

SPEAKER CHOSEN

Joey Novak chosen as speaker of the 90th Student Government.

By MAXWELL MAYLEBEN
Editor in Chief

No less than a week after the inauguration, Senator Joey Novak proudly stood at the front of the fresh-faced Student Government and resigned from their position as senator.

Novak then raised their right hand into the air at the request of former President of the Student Government Reauna Stiff as they were sworn in as the speaker of the 90th Student Government.

Novak was elected to be the speaker on April 27 by the Student Government in their first meeting after their inauguration last week. The speaker of the senate is charged with the responsibility of bringing a neutral voice and leading each senate meeting in an orderly fashion.

Novak has previously functioned as a senator on the Student Government in the past, working on several projects, including bringing free menstrual products to bathrooms across the campus as well as unlocking residence hall lounges and kitchens. Despite their accomplishments as a senator,



MAXWELL MAYLEBEN • The Reporter

At the first meeting of the 90th Student Government, Joey Novak takes their seat next to the newly elected President Emma Zellmer to assume the role of speaker of the senate.

Novak looks forward to taking the role of speaker in order to allow for other senators to be successful.

“Ultimately, in my mind, the role of the speaker is to uplift the voices of others,” said Novak to the senate during a question and answer section of the election process.

“I also do a whole host of

other jobs on campus,” said Novak, “including community advisor.”

In addition to their time working as a community advisor in the residence halls, Novak also spends time as a delegate to the state legislature.

During the meetings, the speaker is also responsible for guiding the conversation, keep-

ing senators on track and productive.

They do this by using a set of guidelines called “Robert’s Rules”, which is commonly used for committee and public meetings.

After being sworn in, Novak immediately took control of the senate, leading the remainder of the meeting.

Wilkins’ art uplifts people of color

By ALEXANDRA TOSRTUD
Staff Writer

Greg Wilkins, the associate director of the Student Activities office at Minnesota State Mankato, currently has a solo exhibit on display at Hutchinson Center for the Arts in Hutchinson, Minnesota. The exhibit is titled “Keep Your Eye on the Prize” and centers around experiences of people of color, most notably in regard to COVID-19.

Wilkins’ exhibit features roughly 40 works, including both two dimensional and three dimensional artwork.

“It’s all mixed media—photography, beading, painting, and embroidery, all on top of each other. There are some things done on screen material that are up to 18 feet tall and 12 feet wide,” Wilkins said.

His work focuses on people of color, with many specifically about the Black Lives Matter movement and COVID-19’s impact on different communities.

“I come from a multi-ethnic and multi-national family. Growing up, I was born in Chicago and moved to the south. I realized that most families were not like mine. We started getting harassed by the white community, we were the only family of color in our neighborhood and church. With that, it’s something that’s always been a part of my life,” Wilkins said.

Although currently based here in Minnesota, he often takes his work to an international level.

“I do a lot of work in developing countries and emerging economies working with elders. I’ve tried to bring attention to issues of social justice, poverty, hunger, and homelessness,” he said.

Wilkins took a year of sabbatical six years ago from MSU to connect with people in other countries and bring their stories to the forefront of American minds.

He will also take a year in the near future for his feature through the Federal Performing Arts Association in DC, which will bring his artwork to life with song and dance.

One of the featured pieces in “Keep Your Eye on the Prize” makes use of unique elements, which is a staple of

WILKINS on page 3 ▶

Reid says his farewells to MSU and hello to LSC

By JULIA BARTON
News Director

Kenneth Reid, Director of African American Affairs is leaving Minnesota State University, Mankato as he transitions into the role as the Associate Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs for Lake Superior College, in Duluth.

Reid has been at the forefront of several conversations, some including the discussion regarding equity and inclusion at MSU. He has also has left a lasting impression at MSU as he leaves just two months shy of his fifth year anniversary at the university.

“My favorite memories are the ones with the students, them sitting at the table [in the MCC] talking about the hottest tea happening in popculture, or being in my office working and overhearing them gossip.”

Reid has worked at multiple different universities including Gustavus Adolphus College, and University of Northern



Kenneth Reid (center) has been at MSU serving as the Director of African American Affairs for nearly five years.

Iowa before coming to MSU. Reid has been very proud of the impact he has made with students.

“The development and implementation of BeYOU [Black Excellence in You] program is something I am proud of. It’s great because from that program we have our first young man that started in 2018 who is

walking across the stage with 7 out of the original 12 member and 4 to 5 who are going on to get their masters,” Reid said.

Other events he was able to be a leader in was the annual Dr. Michael T. Fagin Pan African Conference that has been hosted via Zoom the past several years due to COVID. “Continuing the legacy of the

Michael T. Fagin Pan African Conference and the work around that while shedding light and awareness to issues that affect the students of Africa on an international level,” Reid shared.

“Being able to leave on a note of having that conversation about equity in education and that being the conversation this year before my departure.”

Creating a collaborative and close work environment is something Kenneth enjoyed and will miss.

“The MavFam, whether it be the students, administrator or colleagues it was definitely a family and being able to pick up a call and say ‘hey can you help with this’ we all helped each other, supported one another and have been a unit,” Reid said.

With his last day being June 7, 2022 Reid will continue to be a part of the MinnState school system as he moves into his next position.

KENNETH on page 3 ▶

Probe finds discrimination by Mpls. police

By STEVE KARNOWSKI and MOHAMED IBRAHIM
Associated Press

The Minneapolis Police Department has engaged in a pattern of race discrimination for at least a decade, including stopping and arresting Black people at a higher rate than white people, using force more often on people of color and maintaining a culture where racist language is tolerated, a state investigation launched after George Floyd's killing found.

The report released Wednesday by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights following a nearly two-year investigation said the agency and the city would negotiate a court-enforceable agreement to address the long list of problems identified in the report, with input from residents, officers, city staff and others. The report said police department data "demonstrates significant racial disparities with respect to officers' use of force, traffic stops, searches, citations, and arrests." And it said officers "used covert social media to surveil Black individuals and Black organizations, unrelated to criminal activity, and maintain an organizational culture where some officers and supervisors use racist, misogynistic, and disrespectful language with impunity."

Human Rights Commissioner Rebecca Lucero said during a news conference after the report was released that it doesn't single out any officers or city leaders.

"This investigation is not about one individual or one incident," Lucero said. Asked how long the agreement with the city, known as a consent decree, might have to remain in force, Lucero said, "As long as it takes to do it right." Neither she nor the report laid out a timeline for the negotiations. Consent decrees in federal cases often remain in place for years.

The report said the city and police department "do not need to wait to institute immediate changes to begin to address the causes of discrimination that weaken the City's public safety system and harm community members." It listed several steps that the city can take now, including implementing stronger internal oversight to hold officers accountable for their conduct, better training, and better communication with the public about critical incidents such as officer-involved shootings. National civil rights attorney Ben Crump and his partners, who won a \$27 million settlement from the city for the Floyd family, called the report "historic" and "monumental in its importance." They said they were



RICHARD TSONG-TAATARI • Star Tribune via AP

Protesters and police face each other during a rally for George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 26, 2020.

"grateful and deeply hopeful" that change is imminent.

"We call on city, state, and Police leaders to accept the challenge of these findings and make meaningful change at last to create trust between communities of color in Minneapolis and those who are sworn to protect and serve them," the lawyers

said in a statement. Messages to Mayor Jacob Frey and the police department seeking comment on the report weren't immediately returned. Lucero said the city got its first look at the report Wednesday morning. Michelle Gross, president of Communities United Against Police Brutality, called the finding

"obvious." "The findings were no surprise, but now there's an agency with the muscle to make those changes happen," Gross said.

She said a critical next step is who will monitor a consent decree to make sure changes actually happen, and said she would

FLOYD on page 3▶

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US in 'a different moment'

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press

Dr. Anthony Fauci said Wednesday the coronavirus is under better control in the United States, but the pandemic isn't over — and the challenge is how to keep improving the situation.

"We are in a different moment of the pandemic," said Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, in an interview with The Associated Press. After a brutal winter surge, "we've now decelerated and transitioned into more of a controlled phase," he said. "By no means does that mean the pandemic is over."

His comments came a day after he said on the PBS "NewsHour" that the U.S. was "out of the pandemic phase" and also told The Washington Post that the country was finally "out of the full-blown explosive pandemic phase."

Fauci's remarks reflect how health authorities are wrestling with the next stage of the pandemic how to keep COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations manageable and learn to live with what's still a mutating and unpredictable virus. Fauci said the U.S. appears to be out of what he called the "fulminant phase"



GREG NASH • Pool via AP

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases speaks during a Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022.

of the pandemic, huge variant surges that at their worst sparked hundreds of thousands of infections daily, along with tens of thousands of hospitalizations and thousands of deaths. COVID-19 cases are at a lower point than they've been in months and two-thirds of the U.S. population is vaccinated. Nearly half of those who need a booster dose have gotten the extra shot, and effective treatments are available.

"We are much, much better off than we were a year ago,"

he said.

Still, there have been lulls before, and while cases are low, they are increasing in many parts of the country. Vaccination rates worldwide are far lower, especially in developing countries. To keep improving, Fauci ticked off a to-do list: Get more people fully vaccinated; develop even better vaccines; figure out the best booster strategy to counter variants; and make sure people can access treatment as soon as they need it.

◀WILKINS from page 1

his mixed media artwork.

"During COVID-19, one of my last pieces was 'Black Lives Matter Essential Worker', and looking at who was providing a lot of services in our communities. A lot of times it was black and brown communities that were at the forefront of managing peoples," Wilkins said. "I was in the hospital a year ago talking with some of the custodial team who were women of color, and

I inquired 'what do you do with all these mops when you're done?', and there's a process that Mayo goes through because there's bloodborn pathogens. I was gifted these used mopheads after they were cleaned, and I used them in my work. I sewed them into my canvas and painted on top of them."

The exhibit closed Saturday April 22 after a month on display.

◀KENNETH from page 1

According to students at MSU, Reid was always willing to sit down and talk about academics or life planning.

"He [Kenneth] has helped me stay on track with my classes and has given me a lot of great advising advice," India Ross, senior at MSU, said.

Others shared the importance of representation that Reid brought to MSU.

"Having a black mentor and just being around and present is something I'll miss," Mariana Jordan, junior said.

Being a mentor for students who are new the MSU was an-

other impact Reid has made.

"He [Kenneth] helped me get connected with other students when I first got here.

He helped support me academically and with planning my career when talking about salaries and positions," Kornelius Klah, senior at MSU, said. "His genuineness and willing to help and guide is something I'll miss."

The position for the new Director of African American Affairs has no been announced yet. It can be expected that a mass email announcing the new director will be sent out this summer or early next fall.

◀FLOYD from page 2

demand that community members take part. Gross said she was meeting Thursday with Lucero's department and that monitoring a decree would top her agenda.

The Department of Human Rights launched its investigation barely a week after Floyd's death on May 25, 2020. Then-Officer Derek Chauvin used his knee to pin the Black man to the pavement for 9 1/2 minutes in a case that sparked protests around the world against police racism and brutality. Chauvin, who is white, was convicted last spring of murder.

Three other fired officers — Tou Thao, Thomas Lane and J. Alexander Kueng — were convicted this year of violating Floyd's civil rights in a federal trial and they face a state trial starting in June.

State investigators reviewed a decade's worth of information, including data on traffic stops, searches, arrests and uses of force, and examined policies and training.

The review included around

700 hours of body camera video and nearly 480,000 pages of city and police department documents. Lucero said investigators interviewed officers throughout the department and "overwhelmingly, we found officers being very forthcoming." The investigators also invited citizens to submit their own stories of encounters with Minneapolis police.

The Minnesota Department of Human Rights is the state's civil rights enforcement agency. Its duties include enforcing the Minnesota Human Rights Act which, among other things, makes it illegal for a police department to discriminate against someone because of their race.

"Race-based policing is unlawful and especially harms people of color and Indigenous individuals — sometimes costing community members their lives," the report said.

People of color or Indigenous individuals comprise about 42% of the city's population, the report said, while about 19% of city residents are Black.

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Twitter abuse victims fear of Musk's plans

By JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

Perhaps no group of people is more alarmed about Elon Musk's plan to make Twitter a free speech free-for-all than those most likely to be targeted for harassment: women, racial minorities and other marginalized groups.

They fear that a more hands-off approach to policing the platform will embolden purveyors of hate speech, bullying and disinformation to ratchet up their bad behavior — a possibility Musk has done little to dispel.

Yet even those who have faced extreme harassment on Twitter say they are unlikely to quit the platform. Despite the negative psychological toll, they still place a high value on Twitter as a place to express their views and engage with others.

That could help explain why Musk shows little concern for the underbelly of unfettered free speech, although advertisers — who account for 90% of Twitter's revenue — may not feel the same way. Renee Bracey Sherman, a biracial abortion rights advocate, endures a steady stream of predictable criticism on Twitter and, occasionally, an eruption of vile tweets: messages calling for her death, photos of aborted fetuses and, recently, her likeness photoshopped as a

Nazi. "It is a montage of hate and gore and violence," Bracey Sherman said. But while some famous people have said they are planning to quit Twitter because of Musk, more typical users like Bracey Sherman say it's not that simple. They cannot easily get attention wherever they go, cannot leave Twitter and expect their followers to join them. To mitigate the hate, Bracey Sherman has blocked thousands of people, and she uses filters to hide some of the most extreme messages. She also reports some of the most egregious messages to Twitter, although she says the platform rarely does anything about them.

While Twitter did not immediately respond for comment, the company says on its site that it does not permit targeted harassment or intimidation that could make people afraid to speak up. And it says it does not tolerate violent threats.

Musk has called himself a "free-speech absolutist" and believes Twitter will thrive as a forum for public debate with fewer restrictions. He hasn't offered many details about his plans and he didn't immediately respond to questions Wednesday, but in tweets to his 85 million followers since Twitter agreed to his \$44 billion offer to buy the company Musk has made clear that he wants to limit the



GREGORY BULL • Associated Press

The idea that Elon Musk might want to relax Twitter's content standards after he buys the company is downright alarming for people who have endured waves of harassment and abuse on the platform.

company's content-moderation efforts.

"The extreme antibody reaction from those who fear free speech says it all," Musk tweeted Tuesday. The uproar over Twitter echoes what other social media companies have experienced in the recent past, such

as when Facebook was slow to act to remove then-President Donald Trump from the platform for his role in the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol. And history shows that attempts at boycotts rarely succeed. Technology experts say leaving social platforms is not easy — your

friends or business associates are on it, and there are few alternatives. And even when fed-up users do leave, a steady stream of new users comes in right behind them. It's not the angriest users who leave, experts say, but those who simply find no use for the platform.

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Russia strikes back by cutting off gas

By YESICA FISCH, JON GAMBRELL and VANESSA GERA
Associated Press

Russia cut off natural gas to NATO members Poland and Bulgaria on Wednesday and threatened to do the same to other countries, dramatically escalating its standoff with the West over the war in Ukraine. European leaders decried the move as “blackmail.”

A day after the U.S. and other Western allies vowed to speed more and heavier weapons to Ukraine, the Kremlin used its most essential export as leverage against two of Kyiv’s staunch backers. Gas prices in Europe shot up on the news.

The tactic could eventually force targeted nations to resort to gas rationing and could deal another blow to economies suffering from rising prices. At the same time, it could deprive Russia of badly needed income to fund its war effort.

Western leaders and analysts portrayed the move by the Kremlin as a bid to both punish and divide the allies so as to undermine their united support for Ukraine.

Poland has been a major gateway for the delivery of weapons to Ukraine and confirmed



EMILIO MORENATTI • Associated Press

A priest blesses the remains of three people who died during the Russian occupation and were disinterred from temporary burial sites in Bucha, on the outskirts of Kyiv, on Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

this week that it is sending the country tanks. It has also been a vocal proponent of sanctions against the Kremlin.

Bulgaria, under a new liberal government that took office last fall, has cut many of its old ties to Moscow and likewise

supported punitive measures against Russia. It has also hosted Western fighter jets at a new NATO outpost on Bulgaria’s Black Sea coast.

The gas cuts do not immediately put the two countries in any dire trouble. Poland, es-

pecially, has been working for many years to line up other suppliers, and the continent is heading into summer, making gas less essential for households.

Yet the cutoff and the Kremlin warning that other countries could be next sent shivers

of worry through the 27-nation European Union. Germany, the largest economy on the continent, and Italy are among Europe’s biggest consumers of Russian natural gas, though they have already been taking steps to reduce their dependence on Moscow.

“It comes as no surprise that the Kremlin uses fossil fuels to try to blackmail us,” said EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. “Today, the Kremlin failed once again in his attempt to sow division amongst member states. The era of Russian fossil fuel in Europe is coming to an end.”

State-controlled Russian giant Gazprom said it was shutting off the two countries because they refused to pay in rubles, as President Vladimir Putin has demanded of “unfriendly” nations. The Kremlin said other countries may be cut off if they don’t agree to the payment arrangement.

Most European countries have publicly balked at Russia’s demand for rubles, but it is not clear how many have actually faced the moment of decision so far. Greece’s next scheduled payment to Gazprom is due on May 25, for example, and the government must decide then whether to comply.

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Editorial

Editorials represent the opinions of The Reporter editorial board. The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the college, university or student body.

Maxwell Mayleben Editor In Chief	Julia Barton News Director	Mansoor Ahmad Media Director
Kole Buelow Sports Editor	Emma Johnson Variety Editor	Jenna Peterson Copy Editor

Reflection of a year at The Reporter

As a reflection of the last year at our campus, we have to look at the achievements of our campus newspaper, the Reporter.

Since its establishment nearly 100 years ago in 1926, the Reporter has been advocating for the student's voice at least twice a week, covering events, people and moments that are important for students.

Last year, the Reporter was given adequate funding from the Student Government, and were able to see a steep increase in quality content, design and overall production of our newspaper.

The newsroom has been able to function as it is supposed to. We have writers following up on big stories that otherwise would go unnoticed.

An example of these important stories that have been pushed to the public eye is a student who was confined to a wheelchair and was left in her dorm room during a fire alarm. From the publishing of that story, significant impacts have been made, including actions from the Student Government and even upper administration. Another example of this is the hot button issue of accessibility on campus. This was especially brought to light with the complaint brought to the university regarding non-compliance to the Americans with Disabilities Act with the newly installed MavPODs. Of these stories, many of them have gone on to get picked up by larger news media organizations including the Mankato Free Press and KEYC.

In addition to large issues as mentioned above, The Reporter has published story after story highlighting the amazing work that students on campus do. This year, the Reporter was honored with 13 awards from the Minnesota Newspaper Association for its coverage of MSU's campus. For context, that is 9 more awards than were taken home the previous year. Whether it is planning or partaking in extravagant events like homecoming, or participating in tough conversations with guest speakers, students have had ample opportunity to grow as people, and the Reporter has been there every step of the way.

A college newspaper run by students is vital to the health of a campus, as it provides a voice to the student population, and allows for grievances to be voiced in a public fashion.

The laboratory-like structure of a student-run newspaper allows for people to learn in an environment that is not as high stakes as the real world. The actual experience that students receive while working at the Reporter is among some of the greatest on campus.

Writers, photographers and editors all get professional experience to use on a resume, all while creating high quality content in a space designed for creativity. That is why it is so important to allow for future journalists to build their skill prior to even leaving college.

Perspectives

Anti-sex work laws are anti-LGBTQ



JEREMY REDLIEN

WHY NOT TODAY?

I once had a professor proclaim in class that the word 'whore' was a perfectly acceptable word to use. Given reports of increasing numbers of college students turning to sex work to make ends meet, I wondered if this professor was aware how likely that term was to apply to one of the students present in that class.

A lot of discussion has taken place in which black activists and scholars have drawn a clear connection between the war on drugs and white supremacy while showing how anti-drug laws are used to target people of color. I have not seen as much discussion showing a similar link between anti-sex work laws and the LGBTQ community, but in my research into queer history, such a link has become exceedingly ob-

vious to me. In broad terms here's what I know. Anti-sex work laws have been used to increase monitoring of gay cruising sites, bars and hangouts.

Media depictions of gay men or lesbians are almost automatically labeled as pornographic and treated as such. Transgender people, especially transgender woman of color, are frequently targeted by law enforcement as they automatically stereotyping them as sex workers.

How sexual exploitation occurs is almost never shockingly violent. Take the following commonplace scenario. An LGBTQ child or youth comes out to their family, resulting in that in-

dividual being rejected and subjected to abuse by their own family. So, they run away from home. In order to survive, the LGBTQ youth turns to sex work to obtain money for food. This is how systemic homophobia and transphobia ends up leading to a long drawn out cycle of abuse for many LGBTQ youth. It's well documented that anti-sex work laws do little to actually protect victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Anti-sex work laws are never going to address the numerous systemic issues, such as sexism, anti-lgbtq bigotry, and poverty, that ultimately lead people to being sexually abused and exploited.

If we really wanted to end sexual violence and exploitation, we would look at the root causes and address them directly, not write laws that only further promote sexual violence and exploitation.

PULSE

“What are you looking forward to this summer?”

Compiled by Ajay Kasaudhan



AYMAN EL TAYEB, FRESHMAN

“Going back to my family in Kuwait.”



SUNITA KARKI, FRESHMAN

“Sunshine and the weather.”



ELIAS ADMAS, SENIOR

“Visit my family in Dallas and Virginia.”



YUJIN JUNG, FRESHMAN

“Hot weather.”



ANDREW WEINRICH, SENIOR

“Break from class.”



AAKRITI NEUPANE, FRESHMAN

“Longer days and sunny evenings.”

Three editors say farewell to The Reporter

The trio of editors have worked 'together' at The Reporter since the 2019 spring semester, although they were not as collaborative as they are now due to the nature of their roles. Max was a sales rep and Jenna was a sports writer, while Mansoor worked as the chief photographer and web editor.

The 2020 fall semester brought the three together as editors and they have since produced 110 issues over the course of four semesters.

The trio have formed a remarkable bond having spent countless hours together, inside and outside of the newsroom.

Two years of being the Editor in Chief, it's my time to turn the final page

MAX MAYLEBEN • Editor in Chief

I will never forget sitting down in an interview for a position as a writer in the Arts and Humanities section of the MSU Reporter.

It was my second year of college, I was living in a 5 bedroom apartment that was a brisk 10 minute walk away from campus. If I hustled.

That day, I hustled. I was on the prowl, confident, because I was wearing a button up shirt for the first time since Christmas. Armed with the naive confidence only allotted to a 19 year old wearing a black belt and brown dress shoes, I

sat across from my interviewers, ready to impress them with my writing ability and prowess.

It wasn't until about the third question when I realized that I was actually in an interview to be an advertising sales representative, and that my paperwork had been mixed up before I got there.

"At this point, I feel I should mention that I actually applied to be writer," I said, slightly embarrassed, "but I am a business major, so this might actually be a better fit for me."

So we continued the interview, they offered me the job, and thus began a journey that would result in a 3 year career of working at the MSU Reporter.

After a year of attempting to sell advertising then moving into the newly created "media editor" position, I put my name in the ring to be Editor in Chief.

It was me up against another very well qualified candidate, and I was absolutely thrilled and honored to be offered the job.

During my tenure as editor, I have watched the newspaper grow and change in such amazing ways that I cannot begin to quantify. My first decision as editor was to hire a news editor, and without hesitation, I chose the marvelously mean Jenna Peterson. Through our time during

the next year, Jenna was able to balance my flighty airhead out with ease. She was able to effortlessly improve the story content put into the paper, simply by looking at it with her cunning eyes.

The decision that was made for me was having Mansoor Ahmad as the photo editor. There aren't enough words to adequately put into context the effort, skill, and time that this man has put into the Reporter. If there was a single person who made the Reporter what it was, it was Mansoor. Whether it was watching him accept the multitudes of award winning photos in our paper, or angrily

MAX on page 8►

Thanks for the memories

JENNA PETERSON • Copy Editor

Each time someone asks me about my experience at The Reporter, I have to go back and tell them the whole story.

My second semester at MSU I was looking for an on-campus job for some extra cash. I saw the sports writer application, and I figured that since I understood a total of three sports it would be easy and it would give me a reason to go to the games. Just one semester into the job and I knew that writing for sports was not for me.

Coming into production nights my sophomore year is what got me connected to the newspaper. I was nervous that I would be interrupting the workflow, but I quickly caught on that nobody minded. I used this time to talk with the editors, take on extra stories, and bond with the people I worked with.

The editorial staff encouraged me to have my own column, Ask Jenna, where I would answer any questions sent in by students. This column was short-lived, as the only person outside of the newspaper that sent in a question was a friend of mine out of state.

Once COVID shut everything down, I was asked whether I'd like to be the sports or news editor beginning the next semester. As I had been trying to get away from writing for sports for a few months, I bit the bullet and decided to take on news, despite never writing for it before.

I'll never forget walking into the office for the first time that summer for a mini orientation with Max Mayleben and Mansoor Ahmad.

This was the first time we were working together, and the awkward tension of three (almost) strangers could have been cut with a knife. Thankfully, this tension vanished within the first week of production, as the three of us made up almost the entirety of the staff and were forced to talk to each other.

The Reporter has given me opportunities that I wouldn't have dreamed of. Mansoor and I traveled to Rochester to cover Trump's last Minnesota rally before the 2020 elections, I got to report on

JENNA on page 8►



Experience of a lifetime

MANSOOR AHMAD • Media Director

It's been one hell of a run, man. Where do I even start?

Growing up, I always looked up to two things: my parents, and the television. That was mostly because I'd spend most of my time with all three of them in our living room, along with my older brother. What drew me closer and was common between listening to my parents talk and the TV were the stories I would learn from them. And I guess that's where my love for storytelling comes from.

Going into college, I knew I would have more opportunities to follow my interests. Growing up over 7,000 miles away in the Middle East, I was always intrigued by Americans: their way of life, people and the cities, and sports. Those are all things I got to photograph during my time at The Reporter, among others. And what stood out the most to me were the people – and there are a lot of them that I want to talk about.

I found it surprisingly easy to not only fit in, but somehow relate to many of the people I came across. Working as a photographer at The Reporter forced me, in the best of ways, to come out of my shell and interact with those I photographed. My assignments took me to gatherings and events of all kinds. The constant exposure to different communities and their stories, along with the opportunity to photograph them was what kept me intrigued enough to return my editors' calls and emails my freshman year when I was just a photographer at The Reporter.

I always tell everyone I talk to The Reporter about that "it is whatever you make of it," and for me, it has given me an identity and a purpose. And I owe a lot to the people in the newsroom who have been so kind to me over the last five years. Jane Tastad, our business manager, has been a constant supporter and always had answers to my questions. She has practically been my grandmother, and my appreciation for her can not be expressed in words. Our production manager Dana Clark taught me to never stop being curious and being confident in my work,

MANSOOR on page 8►

◀**MANSOOR** from page 7
 whether it was my photography or an idea for the design of the layout of the newspaper pages. And it wasn't just people in the newsroom who helped me out with my countless requests.

I have always received utmost respect and great guidance from Paul 'PA' Allan at Athletics, and Dr. Shane Bowyer from the College of Business and his connection to The Reporter. PA has always been extra courteous at Maverick games, and it has helped me push my sports photography to a level I am really proud of. Shane has been a great help with the countless questions I have had for him. Former sports editor Dan Myers has been a joy to be around and learn from. I admire Dan for many reasons, but his infectious laugh and positive mindset are what really made me look up to him. Most importantly, former Reporter Editor Robb Murray has helped shape me as a person

and a journalist. Most importantly, he has taught me that it is more important to be a great human than it is to be a good journalist, and I am forever indebted to him.

I will always be grateful to the photographers I met while on assignment, and there are so many of them. David Faulkner from SPX Sports is one I have photographed most assignments with in my five years at the newspaper. David and I struck a friendship early during my freshman year and I'm thankful for him standing me this whole time, along with teaching me some technical things about photography as well as answering my questions. Pat Christman from the Mankato Free Press has also helped me out extensively over the last four years that I have known him for. Pat has great stories, and there's always something new I learn from him after a conversation. He was also kind enough to lend

his help in Pittsburgh and Boston, when we photographed the MSU men's hockey team at the Frozen Four the last two years.

My favorite photographer I have worked with, who also worked alongside me at The Reporter for two semesters, is Gage Cureton. Gage evolved from 'just another photographer' to someone who I have shared some of the coolest moments that I have been a part of. He's a gem of a human who is a great teacher, and even better person. He also takes amazing photos on his numerous film cameras.

And since we're on the topic of friends, it's only fair I mention the two others that I am sharing the 'goodbye' page with: Jenna Peterson and Max Mayleben. It surprises me how we managed to overcome everything that was thrown at us in our time here as editors. And that was all fine. But the times we got to spend together throughout it all is what will always stand out for me.

Jenna would always be there when I needed advice on how to dress nicely, and that, in my honest opinion, has been one change in my life that I would've never expected would have come out of The Reporter – learning how to dress nicely. I can not appreciate her efforts to improve the newspaper enough. From our first few months together in the 2020 fall semester, when we were operating on a skeleton crew, Jenna quietly set the tone of the newsroom when she took to her new role as news editor with her infectiously inspiring work ethic, and I'm forever grateful for her.

Max has also been helpful. Most importantly, he helped me get where I am directly. If it wasn't for him letting me take a shot at layout design, I would not have a reason to hang around the office for as much as I did on production days for the last two years. Much like Gabe Hewitt, David Bassey and

Maddie Diemert, the previous Editor in Chiefs I worked with, Max provided me with countless opportunities to push myself in every aspect of not only my professional but also my personal development. If it wasn't for Max's incredible patience and foresight, and Jenna's work ethic and persistence, I would not have been able to accomplish what I did here.

Above everyone else, I couldn't be more grateful for everything that I have learned from my parents. If it wasn't for their constant support and love throughout my life, I wouldn't be able to push through all the challenges that I have faced.

I wish I had more space to talk about my time at The Reporter, and thank every single person who helped me out in any manner.

I realized my dream during my time here, and if I were to do it all over again, I would not change a single thing.

◀**JENNA** from page 7
 the announcement and struggles with this year's MavPODs, and I stayed connected with MSU's sports by writing about the dance team's trips and accomplishments at nationals. Com-

paring where The Reporter is at now when I started, it's astonishing to see the improvements we've made.

I look forward to seeing where the future editors take the paper, and I'll be cheering them

on.

I've been dreading the day where I say goodbye to The Reporter. I've made my best friends at this newspaper, and without them I don't think my college experience would have been as

frustrating but rewarding than what it has been.

Working for my college's newspaper has been the peak in my life.

All of the late nights at the office, all of the arguments we had with each other ... I wouldn't trade it for the world.

◀**MAX** from page 7
 staring at him at 4 a.m. on a production night while listening to Coldplay on repeat, I always knew that Mansoor would always work about 300 times as hard as anyone else in the room.

There are an immense amount of people to thank for their support during my time at the Reporter. Robb Murray, for the sage editorial advice that comes from his immense age. Jane Tastad, for keeping me on track always (especially when it came to my timecard). Dana

Clark, for tirelessly working on advertising materials.

People outside our office that I owe an immense amount of gratitude include, but certainly are not limited to, Rachael Hanel, Shirley Piepho, David Cowan, Vice-President David Jones, President Edward Inch, the Student Government, and so many more people, that if I forgot to mention, I owe a massive hug.

I am so immensely proud of the work that we have done here. Even better than being

proud of that, I feel so incredibly confident passing the reins to my successor Julia Barton. I know that she, along with the incoming staff, will bring this place to soaring new heights.

As I close the last page of my time here at the Reporter, I am saddened to step out of the office for the final time, but at the same time, so incredibly excited to see what comes next. Perhaps at my next life-changing interview, I will remember to match my shoes to my belt.

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SPORTS

Softball slides into 2nd in the NSIC

By KOLE BUELOW
Sports Editor

The Minnesota State University, Mankato softball team completed their final regular season home series this past Tuesday against previously second placed Winona State in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference standings.

The Mavericks were able to squeak out two wins over the Warriors and surpass Winona in the NSIC standings to become the new No. 2 only behind Augustana.

Game one of the Tuesday doubleheader featured two of the best pitchers in the NSIC.

Senior Mackenzie Ward of Minnesota State and senior Liz Pautz of Winona State battled it out on the mound. Together the two senior pitchers totaled one run, seven hits, and 26 strikeouts in a combined 45 batters faced.

The difference: a triple by MSU's sophomore Kylie Sullivan. In the bottom of the fourth inning, Mavericks' sophomore Madi Newman got on base with a lead off single and later stole second. Sullivan got her turn at the plate and sent the ball to right field which scored Newman and proved to be the only run of the contest.

Ward earned her 25th win of the season for her shutout performance, while Pautz collected only her fifth loss of the season.

The teams returned to the field for game two of the dou-



MADDIE BEHRENS • The Reporter

The Minnesota State softball team is now 40-10 and has surpassed Winona State for second place in the NSIC standings. The Mavericks have four more games left in the regular season before competing in the NSIC tourney.

bleheader where the Mavs collected the first run of the game right away in the first inning. A defensive error by Winona helped send Newman to second base while the Mavericks' leading batter in Ellie Tallman was able to steal home.

The Warriors would respond in the third on a sacrifice fly but Minnesota State gained the runs right back in the fifth.

Freshman Cheyenne Beh-

rends tripled with two runners on base and was sent home when sophomore Courtney Baxter got hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

A double play would end the Mavericks' big inning which led the way for the Warriors to climb their way back in the top of the sixth. Winona started with a lead off single which was followed by another single.

MSU decided to change

pitchers in relief of sophomore Makayla Armbruster, which in turn helped get the first out of the inning. A strikeout got the second out, but Winona was able to steal second base to advance runners to second and third.

The Warriors took advantage, sending the ball into left center field for a double which scored the two runners on base. A full count ground out fol-

lowed, which ended the Warriors' run. Ward returned to the mound in the final inning to earn her second save of the season and clinch the doubleheader sweep.

With the two wins the Mavericks moved into second in the NSIC standings while also collecting their 40th win of the season. The win streak is now at 14 for MSU, and they will finish out their regular season with two road series doubleheaders against UMary and Minot State this upcoming Saturday and Sunday.

Minnesota State's two opponents both fall in the bottom half in the NSIC standings, with UMary holding a 4-15 conference record while Minot State's is 9-11.

Despite any hiccups on the way there, the Mavericks have a good shot at entering the NSIC tournament with an 18-game winning streak and a 44-10 overall record.

The NSIC tournament begins May 5 and goes until May 7 and will be held in Rochester, Minn. It will be a short road trip to Rochester and an even shorter turnaround if the team clinches a spot in the upcoming NCAA Division II tournament which begins May 12.

The team would first play in the NCAA Sub Regional tournament and would work their way up to the NCAA Super Regionals before finally reaching the NCAA Championships in Denver, Colo.

Mavericks sweep Cougars, have won 18 of last 19 games

By KARSON BUELOW
Staff Writer

After a weeklong break, the No. 16 Minnesota State University, Mankato baseball team returned to action yesterday against Sioux Falls for an afternoon doubleheader. The Mavericks thoroughly dominated the Cougars in both games, winning 11-5 in game one and 13-2 in game two. Senior Brendan Knoll got the start on the mound in game one for the Mavericks and picked up his seventh win of the season. Knoll pitched 4.2 innings, allowed five runs, and struck out six batters.

The Mavericks opened game one with a bang, as junior outfielder and leadoff hitter Ryan Wickman blasted a solo homerun in the top of the first to take an early 1-0 lead. MSU extended the lead to 4-0 in the top of the second inning when junior infielder Mikey Gottschalk tal-

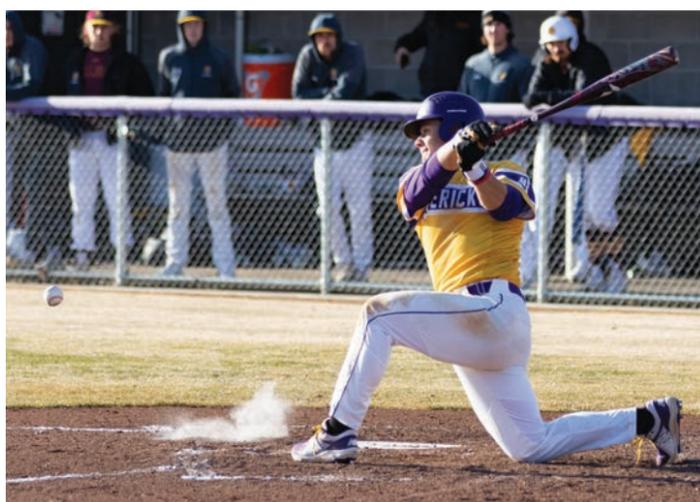
lied a three-run RBI double to right field.

The Cougars were able to get on the board in the third inning with two runs of their own, cutting the Maverick lead to 4-2. The Mavs responded with a four-run fourth inning that was highlighted by a three-run homerun by sophomore infielder Jackson Hauge, bringing the lead to 8-2.

Minnesota State's bats continued to heat up into the fifth inning, as three different Mavericks scored and brought the lead to 11-2. USF was able to muster up three more runs in the bottom of the fifth, but it was too little too late as MSU took game one by a dominant 11-5 final.

The Mavs and Peacocks got a short break before returning to the field for game two of their doubleheader.

Junior Nick Altermatt remained perfect on the mound this season as he picked up his



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

The Minnesota State baseball team swept the Sioux Falls Cougars in a doubleheader to remain atop the NSIC standings with a 22-3 conference record. The Mavs have eight more regular season games before playoffs.

eighth win of the season. The Wanda, Minn. native tallied six strikeouts and allowed only one hit in his six innings pitched.

MSU's hitting picked up right

where it left off as Gottschalk collected an RBI triple to center field early in the first. Moments later, senior pitcher and outfielder Cam Kline extended the MSU

lead to 2-0 with an RBI single of his own. MSU opened the floodgates in the second inning, pouring on five runs. The Mavs' five run second inning was highlighted by two, two-run homeruns by Altermatt and Hauge, which extended the lead to 7-0.

The Mavericks found themselves up 10-0 in the fourth inning thanks to RBIs from Wickman, Hauge, and sophomore infielder Adam Schneider. Sioux Falls was able to get two runs on the board in the fourth inning, but would be kept scoreless throughout the remainder of the game.

Three RBI singles by Minnesota State in the sixth inning would cap off the scoring for both teams. With the 10 run rule in effect, the Mavericks took game two by a convincing 13-2 final and improved to a 29-5 overall record and 22-3 record in Northern Sun Intercollegiate

BASEBALL on page 11

Morant layup gives Grizz series lead

By TERESA M. WALKER
Associated Press

First, Ja Morant gave the Memphis Grizzlies and their fans a much-needed energy boost by flying through the air for a big dunk at the end of the third quarter.

Then the All-Star guard took over the game's final two minutes.

Morant scored the last 13 points for Memphis, and his layup with a second left capped the Grizzlies' big rally from 11 points down in the fourth quarter to edge the Minnesota Timberwolves 111-109 on Tuesday night and grab a 3-2 lead in their first-round Western Conference series.

"Go get a bucket. Ja," Morant said of the game-winning play.

Morant, named the NBA's most improved player on Monday, struggled mightily much of the game. But he turned it on in the fourth quarter, scoring 18 points — including 9 of 10 at the free-throw line. His lone 3 of the game came with 1:03 left, giving Memphis its first lead since the first quarter.

"Obviously, he had a brilliant fourth quarter," Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said.

The Grizzlies point guard came from the low post as the Grizzlies inbounded the ball with 3.7 seconds left and lost Anthony Edwards at the top of the key. That left him an open lane into the paint he's so rarely had in this series, beating Jarred Vanderbilt with his left hand on an underhanded layup.

Edwards said he wanted to

try to steal the ball.

"Dumb mistake," Edwards said.

Morant finished with 30 and had 13 rebounds and nine assists. Desmond Bane added 25 points, and Brandon Clarke had 21 off the bench for Memphis, and Jaren Jackson Jr. added 12 before fouling out.

Karl-Anthony Towns led the Timberwolves with 28 points and 12 rebounds. Anthony Edwards had 22, and D'Angelo Russell added 12 and Taurean Prince 10.

Game 6 is Friday night back in Minnesota with the Wolves now trying to force a seventh game Sunday back in Memphis.

"It's a tough pill to swallow," Towns said. "You feel like you got it after all the mistakes made and everything like that. We hit a big 3 to tie the game up with 4 seconds (left). You feel good. You feel good about going into overtime and having a chance to win the game. Just a learning experience."

The Timberwolves led 99-88 with 6:58 left after three free throws by Towns, and Jackson fouling out for a second straight game. The Grizzlies responded with a 10-0 run to set up a thrilling finish to what had been an ugly, poor-shooting game, and outscored Minnesota 37-24 in the fourth.

Edwards tied it up at 109 for Minnesota with a 3 with 3.7 seconds left. That set up Morant for the final drive to the basket for the game-winner to start the celebration.

Clarke said he told Morant during the hug he thanked God the Grizzlies have him on their



BRANDON DILL • Associated Press

Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant (12) takes the game winning shot against Minnesota Timberwolves forward Jarred Vanderbilt (8) in the second half during Game 5 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series.

team.

"Thank God that you're as good as you are because we had just fought so hard," Clarke said. "And hit a really tough 3. And I was just like, it's fine, though, because we got 12 and we got a player that can make a really, really big-time finish. And I was like, 'Yeah, thank God that we got you, man.'"

Jenkins was fined \$15,000 Monday for criticizing the officiating after Game 4, a 119-118 win by Minnesota. On Tuesday, his Grizzlies got to the free-throw line more than Min-

nesota — they just didn't shoot well once there, making 26 of 39 compared to Minnesota's 21 of 24.

The Grizzlies opened the game on a 13-2 run and looked liked the team that earned the highest seed in franchise history.

Then Jackson got his second foul on Patrick Beverley's 3 and went to the bench. The Timberwolves, the NBA's best 3-point shooting team in the regular season, started knocking down shots, going 7 of 11 outside the arc and leading 31-28 at the end of the first quarter.

Minnesota was up 55-53 at halftime, then outscored Memphis 30-21 in the third. But Morant capped the quarter with a windmill dunk that helped give the Grizzlies some much-needed energy.

Timberwolves: Russell came in 17 of 55 overall and 9 of 24 from beyond the arc in this series. He knocked down his first two shots Tuesday, a pair of back-to-back 3s, and finished 2 of 4 from 3 and 4 of 10 from the floor. ... Beverley had their first four-point play in the postseason at 8:14 of the first quarter.

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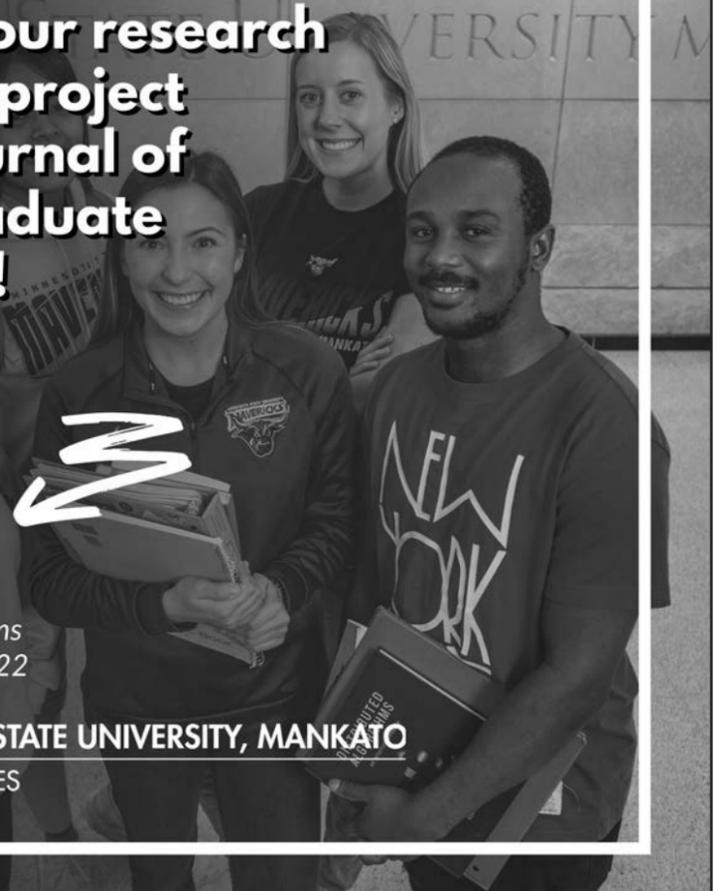
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Tigers throw it away: Wild toss in 9th gives Twins crazy 5-4 win

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

Dmitry Kulikov scored with 1.3 seconds remaining in overtime to give the Minnesota Wild a 5-4 victory over the Nashville Predators on Sunday night.

Joel Eriksson Ek had two power-play goals and an assist, Nick Bjugstad and Kevin Fiala also scored, and Marc-Andre Fleury made 21 saves for Minnesota. The Wild have won five straight as they battle with the St. Louis Blues for second place in the Central Division and home ice for the teams' first-round playoff series.

"It's just a real good all-around game," Wild coach Dean Evason said. "We did so many really good things in that hockey game that allowed us to have that opportunity to win."

Filip Forsberg had a goal and two assists, and Matt Duchene, Ryan Johansen and Dante Fabbro also scored for Nashville. David Rittich made 42 saves and Mikael Granlund had three assists for the Predators, who have lost three of four but remain in the top wild-card position in the Western Conference. Nashville moved one point ahead of Dallas in the standings.

"I thought our guys really battled hard tonight," Predators coach John Hynes said. "We earned a point. We'd like to get two points, but we've got to take some things out of it and get ready for Calgary."

With time winding down in the extra period, Kulikov took



CRAIG LASSIG • Associated Press

Minnesota Twins' Miguel Sano (22) celebrates teammates after he hit a single against the Detroit Tigers during the ninth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, April 26, 2022, in Minneapolis.

a pass from Eriksson Ek, drove down the left side and beat Rittich with a wrist shot.

"I don't get many of them, so I've got to make sure when I get them," Kulikov said.

Bjugstad scored the game's first goal at 11:05 of the opening period, but Forsberg answered with 2 seconds remaining in the first. Mikael Granlund threw a cross-ice saucer pass to Dante Fabbro on the right side. The puck hit Fabbro, then the goal post, and was sitting in the crease where Forsberg poked it in for his 40th goal of the season.

Eriksson Ek made it 2-1 at 6:36 of the second. Nashville challenged the play, alleging goaltender interference because Wild defenseman Jacob Middleton was in the crease when the goal was scored. Officials

allowed the goal to stand after a video review, determining that Middleton had been pushed by a Nashville player.

"I think we've shown all year everybody can score, everybody can help any way they are asked to," Eriksson Ek said. "It's good for our team to have that depth."

Duchene and Johansen scored power-play goals 2:58 apart in the second to give Nashville a 3-2 lead. Eriksson Ek scored his second power-play goal of the game at 18:27 and Fiala followed with 22.8 seconds left in the period to send the Wild into the second intermission up 4-3.

"I felt in the start we had the momentum," Fiala said. "You can see the shots. I think we pretty much dominated the whole game."

MAVS SWEEP SIOUX FALLS, ONTO UPPER IOWA



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

◀BASEBALL from page 9
Conference (NSIC).

Minnesota State is set to return home this weekend to host Upper Iowa for a conference series at Bowyer Field. The Peacocks come into this weekend's action with a 9-24 overall record and a 7-15 record in NSIC action. The Mavs dominate the Peacocks in the all-time matchup with a 27-6 overall record including a perfect 13-0 home record. The two teams last met on Apr. 18, 2021, where MSU took a

high-scoring affair by a 12-6 final. Upper Iowa has struggled this season in the hitting department. Senior infielder Jerry Garcia leads the Peacocks with a .299 batting average while also accumulating 15 RBIs on the season. The Peacocks' pitching crew is led by senior Jason Katz, who owns a perfect 2-0 record on the season and a 2.93 earned run average. Through 15.1 innings pitched, Katz has also tallied seven strikeouts and has only allowed six runs.

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Puck and player tracking taking big strides forward in NHL

By STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

When Buffalo rookie Owen Power scored his first NHL goal, the replay from five different angles was available in a matter of seconds in a private suite at Prudential Center as the team celebrated below. A few doors down, donning a headset puts you virtually on the ice with a set of cartoon characters reenacting the play.

More than three years since puck and player tracking was first tested by the NHL, the technology has grown by leaps and bounds to give coaches just about every piece of information they would want during

and after a game.

When the playoffs begin next week, hockey fans will continue to see more details about player speed, shot speed and other metrics; by next season, they should have access to some of that data, too.

“We’re going to be putting more puck and player tracking data on our website in the near future, so fans will have access to it for the first time,” NHL senior director of coaching and GM applications Brant Berglund said at the league’s latest tech showcase during a game between Buffalo and New Jersey.

“It will be there next season and possibly even as early as the

playoffs this season for some of it.”

Showing how hard someone shoots the puck — and how often a player breaks 20 mph — is just the start of the array of futuristic technologies coming to a hockey arena near you. The next wave includes real-time video and instant replays available for fans on their phones and steps toward augmented and virtual reality.

Coaches already have access to the full complement of puck and player tracking data as part of the app developed for their use on the bench during games. It includes a two-dimensional illustration of the game with players turned into tiny circles



BILL KOSTROUN • Associated Press

NHL senior director of coaching and general manager of technology Brant Berglund demonstrates the latest advances in puck and player tracking.

with their numbers on them and everything from average and max speed to when an opponent is most likely to pull the goalie when trailing by a certain number of goals.

Television broadcasters could be next to get an app like that to illustrate trends, with fans eventually getting their hands on all the data, more than has ever been available before.

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CORRECTION:

Apologies - The Reporter regrets having the wrong expiration date on the River Ridge Chiropractic ad on page 14 of the 2021-2022 Gold Mine coupon book. The correct expiration date is July 31, 2022. The coupon is still valid, and will be accepted.

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VARIETY

SENIOR SHOWCASE



By SYD BERGGREN • Staff Writer

Minnesota State University, Mankato's Effie R. Conkling art gallery is home to a multitude of showcases throughout the year that feature art from undergraduate, graduate and faculty members alike.

Currently, Conkling is featuring the third of this semester's Senior Showcases, which are opportunities for graduating fine arts students to display their work.

One of the featured artists, Lin Hilliker, is displaying a collection of nine acrylic paintings accompanied by an interactive element. The collection tells the story of a murder and its suspects and viewers are invited to be detectives and try to figure out the culprit.

The paintings are filled with text and clues, so Hilliker encourages lots of sleuthing to figure out who did it and then for people to pin a note card next to their suspect.

Hilliker likens her piece to a hidden object game. "I've always been interested in True Crime narratives and film noirs when I was younger and I decided I needed to do something with it. You can start with the main characters and then continue building," Hilliker stated.

"It's set in this town called Melville, and then you see the evidence gathered from the crime scene, then the suspects and the murder weapon



The final round of Senior Art Showcase is currently in the Conkling Art Gallery. Student Lin Hilliker has a acrylic painting piece (above) that is based on true crime narratives.

Photos by MADDIE BEHRENS • The Reporter

is at the end. They really build on each other."

Hilliker described her journey with art as something that came naturally to her and she continued to expand on as she got older.

"I had always been interested in art as a kid, similar to most people, but I really started to get into it freshman year of high school," stated Hilliker.

"One of my teachers at the time was a very popular local artist, and she was always telling

me, 'you need to keep working on this stuff, you have so much potential,' and so I just kind of stuck with it."

Hilliker came to Mankato with only the thought that she needed to pursue art in some form.

"For a while I toyed with the idea of creative arts like film, just reaching for something. When I really started making steps, I decided that education is where I want my focus to be because I love it and I want to share my knowledge and values," said Hilliker.

Next semester, Hilliker will be rounding out her career here at MSU doing student teaching. Hilliker wants to help others see that art is important and needed in life.

"I'll be really in the teaching world and getting some good experience. I would love to eventually be able to show works that I've made in more galleries and really get my name out there," said Hilliker.

"Art is an investigation. It's how you portray what you think without using words because sometimes, not using words can be enough."

The Senior Showcase's opening reception was April 27.

The Conkling Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Nelson Hall.

The exhibit will be closing on May 5.

Variety is the spice of life: reflecting on my time as variety editor

By EMMA JOHNSON
Variety Editor

As my first year at Minnesota State University, Mankato comes to a close, there have been several times in the last few weeks where I've sat thinking, "How did the year fly by?" At this time last year, I was trying on my cap and gown, practicing my gradua-

tion speech and thinking that my life was going to drastically change over the last next few months.

Even though I've been hesitant to change, I find myself getting bored when I don't have something new to do. I like to try and challenge myself now and then and get out of my comfort zone. That being said, I only want to get

out of my comfort zone when I want to get out of my comfort zone. If it's something that piques my interest, then I'm all game.

When I wrote for my newspaper in high school, I focused on stories that focused on entertainment, satire and opinion pieces.

When I could pick what I wanted to write about, I

found myself flying through stories and crafting passionate pieces that I enjoyed.

When I decided to write for The Reporter, I was instantly drawn to the variety section. Seeing as this was where my creative talents would be valued, I knew this was the section I wanted to write for.

A few weeks in, I real-

ized that writing for variety in college wasn't exactly like the various articles I wrote in high school.

Instead of writing stories that didn't involve me going out, such as movie and album reviews, I had to go to events all over campus and speak with students who were involved in a variety of groups.

CHANGE on page 15 ▶

Leaping into the spring dance show

By LILLY SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

Minnesota State University, Mankato is drawing the curtains on its 2021-22 season, culminating in the Spring Dance Concert.

Daniel Stark, a director and choreographer for the concert explained the upcoming performance and how the concert highlights the dancers.

“This is a concert that includes dances created by faculty here at the department, as well as guest artists that we bring in and a couple of student dances that were selected through an adjudication process” said Stark.

With this year’s Spring Concert, Stark explained the wide variety of music and dance styles that will be highlighted such as tap and urban dance.

“The concert runs about two hours and it’s going to have a huge variety of dance styles. We have some contemporary dance, ballet and Latin inspired jazz,” said Stark. “We like to do a variety as much as we possibly can.”

The concert will also include dances by three guest artists: Giselle Mejia, Mary Stark and Allison Doughty Marquesen.

Senior Rachel Hart recognized the importance of having the return of guest artists as the pandemic restrictions have been lessened. Hart explained that she wants the audience to understand how much the show means to the performers.

“I think that this is so special for many reasons, but especially because I think so many artists have been struggling through-



Courtesy photo

The cast of the Spring Dance Concert will perform a variety of dance styles including ballet, Latin inspired jazz and urban dance this weekend.

out the pandemic,” said Hart. “I think it would be important for the audience to take away that we are so lucky to be able to do these live performances again.”

For Hart, another important part of this concert is that it will be her final one at Mankato. Hart explained how surreal her final show feels at MSU and how it hasn’t hit her yet.

“I’ve been here since fall 2018 and I performed in every dance concert since. I think I’m most excited for dancing alongside my friends for the last time, but also the feeling of performing and being onstage, which is

something I can’t find anywhere else,” said Hart. “I’m excited to experience that one more time.”

Stark is eager to share the concert with Mankato to highlight what the students have been working on.

“It’s so great to see the students, because they put their heart and souls into what they’re doing on stage, and with the performance and the choreography and the design,” shared Stark. “It’s a huge peak that comes right at the end of our semester.”

Similarly, Hart welcomes the audience to see the final show of

the year.

“Even if they’re not a dancer or an artist themselves, I think that art is so good for the soul and society. I think that you see things in a new way, through a new lens that maybe you haven’t seen before,” shared Hart. “Just seeing dancers is super awesome, and appreciating the hard work that the choreographers and the dancers and all those

people who are involved in this concert put into make this final product.”

The spring dance concert will have a show on April 29 at 7:30 p.m. and April 30 at 2 p.m with a student showcase on May 1 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and children under 16 and \$8 for MSU students. Tickets for the student showcase are \$5.

CORRECTION:

Apologies -

The Reporter regrets having the wrong expiration date on the Mav Ave ad on page 32 of the 2021-2022 Gold Mine coupon book. The correct expiration date is June 30, 2022. The coupon is still valid, and will be accepted.



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'Wizard of Oz' dress up for sale

By DEEPTI HAJELA
Associated Press

It's one of the most recognizable outfits in American movie history, the blue-and-white checked gingham dress a young Judy Garland wore as Dorothy in the classic 1939 movie "The Wizard of Oz."

For decades, one of the versions of the dress Garland wore in the movie was assumed lost at Catholic University of America, where it had been given to someone in the drama department in the early 1970s. But the clearing out of some office clutter last year led to the finding of the dress in an old shoebox, and now it's headed for the auction block.

When she first saw it, "all I could think about was watching the movie when I was a child and growing up with" it, said Jacqueline Leary-Warsaw, dean of the school of music, drama and art at Catholic University, in Washington, D.C.

She and others are hopeful that nostalgia factor will come into play when the costume goes up for sale at Bonhams "Classic Hollywood: Film and Television" auction on May 24 in Los Angeles, where it has a



KATIE VASQUEZ • Associated Press

A blue and white checked gingham dress, worn by Judy Garland in the "Wizard of Oz," hangs on display at Bonhams in New York. One of the most iconic outfits in American movie history is heading for auction

presale estimate of \$800,000 to \$1.2 million. Bonhams has the dress on display this week at the auction house's New York location before it is sent to California for public view and then auction.

People "very much remember the first time they saw the film, the effect it had on their lives," she said. The film is renowned for its music, its dialogue and its visuals, particularly when Dorothy goes from

drab, sepia-colored Kansas to gloriously multicolored Oz.

There was more than one of the costume made for Garland while filming. Hall said that four are known to exist and that only two, including the one found at Catholic University, are with the blouse she wore underneath.

Bonhams sold the other one with a blouse at an auction in 2015 for more than \$1.5 million.

◀CHANGE from page 13

Some of the stories were in my comfort zone, such as attending the shows performed by the MSU Department of Theatre and Dance.

Other stories were events that I never would have gone to had I not been assigned to, such as the "Sex in the Dark" event.

Being exposed to a variety of groups and events that

were available to students and speaking with a bunch of students, teachers and alumni allowed me to connect and find common ground.

An undergraduate artist and I have similar role models that we look up to. An alumni author and I discussed about finding our passions for writing and why it drives us as humans. An actor and I talked about

why the arts are such a valuable contribution to society.

While I will be transitioning to the title of news director next year, I still credit variety for pushing me to grow as a person, whether I was comfortable or not. If you don't push yourself, you'll never grow as a person. They say variety is the spice of life and I plan on making the most of it.

ABC's 'black-ish' ends its run as ABC looks to future



RICHARD CARTWRIGHT • Associated Press

The popular TV show "black-ish" ended after eight seasons on April 19. ABC is looking to give a second season to their new show "Abbott Elementary" starring actress Quinta Brunson in the fall of 2022.

By DAVID BAUDER
Associated Press

into account.

As the comedy "black-ish" ended its run after eight seasons with a relatively modest live audience of 2.52 million viewers, ABC is already pivoting to what it hopes is its next defining sitcom.

The "black-ish" series finale last week featured a storyline where series stars Anthony Anderson and Tracee Ellis Ross move their fictional Johnson family from the predominantly white area where they had been living to a neighborhood with more Black families.

It was the largest audience for the series since its final season debut in September, according to the Nielsen company, and certain to increase when delayed viewing is taken

Less than a week later, at a New York dinner held by ABC parents Walt Disney Co. on Monday to showcase its creators, a spotlight was on Quinta Brunson, creator and star of the new sitcom "Abbott Elementary."

The series based in a Philadelphia elementary school and inspired by Brunson's mother, a kindergarten teacher, debuted in December to strong reviews. It ended its first season on April 12 with an average of 2.9 million viewers per episode, which swelled to 8 million when a full month's delayed viewing is counted in, Nielsen said. Brunson said that she's a fan of workplace and family comedies, which have been a staple of ABC's lineup for generations.

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EMPLOYEE OWNED

Psychologist analyzes Amber Heard's health

By MATTHEW BARAKAT
Associated Press

A forensic psychologist testified Tuesday that actor Amber Heard suffers from borderline personality disorder and histrionic personality disorder, as the civil lawsuit between her and ex-husband Johnny Depp continues to wallow in the couple's personal issues.

Depp is suing Heard for libel in Fairfax County Circuit Court after she wrote an op-ed piece in The Washington Post referring to herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse." The article doesn't mention Depp by name, but his lawyers say the article contains "defamation by implication" because it clearly refers to allegations of domestic abuse made by Heard when she filed for divorce in 2016.

The psychologist, Shannon Curry, was hired by Depp's legal team. She said she reached her diagnosis during 12 hours of interviews with Heard, as well as from reviewing her mental-health records.

Curry also testified that Heard does not suffer post-traumatic stress disorder from her relationship with Depp, as Heard has claimed.

Depp's team hopes Curry's testimony bolsters their contention that Heard was the aggressor in the couple's troubled re-



BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI • Associated Press

Psychologist Shannon Curry (above) was hired by actor Johnny Depp testified in the court case between Depp and actress Amber Heard on Heard's mental health. Curry's results were found that Heard doesn't suffer from PTSD.

lationship. Depp just concluded four days on the witness stand and testified about Heard's "need for conflict" and her tendency to hound and pursue him during arguments when he tried to walk away and disengage.

The two personality disorders are similar, Curry said. Bor-

derline personality is a disease of instability, she said "driven by an underlying fear of abandonment." She said people with the disorder "will make desperate attempts to prevent that from happening."

Evidence introduced earlier at the trial includes audio clips

of Heard begging Depp not to leave, and to stay with her after he indicated a desire to break up or separate.

She also said that borderline personality disorder "seems to be a predictive factor for women who implement violence against their partner." Depp has said

he is the one who was a victim of domestic violence, and that Heard hit him on multiple occasions and threw items like paint cans and vodka bottles at him.

Histrionic personality disorder, Curry said, is associated with "drama and shallowness," and a need to be the center of attention.

She said there's a correlation in the disorder with people who are physically attractive and "utilize their looks to get that attention."

On cross-examination, Heard's lawyers questioned Curry for potential bias, noting that she had dinner and drinks with Depp and his lawyers at Depp's house before she was hired. Curry said it was just part of the interview process.

And Heard's lawyers called attention to evidence that Heard reported abuse contemporaneously to her therapist and to the couple's marriage counselor.

While the libel lawsuit is supposed to center on whether Depp was defamed in the article, most of the trial has focused on ugly details of the couple's brief marriage. Depp has denied ever striking Heard. Heard's attorneys say Depp physically and sexually abused her and that Depp's denials lack merit because he was often drunk and high to the point of blacking out.

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