

“Hell is hot, don’t be a T.H.O.T”



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

TikTok sensation Sister Cindy stopped by Minnesota State University, Mankato on Tuesday to spread controversial messages about the Bible during her ‘Ho No Mo’ revolution.

Sister Cindy’s annual visit draws crowd

By JULIA BARTON
Editor in Chief

Christian evangelist and social media sensation Cindy Smock, better known as “Sister Cindy,” and colleagues made their annual visit to

Minnesota State University, Mankato Tuesday to preach controversial messages about the Bible.

Affiliated with The Campus Ministry USA, Sister Cindy’s presence attracted hundreds of students with her

Christianity-based outlandish phrases and claims.

She gets attention wherever she goes.

“Today I will be slut shaming and calling out the hoes, but as you know, I am not the ultimate judge. Jesus Christ

is the ultimate judge and he is going to judge according to what is written in [The Bible],” Smock said. “Hell is hot, don’t be a T.H.O.T.”

What she called “The Ho No Mo Revolution,” the

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Haven’t you “herd” about Mankato’s student section?

By EMMA JOHNSON
News Director

Students hear them before they see them. Decked out in the latest game day theme, the MSU Herd brings the school spirit to every Minnesota State University, Mankato sporting event.

The Herd began in the fall of 2019. Back then, student attendance at football games was sparse. While they hoped to build their numbers, the pandemic’s arrival diminished The Herd’s numbers. But when things began opening up, The Herd began to grow. President Lauren Letnes said The Herd’s main goal for this year is estab-

lishing The Herd’s presence at games.

“We want to build our membership and make it bigger rather than the more secluded student section. We want to let people and the campus community know who we are,” Letnes said.

Vice President Jaegar Cossette says students should get involved with The Herd to create an inclusive culture for sporting events.

“I want [The Herd] to be people that you know down in the student section, everyone’s cheering towards one goal and everyone’s super friendly. At a school like this where our sports

are so good and we’re placing top five or 10 in the nation, it should almost be mandatory that we have an outstanding student section,” Cossette said.

With 27 current members, The Herd is also looking to recruit new members and designate certain people for specific sporting events in order to create a legacy.

“We want to serve as a community for the people who don’t always get recognition. For example, when was the last time you heard of a student section at swim meets? I think it’s a big thing for us that we’d like to do at sports games and how we can

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DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

MSUHerd members Cameron Jahns and Carson Louis hype up the crowd.

Biden to storm-ravaged Florida: 'We're not gonna leave'



STEVE HELBER • Associated Press

Water floods a damaged trailer park in Fort Myers, Fla., on Saturday, Oct. 1 after Hurricane Ian passed by the area. Hurricane Ian has resulted in at least 79 people confirmed dead, including 71 in Florida.

By JOSH BOAK and SEUNG MIN KIM
Associated Press

President Joe Biden surveyed the devastation of hurricane-ravaged Florida on Wednesday, promising to marshal the power of the federal government to help rebuild as he comforted local residents alongside Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, a potential 2024 foe.

Both men declared they were putting politics aside for now.

"Today we have one job and only one job, and that's to make sure the people in Florida get everything they need to fully, thoroughly recover,"

Biden said in this southwestern Florida community that bore the brunt of Ian's assault.

"It's going to take a hell of a long time, hopefully without any snags in the way," he said. "Later, after the television cameras have moved on, we're still going to be here with you."

Earlier, DeSantis and his wife Casey greeted the president and first lady Jill Biden as they arrived at Fisherman's Wharf, where homes and business lay in ruins amid debris and muck after Hurricane Ian tore through last week.

Biden and DeSantis spoke by themselves next to a boat the storm had lifted into a cafe, then moved separately among local residents hit hard.

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64-year-old covered various topics which mostly revolved around sex and the value of abstinence until marriage.

"This is what the bible says about the beautiful hoes. A beautiful ho is like a gold ring in the nose of a pig," Smock said. "A bible verse a day keeps the hoes away."

Admitting she used to be far from pious, she shared her own experience.

"I used to be a low low ho back in the 70s where we were the peak of the sex revolution," Smock said. "Then I found Jesus."

Sister Cindy aims to get anyone and everyone to listen to her message using inflammatory language.

"She goes out to all these universities and gets attention. That is what she is seeking, and it obviously works because we have such a big crowd here," said MSU sophomore Jenna Moseng. "She has a very extremist view on the Bible and says that certain things in the Bible are sinful actions."

Spreading like wildfire, a crowd gathered on the lawn

just minutes after Sister Cindy's arrival.

"YikYak told me she was coming and I heard she is a crazy lunatic so I wanted to come out and see what she is about," freshman Andrew Stewart said.

Getting a vocal reaction from the crowd, her statements about what is sinful had students talking.

"I think she is saying some valid stuff. I think it's a little excessive but that is just how she is. She's in the home of the Kato Clap and Mav Rash, so I don't think what she is preaching is working," freshman Ahmed Hassan said.

According to Southern Minnesota News, Blue Earth County ranked #1 in the state for chlamydia based on a study published in August 2020. Her late husband, Jed Smock (Brother Jed,) usually partnered with her on her tours around the U.S. However, he passed away in June. They were married 39 years.

Sister Cindy appeared at the University of Minnesota on Monday. Wednesday, they visited St. Cloud State University.

US hits record \$31 trillion debt

By FATIMA HUSSEIN
Associated Press

The nation's gross national debt has surpassed \$31 trillion, according to a U.S. Treasury report released Tuesday that logs America's daily finances.

Edging closer to the statutory ceiling of roughly \$31.4 trillion — an artificial cap Congress placed on the U.S. government's ability to borrow — the debt numbers hit an already tenuous economy facing high inflation, rising interest rates and a strong U.S. dollar. And while President Joe Biden has touted his administration's deficit reduction efforts this year and recently signed the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, which attempts to tame 40-year high price increases caused by a variety of economic factors, economists say the latest debt numbers are a cause for concern.

Owen Zidar, a Princeton economist, said rising interest rates will exacerbate the nation's growing debt issues and make the debt itself more costly. The Federal Reserve has raised rates several times this year in an effort to combat inflation.

Zidar said the debt "should encourage us to consider some tax policies that almost passed through the legislative process but didn't get enough support," like imposing higher taxes on the wealthy and closing the carried interest loophole, which allows money managers to treat their income as capital gains.

"I think the point here is if you weren't worried before about the debt before, you



SUSAN WALSH • The Reporter

President Joe Biden listens to doctors speak during a meeting of the reproductive rights task force in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022.

should be — and if you were worried before, you should be even more worried," Zidar said.

The Congressional Budget Office earlier this year released a report on America's debt load, warning in its 30-year outlook that, if unaddressed, the debt will soon spiral upward to new highs that could ultimately imperil the U.S. economy. In its August Mid-Session Review, the administration forecasted that this year's budget deficit will be nearly \$400 billion lower than it estimated back in March, due in part to stronger than expected revenues, reduced spending, and an economy that has recovered all the jobs lost during the multi-year pandemic.

In full, this year's deficit will decline by \$1.7 trillion, representing the single largest decline in the federal deficit in

American history, the Office of Management and Budget said in August. Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget said in an emailed statement Tuesday, "This is a new record no one should be proud of."

"In the past 18 months, we've witnessed inflation rise to a 40-year high, interest rates climbing in part to combat this inflation, and several budget-busting pieces of legislation and executive actions," MacGuineas said. "We are addicted to debt."

A representative from the Treasury Department was not immediately available for comment.

Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at Loyola Marymount University, said "it took this nation 200 years to pile up its first trillion dollars in national debt."



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Musk Twitter turnaround reflects legal challenges



SETH WENIG • Associated Press

Trading in shares of Twitter was halted after the stock spiked on reports that billionaire Elon Musk would proceed with his \$44 billion deal to buy the company after months of legal battles.

By MARCY GORDON
Associated Press

Elon Musk's sudden about face on a \$44 billion agreement to acquire Twitter, reversing an earlier attempt to rescind that offer, came as a surprise even from the mercurial billionaire who loves to shock.

It sent shares of the social media platform soaring Tuesday and stoked alarm among some media watchdogs and civil rights groups about what

kind of free speech will flourish on Twitter under Musk. Yet the legal challenges faced by Musk in the three months since he announced that he intended to back out of the deal continued to mount, increasingly closing off avenues of escape for the Tesla CEO.

Gambles, missteps, and potential reprieves that failed to pan out, weakened an already dicey case for withdrawal. And then there is the potentially embarrassing deposition scheduled for Thursday.

HERD from page 1

participate in doing that with the school which I think is super cool," Cossette said.

At almost every game, The Herd designates a specific theme for the game. In years past, themes have ranged from wearing MSU colors to Halloween costumes to keeping it classy by wearing formal outfits to the game. Cossette and Letnes said keeping the game themes fresh and interesting brings people out to the games.

"Obviously it's fun to go out and wear school colors and all that, but it's also super fun to go out to Party City and get an all green theme. I think keeping it original, new and fun is a big thing," Cossette said.

"Themes also get people to go to games that they necessarily wouldn't be excited about. Nobody knows about Bowling Green, but if we put a theme in there, people get a little bit more excited about the night," Letnes said.

Herd-wrangler Carson Louis said that being involved with The Herd gives students an opportunity to get loud and proud about MSU.

"[The Herd] is for people who want to go to the games but feel like they don't have anyone to go with. We're that fail-safe. Just come up and hang out with The Herd," Louis said.

Just like athletes, The Herd has a typical routine for game day. For football games, the group gets together before the

game to tailgate and recruit potential members.

"We'll get together before and tell students about what our group does and then half an hour before the game starts, we'll make our way to the front row and start talking to people and see if everyone's getting excited. Throughout the game, we lead different chants," Louis said.

The chants are what the student section is known for in getting the crowd and players motivated.

"My favorite chant is when the Mavericks go on the powerplay and we do the sex chant. We spell out sex and then 'score score score, shoot to score, score to win, win to get laid.' That's a mainstay at hockey games," Louis said.

Game day can bring students together for the sake of showing school spirit and The Herd tries to do just that by uniting the student body. The Herd wants students to come down, say hi and share any ideas with them this year.

"People like to have fun, but they don't like to escape their comfort zone. Hopefully, when [students] see us, it makes them feel more comfortable to get out there and go have some fun," Louis said.

For students who want to become involved with The Herd, students can either attend their meetings every other Thursday at 5 pm in CSU 201 or message them on Instagram at msu_theherd.

New senators join Student Government



JULIA BARTON • The Reporter

Jordan Muller (left) and Abbey Andre were appointed as senators at the Student Government meeting.

By JULIA BARTON
Editor in Chief

Jordan Muller and Abbey Andre were named to the Student Senate Wednesday's Student Government meeting. Andre was appointed as the at-large Residence Community Senator and Muller the at-large Off-Campus Senator.

"I'm excited to start some projects and work with President Zellmer and other senators," Muller said. "Affordable housing and access to transportation and representing off-campus students are things I am looking forward to."

Muller had two others that ran against him which included Sydney Dumond and Doyle Bilise.

Andre, a freshman from Sioux Falls, S.D., was also sworn in. "I am excited to help out students and be able to help out with accessibility issues," said Andre.

In other news, David Wing, the president of Turning Point USA and College of Humanities and Social Sciences senator, addressed the senate regarding the allegation at last week's meeting involving TPUSA and claims of inequality.

"These allegations are ab-

solutely against what we stand for. We pride ourselves on creating a space for people of all backgrounds to converse civilly about the issues facing our nation," said Wing.

Last week a teaching assistant from the Communication Studies program told senators two of her students were told they would be denied access to Turning Point USA because they weren't American. Wing denied the claims, saying they vehemently oppose such behavior.

Bennett Hanson announced his resignation as At-Large Residence Community Senator.

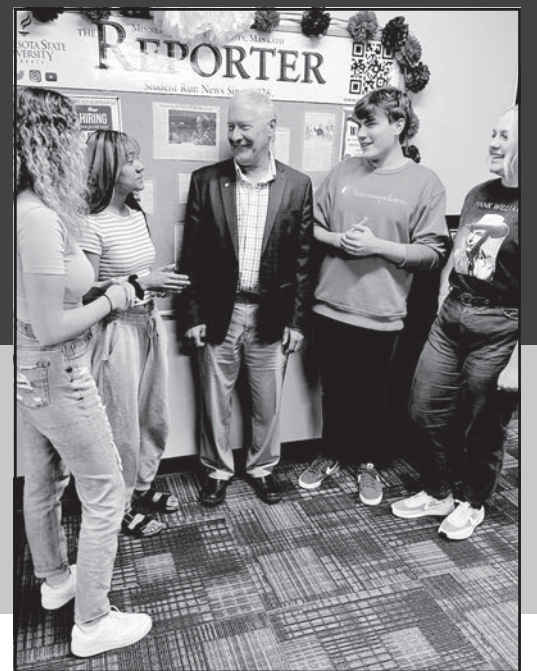
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Lawsuit settled, film may resume after Baldwin shooting



JAE C. HONG • Associated Press

This aerial photo shows part of the Bonanza Creek Ranch film set in Santa Fe, N.M., on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021, where cinematographer Halyna Hutchins died from a gun fired by actor Alec Baldwin.

By ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

The family of a cinematographer shot and killed by Alec Baldwin on the set of the film "Rust" has agreed to settle a lawsuit against the actor and the movie's producers, and producers aim to restart the project in January despite unresolved workplace safety sanctions.

"We have reached a settlement, subject to court approval, for our wrongful death case against the producers of Rust including Alec Baldwin," said a statement Wednesday from Matthew Hutchins, widow of the cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and a plaintiff in the lawsuit along with their 9-year-old son Andros. "As part of that settlement, our case will be dismissed. The filming of Rust, which I will now executive produce, will resume with all the original principal players on board, in January 2023."

The agreement is a rare piece of positive news for Baldwin, who has had a turbulent year since the Oct. 21 shooting. The actor, who was also a producer on the film, was pointing a gun at Hutchins when it went off, killing her and wounding the director, Joel Souza. They had been inside a small church during set-up for filming a scene.

He announced the settlement agreement in an Instagram post.

"Throughout this difficult process, everyone has maintained the specific desire to do what is best for Halyna's son," Baldwin said in the post. "We are grateful to everyone who contributed to the resolution of this tragic and painful situation."

Baldwin has said the gun went off accidentally and that he did not pull the trigger. But a recent FBI forensic report found the weapon could not not have fired unless the trigger was pulled. New Mexico's Office of the Medical Investigator determined the shooting

was an accident following the completion of an autopsy and a review of law enforcement reports.

"I have no interest in engaging in recriminations or attribution of blame (to the producers or Mr. Baldwin)," Matthew Hutchins said in the statement.

"All of us believe Halyna's death was a terrible accident. I am grateful that the producers and the entertainment community have come together to pay tribute to Halyna's final work."

Rust Movie Productions continues to challenge the basis of a \$137,000 fine against the company by New Mexico occupational safety regulators who say production managers on the set failed to follow standard industry protocols for firearms safety. The state Occupational Health and Safety Review Commission has scheduled an eight-day hearing on the disputed sanctions, starting April 12, 2023. It was not immediately clear whether filming of "Rust" can resume before workplace sanctions are resolved.

"We're not characterizing this as uncooperative," said Matthew Maez, spokesman for the Environment Department that enforces occupation safety regulations. "They're going through the process as they have a right to. ... They have not paid the fine or accepted the conclusions."

In April, New Mexico's Occupational Health and Safety Bureau imposed the maximum fine against Rust Movie Productions and distributed a scathing narrative of safety failures, including testimony that production managers took limited or no action to address two misfires of blank ammunition on set prior to the fatal shooting. Rust Movie Productions told safety regulators that misfires prior to the fatal shooting of Hutchins did not violate safety protocols and that "appropriate corrective actions were taken," including briefings of cast and crew.

Indonesia mourns soccer disaster

By AGOES BASOEKI and
EDNA TARIGAN
Associated Press

An Indonesian police chief and nine elite officers were removed from their posts Monday and 18 others were being investigated for responsibility in the firing of tear gas inside a soccer stadium that set off a stampede, killing at least 125 people, officials said.

Distraught family members were struggling to comprehend the loss of their loved ones, including 17 children, at the match in East Java's Malang city that was attended only by hometown Arema FC fans. The organizer had banned supporters of the visiting team, Persebaya Surabaya, because of Indonesia's history of violent soccer rivalries.

The disaster Saturday night was among the deadliest ever at a sporting event.

Arema players and officials laid wreaths Monday in front of the stadium.

"We came here as a team asking forgiveness from the families impacted by this tragedy, those who lost their loved ones or the ones still being treated in the hospital," head coach Javier Roca said.

On Monday night, about a thousand soccer fans dressed in black shirts held a candlelight vigil at a soccer stadium in Jakarta's satellite city of Bekasi to pray for the victims of the disaster.

Witnesses said some of the 42,000 Arema fans ran onto the pitch in anger on Saturday after the team was defeat-



ACHMAD IBRAHIM • Associated Press

Supporters of soccer club Arema FC pray for the victims of Saturday's soccer match stampede outside the Kanjuruhan Stadium in Malang, Indonesia that left over 100 people dead due to being trampled.

ed 3-2, its first loss at home against Persebaya in 23 years. Some threw bottles and other objects at players and soccer officials. At least five police vehicles were toppled and set ablaze outside the stadium.

But most of the deaths occurred when riot police, trying to stop the violence, fired tear gas, including in the stands, triggering a disastrous stampede of fans making a panicked, chaotic run for the exits. Most of the 125 people who died were trampled or suffocated. The victims included two police officers.

At least 17 children were among the dead and seven were being treated in hospitals, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection said. Police said 323 people were injured in the crush, with some still in critical condition.

National Police spokesperson Dedy Prasetyo said Malang police chief Ferli Hidayat had been removed along with nine members of an elite police mobile brigade and face possible dismissal in a police ethics trial.

He said 18 officers responsible for firing the tear gas, ranging from middle- to high-ranking, were being investigated.

Police are questioning witnesses and analyzing video from 32 security cameras inside and outside the stadium and nine cellphones owned by the victims as part of an investigation that will also identify suspected vandals, he said.

The parents and other relatives of Faiqotul Hikmah, 22, wailed Monday when an ambulance arrived at their home with her body wrapped in white cloth and a black blanket.



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Nobel Prize given to 3 chemists who made molecules 'click'



CHRISTINE OLSSON • Associated Press

Hans Ellegren, centre, Jonas Aqvist, left, and Olof Ramström, announce the winners of the 2022 Nobel Prize in Chemistry during a press conference at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

By DAVID KEATON, FRANK JORDANS and CHRISTINA LARSON
Associated Press

Three scientists were jointly awarded this year's Nobel Prize in chemistry on Wednesday for developing a way of "snapping molecules together" that can be used to explore cells, map DNA and design drugs that can target diseases such as cancer more precisely. Americans Carolyn R. Bertozzi and K. Barry

Sharpless, and Danish scientist Morten Meldal were cited for their work on click chemistry and bioorthogonal reactions.

"It's all about snapping molecules together," said Johan Aqvist, a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences that announced the winners at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. Sharpless, 81, who previously won a Nobel Prize in 2001 and is now the fifth person to receive the award twice, first proposed the idea

of connecting molecules using chemical "buckles" around the turn of the millennium, Aqvist said.

Meldal, 68, based at the University of Copenhagen and Sharpless, who is affiliated with Scripps Research in California, independently found the first such candidates that would easily snap together with each other but not with other molecules, leading to applications in the manufacture of medicines and polymers.

Seoul's reprisal blows up after North Korean missile success



South Korea Defense Ministry via AP

An Army Tactical Missile System or ATACMS, missile is fired during a joint military drill between U.S. and South Korea at an undisclosed location in South Korea following North Korea's successful launch.

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

A malfunctioning South Korean ballistic missile blew up as it plowed into the ground Wednesday during a live-fire drill with the United States that was a reprisal for North Korea's successful launch a day earlier of a weapon that flew over Japan and has the range to strike the U.S. territory of Guam.

The explosion and subsequent fire panicked and confused residents of the coastal city of Gangneung, who were already uneasy over the increasingly provocative weapons tests by rival North Korea.

Their concern that it could be a North Korean attack only

grew as the military and government officials provided no explanation about the explosion for hours.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said no injuries were reported from the explosion, which involved a short-range Hyumoo-2 missile that crashed inside an air force base on the outskirts of the city.

A Joint Chiefs of Staff official, who spoke on condition of anonymity during a background briefing, said the missile's warhead didn't explode during the crash and that the fire was caused by burning rocket propellant.

The official said the missile fell soon after liftoff and that no civilian facilities were affected.

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Julia Barton
Editor In Chief

Emma Johnson
News Director

Lilly Schmidt
Variety Editor

Prioritize and Organize

Planners are always a great way to stay on task throughout the busy school year. But let's be honest, most students only stick to it for maybe a few weeks. It's important to keep track of your assignments, meetings and events so you don't miss a deadline or fall behind in a class. We, as students, can use these tools to organize our school work.

One way to stay organized is by utilizing organizational applications. Most of us have some form of technology that is able to download apps such as Google sheets, Outlook or the reminders app.

These apps are some of the most popular and user-friendly tools that can help optimize schedule planning. Google Sheets is useful for those who use google apps such as Google Docs and Google Drive frequently. Since they all are branches of the same application, it is very convenient to throw in assignment deadlines. Its function to organize by date, time or subject is a unique feature that allows easy adjustments.

Outlook calendars are another great tool. They are best for organizing events or meetings. This application reminds you of meetings 15 minutes before you need to attend. It can also send out invites, allowing invitees to mark "yes" or "no." This way you can get a headcount and know beforehand who is coming. Invitees also get a reminder 15 minutes prior to the meeting to reinforce attendance.

Lastly, a staple is the reminders app. Already pre-downloaded for all iPhone users, this app is an easy way to check tasks off your list. It is as simple as saying "Hey Siri, remind me to..." It adds that task to a list that you are able to then later check off.

Alternatively, if being forewarned of upcoming events feels overwhelming, a classic checklist on your notes or on a checklist app can be a more self-controlled version that doesn't require going through a program to see.

If virtual schedules aren't your thing, some old fashion tools include sticky notes, planners and just "winging it" and remembering it all in your head. Sticky notes and planners are good ways to reinforce memory as it has been proven that writing out deadlines helps you remember them better than if you were just to speak or type them out.

This week marks the halfway point through the fall semester. Making sure to plan our days, weeks or months accordingly is key to staying on track and reaching our highest potential as MSU students.

Perspectives

Why we say silence equals death



By JEREMY REDLIEN
Staff Writer

Content note: the following column deals with the topics of suicide and mental health.

I can still clearly remember the night I killed my cousin Austin Rogers. I remember the sick desperation I felt trying to hide his body. The gut wrenching fear I felt at that time that I would be discovered as a murderer still feels real to me now.

When I woke up the next morning, that fear was

still with me. Most nightmares end instantly when one awakens. At least for me they usually do, I assume that's true for others. But that morning it took me a while to come back to reality.

There was a period of several horrifying moments, while I had to carefully check my inventory of memories for me to fully remember the truth.

My cousin Austin Rogers was dead, but he had died by suicide and not at my hands.

I don't need to be psychoanalyzed though to un-

derstand why that particular nightmare had felt so intensely real or why it had taken me so long that morning to come back to reality.

When you lose a loved one to suicide, the guilt never really leaves you. At least that was my experience.

My cousin Austin was a movie buff. Many a family gathering were spent by us talking through the merits of David Lynch or debating what films deserved the accolades they had received. He was an excellent guitar play-

COLUMN on page 7

Pulse

"How do you de-stress during midterms?"

Compiled by Bisrat Tadesse



BIRUK MENGESHA,
SOPHOMORE

"Meditate."



NAHOM
HAILEMARIAM,
SOPHOMORE

"Pray."



BEN MANGEL,
SOPHOMORE

"Spend time with friends."



DANIEL NICOSIA,
SOPHOMORE

"Getting enough sleep and eating healthy."



EMMA ZELLMER,
SENIOR

"I watch reality TV."



IDMAN IBRAHIM,
SENIOR

"I sleep."

Letter to the editor

MSU should recognize neurodiversity

As a Graduate Assistant in the Department of Sociology, I strive to stimulate the “quality of mind” that C. Wright Mills termed “the sociological imagination,” that is, “the capacity to shift from one perspective to another.” And as founding president of the Neurodiversity Activists and Senator of Graduate Studies in Student Government, my mission is, in the words of queer autistic scholar Nick Walker, “to shift the prevailing culture and discourse away from the pathology paradigm and toward the neurodiversity paradigm.” Basically, I guide the university community to recognize that neurological diversity is, to quote Walker, “a natural form of human diversity, subject to the same societal dynamics as other forms of diversity.”

Indeed, just as BIPOC students, in attempting to cope with institutional racism, acquire racial battle fatigue, neurodivergent students, in attempting to cope with institutional neuralism, acquire neurological battle fatigue. If you have never heard of these italicized words, I do not blame you; for I invented them in the spring of 2021 after personally observing (and enduring) the phenomena. Unfortunately, in the year and-a-half since the terms’ coinage, this university has only made things worse for neurominorities on campus, namely by continuing to support the presence of Applied Behavior Analysis, or ABA, which many of my neurokin have nicknamed “Autistic conversion therapy,” and for good reason.

As I wrote in my first Letter to the Editor (LTE) of the MSU Reporter on April 26th, ABA was pioneered by UCLA psychologist O. Ivar Lovaas in the early 1960s to make autistic kids “indistinguishable from their peers.” Like a vast majority of today’s so-called “experts” on Autism, Lovaas and his autistophobic colleagues operated under the assumption that there is one “normal” neurology, which is just as bigoted as believing that there is one “normal” sexuality. It is only fitting that Lovaas later co-founded the government-funded Feminine Boy Project, which sought to convert queer kids into straight kids.

So you see, conversion therapy for LGBTQIA+ people is just ABA imposed on gender, sexual, and romantic minorities. And conversion therapy for autistic and otherwise neurodivergent people is just ABA imposed on neurominorities. Indeed, the queer movement and the Neurodiversity Movement are both fighting for the abolition of the same thing; they just don’t know it yet.

Over the last six months, I have worked tirelessly to organize, unify, and mobilize the queer and neurodivergent communities to flip the Minnesota

Senate and pressure the Legislature to pass a comprehensive ban on all forms of conversion therapy in Minnesota. Hence my organization’s partnership with the Jim Chalgren LGBT Center to co-host Nick Walker herself this past April, my MoveOn petition entitled “Ban Autistic Conversion Therapy in Minnesota,” my LTE of the Mankato Free Press, my guest appearances on the Triple Falls Podcast and Radio Mankato, the online panel discussion I organized with Jorn Bettin of AutCollab to commemorate the 5th International Day of Protest Against ABA, and my plea to MSU to prohibit Caravel Autism Health, an ABA-based business, from exhibiting at the 2022 Career & Internship EXPO on October 19th.

On October 18th, Walker will return to MSU via Zoom from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm to discuss the need to ban ABA, among other things. Proponents of ABA have already given me, an actually autistic graduate student who’s more than familiar with the topic, quite a bit of grief over my opposition to ABA, going so far as to falsely claim that my protests are racially motivated. To clarify, there are innumerable neurodivergent people of color around the world who are also anti-ABA due, in part, to the fact that they view the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) as yet another manifestation of colonialism, which aligns with Indigenous autistic author Jules Edwards’ assertion that ABA “is forced assimilation, reminiscent of the boarding school era.”

There are many other things that can be said about ABA, including the fact that there are now several studies and reports to the government proving the practice causes post-traumatic stress and, contrary to pro-ABA rhetoric, lacks the credible evidence to justify its existence. Ultimately, this issue boils down to just one question: “Who gets to decide what behaviors are healthy or unhealthy?” Gay behaviors were pathologized by the World Health Organization (WHO) until May 17th, 1990.

Medical homophobia may have persisted for 150 years, but my people cannot wait that long for the university to officially recognize neurodiversity and publicly apologize for perpetuating systemic neuralism; for we live roughly 25 years less than the neuromajority and are about 10 times more likely to die by suicide due to being subjected to ABA abuse. Indeed, how can we fulfill our commitment to attend classes at a university that continuously fails to fulfill its institutional commitment to provide “a healthy and safe environment” for all of its students? Surely, Minnesota’s Best university can do better.

Bruce Wenzel

◀COLUMN from page 6

er who also loved video games.

My last memory of Austin was of him playing the guitar at his mother’s birthday party.

We were outside at Arnold Lake and he was standing on the other side of a fire, strumming along beside his Uncle Todd while his mother was on vocals.

Silence equals death has been a rally cry for the LGBTQ community since ACT UP activists began using it during the AIDS crisis.

The origins of the phrase lie in reference to the silence of the government during the AIDS crisis and the refusal of government officials to properly address the HIV pandemic.

But the phrase is in many ways incredibly versatile. Silence for the LGBTQ community is a form of death in so many ways.

So many of us are forced into the silence of the closet, which in turn, forces so many of us into quiet death spirals that end with the worst possible outcomes.

Suicide is a problem that particularly affects the LGBTQ community. According to the Trevor Project, LGBTQ youth are up to four times more likely than other teens to attempt suicide.

Also according to the Trevor Project, more than half of transgender and non-binary youth have “seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year”.

Mankato is no stranger to the problem of suicide. In 1999, Minnesota State University Mankato Student Paul E. Spencer III committed suicide

at the Rapidan Dam.

I first came across references to Spencer’s passing while going through the LGBT archives in the library. Most of the details I found initially were confusing with contradictory claims about why and how Spencer died.

One claim I found was that he had been the victim of a possible hate crime.

Jennifer Heimer was a friend of Spencer and spoke to me about her memories of him and helped clarify a few details.

“Paul was very out. He wore makeup. He was not afraid to be who he was and he was also hilarious, we just really had a great time” said Heimer. “We would hang out, sometimes on the weekends and just do stupid stuff. He was going to college, but had real highs and lows I didn’t know about.”

According to Heimer, the reasons behind Spencer’s suicide were not straightforward and his mother’s death when he was about 12 or 13 was an important factor as well.

“I always thought it had more to do with his mom and everything that was going on were her. I do remember that there were some incidents at his house,” said Heimer. “There were people there who were not so accepting.”

Of course, people not being accepting of Spencer did not stop him from being open about who he was.

“When I think of him that’s what I think of, that he was the first outwardly gay person that I was really good friends with,” said Heimer. “We just

didn’t talk about it [back then] and Paul did. Paul was fine with it.”

I of course think it’s important that we break the silence around suicide.

Part of breaking the silence obviously must mean better informing ourselves about the world in order to protect ourselves from it, just as ACT UP activists pushed for during the AIDS crisis.

It also must mean being more honest about who we are and speaking out against injustices in this world too as well as building community and connecting with one another.

When I last saw my cousin Austin, I wish I had asked him how he was doing. I mean I assume I did ask him in a “was-sup” kind of way like people do when the first see each other.

But I know I didn’t ask him about the difficulties he was facing like dropping out of college, given how clear his mental health was deteriorating. Instead we just hung out like we usually did at family gatherings.

It’s perhaps arrogant to assume that by really trying to talk to him about the struggles he was having at the time, I might have pulled him back from the ledge he’d been on. It feels hubristic to think that I alone could have saved him.

But I still wish I had asked him, really asked him, how he was doing that night. It might not have succeeded in saving him but it still might have broken the silence just a little bit.

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SPORTS

Mavs open season against No. 2 Gophers

By KARSON BUELOW
Staff Writer

After a tough exhibition game loss at the hands of the unranked University of Nebraska-Omaha, the #5-ranked Minnesota State University Mankato men's hockey team is prepared to kick off their regular season action this weekend against the #2-ranked University of Minnesota. The Mavericks will make the drive up I-169 to Mariucci Arena in Minneapolis on Friday night before returning to Mankato for a Saturday-night tilt.

This weekend will mark meetings 62 and 63 all-time between the two storied opponents and their last meeting since Minnesota State handled Minnesota 5-1 in last year's Frozen Four. But Maverick fans shouldn't be quick to label this weekend's series as they lost two scorers from last year's meeting and will be facing a younger, much more talented Gopher team in addition to several returning elites.

Taking a look at the Gopher roster, it becomes very apparent at the collection of talent they've been able to recruit: junior defenseman Brock Faber, freshman forward Logan Cooley, and sophomore forward Matthew Knies, among others. Minnesota State head coach Mike Hastings commented on this talent and how the Mavericks have been planning to contain it.

"With it being the first game of the season, we have a lot on our own plate," Hastings said. "We have to make sure we're defending and bringing it to their players. If we give them too much time and space, especially on an olympic sheet, they can



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Minnesota State University, Mankato Mavericks will play the University of Minnesota this Friday at Mariucci Arena in Minneapolis, Minn. at 7 p.m.

make it count."

Mariucci Arena is one of the few arenas in all of collegiate hockey that still uses an olympic sheet of ice. Compared to a standard sheet of ice, an olympic sheet is wider, giving more room to maneuver, but forcing skaters to skate more.

Senior Maverick forward Sam Morton commented about skating on an olympic sheet this Friday and how much of a difference it makes. "It's a bigger sheet and that makes a difference, and it's something we'll see a little bit this year in other places like Northern and St. Cloud," Morton said.

Regardless, the Mavericks

seem to be energized and excited heading into the first series of the season. And while last weekend's tough loss at the hands of Omaha has provided a plethora of learning opportunities, Hastings also believes there's a lot to be proud of.

"Between Adam Eisele and the play made by Luc Wilson, I thought our freshmen showed themselves well," Hastings said. "The energy is good. Every time we play the University of Minnesota, the guys are excited."

Starting this year, the Mavericks are experiencing partial déjà vu from last year, opening on the road against a top ranked opponent. And as Hastings ex-

plained, the players seem excited and rejuvenated to turn the page and get the season rolling once again.

"I think it's definitely an easy game to get excited for," Morton said. "But I think there's a fine line between being excited and being over-excited. We're obviously taking it seriously and we're excited but just playing it like any other game."

Minnesota State will travel to the University of Minnesota on Friday to take on the Gophers for their first series of the year before heading back to Mankato on Saturday for game two. Start times are 7 p.m. on Friday and 6:07 on Saturday.

Football set to have epic match up against the Wildcats

By CHARLIE GROEBNER
Staff Writer

After an exciting 25-15 victory against the University of Concordia-St. Paul Golden Bears up in the Metro area, The Mavericks return home for a brief pit stop as there is still work to be done.

This week they are once again back on the road as they prepare to take on Wayne State at Bob Cunningham Field on Saturday, Oct. 8 at 1 p.m. The last time the two teams squared off was last year in which the Mavericks would blow a seventeen-point lead as the Wildcats would score 28 points in a fourth-quarter comeback at Blakeslee Stadium.

This year, the Mavericks look to redeem themselves after last year's embarrassing loss and defeat the Wildcats as they celebrate their Homecoming week. Riding a two-game win streak, all eyes are focused on the task that is on the horizon. True freshman quarterback Camden Dean is certainly focused on the team and admits that there is still a lot of improving to do.

"It wasn't a pretty win, but as a team, we did what we needed to do. I made some mistakes and really have a lot to work on and get better on," said Dean. "In the end, I did all I could to try and help get us into that position, but still, need to be better and improve my play."

Last week the Wildcats would suffer their first loss of the season after blowing a fourteen-point lead in the second quarter and allowing the Winona State Warriors to score 24 unanswered points in the fourth quarter in a 38-14 loss. This week they look to bounce back from last week and cap off their homecoming week with a win over the Mavericks.

A majority of the team's roster from last year is making an encore performance this time around. Including the Wildcats sophomore quarterback Nick Bohn, who currently has eight touchdowns and

"A little something to prove," Mavericks vs Bulldogs

By KOLE BUELOW
Staff Writer

Revenge is sweet, and the Minnesota State University, Mankato women's hockey team has a chance at revenge this weekend in their two-game series against Minnesota Duluth.

"Going up to Duluth, we have a little bit of beef with them. They knocked us out of the playoffs last year, so I think everyone's really excited to get up there and play them again. We have a little something to prove to our friends up north," Claire Butorac, senior forward for MSU, said.

After dropping their first two opening games of the season to the No. 1 ranked Ohio State Buckeyes, Minnesota State is now looking forward

to No. 4 Minnesota Duluth. The UMD Bulldogs are riding an undefeated start to the season ahead of their match up against the Mavericks, where they have taken down the likes of Long Island University, St. Lawrence, and Penn State.

On the other hand, the Mavs started off their season 0-2 but showed signs of improvement from last year's 15-19-1 team. Only losing by one to the top team in the nation in both games was a massive step forward from being outscored 4-27 by Ohio State in four meetings last year.

Despite coming out winless against OSU, the Mavericks were proud of how they played but are ready to get back to work for another top-five matchup.

"I think we had really good



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Minnesota State University, Mankato Mavericks will play the University of Minnesota, Duluth Bulldogs this Friday at Amsoil Arena in Duluth, Minn.

energy and effort. Coach always talks a lot about making sure that we put our best foot out there and control what we can control, and that's one of

his big things is controlling the energy and effort," said Butorac. "So I think we did a really good job. We played fast

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FOOTBALL on page 12 ►

Senior Spotlight: Jenny Vetter



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Jenny Vetter, a Mankato native, has been playing for the Minnesota State University, Mankato since 2018.

By HAYDEN LEE
Staff Writer

Jenny Vetter, a senior at Minnesota State University, Mankato and a biomedical science major, is one of the team's star soccer players. Vetter has a very impressive resume; she has played a big part in the team's success since 2018 when she was a freshman. Vetter also played in all 23 matches as a freshman and has started in all matches since 2019. In 2019, she joined Amber Dusosky as the only two players to score 20 goals in a season for the Mavericks.

Vetter, a Mankato native, is the first Maverick selected to the CoSIDA All-American First Team three times. Other on-field accomplishments include USC All-American First Team, the D2CCA Central Region Player of the Year and NSIC Offensive Player of the Year, as well as the NSIC Tournament MVP. However, this year she shattered yet another record becoming the record holder for most game-winning goals (20) in MSU women's soccer history. Vetter's impressive resume is not exclusive to her on-field performance, as she has also been a member of the NSIC Fall All-Academic Team for three

straight years, dating back to her breakout 2019 season.

This hard-working student athlete grew up watching MSU soccer as a ball girl during her youth in which she idolized the players.

"I am very passionate about anything I choose to do. I feel like I am a pretty good teammate, I really try to be a positive leader," Vetter said.

Growing up she not only played soccer, she also participated in basketball and track.

"I started basketball a little earlier, and then started running track in junior high. I did also run track for MSU in my freshman year — I just did the 60 and lung jump. But after that year I was just ready to start focusing more on soccer," Vetter said.

Connecting with her teammates and coaches, Vetter values the impact they've made while at MSU.

"At MSU it's kind of like one big family. We have a larger team, but we still find a way to make everyone feel included in and buy into what we are doing. To have all of those friendships and support around me has meant a lot," Vetter said.

Regarding her record-breaking goal, Vetter actually didn't

think much about it.

"I knew that I tied the record last year, but at the moment it didn't even cross my mind. The thrill of the game and winning that game was just on my mind at that time. My sister, who is also an assistant coach for the team, came up to me and congratulated me on the record. It had completely slipped my mind, but it was a very special game to do it in, and it set a good tone for this season," Vetter said.

As for the team, Vetter is optimistic about this year's season.

"Our main focus is taking it one step at a time, and taking the regular season conference championship, that is something we haven't done in my time here yet. But after that, winning the tournament, and then advancing far into the NCAA's tournament," said Vetter.

Outside the world of soccer Vetter has plans to become a doctor and apply for medical school if she doesn't continue to play after this season. Enjoying her Mocha from Dunkin' Donuts or visiting the local Coffee Hag, Vetter is a very special senior that is undoubtedly in the spotlight this season.

NCAA steering farther and farther away from harsh penalties



MICHAEL CONROY • Associated Press

Signage at the headquarters of the NCAA is viewed in Indianapolis, March 12, 2020.

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

The days of postseason bans and crippling scholarship reductions to punish schools for breaking NCAA rules appear to be winding down.

Memphis was placed on three years of probation earlier this week with a public reprimand and fined for NCAA violations related to the recruitment and short college career of James Wiseman, who is about to start his third season with the Golden State Warriors. The NCAA also wrapped up an investigation of Air Force football for breaking the COVID-19 recruiting quiet period.

No postseason bans or scholarship reductions in either case. The Independent Accountability Review Panel, the NCAA's outside arm of enforcement, said in its decision in the Memphis case that it did not want to punish current athletes.

That sentiment is widespread in college athletics these days, even with millions of dollars suddenly flowing to athletes from various sources for their celebrity endorsements amid concerns over improper inducements. In fact, it is on the way to being codified: Last month, the Division I Board of Directors adopted three proposals to change the infractions process.

The board also committed to "identifying appropriate types of penalties and modifying current penalty ranges, including identifying potential alternative penalties to postseason bans."

Trying to predict what those alternatives will be is difficult, but if the goal is to avoid harming athletes and others who were not involved in the violations the options are limited.

"I emphatically believe it's the wrong direction to go," said Nebraska law professor Jo Potuto, who spent nine years on the NCAA's Committee on Infractions in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

"If you're going to deter, the punishment has to fit the offense, right?" Potuto added. "You're not going to deter serious violations with penalties that are not perceived to be really serious."

Since January 2020, there have been at least 45 major infractions cases decided by the NCAA. Of those, at least 15 involved Level I allegations, the most serious and those carrying the most severe penalties; six cases resulted in some kind of postseason ban, with four of them self-imposed.

The Memphis case went through the IARP, which was created in response to the FBI's investigation of college basketball corruption but is now being discontinued. Sunsetting the IARP was among several recommendations put forth by the NCAA's Division I Transformation Committee earlier this year and recently adopted by the board.

As college sports moves toward less centralized governance by the NCAA and deregulation in general, the hope is to create a more streamlined enforcement process.

If justice is swift, the thinking goes, it is more likely to be applied fairly.

"The reality is the current system is broken," said Atlantic Coast Conference Commissioner Jim Phillips, a member of the transformation committee. "I think everyone in the association, in the enterprise, understands it. When (an investigation) takes the amount of time that it does now and you start to penalize young men and women that were high school, if not middle school-age (when the violation occurred), it's not an effective process."

The IARP is still handling cases stemming from the FBI probe involving Louisville, Arizona, Kansas and LSU.

Those have been in the NCAA enforcement pipeline for years. A related case against Oklahoma State did not go through IARP and the Cowboys did end up with a postseason ban.

◀HOCKEY from page 10

and we played really physical, which is needed in our league."

When asked about what the team could do better, Butorac kept it simple.

"Obviously to win a game you gotta score goals. You gotta score more goals than they score. So I would say just finishing in front of the net, we had a few chances in the last couple minutes of both games to either tie it or win the game by one. So I think we really just need to bear down and finish in front

of the net this weekend for sure."

The Mavs' freshman class along with incoming goaltenders Lauren Barboro and Alexa Berg, stepped up in the absence of fellow teammates this past weekend. The two netminders recorded 71 saves, while freshman forward Taylor Otremba earned her first career point on an assist to Butorac.

Minnesota State will have to lean on their depth again this weekend, but Butorac is confident in her new teammate's abilities against a

strong Bulldogs team.

"All of them did phenomenal," said Butorac. "They really took their roles and ran with them. As far as what they bring to our team. They bring a lot of energy and push us to be better every day. Having them around in the mix makes everyone better because you gotta fight for your spot within your team."

The Mavericks will have to bring their "A-game" yet again this weekend against a tough Bulldogs team, but they are as ready as they ever will be.

Big Ten West teams are mild, but division could be wild

By ERIC OLSON
Associated Press

The Big Ten West is a mess. It's also mesmerizing.

Wisconsin and Nebraska already have fired their head coaches. Minnesota took up the mantle as West favorite, only to be upset at home. Illinois, picked sixth, is one of the hottest teams in the nation after outscoring two nonconference opponents and Wisconsin by a combined 89-13.

Even Nebraska, an after-thought coming into the season, ended a nine-game losing streak against Bowl Subdivision opponents and suddenly thinks it could make a run.

Six teams are 1-1 in conference play and tied for first place, the first time since the 2014 East-West split that one of the Big Ten divisions has had such a logjam.

Preseason favorite Wisconsin, which has won four of the eight West titles, is alone in last place at 0-2 and rebooting with defensive coordinator Jim Leonhard taking over as interim coach following Sunday's firing of Paul Chryst.

While the East has three teams in the top 10, the West has no one close to being in the AP Top 25. Minnesota is ninth



KAYLA WOLF • Associated Press

Illinois head coach Bret Bielema watches before an NCAA college football game against Wisconsin, Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022, in Madison, Wis.

among the 15 teams receiving votes. Minnesota could still lay claim to the favorite's role after losing 20-10 to Purdue without star running back Mohamed Ibrahim. The Gophers have an open date this week before play-

ing at Illinois on Oct. 15, and they should have Ibrahim back from an ankle injury.

"There's so many veterans on this team that they know what's ahead of them," Gophers coach P.J. Fleck said. "They know that

one loss doesn't affect everything."

Wisconsin, Northwestern and Iowa are the only teams to have won West titles. More teams than ever appear to have chances to contend in the divi-

sion this year.

"Any year is a favorable year for it to be in some disarray, especially when you start 1-3 (overall)," Nebraska linebacker Chris Kolarevic said. "If we handle our business and we control what we can control, we can end up where we wanted to be at the beginning of the season, and that would be amazing."

Second-year coach Bret Bielema has turned Illinois into one of the nation's surprises. Last week's 34-10 win at Wisconsin, where Bielema was coach from 2006-12, was the Illini's first in Madison in 20 years.

"I was very excited to beat Wisconsin at Wisconsin, but it wasn't a ranked opponent," Bielema said. "There weren't two ranked teams on the football field. It was two good teams that fought it out and battled it out. But we came here to be ranked. We came here to win championships. We came here to play at the highest level."

Home games the next two weeks loom large for the Illini. First up is defending West champion Iowa on Saturday night in a matchup of top-10 defenses and then comes the showdown with Minnesota.

Purdue looks to follow up its win at Minnesota with a victory at Maryland.

FOOTBALL from page 10

only two interceptions on the year alone.

On the defensive side for Wayne State, Senior Linebacker Jaylan Scott and Sopho-

more Defensive Jaxson Johnson currently lead the team in sacks and tackles for loss.

This year they are truly becoming a one-two punch that helps make plays on the Wild-

cat defense.


Even with having to go on the road back-to-back, the team is not changing the approach that they are bringing to the table. Dean along with

his teammates It's the next game on the schedule and it's important to remain focused.

"Our approach is just sticking to the gameplan that we have worked on with coaches

and not letting the effects of the road get to us. It's on us to make sure we're rested so that we can go out there, execute the plays, and get the win," said Dean.

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VARIETY

No longer able to play piano, still able to sing



AJAY KASAUDHAN • The Reporter

Guitarist Dex Wolfe plays alongside artist Freaque, who makes music despite spinal injury. Freaque shows MSU students that with passion, music is possible, even if it requires some reinvention.

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

In 2008, Gabriel Rodreick, also known as Freaque, broke his C5 vertebrae during a diving accident in Costa Rica. The spinal injury took away his ability to walk and move his limbs, but it did not take away his ability

to write songs. For the last 12 years, he has worked on creating new art and music.

Rodreick created a career for himself, going by a stage name.

“Since my injury, I’ve always felt a little on the outer fringes of society and feeling very different in my body,” said Rodreick.

These feelings were the inspi-

ration behind “Freaque.”

Yesterday, Rodreick performed at the Centennial Student Union Hearth Lounge at Minnesota State University, Mankato, for its Serendipity Music Series. He had his guitarist, Dex Wolfe, with him.

“Before my injury, I played piano for 11 years. My injury

took that ability away,” said Rodreick. “I eventually figured out that I can still make music. So I started singing and writing music using software programs such as Logic Pro, Ableton, and other software like that.”

The style of music Rodreick plays is dirt folk. Dirt folk is a synthesized sound featuring ele-

ments of bluegrass, rock, honky-tonk, folk and Americana. Some referred to it as “country music with attitude.”

“I like to think a lot of my music as dirt folk and like swampy, groove-based music as well,” said Rodreick. “So, like both of those combined is what

SING on page 14

Traversing the trails: hiker Emily Ford speaks at MSU

By LILLY SCHMIDT
Variety Editor

Hiker Emily Ford was on her own, mid winter, and fell through the ice on a trail. Falling through ice into freezing water can cause cold water shock or hypothermia, both of which can lead to death.

“When I’m in that moment, there’s really nobody else there to pull me out and dry me off. I’m the only one who can do that,” said Ford.

To make it out, she turned back the way she came.

“Turn around to the ice that was holding you once upon a time. If you have ice picks, put those in, or put your elbows on the edge and reach over. Kick your legs as much as you can. Get your body up on the snow,” Ford told a group of students at Minnesota State University, Mankato. “After that, the hardest part is rolling in the snow, because snowflakes are 90% air.”

After rolling in the snow, an individual can change out of wet



LILLY SCHMIDT • The Reporter

The first woman to hike the 1,200 mile Ice Age Trail, Emily Ford, shares the journey. Her genuine love of outdoors and her willingness to discover her personal strength made the journey possible.

clothes and warm up.

Although the situation may sound terrifying to some, Ford

explained how it enlightened her.

“It’s in moments like that. I

just did that. It’s minus 30 outside. I just fell through the ice up to my chest and dry the next

day,” she said. “I think it’s reaffirming that we are way stronger than we give ourselves credit for. All of you individually can conquer way more than you can ever imagine.”

Ford uses her strength to tackle incredible hiking trips. Ford is the first woman to complete Wisconsin’s Ice Age Trail — roughly 1,200 miles — and in the dead of winter. Completing the trail set an example she hopes others can see.

Ford visited Minnesota State University, Mankato Sept. 30 for a presentation about her experiences, and led a hike through Rasmussen woods the next day.

“[I] took myself and my borrowed sled dog 69 days in the middle of winter. We went [from the] end of December to March. It follows that story along in my relationship with Diggins [her dog] and the Ice Age,” Ford said about her Friday presentation.

“There’s this stigma that especially people of color, and women won’t go do solo trips

TRAILS on page 14

Student's photo gallery lights up Centennial Student Union



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Kyron Winfield captures photos in the moment, giving them an authenticity that he hopes to share with others.

By JOEY ERICKSON
Staff Writer

The Centennial Student Union building has a long history of showcasing students' artwork, and this semester is no different. Minnesota State University, Mankato senior Kyron Winfield showcased his striking photography all of last week, in a collection titled "Human Xenon."

Each of the 20 photographs shown in the gallery is a miniature time capsule, offering an in-the-moment view of everyday life and the unique, inimitable moments it can offer.

An art major with a concentration in photography, Winfield secured his spot in the CSU gallery through the Undergraduate Research Center. Winfield took an art program over the summer, allowing him to present his photo gallery in the fall.

Photography is a more recent development in Winfield's life, and a gift he realized he had thanks to his family and friends.

"Whenever someone was like 'Hey, can you take a photo of so and so' ... and I would take it and they'd be like 'Oh wow the composition is really nice!'" Winfield said.

"And then I found this random photograph of me in middle school holding one of those point-and-shoot cameras at a field trip ... and it inspired me to take it seriously and think about it some more," Winfield continued.

"Human Xenon" is the title of the photo collection, inspired by the periodic table element of the same name. Xenon is a gas that can be found in lots of light sources, such as headlights or camera flashes.

"It's a play on words, putting 'human' in front of it. It's shining that type of light on humans, so 'Human Xenon,'" Winfield said.

The common thread running through all the photos in the exhibit is an unmistakable sense of uniqueness; capturing a moment in time that will never happen again. The authenticity of the moments is what keeps Winfield motivated to continue snapping photos.

"There's photos in there that are completely unique that you'll never find anywhere else. Capturing that moment in space and time and trapping it and knowing we can't go back to that moment, really means a lot to me," Winfield said.

Because the photos are usually spur-of-the-moment deci-

sions, Winfield doesn't have a set process for how he takes his photos. Shooting the photos as he sees them contributes to the authenticity of the moment, a feeling near and dear to him.

"It's in the moment, that's what the whole thing is about. I really like the authenticity of it. Me, as a person, I really like original stuff, [and] not posing for the camera is as original as it gets," Winfield said.

Photography is proving to be successful for Winfield. After opening his gallery in the CSU, multiple people approached him asking if he was interested in showing his works elsewhere.

"I already have a few offers to put my photos in some other galleries downtown. The future is looking kinda crazy right now. Hopefully, I just get myself out there," Winfield said.

Despite the growing success, Winfield says that photography is ultimately a passion project and that having fun matters much more than any material object.

"It isn't really about the fame or money part... I really do this for me and the people I love. I hope my love for photography never runs out," Winfield said.

to produce and perform "A Cripple's Dance," one of Rodreick's projects. It is a piece of live music and dance performance. Musicians and dancers with SCIs might use the performance as a forum to examine the restrictions that their injuries have placed on them. The project got started by his love for dancing.

"I started that ['A Cripple's Dance'] because I just wanted to dance. I found myself really wanting to move a lot when I'm performing," said Rodreick. "I wanted to push into that way

of creating a little bit more."

One thing Rodreick hopes students took away from his performance is that "darkness isn't as scary as we think."

Students can find Rodreick's music on a few streaming platforms, such as Apple Music, Spotify, and Soundcloud. Rodreick also has a Patreon where people can give song suggestions and access some behind-the-scenes stuff. Furthermore, he has a newsletter where fans can sign up to get occasional emails and stay up to date with him.

Nobel win for unlocked secrets of Neanderthal DNA



HENDRIK SCHMIDT • Associated Press

Swedish scientist Svante Paabo stands by a replica of a Neanderthal skeleton at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, Monday, Oct. 3, 2022.

By PIETRO DE CRISTOFARO and LAURA UNGAR
Associated Press

Swedish scientist Svante Paabo won the Nobel Prize in medicine Monday for discoveries in human evolution that unlocked secrets of Neanderthal DNA that helped us understand what makes humans unique and provided key insights into our immune system, including our vulnerability to severe COVID-19.

Techniques that Paabo spearheaded allowed research-

ers to compare the genome of modern humans and that of other hominins — the Denisovans as well as Neanderthals.

"Just as you do an archaeological excavation to find out about the past, we sort of make excavations in the human genome," he said at a news conference held by Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig.

While Neanderthal bones were first discovered in the mid-19th century, only by understanding their DNA.

◀TRAILS from page 13

and be outside in the winter. And weird inequity in the outdoors still so much," Ford said. "I want to help break that barrier and push that through."

After sharing her experiences, she hoped to gain some friends for Saturday's adventure.

"People are afraid of being outside. I want to show that it's actually really fun," said Ford. "It's really beautiful. It's a space that A) doesn't really care much about who you

are; it's going to welcome you in, regardless, and B) that you deserve to experience such a beautiful place."

If students want to explore hiking, Ford recommended the Seven Mile Creek trail. If not, she encourages students to follow their own passions. "You have hopes and dreams tucked away in the middle of your hearts and minds. They seem unachievable, but if you just take a couple steps forward, it's super achievable. It's reiterated in my mind every time I go out and do a solo trip."

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◀SING from page 13

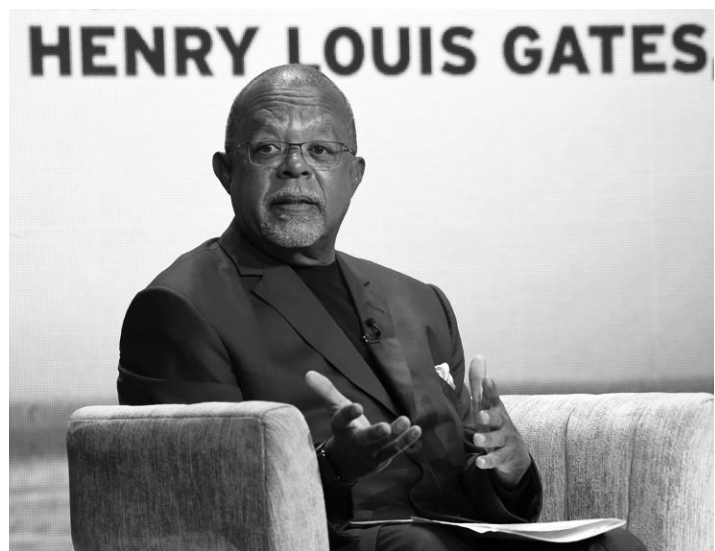
I think my music is."

Although Rodreick is an inspiration himself, he has his own.

"Another big inspiration of mine is Kendrick Lamar, specifically his song, 'To Pimp a Butterfly' and other artists similar to him."

Once Rodreick established his music, he took on another project—a group piece for people like himself. Individuals with spinal cord injuries (SCIs) and able bodies collaborated

PBS' 'Making Black America' details thriving while excluded



Chris Pizzello • Associated Press

Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., host and executive producer of the PBS series "Finding Your Roots," takes part in a panel discussion during the 2019 Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour in Beverly Hills.

By LYNN ELBER
Associated Press

America slammed the door in the face of Black progress time after time, and time after time African Americans responded by thriving in a society of their own making.

When Black doctors were excluded from the American Medical Association, they formed the National Medical Association in 1895. Black colleges, businesses, social groups and even fashion shows grew as alternatives to whites-only institutions and activities.

The result was a parallel "sepia world" in which Black lives and culture could flourish despite entrenched racism, says filmmaker and scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., who celebrates a history of resilience in "Making Black America: Through the Grapevine."

The four-part series debuting Tuesday on PBS (check local listings) and PBS online was produced, written and hosted by Gates, a steady chronicler of Black history and culture whose more than a dozen documentaries.

"Making Black America" is infused with Gates' self-de-

scribed optimism. But he considers it his "most political" series yet because it shows the "true complexity of the African American experience," he said.

"We need to have our self-image, our self-esteem affirmed, because so many actors in our society are trying to tear down our self-esteem, trying to tear down our belief in ourselves," he said.

Gates said the series is a rebuttal to what he calls the stereotype of a Black America consumed with white people and devoting all of its energy and imagination to fighting white supremacy.

"What you do with most of your imagination is you fall in love, you raise a family, you have children, you build social networks," said the Harvard University professor. "This is a demonstration of Black agency, the way we created a world within a world."

Gates compared the Black havens to those established by Jewish Americans and other ethnic groups when they were barred from employment, cultural institutions and other elements of U.S. society.

Low-income climate-fueled heat

By ANITA SNOW
Associated Press

Reggie Carrillo knows firsthand that where you live can determine how hot your neighborhood gets.

The environmental activist and educator resides in a largely Mexican American area of south-central Phoenix, where segregation once forced Black and Hispanic people to live south of the railroad tracks. More than a half century later, the historic lack of investment means fewer trees and subsequent temperatures 13 degrees F (7 C) higher than wealthier, leafier neighborhoods just a few miles away.

"To understand climate change, to understand the urban heat island effect, you have to understand the history," said Carrillo, who wants to share that knowledge with his neighbors and help cool the community.

Carrillo has benefited from one of several nonprofit initiatives popping up around the United States to educate and engage residents about climate-fueled heat that disproportionately affects low income neighborhoods of color.

Among the most ambitious is an Urban Heat Leadership Academy launched last year by the Phoenix Revitalization Corporation, a nonprofit community development corporation, and The Nature Conservancy. Better known for preserving natural areas, the nonprofit global conservancy is now also doing more work in urban areas like planting hundreds of trees and overseeing commu-



MATT YORK • Associated Press

Environmental activist Reggie Carrillo speaks with community members, Friday, Sept 28, 2022, in Phoenix. Carrillo has benefited from one of several nonprofit initiatives to educate about climate fueled heat.

nity gardens in Atlanta's South River neighborhood.

Held virtually on Saturday mornings with experts in various aspects of climate change, the course teaches residents like Carrillo not only why their communities are getting so hot but also how to organize and advocate for cooler, greener, healthier neighborhoods. Other topics discussed include water, air quality and environmental equity for poorer Black, Latino and Indigenous neighborhoods.

As climate change leads to more intense, frequent and longer lasting heat waves across the United States and around the world, historically temperate and even cold areas are grappling with the effects of high temperatures.

Gray, cool and drizzly much of the year, the Pacific Northwest roasted with triple digit temperatures during an un-

usual heat wave last summer that was blamed for numerous deaths. The temperatures in Oregon and Washington state soared back up into the 90s this summer, a sign that global warming has created a new normal for hot weather in the region.

The national nonprofit Trust for Public Land recently wrapped up a two-year initiative that used public art to raise awareness about the growing dangers of urban heat and spark conversation about extreme temperatures in low income communities of color.

They distributed "Seedlings" coloring books designed by local artists with messages in English and Spanish in the heavily Hispanic Fairhill neighborhood, and organized public art workshops on designing shade structures and mural painting in racially diverse Grays Ferry.

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