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The ADVOCATE

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

Accreditation approaches

Committee prepares to validate reputation with March visit

By **LEE MORRIS**
Editor

To demonstrate it's meeting certain goals and standards of higher education, the university is preparing for re-accreditation.

Accreditation provides self-analysis, ensures the quality of programs, allows students to transfer to other accredited universities and allows MSUM to participate in federally funded projects, according to www.mnstate.edu/ncavisit, the campus's re-accreditation Web site.

The process happens every 10 years, and this accreditation has been the focus of a committee of more than 60 administrators, faculty members and students since 2005.

That committee formed five teams, one for each criterion of the Higher Learning Commission, and wrote a 200-page self-study for the HLC visit March 5 through 7.

Six HLC members will meet with staff, faculty and students and make recommendations for or against the university's re-accreditation.

Guiding the committee through this process were Judy Strong, associate vice president of academic affairs, and Deb White, a sociology professor.

"The thing that was most noticeable to me is how much this whole institution has improved in the past 10 years," Strong said. She said new or renovated buildings and university planning, specifically in dealing with the budget, have improved.

ANALYSIS, PAGE 3



SUBMITTED GRAPHIC

A committee has prepared a self-study for when the Higher Learning Commission comes to campus in March to re-accredit the university, which it does every 10 years.



Faculty love

Three couples relate romances, first meeting up and their lives since

FEATURES, PAGE 5

Giving the past a hand

History class lets students be characters in history

By **ROBYN ROHDE**
Section Editor

The day started out like any other, but after Margaret Sankey said goodbye and closed the door to her uninvited guest, her professional career and the curriculum at MSUM would take a dramatic turn.

Before Election Day, the Democratic Party sent college volunteers to knock on doors.

"This person's appeal to me was to say, 'I don't know what your education level is, but if you don't agree with us, then you must be stupid,'" she said.

Sankey, a history professor, became so upset at the idea that people must believe only one thing that when the university restructured its liberal arts program, she used the opportunity to give the class History 312 Governments in



HEATHER GRUENHAGEN / ADVOCATE PHOTO EDITOR

Heath Butrum, a student in the history class *Governments in Crisis*, plays a character in ancient Athens. He's explaining a proposed law while his campaign co-worker writes it down before the assembly, the rest of the class, votes.

Crisis a makeover.

"It just struck me how destructive it was for any party to be saying we won't listen to anybody but ourselves,"

Sankey said. "You don't agree with us, or there is something wrong with you."

She enrolled MSUM as a group of 25 colleges and uni-

versities that have developed the "Reacting to the Past" pedagogy.

CLASS, PAGE 4



Online shock

Moving courses to the Web hurts students and faculty

OPINION, PAGE 6



Tuesday songs

CAB lets notes fly with new acoustic series in CMU every week

A&E, PAGE 8

Act protects crime facts

Advocate staff reports

The same law that protects student grades from being shared with parents stops information about an extortion, blackmail and harassment report in one of the dorms from being released.

Campus security listed the Ballard incident in its Jan. 16 report. The conflict was between male students and had multiple victims, said Ferman Woodberry, security director.

Woodberry said the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act prevents disclosure about specific facts, such

as student names, about the incident from being disclosed.

"It is university policy that if there's an investigation going on, and it is related to a particular student or students, that it is not discussed," he said.

Woodberry said not disclosing facts about crime incidents such as this does not endanger other students, as the police have already become involved and, based on the evidence, judged that the violation is not a serious public threat. He said the police want MSUM to deal with it.

E-mail us at advocate@mnstate.edu.

Rally invites students

By **RYAN JACOBS**
Staff Writer

Minnesota State University Student Association is launching a campaign to freeze tuition hikes proposed for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

A rally will focus on the student debt campaign on Wednesday in St. Paul. Laura Zeiher, a member of MSUM's student senate and an MSUSA representative, said students can come along to participate in the rally.

A student senate site on

Facebook.com, explaining this event, is under the title "Student Debt Campaign: Make your voice heard."

Zeiher said students already pay for the students-working-for-students association through student activities fees.

"So please get involved," she said. "Anybody can come to the student debt campaign rally sponsored by MSUSA."

For more information, or if you'd like to go along on the trip, contact Zeiher at (218) 477-2150 or zeiherla@mnstate.edu.

Jacobs can be reached at jacobsrn@mnstate.edu.



Curl this

Students start curling group, look to boost membership

SPORTS, PAGE 12

Security Report

1.30—2.05

- 1.30 Found item in the Library
- 1.30 911 hang-up in Annex Building
- 1.30 Found property in Frick
- 1.30 Motor vehicle accident near Snarr
- 1.31 Theft of personal property in Lommen
- 1.31 Suspicious persons in Lommen
- 2.01 Found property in the Center for Business
- 2.02 911 hang-up in the Library
- 2.02 Fire alarm in Nelson
- 2.03 Alcohol offenses/ foot pursuit in Ballard
- 2.03 Fire alarm in Grantham
- 2.05 Security concern at the Center for Business

PRSSA holds blood drive today

The Public Relations Student Society of America will be holding a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today (Thursday) in CMU 101. Donating blood is a quick and easy way to make a difference in our area.

Hinderliter gives chemistry lecture

Anne Hinderliter, chemistry, will discuss "Signaling at the Membrane: Concepts and Consequences" from 3 to 4 p.m. on Feb. 12 in Science Lab 118.

The ADVOCATE

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The Advocate is published weekly during the academic year, except during final examination and vacation periods. Opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or student body.

The Advocate encourages letters to the editor and your turn submissions. They should be typed and must include the writer's name, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due by 5 p.m. Monday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off at The Advocate office in CMU Room 110 or e-mailed to us at advocate@mnstate.edu. 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.

"I love you ... in a completely heterosexual way."

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

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

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Author to give presentation

The College of Education and Human Services and the Comstock Visiting Scholar Series present Julie Landsman, author of "A White Teacher Talks About Race," at 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Feb. 15 in the CMU. Both presentations are free and open to the public.

Study abroad scholarship

The Gerry Haukebo Scholarship for Study Abroad is accepting applications from students studying abroad for a full academic year, 2007-2008. The deadline is March 23. The 2007 award will be \$1,000.

For an application packet and further information, stop by the international programs office in Frick 151, or contact Jill Holsen, director of international programs at holsenj@mnstate.edu.

Applications due Feb. 9 for SAC

The ninth annual Student Academic Conference will be held April 11 in the CMU. The deadline for submitting presentation applications is tomorrow (Friday). For details, go to www.mnstate.edu/acadconf.

Knudson named Feb. student leader

The student organization advisory committee is pleased to present Kayla Knudson with the student leader of the month award for February. Kayla was nominated by CAB.

Care giving for the elderly workshop

MSUM will offer a counseling and care giving for the elderly workshop.

The workshop meets from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 17 and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Feb. 24 in the CMU.

Daffodil Days benefits ACS

The American Cancer Society's (ACS) Daffodil Days program is coming to our campus March 5 through 9.

Daffodil Days volunteers all across campus hope you will join us by donating to receive beautiful daffodils, help defeat cancer and bring a touch of spring to the community.

The deadline to make your donation is Feb. 12. Your daffodils will arrive the week of March 5.

All donations will support the ACS's efforts to fund groundbreaking cancer research, provide up-to-date cancer information and education, advocate for public health policies that benefit the community, and offer free services that improve the quality of life for patients and their families.

ACS provides cancer information and support at (800) 227-2345 or www.cancer.org.

On Cue



HEATHER GRUENHAGEN / ADVOCATE PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore Janna Stueness, a biology/life science education major, plays pool in the ROC Tuesday.

2007-2008 FAFSA applications due

It is now time to submit your financial aid application for the 2007-2008 academic year. In order to receive maximum consideration for all aid programs, including work study, Perkins Loan and SEOG, your FAFSA must be submitted to the Federal Processor by Feb. 15.

If you or your parents will not have your 2006 Federal tax return filed by then, you may complete the FAFSA with estimated tax information.

Lecture series continues Feb. 13

The Lecture Series continues with Barbara Hoppe from instructional resources giving a lecture on "Using Emerging Technologies to improve student learning" at 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 13 in CMU 227.

This presentation will look at some of the methodologies that have been used, sharing experiences faculty and students have had with integrated technologies and some of the strategies that have worked in both a traditional classroom and with a hybrid or online class.

Student senate recognizes members

Student senate would like to congratulate the senators of the month for January and February.

Mitch Randall was senator of the month for January. Randall holds the seat for business/industry.

Senator of the month for February is student senate President Leigh Wilson-Mattson. Wilson-Mattson has been involved with student senate for the past three years and was nominated by Chair Jared Weber for her willingness to pursue changes to better our campus.

ANALYSIS, FROM FRONT



ADVOCATE FILE PHOTO

Judy Strong, associate vice president of academic affairs, co-chaired the re-accreditation committee with sociology professor Deb White. The 200-page self-study the committee prepared for the Higher Learning Commission's March visit mentioned strengths and weaknesses of the university. Dragon Core, the level of concern faculty have for students, funding for graduate studies, MSUM's image and other issues are discussed in the study.

Dragon Core

Taking much attention in the self-study was Dragon Core, which White said lends itself better to assessment, an aspect of weakness picked on during the last accreditation. HLC stipulated in 1997 it would return to ensure MSUM improved its learning-assessment methods.

"For the new Dragon Core, they may give us some advice on it and say, 'We'll come back in two years,'" White said.

"And that's reasonable," Strong said. "Not a failure."

White said Dragon Core, a program that went into effect for freshmen last fall, is structured around student-learning outcomes. Strong said the program needs to be developed and assessed.

"I would argue that knowing if students are learning is probably the most important thing we can worry about," Strong said.

That MSUM is in the process of creating a "culture of assessment" on campus was listed as a strength in the self-study.

Strong faculty

Like the American Association of State Colleges and Universities mentioned in a report from a campus visit in March 2006, the self-study also addressed a recurring strength of MSUM.

"Our faculty have a great level of concern for our students on our campus," White said. "We really try, whenever we can, to make that connection with students."

Although faculty members draw criticism in the self-study for not being involved enough in research projects, a 2004 Higher Education Research Institute survey found 92.4 percent of MSUM faculty listed teaching as their No. 1 concern.

A sound mission

Ultimately, the university must demonstrate it is accomplishing its mission, the shortened statement of which is it develops "knowledge, talent, and skills for a lifetime of learning, service, and citizenship."

Asked if MSUM's mission is ambiguous, Strong said:

"The mission has a number of statements that are somewhat specific but also require a certain amount of interpretation in order to decide if we're meeting it or not.

"Or more importantly, what the commission wants to know is, 'Is the institution mission-driven?'"

The self-study says MSUM is mission-driven but must make students aware of its mission—as well as of an image that seems to lack any identifiable marker.

The image dilemma

"If you're at NDSU, there's that strong sense of, 'I'm a Bison.' Here, I don't think you have that," White said.

Strong said in a strategic planning survey three years ago, it was found that NDSU is associated with football and engineering, Concordia College with religion and a high cost while MSUM lacked identity.

White said the image issue could be ratified as MSUM is a place anyone can find their niche and as it promotes itself better.

"We're working on promoting that more, but there's still a way to go," she said.

Retaining students at risk

In 2004 MSUM had the penultimate retention rate among the seven universities in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

Strong said more than 50 percent of entering freshmen are students-at-risk, defined in terms of first-time college students or students who are economically deprived.

She said the definition of students-at-risk, itself recently created, should help with the problem.

“Some students have heard about this, and they worry, ‘Oh, we’re not going to be accredited, am I gonna have to go find another school?’”

Deb White

Re-accreditation co-chair speaking about a misperception students have about the accrediting process

Other challenges

One challenge repeatedly mentioned in the self-study was the

dwindling drop state appropriations have taken. MSUM must also improve public and private fundraising, the self-study says.

In a link from the re-accreditation Web site, a challenge is listed, saying, "The university does not have good processes

for addressing weaknesses."

Strong said the statement is the opinion of somebody who wrote the chapter of the self-study. "I just don't frankly know that," she said.

Strong said in the past 10 years a stronger sense of colleges, deans and student service groups has grown, allowing people to address problems they have.

The study also mentioned that funding for graduate studies is a challenge.

White said one of the things MSUM does succeed at is its community outreach, evidenced by its Fourth of July celebration, its programs against alcohol abuse and its Training Our Campuses Against Racism initiative.

The visit

The HLC is part of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools—one of six institutional accrediting commissions in the country.

Strong and White said no matter what happens with the HLC visit, MSUM will not be shut down.

"We could put in the worst self-study in the world," Strong said, and it would only lead to more visits.

White said students have concern about such a happening.

"Some students have heard about this, and they worry, 'Oh, we're not going to be accredited, am I gonna have to go find another school?'"

But, White said, it's a misperception. Accreditation is just a useful process the university needs to take the time and look at the big picture.

Morris can be reached at [morrise@mnstate.edu](mailto:morrisle@mnstate.edu).

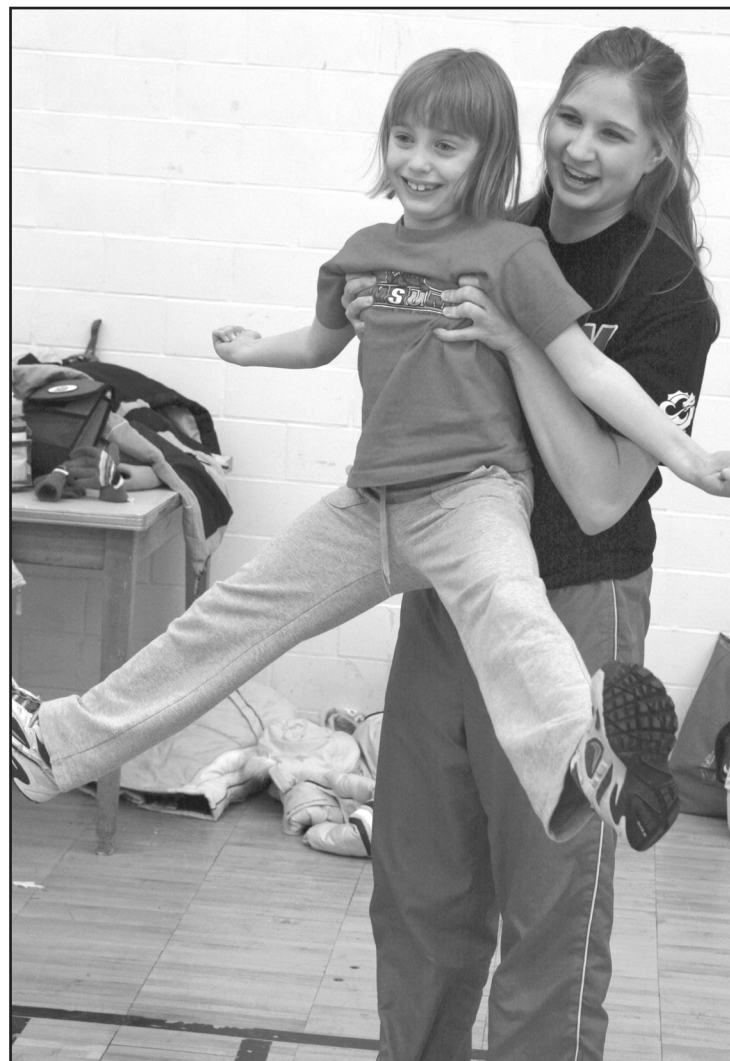
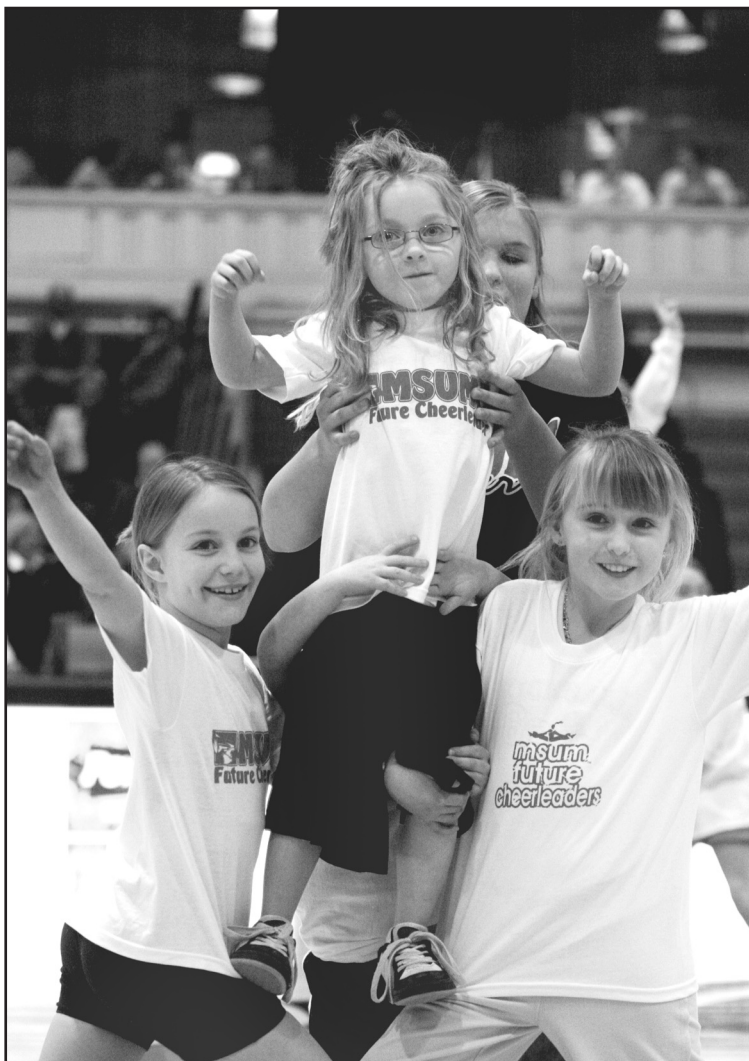
Dragon spirit, kiddie style

The MSUM Cheer Team hosted the last of its seven Mini Camps for kids in preschool through age 12. This is the third year the team has held such an event.

Left: A group of kids makes a pyramid with the help of a cheerleader.

Right: Laura Jenson, 6, is lifted by MSUM cheerleader Shannon Clarksean.

For more on the MSUM Cheer Team, its competitions, its tryouts or its other antics, check out www.mnstate.edu/cheerteam.



PHOTOS BY ANGELA SCHNEIDER / THE ADVOCATE

Alcohol class finishes first semester

Health 122's intent to curb drinking patterns making impact, but slowly

By RYAN JACOBS

Staff Writer

Health 122, or Alcohol and College Life, got its first test under freshmen last semester.

The course is designed to curb binge drinking and stop the social trend continuing in the upper Midwest.

Its director is Susanne Williams, MSUM assistant to the president, who, along with professors at the University of Minnesota, has come up with a strategy to inform the MSUM student of the serious implications of binge drinking and to stop all alcohol misuse.

Williams said: "This course

is one piece of a larger picture. With the strategies that MSUM is using to address alcohol misuse, we are helping all students live a healthier life."

Williams said Fargo-Moorhead area is twentieth in the nation in binge drinking, according to research published in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

"It is important to take proactive steps to address the upper Midwest's cultural acceptance of risky drinking patterns," Williams said. "I'm encouraged by what we've put in place, but this is about making long-term impact."

Tayne DeNeui, an Alcohol

“It is important to take proactive steps to address the upper Midwest's cultural acceptance of risky drinking patterns. I'm encouraged by what we've put in place, but this is about making long-term impact.”

Susanne Williams

Assistant to MSUM President Roland Barden

and College Life director at the U of M, helped develop the course with Jim Rothenberger, Morse Alumni Distinguished Instructor of Public Health at the U of M.

In a phone interview with DeNeui, a common point kept coming up. Both MSUM and

the U of M must curb boredom as a minor fundamental setback that can lead college students to misuse alcohol, he said.

"A program that has been on going at the University of Minnesota is Gophers After Dark, a place where students can come and play board games, videos games, etc. It is a way to curb drinking," DeNeui said.

The Dragons have similar programming called Dragons After Dark.

MSUM freshman Jessie Fearing took the course last semester. Fearing said she shouldn't have to pay tuition

and fees for Health 122.

Williams said Health 122 is a graduation requirement, and that a \$320,000 grant the university received in the fall does not support the expense of the class.

In February, students will be surveyed as part of a study of student health and wellness. Later in the semester, Williams plans to conduct a follow-up survey of students enrolled in the fall semester Health 122 course.

JACOBS CAN BE REACHED AT jacobsrn@mnstate.edu.

CLASS, FROM FRONT

"Reacting to the Past," pioneered by Barnard College, consists of elaborate games, set in the past, in which students are assigned roles with victory objectives informed by classic texts in the history of ideas. Class sessions are run entirely by students; instructors advise and guide students and grade their oral and written work.

Governments in Crisis, which typically consists of two or three "games" a semester, is part of the ethical and civic responsibility layer of the Dragon Core.

For the first part of the class this semester, students have been studying ancient Athens during their attempt to reconstruct democracy after the war with Sparta.

"The one thing I do like about Athens is there really is a continuum," Sankey said. "We have the far left with the radical democrats, then the moderate democrats and the independents in the middle. Then we really have the Oligarchs and Sopranos out on the other fringed."

Before roles are assigned, Sankey explains basic Athenian history or what

somebody off the streets back then would have known.

"After that, really, I throw them in the deep end," Sankey said. The students have to do outside research and basically run this make-believe government.

"I am always here to help them, but to a large extent, it is up to them how much they want to put into it," Sankey commented of how most of her current students have done deep outside work on their own.

Beyond the amount of homework, one of the students, Angela Stowman, said she thought another unique quality of the class was that stu-

dents have "to learn how to debate more and be interactive instead of just doing more work."

There is a reason the topics are called games. Beyond the discussion, passing of laws and ritual offerings to the gods, sometimes negative events can happen, too. One day last week, junior Ellie Morrissy, playing the part of Timon, was banished from the assembly for being what she called "the voice of common sense."

"Astrazum was done (back then), and it was usually done when someone became too famous or too dominant," she said.

This balancing element, if used today, would probably banish someone like Paris Hilton or Bono. Morrissy watched the rest of the day's activities but will write an extra short essay about the process.

The game also has twists built in, such as junior Darwin Meints's character. He plays a woman who comes to the general assembly disguised as a man and whose objective is to covertly get women the right

to vote. He did not disclose his true identity until the laws were passed on the last day of the game.

"I do live out of my element in certain areas, where I can be someone else and not be me," said fellow classmate Sandy Rausch, who plays a fish monger. "I can yell at someone, and they can't hold a grudge."

Sankey, who also teaches a stereotypical lecture course in History 321 Britain I, can also add events or disasters at her discretion such as the attack of Sparta.

This week, the class spent time working on background information before starting the



HEATHER GRUENHAGEN / ADVOCATE PHOTO EDITOR

Top: Governments in Crisis students partake in the results of a ritual sacrifice that Athenians performed before every general assembly. Above: A student holds one of many books the class uses to grasp Athenian culture.

next game about 1587 Ming China.

Later in the semester, the class will cover the French Revolution, where students will have to learn some of the language in order to present ideas.

"Anybody who goes through

this class will never knock on my door and say, 'If you don't agree with me, you're an idiot,'" said Sankey, admitting they may knock on her door and say they disagree with her but then explain why.

Governments in Crisis will be offered again next fall

and is open to students of all majors.

ROHDE CAN BE REACHED AT rohdero@mnstate.edu.

Dragon couples keep flame a-burning Three MSUM pairs share romance and education

By ANN TIEGS
Staff Writer

He first saw her in their Approaches class in the autumn of 1987. Recent returnees from Peace Corps experiences abroad, they were both enrolled in the master's program at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vt. They met by virtue of an argument.

"We disagreed on how people learn languages best. We were arguing a point in class and we just kept going at it through lunch. I thought she was kind of fun," Brian Smith, Education professor said. He was speaking of his wife, Linda Houts-Smith, also an education professor.

Their first date was a three-mile downhill jaunt from campus to a pizza parlor at the shopping mall.

Smith said: "We stopped at a pizza joint and got one of those big, large pizzas. I thought, OK, I'm going to have some left-overs to take back to the dorm and eat for breakfast. Well, I take a piece, and Linda takes a piece. Then I take a piece, and Linda takes a piece. She matched me piece for piece on a large pizza. She didn't think anything of it. I was like, Wow! That's never happened before. Never. She wasn't trying to impress me."

Linda laughed and said, "You have to understand that at that time I was 5 foot 2 and weighed 103 pounds."

Brian is sure that his juggling abilities are what captured Linda's heart on that first date. He juggled fruit in the grocery store. Though not on the first date, Brian taught Linda how to juggle also. They do it together and call it "hugging" instead of juggling. With one arm around each other, Brian is the left hand and Linda is the right hand for their "hugging" act.

Cupid's arrow strikes

One never knows when or where cupid's arrow might strike. For three MSUM couples, the when and the where

were a premonition of what was to be. All three couples met and fell in love in an education setting. Now, these three couples are all working at MSUM.

Brian Smith and Linda Houts-Smith are both in the school of teaching and learning on campus. Susanne Williams is Assistant to the President, and her husband, Tim Borchers, is associate dean for the arts and humanities. Wayne Gudmundson is a professor in mass communications, and his wife, Jane, is art gallery manager. Each couple has their own unique story and words of wisdom to share.

A degree of compatibility

They met as freshmen on the speech team at University of Nebraska, Lincoln. "We were friends for a long time, and I always tried setting Tim up with my friends," said Susanne Williams. Eventually, she wondered if he was such a great guy, why was she setting him up with her friends? They began dating when they were juniors and completed all three of their academic degrees together. Susanne and Tim were featured on a TV story in Detroit because of their three-degrees-together status.

While Susanne and Tim were doing their dissertations, everything else in their life stopped. "We had every single fast food wrapper you could find on the counters," said Tim, "and the plants were all dead."

Susanne said: "All the dishes were dirty. Really, all the plants were dead. We took photographs of them. We've got documentation of it."

Show that you care

Copenhagen, Denmark, was a spectacular place to be when you were young and in love according to Wayne Gudmundson. In 1973, Wayne student taught in Copenhagen. Jane Edwards, a young British woman was also teaching there. Wayne asked if he could

photograph her for a portrait exhibit for the Rourke Gallery in Moorhead that he was working on. Student teaching ended, and Wayne returned to Minnesota. He was invited back to teach and returned in January. Jane and Wayne dated from January until July 4 and then got married in England. Jane was set to go to Australia, and instead came to Minnesota.

The Gudmundsons had two memorable stories to share. Wayne planned a surprise 30th birthday party for Jane. With about 20 guests, the party began at 6 a.m. with champagne and strawberries. Jane's boss attended but had a dentist appointment at 8 a.m. His dentist was outraged and wanted to know where he had been to have been drinking so early.

When Prince Charles of England married Diana Spencer in 1981, the Gudmundsons had a "Chuck and Di Wedding Party." The furniture was pulled from the house into the garage. The 40 guests each had to dress up as an English character. A double-decker tour bus was rented; the same tour bus that now resides on the MSUM campus.

Two guests, Tom and John, were designated to be tour guides. They arranged a bogus tour of the F-M area using places of interest that had English-sounding names such as Camelot Cleaners.

About 9 p.m. bathroom facilities were needed, and the bus was near the home of Doug Hamilton, now-executive director of university advancement at MSUM. The bus stopped, all passengers got off and proceeded to Hamilton's house to knock on the door and request use of the bathroom.



PHOTOS BY ANN TIEGS / THE ADVOCATE

Brian Smith and Linda Houts-Smith go arm in arm while "hugging." They juggle by using one hand from each person.

Smith's words of wisdom for those seeking a Valentine are: "If you have to fake it to make the other person like you, they don't like you. You have to be yourself from the beginning. Have realistic expectations for that other person. The knights in white shining armor, they don't exist. No one is perfect. It's just a matter of perfect together."

Susanne and Tim agree that communication is essential and that it is important to be flexible and adaptable. Susanne says that Tim is the most flexible person she knows.

Wayne's advice to anyone that tells him that they are get-

ting married is, "Don't!" After they laugh, he tells them that he wishes them well.

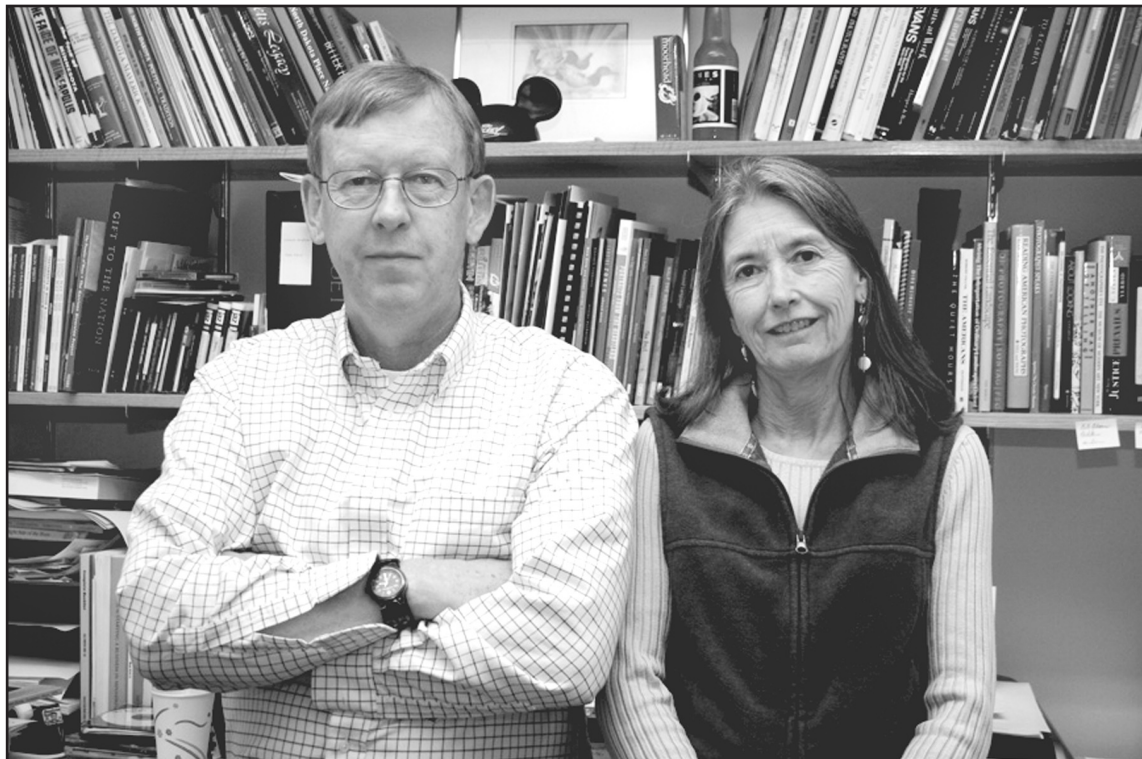
Jane said: "Show that you care. Don't neglect. You need to care about the person as a person and try to find out what it is that they want to do and help them to do it."

To capture the heart of a keeper, Houts-Smith says, "Match them piece for piece on a pizza."

Tiegs can be reached at a_t_tiegs@hotmail.com.



Susanne Williams and Tim Borchers completed their bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees consecutively and graduated together.



Wayne and Jane Gudmundson, who have been married over 30 years, met in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1973. Their daughter, Liv, 20, is a sophomore at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul.

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Online courses signal bad news for the future of education

Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty released his biennial budget recommendation last week, in which he gave Minnesota State Colleges and Universities about 70 percent of its total budget request of \$177 million.

He did, however, stipulate that the system would receive a \$25 million bonus if it met certain requirements.

One of those requirements is that Minnesota's array of higher education institutions (MSUM is one of seven state universities), increase the number of students taking online courses and/or increase online course offerings by 10 percent.

If you're a student, online courses mean staying at home, in from the cold, perhaps. If you're a faculty member, you can say only one thing: Oh, crap.

Sure, technology's great, but when it comes to turning classrooms into online courses, real teachers can kiss their jobs goodbye, either to fewer and maybe lesser-trained people grading quizzes, or to someone in India, willing to work for less pay.

And in actuality, what will students miss?

Learning how to live. Learning about social interaction, learning about what makes a great person through teachers, role models for many.

You know, English professors at MSUM are really great. They teach literature and how to analyze it and make students feel good about themselves, which coincidentally, teaches students more about life than they'll ever learn at a computer.

What will people not learn if the state institutions begin loading classes online? Sure, they can read William Faulkner, James Baldwin and old Will Shakespeare on a computer screen, but can they really learn about life? Life, the hidden curriculum that college is so much about?

Well, the governor has his agenda, good for him. His grandkids may take online courses and have loads of fun sitting on their butts. But for those of us in this generation, let's read our books the old fashioned way.

The opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or student body. The Advocate encourages Letters to the Editor and Your Turn submissions. They should be typed and **must include the writer's name**, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due by 5 p.m. Monday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off in The Advocate office or e-mailed to advocate@mnstate.edu.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parking codes unfair

Students should voice their opinions, stop unreasonable fees, fines, weather

As I sit at my desk trying to warm up from a long, unnecessary walk across MSUM's campus, I feel it is my duty as a student to relay the experience I just had with MSUM's parking policies. I have been a student at MSUM for four years and have read through all university policies and feel that I understand them; however, I can't seem to figure out the parking policies.

Firstly, they continue to oversell the lots year after year, making it consistently difficult for any student who has purchased a parking pass to find a parking spot. Because of this, I gave up hope and did not buy a parking pass this year. Why would I, when I get tickets—parking pass or no pass? I might as well just use the \$80 toward parking tickets. Plus, why would I buy one just to find no spots available and then deal with the agony of being continually late—it takes at least 20 minutes to tool around looking for a spot.

Secondly, we live in grueling weather conditions and many times we must walk halfway across campus in below-zero weather. Apparently, the university shows no sympathy for the students. What happens when you are running behind, you park in the nearest spot, take a 20-minute test and run back out? Wouldn't you know it ... a boot! I know, I know, I'm an adult now and should have planned ahead. There are no excuses, but even in the real world there is more leniency than this. This morn-

ing I received the pinnacle of every campus security's job—a boot. Not only was I rationally pissed that I had to walk almost a mile from the Newman Center to the parking office, but the icing on the cake was the \$110 fine I received—\$50 for the boot and \$60 in past fines.

Which brings me to my next point: In the past, I have always received a letter stating that I have unpaid parking fines. I got a parking ticket two weeks ago and assumed it was my first. Apparently, that wasn't the case. I also had some from last semester that I was unaware of.

After I defrosted from walking across campus and came out of my angry state, I decided to call and see what I actually paid for and why. When I asked the girl who answered the phone what the details of the fine were, she apparently didn't know how to answer and had to ask her supervisor. Because the woman who answered the phone forgot to take the phone of the hook, I was able to hear exactly what was said. I asked: "Why wasn't I sent a letter stating I had unpaid fines. I had no idea." The supervisor immediately went into defense mode, and basically said that the letters were sent based on random selection.

So for all of you students out there that have had tickets blown off your car, stolen to be used in exchange for a the next person not getting a ticket, or my favorite, you're in college and parking tickets are

the last thing on your mind, if you are one of the randomly selected people to receive a letter, you should feel lucky. For the rest of you, I guess you are just out of luck.

Where does all of the revenue from the parking tickets go? To fund the workers who are out busting their balls to write one more ticket? Why don't we get rid of the parking staff and get rid of parking tickets altogether? They would minus each other out and there would be Zen with the parking situation on campus. I guess I should jump out of my happy little world and take a step back into reality because the likelihood of that happening is like the likelihood of alcohol being legalized in dorms—it's just not going to happen. University politics ... we are the students. We have a voice. We are paying to be here. Let's do something about it!

Anyone who has ever had a boot, to many parking tickets, or had some bad situation dealing with parking in general on campus, write me an e-mail and explain your situation. I will bundle them together and send them to the man in the silver Camry! E-mail me at kingni@mnstate.edu.

I am also sending a similar letter too The Fargo Forum, in hopes of actually changing something, and not just blowing smoke.

Sincerely,
Jaclyn King
Student

U.S. media ignore untypical Muslims

Most Americans haven't heard of the Saudi citizens Ali al-Dumaini, Matruk al-Falih or Abdullah al-Hamid.

These men were among 13 Saudi intellectuals peacefully circulating a petition calling for a constitutional monarchy.

The 'Saudi 13' are just some of the Muslim men and women often ignored by the American mass media because they don't fit the stereotype of a Muslim as a terrorist and a fanatic.

In Saudi Arabia, these peaceful petitioners are part of a group of Saudi Muslim reformers calling for social and political reforms in a nation ruled by an absolute monarchy, one with



Edward T.J. Brown
Columnist

clinic in Iran. Combating the pandemic is an especially taboo topic in a theocratic nation where the laws and social mores make it hard to

talk about such things as sexual behavior and drug addiction.

The brothers have helped start their government's campaign on AIDS education and show compassion for those infected, but you will not likely hear or read about them in the American mass media.

In Egypt, a Muslim writer named Gamal Banna has

come under fire for his book that challenges many of the assertions of conservative and fundamentalist Muslims.

These Muslim intellectuals, artists and filmmakers have challenged what their conservative or fundamentalist government and clergy tell them is "true" Islam, but they get little notice from the American press.

The American mass media seem to love its Muslims fanatical and violent.




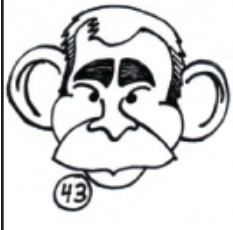
Granted, the mass media cannot refuse to accurately cover a story because of the ethnic or national background of the participants. We cannot pretend that Muslim fanatics

don't exist, nor can we pretend that only focusing on such actions is telling us the truth about Islam or its followers.

Such news coverage is only telling us a half-truth, something that reinforces our own fears and stereotypes about Muslims or the Middle East and reduces Muslims to animalistic medieval maniacs.

We, as an audience, should demand our mass media tell us the entire truth about ourselves and the world in which we live, even when it may be an inconvenient truth.

Shouldn't we have the truth?
E-mail Brown
at browned@mnstate.edu.

	U. S. military deaths...	3,099
	Iraqi civilians killed...	61,369
	Taxpayer cost per day...	197 million
	Creating a presidential legacy...	priceless

mohagen 07

Barack Obama will fall short



Brandon K. Watson
Columnist

Barack Obama possesses many qualities. He's young, intelligent and a great orator, talents causing many to scratch their heads on whether he'll become America's first non-white president. In the annals of American politics, blacks running for the presidency have come up short.

Al Sharpton knows. America laughs at the rotund pro-black politician. Jesse Jackson knows. Despite his dual presidency debacles in the '80s, the Chicago-based Christian leftist has made an oral commitment to endorse the charismatic Obama. Jackson isn't ambivalent to the reality of Obama benefiting from the "Tiger Woods privilege." The unwritten and ever present perk bi-racial icons in America are subject to: If only one of his or her parents is black (Obama's father) and the other parent of a non-black ethnicity—just as Tiger Woods—then being black and rich isn't so bad. The icon won't be associated with hip-hop culture.

Unlike Woods, Obama has shown interest in black America. A salvos of cheers is warranted for him turning down a lucrative law firm offer sheet to tackle issues on the south side Chicago.

Face it: Race plays a major role in politics. America is frightened when visualizing Obama walking on the lawn of the White House; America is afraid of the pressure black America will place on this country for past doings if a half-black is heading this country.

Jackson and Al Sharpton weren't taken seriously because they're black, black men of all things. Regardless of the masses flaying blacks for "pulling the race card," Obama's race plays a significant role in why he's a lead candidate, at least for right now.

This isn't bigotry. It's the truth. When the ballots are filled in, we'll see. Hillary Clinton becoming the first woman president will dominate the airwaves. Not seasoned enough, the media will claim was Obama's downfall. As mentioned before, blacks running for the presidency come up short.

Reminds me of February, the shortest month of the year.

What's it remind you of? E-mail Watson at watsonbr@mnstate.edu.

Survey results help Advo staff

Last semester, The Advocate conducted an online readership survey.

Well, the results are in, and we will use them to measure what we can improve on.

But know student journalism isn't easy—interested writers will take a story assignment one week and disappear into oblivion the next.

On top of that, it's all new to us. We're not pros, and even after we've been at this for a while, we still have full class loads to worry about.

So, please, to the campus: Have patience with Advocate staff members, now, in the future and always.

If running this paper were easy, especially along with 15 credits, then we'd be exhaust-

ed for no reason.

It's hard work.

It may not seem like it, but it's way easier to criticize this paper than to make it readable and relevant.

For the people who are kind to young journalists, in the administration and staff, who appreciate this paper: Thanks.

We hope everyone enjoys this paper, and every week finds at least one enjoyable article.

Out of 321 responses, this is what the survey results say:

- Forty percent were males and 60 percent females.

- Thirty-one percent were staff members, 23 percent faculty and 46 percent students.

- Fifty-five percent of respondents said they read The Advocate every week.

Seventeen percent said they read it every other week, and 19 percent read it a few times per semester. The remainder said they had never read it.

- The News section is a favorite with 42 percent of the vote. Nineteen percent chose the Features section, 17 percent Opinion followed closely by Arts & Entertainment and Sports.

- Readers stomped out the idea of an exclusively online paper at 84 percent.

- About 70 percent said most topics in The Advocate somewhat interest them.

The only things left to say are thanks for your readership, and keep reading.

Have further comments?
E-mail us
at advocate@mnstate.edu.



Singing to the student body

Tuesdays get more interesting with CAB's music series Acoustic Afternoons

By CHARLES ENGLAR

Staff Writer

Campus Activities Board is presenting a new music series titled Acoustic Afternoons. The performances are held in the main lounge of the CMU from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Tuesday.

The purpose is to give artists a chance to showcase their skills while also giving students an opportunity to catch some live music on campus.

The artist lineup consists of alumni, students and professional musicians. All acts are local and provide the student body with music that might not have been known to them before.

"Now students can come to the CMU between classes, have a bite to eat and listen to some of the great music this university has to offer," said Blake Heinz, CAB music coordinator.

While the series has already started, there are scheduled acts throughout the semester. Mark Proulx, an alumnus who currently works in the Admissions office, was the first artist to perform on Jan.

23.

Professional artist Cary Judd is slated to play on Feb. 13, and students Jeff Meyer, Feb. 27, and Diane Miller, March 6, are also scheduled.

This mix of professional and student-body talent makes for a unique situation that doesn't follow an 'open mic' guideline, thus producing solid music from solid artists each week.

"The majority of people that play do so during Underground Unplugged. All of the artists are required to sign a contract with Becky Boyle Jones," Heinz said.

Each artist is provided with a two-hour time slot that can be used at the artists' discretion. Those who have enough material can use the two hours while those with class conflicts or less material are allowed to stop whenever they feel necessary.

As the title indicates, each musician will play an acoustic set with any needed equipment provided by the CMU.

Students are encouraged to go and interact with the artists. Since it is a low-key setting, the artists are accessible, which allows students

to connect a personality to the music. This helps to create a better musical experience.

"If people are interested in each artist's background history they are able to ask before or after each show.

"I'm sure each artist, granted they have the time to answer, would be willing to talk to whoever is interested," Heinz said.

According to Heinz, all acts have been secured for the semester, but not all the names have been released. Throughout the semester, announcements will be made and flyers will be posted around campus.

"We have a diverse group of scheduled acts and a great advertising coordinator, so keep your eyes open for who we have scheduled for that week!" Heinz said.

All acts, professional included, are free and open to the general public.

Grab a sandwich, grab a cup of coffee, sit down and enjoy this unique musical experience made available by the folks at CAB.

Englar can be reached at englstr9@aol.com.



AMANDA BRAUD / THE ADVOCATE

Junior Michael Bearce plays Feb. 5 in the CMU as a part of CAB's music series, Acoustic Afternoons. Occurring each Tuesday during this semester, an MSUM student, alumnus or professional artist will perform from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Review: 'Pan's Labyrinth' proves all's fair in war, fantasy

By MAX HEESCH

Staff Writer

One of the many troubles with living in the middle of the country is that you don't get to see any of the good movies until they are on DVD.

"Good" movies as in those that have limited releases, allowing only a select few cities, such as New York and Los Angeles, the chance to view them.

But finally, after waiting for weeks, one of the most well-

received films of 2006, "El Labertino del Fauno," finally arrived in Fargo, more than four weeks after its original release.

"El Labertino del Fauno," the English translation being "Pan's Labyrinth," is the latest dream child from respected director Guillermo del Toro, the creative mind behind "Hellboy" and "Blade II."

The film revolves around the plight of Ofelia (Ivana Baquero), a young girl with an extraordinary imagination,

copied with moving with her pregnant mother, Carmen (Ariadna Gil), to a remote military outpost in post-Civil War Spain, 1944.

They are going to live with her monstrously cruel new stepfather. Captain Vidal (Sergi López), the leader of the fascist movement in the area, is so enthralled with the rooting out of local rebels that he really doesn't seem to care for Ofelia or her mother on their arrival.

Her mother, who is carrying

the captain's child, is also very ill, and is sent to bedrest until she is ready to give birth. To escape her precarious situation, whether with her mother or the captain, Ofelia loses herself in her storybooks and fables.

One day while walking, the housekeeper Mercedes (Maribel Verdú) shows her an old garden that contains an ancient labyrinth. Ofelia explores the maze further and discovers the wily faun, Pan (Doug Jones), who informs her that she is the long lost Princess of the Underworld, her soul having been wandering the earth for centuries.

Pan tells her she must complete three tasks to regain her throne, each involving bizarre and fantastic creatures such as a giant grotesque toad and the child-devouring Pale Man (also played by Doug Jones). Ofelia must accomplish her tasks in a continually shrinking time window as the military and freedom fighters wage war around her home.

She must also be wary in her quest as her mother grows nearer to giving birth. Captain Vidal's growing aggravation with her has her wondering what he will do with her and her mother, once he has his child in his possession.

This film is just like the fantasies of our youth, just all grown up. The tale is beau-

tifully set against the background of Civil War Spain.

Although at times the war-ringing element takes away slightly from the fairy tale part of the movie, it is not enough to be obtrusive.

Other than that, all the human characters are well defined, as are the non-human ones. Pan, in particular, is a treat for the eyes and ears as the old creature walks around on his animal legs taunting Ofelia from time-to-time.

The film received a warm reception in Fargo. The fantasy and war elements appealed heavily with the public, resulting in the nearly packed theater.

However, some of the crowd perhaps didn't know that this was a Spanish language movie with English subtitles, gathering from some of the looks in the audience.

Regardless, the picture was entertaining to all. It was enjoyable when the crowd laughed every time the characters swore in Spanish.

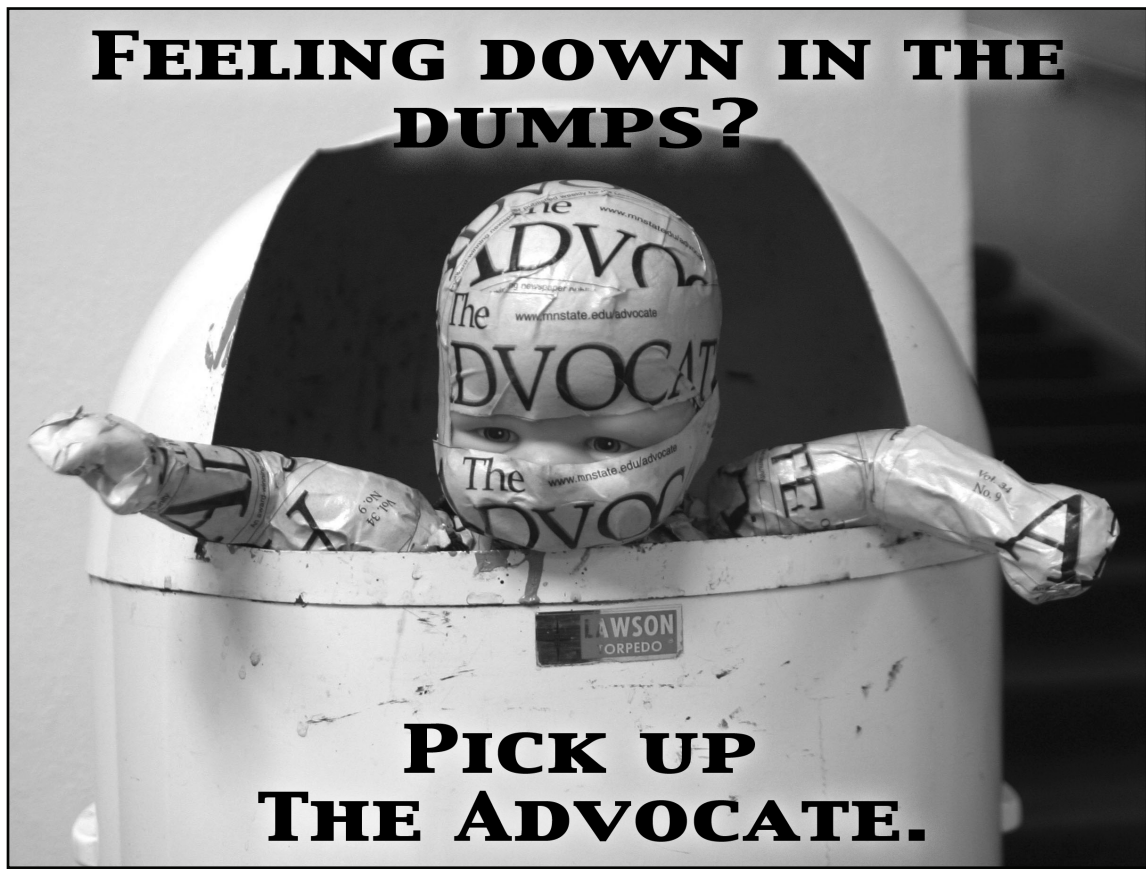
In addition to six Academy Award nominations, the film also boasts some of the best critical reviews of the year, making "Pan's Labyrinth" one great movie you can't miss.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

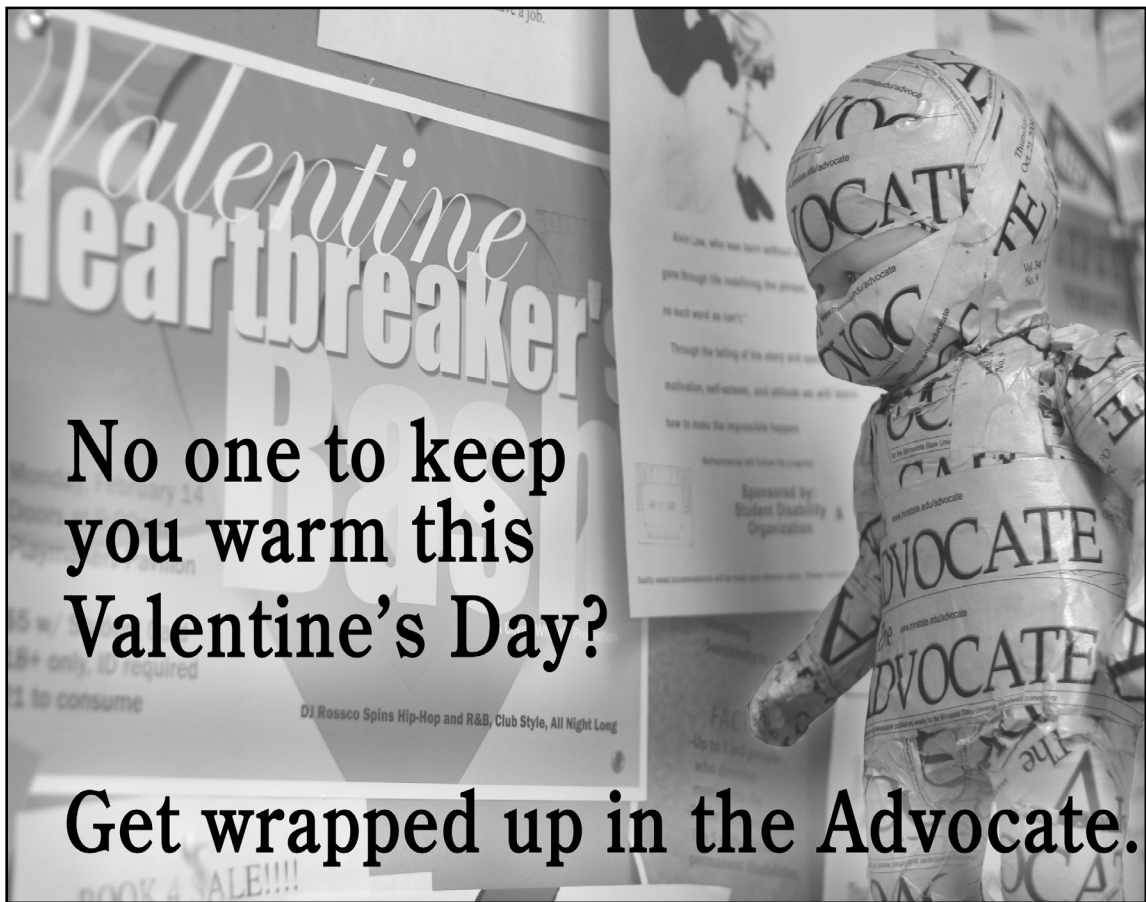
Ofelia (Ivana Baquero) cautiously approached the carnivorous Pale Man (Doug Jones) about her destiny in Guillermo del Toro's "Pan's Labyrinth."

Heesch can be reached at maxheesch@hotmail.com.



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No one to keep you warm this Valentine's Day?

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Artsy Alternatives

Theatre

West Fargo High School presents a production of "West Side Story," the musical version of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" played out in 1950s New York City, at 7:30 p.m. today (Thursday) through Saturday. Admission is \$6 and reservations are recommended.

Theatre

Running today (Thursday) through Sunday, Concordia College presents a production of William Gibson's "The Miracle Worker" on the Frances Frazier Comstock Stage. Showtimes are at 8 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. To order tickets, call (218) 299-3314.

Lecture

Minnesota Native Nelson Peery will speak on "Racism, Class Struggle and the Future of America" at 7 p.m. today (Thursday) in King Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

Recital

NDSU faculty member Robert Jones will hold a baritone recital at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Beckwith Recital Hall.

Artist Forum

From 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at NDSU Downtown, Dwight Williams, who works with 3D wood and clay, will speak on making a living through art. The event is free and open to the public.

Music Festival

The Venue at Playmakers will host the 7th Annual Fargo Winter Blues Festival at 4 p.m. Saturday. Nora Jean Bruso headlines with James Solberg, Corey Stevens, Little Bobby & the Storm and Blues Tonic. Admission is \$23.

Book Signing

Author Carey McWilliams and his service dog, Delbert, will promote the book, "Guide Dogs and Guns" from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday at the B. Dalton Bookstore in West Acres.

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2. "DASHBOARD" BY MODEST MOUSE
3. "THE INFORMATION" BY BECK
4. "BLACK PARADE" BY MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE
5. "SUPERSUNNY-SPEEDGRAPHIC" BY BEN FOLDS
6. "SCENES OF ABANDONED INDUSTRY" BY JUHU BEACH
7. "ALRIGHT, STILL" BY LILY ALLEN
8. "UNTIL THE SADNESS IS GONE" BY DAVID AND THE CITIZENS
9. "NATURE VS. NATURE" BY BIRDS AND BATTERIES
10. "THE EVENING OWL" BY BRIGHT LIGHT FEVER
11. "SO DIVIDED" BY AND YOU WILL KNOW US BY THE TRAIL OF DEAD
12. "THE WALKING WOUNDED" BY BAYSIDE
13. "LET YOUR BODY TAKE OVER" BY FOUR LETTER LIE
14. "BEIJING TO BOSTON" BY BRAIN FAILURE
15. "BROTHER, SISTER" BY MEWITHOUTYOU
16. "THE INFINITE SON" BY SCREAM HELLO
17. "NOT TOO LATE" BY NORAH JONES
18. "LIVE FROM WATERLOO" BY PETE YORN
19. "NOISE FLOOR: RARITIES: 1998-2005" BY BRIGHT EYES
20. "WHEN ALL THAT'S LEFT IS YOU" BY QUIETDRIVE
21. "OVER THE COUNTER CULTURE" BY TIM FITE
22. "THE TRUCKS" BY TRUCKS
23. "FRIENDLY FIRE" BY SEAN LENNON
24. "EVERYTHING STARTS" BY LOVEDRUG
25. "LONEY, NOIR" BY LONEY, DEAR
26. "WHAT DEMONS DO TO SAINTS" BY BENEATH THE SKY
27. "CYCLES FOLLOW SIGNS" BY STATIC OF THE GODS
28. "HAPPY HOLLOW" BY CURSIVE
29. "LOVE THEIR COUNTRY" BY ME FIRST AND THE GIMME GIMMES
30. "NEW MAGNETIC WONDER" BY APPLES IN STEREO

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Site Visit: March 5 - 7

For more information, www.mnstate.edu/ncavisit/

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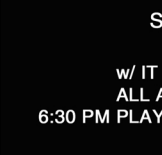
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CURLING

Curling gains players, popularity

F-M curling club looking for more college students to participate

By CHRIS FLYNN
Staff Writer

The sports editor for The Advocate wrote in an Aug. 24 issue that she wanted to do more stories on intramural and club sports. Lacrosse, a men's and women's club sport at MSUM, is the fastest-growing sport in the U.S. Popular on the east coast, lacrosse has started to make its way west. In Canada, lacrosse is the official national summer sport.

Another popular sport in Canada, with an old and rich tradition, is curling. Sometimes compared to golf or chess, curling is a game of strategy and skill. Curling does not have the type of world participation as do chess or golf, and it is not as established in the U.S. as it is in Canada.

If asked about it, people may be able to say it's the sport where one or two people sweep the ice in front of a stone and try to place the stone in the center of the target, but how many people do you know, who curl?

The sports editor one day was working at one of her three jobs, when she and an MSUM student chatted as he was getting textbooks. During the conversation they learned that they come from the same town. Another bit of informa-

tion was that he was going to start curling as a club sport, but "she misunderstood me. I said I curl at a club," said third-year student Zach Zeis. "It would be great if it was a club sport," added Zeis.

Steve Pickle, president of the Fargo-Moorhead Curling Club, said they want to get more college students involved. "NDSU has started an intramural league," Pickle said.

"They have about 12 students that come in," Zeis said. "I told Steve (Pickle) that I would be in charge of recruiting at MSUM.

"It would be good to get people together. I've heard of people interested, but I don't know many people who do it."

Zeis curls Friday nights at the F-M Curling Club. It is a mixed league, which means there are no gender restrictions, but it is not a beginner league. Zeis said he started curling at the age of 11 or 12. "There wasn't kid leagues, so you started playing when you could keep up with your parents."

Curling is played on a level sheet of ice with four players and two teams. Each player from both teams slides two stones each toward the target called the house. The house is a 12-foot circle at the end of

the ice. The object is to try to get more stones closer to the button (bull's-eye) than the other team.

Only one team can score during an end, which is like an inning in baseball. Most leagues play eight ends.

"You could get a person in and teach them curling in about 15 minutes," Pickle said. On the other hand, it could take years to develop the nuances of the game.

Zeis said he was back home and his dad, who has curled for a while, came home from the curling club and said, "I think I've figured out how to curl."

In an article written for the Chicago Sports Review titled, "Curling Ain't Easy," the author said: "Just getting started at curling is like balancing yourself on an oil-slicked Twister board with a 42-pound weight in your hand. And that is supposed to be the easy part."

This could be a reason not many people curl, but golf isn't easy, yet a lot of people still play. When a game can be played on a patch of grass, it is not as hard to get a pick up game going.

"Curling needs a very controlled environment," said Frank Podoll, a member at the F-M Curling Club. The ice needs to be kept at temperature of about 23 degrees. Even the slightest particle on the sheet, called a pick, can change the stone's path.



CARY KNUDSON / THE ADVOCATE

Aakres Business College student Brett Zeis, left, talks with his teammate Ben Crockett, middle, and his older brother Zach Zeis during a curling league at the Fargo-Moorhead Curling Club on Friday night. The three are all natives of Langdon, N.D., and among the few college students who are involved in the Olympic sport.

At the F-M Curling Club there are fold-up seats like at a movie theater in front of four windows where people can watch the games. Four games can be played at a time, and on the upper corner of the wood-paneled walls, by each of the four windows, are televisions that have a camera view of the house, so people can see the scoring.

A little more than a half-dozen people are watching the curling matches. "It's not much of a spectator sport, except for big tournaments," said Podoll, as he watches his teenage daughter play.

In the club room, a place with tables and chairs set up, and a couple of couches, five or six little kids run around, or sit silently watching a cartoon.

A guy comes into the club room and asks if he can get some change for the vending machine. Tim Amble, who prepares the ice at the club, says, "Go ahead." The guy questioned, "Just grab it

myself?" A silver box with one dollar bill and change sits on the bar. Amble says, "We have the honor system here," just like in the sport of curling. Players call their own fouls, and do not try and distract their opponent. It is one of the honored traditions of the sport.

Another one of curling's traditions is that the sport is often passed down through family members. It is estimated that 1.5 million people curl in the U.S. Maybe the kids running around the curling club will start play with their parents someday, like Zeis did growing up in Langdon, N.D.

"It's the capital of curling in North Dakota," Zeis said with a chuckle.

Flynn can be reached at flynnch@mnstate.edu.



CARY KNUDSON / THE ADVOCATE

Third-year student Zach Zeis throws the rock while Ben Crockett gets ready to sweep at the Fargo-Moorhead Curling Club on Friday. Zeis is looking for college students interested in curling to possibly start a club on campus in the future.

LINEUP

Friday:
MBB at University of Mary 8 p.m.
WBB at University of Mary 6 p.m.
Wrestling at SW Minn.-St. 7 p.m.
Tennis at St. Mary's 6:30 p.m.

Saturday:
MBB at Northern State 8 p.m.
WBB at Northern State 6 p.m.
Wrestling at Augustana 7 p.m.

Wednesday:
Swim at NCC meet 9:30 a.m.

FINISH LINE

Track and Field:
Cobber Invite Men
55 hurdles: 1, Fetzer 8.13. 2, Asfeld 8.12. 9, Seeling 8.86.
200: 1, Watson 23.03. 4, Meyer 23.60.
400: 1, Watson 51.28. 6, Meyer 53.02.
10, Hoffman 55.70.
600: 2, Fay 1:28.12. 5, Hest 1:30.09.
10, Fetzer 1:38.66.

800: 3, Moreland 2:00.48. 7, McConnell 2:05.94. 9, Kne 2:08.84.
1,000: 1, Egeberg 2:45.44. 2, Fay 2:47.86. 3, Lillegaard 2:50.24. 5, Hest 2:55.90.
Mile: 2, Eckhoff 4:25.51. 4, Egberg 4:33.69. 7, Lillegaard 4:38.48. 8, McConnell 4:39.72. 9, Kne 4:39.94.
3,000: 3, Teige 9:31.19. 4, Reuss 9:32.90.
Cobber Invite Women
55: 2, Hensel 7.63. 3, Flemming 7.72. 5, Brustad 7.87. 6, Mostad 7.92.

55 hurdles: 4, Streyle 9.36. 5, Flemming 9.49. 9, Brustad 9.73.
200: 2, Hensel 26.73. 3, Flemming 27.38. 5, Streyle 27.54. 9, Mostad 28.13.
400: 3, Streyle 63.09. 5, Amele 67.23.
600: 1, Julsrud 1:40.85. 7, Miller 1:48.89.
800: 2, Wickersham 2:27.74.
1,000: 1, Rayne Berdt 3:12.07. 4, Miller 3:17.90. 5, Rebenitsch 3:19.97. 7, Bloch 3:32.49.
Mile: 1, Berndt 5:21.16. 8, Rebenitsch 5:44.37. 10, Bloch 5:58.44.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men sweep weekend wins

By LUKE HAGEN

Staff Writer

The men's basketball team notched two wins over the weekend against Bemidji State and Minnesota-Crookston, keeping them in sixth place in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.

It was a tale of two halves for the men in their first game against Bemidji State.

The first half Bemidji State came out hot, hitting 3-pointers and keeping a high energy level. The Dragons only shot 30 percent from the field and by halftime they were fortunate to only be down 28-36.

"Our energy level wasn't there in the first half, and then in the second half we came out a lot stronger," head coach Stu Engen said.

In the second half the Dragons got fired up when junior center Kyle Nelson sparked MSUM with his emotion on the court and high level of play. Nelson made his first return to the home court after returning from his knee injury.

"I was just looking to help the team in any way I could tonight, and I guess my offensive game just fell into my hands tonight," Nelson said.

Out of halftime the Dragons made a 12-2 run to take the lead, which was capped off by amazing plays by Nelson and junior guard Matt Aakre to fire up the Nemzek crowd.

The Dragons pulled away and shut down the Beavers



JON LAMBERT / THE ADVOCATE

Sophomore guard Grant Fossum takes on a Minnesota-Crookston defender in the Dragons' win Saturday.

with excellent rebounding. MSUM won the game 70-56.

The Dragons finished off the weekend home stand against Minnesota-Crookston on Saturday night.

Minnesota Crookston had won only one game all year and they didn't change that losing 79-59.

The junior forward Lee Isaacson and sophomore Jamal O'Neal showed their skills in few minutes of play. Isaacson scored six points and tallied four rebounds in only six minutes and O'Neal had 11 points and four rebounds in eight seconds of play. By the end of

the game, they combined for 26 points and 14 rebounds.

The second half, junior Blake Strouth opened with a long three-pointer and the Dragons then went on a 16-4 run, giving the Golden Eagles no chance to come back.

Strouth felt that the team accomplished what it planned on doing throughout the week, wanting to get on Crookston early and pouring on the offensive game.

"We went in with a killer instinct, we got up on them early and then finished them off," Strouth said.

Hagen can be reached at luke_hagen@hotmail.com.

PROFILE

A family affair

By LUKE HAGEN

Staff Writer

You can find her in the Nemzek gym when the Dragon women have practice. You'll hear her name when the starting lineup gets announced, too. But next season you won't get these same opportunities.

Lindsey Anderson is the lone senior on the women's basketball team this season, and she is cherishing her remaining time left at MSUM.

"I think I do value every practice and every game a little more," she said.

Anderson is a guard on the Dragons team and feels that because she is a senior she does have some leadership roles. She says she knows what head coach Karla Nelson expects from her because she's been on the team for four years.

She picked biology as a major and will soon graduate from MSUM. Next year Anderson will travel to Duluth to St. Scholastica to pursue graduate school.

"It will definitely be weird not having basketball in my life. I try not to think about it because I don't like to ... it will be hard to adjust," she said.

Basketball came natural to Anderson but "with a lot of work." Her dad and brother both have basketball histories at MSUM, making the initial decision to come here much easier.

"I hope I can finish my senior year good like my brother did and go out on a good note," Anderson said.

Anderson's best memory in a Dragon's uniform was when the Dragons played Concordia-St. Paul two seasons ago in their home court and beat them.

The Dragons won the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Tournament that season, which she described as "very sweet."

Currently, MSUM is tied for the NSIC lead with six games remaining on the schedule. Anderson predicts the team will win the conference tournament again.

"Knock on wood, though," she said.

In her spare time she likes to hang out with the girls on the team because they are like family to her.

"I'll miss the games a lot, but mainly just the camaraderie of everything," she said.

Hagen can be reached at luke_hagen@hotmail.com.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Dragons notch "W"

By LUKE HAGEN

Staff Writer

The MSUM women's basketball team showed how dominant they could be against two Northern Sun Intercollegiate Sun opponents over the weekend. The women flexed their basketball muscles, crushing both Bemidji State and Minnesota-Crookston.

The weekend home stand started on Friday night when the Dragons beat Bemidji State, 69-48. The first time the two teams matched up, MSUM squeaked an 83-78 victory out at Bemidji.

"The first time we played them, Bemidji shot a lot better and they played with great energy. Fortunately, Katie Walden shot well in that game and we won," head coach Karla Nelson said.

Junior forward Allison Swenson started off the game fast for the Dragons, scoring a couple 3-point plays in the first two minutes of the game. By halftime MSUM had a

13-point lead, and the women never gave Bemidji a chance to come back in the second half. Any time Bemidji tried to make a run, the women were there to answer.

Swenson had a double-double by the end of the game, 15 points and led the Dragons with 15 rebounds.

Junior center Jessica Fesenmaier led the team with 16 points and explained that their last loss against Concordia-St. Paul was their motivation all week.

"Our philosophy all week was to stay mad about what happened last weekend. I personally got outworked by my opponent then, so I had to make up for last weekend and do more tonight," Fesenmaier said.

Saturday evening's game was even more dominant for the Dragons. Minnesota-Crookston came to Nemzek with a 0-21 record and continued their trend of losses.

It only took the Dragons 10 minutes at the start of the game

to get a 13-point lead, and by halftime the lead had extended to 16, but for the Golden Eagles the game would get much worse.

The Nemzek crowd woke up in the second half of the game, and the Dragons responded. Showing no mercy to the Golden Eagles, the Dragons' offense was on fire. By the end of the game, five of the Dragon women scored in double figures, and freshmen forward Alison Nash-Gerlach recorded the only double-double with 10 points and 14 rebounds.

"We played very well tonight and everyone did their part on the team," Nash-Gerlach said.

Senior Lindsey Anderson led the team with 15 points and the game ended in a final score of 90-45.

"We played with really good intensity tonight, and everyone showed what they can do," Nelson said.

Hagen can be reached at luke_hagen@hotmail.com.



LIZZIE CHINANDER / THE ADVOCATE

Junior forward Allison Swenson plays full-court defense against Minnesota-Crookston on Saturday.

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Page 14, The Advocate

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the monkeys

RESEARCH SHOWS THAT MOST STUDENTS WHO SAY THEY'LL QUIT SMOKING AFTER COLLEGE CAN'T.



NSIC recruits four possible schools Expanding conference excites some, worries others

By **ROBYN ROHDE**
Sports Editor

For years the North Central Conference has been widely considered one of the most competitive Division II conferences, but after the 2007-2008 school year it could be passing that lucrative title to the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.

Current members of the NCC, St. Cloud State, Augustana, Minnesota State-Mankato and Minnesota State-Duluth are looking for a new home due to the re-organization by some of its members to NCAA Division I. All four have applied for membership in to the NSIC, the conference MSUM has been in since 1994.

The NCC has lost six schools since 2001, when Morningside announced its decision to move to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Northern Colorado, NDSU, South Dakota State, North Dakota and South Dakota have or will leave for Division I.

The deflections leave the NCC with five members following the 2007-2008 school year.

A conference needs six members to receive an automatic bid to post-season national tournaments.

"Change can sometimes cause good things and bad things. We are hoping right now for the best," Interim Athletic Director Sylvia Barnier said. "You can only take care of our own house."

Expansion has been on the horizon as the conference introduced Upper Iowa and the University of Mary this year.

"We don't know all the ramifications," Barnier said, as the four new applications are not guaranteed acceptance into the conference. "If we are affected negatively, it would most likely be our own fault."

Although nothing will be decided until April, not everyone is completely comfortable in the situation. Head wom-

us. It's going to raise the bar in the league, but that doesn't mean that MSU is going to raise the bar in funding scholarships."

Acceptance could mean every conference member could get more funding; but MSUM has to raise it and right now. Funding is not the biggest strength of the athletics department which is already near the bottom of the conference in scholarship awards.

Since MSUM does not have a fully funded athletic department, other organizations such as Dragon

Fire, which rose more than a \$100,000 last year in the Dragon Walk, continue to strive, expand and keep the school competitive. They host events such as the Dragon

Walk and online memorabilia auction besides the everyday work of getting and maintaining good communications with alumni and the community.

The way it could work is that if and when the four potential members officially enter the conference, they will have to decrease their scholarships to match in with the NSIC's maximums. So, technically, they will be within the conference rules, but that doesn't settle some of the coaches' minds, including Nelson's.

"We'll do everything we can to make sure we stay where we're at or continue to compete at a higher level, but it's going to be very difficult."

Representatives from each of the NSIC's 10 schools will have site visits starting with St. Cloud on Feb. 19-20, Augustana on Feb. 23-24, Mankato on March 1-2 and Duluth on March 5-6.

"Good things are happening with all our sports and we need to hold on to that. We are not going to stop because new members are coming in," Barnier said.

Rohde can be reached at rohdero@mnstate.edu.

If four schools are accepted, the NSIC may have to split the 14 teams into two divisions.

en's basketball coach, Karla Nelson, thinks the change could hurt MSUM because "those teams and those schools are already better funded than

SWIMMING AND DIVING

Hanson's diving qualifies at meet

By **KATIE DIIRO**
Staff Writer

Instead of watching the Super Bowl on Sunday, Kerin Hanson was living her own. Hanson became the second diver this season to qualify for Nationals.

This will be her first appearance at Nationals with teammate Samantha Jipson. Hanson did not dive competitively first semester, making this her fifth meet of the season, yet she achieved the highest score for any MSUM diver on 1-meter this season.

Hanson said: "Getting to Nationals was really hard work. Lindsey helped me a lot as a coach and a friend and not to mention, Samantha, Sarah and Lindsey being a real encouragement when we were learning new dives. It means a lot to me that I am going and I'm really excited for it!"

Sarah Wilker was .89 seconds away from qualifying

for Nationals and with only a year of diving experience could achieve this goal and fly to Buffalo, N.Y., with Hanson and Jipson.

Along with Wilker, the swim team will be competing at the NCC Conference meet at University of North Dakota starting Feb. 21. The Dragons have yet to qualify a swimmer to the National meet, but this could be the year for it to happen.

Ann Gusewelle is the fastest breaststroker MSUM has seen and could help lead the 200 Medley Relay to its first National swimming qualification. The Conference meet is the last meet of the season. It is one of the fastest meets with school, pool and conference records broken left and right. The Dragons will spend four days at UND and return with memories, records broken, and perhaps more National qualifiers.

Diirro can be reached at katediirro@yahoo.com.

MSUM boasts six nationally ranked.



After Cobber duals last weekend, the

Dragons' field teams have six nationally ranked players with only two meets left before the conference meet:

- Junior Derik Brugger is ranked first in the pole vault with a best of 16' 7".
- Sophomore Jennifer Hensel is ranked second in the pole vault with a best of 12' 9 3/4".

- Junior Brook Wiedrich is ranked fourth with a best of 12' 2 1/2".

- Sophomore Ashley Roemer is ranked fifth in the high jump with a best of 5' 7".

- Senior Jill Mostad is ranked 11th in the pole vault with a best of 11' 5 3/4".

- Sophomore Andrew Haak is ranked 15th in the weight throw with a best of 56' 2".

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