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The Advocate, March 3, 2015

Minnesota State University Moorhead

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Briefs

CAMPUS CALENDAR

3.3-3.9

Tues 3.3	5:30 p.m., Social media workshop, CMU 203	Fri. 3.6	10 a.m., Retired faculty coffee social, CMU Ballroom
Wed 3.4	6, 9 p.m., "Big Hero 6" viewing, LH 104 7 p.m., Spread the Word to End the Word Bingo, CMU Underground		11 a.m. Public Reading of "Love Imagined" with author Sherry Quan Lee, Women's Center
Thur 3.5	11:45 a.m., Ethics Day, CMU Ballroom 5:30 p.m. Executive and Entrepreneurial Forum, CMU 101 6:30 p.m., Feminist Book Club discussion with author Sherry Quan Lee, Library	Sat 3.7	2 p.m., LaserFest 2015, BR 167
		Sun 3.8	2:30 p.m., Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, CMU
		Mon 3.9	6 p.m., Fantasy Guild, CMU 207 6 p.m., Strength from Broken Places: Women in Post-Genocide Rwanda, CMU 205

SENATE UPDATE

2.26 Meeting

- Public forum with Chris Nelson, Director of Public Safety who discussed the importance of having more interaction with students.
- Public forum with Grant Cooper of CRU who informed senators of the Executive and Entrepreneurial Forum, a networking opportunity they are hosting March 5.
- Public forum with Nick Newell from Dragon Entertainment Group regarding the 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' event March 8.
- Richa Neupane and her roommate discussed problems they are having with housing and possible compromises.
- Students gave their testament in opposition to the Mosaic Center.

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

SECURITY UPDATE

2.20-2.26

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2.22: | 2.25: |
| • Medical call in Ballard. One transported to hospital by FM ambulance | • Vehicle hit and run in G-11 lot, Moorhead police report taken |
| 2.23: | • Alcohol violation; one transported by FM ambulance |
| • Theft, larceny located in football locker room in Nemzek, Moorhead Police report made | |

Safety Tip of the Week

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

Going somewhere for spring break? Make sure someone knows where you are and how to contact you. Use the buddy system, and take caution when talking to strangers.

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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MSUM Briefs

Ethics Day March 5

Join us for Ethics Day in the CMU Ballroom. Lunch will be provided while you listen to a panel of business/healthcare experts discuss real life ethical situations they've encountered in their professions. Lunch begins at 11:45 a.m. Panel will go from noon to 1:15 p.m.

Chad Walthall coach of the year

The 2014-15 Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference season awards included four honors for the men's basketball team. Head Coach Chad Walthall took home the Coach of the Year honor while his senior leader point guard Jordan Riewer was named Co-Player of the Year. Junior forward Isaac Sevlie joined Riewer on the All-Conference First Team, while sophomore guard Aaron Lien was named to the Second Team.

Walthall has taken the MSUM program to new heights in his fifth season at the helm of the Dragons. He is 106-43 at MSUM, with a

conference record of 73-37 and a winning average of 71.1 percent. This year, the Dragons rank first in the NSIC in eight different statistical categories and are top 10 in 12 statistical categories in the nation.

Ruth Lumb and Vinod Lall paper accepted for publication in the Indian Journal of Economics and Business

Ruth Lumb and Vinod Lall, Paseka School of Business Minnesota State University Moorhead, and Abel Moreno, College of Business Metropolitan State University of Denver, have a paper titled "Chinese Consumers' Perception of Indian Products: A Multi-Year Comparison" accepted for publication in the April 2015 issue of Indian Journal of Economics and Business.

Free health care directives offered

Do your loved ones really know what you would want in a medical

emergency? Do you have a health care directive or living will? Here's your chance to get this legal document done.

The Elder Law class (Para 416), as part of an academic service learning project, is offering to draft health care directives. This service is offered to MSUM faculty and staff at no cost but is limited to 22 individuals and their spouse or partner. You must be:

- a Minnesota resident
 - available to meet with a student on April 16, April 28 or May 5 at 9 a.m. in the Library porch (LI 100).
- The meetings will be one hour long.

All of the work will be done by students and will be supervised by a licensed attorney. You will receive a professionally done health care directive that you can sign on May 5.

Enrollment is limited. To register for a health care directive contact Deborah Kukowski at deborah.kukowski@mnstate.edu or 218-477-5806.



World News

Nigerian teen girl beaten and burned

A teenage Nigerian girl is dead after being beaten to death and set on fire by a mob in northeastern Nigeria on Sunday. She was one of two girls who refused to be searched after arriving to a vegetable market. When the crowd overpowered her and saw two bottles strapped to her, they clubbed her to death before putting a tire covered in fuel over her head which they then lit. However police said it is unlikely she was a suicide bomber since she never detonated any explosives when she was attacked and instead was a victim of "mob action carried out by an irate crowd." Lately, girls as young as 10 have been deployed to carry out suicide attacks at markets and bus stations in Nigeria.

UK schoolgirls seen heading to join ISIS

Three British schoolgirls who flew from London to Istanbul in mid-February have reportedly been seen on security footage catching a bus to Syria. The three girls, Amira Abase, 15, Shamima Begum, 15, and Kadiza Sultana, 16, are believed to be on their way to join ISIS. Both the families of the girls and the British police have issued multiple pleas for the girls to return. Prime Minister David Cameron has claimed that the girls were radicalized "in their bedrooms" and that social media firms need to do more to curb online extremism. The CCTV pictures are from Feb. 17 and 18. There have been an estimated 600 British

Muslims who have traveled to the region to take part in the conflict, some of them with ISIS.

Iran: Google could be welcome

Internet companies like Google could be allowed into Iran if they respect its "cultural" rules, the country's state news agency announced Sunday. "We are not opposed to any of the entities operating in global markets who want to offer services in Iran," Deputy Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister Nasrollah Jahangard told Fars. "We are ready to negotiate with them and if they accept our cultural rules and policies they can offer their services in Iran," he said. Jahangard also claimed that should Google or any similar company want to open up shop in Iran, that the government would be ready to provide with the facilities to help out.

Thousands march in Moscow protest

In commemoration of opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, who was shot to death on Friday, thousands marched in central Moscow on Sunday. Nemtsov was killed after urging people to protest against Vladimir Putin and the war in Ukraine. The march was approved by city officials on Saturday with a permit of up to 50,000 people. Putin has publicly promised to find and prosecute those who killed Nemtsov. "Everything will be done to give the organizers and executors of this base and cynical murder the punishment

they deserve," he promised in a note of condolence to Nemtsov's mother, Dina Eidman. However, weeks earlier Nemtsov had claimed Putin wanted him dead.

Iraq reopens Baghdad museum

Twelve years after thieves made off with almost a third of the treasures inside Iraq's national museum, officials have reopened the museum as a defiant response to Islamic state terrorists' destruction of ancient artifacts. "We have been preparing to reopen for the past couple of months, the museum should be open to everyone," Deputy Tourism and Antiquities Minister Qais Hussein Rashid told Agence France Presse. ISIS jihadis in Mosul have released videos of themselves destroying ancient statues with sledgehammers and jackhammers.

Venezuela jails Americans for 'spying'

While speaking at an "anti-imperialist" rally, Nicolas Maduro, the president of Venezuela, announced on Saturday that an unspecified number of Americans have been arrested for espionage. Included in that number, he said, was an American pilot of Latin American origin. Mauro claimed that the pilot had "all kinds of documents" and is currently being interrogated. Mauro also announced that U.S. citizens will have new visa requirements for visiting Venezuela and that the U.S. Embassy in Caracas will be downsized to stop U.S. "interference."

Features



BY CRYSTAL BRANDEN
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Izumi pleases with all-you-can-eat sushi

Izumi Sushi and Hibachi is a new restaurant in the F-M area that offers dinner and lunch deals providing Japanese-based dishes and sushi at an affordable price. With a comfortable atmosphere and freshly made rolls and meals, Izumi is a great place for fans of Asian cuisine.

When you walk into Izumi you are met with a relaxed, classy environment. Booth or table seating is available, and the tables are easily made to accommodate large groups. The décor is refreshing and modern, complimented with a few TVs, background music at a comfortable level and dimmed lighting. The tables are combined with booth-like chairs, and it is still easy enough to maintain a conversation without getting interrupted by other guests.

The service at Izumi was impressive and efficient. It utilizes its space well with plenty of seating in the restaurant. When you are seated, servers give you a menu for singular orders or a pile of papers for their lunch and

dinner specials. They are quick to get your drinks and easily answer questions. When you are ready to order, they are prompt, and it does not take long for your meal to get to your table. All in all, they waste no time, are very diligent and do not disturb you while you are eating.

Overall, Izumi's deals are probably the best way to go. Their lunch exclusively offers a sushi deal that ranges from \$8.95 to \$11.95 if you are looking for a quick meal.

At lunch they also offer an all-you-can-eat meal at \$16.95 per person from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. With their all-you-can-eat deal, guests can order food however many times they wish and eat however much they would like.

Additionally, Izumi presents an all-you-can-eat deal for dinner at \$26.95 per person. Though this is \$10 more than their lunch deal, more menu options are offered.

Food available includes: soups, salads, appetizers, sushi entrees, classic, chef specialty and hand-rolled sushi, vegetable rolls, plain sushi, teriyaki and curry, tempura entrees, udon (noodles in soup), side orders, hibachi and

dessert. Though they are all-you-can-eat, they are also eat-all-you-order or guests are charged a little more.

From the dishes and sushi tried, everything was delicious. The quality of the food was top notch, and you could tell their seafood was fresh, not frozen. Everything was seasoned well and nicely accompanied with what they served. The display of the food was appealing, and Izumi really has a knack for successfully combining foods that would not traditionally be put together.

The restaurant has a great website with prices of everything on their menu. It's designed and organized with the feel of the restaurant in mind. You can find everything offered in their meal deals, and you can even order online at izumirestaurant.com. They also offer online ordering for delivery.

All in all, Izumi is a great restaurant I would recommend to anyone willing to try something new or looking to enjoy great sushi at a great price. Izumi Sushi and Hibachi is located in Fargo at 5675 26th Ave. S., Suite 108 and is open seven days a week, ranging from 11 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.

“The dress” splits world at the seams

BY JESSICA MCNUTT
mcnutte@mnstate.edu

On Thursday social networking feeds were taken over, frustration clouded the Internet and the world had drastically been divided into two groups: the Blue and Blacks and the Gold and Whites.

Millions have proclaimed their undoubted and stubborn opinions, from celebrities to politicians. But the answer to “What colors are this dress?” is still unanswered for some.

Katie West, Brady Hand and Kelly Rentfrow, all freshman at MSUM, see the dress as black and blue.

Even when shown a picture of the dress in three different lightings, West, Hand and Rentfrow still only see their picks.

“I see the dress as black and blue,” Hand said. “People who see white and gold are color blind.”

Billie Windfeldt and Paige O'Hara, also freshman at MSUM saw the dress as white and gold. Windfeldt argued without a doubt.

“I don't understand how people think it's black and blue,” Windfeldt said. “White and gold all day.”

But some people, like junior JC Cervenka and senior Molly Jeska have seen a mixture or both.

“I saw blue and black right away when I looked at it, and then the more I look at it I see gold and white,” Jeska said.

Cervenka said he can no longer see white and gold at all, but sees blue and gold.

So why the divide?

According to David Williams, a vision scientist at the University of Rochester in New York, there are specific reasons people see the colors they do.

Williams said the brain is always confronted with a problem. When looking at an object, the light the eyes see from the object depends on how the object is illuminated and its intrinsic properties.

According to Williams, light is made up of different wavelengths, which the brain perceives as color. People see different colors because when light enters the retina, it activates cone cells that are sensitive to red, green or blue wavelengths. These determine what color people perceive the dress to be.

Another major factor in the debate is the dress's background. Since the picture provided little information about the background, people weren't able to compare the dress to its surrounding colors as easily.

But despite the many arguments as to what the actual color of the dress is, it is indeed blue and black. Perhaps now friendships can mend after this intense international debate.

MSUM hosts 40th annual toothpick bridge competition

BY EMILY MEESTER
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One toothpick might not look like much, but glue a bunch together the right way, and they can eventually hold more than 100 pounds.

It was discovered by some at the toothpick bridge building competition sponsored by the Fargo-Moorhead Engineers Club and MSUM last Wednesday in the CMU ballroom.

The competition was open to grades 1-12, as well as the college level. The goal was simple: build a small bridge using nothing but toothpicks and white or woodworking glue.

Before coming to the event, students would spend time building their bridges and making sure they also met height, length and width requirements. After these were checked at the beginning of the competition, students would bring their bridges up to the stage and load them with weights to see how much they could hold as parents, family and friends watched in the audience.

After a bridge breaks, the total weight is divided by the weight of the structure to find out the ending strength ratio of the bridge. This means a strong bridge that weighs less than a stronger bridge could still win because its strength ratio is larger.

There were cash prizes for the top three bridges, as well as for the next strongest bridge in each class (elementary, middle and high school and college levels). There was also a prize for the bridge with the best overall appearance.

The event is a way for students to experiment with scientific properties while having fun and engaging in friendly competition. For older students, it's a way to test knowledge and research skills to find out what type of bridge will be able to hold the most weight.

It also gives students of all levels a chance to collaborate on building a successful bridge, and acquire the teamwork skills necessary for deciding what kind of bridge to build and how to go about crafting it. Even loading the weights required skillful maneuvering, as some of the older teams would quickly pass weights from one person to another in order to get the bridge to sustain the most weight possible before breaking.

When a bridge breaks, the weights often go forward and fall off the stage or shoot backward and have to be dodged by the students. To make the contest safer for the contestants, its sponsors are currently exploring alternative ways to load weight, perhaps through a hydraulic or mechanical device for contestants to use to apply pressure to their bridges. This way, students will still be able to see how much of a load their bridges can withstand while making the application of that weight safer for students and maintaining a fun competition.

All in all, this toothpick bridge building competition is an event for students to engage in friendly competition, learn important teamwork skills and compete across several student districts. And of course for supporters, it's a blast to watch.

99 Bottles

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Tasting Schedule:

12/18	3rd Thursday Tasting from 5–8PM
1/1	Craft beer tasting from 5–7 PM
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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THE ADVOCATE
By the students, for the students.

Opinion

Administration: Mosaic Center will destroy safe spaces



BY CHANDLER ESSLINGER
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Change is brewing on campus.

The imminent renovation of the Comstock Memorial Union is a great chance to give MSUM a much-needed update and will also provide the student body with increased support, space and opportunity on campus.

But proposed concurrently with the CMU renovations is the creation of the Mosaic Center, a location that would serve as a combined community area for all safe spaces on campus.

This center for the diverse student population would consolidate the Women's Center and Rainbow Dragon Center (our LGBTQIA+ space), as well as integrate the international student population. The center would also house director's offices for such entities like the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Women's Center, the Rainbow Dragon Center and other diversity offices on campus.

On paper, providing a community space for the diverse student population sounds like a great idea, and in many ways, it is. It appears that the goal of the Mosaic Center is to champion diversity on our campus, while also fostering

community, understanding and collaboration amongst diverse students, campus organizations, faculty and staff.

However, the caveat to the creation of this Mosaic Center is that it would eliminate the few purposefully autonomous safe spaces available on our campus, notably the Women's Center and the Rainbow Dragon Center.

Let me be clear in saying that I am NOT anti-Mosaic Center. I believe this space is necessary to support diverse students on campus and promote inclusivity, understanding and fellowship amongst the entire student body. However, my contention is this space would not provide diverse students with the safe, autonomous spaces they need in order to feel secure and supported at a university that can be hostile toward diversity.

The administration argues the Women's Center and Rainbow Dragon Center would endure because of the existence of their director's offices within the Mosaic Center; however, the safe autonomous spaces in and of themselves would not be present within the center. This, in effect, abolishes any kind of safe space available to students, faculty and staff at MSUM.

To paraphrase my favorite professor, when a single, autonomous drop of water falls from the sky and lands in the ocean, it is no longer an autonomous drop of water, it has become consumed by the ocean. It can no longer be identified or separated from the ocean since it has lost all autonomy.

This idea is evocative of the way the safe spaces will be integrated into our campus; the intentional autonomy and safety of these spaces will be taken away and consumed by the ocean. I cannot and will not agree with the elimination of these spaces.

I have had patience. I have had faith. I have had dialogues, discussions and "casual collisions." I have spoken. I have listened. I have tried to understand every point of view. But I can no longer, in good conscience, wait idly for the university to recognize the deleterious effects the consequences of their actions will have on students.

But before I get to that, let's discuss what I mean when I refer to the Women's Center and the Rainbow Dragon Center as safe spaces on campus.

"Safe space" refers to the centers available to students with marginalized identities, be it race, gender, sexuality, class, ability, religion, etc. Each space has an intentional purpose. For example, the Women's Center provides support, resources and community to women specifically, but also to those of all genders, sexual orientations, etc. who wish to be free from patriarchal oppression, if only for a moment throughout their day.

The Women's Center is a purposefully feminist space that works to dismantle everyday sexism, racism, homophobia, classism, body-shaming, ableism, ageism, victim-blaming and general hatefulness that exists (yes, it exists) on our campus. It provides diverse students the opportunity to unapologetically be themselves without the fear of derision, prejudice, judgment, microaggressions or violence. The Women's Center provides resources, community and support to those affected by sexual assault, domestic violence, sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women, which occur every single day (yes, it does) in our community.

This kind of identity security can only be fostered in a safe, autonomous space like

the Women's Center or the Rainbow Dragon Center. These necessities cannot be recreated in a collaborative student space like the Mosaic Center, and the rest of campus cannot possibly provide these same resources due to its lack of intentional focus on these issues. Trying to do so would fail our student's needs.

This denial of our specific needs in favor of a larger community space does not reaffirm our identities. It relegates us the same, it silences our voices, and it renders us invisible. It would allow individuals to slip through the cracks, to drop out of school, to tumble into depression, to sacrifice their lives.

If these claims sound melodramatic to you, then you do not understand the lived realities of the students on our campus. The strength it takes them to get out of bed everyday and face a world of hostility toward their identities is incredible. To navigate a society that may never truly appreciate them the way they are is difficult. To live to fight another day when it would be much easier not to is a real temptation. I hear it, I see it, I feel it every day at MSUM.

I hear it from the students who have such horrific interactions with other students and faculty who do not respect their identity that they descend into pits of anguish, despair and self-hate.

I see it in the side-glances, the double takes, the smirks, the laughs, the crude gestures, the casual objectification and the outright harassment of men, women and non-binary individuals in the hallways.

I feel it in the constant reminders from administration that I don't know what is best for my peers and myself, even though we embody their theories, their rhetoric and their

diversity goals every single day of our lives.

We are not your numbers, we are not your graduation rates, we are not your tuition fees, we are not your diversity check boxes. We are human beings with lives that intersect with each other, that intertwine with our experiences on and off campus, and that inform our self-worth.

Instead of merely acknowledging the differences that inform our identity and "celebrating" those differences in the name of championing diversity, we need support for those differences and the specific needs that come along with them. We need our autonomous spaces, our chosen families and our safe communities.

With all of this in mind, I ask for your support. You can be our biggest ally, our fiercest support system, and we desperately crave that relationship with you. We know you want what is best for us —to support our differences, and provide us "the opportunity to discover [our] passions, the rigor to develop intellectually and the versatility to shape a changing world." We have the motivation, the ambition and the fearless desire to give every student at MSUM the tools to thrive.

But in order to do that we need you to acknowledge our need for autonomous safe spaces, relentless support and pride.

So please, reflect and decide what is more important to you. Is it to listen to, support and care for the lived realities of the diverse students on our campus? Or is it to relegate us the same under the banner of diversity, to silence our voices and to render us invisible?

Until then, I will continue to have patience and faith. I will continue to relentlessly fight. And I will not be silent.

Modern romance a challenge for independent personalities



BY REMINGTON LAYNE
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Something every one of us has done at some point in our lives is wonder about relationships and if we'll ever be in one. The phrase, "forever alone" often comes up, but why?

First of all, this line of thinking does not only pertain to females but to males as well. We are

all curious as to when, where, how and who will swoop in and provide us with our romantic movie fantasy.

What we forget is romance is different for us all because we are all unique. Some of us will have more frequent dates and earlier experiences with relationships, while others won't have any kind of experience with relationships, are never romantically approached and are perceived as "alone" or "lonely" due to society's preoccupation with romance.

This idea of romance being of utmost importance in our lives has negative effects for everyone. It can make a lot of women feel like if they aren't approached romantically there is something wrong with them, or they aren't living up to society's standards.

The stereotypical idea of a woman is someone who is gentle, generally not very outspoken or dominant, etc. Being that way is not bad by any means; there

are many incredible women with these traits. However, there is another kind of woman, one who voices her opinion, has a dominant personality and naturally projects it.

These women can get negative reactions from those around them; in conversations the other party might seem intimidated and romantic relationships are not always easy to come by. Generally, potential romantic partners are less likely to approach these kinds of women (especially in young adulthood). Even if the other party is very interested in that woman, they will never express it like they would to a woman who displayed softer and more approachable qualities.

This can often take a negative toll on women with these more dominant personalities, especially in a society that stresses romantic relationships as something important.

These women sometimes start

questioning if there is something wrong with them; they start trying to see flaws they can fix, wondering if they are attractive enough, and ultimately, if they should change who they are.

What these women might not know is there is absolutely nothing wrong with them; there is nothing wrong with being independent, dominant and having a strong presence.

Dominant women of the world can be seen and treated with respect and admiration, but can also intimidate some people who overlook other qualities they might have like kindness and joyfulness.

The opposite is often true for men. Men with very strong, independent personalities are flocked by others. However, this doesn't mean these admirers are attracted to their true selves, which can get repetitive and tiring. Men can also wonder why it takes so long to find their romantic movie fantasy. They

can also second guess their personality due to these things.

Men who have a dominant presence deal with the same basic issue as women who have a dominant presence: it's hard finding someone who is not only compatible and accepting of their personality but who is genuinely interested in finding out what's behind the strong surface. This kind of presence, attitude and dominance isn't society's norm, making romantic relationships challenging. That is why most people who see these kinds of men and women label them as "alone" or "lonely".

So, dominant personalities of the world (and of our campus) don't be discouraged, keep focusing on your pursuits, don't change who you are. The same can be said for everyone, whether "a dominant personality" applies to you or not. Never second guess yourself just because your romantic movie isn't in theaters yet. It's just still in production.

Opinion

To work or not to work?



BY WILLIAM LEWANDOWSKI
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College students constantly face the issue of finances. There's financial aid, loans, social lives, books and supplies, gas, car repairs and food, and all of this requires money. But is it worth it to have a job and be a full-time student?

Being a full-time student in itself is like having a full-time job. Go to classes throughout the day, go home or to the library and study for another set of hours, then do it again the next day. Adding a part-time job to that is like adding another 20 hours to a 40 hour work week.

Adding a part-time job can be daunting. It's emotionally, as well as physically, draining. Take it from a student who has three jobs, aside from being a full-time student.

I, along with being a student, write for the Advocate, work at a gas station and am a part-time substitute in the Fargo Public Schools. I take 18 credits at school, well over the full-time mark for a student. These credits add up to 22 hours of class,

and after adding around 20 to 25 hours of work, I am doing around 42 hours of work each week. Then you add studying and bump that number to around 55 hours. I'm not saying it's terrible or impossible, but it becomes a deep rut.

Working and getting a paycheck every other Friday is nice because it gives you a boost of money for supplies and food, it gives the possibility of going out with friends and having the gas to drive yourself places. Also, getting a paycheck gives a sense of accomplishment and reward.

Unfortunately though, working takes away the free time to do fun stuff with friends and more importantly, takes away from study time. Juggling work with school, studying and a social life, plus trying to find time to sleep and eat in between, can be overwhelming. Things get compromised when all this needs to happen. Most commonly, sleep is the first to go, and secondly, going to class.

According to a university studies class, most students will put work before school because they are afraid of losing that source of income. Students don't realize when they skip classes to go to work they are losing money in the long run.

"Every second of class costs money," an old high school chemistry teacher advised me a few weeks ago. "If you calculate how much each minute of class costs, you will see that skipping class to work is not worth it."

It's true. Missing one day of class to work is not worth it. It costs more to miss class than it does to earn money at work.

A great professor of mine told me, "College is the only time in your life where you can afford to

be broke."

This holds true as well. If a student were to live on campus, they get a meal plan and housing, which is all included in tuition and fees. Financial aid can cover most of this, if it doesn't cover it all, and having money saved from a summer job will benefit.

Having a job during the school year is beneficial when it comes to having extra spending cash, but if it starts to compromise school, studying and the quality of academic performance, it becomes a risk more than a benefit. Which is more important: school and studying which is costing you around \$7,000 a semester or work that is paying you \$200 a week?

If you need a job because of supplies, food and so on, look at Dragon Jobs and see if there is anything on campus to apply for. Campus jobs are known for being flexible with student schedules.

If you must go for that burger flipping job at McDonalds, make sure it works with your schedule. Also, when interviewing for a job off-campus, be sure to mention that you are a dedicated student and that school comes first. Employers will understand and see you as a committed, hard worker who has their priorities straight.

One more thing that will benefit if you work and go to school, or want to, is to budget. Budget time and budget money. Have time for friends and family, time for yourself and time for work, and don't forget to sleep and eat well. Budget money so you don't have to work as much, and be able to make it to your next paycheck without running out.

The most important thing is school comes first.

Internet fighting leaves no winners



BY CARRIE THAYER
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I just got into my first Facebook fight.

It's not something I am entirely proud of. I've been able to ignore the posts proclaiming Chris Kyle a "True All-American Hero," which manage to brush past his racist beliefs. I haven't succumbed to accusations from older relatives still questioning Obama's nationality. I haven't gone on a frenzy of responding with "Nope." to half of the nonsense that shows up on my feed.

I've been fine and restrained myself like the adult I pretend to be most days.

Then there was the guy, posting article after stupid article, all about how "feminazis" are breaking men's spirits and are to blame for the cultural stagnation he feels our generation is enjoying.

So, basically, he's alone and lonely and looking for an excuse. I took the bait. I swallowed his spiel and fought back with long-winded rants about the invalidity of his belief that women have some ulterior, man-crushing motive in their quest for equal rights.

I stayed up until 4 a.m., citing study after study. I answered every single one of his arguments with a snarky retort. Generally, I felt pretty awesome.

And then I woke up the next day.

Even ignoring my grogginess, all of those words are embarrassing. I had been so proud of everything I had said during the fight, but now I just felt like I came off as pretentious. My words just stared back at me — utterances of unnecessary emotion.

This isn't to say that my arguments were invalid, it's that

the medium is less than ideal.

Facebook is a platform to maintain and build personal relationships, and it's easy to forget how it can be an untamable access to our lives.

My grandmother, fifth grade teacher and coworkers can now enjoy written confirmation of the weaknesses in my interpersonal skills.

Any future employer could take a cursory glance at my semi-coherent argument and promptly throw my resume in the trash.

It's difficult to maintain that balance of being invested in social media, while still keeping the necessary distance to retain some privacy.

It's a slippery slope with how much of our lives are already out there in the cosmos of the Internet. Everything from a satellite photo of your house, your high school yearbook photo and that Harry Potter slash fan fiction you wrote in middle school are available with just a couple clicks of someone's finger.

Our digital footprint is becoming more visible in our physical lives; sometimes it might be all someone has to judge us.

So, while apps that pull out those stupid status updates from three years ago can be humorous, we have to realize those posts are always available to anyone who wants to look hard enough.

Social media might be a great place to post pictures of food, babies and dogs, but you want to be careful about what you allow to be seen by your friendly masses.

That picture of your drunk buddy Karl with sex organs Sharpied on his face, might seem hilarious now, but give it another year. Our immature actions and feelings are probably better kept in a journal or something else that is more easily destroyed.

So, think before you respond to that baiting post. Some people are dumb, marginally literate and ignorant, but that doesn't mean you need to remind them of that fact, unless you want to become the pompous know-it-all of the mouth-breathing web lurkers. Does that sound appealing to you?

Anyway, welcome to the Internet, please keep your opinions and emotions safely inside at all times.

An open letter to administration: Reconsider the Mosaic Center

My name is Shondra R. Lyon-Brown. I am a fourth-year social work major, and I consider myself to be fairly open-minded about a wide variety of topics. What really gets me upset is when other people don't have that same tolerance. My relationship to safe spaces on campus has been limited. However, recently I have become part of a very dedicated group of students protesting the proposed Mosaic Center.

The proposed center will combine many of the safe spaces on campus into one space where students can come to deal with concerns. This letter specifically came out of my participation in a protest of a meeting during the fall semester and as a reflection on my participation. There are several things about this proposed change that really get under my skin.

First is the fact many of the meetings regarding this space

have strategically left out the opinions and criticisms of those who will be negatively affected by the change. The fact these spaces are even needed on campus is also disheartening.

Yes, in an ideal world all of campus would be a welcoming open space for students of all backgrounds to celebrate one another and feel supported, but clearly the fact these spaces have cropped up in the first place is a sad state of affairs and is a signal that all of campus is NOT a safe space.

This fact has been continually swept under the rug and brushed aside and this is true in many other regards as well. To go along with this concern, it has been said every worker at the Mosaic Center will be trained to effectively deal with any student issue that may arise. My concern with that is that there is not a practical way to ensure each and every worker will be able

to effectively handle ANY issue a student may have.

The second issue is many students are unaware of the negative changes that are taking place on their campus.

The only reason I became aware of the changes is because I have several friends who were involved with this issue from the beginning, and they brought it to my attention.

In the process of being brought up to speed on this issue, many disturbing and unsettling things have come to my attention, and I am sure there are other students on campus who would have the same reaction, but unfortunately they are not being given the opportunity to be involved.

This is just one of a wider range of concerns I am having about my university, and I can honestly say if these proposed changes happen, I will NOT be proud to be a Dragon. #Spacesinsolidarity

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

The Advocate encourages letters to the editor and any submissions. They should be typed and must include the writer's name, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due by 5 p.m. Friday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off in The Advocate office or emailed to advocate@mnstate.edu.

A & E

“Alice” offers shallow, unwatchable depiction of Alzheimer’s

At the Fargo Theater, “Still Alice” explores Alzheimer’s through a one-dimensional, boring storyline.

IMDB.COM



BY LOUIS JOHNSON
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When I was in my teens, my grandfather was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. For several years, I watched as he slowly degraded into someone with the mental capacity of a child. It was one of the most awful things I have ever experienced. So when I read that the film “Still Alice” was about the disease, I was immediately interested. But to my disappointment, “Still Alice” is hardly worth watching.

“Still Alice” is another entry into the monstrosity that is modern American cinema. It isn’t a film, it’s a product. It’s a movie made to sell tickets, and not for any sort of artistic expression. It’s a sappy film made to appeal to the lowest common denominator who think actors crying and pianos constantly playing is an adequate substitute for human emotion.

The characters in the film are defined not by their personalities but by their roles — the mother, the loving husband, the rebellious daughter. These characters never shape their identities past these archetypes, and as an audience member, I am somehow expected to care about them.

The first thing I noticed when the movie started was just how ugly the sets are. Ripped right out of an Ikea catalogue, all the interiors, exteriors and furniture are filled with horribly ugly modernist architecture. The placement of things like dishes and furniture feels like it was arranged

in a matter to be photographed rather than to create a realistic living space. The set just looks like one big advertisement.

There’s a disturbing amount of product placement in the film, especially with Apple laptops and iPhones. This action movie-level product placement is completely inappropriate in a story about someone dying from a disease.

There are many scenes that include unnecessary shots of characters taking out their phones, followed by close ups to see that they are indeed holding the new iPhone 6.

There’s one scene where Alice (Julianne Moore) is in the park with her daughter Lydia (Kristen Stewart). The scene starts with Lydia looking at her phone, then she puts it away and turns to Alice to talk to her. There was no reason to start the scene with her holding her iPhone. The worst part is every time someone texts, the sounds of the iPhone were dubbed in. That’s right, a post production team went in and put in sounds so you could really get the whole iPhone experience.

It’s really insulting to me as someone who had a family member suffer through Alzheimer’s disease that the directors felt it was appropriate to have so much product placement in the film. Clearly making money is a bigger focus for them.

As far as the plot goes, it’s pretty much what you’d expect. Alice gets Alzheimer’s, her family and friends are sad, and that’s it. There’s

no realizations or questions. It’s a shallow depiction of the disease and a shallow attempt at storytelling.

Alice is a self-made upper class woman who is incredibly successful and married to an incredibly successful man, played by Alec Baldwin. She has three beautiful kids, played by Stewart, Kate Bosworth and Hunter Parrish. Two of her kids are successful and the third is a struggling actor who receives financial help from her dad. This family basically has it made. Alice has lived a perfect life and given birth to three children that all look like models. How am I supposed to sympathize with a person who has everything anyone could ask for?

It is mentioned that Alice lost her mother and sister in a car accident when she was young, and her father was an alcoholic. However, the audience is only told these things. We never see the pain Alice went through because of the loss of her family or the pain of having an alcoholic parent. The film ignores a basic rule of filmmaking: show, don’t tell.

As an audience member, I was only told to care. I was only told to understand this woman had overcome hardship in her life. But when the movie starts, she already has everything. She has an expensive house, the perfect husband and beautiful children. Her life is set. Even when she gets diagnosed and slowly loses her mind, it doesn’t feel tragic. I didn’t experience struggle, I only experienced perfection.

She’s already accomplished all she could in her life. In a world of child soldiers, the Holocaust and nuclear weapons, the struggle of an upper class woman who lived comfortably most of her life isn’t much of a tragedy.

“Still Alice” reminds of another film I recently saw called “The Hunt,” a 2012 Danish number directed by Thomas Vinterberg. The films are similar in that they are both tragedies and show a slice of life. However, “The Hunt” is genuine European cinema and not American “cinema” that cares more about iPhones than plot.

The film focuses on a man who works in a kindergarten. While he isn’t necessarily down and out, he isn’t exactly in the greatest situation. He is in the middle of an ugly custody battle with his ex-wife, and for the most part lives a boring, uneventful and somewhat pathetic life. Seeing his struggles, the audience sympathizes with him. As the movie goes on, he begins to date one of his co-workers, and his son decides he wants to live with him. When things seem to finally start going his way, one of the children he works with falsely accuses him of sexual assault. This completely ruins his life and the remainder of the film focuses on him trying to put his life back together.

It’s a fantastic movie and I recommend checking it out. “Still Alice” is similar thematically as both films are focused on people whose lives are destroyed by something out of their control. However, “Still

Alice” feels vapid and empty with its lack of characterization and relatable characters.

This following paragraph contains a spoiler, but since the movie is terrible I recommend reading it instead of watching the film itself.

SPOILER At the end of the film, Lydia moves back home to take care of Alice. The final scene in the movie is of her reading a story to Alice, who at this point can barely speak. After Lydia is done with the story she asks if Alice knew what the story was about. Alice, in her now childlike state, mutters “love.” Then the movie ends.

This is the most idiotic ending they could have had. “Love?” The filmmakers attempt to shove this corny silver lining down our throats. She may have been afflicted by this horrible disease but at least she remembers love. I have seen what happens to people with this disease, and there is no silver lining. Your mind rots away but your body continues to exist for years. When my grandfather went through the disease, there certainly was no silver lining. It’s a sappy ending that once again attempts to appeal to the lowest common denominator. *END SPOILER*

“Still Alice” is a sanitized, PG-13, Hallmark movie look at Alzheimer’s disease and raises no existential or moral questions. It tells the audience that it’s supposed to be sad, but never bothers to explain why. Oh, and go get the iPhone 6.

“Maps to the Stars” showcases Hollywood’s bitter truths

David Cronenberg’s newest film showcases the dark side of Hollywood through well-crafted characters.

COLLIDER.COM



BY ANDY WESTON
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You will not like the characters of this film.

“Maps to the Stars” is the latest movie from director David Cronenberg, best known for making films about depraved people that make your skin crawl. Although this most recent effort is surprisingly light on the gore front, it’s still chocked full of horrible people.

Like any Cronenberg film, there’s a lot to digest after the first viewing. There are strange encounters with the departed and repeated dialogue that gains more meaning upon further reflection.

If you look past the philosophical trappings and dig into the basic plot-line, “Maps to the Stars” is about the rich and famous hell spawn of Hollywood. It’s a place where everyone is working an angle, and all they want is fame.

The movie opens with Agatha, a young girl from Florida, coming to Hollywood to help Carrie Fisher

write a novel. Upon arriving, Fisher sets Agatha up on an interview, with Havana Segrand to be her assistant.

Havana is an aging actress who is dealing with deep-seated trauma due to abuse from her deceased mother, who was also a famous actress. While dealing with these emotional scars she is also trying to land a role in the remake of the film that made her mother famous.

The other characters that round out the story are Benjie, a child star who is on the mend from drug addiction, dealing with his overbearing parents and working on starring in the sequel to a franchise he helped make popular.

There are a lot of moving pieces and key players that make it difficult to describe all of the going-ons in the film, but at its center it’s about the greed and nihilism that comes with being famous and having everything granted to you.

Benjie is a self-centered brat who has no regard for other people. He is somewhat of a vessel for the younger generation of stars that are

polluting the media today. He hates and disrespects his younger co-star, talks down to his fans, belittles his producer, ignores interviewers and treats his celebrity friends like garbage.

His father, Stafford, is a self-help guru who is more interested in the release of his new book than he is in helping his own family. His mother, Christina, also his agent, is a woman who gives him whatever he wants as he walks all over her. She appears to be in it to collect residuals on her son’s paychecks, itself a reflection on the real-world occurrence of parents mishandling their celebrity children’s fortunes.

The worst offender of succumbing to this corrupted lifestyle is Havana. She is used to reflect what can happen to those children that are raised in the spotlight. She’s desperate to regain her fame and willing to step on anyone to do it. There comes a point in which she is joyed to hear that a fellow actress’s child has drowned because it means that she is next up for the

grieving mothers part. This only scratches the surface of how terrible and narcissistic Havana can be.

Out of this wide range of characters and the actors that play them, including John Cusack, Robert Pattinson and Olivia Williams, there are two performances that really stand out; Julianne Moore as Havana and Mia Wasikowska as Agatha.

Julianne Moore channels the perfect amount of damage and menace to make Havana more than just a washed-up cliché. She is battling demons from her past that make you feel a pang of sympathy for her, but is still so rotten at her core that you maintain a constant distaste throughout.

Wasikowska brings an air of mystery to Agatha. She is quiet and contemplative one moment and eccentric and unpredictable the next. She is the central character that ties everything together, yet is subtle enough in her characterization not to pull focus from the other characters when necessary.

With such a focus on character and story, Cronenberg uses his minimalist style to keep the focus on the players of the piece. Performances are able to shine through and show the emotionality of the tale. He paints Hollywood in such a light that it just seems like another drab part of California’s wastelands. This helps to sell that we really are in the underbelly of civilization.

“Maps to the Stars” won’t have you rooting for anyone by the time the credits roll. It’s a satire on the state of celebrity culture and excess that Cronenberg has delved into in some of his more recent films. If you liked his past films and you’re up for a character study as well as wanting something that requires some thought after the movie ends, then I suggest you check it out. Otherwise it may be best to keep checking your map for stars elsewhere.

“Maps to the Stars” is available to rent now on Amazon and VUDU streaming services.

Sports

Dragon men roar during opening playoff game

BY TURNER BLAUFUSS
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After a slow start at home for the playoff opener, the Dragon men's basketball team left the game at 30-2 after an 89-60 win over the Wayne State Wildcats. The Dragons were honored for their second straight NSIC North Championship, and if anyone asks MSUM coach Chad Walthall, they're 1-0 going forward.

"I'm just happy for the guys, the department, the university," Walthall said. "I think it's awesome for our program. It's great to have a program where you're consistently in the hunt."

Wayne State came in with an unorthodox game plan that involved full court press and plenty of misdirection on offense. The Wildcats kept up with the Dragons trailing 47-38 at the half and shooting 53 percent from the field.

Walthall made adjustments at the half that improved the lock down of the Wildcats. In the second half, MSUM held Wayne State to 22 points and forced 26 turnovers in the game.

"Defensively, we played a lot better in the second half," Walthall said. "Wayne State offers a lot of challenges defensively with all of their back cutting and screening. They were

shooting a high percentage in the first half, but since they were committing so many turnovers we were in control."

The Dragons ran the court to break the Wildcat press, and it left plenty of opportunities for the MSUM big men streaking down the court. The Dragons threw down seven dunks, and Isaac Sevlie and Urbane Bingham led MSUM with 17 and 16 points, respectively.

"A lot of that was a size advantage, but the other part is breaking the full court press," Walthall said. "You drive and dish to the guys sitting by the rim. Some of that was being the last guy down, so a lot of credit goes to our guards getting it to them."

Leading the disruptive Dragon defense were Jordan Riewer and Tyler Vaughan. The two guards each stripped six steals from the Wildcats.

"It was good that we were getting some steals because they put so much pressure on you defensively, they can force you to turn the ball over, but we got them to commit 26 turnovers to our 10," Walthall said.

The Dragons finished with six men in double figures in the 29-point victory. Walthall explained the luxury of having so many scorers to share the load.



ETHAN DEGREE • degreect@mnstate.edu

The Dragon men's basketball team beat the Wayne State Wildcats 89-60 last Wednesday.

"It's who we are," he said. "Jordan usually leads us. The rest of the guys are more than capable to lead us in scoring. Some guys might score a lot some nights, some guys might not, but someone always steps up."

After Sunday's 94-87 win over Upper Iowa, the team was 31-2. Further playoff results are posted online at msumdragons.com.

Plans take shape for Scheels-funded field

BY TOMI THOMPSON
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Progress is being made on the new outdoor field at MSUM, and the athletic department is fired up for the design process to kick off.

In his weekly web segment "Doug's Desk" for Dragon Athletics, MSUM Athletic Director Doug Peters announced Field Turf was selected as the turf vendor for Scheels Field.

"We always want to promote our partner because we're excited to be associated with a great provider like Field Turf," Peters said.

Peters says the next step is to continue working on the field's design.

"Obviously, with artificial turf, you can do a lot of different things," Peters said, "You can do different colors, different schematics on it, and it's been a fun time for me."

With red, black or traditional green being pondered as potential turf colors, MSUM's athletic department is seeking input on what they think Scheels field should look like and have set up a web page for idea sharing.

Peters said people can submit their design thoughts by going to msumdragons.com/scheelsfield.

Through his avid use of social media, Peters has reached out to Dragon supporters about their visions for the field.

"I've put it out there on social media, trying to gather input from our fans, from our players and from our students, and I've gotten quite a bit of different feedback just about different ideas of what the field should look like," he said.

For Peters, the most exciting part about partnering with Scheels is having the opportunity to work with a respected company.

"It's having an organization like Scheels, who is very successful, very well thought of because of their business savvy, their ethics, their integrity and how they do business, invest with us and partner with us," Peters said. "That really feels good that they believe in what we're doing and are willing to put their name on something that a lot of people are going to see and be associated with us."

Peters said another highlight of Scheels Field is bringing something new to campus multiple groups could benefit from. Dragon athletics, intramural sports and club sports could all have the opportunity to use the field.

"It will really bring a point of pride to our campus," Peters

said.

The field's final design will be revealed Apr. 25 as part of the Dragons Spring Thaw Event. Following the Dragons spring football game, Scheels CEO Steve Scheel and the Moorhead Chamber of Commerce will participate in the ceremonial ground breaking.

The first official Dragon football game to be played on Scheels Field will be a night game Thursday, Sept. 3 against the Winona State Warriors.

Peters hopes the field's first game will be an event all Dragons will enjoy.

"Right now, we're working to pull together all the pomp and circumstance and really have a celebration and a party around the unveiling of the turf and the first football game on it."

For the student athletes, Peters believes the field will bring a new level of confidence to the athletic programs.

"I think for them it just builds the added confidence in from people being willing to invest in them and believing that they can do what they themselves can believe," Peters said.

Funding for Scheels Field was raised during Laps for the Long Run this fall. Scheel pledged \$20,000 per lap up to 50 laps that President Anne Blackhurst ran during the event.

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News

POWER, FROM FRONT

“As you get closer and closer to your potential, you have to keep pushing your goal,” she added.

For Blackhurst, pushing her goal meant qualifying for the Boston Marathon, which will become her 10th marathon run. After several failed attempts, she made the qualifying time in last spring’s Fargo Marathon.

In keeping with the initiative’s goal of empowering women through physical strength in particular, Blackhurst discussed the ways women are often taught to view their bodies negatively and see strength as detrimental to womanhood and the feminine ideal.

Running, she said, “helped me see my body as something more than ornamental.”

Blackhurst said young women are often influenced to view their bodies in a certain way, adding that

while she was growing up “it was all about trying to make ourselves physically attractive.”

It wasn’t until later, she said, after finding sports and running, that she realized strength could be about more than physical beauty.

As a leader both for campus and the community as a whole, Blackhurst said her claiming of physical strength helped her achieve power in her professional life as well.

“It helped me reframe power as something positive and affirming,” she said.

Blackhurst said while she self-identifies as a feminist, she wouldn’t consider herself “radical” in that belief. Rather, she has decided to focus more on herself than the opinions of others, or if she receives different treatment because of her gender.

“I’ve just stopped worrying about

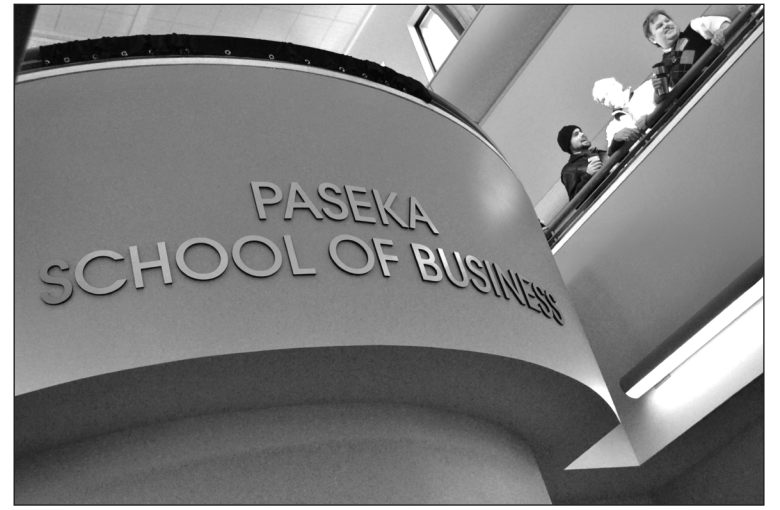
what people think,” she said.

She added it’s more important “to accept that women are comfortable with having power.”

“Taking your own significance seriously,” Murphy added, is one of the best ways to live feminist ideals and is a way for women to begin to live more comfortably in their own skin.

At the event’s conclusion, students in the audience were encouraged to pledge their own fitness goals for the month of March.

To help further support the initiative, the women’s and gender studies department in MA 175 invites all students to stop by during the month and pledge a fitness goal. Additionally, they will be hosting bring-your-own brown bag lunches every Thursday at noon in the Women’s Center (Bridges 154) for students to discuss goals and support each other.



CARRIE THAYER • thayerca@mnstate.edu

MSUM’s School of Business got a new name Tuesday as alumni Rodney and Carolyn Paseka’s \$5 million gift was announced.

BUSINESS, FROM FRONT

life, and how that can limit their opportunities to work.

“Even with the tightest of budgets and squeezing in as many hours as we can, students often find themselves unable to financially support themselves,” Cole said. “We end up overworking ourselves or accumulating student debt.”

It’s lessening that debt that the Paseka’s want to help students with. They hope by assisting students in their financial woes now, they will be instilled with a desire to “pay it forward” when they are successful.

Scott Nelson, president of the Alumni Foundation’s board of directors, also sees it as a call to action for other alumni.

“Most of us know that we get more than we give when we are generous, but few of us have the

courage to take the leap of faith that [the Pasekas] have taken today,” Nelson said. “Serving as a call to action or the many of us who have been sitting on the sidelines.”

Nelson announced in 2013 the Alumni Foundation had devised a plan to increase MSUM’s endowment to \$60 million in 10 years. To reach this goal, the fund would require donations of \$4.5 million each year.

While the Paseka’s donation puts the Alumni Foundation ahead of schedule for the year, the process of increasing MSUM’s endowment to a level that will help to attract more students and staff is ongoing. However, this may not be the last we hear from the Pasekas.

“This is the first gift, and we’ll leave it at that,” Rodney said.

EDUCATION, FROM FRONT

unique to us because we can offer different activities that other centers can’t because we have a bigger identity that’s doing things with us,” Hoppe said.

In fact, this unique pairing with a university allows the children of students, faculty and the community to be accepted, with discounts for those involved with the university. The four star rating also gives financial benefits for qualifying families.

“If you’re four-star rated, parents can get scholarships through the state, and we get a higher reimbursement rate for any families that are on county assistance,”

Hoppe said.

The center’s more-than-qualified staff go above and beyond the requirements for their four-star rating.

“The teachers and I all have four-year teaching degrees and teaching licenses from the state, and that’s not a requirement of licensing at a childcare center, so I think that’s unique to us,” Hoppe said.

This allows the center to be set up as four rooms: two for toddlers, and two for preschoolers, and each child is placed with a teacher. In addition, the toddler room requires at least two student workers at any given time, while the preschool room needs at

least one. This environment mimics a school setting, which helps fulfill the Parent Aware system’s goal of preparing children for kindergarten.

“The classrooms are set up into different stations, so they think they’re just playing, but they’re learning through play throughout the day,” Hoppe said.

Ultimately, the center’s success lies in the friendships children make with each other, as well as the connections made with their caretakers.

“They form a pretty close bond with their teacher, pretty much any adult that’s around here they form a connection with,” Hoppe said.

MOSAIC, FROM FRONT

group’s attendance apparently wasn’t missed on the student leaders.

Despite promises from administration that the American Indian Research and Resource Center will remain autonomous, its student representatives were at the meeting to advocate for the other spaces. The Black Student Union was also represented by its president, Lexi Byler. Women’s and gender studies senior Melissa Gonzalez said Byler’s been making sure the involved spaces aren’t alone in their fight.

“As students who come from black descent, we understand the hostility that a predominately white, cis-gendered, heterosexual and able-bodied campus can create,” Byler said. “We understand that these spaces act as a safe haven for marginalized students, including us. Marginalized students deserve to have a space to be unapologetically themselves and to have their identities affirmed instead of judged.”

And the support doesn’t only exist offline. A social media campaign erupted last month among the groups against the center to establish their reasons for opposition. They’ve been tweeting at President Anne Blackhurst, Vice President Yvette Underdue Murph and Provost Michelle Malott.

“We’ve been talking to them, or talking at them, about our spaces and the positive experiences we’ve been having and reasons why the

love for our school is heightened because of these spaces,” Gonzalez said. “They’ve really been positive tweets, but they are critical. We want them to listen to us, and know why we are doing what we’re doing.”

But she said the tweets have generally gone unanswered or unacknowledged, and some have been deleted.

“Some people were talking about why they love the school and how the safe spaces were a part of that,” Gonzalez said. “I’m not sure why they were deleted, but they were, so that’s something we’ve been questioning. We haven’t gotten any answers.”

It’s for these reasons that Esslinger said the experience with the senate was refreshing.

“They recognized these connections that these spaces have with the students and academia and its role in higher education,” she said. “It helps put a little more teeth and support into these dialogues that we’ve been having with administration because now that we have Student Senate on our side, the governing body of the students who are supposed to be supporting us, that really speaks volumes about how important they do find safe spaces and how important they find the lives of students, which is something that we have not been getting from the administration.”

Gonzalez agreed.

“Some of the things that were said were, ‘This is our job, we’re supposed to be here for our students

and if we’re going to have our students come here with their statements and their tears, what are we doing if we just ignore them?’” she said. “It’s nice to know that there are also students who have influence and ways to help us and talking with them throughout the semester has been a very helpful and positive experience.”

Now, the students wait to hear from administration what will become of their spaces.

Student Senate representative Sean Duckworth said the future is still uncertain.

“Moving forward we’ll continue having discussions, and the CMU renovation process, of which the Mosaic Center is one part, is still something the senate is actively participating in and discussing,” he said. “There’s a lot left unspecified and unsettled, so there’s room for discussion and maneuvering still.”

Esslinger said she thinks it would be a mistake for administration to not listen to the student requests.

“I would hope that the administration would take the senate’s demands very seriously,” Esslinger said. “It would appear that more people are in opposition of safe spaces being taken away than are in support of that, and I think anybody who cares about the lives of students on campus would take that very seriously. If they don’t, they’re sending a very strong message as to who they’re actually supporting and who they want to appear to support.”

WOMEN’S, FROM FRONT

“We understand the value of highlighting women’s narratives as a positive means for shifting notions about women’s contributions to society.”

The social media campaign asks students to like the Women’s and Gender Studies at Minnesota State University Moorhead Facebook page and message the site a screenshot of an invitation to at least five friends, asking them to like the page, too. To enter a person must also follow @msum_WGS on Twitter, tag the handle and tweet a message stating why they value women’s and gender studies at MSUM using the hashtag #DragonHERstory. A nine-day Instagram challenge also takes place Mar. 23 – 31. Participants will be entered in a drawing to win a feminist tote bag.

Thursday offers a feminist community book club discussion of “Love Imagined: A Mixed Race Memoir” with the author Sherry Quan Lee, which takes place 6:30 – 8 p.m. in the Faculty Development Center in the library.

Friday includes a women’s and gender studies colloquium public reading of “Love Imagined” with the author, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Women’s Center, followed by writing workshop “What’s Love Got to Do with It?” Facilitated by Quan Lee and Lori Young-Williams 1 – 4 p.m. in the Weld Library. Because the workshop has limited seating, registration is necessary via creel@mnstate.edu.

Monday features the lecture

“Strength from Broken Places: Women in Post-Genocide Rwanda” from Eddah Mutua-Kombo 6 – 7:30 p.m. in CMU 205.

Mar. 10 includes “Their Words, Actions, and Meaning: A Researcher’s Reflection on Rwandan Women’s Experience of Genocide” also featuring Mutua 10:30 – 11:45 a.m. in MA 269.

Mar. 11 features a “Women in Film” colloquium and luncheon featuring Kyja Kristjansson noon to 1 p.m. in the Women’s Center. The 11th also sees the return of the Arming Sisters Workshop at 4 p.m. in the CMU Underground.

Mar. 23 offers OLA’s film screening of “A Crushing Love” at 4:30 p.m. in the Women’s Center. The piece explores the lives of Chicana activists and mothers balancing both family life and a path of activism.

Mar. 25 explores “Healing through Humor: A Radical Stand Up Comedy Workshop” with comedian Jessica Sele at 3 p.m. in CMU 205.

Mar. 26, students can see Sele perform at 7 p.m. in the CMU Underground.

Mar. 30 celebrates women’s and gender studies’ Major Monday: “Civic Engagement and Feminism” with Falcón and Jessica Danielson of the Reach and Rise Program of the YMCA 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. in the Women’s Center.

Mar. 31 is the last day to complete the social media challenge to be entered to win the campaign’s prize.