image of Chris Kyle, because if you question it, you're not a 'real' American, and you can just "get out." Those voices are louder than the majority of Iraq veterans who are horrified by this depiction of glorified war.

If you don't think images have an impact, look at the number of stories coming out involving hate-speech targeting people of Arabic descent and Muslims. After seeing the film, many people took to Twitter and talked about how this film makes them want to "kill some sandn***ers right now."

Even people that are critiquing this film are getting death threats. DEATH THREATS for questioning its integrity and the meanings behind the images it presents. A friend of mine actually got his first death threat on Twitter. That's messed up.

What about freedom of speech? Nowadays, it seems freedom of speech means freedom of hate speech and to threaten violence against individuals and whole groups of people who don't agree with you.

This is a film that is nominated for Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Editing, Best Writing, Sound Editing and Sound Mixing. Who nominated this film and the rest of the films on the Oscar panel? What identities were on this panel? According to an article in the LA Times in 2012, Oscar voters were 94 percent white, 77 percent male, and only 14 percent were under the age of 50. Today, not much has changed.

But don't let these statistics dishearten or discourage you. Let them ignite your passion. I sincerely believe our generation will be that which shifts these narratives. We have the power

to speak and have already been exercising that strength.

I was talking to a colleague of mine the other day, and he said, "You know, this is the year I completely stopped caring about the Oscars and other award shows. They're a joke."

Another colleague said to me, in a tone of sarcasm, "I guess the only way to really break into the film industry and make it is to be a straight, white man."

People are noticing the problem. If the Oscars and other modes of mainstream media don't shift soon, they are going to lose a generation of consumers. Money talks, right?

At MSUM, I see so much potential to be part of creating this change. I see faculty in the film and women's and gender studies departments encouraging and mentoring students of all identities. I see white, straight, male students open to ideas and identities, too.

Just recently, a big group of students attended the screening of "Thick Relations," a film about queer identities. I was inspired by the willingness of students to go out of their comfort zones, and see a film they may not have otherwise watched. I'll never forget last semester, where I learned about 'the male gaze' in cinema. The majority of the white, male and straight students said they liked reading the essay by Laura Mulvey, and that it completely changed how they looked at film.

"Mockingjay: Part 1" became the highest grossing film released in 2014. Why is that a big deal? The big deal is that it's an action film whose main character is a woman. What this says to me is we have to always have hope, we have reasons to hope and we have the power to change everything because we have our authentic voices that cannot be taken away from us.

LFL should have everyone's panties in a bunch



BY ANDY WESTON
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Imagine your favorite football team wearing only shoulder pads, a helmet and a pair of shorts.

This would appear dangerous, inconsiderate and just plain asinine. Well, these are the

conditions provided to the players of the Legends Football League.

The LFL is an all-female football league that used to be known as the Lingerie Football League. The Lingerie Bowl was put on during the Super Bowl in the mid-2000s. The League was then rebranded with the Legends moniker in 2013.

When the rebranding occurred, the athletes were reportedly provided "uniforms" in place of the lingerie they used to wear. These accommodations include a sports-style bra and booty shorts — hardly what anyone would call an improvement.

The women who take part in this league are primarily made up of former collegiate athletes and former athletes from other sports clubs. They possess the talent to be taken seriously as football players, and there is no reason they shouldn't be treated

as well as other athletes.

Just to be clear, the LFL is a full-contact league. The players are out there taking hits and being thrown to the ground. The NFL provides each of its players thigh pads, a tailbone pad, knee pads and rib guards. This equipment has been upgraded over the years and is required due to ever-growing concerns of injury.

Meanwhile, the women of the LFL are playing in less equipment than the athletes of the first Super Bowl.

On top of this ridiculous disregard for their safety, they must also meet other outlandish requirements like going to tanning salons in order to achieve what is deemed a satisfactory skin tone. For some reason, I can't think of a single male athlete who was kicked off the team for not being tan enough.

Female athletics is not

something to be ridiculed or laughed at. Women compete in every form of sporting event at a level that far exceeds any of the recliner-dwelling, beer bellied oafs who champion this sort of treatment.

Perhaps the saddest part of this entire situation is that these women have no other outlet to present their skill in the sport of football. There are no other leagues that match the kind of recognition gained through the LFL.

If a woman wants to play in a league that has the kind of funding the LFL has, she has to suit up in a scantily-clad uniform and prance onto the field in order to express her athleticism. And of course, appease men with the minds of pubescent teens.

In a day and age when you can see any kind of ridiculous, disturbing thing you want on the Internet, why are we as a society

so content with using athletes as sexual outlets for a male fantasy when all that's sought is some level of equality when participating in an American pastime?

If the Lifetime television network decided to air the Speedo bowl and have buff guys run around in banana-hammocks, wrestling each other to the ground, I would be willing to bet more than a few men would be rolling their eyes and telling their wives how ridiculous it is.

Now, I'm no saint myself. I've seen every episode of "Married with Children" at least once and told more than my fair share of Helen Keller jokes, but we live in a time where the Puppy Bowl is getting more respectful attention than a female football league.

I don't know about the rest of you, but I see something wrong with that.

Opinion

Let's talk about sex, maybe



BY KIT MURRAY
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In today's society, we are able to openly discuss sex and every topic that surrounds and bounces off of it. A great example being that "Fifty

Shades of Grey" is coming out for Valentine's Day this year. But the movie is already causing concerns for many with reservations about putting images of sexual experiences out in the open, especially BDSM, which encompasses bondage, discipline, dominance, submission, sadism and masochism.

This is the time we live in, where nudity is free to us at the touch of a button. For crying out loud, Kate Upton is practically the reason Game of War is attracting such a large audience. I think it's liberating for a topic that's so often considered taboo.

I first realized how accustomed we are to constantly hearing about sex a few years ago when I was out with a friend of mine at an ice cream shop. We had gone to Granny's Pantry, and a

song was playing by Rihanna called, "S&M." The lyrics are, "Sex in the air, I don't care, I love the smell of it. Sticks and stones may break my bones but chains and whips excite me." At the same time, little kids were standing next to me with buckets; trying to find the best candy to gather while being educated on the dark ideas we have as adults for nights in.

To this day I still find it hard to accept the idea of my future child having to hear artists talking about how much fun sex can be. Personally, I think I would do a much better job as a parent enlightening them than Rihanna would.

It's hard not to have these questions come up. Are we too comfortable with how casual it has become; less of a private activity and more of a public sphere of fabricated ideas and misconceptions? Or, maybe

this could help others see what we all share as humans; that it is a privilege to experience pleasure and be able to bask in the relief it provides.

I can't help but try to weigh the benefits of this new phenomenon. Sex education is helpful, but misunderstanding BDSM and like behaviors in relationships may be destructive. We'll have to wait and see the effect this film has on the audiences.

"Discussing sex in public is something I think has helped society. It means that it's easier to get information about sexual health and information that could be vital to people that dare not ask parents or adults.

"The problem with this new acceptance of public sex talk is that it has created the monstrosity of "Fifty Shades of Grey."

"The openness of people's sex lives within society means everyone is trying to one up the last story," said Phillipa Revitt, media productions major at University of Lincoln.

But is it so wrong to enjoy a relationship with someone and maintain a mutual fetish? If we ask permission to do what we're inflicting on our partner, testing out new ideas for pure enjoyment, what kind of issue, if any, are we causing?

Emma Heaps, media production major at University of Lincoln, had similar thoughts as well.

"Fifty Shades of Grey' is showing what is not acceptable. There are already teenagers and adults being physically and mentally abused, and I feel like this film shows that it is acceptable when it isn't. We should be showing happiness and safety, not abuse."

Your barista probably hates you



BY CARRIE THAYER
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Somewhere between work, school and a lackluster attempt at a social life, coffee has become an essential part of my day. Every morning you will find me with a mug of that deliciously bitter liquid basically attached to my hand.

It's pretty much a parasitic relationship, but I'm trying to convince myself it's one

of the nice ones, like the clown fish and sea anemone. It gives me a reason to live and I, um, save it from being loaded down with sickly sweet creamer. Totally healthy.

Some days my desire for coffee carries me into one of the hallowed spaces known as a coffee shop. Given my ardent obsession for their product, and my time as a barista, I'm going to let you, my fellow espresso lover, in on some things to avoid so the person behind the counter doesn't think you are the worst.

Vanilla Bean Anything

I can't tell you how many times I have watched someone huff and puff about long lines and caffeine withdrawals only to have them order a vanilla bean blended drink. Unless you are sensitive to the copious amounts of sugar that make up those rather bland beverages, nothing in it is

going to help you wake up.

It also doesn't help that when someone orders this drink, 90 percent of the time they are going to mess up the line by taking multiple pictures for Instagram, applying filter after filter in an attempt to make their order look less lame. #noonecares

French Cappuccino

If you order this, your barista is going to assume you actually want one of those sickening sweet drinks that gas stations try to pass off as something other than a glorified hot chocolate. Then the barista is going to have to give the spiel about how a cappuccino is actually half foam and how they don't have French vanilla flavoring, just for you to get angry when the drink "tastes like coffee."

Smoothies

You are in a coffee shop. There is a reason why this is

a coffee shop. Just stop.

Cup Sizes

Yes, Starbucks' cup size names are weird. Yes, there are reasons why they have strange names. No, we don't have enough time for me to go into all of that.

Your barista understands the concept of small, medium and large. If you have trouble pronouncing "venti," order a large. Or order by the ounces. Just don't order by price or caloric value.

"Secret" Menu

So you saw a picture of this totally adorable drink on Pinterest, it's the Ferrero Rocher or S'mores or Choco-Caramel-Whatever-Explosion Frappuccino. I mean, look at how adorable the cascades of caramel and chocolate drizzle are. Really, I'm happy for you.

But, if you don't have an exact recipe, no one is going to be able to make it.

There isn't a corporate

"secret" menu, most of those drinks are just the result of a bored barista and too many syrup options. If you want a drink, know what goes in it.

Misspelled Names

It's not that we're illiterate, it's that you're mumbling. And there's coffee brewing, espresso grinding, milk aerating, fans turning and ovens running. And you're mumbling.

If your ego is so easily bruised about a misspelled name, you can always invest in an espresso machine, make your own drink and spell your name, properly, on all of your drinkware.

There are lots of reasons why your barista probably hates you, but they are delivering to you the most wonderful of liquids. So be polite, know what you want to order before you get to the counter, enunciate and pretty soon that person might think you're only slightly terrible.

THE ADVOCATE
By the students, for the students.

request to discuss their complaints with him at a union meeting scheduled for Friday. In an interview with MPR, Inter Faculty Organization coordinator Monte Bute said, "This is exactly the kind of behavior [that has led to] campus voting to reject Rosenstone's offer, though mediation remains in preliminary talks."

ent, he had just rejected a second thought. "I just hope M down with them Cooper said. It's n them. It's not okay." At Winona's meeting upon the Inter Faculty withdrawal from the ref were made to meet their co O'Brien is quoted. Though he assured the reform originate as how planning teams have documents when even they have yet representation students raised co with MnSCU holding positions on one team, O'Brien stated that he was th minutes refute this. When asked if the reform woul any benefits to liberal out

statements made at Winona's most recent Chancellor John O'Brien and two other MnSCU affiliates, heard what many feel are some troubling statements. Meeting notes indicate that O'Brien claims to have "never seen a move so transparent. O'Brien had not wanted to see the re O'Brien's key document (the M... Cooper explained. "The chancellor offered her union leaders the M... show... and we didn't want to be included in the secrecy, with everyone involved. My decision was simple: if the rest of my students can't see it, then from my constituents, so I said... should make

regard to Steven Rosenstone's lack of ability to be in the best interest of our students, and based on the responses of our students, we boldly state no confidence in Steven Rosenstone." MnSCU is also continuing its efforts to counter "Student Senate will stay involved with the Charting the Future process at the campus level." Student Body President Cody Cooper said, "We do not support Charting the Future process. We will continue to work to make change... if then voices will be heard. Students and faculty leaders alike... that despite MnSCU's insistence in statements that they're being inclusive, those involved beg... We felt that we were being used in order to be able to make that statement," he said, "while we were at the table, we didn't have the input, and our views were not being valued." For months, students and faculty have

of which are similar to their companies and will... The main areas of concern about the chancellor aren't new: lack of transparency, dismissiveness, and failure to effectively represent the system in his dealings with the state legislature. Its Bill of Particulars addresses the performance, professionalism, and accountability of the chancellor. Rosenstone responded to their companies saying, "I take very seriously the concerns raised by the Winona State University Student Senate and hope to meet in person to discuss them. We have the opportunity to personally meet and welcome our student groups to discuss any topic at any time."

A meeting between Winona's student senate and the chancellor to address the Bill of Particulars is scheduled for Wednesday. Cooper said it can be difficult to make a statement like Winona's. "I applaud them for taking a stance," Cooper said, "It's not easy to stand up as a student and say 'these actions you've taken are not okay with us,' and for that I am proud of their courage. The easiest way to solve these issues is for the chancellor to take these issues seriously and have more communication with the faculty and students."

bring awareness to educate our students, and students, actively. Statements made at Winona's most recent Student Senate meeting suggest the commotion won't see an end any time soon. The meeting, attended by Interim Vice Chancellor John O'Brien and two other MnSCU affiliates, heard what many feel are some troubling statements. Meeting notes indicate that O'Brien claims to have "never seen a move so transparent. O'Brien had not wanted to see the re O'Brien's key document (the M... Cooper explained. "The chancellor offered her union leaders the M... show... and we didn't want to be included in the secrecy, with everyone involved. My decision was simple: if the rest of my students can't see it, then from my constituents, so I said... should make

A&E

Aniston gives raw, honest performance in "Cake"

Jennifer Aniston's newest performance as struggling Claire showcases a new side of the once "girl next door."

BY CHRIS SANCHEZ
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These days, it's easy for Hollywood to pigeonhole actresses who are constantly in the spotlight. A-list actresses like Julia Roberts, Reese Witherspoon and others who are known for being America's sweethearts and box office moguls want to be taken seriously, but don't necessarily get the roles they deserve to show their worth. However, when one of those actresses does get the opportunity to strut their stuff and completely surprise audiences, it's a refreshing reminder that they can't always jump the gun and write off these stars.

That's the case with Jennifer

Aniston, who's often seen as a bubbly and charming girl next door, but hasn't really found a worthy dramatic role until now.

In "Cake" she plays Claire, a woman suffering from chronic depression. It's taken a toll on her life, as she struggles daily just to get out of bed. She has a nurse (Adrianna Barraza, the wonderful, Oscar-nominated actress from "Babel") who takes care of her despite being underpaid and treated poorly.

In the film's opening scene, Claire is attending a support group after one of their members committed suicide by jumping off a downtown L.A. overpass. While the other members are grieving and sharing their feelings,

Claire recounts the gruesome description of how the person was found.

She becomes infatuated with the death, so much so that she starts seeing the ghost of the woman, Nina (Anna Kendrick). Her hallucinations don't stop her from blatantly becoming obsessed with Nina's personal life, including attempting to connect with Nina's widower (Sam Worthington) and trying to figure out the mystery behind her death.

The task seems like the only thing going on for Claire, who spends her daily life alone in agonizing pain. She walks as though she'd been run over by a semi and sees no payoff for the therapy she's put herself through. For some, this woman



USAMAGAZINE

may be unbearable, but it's a testament to Aniston to be able to play the deglamorized role of a woman who wears no make-up, is covered in scars, has unwashed hair and is stripped of her usual allure.

The role doesn't reek of vanity, as Aniston gives an honest portrayal of a woman trying to cope with tragedy and pursue happiness. It's a career-best performance that should give the actress more leeway for increasingly interesting and challenging roles to come.

If only the film itself were

as strong as its star.

For all its angst and bleakness, "Cake" lacks subtlety and warmth, despite some moments of levity. There are many questions that are left unanswered. The film would have benefited from knowing Claire's past, but, unfortunately it's never disclosed.

Nevertheless, the chief reason for seeing "Cake" is Aniston's performance. It's a showcase that proves to critics she is ready to be seen in a new light. "Gal pal Rachel Green" is no longer with us.

Film explores mental illness through dark comedy, talking animals

Ryan Reynolds brings a whole new meaning to the term "dog-whisperer" in his new dark comedy "The Voices."

BY ANDY WESTON
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In the new film, "The Voices", Ryan Reynolds plays a small town factory worker named Jerry. All seems well with Jerry at first; he's a nice, humble guy who does his job with a smile on his face and pines over the attractive English girl in accounting.

Though everything seems calm on the surface (a bit too calm perhaps), there is clearly something not quite right about Jerry.

The audience's first clue is given when Jerry is seen talking to his pets, a dog named Bosco and a cat named Mr. Whiskers. Talking to your pets isn't weird in itself, but when your pets talk back, there begins to be a problem.

While Bosco is a lethargic and well-meaning companion who helps to build Jerry's confidence, Mr. Whiskers is an ever-present devil whispering into his ear. The voices he hears become the catalyst for the

events that play out during the rest of the film.

The movie is a mix of both pitch-black comedy and uncomfortable moments of shock and horror. It's an interesting approach that puts the viewer into an uneasy state. They never know how to feel at any given moment about what they're seeing, much like the lead character himself.

The serious topic of mental illness, specifically depression and schizophrenia, is presented in interesting ways in "The Voices."

There is a moment when Jerry decides to take medication for the first time in a long time, and the viewer is transported out of Jerry's world and back into reality. The first time we see what the world really looks like is terrifying and upsetting. This presentation is done to mirror that of the illnesses in question and is well realized by director Marjane Satrapi.

Satrapi is best known for her directorial debut, "Persepolis." Similar to that film, she is able to

perfectly capture the emotions of the lead character, and make the viewer feel as though they are experiencing everything along with him.

But none of this character-driven story would have worked without a great ensemble cast to bring it to life, including a number of supporting female characters that are well-developed and acted.

Gemma Arterton is Fiona, the office worker that Jerry has a crush on. Arterton plays the character well, making her come off as snide while still allowing for a bit of sympathy and understanding.

Jacki Weaver plays Jerry's psychologist and is something of a guiding light. Weaver is in her element as a motherly figure who provides Jerry with a voice of reason while he is trapped in a sea of chaos.

The main female character is a co-worker named Lisa, who has a thing for Jerry but is continually passed over for Fiona. Lisa is played by Anna Kendrick, whose girl-next-door

sensibilities are on display in order to show a life that Jerry could have if he could only find a way to manage his illness. Kendrick does a wonderful job of being likable and giving us someone to root for during Jerry's struggle.

Though the supporting cast is great, the main draw here is Ryan Reynolds. With a career that has been dotted with failed blockbusters and animated flops, it may be hard for some viewers to take him seriously.

Although known for comedy, Reynolds has done a number of independent films during the course of his career that have shown him to be a great dramatic actor as well. His talents for comedy and drama are used here to great effect.

Jerry is an aloof but likable character, and Reynolds plays up his quirky and socially awkward traits perfectly. There is clearly something amiss about Jerry; the way that Reynolds is able to channel something reminiscent of Norman Bates makes it readily apparent from

the start.

On top of playing the complex role of Jerry, Reynolds also does the voices of Mr. Whiskers and Bosco, his talking furry companions. He does a good job of giving them distinct personalities without ever making them so over the top that it pulls you out of the film.

There is a scene in which Jerry is in a room talking to his dog, his cat and a disembodied head. It's at this point viewers realize it is just Reynolds sitting in a room alone, acting by himself, and it dawns on you how great his performance really is.

With its dark humor and sudden shift into the disturbing, along with an ending that is both hilarious and confounding, "The Voices" might not be everyone's cup of tea. Although it could have delved even deeper into the concept of Jerry's illness, it succeeds at giving its viewer a look into the mind of the man who suffers from it.

"The Voices" is available now via On Demand and VUDU.



IMDB.COM

Sports

Swimming and Diving hopes to finish strong at NSIC tourney

BY MEG KEIM & THOR THOMPSON
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The Swimming and Diving team at MSUM is taking things into its own hands this season. The athletes hold the potential to qualify for nationals, break their fastest times and achieve their greatest scores.

This season has been something of a marvel as the Dragons have achieved 300 personal bests and had strong showings the majority of the season with four dual wins and a first place finish at their own Dragon Invite in January.

Junior Emily Pascavis is rocking her competition with lifetime bests, national qualifying scores and three

separate Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Diver of the Week honors. She has achieved the Courtyard by Marriott athlete of the week and shows no sign of slowing down.

Pascavis, a Concordia transfer, had hip surgery and spent a year out of the water in order to heal. Coming back from her injury this year, she was worried about her improvement and scores but was pleasantly surprised by her success.

Coach Todd Peters notes that Pascavis "is our top diver" and that "it's amazing that [a] year ago she was injured, and this year she has qualified for nationals," and appears to be moving in a positive direction both physically and mentally.

However, the junior diver does admit it was a rocky start to the season. Pascavis said she "worked her butt off to get here" and explained she still "has the fire burning to improve."

In addition to working on her dives, Pascavis noted she has been focusing on her fundamentals as well. She explained perfecting the dives, and doing them correctly is important. She said "we learn so many dives so quickly that it's a struggle to perfect all of them without knowing the fundamentals first."

Peters agrees working with fundamentals is key, but also believes working as a team and having that bond is important as well.

The team took a special trip

to Puerto Rico over winter break to practice, have fun and create important friendships. The team traveled to Florida in the past, but changed it up this year; the athletes thoroughly enjoyed it.

Pascavis noted "it was an amazing experience" and agreed it brought them all together as a team. They got the chance to go zip lining as well as take in the scenery. Coach Peters hinted they relaxed on the beach a lot between morning and afternoon practices.

Pascavis used the opportunity in Puerto Rico to bond with her teammates and said they have "grown together a lot and became a lot closer than we were at the beginning of the season."

She explained the support they have for each other is very important, and it's exciting to watch personal success but also have teammates for support as well.

Cheering on teammates is important to the team, and they notice when others around them are doing well.

Pascavis gushed about her fellow diver Amanda Groebner, a sophomore on the team. Pascavis said Groebner is "really coming into her own," and watching her meet her potential is fun.

In their meet Jan. 31 at Minnesota State Mankato, Groebner got a national prequalifying score (390.45) narrowly topping the requirement of 390 points. Coach Peters also noted Jackie Woods is the closest of the swimmers to qualifying for nationals, and Erin Sullivan is also having a wonderful year individually as well as a member of relay teams.

The Dragons end their season at the conference meet Feb. 18-21 in Cleveland, Miss. for those who don't qualify for Nationals in March.



The MSUM swimming and diving team took their annual winter training trip to Puerto Rico this year.

SUBMITTED

MSUM football players take plunge for non-profit

BY TOMI THOMPSON
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Three Dragon football players have made the pledge to get cold and wet for a good cause.

Wide receiver Adam Jiskra, running back Zayne Medhaug and lineman Steve Schutz make up the three-man team representing MSUM football that will take part in the Creative Care for Reaching Independence Polar Plunge as a part of the Dakota Medical Foundation's Giving Hearts Day.

The plunge will take place Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. in the CCRI parking lot in Moorhead.

MSUM Dragon mascot Scorch will also be at the event to cheer the polar plungers on.

The Dakota Medical Foundation started Giving Hearts Day in 2008. It is a one-day, online, virtual fund raising event giving back to

participating charities in the region.

CCRI is a non-profit organization that strives to enhance and enrich the lives and learning of people with disabilities. They help their clients strengthen their daily living skills, participate in the community and live more independently. It has served the area for more than 30 years.

Participating polar-plunge teams are also collecting pledges on CCRI's website. In addition, all funds raised will benefit CCRI.

Jiskra, Medhaug and Schutz view the opportunity as a chance to be able to give back to an organization that enhances the lives of others.

"CCRI is a great organization," Jiskra said. "I think the event will be fun and it's definitely for a good cause. I'm pretty excited about being a part of it."

Even though Jiskra is a bit concerned about getting

chilly, he is glad to be a part of the event.

"I'm a little nervous about how cold the water is going to be," Jiskra said, "but I'm looking forward to the plunge and hanging out with everyone there."

Medhaug says he's participating in the plunge with hopes of raising money and spreading awareness for CCRI.

"CCRI is a great organization that has helped change the lives of many people," Medhaug said.

For Schutz, the polar plunge is an opportunity to make an impact in the community beyond the football field.

"We try to take every opportunity to give back to the local community," Schutz said, "We believe what we are doing here is a lot bigger than football, so if taking a polar plunge can help raise money for a great organization like CCRI, we are more than happy to help."

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News

ACTIVISM, FROM FRONT



Artist Nani Chacon's piece created specifically for the SORR art exhibition, which debuted Monday. FACEBOOK

said. "Let's help others know what's going on, get to the how's and why's, then figure out the what's next."

With a concert, a documentary, commissioned artwork, and the exhibit itself, organizers have employed art as a means of that education.

"Art is a weapon," Winder said. "Art has a way of tugging at the heartstrings in a way that rhetoric and facts aren't always able to. For artists, their art practice and craft is their gift, and it can be a powerful and empowering tool to get the message out there."

The documentary, "Missing," will be screened at 5 p.m. Tuesday in MSUM Library Room 103. Following will be a

panel discussion including the film's producer, Young Jibwe.

The Arming Sisters Workshop takes place Wednesday from 5 to 9 p.m. in the MSUM Underground. The course will utilize women's self defense to revive "self-empowerment, love, and ownership of body," according to the event's Facebook page. Dinner will be provided.

Friday will see the Sing Our Rivers Red Honoring Event in Concordia's Barry Auditorium. The community gathering will feature a talk and Q&A on the intersection of violence against women and oil extraction. Again, dinner will be provided.

Finally, Saturday at noon, the community will gather for a

march beginning at 12:30 p.m. from the Fargo Public Library and ending at Moorhead's Public Library. There, a rally will take place until 2 p.m. Free hot chocolate and coffee will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring flags, posters, banners and hand drums. Speakers include SORR organizers.

Throughout the week supporters can help spread the word by using the hashtags #MMIW and #SORR.

"I think when it comes to any cause or issue, we all have something to give, some skill, some gift, a voice, a passion. Use what you've been given to make a difference," Winder said. "It starts with all of us."

SCHOLAR, FROM FRONT

typically taught in a Chinese education. "They teach them to cook," Chen said. "In China, it's impossible. I don't cook."

Though it's not what she would normally learn, Chen said her daughter has taken a particular liking to the new skill and practices at home frequently.

Despite her daughter being the only Chinese student at the school, Chen said teachers have been patient with her less-than-fluent English, and she has made many new friends since her first day.

Over the summer break, Chen and her daughter will travel to California to visit her niece who is studying at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Chen said she is excited to see the "different culture in different states," yet another dissimilarity from her home country.

Despite the drastically different climate and scenery, Chen has no regrets about choosing to spend the majority of her time in the United States in the Red River Valley. She's already picked up on the "Minnesota Nice."

"Everybody smiles at you," she said. "I love Moorhead. I feel comfortable."

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1/15	3rd Thursday tasting from 5-8PM
2/5	Craft beer tasting 5-7PM
2/19	3rd Thursday tasting 5-8PM
3/5	Craft beer tasting 5-7PM
3/19	3rd Thursday tasting 5-8PM
4/2	Craft beer tasting 5-7PM
4/16	3rd Thursday tasting 5-8PM
5/7	Craft beer tasting 5-7PM
5/21	3rd Thursday tasting 5-8PM

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