

Parking Lot 22 is free until Nov. 1

By AMALIA SHARAF
Staff Writer

Minnesota State University's Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee, along with the Student Government have extended free parking in Lot 22 for students, staff and faculty until Nov. 1.

Student body President Sierra Roiger said the initiative to offer additional free parking spaces was successful last academic year.

"The reason we continued it is that, last year, every day it was full and the people who can use the free lots," said Roiger. "And we were able to continue this because of the success of it last year."

Facilities Services Director David Cowan worked closely with the Student Government and supported the requests of student representatives. His and the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee's contribution made free parking lot available for students, staff and faculty.

"What we found last year, that was the first year of the experiment, is that enough stalls were emptying here that the people that used to be there, they either bought an Orange Permit for \$35 per semester or they're back to the old Lot 23 North and a Lot 23 South because they



DOMINIC BOTHE • The Reporter

Parking Lot 22 is currently free until November 1st, 2023 for all students as long as they are already signed up for Parking Lot 23. There is currently a push for this lot to be full for the remainder of the year.

were able to find empty spaces there, and then they would pick up a free bus ride to the campus," said Cowan. "So now we'll work again this year."

According to Cowan, free additional parking space helped manage the overflow of cars

parked in the traditionally free Parking Lot 23.

"We were able to take care of the beginning of fall semester surge pretty handily, giving people time to get their classes fixed and buy parking permits," said Cowan. "Many people wait

until the last minute to do these things, and parking is not on their mind."

"Student government has been fortunate enough to work with David Cowan in making sure that at least until Nov. 1 that it is free," said Roiger.

Mohammad Alam's journey to CSET Dean

By ANDREA SCHOENECKER
Staff Writer

Before continuing his career at Minnesota State, Mohammad Alam held positions as an academic administrator for over 20 years.

He started his career as an associate professor in 1997 at Purdue University, Fort Wayne.

"In 1997 I became a tenured associate professor. The following year I became a full professor in the Purdue system. I also served as a member of the graduate faculty at Purdue University, West Lafayette, and Indiana University Bloomington."

From there he continued his career in the US at various different universities before coming to Minnesota.

Engineering was not always in the plans for Alam but with the support and added motivation from his mother he continued to pursue a degree in engineering.

Alam is originally from Bangladesh and said individuals must pass exams to study medicine and engineering, both of which he was accepted into.

At the beginning of his academic studies, Alam almost left his place in engineering to pursue medicine.

"After my first week, I really didn't like engineering. So I wanted to go back to medicine," Alam said.

His mother, however, pushed him to continue to pursue engineering.

His mother's encouragement led him to the decision to major in electrical engineering.

"I always wanted to know how things work in engineering. So I approached or interacted with professors more closely compared to maybe my fellow students," said Alam.

Through his undergraduate studies, Alam found passion for educating others.

"During that time I had a lot of interest in educating engineers. When I finished engineering, I was interviewed and hired as a lec-

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Student Government encourages new ideas

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

While a new senator was appointed to the Student Senate and a coordinator position was adopted, there was tension at the start of Wednesday's meeting.

Senator Jeremiah Revere stood before the senate in an open forum as a "student, not a senator," he said, and spoke about an "incident of censorship" he experienced last week.

During vacancy elections for Residential Life, Revere asked a question as to why a prospective senator chose to attend Minnesota State.

The question was struck down by Speaker Douglas Roberts to, Roberts said, avoid personal bias which could lead to discrimination.

"Universities ... have been at the epicenter of open debate, challenging beliefs, and the nurturing of new ideals," Revere said. "The fear of diverging



NATHANAEL TILAHUN • The Reporter

Emily Dittrich was sworn in as the new Off-Campus Senator Wednesday. Dittrich said she could bring several perspectives to the table.

opinions could be strangling the very foundation of academic institutions."

Senator Revere left shortly after his statement.

President Sierra Roiger said in a statement, "We don't want or go out of our way to censor

anybody, but rather we want to make sure that we aren't discriminating against anyone for any reason. We are an organization that supports raising student concerns, student issues and student voices, so long as it doesn't put down other students or risk discriminating others."

Roiger said she encourages students to express their concerns in a respectful manner.

"At the end of the day, our hope would be that anyone who's got an issue or concern about anything happening, that they reach out to us via email, a phone call or stopping in the office so that we can work together to find solutions," Roiger said.

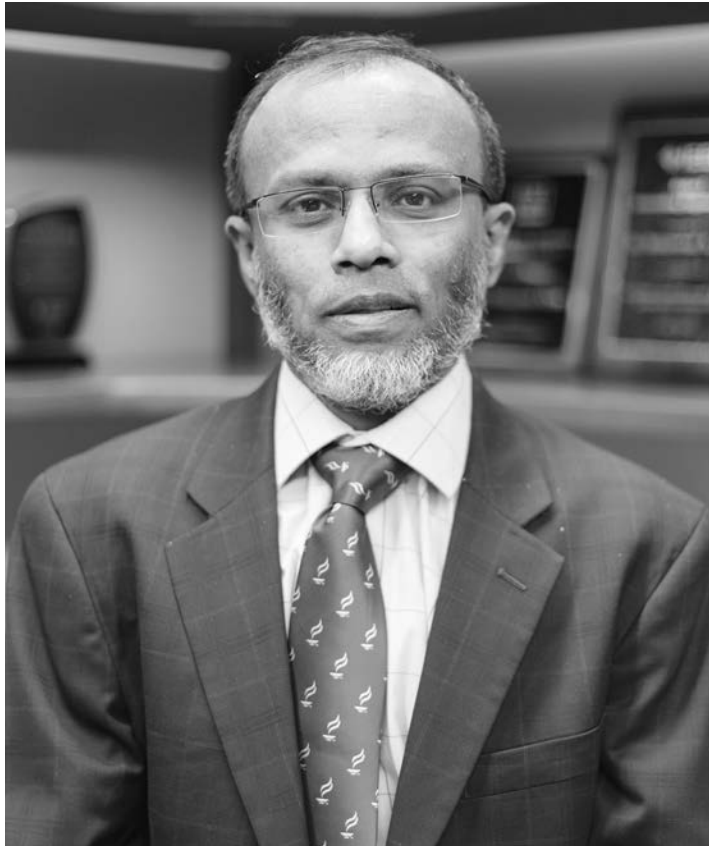
Non-traditional student Emily Dittrich was elected to campus as an off-campus senator.

Dittrich said her wisdom from being a non-traditional student and her perspective from being a student with disabilities would bring a lot to the table.

"I think I could bring a ... a perspective that maybe some of the students here haven't had the opportunity to explore yet," Dittrich said. "I feel like I represent several different sectors of the student body."

Dittrich said she wants to make an impact on students who are not involved in the Sen-

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DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

Mohammad Alam recently became the new Dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology at Minnesota State.

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turer in Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology,” Alam said.

After about three and a half years, Alam decided to pursue advanced studies.

He received a master’s degree in computer engineering from Wayne State University in Detroit and then finished his PhD at the University of Dayton in Ohio.

Through his time as an academic administrator, Alam has helped many people go through the programs he advised, saying “The thing that I liked the most is to interact with students and helping them to go through the program.”

Because of his dedication to helping students, he has helped close to 75 individuals graduate, with almost all of them being well established in the industry and academia.

Alam has made a huge effort in contributing to the success of first generation students.

“Most importantly, I work quite a bit with first-generation students, students from underrepresented groups,” Alam said.

He stated the best thing about being a professor is helping students go through the program and succeed.

Alam’s goals in this coming academic year is to understand the culture of the department and MSU.

“I’d be very interested to bridge the equality gap under the Equality Act 2030. We’ll also focus in that area to see how we can help students from the underrepresented group to go through the program with a successful degree so that they can embark on an academic career.”

◀STUGOV from page 1

ate. “I want to make sure that I’m bringing up issues that the senators here may not already know about by using my voice

to further advocate for them,” Dittrich said.

There is one vacancy for Reslife and two off-campus senators.

LGBT Center gets new director

By JEREMY REDLIEN
Staff Writer

Former Maverick and graduate of the communication studies program, Zeke Sorenson returned to Minnesota State University, Mankato, to run the Jim Chalgren LGBT Center, the second oldest center of its kind in the United States.

A row of superhero and fantasy themed bobble heads, along with a large figurine of the Hulk already adorns Sorenson’s office.

“My favorite series was the Hulk, Flash was also another favorite series of mine, along with Spiderman and The X-men,” said Sorenson.

As a student at MSU Mankato, Sorenson was able to see the value of advocacy work and applied that to his career after he left Mankato.

“I was here from 2006 to 2008, so I was here for two years,” said Sorenson. “I was fairly still in the closet at that time too, so coming to a campus where there was an LGBT center, that made a huge difference in me being able to accept that, and be more comfortable, and be more open, and really come out. It was something that even after I left MSU, that I didn’t hide anymore if I was asked.”

After Sorenson left Mankato, he was able to apply what he learned here from the LGBT center to his career after college.

“It helped me to realize the value of advocacy work. I really got into a lot of advocacy work, just from starting here. So for example, in Manhattan, Kansas I was part of the Flint



JEREMY REDLIEN • The Reporter

Former Maverick graduate student of the communication studies program Zeke Sorenson to run the Jim Chalgren LGBT Center.

Hills Human Rights Project,” said Sorenson. “We were able to pass a human rights ordinance that included sexual identity and gender identity as protected classes within the ordinance. So that was pretty significant.”

Sorenson cited his experiences at MSU Mankato and the ability to do LGBTQ advocacy as reasons for returning.

“For me this position checked all the right boxes. It was the ability to focus on just LGBT advocacy and be a support for LGBT students at an institution I have a lot of positive memories for,” said Sorenson.

Sorenson of course has some big plans for where the center could go.

“I’m trying to figure out what the issues are from the students’ perspectives, I’ve been sitting down with the students who frequented the center,”

said Sorenson. “I hope to bring in more students who may not come in more regularly, to get a chance to visit them, give them the opportunity to give feedback. A big bulk of this semester is just trying to feel that climate out.”

Specific plans include continuing previous programs, such as the drag shows and working with South Central Minnesota Pride.

“I’ve already heard from the students, they do not want the drag shows to go away,” said Sorenson.

However, Sorenson also laid out a few more ambitious ideas as well, including creating programs for LGBTQ youth in the area.

“Another big thing that I’d like to do is really connect with the high-school GSA’s and South Central College’s GSA, but really the queer youth of

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Lawsuit may bar Trump from running again

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI
The Associated Press

A liberal group on Wednesday filed a lawsuit to bar former President Donald Trump from the primary ballot in Colorado, arguing he is ineligible to run for the White House again under a rarely used clause in the U.S. Constitution aimed at candidates who have supported an “insurrection.”

The lawsuit, citing the 14th Amendment, is likely the initial step in a legal challenge that seems destined for the U.S. Supreme Court. The complaint was filed on behalf of six Republican and unaffiliated Colorado voters by the group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington.

It will jolt an already unsettled 2024 primary campaign that features the leading Republican candidate facing four separate criminal cases.

Liberal groups have demanded that states’ top election officials bar Trump under the clause that prohibits those who “engaged in an insurrection or rebellion” against the Constitution from holding higher office. None has taken that step, looking for guidance from the courts on how to interpret a clause that has only been used a handful of times since the 1860s.



ALEX BRANDON • The Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump speaks with reporters before departure from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

While a few fringe figures have filed thinly written lawsuits in a few states citing the clause, the litigation Wednesday was the first by an organization with significant legal resources. It may lead to similar challenges in other states, holding out the

potential for conflicting rulings that would require the Supreme Court to settle.

Colorado’s secretary of state, Democrat Jena Griswold, said in a statement that she hoped “this case will provide guidance to election officials on Trump’s

eligibility as a candidate for office.”

The lawsuit contends the case is clear, given the attempt by then-President Trump to overturn his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden and his support for the assault of the

U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. The Republican has said he did nothing wrong in his actions.

The 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868, helped ensure civil rights for freed slaves — and eventually for all people in the United States. But it also was used to prevent former Confederate officials from becoming members of Congress after the Civil War and taking over the government against which they had just rebelled.

The clause cited in the lawsuit allows Congress to lift the ban, which it did in 1872 as the political will to continue to bar former Confederates dwindled. The provision was almost never used after that.

CREW and law professors of both parties contend the amendment is clear and is a qualification for president, just as the Constitution’s mandate that a candidate for the White House must be at least 35 years old and a natural born citizen.

But others note there is much unsettled about the provision and that a case involving this issue has not reached the justices in Washington.

The clause cites a wide range of offices “under the United States” and states that the provision applies to, including “presidential electors.”

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RSOs: the spice of campus life

Recognized Student Organizations. RSOs. These clubs can be some of the most useful tools to a student as they progress through college. Minnesota State is home to over 200 RSOs that enrich campus life.

Whether it is to connect with and make new friends, enhance our professional (or non-professional) skills or just because we are bored, joining an RSO gives a purpose.

Most majors offer an RSO for students who would like to join. In these groups, you will find like-minded people who will work with you toward a common goal. These teamwork skills will prove to be valuable in any facet of life.

In addition to the people, the content — which varies depending on what type of RSO you decide to join — is also important.

Learning more about your area of interest and how to navigate potential speed bumps will also come in handy. Many RSOs also offer advice and assistance to any questions you have.

But the most important aspect of joining an RSO is the network you will start to build.

Getting to know one person will offer you a friend in its own regard, but the person you get to know also has his or her own network of friends and associates, and so on and so forth. In a quest for job security and knowledge, this will help you significantly.

Not all RSOs are not based around a major or professional setting in general. Some, like the Adam Sandler Club, for example, are focused more on their love for the namesake of the club.

Overall, to join an RSO is to become one with the things you love in life and people that share your same interests.

College is a time where we are encouraged to branch out and explore, and these organizations provide us an opportunity to do just that.

Simply put, these clubs are tailored towards a love of a certain thing in life.

Each and every person enjoys something in life, and there is something out there for everyone.

To join an RSO, head over to the MSU's website and search "student organizations." From there, you can browse through all of the campus RSOs.

If you don't find any you like, you can always start your own. Through a four-step process, any student can launch a new RSO to bond with others over the things they love.

It is important to do what is best for yourself in life, and these opportunities could surprise you if you just give them a shot.

Perspectives

Borned a graduate students daughter



JEREMY REDLIEN • The Reporter

John Maynard Keynes once asked, "Why should coal miners suffer a lower standard of life than other classes of labour? They may be lazy, good-for-nothing fellows who do not work so hard or so long as they should. But is there any evidence that they are more lazy or more good-for-nothing than other people?" The quote comes from the Economic Consequences of Mr. Churchill and was published in 1925, but it still feels relevant today.

What do any of us deserve, really? That's a question I found myself asking while researching the conditions facing graduate students at Mankato State.

Right now, graduate students at MSU Mankato are paid a minimum yearly stipend of \$10,000 per year according to the schools website. In exchange, graduate students are required to work 20 hours a week



Jeremy Redlien
Staff Writer

during the school year, which runs for 30 weeks. That means graduate students are paid around \$16-\$17 an hour on top of receiving tuition waivers for up to nine credits per semester.

Seems like a sweet deal, right? From a strictly accounting perspective, graduate students are grossly overpaid.

Now before every graduate student worker storms The Reporter offices pitchfork-and-torches style for me saying that, let me say this: I do not think this represents the whole picture.

Let's go back to that

\$10,000 which is about \$4,580 less than the federal poverty level of \$14,580. On top of the 20 hours they are paid for, graduate student workers are required to take a minimum of six credits. Assuming two to three hours of work per credit outside of class, this means graduate students are working at a minimum 18 to 24 hours in their studies or 27 to 36 hours if they are going full time. Let's assume in any case that even allowing for graduate students at MSU Mankato being able to take just 6 credits to maintain their assistantships, they will still be working full or nearly full time.

But what of the long summer vacations we all get?

Well, even assuming a graduate student works 40 hours for all 15 weeks of summer break at the current minimum wage of

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Pulse

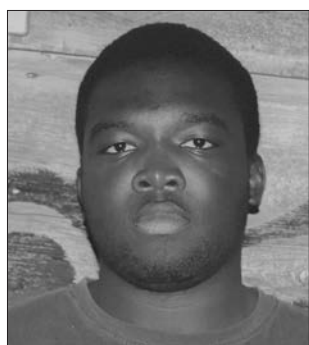
"What club are you involved in?"

Compiled by Brice Nyiringabo



CHAD ENG,
FRESHMAN

"DND club."



DARYL WILSON,
FRESHMAN

"Anime club."



EMMANUEL JOHN,
SOPHOMORE

"Cyber-security club."



HALILAH KILUVIA,
SOPHOMORE

"Health Pro club."



JESSICA GARRISON,
JUNIOR

"Circle K International."



LYNDA ALLEPO,
SENIOR

"Math and statistics club."

Big brother arc, entering phase II



Courtesy Hayden Lee

When I look at myself in the mirror, I wonder if I make a difference in the world. But because I have a brother, the answer to that question is always yes.

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

Sappy. That's what this is all going to be. So, disclaimer, I guess.

Let me start by introducing the man in question. Brennan "Brenny" Lee. 6-foot-1, 215 pounds, according to the Braham football program, but he and I both know that that isn't true and he is shorter than me.

Brenny is an offensive and defensive lineman and captain for our hometown football team, and the hardest working person I know.

Brenny is my only sibling, which is fine, and I couldn't ask for a better brother. But his birth has tasked me with one of the most impactful roles I will ever hold in life.

Being an older brother. For some people, having a younger sibling just means that there is a little kid following you around, imitating you and annoying you for most of your life. Which is kind of true. He has probably pissed me off more than most people have in my lifetime. But now Brenny is a senior in high school, which we all know comes with a lot

of emotion and changes on the horizon.

The term "brother" is thrown around a lot these days. By technical definition, a brother is a man or boy in relation to other sons and daughters of his parents. But by a broader definition, a brother is someone you get to watch grow up beside you, interact with and cheer for. A big brother is supposed to be there to offer advice, support and love, unconditionally. But most importantly, you are a role model to them.

It was easy for me when I was still in high school and could see him every day. But since I have been away, I have seen him grow into a strong, driven and confident young man. Watching him play in his first football game of the year, a lot of things were put into perspective for me. Brenny was dealing with an ankle injury that was clearly affecting him in pregame warmups. Being the tough guy that he is, he played through it. But did that affect his play?

Of course not. They still won, 50-6.

This goes way beyond football. Seeing the dedication and commitment he puts into ev-

erything he does makes me a proud big brother. This whole process of having a brother that is a senior has caught me by surprise in terms of how emotional it can be.

I can't believe it has been over two years since that was me going through all the same "lasts" that he is about to go through. But now, I get to cheer again for someone who reminds me so much of myself, my dad, and everything that we stand for as a family.

Life is a journey, but the most important thing you can bring with you as you continue to make your way is family. I could not be more proud of where I come from, who raised me, and for this younger brother who has shown me what it means to worry, love, cry, laugh and trust.

A brother is one of God's greatest gifts to us as humans. A forever teammate. I know he will do amazing things in his life. This is only the beginning. And again, as a big brother, I could not be more proud. Maybe there will even be a little bit of Braham football coverage in this newspaper, especially when he leads his team to the Class 1A state championship.

◀COLUMN from page 4

\$10.59 per hour, then they would be able to make an additional \$6,354 over the summer. Adding that to the base of \$10,000 dollars, this means graduate assistants make \$16,354 for working nearly full time the entire year.

Now according to the school's website, "graduate assistantships are to be considered an award and honor." I, however, cannot help but wonder where is the honor in expecting people to

work for wages that are well below the federal poverty level.

One story I keep thinking about is the one I was told about Jim Chalgren, the founder of the Jim Chalgren LGBT Center, and how he would always serve dry pasta to guests. Chalgren was a graduate student at MSU when he founded the center, and it was graduate students who maintained the center for over a decade after Chalgren left.

For more about the stories of the graduate students who

had to fight to keep the center going, read "A History of the Center for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Students on the Campus of Minnesota State University, Mankato," by Kellian Clink, available on Cornerstone on MSU Mankato's website.

The point: Graduate assistants have made significant contributions to MSU, and paying them well below the federal poverty level — while requiring them to work full time during the entire school year — feels like a problem that needs to be solved today.

New ozone pollution standards delayed until 2025

By MATTHEW DALY
The Associated Press

The Environmental Protection Agency is delaying plans to tighten air quality standards for ground-level ozone — better known as smog — despite a recommendation by a scientific advisory panel to lower air pollution limits to protect public health.

The decision by EPA Administrator Michael Regan means that one of the agency's most important air quality regulations will not be updated until well after the 2024 presidential election.

"I have decided that the best path forward is to initiate a new statutory review of the ozone (standard) and the underlying air quality criteria," Regan wrote in a letter to the EPA advisory panel last month. The letter cites "several issues" raised by the panel in a recent report that "warrant additional evaluation and review."

The review, which will last at least two years, will "ensure that air quality standards reflect

the latest science in order to best protect people from pollution," Regan said.

Regan's decision avoids an election year battle with industry groups and Republicans who have complained about what they consider overly intrusive EPA rules on power plants, refineries, automobiles and other polluters.

The delay marks the second time in 12 years that a Democratic administration has put off a new ozone standard prior to an election year. President Barack Obama shut down plans to tighten ozone standards in 2011, leading to a four-year delay before the standards were updated in 2015.

Paul Billings, senior vice president of the American Lung Association, called the EPA's decision "profoundly disappointing" and a missed opportunity to protect public health and promote environmental justice. A recent report by the lung association showed that minority communities bear a disproportionate burden from ground-level ozone.

◀DIRECTOR from page 2

Mankato," said Sorenson. "I'd like to start with having a GSA's day, where we invite GSA's to come to our campus, interact with college students, and provide mentoring opportunities for our college students, because I think that's a valuable experience both for our youth and for our students here at MSU."

(Today GSA typically refers to Gender and Sexuality Alliance groups, but historically the acronym stood for Gay-Straight Alliances.)

Sorenson went so far as to bring up the possibility of creating an LGBTQ youth summer camp.

"Eventually, I'd like to expand that (bringing local GSA's to campus) to the region, maybe do a summer camp, where the students in the LGBT center can kind of take on those camp counselor roles, and do different activities with the students and just have it be an LGBTQ+ affirming camp where they can learn about LGBTQ+ issues," said Sorenson.

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Russian missile strike on Ukraine kills 17

By SAMYA KULLAB
The Associated Press

A Russian missile tore through an outdoor market in eastern Ukraine on Wednesday, killing 17 people and wounding dozens, as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken returned to the country with more than \$1 billion in new American funding for Ukraine, including military and humanitarian aid.

Blinken's fourth visit to the country was overshadowed by the strike in the city of Kostiantynivka, near the front line in the Donetsk region, that turned the marketplace into an inferno.

It was one of the deadliest bombardments of civilians in the 18-month-old war.

In addition to the dead, at least 32 people were wounded.

"Those who know this place are well aware that it is a civilian area," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said at a news conference with the Danish prime minister in Kyiv. "There aren't any military units nearby. The strike was deliberate."

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said such brutal Russian attacks underscore "the importance of continuing to support the people of Ukraine."

Blinken's visit was aimed at assessing Ukraine's 3-month-old



EVGENIY MALOLETKA • The Associated Press
Rescue workers puts out a fire after a Russian rocket attack on a food market in the city center of Kostiantynivka, Ukraine, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023.

counteroffensive and signaling continued U.S. support as some Western allies express worries about Kyiv's slow progress against invading Russian forces.

"We want to make sure that Ukraine has what it needs, not

only to succeed in the counteroffensive but has what it needs for the long-term, to make sure that it has a strong deterrent," Blinken said. "We're also determined to continue to work with our partners as they build and rebuild a strong economy,

strong democracy."

About \$175 million of the total is in the form of weaponry to be provided from Pentagon stockpiles and another \$100 million is in the form of grants to allow the Ukrainians

to purchase additional arms and equipment, according to the State Department.

Noting progress in the counteroffensive, Blinken said the new aid "will help sustain it and build further momentum." He said the new military assistance would be bolstered by the arrival of U.S. Abrams tanks in the fall and the training of Ukrainian pilots on F-16 fighter jets to complement training in Europe.

In addition to the military assistance, Blinken announced nearly \$805 million in non-arms-related aid for Ukraine, including \$300 million for law enforcement, \$206 million in humanitarian aid, \$203 million to combat corruption and \$90.5 million for removing mines, the State Department said.

The package also includes a previously announced \$5.4 million transfer to Ukraine of frozen Russian oligarch assets.

The aid announced by Blinken comes from money previously approved by Congress.

President Joe Biden has requested another \$21 billion in military and humanitarian aid for Ukraine for the final months of 2023, but it's not clear how much — if any — will be approved.

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SPORTS

Mavericks stampede through Cougars

By LUKE JACKSON
News Director

The Mavericks' rushing stampede through the Cougars defense was an all time performance as it led the team to a lopsided season opening 54-26 victory.

Not letting up was the key for the Mavs Saturday. "Play fast," was the team's mantra as it headed to Sioux Falls and that is exactly what it did.

Normally, running the ball isn't considered a foot-on-the-gas type of play style but there are exceptions when you play smash mouth football like the Mavs.

The Mavs running back room put up 461 yards by the time the clock hit double zeros in the fourth quarter. The three RB's also totaled six touchdowns.

In the first half, the ball was put into the hands of backup running backs Tony Anger and Chrisitan Vassers.

Anger was the only player to find the end zone throughout the first quarter as he rushed the ball for a two-yard touchdown to give the Mavs the advantage. He also found himself another one-yard touchdown in the third.

After Angers' touchdown, Vass-



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Running back Shen Butler-Lawson made Maverick history in Saturday's game, totaling the sixth-most yards in Maverick football history on his way to NSIC Offensive Player of the Week.

er took over and made a name for himself. Prior to Saturday, Vasser had never reached the end zone and also never had a game where

he surpassed 100 yards.

But as the clock dwindled down to conclude the half, Vasser stomped down the field breaking

through four tackles giving himself a 58-yard touchdown to give the Mavs the lead.

Vasser finished the game with a

career high 144 yards averaging 13 yards a carry.

During halftime, changes were made and Shen Butler-Lawson came back out to retake his position as starting running back.

"To see what they did out there just really motivated me and made me happy," said Butler-Lawson. "Vasser is my boy and he knew I was coming in at half. He just told me it's my time to execute."

With the game at 20-13, the Mavs needed a spark and that's exactly what he provided.

In just the third quarter, Butler-Lawson reached the end zone three times.

The first from 37 yards out, the second from 14 and the last from 34. With 21 points to his name, he wasn't finished.

In the fourth he broke loose for a 67-yard touchdown to conclude his four touchdown night.

"Teamwork was definitely at a premium. Our receivers, tight ends and offensive linemen were all blocking very well," said head coach Todd Hoffner. "Shen also has the ability to make people miss, which is part of his skillset. That was a big part of the equation."

Butler-Lawson's second half performance of 221 yards was a ca-

STAMPEDE on page 8

Volleyball looks to earn their stripes at Tiger Classic

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

Four games and a week ago, the Mavs began their season in Seaside, Calif. for the Otter Volleyball Invitational, in which they went 2-2.

They began with a matchup with Northwest Nazarene, where they lost 3-2, losing the fifth set 15-9. Friday afternoon, they dropped to 0-2 against Westmont College, losing 3-1.

However, they turned the corner in their second game of the day, besting CSU Monterey Bay 3-2 before closing out the tournament with a 3-0 victory over Dominican.

Head Coach Corey Phelps hopes to carry that momentum into this weekend and beyond.

"The offense has been our biggest area of focus, we just need to be sure we are doing things correctly when it comes to serving and passing," Phelps said. "We definitely underachieved last year, and this year hopefully we can prove that we are one of the better teams in the conference."

Coming up for the Mavs are four games at the Tiger Classic. First up on Friday, they will take on Cameron University at 10 a.m. and Southern Nazarene at 2 p.m., both of which they have not played before.

Another unfamiliar opponent

comes the next day, when they will take on New Mexico Highlands at 10 a.m.

To close out the Tiger Classic, they will play their second match of the day at 2 p.m. against Fort Hays State.

Implementing a new style of offense has been the focus of Phelps and the Mavs over the off-season, and their new, faster style of play is something to look forward to.

"I think that we are one of the most athletic teams in the conference, and we did a lot in the spring to improve our offense," Phelps said. "It's fast. Through a lot of trial and error and learning, we feel like we are in a much better position to do things in the conference."

Another big difference for this year's Mavs team is the amount of experience players have gained.

"Having three freshmen start last year was tough, but now there isn't any more fear or intimidation. Now, for them, it's just what we do," Phelps said.

A positive side of having a younger roster is being able to grow together. The Mavs pride themselves in having a great team culture.

"We spend a lot of time in our program talking about what a great culture sounds and looks like, and lately all the players rave about how we're closer than we have ever



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

A 2-2 split at the Otter Invitational bodes well for the future of the Mavs season. This weekend's matches will be streamed live on the MIAA Network.

been," Phelps said.

The Mavs will begin conference play Thursday, Sept. 14 at #11 Southwest Minnesota State before their first home match of the year against Winona State Saturday,

Sept. 16.

After a 6-22 season, Phelps said he is looking to "do things differently." From their culture to their offense to the way their program is run, it's a good sign of things to

come.

"We haven't lived up to expectations in 15 years, so we have to figure this out, we've been underachieving for far too long," Phelps said.

New additions to Esports expand community and student outreach



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

This area will be seeing a lot of turmoil in the coming months. With the training facility, competition stage, media room and the soon-to-come community space areas, Esports is looking out for everyone.

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

Three years removed from its initial launch, Minnesota State's Esports team is starting to unveil some new changes to its facility.

There are four primary facets to the facility located in Wissink Hall. The first is the training area, which has been up-and-running since the launch of the program. The training area is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and it expands a little bit during the summer break periods. All enrolled students can use the computers and the room.

However, after 4 p.m., the Esports team has reserved the room for varsity practice. To locate the training area, look for the glass doors with "ESPORTS" written on them, right next to WH 121G.

The second, and newest, addition to the Esports facility is the competition stage.

Mitch Wallerstedt, Chief Operations Officer and Esports Program Director, envisions this new room as a necessary addition that will serve multiple purposes.

"We have too many students that have competition time scheduled during the same time that we have practice for other titles," said Wallerstedt. "But what this new room allows us to do is pull those competitive matches out of the training facility and do them on stage, so that we're not having conflicts with scheduling from that perspective."

Another function of the competition stage is for viewing

purposes. In the past, families and friends have only been able to watch MSU Esports on their Twitch channel, but now with more monitors and space, in-person viewing is an option.

"If you want to have that live in person experience, rather than watching the Twitch stream, you can now come in and cheer for your favorite player or favorite team," said Wallerstedt.

Apart from family and friends coming in and using the new functions, Esports is looking to expand more into the community.

"We will have a high school tournament that's organized by a different group, but we can provide facilities for things like the high school league," said Wallerstedt. "So that's the type of thing that we'll be able to facilitate here is bringing high school students from across the state in so they can play their in person events here."

In the future, Wallerstedt and the rest of the Esports team also hope to create "flexible seating, community space, collaborative work areas" in the open area in front of the training room, which is currently on pace to be done around the time winter break rolls around.

This space would not be exclusively for Esports, but for all attending MSU.

"We can make this a multi-use area for different students and recognized student organizations (RSOs) to do some of their public events," said Wallerstedt. "We are hoping to redo some of the carpeting and order furniture for

this phase to be in high gear and ready for students to use by spring semester."

The final part of their operation is the media room, which is also the main broadcast center for all university media.

In this room, the shoutcasters can film and broadcast their commentary on Esports events, as well as any other live media produced by IT Solutions coming from this area.

"For example, the President's videos that go out, he works with our video production on putting those together," said Wallerstedt. "We'll work with them, and others, on some of the video production stuff that they use here in some of those media pieces."

Getting back to the events of the MSU Esports team coming up, they will host the October 21 Rockstar Energy Collegiate Esports Invitational featuring over 20 schools from around the region.

MSU's Esports team features approximately 50 students that are part of one of the varsity rosters or as a sub.

That includes the titles of Call of Duty, Rocket League, League of Legends, Valorant, Overwatch, Super Smash Brothers and iRacing.

"We're always interested in new suggestions for games. One of the things that we have on our interest form is a student request form," said Wallerstedt. "That's something that we're always looking at for different options and opportunities."

◀**STAMPEDE** from page 7
reer high and also the sixth best in Maverick history.

His performance earned him Offensive Player of the Week honors in both the NSIC and D2Football.com.

"It feels good but the cred-

it goes out to the O-line and the coaching staff who put me in a position to do that," said Butler-Lawson. "That's just one game, there's 10 more to go. Just got to keep looking forward."

The defense also had a lot of success against USF. Trey Vaval,

Jacob Daulton and Colton Hoffman posted five tackles each while Max Lommel posted his first interception.

The Mavericks will now look to "Defend the Blake" for their first home game of the year versus Wayne State University Saturday.

Minnesota State Soccer hits the ground running



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

The Mavs kept Mackenzie Dimarco quiet in a stalemate against Emporia State Sunday, September 3rd.

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State Women's soccer team is back in action Friday for a home match against the Central Missouri Jennies.

The Mavs couldn't have asked for a better start to their season as they dismantled Oklahoma Baptist 7-0 in Thursday's regular season opener. The Mavs came flying out of the gates by scoring four goals in under nine minutes early in the first half.

MSU Senior Allie Williams led the way by racking up two goals and two assists. This was Williams' third career multi-goal performance for the Mavs. Sophomore Avery Korsching got her first career goal for the Mavs in the 14th minute. She tallied her second in the 66th minute.

After their dominant victory, the Mavs traveled to Kansas City, Missouri to take on Emporia State in a game that ended in a 0-0 draw Sunday. Despite not getting the win, head coach Brian Bahl said the team took away plenty of positives from the game, one of which was keeping their star player, Mackenzie Dimarco, off the scoreboard.

"I thought we dealt with her really well. She's a two-time All-American already, she'll be an All-American again this year. We limited her to three shots in that game and she scored like 23 goals last year. So to shut her down as much as we were able to do and get a shutout against that team. That's a team that hasn't been shutout in over a year," Bahl said.

Along with keeping the opposition from scoring, the Mavs had

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2023 NFL Season Preview: AFC South Edition



MICHAEL AINSWORTH • The Associated Press

In a division with very poor quarterback play, this man stands head and shoulders above the rest. Trevor Lawrence has big things ahead of him this year.

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Staff Writer

This might be the worst division in football, let's just dive right in.

Jacksonville Jaguars

1st: This was probably the easiest division winner for me to pick this year. The Jags are head and shoulders above the rest of the teams in this division. I'm not even that interested in how they "compete" in the division because I'm not anticipating a competition. I'm focused on what seed they can get and how they compare to some of the contenders in the AFC. A big reason why I think they'll be strong contenders in the AFC is, as Nick Wright would put it, "The Prince That Was Promised", Trevor Lawrence. Lawrence is a generational talent who had a turbulent rookie season due to the mess he walked into by getting Urban Meyer as his head coach. I look at last season as his rookie year with Doug Pederson as his head coach when the Jags got an adult in the room. Lawrence showed drastic improvement with Pederson as the season went along. Pederson did a great job of getting good production from Lawrence and his highly questioned receiving core. Lawrence had the fourth high-

est amount of open windows to throw to in the league last season. With the addition of Calvin Ridley to this offense, I expect Lawrence to take another leap and be in contention for league MVP. As for the other side of the ball, I think they'll have a middle-of-the-pack defense. A player that I will be looking forward to seeing how they develop is Travon Walker. The former number one overall pick in the draft is immensely talented, but needs to put it all together. If he can become the player they hope he does, then Walker and Josh Allen will be a nightmare for offenses.

Tennessee Titans

2nd: As long as Mike Vrabel is the head coach of the Titans, they'll be no pushovers and will be a team that will try to turn things into a dog fight. They are the embodiment of a team taking on the personality of their head coach. Even with that in mind, I don't think that will be enough for them to compete for the division. It has been an off-season full of change for the Titans. Changes in the front office, coaching staff and roster. The most glaring example of that roster wise is with the offensive line. They will have four new starters with none of them being a sure thing. If they can hold up, then we will likely see...

full story on our website ▶

◀RUNNING from page 8

chances to potentially get the win.

"I think it was a very even game overall, but I did feel like we did enough to win the game. We had a lot of chances in the second half as the game progressed that I thought we were right on the cusp of putting one in the back of the net. Three or four chances that probably should have went in the back of the net. Some great goal-keeping on their part," Bahl said.

The team's upcoming opponents are coming off a 3-0 victory over Southwest Minnesota State and are ranked 13th in the conference.

"They don't really have any weak spots. They're very very fast up top. So we'll have to be prepared to face the fastest frontline across the board that we've seen and one of the fastest I think we'll see all year.

They're just solid everywhere. They've got a great midfield group, a really solid backline and so they'll pose some really tough tests for us. It's just more about I think us going out and continuing to do what we do better and better each time we adapt to who we play," Bahl said.

Bahl also said he believes there are plenty of things his side brings to the table the Jennies will have to contend with.

"We have a very fast frontline as well. We can create a lot of chances, we can counter very well, we can defend well so far and I think we've been a tough team to break down. I think right now we're playing very well in all facets of the game," Bahl said.

After Friday's game, the Mavs remain home for their next match Sunday versus Grand Valley State.

2023 NFL Season Preview: AFC West Edition

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

The best division in football...? That's what the narrative was surrounding the AFC West going into last season. Man, did that let us down. But it was to be expected, the Raiders and Broncos have always been let-downs, and the Chargers are the definition of a let-down. The Chiefs have proved themselves as a potential dynasty, but as Stephen A. Smith said, can you really consider yourself a dynasty if you haven't even won back-to-back championships?

Kansas City Chiefs: 1st

Patrick Mahomes is the dynasty. A generational, lifetime-defining quarterback who is chasing Tom Brady, already. Mahomes is turning 28 in just a few weeks, and that is usually when quarterbacks start to hit their prime. Isn't that scary to think about? If Mahomes hasn't hit his ceiling yet, then what is it? Can he get better? Probably not. I think he is maxed out, but that is because he is literally MAXED. OUT. Aside from him and obviously Travis Kelce, their offensive weapons are underwhelming. Isiah Pacheco is promising, but we said the same thing about Clyde-Edwards Hellaire after his rookie season. Their offensive line is one of the top units in the league behind Creed Humphrey, Joe Thuney and Trey Smith on the interior. Something that really worries me is the hold-out of DT Chris Jones. He has yet to attend training camp as a full participant, and is looking for a new contract. Travis Kelce's recent injury also worries me, but it's the Chiefs, they will figure it out.

Los Angeles Chargers: 2nd

The Chargers have been one of



RICK SCUTERI • The Associated Press

Since 2018, these two right here have become a force to be reckoned with. If they keep on winning, they will one day rival duos like Rice and Montana.

my favorite teams to watch over the past few years, because they always refuse to just dominate a team. They could one week hang 42 points on the Chiefs, but the next week get blown out by the Texans. It is a forever rollercoaster for the NFL's equivalent to the Clippers, but they still have so much talent and so much offensive firepower for them to not finish second in this division. They will be a Wild Card team and they do have one of the NFL's best quarterbacks in Justin Herbert. Their defense also features some crazy talent in Joey Bosa, Khalil Mack and Derwin James, but somehow they always suck. Whether it be injuries or some other outrageous storyline, expect the Chargers to have some sort of reason to not live up to their potential. Welcome back to Chargers football, do not stay awhile.

Denver Broncos: 3rd

I could see a world where the Broncos make the playoffs. Yes,

Russell Wilson sucked last year, yes their offensive line is terrible, but Wilson has the reputation of a great quarterback in Seattle for a reason. He is good. He has a chance to prove it again this year. It's his last chance. On the defensive end, Pat Surtain II is the best corner in football. Period. This year is a year of last chances for the Broncos, and honestly, I hate talking about them. Sean Payton is an overrated head coach, but he's definitely better than Nathaniel Hackett was.

Las Vegas Raiders: 4th

What even happened to this team. It seems like every year they are cursed. They do have good players, but they break out at the worst possible times because their front office is terrible. Josh Jacobs is a prime example. For some reason, they declined his fifth-year option last year, and of course, he was the best running back in football. This year, they have recruited Jimmy Garoppolo to play quarter-

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Finding friends at MAV Fest



DYLAN LONG • The MSU Reporter

MAV Fest, put on by MSU's Student Events Team and Greek Life, featured band IV Play, who preformed alongside outdoor games, food, and socializing on campus.

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

The annual MAV Fest concert and block party happened Sept. 5. It allowed students to enjoy a night filled with music by cover band IV Play, play outdoor games such as football and cornhole and look at the different Greek life on campus.

Kaitlyn Smith, a member of the Student Events Team, is in charge

of helping organize concert production events on campus.

She said this event was a chance for students to get out, meet new people and get recruited by Greek life.

"When I think of MAV Fest, I think of people having fun with their friends," said Smith. "As a freshman, you're away from home and coming in, it can be really scary. When I was a freshman, I

hung out with my roommate a lot, and I didn't get to experience meeting a bunch of people at events."

Katie Gruvisch, an Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority member, said she enjoys being in her sorority and thinks it is a good way for others to get more involved in the community and on campus.

"I personally joined because I made a lot of good connections with the girls, and I like doing vol-

unteer work. My sorority has the most philanthropies on campus," said Gruvisch. "We're always working for the community and giving back. If I have nothing else to do with my day, I'd rather be giving back to the community than sitting on my couch."

Gruvisch was on the Student Events Team side of this event last year, so this was a different experi-

MAV FEST on page 11▶

Friendship Family Program relaunches

By LILLY SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

Minnesota State graduate student Manidweep Sri Vidya wasn't alone when he came to America for the first time. However, for some international students, they start this adventure without company.

In order to provide MSU's international students with a group of people they can rely on, the Kearney International Center offers a Friendship Family Program (FFP) to build student and community connections.

Kearney International Center Retention Specialist Kristin Odland explained what she sees the goal as.

"The friendship family program exists to help create global connections between international students and local Mankato families."

The program had a relaunch last January and has already made positive impacts on students' lives.

"When you are an international student, when you're away from your family, you need someone whom you can depend on," Sri Vidya explained. "Not for everything, but a few things. When you're mentally not strong here [because] you're alone, I think it is very important to have someone like them who have the experience and can guide you."

What pushed Odland to relaunch the program was a flood of requests, "I started hearing from families, student groups, and a couple different sources asking for it to be back. This office had been short staffed for a couple years and then the pandemic made it really challenging to create those matches."

Sri Vidya was one of the students who participated in the program's relaunch, and is still reaping the benefits, "We're actually meeting very frequently. When I moved out from my place, they were the ones who came and helped me out."

Currently, the program lasts a semester, Odland said. "Right now, people can sign up to be part of it for a semester, though, like in Mani's situation, his family is continuing."

In order to match students and community volunteers, Odland has crafted a system. "I tried something new this spring where we offered an event where students and families could meet naturally, and if they found a pairing that worked, then I just made the match after that event."

For those who don't find the right match or are not able to attend the event, Odland makes matches based on information she gathers on applications, "I went through and people would list preferences on various things like pets and food and whatnot, and I would try to match families and students according to their preferences on the

FRIENDSHIP on page 11▶

Study abroad students find home away from home

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

Becoming a world traveler is something that appears unattainable for most college students living on a tight budget. Studying abroad is a loophole for this issue, and it is accessible for all students at Minnesota State.

"The things you experience abroad are indescribable, and everyone should live it first hand," said Grace Sieber, MSU student.

However, apprehension may arise from the initial steps taken.

The application process is intimidating for students, and many are unaware of where to get started.

The Center for Global Engagement on campus takes care of these questions and concerns, and can give students the right information to take off.

"I've always known I wanted to study abroad, it was just the matter of actually applying," Sieber said.

After being given the extra push by her dad, Sieber decided to embark on a three-month-long adventure to Madrid, Spain, to work on her Spanish major.

"I wish I was there longer," Sieber said.

Sieber was the only American in her classes, and noticed plenty of cultural differences along the way.

She had later eating times to adjust to, traveled by foot or by metro, utilized her Spanish tongue and she stayed with a host family.

"My host mom and I got really close during the three months," Sieber said. "I was super nervous to live with strangers at first, but they were so sweet and made my stay super warm and welcoming."

ABROAD on page 11▶



Courtesy Jana Weber

The Center for Global Engagement supports MSU's mission of being a global campus through international activities & engagement opportunities worldwide.

Freddie Mercury's prized piano sold for millions

By BRIAN MELLEY
The Associated Press

Freddie Mercury's prized piano that he used to compose "Bohemian Rhapsody" and other hits by Queen sold for more than \$2 million Wednesday as some of the late singer's massive collection of flamboyant stage costumes, fine art and original lyrics were auctioned in a sale that broke records.

Items connected to the operatic "Rhapsody," the band's most enduring hit, brought a premium with hand-written lyrics to the song selling for about 1.4 million pounds (\$1.7 million) and a gold Cartier brooch saying "Queen number 1" given to each band member by their manager after the song topped the charts, selling for 165,000 pounds (\$208,000).

A Victorian-style silver snake bangle Mercury wore with an ivory satin catsuit in a video for the song — long before the days of MTV — set a record for the highest price ever paid at auction for a piece of jewelry owned by a rock star, Sotheby's said.

The bracelet went for 698,500 pounds (\$881,000) — 100 times its estimated low price. The item broke a record set when John Lennon's leather and bead talisman sold for 295,000 pounds (\$368,000) in 2008, Sotheby's said.

The eclectic collection of objects were amassed by Mercury after Queen's glam-rock produced an avalanche of hits that allowed the singer to achieve his dream of living a Victorian life "surrounded by exquisite clutter."

Mercury's close friend, Mary Austin, to whom he left his house and his possessions when he died of AIDS-related pneumonia in 1991 at 45, is selling it all — more than 1,400 items.

A mere 59 items of that "clutter" sold for 12.2 million pounds (\$15.4 million), including a buyer's premi-



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH • The Associated Press

Freddie Mercury's signature crown worn throughout the 'Magic' Tour, on display at Sotheby's auction rooms in London, Thursday, Aug. 3. The auction includes Mercury's flamboyant stage costumes, drafts to hits such as "We are the Champions."

um, that blew away estimates in the four-and-a-half hour auction. Bidders from 61 countries took part in person, online and by phone.

Mercury wrote, "Easy come, easy go, will you let me go?" in "Rhapsody," and the answer to the question from well-heeled fans seemed to be "No," as they bid fortunes — large and larger — to grab a piece of the late singer's clothing, awards and original hand-written drafts to classics such as "Killer Queen" and "We Are the Champions."

Depending how you looked at it, the champions of the night may have been Sotheby's or Austin or a few charities she's promised to donate an undisclosed portion of the proceeds to.

Or it could have been the buyers of one-of-a-kind memorabil-

ia who won. One man raised his hands over his head in victory and hugged the woman seated next to him after bidding 635,000 pounds (\$801,500) for the rhinestone-studded crown and red fake fur cloak Mercury wore on stage at the end of every show during Queen's last tour in 1986.

The auction opened with the sale of the graffiti-tagged door to the garden of Mercury's home that quickly blew past the high estimate of 25,000 pounds (\$31,250) projected before the sale and led to a bidding war that lasted nearly 20 minutes.

The green door covered in hand-painted love notes from fans who made a pilgrimage to the house in the tony Kensington section of London sold for an eye-popping 412,750 pounds (\$521,000).

All of the proceeds of the sale of a Cartier onyx and diamond ring given to Mercury by his friend, Elton John, that sold for 273,000 pounds (\$344,000) were to go to the "Rocket Man" singer's AIDS charity.

Art sold at the auction included prints by Pablo Picasso (190,500 pounds; \$240,000), Salvador Dalí (48,260 pounds; \$60,900); and Marc Chagall (63,500; \$80,000), antique furniture and numerous cat figurines.

For the past month, fans of Mercury who couldn't afford those kind of prices — or just wanted to see his high-top Adidas, diamond brooches, or a sequined jacket — could view them for free in Sotheby's galleries. More than 140,000 visitors from around the world queued up outside the elegant auction house

to take a tour.

Publicity from "Freddie Mercury: A World of his Own" drove up bidding for online auctions that began last month and closes next week.

Even items being sold online that had seemed like they might be in reach for some average buyers eclipsed pre-sale estimates.

A collection of chopsticks once estimated to fetch 40-60 British pounds (\$50-75) had a current bid 1,200 pounds (\$1,500) Wednesday.

One of the quirkier items, a silver moustache comb from Tiffany & Co, that had been expected to set a buyer back 400 to 600 pounds (\$500-750) had a bid at 35,000 pounds (\$43,750).

The Yamaha baby grand piano that Mercury wrote some of Queen's greatest hits on was one of the few items that sold for less than its estimated price tag, though it still sold for the most amount of money.

It had been expected to sell for as much as 3 million pounds (\$3.75 million) but sold for 1.7 million pounds (\$2.2 million). Sotheby's said it was the highest price ever paid for a composer's piano, but they didn't provide information on the previous record.

Other items that were treasured by fans were Mercury's draft lyrics to "Somebody to Love" (241,000 pounds; \$304,000), and "Don't Stop Me Now" and "We Are the Champions," which both fetched the same final prices: 317,500 pounds; \$400,700.

The drafts showed songs at their inception, with "Bohemian Rhapsody" scratched on stationery from the defunct British Midland Airways. The song was originally named "Mongolian Rhapsody" before that was crossed out.

The song ends with the words: "Nothing really matters to me," a line that certainly didn't apply to Mercury's myriad possessions.

◀ABROAD from page 10

For MSU student Jana Weber, traveling to Greece for her studies was entirely new, as she had only left the Midwest once before.

"I feel like all of it was so overwhelmingly new to me, so I just literally loved every aspect," Weber said.

Similarly to Spain, Greece is made up of night owls who go to bed late, wake up late and eat late.

Despite the culture shock, Weber made the most of her four-and-a-half month venture, where the biggest challenges were before

the excursion, through gaining her visa.

"I would say the whole visa process and applying and everything is really hard, but it's so worth it," Weber said. "I would have done that three times over and over again just to have the experience."

Both Sieber and Weber navigated their academic experience through an in-person format.

"The teachers wanted you to succeed and wanted to build a positive connection," Sieber said. "My classes were very fun and personal since the class size was so small"

Through building connections and gaining familiarity, Sieber and Weber gained knowledge to carry them through more than their academic goals, but their life goals as well.

"If you're thinking about studying abroad, or on the fence about it, I say just do it," Sieber said. "Studying abroad has not only helped me grow more independently, but it made me realize there is so much more than Minnesota. I am forever changed from this experience and Madrid will forever have a place in my heart."

◀MAV FEST from page 10

ence. "Being on the other partnering side with the FSL (Fraternity and Sorority Life) has been pretty cool to see how both sides play out," said Smith.

"We've had a lot of people interested in Greek life so far. I've seen a lot of people out dancing by the stage, so I'm pretty happy with the turnout."

Ian Ruelas said he came to enjoy the fun. He said he was not a fan of the music but enjoyed it anyway.

He was also playing spike ball with some of his friends.

"I came out because I wanted to meet new people and get out of the dorm. The music is not too bad. I would have liked different music; it's not my favorite, but not bad," said Ruelas.

Sydney Johnson came as part of rushing for a sorority.

Rushing, often known as recruiting, is the process of pursuing membership in a fraternity or sorority.

She has two houses in mind.

"It's just a fun way to meet people and get together, even if you just go with a friend. You get good music. Just a nice environment," said Johnson.

You have to rush for all of the sororities. I have my top two figured out: Tri Sigma or Gamma Phi. I'm a legacy for Tri Sigma, meaning my mom was in it, and the girls are really supportive, and I liked the values that each of the sororities have."

◀FRIENDSHIP from page 10

application." For those searching out connections provided by the FFP, applications can be found on the school's website.

Sri Vidya encourages international students to take advantage of

the opportunity. "When you find a group of people like a family, which [the] University is able to provide you, it feels like home. They are very welcoming and they are open to everything. That's the best thing that we can have when we are away from home."

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