Dragon walk: support athletics, win prizes

BY TIM STULKEN
Sports Editor

The fifth annual Dragon Fire Walk, an event designed to raise finances for athletics scholarships, will take place Friday and Saturday.

“The Dragon Fire Walk is the largest fundraiser for athletics,” chairman of the Dragon Walk committee Greg Peterson said. “We would like to raise $150 thousand to supplement the Dragon Scholarship program. We’ve been very fortunate in the past averaging over $100 thousand every year and we’ve increased that number every year.”

There are many different events included in the Dragon Fire Walk including the Walk itself, a 5k run, a 10k run, a kids’ fun run, and a 10-mile run. Event registration and information can be found online at http://www.msum.dragons.com/index.aspx?path=walk. All of the money raised during the event goes directly to scholarships for student athletes. Scholarships, Peterson said, are important to both the students who receive them and the university as a whole.

“People don’t realize how much athletics can contribute to the university,” Peterson said. “Athletics can be the WALK, BACK PAGE.”

History professor features new book

BY ANDREW JASON
Staff Writer

The courage, resilience and determination of North Dakota’s fighting men during World War II is on display in Terry Shoptaugh’s new book, “They Were Ready: The 164th Infantry Regiment in the Pacific War 1942-1945.”

Shoptaugh, an MSUM history professor and university archivist, enjoyed the release of his book at a ceremony last Monday with N.D. governor John Hoeven and seven members of the infantry.

The book chronicles the story of the 164th Infantry Regiment. The Regiment consisted of men from all across North Dakota. These men played an important role in the war in the Pacific.

“They were the first American Army unit to go on the offensive in the Pacific,” Shoptaugh said. “They then stayed in the Pacific and were in combat for over 600 days.”

Immediately after the Pearl Harbor bombings, the U.S. went on the defensive for over 600 days. “They then stayed in the Pacific,” Shoptaugh said. “They were the first American Army unit to go on the offensive in the Pacific.”

Shoptaugh was asked to begin working on the book in 2007 after Shirley Otgeirson, who is in charge of creating a newsletter for the VFW in Bismarck, asked him to consider writing a book about the 164th. Throughout the course of his research, he interviewed close to 50 people and received information from countless others.

The book can be purchased at Zandbroz on Broadway in Fargo.

MSUM history professor Terry Shoptaugh recently enjoyed the release of his new WWII novel, “They Were Ready: The 164th Infantry Regiment in the Pacific War 1942-1945.”

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The MSUM history professor Terry Shoptaugh recently enjoyed the release of his new WWII novel, “They Were Ready: The 164th Infantry Regiment in the Pacific War 1942-1945.”

Residential competition promotes wellness

BY ERICA ANDERSON
Staff Writer

The Residence Hall Association teamed up with the Wellness Center to sponsor a competition between the halls to promote on-campus student usage of the Wellness Center.

“(It is) a program based on Wellness Center attendance and challenges for all residence halls to compete against each other,” said Steve Fox, Nelson/Grantham area director.

In February, on-campus student attendance at the Wellness Center was 22 percent. Due to the competition and better advertising through Facebook and their Web site, the number has rose to 38 percent.

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In February, on-campus student attendance at the Wellness Center was 22 percent. Due to the competition and better advertising through Facebook and their Web site, the number has rose to 38 percent, according to Steven Calfoile, marketing event coordinator for the Wellness Center.

“The goal of the competition was to get people on WELLNESS, BACK PAGE.”

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Thursday’s weather
Mostly sunny. Cool.
Low 43° High 56°
Friday’s weather: mostly sunny
Saturday’s weather: sunny
Correction

There was a misprint in last week’s editorial. Summer ses-
son does not include banded tuitions. Rates in effect for fall
and spring are still in effect for summer, just not banded.

Last visiting writer

Kristin Naca, author of ‘Bird Eating Bird’ will close out
the McGrath Visiting Writers Series.

She will give a craft talk
today at 4 p.m. and read from
her book at 8 p.m.

Pancake Feed

Come join Arnold Air
Society and Silver Wings for the F-M Hero Pancake Feed
Saturday at Immanuel Lutheran Church Broadway
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There will be a guest speaker
inviting you to the event.

Pancreatic cancer will go to F-M
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

the F-M Hero Pancake Feed
Pancake Feed

Lutheran Church Broadway
the F-M Hero Pancake Feed
Pancake Feed
today at 4 p.m. and read from
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sion does not include banded

Sponsorship does not include banded

Briefs

Correction

Last visiting writer

Learn to salsa

GLBТQ scholarship

Advocate meetings

Advocate office. Pick up an
application today and apply
to be a sports writer, staff
writer, cartoonist or photogra-
pher. Photog rapher meet-
ins are at 4:30 p.m.

The Advocate would like to
invite any interested students
to its weekly meetings in The
Advocate office. Pick up an
application today and apply
to be a sports writer, staff
writer, cartoonist or photogra-
pher. Photog rapher meet-
ins are at 4:30 p.m.

Advocate

April 16

April 17

April 20

April 22

April 23

April 24

April 25
The MSUM Theatre Department just finished its last main stage production of the school year with Frank Wedekind’s “Spring Awakening.” The play, written in 1890 in Germany, has themes similar to modern audience tastes: sex, abortion, religion, generational fighting, suicide and homosexuality, just to name a few.

These are hot button issues, and the MSUM Theatre Department tackled them head on. Directed by Dr. David Wheeler, the show depicted rape, masturbation and homosexual displays of affection. Many audience members were shocked, and what’s even more amazing is this play is over 100 years old.

The scene design was varied and interesting. The playing space consisted of many levels, including haylofts, river walks, forests and schools. This all was suggested rather than detailed, and allows for greater creativity on the part of the audience, much like reading a book allowed one to fully create the world.

One feature that was particularly interesting in the stage design was a trap door that opened into a grave. During the show, as the characters held a funeral for a teenage boy who had committed suicide, they threw actual dirt down into the grave. It was very dramatic, as each thud of the soil hitting the coffin raised the hairs on one’s neck.

The lighting and sound were also well done. Colors represented emotion, and the music before, during and after the play was creepy, full of angst but also young and fresh.

The costumes seemed appropriate to the show. The age they placed the costumes in was late 1800s Victorian style, and fit nicely into the set. The color palette was a little sparse, consisting heavily of blues, grays and whites, but considering the serious nature of the play, it worked well.

The costume at the conclusion of the play, which is supposed to be a headless ghost who is holding his head in his arms, was a little tawdry and took people out of it a bit. While a more elaborate design could have made it complex and clumsy, the costume, while functional, was not very aesthetic.

Lastly, the actor in the headless costume did a fine job switching his head from one hand to another, which helped create a better understanding of the scene.

The cast was very large, and while at times this left the play feeling slightly episodic, it was impressive how developed many of the characters were, given their little, or lack, of lines. For example, one scene has a back alley abortionist approaching, and they made a great use of a heavy cane tapping to a rhythm as if a clock chiming out a doomsday hour.

In conclusion, this was a fun show to see, especially for college-aged audiences. It raises a lot of questions, and is more of a show encouraging you to think rather than be entertained. And if the number of conversations in the local coffee shops after each show were a sign, it did just that.

The Advocate

Get wrapped up in it.

April Tournament Schedule

Visit our website for more details.

Weightman can be contacted at weightmanw@mnstate.edu.
MSUM celebrates diversity week on campus

This week, the MSUM community celebrated Diversity Week.

The week-long festival kicked off with a movie event called, “For the Bible Told Me So”, and will conclude today with the 2010 Unity Conference Salsa Night, which includes salsa lessons at 8:30 p.m. and a live band at 10 p.m.

By celebrating diversity, MSUM is praising some of the most difficult concepts to accept, such as being unique and different.

It’s often hard to grasp others’ differences, and for those coming to MSUM from other countries, it can be difficult to fit in.

Fargo-Moorhead lacks diversity, so teaching the students the importance of it can only be beneficial.

When diversity is highlighted as an important cause/message to spread, our community has the opportunity to see first-hand events, people and presentations that are normally difficult to talk about.

Yesterday, keynote speaker TJ Leyden, a former neo-Nazi and the inspiration for the movie “American History X,” spoke about turning away from hate.

This presentation truly expresses the idea of change in one’s life and takes a close look at a powerful movement in the world that is easy to avoid talking about. But by accepting his past, Leyden is able to speak about how to overcome adversity and hate.

An event like this could be life-changing for students who might be still stuck in the prejudices of their families or communities.

Although Diversity Week may end this week, it doesn’t mean the message of diversity can’t continue throughout the year.

Consider attending several of the diversity-centered organizations on campus, like STOCAR (Students Training Our Campus Against Racism) or the International Student Organization.

Events throughout the year incorporate other cultures as well, like the Organization Latino Americana, Japan Club or China Club. Even exploring different languages in different classes could expand your future.

Always consider the way you think of your fellow students from a different background than yours.

Your own preconceptions could hold you back from many different connections.

After applying for graduation this spring I received an e-mail that I needed an additional class for degree completion. Upon hearing that (and complaining to a lot of friends about it) I found out that it happens with way too much regularity! In digging into my situation further, the class did appear in a past DARS, but so did another that is no longer required. And of course when signing off on my graduation papers my adviser and the education department looked at the little check marks by each category and all was accounted for. President Szymanski, upon hearing about the extent of the problem, asked for more specifics such as names and situations. As chair of the Campus Affairs Committee on Student Senate I would like to hear all of the horror stories. If you or someone you know has had a similar problem please let me know at oddenal@mnstate.edu, some specifics are needed for administration to look into the problem. Your problem may not be repairable, but if it helps someone else avoid the hassle it will be worth it!

AL ODDEN SENIOR

Ugly heads reared again

I went to the bathroom the other day at Sunmart where I work and was shocked and offended by what I saw written on the stall. Now, before I go into a full discussion of the image I discovered, I need to give you a little back-story about my experiences in writing about racism. A while back, I wrote a column on a swastika that was discovered in a bathroom image on the door; luckily it was drawn in pen and was easily removed.

After removing the image, I finished what I went in there to do, but then began to consider what sort of vile person might have put the image on the door. To my knowledge there are not a large amount of active white supremacists in Fargo, so it was surprising to me to see this.

I decided to do some research on lynchings in the U.S. and discovered that the last Tuskegee recognized lynching to occur in the U.S. happened in 1955, but race-induced murders have occurred as recently as the murder of James Byrd in 1998.

Going through modern life, it is easy to think that racism is a thing of the past, that everyone is equal now. But I think instances like this picture of a lynching are a cold reminder that we need to continuously be aware of the racism that lies buried in our culture, either in overt racism as pictured in the bathroom image, or the more prevalent and less obvious systemic racism of white privilege.
**Opinion**

**Can the present catch up to the future?**

After passing a sweeping healthcare bill, President Obama is laying out more reform—this time, for the automobile industry. The Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency announced the final rules for model year 2012 to 2016 to pave the road towards having an average fuel economy of 34.1 miles per gallon, reducing emissions of greenhouse gases by 5 percent. This kind of federal regulation didn’t come a moment too soon.

The legislation lays out rules for automakers and suggests technologies to help improve the mileage for SUVs, light vans, pick-up trucks and light-duty vehicles. The standards would also save buyers $3,000 over the life of the vehicle. This is essentially a win-win situation for everyone involved in the consumer’s decision to buy a car. But does this legislation go far enough?

**Forty years ago, a group of scientists who study the future in order to determine solutions to problems that are bound to occur, released a list of innovations they believe will be available on the market in 2010. The most remarkable, and perhaps most famous prediction, was the coveted flying car. It is indeed 2010, and it appears we are a long way from even getting a hover car.**

The point is, we are still lagging far behind in the world of innovation. Consider that the last major revolution of the car was the electric vehicle, which was nearly perfected in, wait for it, 1912 by Henry Ford. It never became popular because of its cost, but why aren’t electric cars popular today, or hybrid cars, or cars with gas mileage above 80? We are barely treading water in the world of technology, and I’m personally disgusted that we aren’t tapping into the leg of futurism that is blatantly available to us. We have the technology. We just need to learn to use it, and if it takes federal regulation and incentives to do it, so be it.

We really can live in a world with energy-efficient cars that last us for a long time after a fill-up and drive cars that can last us decades, but businesses will only make inventions that fit their pocket books. It’s high time for governments to step out and push the innovation train ahead, even if it’s a long way until we get to the flying car.

**Want the future to be now? E-mail Peterson at petersonro@mnstate.edu**

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**Being a single college mom**

Anyone knows being a parent is a tough job to do because it never ends. The kids can be grown up and moved out and you are still a parent. What’s tougher yet is being a single parent with little or no support from anyone else. A single parent has to be the mother and father, the housekeeper, the rules enforcer, the washing machine (washing clothes and dishes) among other things.

Being a single parent, going to school as I am, makes a tough life a little harder yet. Routine and discipline are two major things I rely on so my kids do not get out of control. Routine is a must so the kids know what to expect out of each day. There are those days we may stray a little from our routine, but it makes life a little exciting sometimes. Timeout is popular at my house when one of the kids does something I do not approve of and gives them time to think about what they did. People ask me how I do it every day; I just shrug my shoulders and think, “If I don’t, who will?” I want a better life for myself and my kids. My kids can someday tell others that if their mom can, other single parents can be stronger individuals by going back to school as well for a better quality of life.

**Student parenting? e-mail Hetletved at hetletved@s@mnstate.edu**

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**Arr, media pirating**

If there’s one issue affecting the various media industries today, it’s pirating. Your friends may do it, you probably do it, hell, even your mom might be involved in this very questionable moral act. You might justify it by telling yourself that famous people or businesses are already rolling in the dough. But, regardless, as the commercials tell us, it’s equivalent to stealing a car.

While pirating is a pretty widely known modern contaminant on the corporate society, it almost feels like no one thinks about it.

Recently, 20th Century Fox, Universal and Warner Bros. made (demanded) a deal with Redbox and Netflix, not to rent DVDs until 28 days after they came out on DVD. For those who do not know, Redbox is the funky little kiosk in front of both Hornbachers and Walgreens in the area, that supplies movies for a dollar a piece. Netflix, which most have heard of, is a monthly service that mails DVDs and also provides online streaming content, which they believe is the future of the movie industry. Another renting service, however, Blockbuster, is a service exempt from these terms, perhaps because of the higher prices they charge for new DVDs.

Are these companies really ignoring the threat of pirating? If, for example, a college student had to choose between waiting a month for a movie to come out or just downloading it, which would they realistically choose? The movie companies seem to be ignoring the latter option.

And for those that don’t download? Waiting an extra month doesn’t seem to daunt those who like to watch for a low price.

**Want the future to be now? E-mail Peterson at petersonro@mnstate.edu**

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**Have a question for Student Senate?**

Interested about issues on campus but don’t know who to ask? Submit your questions to Student Senate and see if they can answer them for you.

**e-mail your questions to advocates@mnstate.edu for a response from Student Senate**
Sarah Winters shows the Red Raven some love

Q&A

BY ANNA GEORGE
A&E Editor

Sarah Jean Winters, 22, will be performing at 8 p.m. on Saturday at the Red Raven.

Do you work or attend school while singing? Yes, I am majoring in MUM for a year, and then I transferred to McNally Smith College of Music at St. Paul. I’m graduating this spring with my bachelors in music business and a minor in vocal performance. I also intern at a Minneapolis-based artist development company, Proud Honeybeee Productions.

How long have you been performing? I’ve been performing since high school. I grew up in Fergus Falls, Minn., where the only performance opportunities were the once-a-month open mic and the school talent shows. I didn’t have much experience when I moved to Fargo, so I ended up playing the Red Raven open mic a lot. That’s kind of where I consider to have grown up performance-wise.

What inspires you? Lyric-wise, I’m mostly inspired by my own experiences. Most of these experiences are relationship related, and (I’ll admit) I do write a lot of love songs. Musically, I’m inspired by my fellow musicians. I’ll go to a show or listen to a new album and suddenly feel an uncontrollable urge to borrow an idea I hear. You’ll probably recognize a lot of Regina Spektor, Tori Amos, and Imogen Heap in my music, but I’m also inspired by artists like the Tallest Man on Earth, Sage Francis and Menomena.

What can we expect to hear on your newly released CD? My new CD is comprised of 10 songs dealing with different facets of love: falling in love, falling out of love, being in love, wishing you were no longer in love.

If you could perform anywhere, where would it be? I lived in Los Angeles last summer while interning at a publishing company called Bug Music. I went to a few shows at the Hollywood Bowl. It’s a huge outdoor amphitheater. I’d love to play there some day.

If you could perform with any artist who would it be and why? There are far too many wonderful artists but I think it’d be Kristian Mattson, who goes by the moniker the Tallest Man on Earth. His music has been such an inspiration to me.

What is your most played song on your iPod or computer? It’s actually a Tallest Man on Earth song!

When you like a song, is it because of the music or the lyrics? A song can’t truly touch my heart unless it has great lyrics, so ultimately it’s the lyrics that determine a song’s longevity in my iPod. I have been known to enjoy pop songs, but they never last long in my playlists.

Do you seem to favor male or female singers? I think I’ve always favored male singers, and my iPod is proof of that. Male singers outnumber female by at least three to one.

When you have a song in your head, is it the singer’s voice you hear or your voice singing the song? I’ve never thought about it, but I do believe it’s the singer’s voice I hear when a song is stuck in my head.

What other upcoming performances do you have after the Red Raven? We actually return to the Twin Cities the day after we play at the Red Raven to play a show at Sauce Spirits and Grodzbar in Minneapolis. We’re hoping to play Fargo again sometime in the summer so keep an eye out for us!

The show costs $5 at the door and is for all ages. Free entry will be granted if you purchase her newly released album “Smallest Bones.”

George can be reached at georgean@mnstate.edu

Sarah Winters will be performing songs from her new album with her band at the Red Raven this Saturday.

Controversial music icon less than wows

BY JENESSA MCALLISTER
Copy Editor

He’s been titled everything from a drunken Casanova by Perez Hilton, to one of the greatest guitarists of all time by Rolling Stone magazine. No matter what he’s called, John Mayer has made himself known in the music industry, as well as the Hollywood scene itself.

Last Thursday, pop artist John Mayer visited the FargoDome for a concert on his “Battle Studies” tour. Through guitar solos and laid-back vocal performances, Mayer wowed some but potentially put others to sleep.

In anticipation of the appearance of the so-called “heartthrob,” the audience was treated to the upbeat opening music of Michael Franti and Spearhead.

Franti’s music is described as everything from rock to reggae. Franti’s “everybody love everybody” attitude was felt by the crowd as he danced around the stage, and through the entire auditorium, interacting with the audience. The band ended the opening set with their Billboard hit, “Say Hey,” during which they invited children onto the stage.

The positive energy in Fargodome was used for Mayer’s first song, “Heartbreak Warfare,” which began with a dazzling video and lights show.

From that point on, the mood seemed to become more calm and low-key. Audience members began to take their seats, something not common at a top artist’s concert.

Perhaps more suited for a coffee shop or study session, Mayer’s guitar skills were impressive but failed to move the crowd. Engaging in personal discussions with neighbors, the audience appeared somewhat bored with his song which seemed like 10-minute-long solos.

For someone with such a negative image in the media, one would think that a performer would try to impress the crowd. Often what makes a performer more personable is conversation with the audience. There’s something about hearing about a celebrity’s “real life” between songs that makes them seem like a real person.

Some of Mayer’s scattered dialogue between songs included the reading of several signs in the crowd. In reaction to one, he hopped off stage to kiss a woman in the front row. He also mentioned the so-called way he came up with one of his songs, “Half of My Heart.”

“I had to buy fridge magnets for a friend, and on the way home from the store the package fell on the ground and words spelt out the phrase for this next song,” he said.

Mayer and his band played Journey’s popular “Don’t Stop Believing,” which, ironically, was one of the only songs to get the crowd on their feet and dancing. Perhaps some of the most impressive people to step on the stage were Mayer’s band members, including percussionist Steve Jordan, who performed a crowd-thrilling, five-minute-long drum solo. Another notable member of the band is former Pretenders guitarist Robbie McIntosh. The 53-year-old shocked the crowd with his skills on the guitar.

Mayer and his band impressed those who are fans of his music, but his performance failed to increase his large group of followers. McAllister can be reached at mcallistje@mnstate.edu

George can be reached at georgean@mnstate.edu

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George can be reached at georgean@mnstate.edu

Sarah Winters will be performing songs from her new album with her band at the Red Raven this Saturday.

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING THIS WEEK?

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‘Dragons:’ good, even for college kids

Owe that little niece or nephew of yours some time out and about? Take them to “How to Train Your Dragon.” The movie previews don’t do the action film justice. It may be a cartoon, but the story line is good, and the characters are funny. And yes, they will make you laugh-out-loud.

The flick opens with Viking people fighting dragons because they keep stealing their food. The dragons are a variety of colors, shapes and sizes, creating great imagery and making it fun for your eyes to follow.

As the film progresses, we get to know the main character Hiccup, voiced by Jay Baruchel, and his shortcomings according to the village and his father, Chief Stoick, voiced by Gerard Butler.

During the night of fighting dragons, Hiccup takes his catapult and launches a trap at the Night Fury, a rare dragon that no one has even seen. As Hiccup watches the Night Fury fall to the ground, he cannot wait to tell his father. When no one believes him, Hiccup treks over to where the dragon fell, determined to kill him and bring a piece back to prove to the village that he is strong and worthy.

But as Hiccup finds out, he cannot kill the Night Fury and after awhile the two become friends.

“How to Train Your Dragon” is a different kind of hero story. It’s about sticking up for yourself and others, helping one another and following your heart.

The action is amazing and keeps your eyes moving while your brain questions what is going to happen next.

The ending will give you a bit of surprise. And for those out there who like tear-jerkers, you might feel a couple trickling down your check.

As you watch, some of the characters’ voices will sound familiar, being played by well-known actors America Ferrera, Jonah Hill and Christopher Mintz-Plasse. Their voices match up with their characters, adding a bit of flare to complete the storyline.

What I do not recommend is seeing the film in 3-D. Nothing, and I mean nothing, pops out at you or falls around you. The only thing that the 3-D does do is make you wish you didn’t have to wear these glasses that are giving you a headache.

For those of you who think you’re too old to watch a cartoon movie in the theater, you’re not. And if you’re too prideful to go with a bunch of friends, find a little one and take them, they’ll love you for it.

Boasting dazzling animation, a script with surprising dramatic depth, and thrilling 3-D sequences, How to Train Your Dragon soars.”

Rotten Tomatoes, online review site

JADE PRESENTS .com

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JEWEL • TUESDAY, JUNE 1 • ALL AGES • FARGO THEATRE
KEVIN NOBLE • SATURDAY, JUNE 5 • AGES 21+ • THE AQUARIUM
GREAT WHITE • FRIDAY, JUNE 18 • AGES 21+ • THE VENUE
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BOASTING DAZZLING ANIMATION, A SCRIPT WITH SURPRISING DRAMATIC DEPTH, AND THRILLING 3-D SEQUENCES, HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON SOARS.”

Rotten Tomatoes, online review site

BY ANNA GEORGE
A&E Editor

George can be reached at georgean@mnstate.edu
Despite having their own field this year, the women’s softball team has had a hard time putting wins together. The team is on a 13-game losing streak after losing all four of their games this past weekend.

The Dragons lost both double-headers. St. Cloud outplayed the team 2-7 in the first game and 0-2 in the second. Concordia-SP defeated the Dragons 5-9 and 2-5. The losses bring the team’s record to 2-22 overall and 0-8 in the conference.

Head coach Kristin Boyes said that the team has had challenges recently in games. “We struggled last weekend,” Boyes said. “We had some good practices going in, but we struggled during the games and didn’t score as many runs as we had before.”

Junior Katie Howland agreed with Boyes, saying that the team hopes to improve during practice. “We have a good idea of what we need to get better at,” Howland said. “There are some good practices going in, but we struggled during the games and didn’t score as many runs as we had before.”

One area the Dragons have been able to benefit from this year is the use of their home field. Last year, the team was unable to practice or play on their field for nearly the entire season due to extreme weather conditions and flooding, but this year the team has been able to get out on the field and practice skills they are unable to practice inside.

“It’s been better for us, having the opportunity to get some practice on our field and play a couple of games on our home field already,” Boyes said. “Being able to be outside, we’ve been able to do a lot more defensive work than we have in the past. Defense has been one of our main focuses the past couple of weeks now that we’ve been able to be outside. It’s also been nice to practice catching ground balls and fly balls and dealing with different weather conditions, like if it’s raining or cold.”

Howland added that playing home games on their own field has been encouraging for the team. “I think that it is refreshing to have your own fans in the stands,” Howland said. “It kind of brings a sense of pride too. It actually feels like you are a real team. Last year it felt like we were all over the place. It was so crazy, this year feels a lot more solid.”

Despite a rough beginning, the Dragons still have high hopes for the rest of the season. Boyes said that the team hopes to finish the season in the top half of the conference and Howland added that to do so they will have to work hard.

“Game to game, we want to be the first team to score runs and stay ahead,” Howland said. “We need to pull our defense up and try and stay strong.”

The team’s next home games will be this Saturday and Sunday in two double headers, one against Upper Iowa and the other against Winona State.

BY TIM STULKEN
Sports Editor

Stulken can be reached at stulketi@mnstate.edu

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Last year, the softball team was unable to play on their field for most of the season due to harsh weather conditions and flooding.
The 2009-10 tennis season for the MSUM Dragons is quickly coming to a close. Even though it has been an uphill battle, Coach Gary Harris said that he is happy with the results that the team has turned up so far.

"Last year we had a very young team," Harris said. "This year, it has gone up to a moderately young team. The players have really improved since last year, and I feel that we are on schedule for a better season and we should see great things from them in future."

Harris said that everyone on the team has contributed and he is proud of the entire team.

"There’s not just one or two players that you can pick out from the group," Harris said. "If you want to be successful, everyone has to contribute, and that is just what the entire team has done."

The NSIC tournament is quickly approaching for the Dragons tennis team. The Dragons only have one more meet before the tournament on April 24. Harris is optimistic about this season’s end, and is looking forward to watching his team progress.

"They take the top eight teams for the tournament," he said. "Last year, we just missed it, placing ninth. Even then we lost three or four matches by a score of 5-4, and we could have easily gotten in. Recently we had a couple of good matches against conference teams Crookston and Bemidji. I believe that we have a good shot this Wednesday against Northern State, and I have a feeling the team is going to be in."

The team has experienced some tough times throughout the season, but these are obstacles that the team has gotten over.

"You learn something every time you go out," Harris said. "We have a great group working hard to stay on track. They are at a level that I knew they could be at and it’s just a great group of students. Everything is turning out as I thought it would."

The team heads over to Concordia to take on the Cobbers on Monday, their last meet before the NSIC Tournament.

Head coach Gary Harris coaches his team at Courts Plus in Fargo. The team ends its season April 24.
Unity hits local campuses

Advocate Staff Reports

For the past 13 years, MSUM has hosted the Unity Conference, providing a forum for discussion and celebration of Latino culture and issues.

This year, MSUM and Concordia will collaborate in presenting the 14th Unity Conference today and tomorrow, April 15-16, corresponding with the ending of Diversity Week at MSUM.

The theme for this year’s conference is “Latinas Adelante: Breaking Barriers, Keeping Traditions.”

Today’s sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Student Union. MSUM professor Dr. Kenyon Williams will heat things up with his live band, “Soulsa de Fargo” will follow with lessons from 8:30 to 10 p.m. and a dance from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., in the CMU with special guest Slammin’ Sammy K.

Free refreshments and snacks will be served.

The Friday sessions will run from 9:20 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Concordia in the Knutson Center.

The conference will include six presenters, lectures, panels on Latinos and entertainment. Topics will include human trafficking, traditional Mexican healing practices, linguistics in the context of women’s identity, gendered notions of war from the Mexican Revolution of 1910 to the present day, financial aid for college and others.

Students from Concordia, MSUM, MSCTC and NDSU may attend free on either day. Registration is necessary and you may register by telephone, fax or e-mail.

Wellness summer charge eliminated

BY MEGAN NITSCHKE

Following spring break, Student Senate approved a $0.25 increase in the Wellness Center fee, which will prevent the summer Wellness charge that has been $20 a month.

“All students going from spring to fall semester will get to use the Wellness Center for free in the summer,” said Heath Butrum, Student Senate president.

The increase is set at $0.25 per credit hour up to 12 credits. This is in addition to the $180 Wellness fee paid per student per year.

After Senate approved the increase, it was brought to President Edna Szymanski, who also approved it.

Butrum said that the summer Wellness Center fee has been a high complaint among students.

“My fellow senators and I have been trying to keep the fee down for students,” Butrum said.

Butrum also added that “A lot of people were angry during the summer,” Butrum said.

“After Senate approved the increase, it was brought to President Edna Szymanski, who also approved it,” Butrum said.

Butrum said that the summer Wellness Center fee has been a high complaint among students.

“You may register the day of the conference but meals are not guaranteed. A form is available on the Web site also.”

Organizacion Latina Americana is hosting the event and are still in need of volunteers. To volunteer your time or get more information visit www.mnstate.edu/unityconference.2010.cfm.

Sororities in service

Monday sparked Greek Week on campus. Two sororities call MSUM home: Delta Zeta and Gamma Phi Beta.

“We are all holding different events throughout the week,” senior Stephanie Morse of Delta Zeta said.

Delta Zeta held a pancake feed on Tuesday in the CMU.

“This was our third year doing it,” Morse said. “We usually hold it at our house, so we tried a new venue.”

Five dollars got you all-you-can-eat pancakes, eggs, sausage and orange juice.

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Tour guides work to attract students

BY KRISTINE KOSTUCK
Staff Writer

For most MSUM students we have become accustomed to the busy hallways, the long lunch lines and the dorm rooms. However, to the incoming college freshmen, all of this can seem overwhelming, not to mention deciding what college is best to attend. This is why the admissions office is seeking friendly, outgoing students to give campus tours to prospective freshmen.

“I remember I picked MSUM because of the tour I was taken on,” said Jesse White, an MSUM junior and campus tour guide. His tour was given by an energetic faculty member, who walked him through every dorm and building. White says that he made campus seem like a fun place and that he did not have this kind of experience when he toured other campuses.

Tour guiding is the perfect way to get to know campus. Guides become familiar with other students as well as the layout of the school. Lacey Nygard, a MSUM sophomore, started giving tours her freshman year shortly after she began college and said these very reasons are why she became a guide. She also mentioned that it is a quick, easy way to make money. For Nygard, giving tours is fun because she enjoys being around people. As a mass communications major it only makes sense.

“It’s a really fun job,” she said. “I really like getting to meet the families, seeing what they are interested in and if our campus has what they are looking for.”

White later became a tour guide after becoming an MSUM ambassador, which at the time was a needed requirement before becoming a guide. But now President Szymanski wants to give any student a chance at becoming a guide. She saw this as the perfect opportunity to have a variety of experiences shared with prospective students.

Being a tour guide is a great way to recruit students to the school by showing your passion for the campus. If you are interested in becoming a guide, applications are available in the admissions office. An interview will later follow the process, in which students will have to give a practice tour and communication skills will be tested by making small talk with the faculty.

Students also must maintain a 2.5 GPA and be aware of campus activities and groups, as well as the Fargo-Moorhead community. It is recommended you are currently involved in a campus organization. Being prompt when giving a tour is also expected, so there is plenty of time to greet the prospective students and their families.

Campus tours are given twice a week at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The guides are also expected to participate during campus events such as the Student Academic Conference, Opening Convocation and others that draw crowds to the campus. Each tour given is paid by the hour.

Kostuck can be reached at kostuckr@mnstate.edu
Wellness, Front Page

Campus who are already paying for (the Wellness Center) on campus who are already paying for those fees are going to be able to come in and either participate in competitions or just use the facilities. One point was given each time a student swiped their card to enter the Wellness Center. Five points were given for other events such as participating in “Cycle to the Cities.” “2010 minutes of Fitness” and using the rock wall. There was also a hall dodgeball and volleyball tournament, in which first place was awarded 25 points, second place 10 points and third place five points.

The winner was determined on Sunday with Snarr taking first with 2,290 points. Second through fifth place was: John Neumaier with 2,286, Dahl with 2,274, Nelson/Grantham with 2,211 and Ballard with 2,080. Snarr will be presented Neumaier with 2,286, Dahl with 2,274, Nelson/Grantham with 2,211 and Ballard with 2,080.

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We are definitely going to do this again next year,” Guilfoile said. With attendance higher, Guilfoile said he thinks the percentage will stay about the same. “People who were unsure of it are now familiar with it and will continue to come,” he said.

Some new changes have also come to the Wellness Center. Last summer, students required to pay $20 per month to use the facilities. Some new changes have also come to the Wellness Center. Last summer, students required to pay $20 per month to use the facilities.

Some ways students can get involved in this particular event are by attending the event itself or participating in the Walk the Dragon part of the event. Students are encouraged to show up at Nemzek at 9 a.m. Saturday for registration.

Peterson said that anyone can attend the walk and can show up on the Saturday for $25. Participants will get a T-shirt, participate in the door prize drawings and support athletics.

Peterson encouraged students to get involved and support athletics in one of the campus’s largest events of the year.

Exam Jam will be from 4-8 p.m. with the band The Fillers performing from 5-8 p.m. as well as free massages during that time. Other activities will be a Wii, free food, fitness assessments by personal trainers, equipment demos and rock wall challenges.

“The Exam Jam is what we really want people to come to,” Guilfoile said. To view the Wellness Center’s hours and class schedules, go to www.mnstate.edu/hendrix/wellness. They are also available on Facebook and Twitter by simply searching “MSU Wellness.”

Anderson can be reached at anderseri@mnstate.edu

Every year, we’ve tried to get bigger and better,” Peterson said. “Right now we are one of the largest events at MSUM. It’s going to be a fun time and the more people we have the better it will be.”

Stulken can be reached at stulkenj@mnstate.edu

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