

Diversity in Student Affairs

By ANNISA ECHOLS
Staff Writer

Student Affairs are an integral part of campus and have various resources and opportunities for students.

According to the MSU website, “Through partnerships with students and faculty, we aim to create a student-centered environment that fosters student exploration, leadership and the development of big ideas and real-world thinking.”

Student affairs oversees actions and activities on campus that involve students. Through student affairs, students can file complaints or appeals and receive help with basic needs. The office may also have graduate student employment opportunities available.

Student Affairs is also the home of the Multi-Cultural Student Affairs office.

Multicultural Student Affairs is the home to: African-American Affairs Center, Asian-American Affairs Center, Indian- American Affairs and Latinx Affairs. Each affairs department has a different manager.

According to their website, “The Center for African American Affairs develops events, programs and direct services that empower students to find their voice and explore the varying levels of their



DAVIS JENSEN • The Reporter

Student affairs oversees actions and activities on campus that involve students. One activity was students in the Multi-Cultural Affairs Center students painted mugs.

ethnic and cultural identities.

Balencia Sariah Crosby heads the department. The office has many opportunities available for students. Onerogram offered is BIG (Black Intelligent Gentle-

men), the mission is to, “improve the long-term trajectories of Black men in the college system.”

Another option available is the Black Student Union.

According to the MSU web-

site, BSU’s purpose is, “to promote and sustain an atmosphere that is conducive to the political, cultural, social, spiritual, economic, and educational growth of students of

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MSU held its 48th Annual Pan African Conference

By AMALIA SHARAF
Staff Writer

Minnesota State hosted its 48th Annual Dr. Michael T. Fagin Pan African Conference between Feb. 29 and March 1. The conference, named in honor of bell hooks’ essay “Homeplace: A Site of Resistance,” offered a variety of sessions.

Director of African American Affairs Balencia Sariah Crosby and assistant professor Danielle Scott both orchestrated the

event, from the theme of this year’s conference to the keynote speakers. According to Crosby, they were able to work with the Pan African advisory council at MSU.



Mayor Nadia Mohamed

Crosby and Scott started working on the conference in July 2023.

“Bell hooks was a phenomenal author and leader, and their writings still ring true,” said Crosby. “But this essay was important specifically because it really captures the purpose, I believe, of this work that we’re doing with the conference. This conference comes in, and it’s not widely accepted by a number of people at the institution or the community.”

According to Crosby, the essay “Homeplace: A Site of Resistance” offered something to everyone. Therefore, the main theme of the conference was intentionally named after the bell hooks’ work.

There were over 250 attendees over the days of the conference. Crosby said five groups from the community, each of which had 25 to 30 people, attended the sessions.

“We pulled every single chair that was off on the side for the breakfast and crafting area later in the afternoon,” said Crosby. “This way we made space for more guests to come.”

The conference offered

AFRICAN on page 5

Women’s History Month offers events

By EPHRATA BEZUAYENE
Staff Writer

Women’s History Month is celebrated in March around the world in places like the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. The celebration was initiated in 1987 by a petition filed by the National Women’s History Project. Its aim was to honor the accomplishments and contributions made by women.

“Women’s History Month has really been a global recognition of the ways that women experienced the world,” said Liz Steinborn-Gourley, director of the women’s center.

Now, almost 50 years after the petition, great strides have been made in recognizing the unsung stories of courageous women who served as labor leaders, suffragists, abolitionists, trailblazing scientists, and bold public servants. Despite the awareness that has been made, more work awaits for the complete removal of the obstacles preventing women from reaching their full potential.

“We’re in a state of war; there’s a war on women,” Steinborn-Gour-



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

Women’s History Month is celebrated in March around the world. In the Centennial Student Union, the Women’s Center is hosting various events throughout the month.

ley said. “There’s a war on earth. There’s an actual war happening. But we can use our imaginations to create and rise for a world that transcends that. Our big cornerstone celebration of women’s history month will be on Wednesday, March 13th. 1 billion rising is the idea, and the theme is imagine, create, and rise for a world of free-

dom.”

Steinborn-Gourley’s work on empowering young women and advocating for women’s rights goes beyond her five years as director of the women’s center. She has recognized International Women’s Day and the 1 Billion Rising theme since about 2009.

There are students who have

already signed up to help with the one billion-rising event. Some would be tabling to promote menstrual equity in Gaza, by getting donations that would go towards providing women in Gaza with menstrual health products.

An individual who would be helping with the event, shared a personal account of a woman who inspired them in observance of Women’s History Month.

“Kimberly Crenshaw,” said Candace Omari, graduate assistant and first-year graduate student in the Gender and Women’s Studies program. “She was the first to coin the term intersectionality, which essentially means that we are women, but we also have different layers of ourselves. She shifted the way that we perceive feminism because previously, white feminism, or Western feminism, focused a lot on white women. They didn’t really consider that black women, for example, were not only experiencing sexism but also racism. I think she did a lot for us because she kind of opened the door to acknowledging that we can suffer in many different ways.”

WOMENS on page 5

Program that allows 30,000 migrants into the US upheld by judge



ERIC GAY • The Associated Press

Migrants who crossed the Rio Grande and entered the U.S. from Mexico are lined up for processing by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023, in Eagle Pass, Texas.

By JUAN A. LOZANO
The Associated Press

The Biden administration can keep operating a program that allows a limited number of migrants from four countries to enter the U.S. on humanitarian grounds after a federal judge on Friday dismissed a challenge from Republican-led states.

U.S. District Judge Drew B. Tipton said Texas and 20 other states had not shown they had suffered financial harm because of the humanitarian parole program that allows up to 30,000 asylum-seekers into the U.S. each month from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela combined. That was something the states needed to prove to have legal standing to bring the lawsuit.

"In reaching this conclusion, the Court does not address the lawfulness of the Program," Tipton wrote.

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African descent and the University community at large."

Asian American Affairs also has its own office available for interested students. The MSU website says the group's mission is to, "serve as a voice to promote equal access, opportunity, and cultural diversity for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students" at MSU."

There are many groups and activities hosted by the office as well, including Asian Students in America.

"The organization is set out to recruit and retain Asian students by promoting, educating, and focusing on Asian and Asian American topics or issues in America," the website says. "The center also has support services available such as: financial services, academic and social support. Please contact the Center for Asian American Affairs for more details.

The Office of American Indian

Eliminating the program would undercut a broader policy that seeks to encourage migrants to use the Biden administration's preferred pathways into the U.S. or face stiff consequences.

The states, led by Texas, had argued the program is forcing them to spend millions on health care, education, and public safety for the migrants.

An attorney working with the Texas attorney general's office in the legal challenge said that the program "created a shadow immigration system."

Advocates for the federal government countered that migrants admitted through the policy helped with a U.S. farm labor shortage.

The White House welcomed the ruling.

"The district court's decision is based on the success of this program, which has expanded lawful

pathways for nationals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela who have a sponsor in this country and pass our rigorous vetting process, while dramatically decreasing the number of nationals from those countries crossing our Southwest Border," White House spokesperson Angelo Fernández Hernández said.

The Texas Attorney General's Office did not immediately reply to messages seeking comment. An appeal by Texas and the other states seemed likely.

Since the program was launched in fall 2022, more than 357,000 people from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela have been granted parole and allowed to enter the country through January. Haitians have been far been the biggest group to use the program with 138,000 people from that country arriving, followed by 86,000 Venezuelans, 74,000 Cubans and 58,000 Nicaraguans.

Affairs is also available for students at MSU. The office is led by Megan Heutmaker.

"Provide American Indian students of all tribal backgrounds at Minnesota State University with support services during their college careers."

According to the Office of American Indian Affairs and the MSU website,

"We also provide support with financial aid, academic and social support."

The Latinx Office of Student Affairs is also available to students here at MSU. Latinx Affairs is headed by Fabiola Diaz. She can be reached at fabiola.diaz@mnus.edu. The office also has many resources and groups available to students. According to the MSU website,

"Latinx Affairs works to accommodate the ethnic student population and provide support to help them have a successful ac-

ademic career at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

In addition, The Office of Latinx Affairs also offers extra support and resources for students attending this University.

According to the MSU website,

"There are two student organizations under the Latinx Affairs Department. Latinx Student Union and Latino Wellness. Through guest speakers, cultural outings, and events. Students, faculty, and staff build an equitable community at MNSU-Get involved!"

Additionally, the Latinx Office of Affairs offers: financial aid support, academic support, and social support any questions please contact Latinx affairs.

In closing MSU is a diverse community filled with people from various and multiple Ethnic backgrounds. The Center for Multi-Cultural Affairs is here to support you.

Kate, Princess of Wales, apologizes for altering family photo



FRANK AUGSTEIN • The Associated Press

Britain's Kate, Princess of Wales smiles during her visit to Sebby's Corner in north London, Friday, Nov. 24, 2023. Princess Kate apologized Monday, March 11, 2024

By BRIAN MELLEY
The Associated Press

Kate, Princess of Wales, apologized Monday for "confusion" caused by her altering of a family photo released by the palace — an image of Kate and her children that was intended to calm concern and speculation about the British royal's health, but had the opposite effect.

Several news agencies that initially published the photo, including The Associated Press, withdrew the image over concerns about digital manipulation. Issued by the couple's Kensington Palace office on Sunday to mark Mother's Day in Britain, it was the first official photo of 42-year-old Kate since she had abdominal surgery nearly two months ago.

The retractions sent the online rumor mill, already rampant with

speculation over Kate's operation and recuperation, into overdrive. The PR disaster is more evidence that the royal family's long-held mantra — "never complain, never explain" — is impossible in a social media-saturated era.

In a post on social media, Kate said that "like many amateur photographers, I do occasionally experiment with editing"

"I wanted to express my apologies for any confusion the family photograph we shared yesterday caused," the post said.

In the past, the palace has issued several of Kate's family snapshots featuring her and heir to the throne, Prince William, with their children Prince George, 10, Princess Charlotte, 8, and Prince Louis, 5.

The latest photo was taken by William, Kensington Palace said.

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Trump blasts Biden over Laken Riley's death



MIKE STEWART • The Associated Press

Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally Saturday, March 9, 2024, in Rome Ga.

By JOSH BOAK,
MICHELLE PRICE and
JILL COLVIN
The Associated Press

President Joe Biden said Saturday that he regretted using the term “illegal” during his State of the Union address to describe the suspected killer of Laken Riley, as his all-but-certain 2024 GOP rival, Donald Trump, blasted the Democrat’s immigration policies and blamed them for her death at a rally attended by the Georgia nursing student’s family and friends.

Biden expressed remorse after facing frustration from some in his party for the use of the term to describe people who arrived or are living in the U.S. illegally.

“I shouldn’t have used illegal, it’s undocumented,” he said in an interview with MSNBC’s Jonathan Capehart taped in Atlanta, where the president was meeting with small business owners and holding a campaign rally.

Trump, campaigning in Rome, Georgia, at the same time, assailed Biden for the comments.

“Joe Biden went on television and apologized for calling Laken’s murderer an illegal,” he said to loud jeers and boos. “Biden should be apologizing for apologizing to this killer.”

The back-and-forth underscored how Riley’s murder has become a flashpoint in the 2024 campaign and a rallying cry for Republicans who have seized on frustrations over the Biden administration’s handling of the U.S.-Mexico border during a record surge of migrants entering the country. An immigrant from Venezuela who entered the U.S. illegally has been arrested and charged with her murder.

Trump was joined at his rally by Riley’s parents, her sister and friends and met with them before he took the stage.

They were welcomed with a standing ovation and large signs handed out by the campaign that featured Riley’s photograph and the words “SAY HER NAME!” “REMEMBER OUR ANGELS;” they read on the back.

“We share your grief,” Trump told them in his remarks.

Trump, in a speech that last-

ed nearly two hours, hammered Biden on the border and for mispronouncing Riley’s name during his State of the Union address this past week.

“What Joe Biden has done on our border is a crime against humanity and the people of this nation for which he will never be forgiven,” Trump charged, alleging that Riley “would be alive today if Joe Biden had not willfully and maliciously eviscerated the borders of the United States and set loose thousands and thousands of dangerous criminals into our country.”

Trump, who had made immigration a centerpiece of his campaign, has repeatedly vowed to mount the largest deportation in the nation’s history if he wins.

He contrasted his rhetoric with Biden’s — “I say he was an illegal immigrant. He was an illegal migrant” — and accused Biden, who has long been seen as an empathetic leader, of having “no remorse.

He’s got no regret, he’s got no empathy, no compassion, and worst of all, he has no intention of stopping the deadly invasion that stole precious Laken’s beautiful American life,” Trump said.

Biden earlier this year bucked activists within his party by agreeing to make changes to U.S. immigration law that would have limited some migration.

The deal that emerged would have overhauled the asylum system to provide faster and tougher enforcement, as well as given presidents new powers to immediately expel migrants if authorities become overwhelmed.

It also would have added \$20 billion in funding, a huge influx of cash.

The changes became part of a short-lived bipartisan compromise that was quickly killed by Republican lawmakers after Trump made his opposition known.

After the deal’s collapse, Biden has been considering taking executive action to try to curtail migration, but he’s expressed frustration that his lawyers have yet to devise options that they believe can pass muster with federal courts.

What to know about the SAVE plan

By ADRIANA MORGA and
COLLIN BINKLEY
The Associated Press

More than 75 million student loan borrowers have enrolled in the U.S. government’s newest repayment plan since it launched in August.

President Joe Biden recently announced that he was canceling federal student loans for nearly 153,000 borrowers enrolled in the plan, known as the SAVE plan. Forgiveness was granted to borrowers who had made payments for at least 10 years and originally borrowed \$12,000 or less.

The SAVE plan was created last year to replace other existing income-based repayment plans offered by the federal government. More borrowers are now eligible to have their monthly payments reduced to \$0, and many will qualify for lower payments compared to other repayment plans.

For Lauran Michael and her husband, the SAVE plan has reduced student loan payments by half.

Since getting married, they’ve both been paying off her husband’s student loans, which would have amounted to about \$1,000 a month when payments resumed after a pause during the pandemic. Under the SAVE plan, their payments are now \$530 a month.

“We don’t want our loans dictating our life choices, and us not being able to do other things because we’re paying so much money. The SAVE plan is definitely a game changer for us,” said Michael, a 34-year-old interior designer in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Michael’s family is paying for daycare for their two children using the money they saved from not making payments during the



MARK STOCKWELL • The Associated Press

Wheaton College students stop to chat on the Norton, Mass. campus, Feb. 13, 2024 as snow falls.

pandemic and the reduced payments under the SAVE plan.

If you are interested in applying for the SAVE plan, here’s what you need to know:

WHAT IS AN INCOME-DRIVEN REPAYMENT PLAN?

The U.S. Education Department offers several plans for repaying federal student loans. Under the standard plan, borrowers are charged a fixed monthly amount that ensures all their debt will be repaid after 10 years. But if borrowers have difficulty paying that amount, they can enroll in one of several plans that offer lower monthly payments based on income and family size. Those are known as income-driven repayment plans.

Income-driven options have been offered for years and generally cap monthly payments at 10% of a borrower’s discretionary income. If a borrower’s earnings are low enough, their bill is reduced to \$0. And after 20 or 25 years, any remaining debt gets erased.

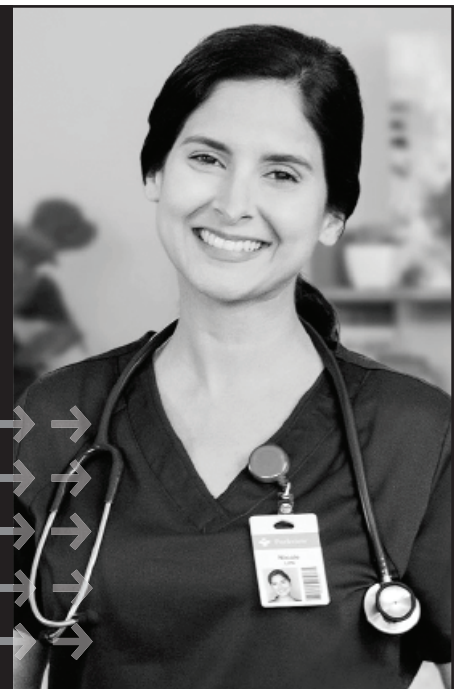
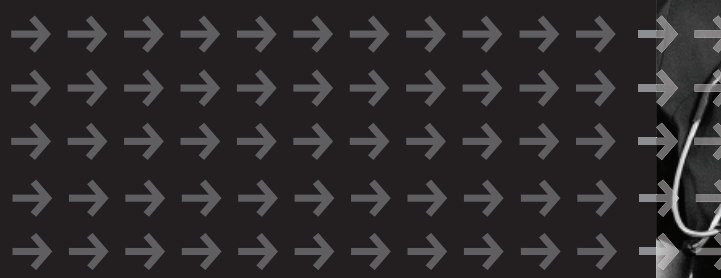
HOW IS THE SAVE PLAN DIFFERENT?

More borrowers in the SAVE plan are eligible for \$0 payments. This plan won’t require borrowers to make payments if they earn less than 225% of the federal poverty line — \$32,800 a year for a single person. The cutoff for other plans, by contrast, is 150% of the poverty line, or \$22,000 a year for a single person.

Also, the SAVE plan prevents interest from piling up. As long as borrowers make their monthly payments, their overall balance won’t increase. Once they cover their adjusted monthly payment — even if it’s \$0 — any remaining interest is waived.

Other major changes will take effect in July 2024. Payments on undergraduate loans will be capped at 5% of discretionary income, down from 10% now. Those with graduate and undergraduate loans will pay between 5% and 10%, depending on their original loan balance.

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Editorial

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The importance of Women's History Month

Women are mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, nieces, cousins and friends. Women are teachers, doctors, scientists, artists, designers, authors, politicians and police officers.

Women impact our lives every day; March serves as the month to celebrate and give gratitude to all women throughout history.

Since 1995, presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month," according to the Library of Congress. This month celebrates the achievements and contributions women have made to the United States.

Before female pioneers and activists challenged their placement in society, women were deemed inferior to men. Women could not vote. Women could not learn. Women could not work. Women lacked fundamental rights to education, employment and bodily autonomy.

In order for women to face different treatment in the world, influential figures like Amelia Earhart, Marie Curie and Ada Lovelace paved the way to open doors for future generations. The aviator, chemist and computer programmer proved women were able to complete the same jobs as men, rather than completing house chores and taking care of children.

Leaders such as first-lady and women's rights activist Eleanor Roosevelt and education activist Malala Yousafzai showed women they are capable of creating change despite being confronted with adversity.

In the entertainment and arts industry, women like Frida Kahlo and Aretha Franklin brought in large audiences who glorified their talents, igniting a spark in young girls to achieve their artistic and musical dreams.

In order to celebrate women in our own lives and significant female figures around the world, there are numerous things we can do on a small scale to show our appreciation or bring about conversation on gender equality.

One way to start is by sharing content on social media to spread awareness about Women's History Month, whether it is by posting an inspirational quote, a photo or a video.

There are also a plethora of women-related events going on around the U.S. during the Month of march, and closer to home at Minnesota State. We can continue to show our support by joining in on a women's walk or an art event.

Women have come a long way, but there is still a far road ahead, and it is important to continue to celebrate women this month and every other month on the calendar.

Perspectives

Mindful Journeys: Burnout can't beat us



Courtesy Emma Johnson

I'm perfectly guilty of working myself to my limits. I've had to learn over the last few years that it's not terrible to take some time to rest. Whether the amount of "hustle culture" posts I've seen on social media or having always been dialed to 11 since the amount of work I've had to do in middle school, I'm unsure.



Jeremy Redlien
Staff Writer

I'd like to say I know when I've been pushing myself too hard, but I can't. If I'm not actively working on a task or at least trying to work ahead a bit, I feel that I'm slacking off or being lazy. Society has told us we constantly have to be productive and we should equate our worth to how much we can accomplish. However, there are only 24 hours in a day and there's only so much we can do.

It's not until I have school breaks that I realize how hard I'm subconsciously pushing myself. The two weeks before spring break, my anxiety was

kicked up full-time. I was stressed about midterms and all I wanted to accomplish to make my break as relaxing as possible. In turn, it put me into a vicious cycle where I was stressing out about being stressed out over school. It sounds ridiculous on paper, but it felt like pure torture. I was practically running to my car the Thursday before spring break to head home.

Instead of going on vacation, I spent the week at home in Sioux Falls. Not exactly Mexico, but it felt so good to decompress in my room and

spend time with my family. I focused on self-care so I could come back with a fresh start to finish the semester strong.

I got a massage and facial from a local spa, did yoga every night before I went to bed and met with my therapist. I spent time with my family, had lunch with my grandma and hung out with friends a couple of times. When I wasn't out and about, I was sleeping in and reading on my couch. I was taking time to do activities I wanted to do and being around people who boosted my energy. My stress (almost) disappeared entirely, thanks to me taking a little more time to focus on myself.

We all need breaks from time to time, but trying to incorporate them into our daily lives is an area where we can all improve. Taking care of ourselves before we get to the point of burnout is crucial

COLUMN on page 7▶

Pulse

"What did you do over spring break?"

Compiled by Alexis Darkow



ALEXA KLIEN,
JUNIOR

"Spent time with family."



BETHEL GEBREGIORGIS,
SOPHOMORE

"Studied for an upcoming exam."



CALEB PARDEIK,
FRESHMAN

"I relaxed, refreshed and did a whole lot of nothing."



DYLAN CLEMENTE,
FRESHMAN

"Had fun."



LUKE RODELIUS,
FRESHMAN

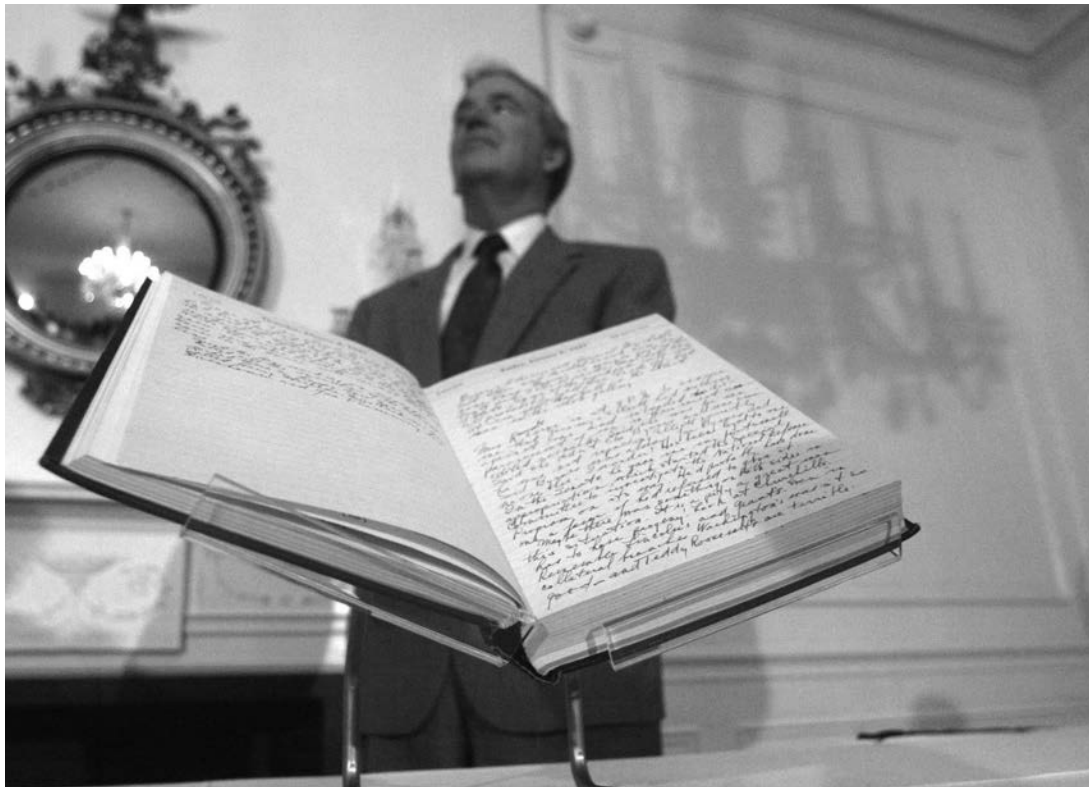
"Worked and hung out with my family."



MARLEE WHITTLE,
FRESHMAN

"Had fun with my family."

The diaries of presidents offer history in the raw offering secrets



RICK BOWMER • The Associated Press

Archivist of the U.S John Carlin stands behind a 1947 Harry Truman presidential diary, July 10, 2003, at the National Archives in Washington.

By CALVIN WOODWARD
The Associated Press

Just before dawn one summer day in Washington, the president of the United States stripped naked on a rock by the river, plunged in and saw a dead man float to the surface.

We know this about John Quincy Adams because he kept a diary for the ages. So have many presidents, from George Washington to Joe Biden. In these journals — a collection of notebooks in Biden's case — they confide to themselves, express raw opinions, trace even the humdrum habits of their day and offer seat-of-the-pants insight on monumental decisions of their time.

Here, also, they may possess and spill secrets they shouldn't. That's part of why Biden is facing more congressional scrutiny this week for his sloppy handling of

classified documents after his vice presidency. Meantime Donald Trump became the first person in history to be charged with a crime for making off with sensitive government records as president — and then, unlike Biden, resisting demands to return them.

Adams called his diary his "second conscience" — not to mention a place to record his frequent skinny-dipping in the Potomac — and presidents since have vouched for the value of scribbling down the day's observations or dictating them to a recorder to help them think things through and preserve them in memory, if not memoirs.

"The process of converting a jumble of thoughts into coherent sentences makes you ask tougher questions," Barack Obama said of his journaling.

Jimmy Carter, who came away

from the White House with more than 5,000 pages of transcribed entries, allowed, "I seldom exercised any restraint on what I dictated."

Dwight Eisenhower wrote in a diary entry not only about infighting on a scientific advisory panel, but its highly secret (if questionable) analysis that Soviet atomic bombs could be rendered 99% ineffective by surrounding them with a type of radioactivity to which they were uniquely vulnerable.

Trump's diary was named Twitter.

Now Robert Hur, the special counsel who probed Biden's treatment of classified material but declined to recommend charges, is to appear before a House committee Tuesday to explain findings that left both parties ambivalent, for opposite reasons.

◀WOMEN from page 1

The women's center has served as a gathering place and safe space for those who stop by for a quick chat, a long study session, or those who are lending a hand in preparing for the different events hosted by the center.

"It's a great social place. It's very personable, and it's for everyone," said Abigail Raper, a consistent visitor at the women's center. "I identify in some way outside of the binary, but I am still accepted here, as are a lot of other people who may not totally identify as women. Everyone is welcome. There's a lot of activity, and I get to have great conversations. I guess that's one thing about women's history month as well; it's the conversations, especially conversations with intersectionality in mind."

Students interested in getting involved during Women's History Month are welcome to participate in the up-and-coming events. The women's center also extends an invitation for all to consider CSU

218 an all-inclusive hangout spot and a place to find solace.

"We want students to know that their stories matter and their experiences matter. There is so much self-internal gaslighting we do of ourselves, you know?" said Steinborn-Gourley. "We live in a patriarchy, and the Women's Center is a space to hold room for people but also to connect with folks and validate their experience and existence. All students are welcome, not just women."

One billion women will experience violence in their lifetime. Not because they think they are victims, but because someone who believes they have power and believes they're not supposed to be powerful is violent, inflicting harm on them.

"That's why we do 1 Billion Rising, and it's going to be a joyous, music-filled celebration with art and community collaboration projects and beaded bracelets. We want it to be a loving celebration of freedom and one free world."

The women's center has lined

up multiple events to celebrate.

"Career Takeover" took place Monday. On Wednesday, the Women's History Month cornerstone event will take place. On Thursday, there is a show titled "Men on Boats" that will take place at the performing arts center. Next Monday there is the "Indigenous Film Show," hosted by American Indian Affairs.

On March 20 there is the "guided mediation" program, which will take place at the campus recreation. On the 21st, the "women elected" event will take place at the Ostrander Auditorium, where St. Paul city councilmember Nesie Yang and other women in office will be in attendance. On the 27th, the "Crochet with Jasmine" event will take place, and there will be a guest alumnus at the women's center to teach crocheting. Also celebrated would be "International Women's Day" on the 8th, "Day of Muslim Women" on the 27th, and "Trans Day of Visibility" on the 31st.

Letter to the Editor: Palestine Resolution

Dear Reporter,
Wednesday, February 28th, MSU Student Government voted to approve a resolution in defense of freedom of speech on campus. That the context for this resolution was the crisis in Palestine, where at of today more than 30,000 people have been killed, makes it all the more important and it makes the stand taken by our student government, who voted overwhelmingly to support the resolution, even more commendable.

For those who do not know, in many places students and others who have spoken in defense of Palestine have been targeted. Our students and faculty rightly fear that they will, for exercising their legal right to speak freely, be branded as terrorists, called anti-Semitic, and have their education and futures threatened. I have seen it with my own eyes. It is real. While it always takes courage to stand up for free speech, to stand up for free speech under these conditions is incredibly brave.

I like to believe that MSU is a place where all of our students

can speak freely, without fear of reprisal or losing their scholarships or being deported. I like to believe that all our faculty and staff can engage fully in our political system, a system that thrives on disagreement and is strangled by silence.

This resolution was a step in that direction. It wasn't the only step. I can report that, in our department meetings with MSU President Inch, we raised this same subject. President Inch was unequivocal in his support for freedom of speech. I left that conversation reassured that he would protect our faculty, students, and staff from unwarranted attacks on their freedom of speech and he would defend the academic freedom that is the backbone of our education system.

I am proud to be part of a campus that embraces community, democracy, and encourages its students to speak for justice.

Sincerely,
James P. Dimock

Professor, Communication & Media

◀AFRICAN from page 1

a variety of sessions, including featured speakers. The keynote speaker this year was Mayor Nadia Mohamed, who is the first Somali-American mayor in the United States.

"Mayor Mohamed graciously accepted the invitation to come and serve as keynote speaker," said Crosby. "One of the main things that we wanted to do was to highlight and emphasize honoring black women to the 10th degree, so we went above and beyond to not only seek out and acquire and bring them onto the campus but also honor them as a way of giving her her flowers, is what we called it."

Crosby said Mayor Mohamed was pivotal to the programming.

"What they stand for, what they're doing, what they've done prior to this appointment and served as the mayor of St. Louis Park, is admirable," said Crosby. "It's something that we wanted everyone to continue to know

about."

Some of the many topics discussed during the conference were Anti-Black Racism as a Social Determinants of Health by Danielle Scott, Herstory, Goddesses and the African Women's Role in the Age of Aquarius by William Commodore and Cultivating Belonging for BIPOC in Queer Spaces by Zeke Sorenson. Additionally, Crosby said this year's Pan African Conference involved more student leaders to help organize and participate in the event.

"This conference was made possible by many hands and I want to give a special thanks to the Pan African advisory council, including faculty, staff and phenomenal students who week after week, month after month, and then the days of the program were there from start to finish, helping to lift this mode," said Crosby. "It has been a privilege and honor to serve alongside them in this capacity."

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A surge of illegal homemade guns fuel gun violence in US



ALEX BRANDON • The Associated Press

A handgun frame that has been printed on a 3D printer is held for a photograph at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), National Services Center, Thursday, March 2, 2023, in Martinsburg, W.Va.

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
The Associated Press

Eleven-year-old Domonic Davis was not far from his mom's Cincinnati home when a hail of gunfire sprayed out from a passing car. Nearly two dozen rounds hurtled through the night at a group of children in the blink of an eye.

Four other children and a woman were hurt in the November shooting that killed Domonic, who had just made his school basketball team.

"What happened? How does this happen to an 11-year-old? He was only a few doors down," his father, Issac Davis, said.

The shooting remains under investigation. But federal investigators believe the 22 shots could be fired off with lightning speed because the weapon had been illegally converted to fire like a machine gun. Communities around the U.S. have seen shootings carried out with weapons converted to fully automatic in recent years, fueled by a staggering increase in small pieces of metal or plastic made with a 3D printer or ordered online. Laws against machine guns date back to the bloody violence of Prohibition-era gangsters. But the proliferation of devices known by nicknames such as Glock switches, auto sears and chips has allowed people to transform legal semi-automatic weapons into even more dangerous guns, helping fuel gun violence, police and federal authorities said.

"Police officers are facing down fully automatic weapon fire in amounts that haven't existed in this country since the days of Al Capone and the Tommy gun," said Steve Dettelbach, director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or ATF. "It's a huge problem."

The agency reported a 570% increase in the number of conversion devices collected by police departments between 2017 and 2021, the most recent data avail-

able.

Guns with conversion devices have been used in several mass shootings, including one that left four dead at a Sweet Sixteen party in Alabama last year and another that left six people dead at a bar district in Sacramento, California, in 2022.

In Houston, police officer William Jeffrey died in 2021 after being shot with a converted gun while serving a warrant. In cities such as Indianapolis, police have seized them every week.

The devices that can convert legal semi-automatic weapons can be made on a 3D printer in about 35 minutes or ordered from overseas online for less than \$30.

They're also quick to install. Once in place, they modify the gun's machinery. Instead of firing one round each time the shooter squeezes the trigger, a semi-automatic weapon with a conversion device starts firing as soon as the trigger goes down and doesn't stop until the shooter lets go or the weapon runs out of ammunition.

"You're seeing them a lot in stunning numbers, particularly in street violence," said David Pucino, deputy chief counsel at Giffords Law Center.

In a demonstration by ATF agents, the firing of a semi-automatic outfitted with a conversion device was nearly indistinguishable from an automatic weapon. Conversion devices with differing designs can fit a range of different guns, enabling guns to fire at a rate of 800 or more bullets per minute, according to the ATF.

"It takes two or three seconds to put in some of these devices into a firearm to make that firearm into a machine gun instantly," Dettelbach said.

Between 2012 and 2016, police departments in the U.S. found 814 conversion devices and sent them to the ATF.

That number grew to more than 5,400 between 2017 and 2021, according to the agency's most recent data.

◀COLUMN from page 4
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hood, set aside time each day where your focus isn't on homework, your job or other worries. Just you.

Ramadan begins in Gaza with hunger

By WAFAA SHURAF and
SAMY MAGDY
The Associated Press

Palestinians began fasting for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan on Monday with cease-fire talks at a standstill, hunger worsening across the Gaza Strip and no end in sight to the 5-month-old war between Israel and Hamas.

Prayers were held outside amid the rubble of demolished buildings. Fairy lights and decorations were hung in packed tent camps, and a video from a U.N.-school-turned-shelter showed children dancing and spraying foam in celebration as a man sang into a loudspeaker.

But there was little to celebrate after five months of war that has killed over 30,000 Palestinians and left much of Gaza in ruins. Families would ordinarily break the daily sunrise-to-sundown fast with holiday feasts, but even where food is available, there is little beyond canned goods, and the prices are too high for many.

"You don't see anyone with joy in their eyes," said Sabah al-Hendi, who was shopping for food Sunday in the southernmost city of Rafah. "Every family is sad. Every family has a martyr."

The United States, Qatar and Egypt had hoped to broker a cease-fire ahead of the normally joyous holiday that would include the release of dozens of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, and the entry of a large amount of humanitarian aid, but the talks have stalled.

Hamas is demanding guarantees that any such agreement will lead to an end to the war. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected that demand, vowing to continue the offensive until "total victory" against the



OHAD ZWIGENBERG • The Associated Press

Israeli border police officers stand guard as Palestinians walk by in Jerusalem's Old City on the first day of Ramadan, Monday, March 11, 2024.

militant group and the release of all the remaining hostages held in Gaza.

Netanyahu said Monday that Israel had killed "Hamas' number four" leader and added that more targeted killings were to come.

"Three, two, and one are on the way. They are all dead men. We will reach them all," he said.

Netanyahu was likely referencing the assassination of Saleh Arouri, the deputy political head of Hamas and a founder of the group's military wing, who was killed in a blast in Beirut in January. Israel was widely believed to be behind the blast, although it did not take responsibility.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged Israel and Hamas to honor the spirit of Ramadan by "silencing the guns" and releasing all the hostages.

"The eyes of the world are watching. The eyes of history are watching. We cannot look away," he said. "We must act to avoid more preventable deaths. ... Des-

perate civilians need action — immediate action."

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 hostage. Hamas is still believed to be holding around 100 captives and the remains of 30 others following an exchange last year.

The war has driven around 80% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people from their homes and pushed hundreds of thousands to the brink of famine. Health officials say at least 25 people, mostly children, have died from malnutrition and dehydration in northern Gaza.

Israeli forces have largely sealed off the north since October, and aid groups say Israeli restrictions, ongoing hostilities and the breakdown of law and order have made it nearly impossible to safely deliver desperately needed food in much of the territory.



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SPORTS

Mavericks basketball own NSIC

Women's basketball delivers first conference title in school history

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Sports Editor

The Minnesota State women's basketball team defeated the University of Mary 89-74 in the final of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference and got the Mavericks their first conference title in program history Tuesday.

The Mavericks completed their redemption arc after losing in the NSIC Championship game to the University of Minnesota-Duluth last season.

This time round, the Mavs' path to the championship included a 101-74 win over Minnesota State University Moorhead in the quarterfinals, and a 88-72 victory over Southwest Minnesota State University in the semifinals.

Drowning out the outside noise was part of the team's mindset throughout the tournament.

"Our key to staying focused was staying true to ourselves and having that be our motivation. We talked a lot about drowning out the outside noise and focusing more on each other and playing to our standards. We were very locked into us, and just having fun while we were there," said Mavericks guard Natalie Bremer.

The NSIC Championship game



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Minnesota State women's basketball team have been named the seventh seed in the 2024 NCAA Division II Central Region Tournament.

opened up as a tightly contested battle between the Mavs and the Marauders. The game started off with a corner three-point shot by

Destinee Bursch. The Marauders responded by getting a couple of buckets to take a 4-3 lead. Bursch helped the Mavs regain the lead

after assisting a Joey Batt reverse layup on a fast break.

Later on in the quarter, the Mavs trailed by three before

Bursch knocked down another three-pointer to tie the game up at 11. The quarter went on to have six lead changes in a four minute span. In the final seconds of the opening quarter, Emily Russo grabbed an offensive rebound and put it back up and in to give the Mavs a 23-21 lead at the end of one.

The second quarter started with a layup by Moriku Hakim to tie the game up for the Marauders. After very little separated both sides for large parts of the first two quarters, the Mavs created some separation between themselves and the Marauders by going on an 11-0 run. Their run was capped off with a three by Mackenzie Schweim. With 2:16 left in the quarter, the Mavs led 44-29. A turn around jumper by Delaynie Luneckas would give the Mavs a 47-33 lead at halftime.

In the first half, the Mavs shot 44% from the field, made five of 13 three-point attempts and made six free throws. MSU forced the Marauders to commit 19 first-half turnovers, while committing just three of their own.

The Marauders went on a 6-0 run early in the third quarter to cut the Mavs' lead to nine. Buckets by Emily Herzberg and Ava Stier halted the Marauders' attempt to fur-

TITLE on page 9 ▶

The NCAA Central Region Tournament runs through Mankato

By HAYDEN LEE
Staff Writer

Welcome back to the Mavericks men's basketball coverage. Before we went on spring break, our Mavericks were set to play in the NSIC tournament as the No. 3 team in Division II.

In the two weeks since then, several Mavericks claimed NSIC honors, the team won the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Tournament and moved up to the No. 1 ranking in Division II, which means they will now host the NCAA Central Region Tournament.

The award-winning Mavericks are headlined by Malik Willingham and Matt Margenthaler, who were named the NSIC Player of the Year and NSIC Coach of the Year, respectively. Malik and Kyrese Willingham were named to the All-NSIC First Team, while Dylan Peeters and Justin Eagins made the All-NSIC Second Team.

In the NSIC Tournament, the Mavericks were the No. 1 seed and had a first-round bye. In the second round, the Mavericks found themselves facing a Sioux Falls team that held them in check for the first half of their game, taking the lead 34-29 at halftime. However, the Maver-



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

Minnesota State, which won the NSIC regular season and conference tournament championships, has received the No. 1 seed and will host the NCAA Central Region Tournament.

icks offense exploded in the second half, scoring 49 points to give them a 78-64 victory. In their win, the

Willingham brothers combined for 55 points. Malik scored 33 and Kyrese had 22, and their offensive

firepower was the difference in the game.

In the semifinals, the Maver-

icks bested the Southwest Minnesota State University Mustangs in a thrilling 68-67 win. All-NSIC Second Team member Justin Eagins hit the game-winning three with 45.6 seconds to go and the Mavericks advanced to the Championship Game. This gave the Mavericks their fifth NSIC Championship berth in the school's history, with the other four occurring in 2009, 2013, 2014 and 2020.

In the championship game, the Mavericks did not disappoint. One of Division II's most consistent teams over the 2023-24 season was able to blow out the University of Minnesota Duluth Bulldogs, 97-77 in their biggest game of the season. UMD kept it close in the first half, but the Mavericks out scored the Bulldogs 50-36 in the second half to secure the Tournament Championship.

Malik Willingham was named Tournament MVP for his 23 point, 4.3 rebound per game averages. He also shot 43.9% from the field in the tournament. Willingham became the fourth Maverick to claim these honors, joining Luke Anderson in 2006 (NCC), Jarvis Williams in 2013 and Zach Monaghan in 2014 as Tournament MVPs.

NCAA on page 8 ▶

Mavs sweep Wildcats, advance to CCHA Semifinals



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

Mavericks senior captain Sam Morton scored twice in MSU's 6-1 victory over Northern Michigan Saturday.

By AHMED HASSAN
Staff Writer

A year ago the Minnesota State men's hockey team was advancing to the semi finals of the CCHA playoffs last year.

The Mavericks find themselves in the same position yet again after sweeping the Northern Michigan Wildcats in the quarter finals over the weekend.

The Mavericks won 2-1 Friday, and dominated the next day winning 6-1 Saturday to advance to the semi finals for the third straight year.

The Mavericks came into the game on a goal drought after being swept by Bemidji losing 6-0 and 2-0.

"I'm just happy for the guys," said head coach Luke Strand after Saturday's game. "I think after last week, we switched our mindset. A new season. Believe in what that means to us and act accordingly in how we play out there. I think we were very selfless in a lot of our actions out there which made a huge difference in what we were able to get done."

Friday's game saw an unlikely hero break the goal drought for the Mavs. Jordan Powers scored his first goal of the season with three minutes remaining in the first period to give the Mavs the lead.

The Mavericks found themselves on the defensive side in the second period with the Wildcats getting a power play early.

The Wildcats outshot the Mavs 15-2, but Tracy's 15 saves in the period to hold them scoreless heading into the third.

Lucas Sowder brought the Mavs lead to 2-0 after scoring on

a power play for his 12th of the season with three minutes to go in the second period.

The Wildcats scored early in the third period, but their 11 shots weren't enough as Tracy stopped 10, giving him 32 saves on the night.

"I thought Alex (Tracy) was calm, square, simple," Strand said. "Very small movements helped us. Not only with his shot prep but he was around for seconds. They (NMU) are a greedy team around the net in a good way but I thought he did a nice job being tight."

It was a defensive game for the Mavericks being outshot 33-21, but killing the Wildcats powerplay and blocking 18 shots propelled them to victory.

"In the playoffs it takes every single player on the ice," Sowder said. "You're not going to see as many goals as in the regular season so it comes down to doing the right things and taking care of the puck and I thought we did a really good job tonight."

Saturday's game began with the Mavericks being unable to take advantage of their powerplay, turning the puck over to Andre Ghantous who scored the Wildcats first of the game four minutes into the first period.

Brian Carrabes responded for the Mavericks with eight minutes to go in the third period to bring the game to 1-1.

The Mavericks thought they had opened the scoring in the second period through Luc Wilson, but upon review was disallowed due to offsides.

The Mavs didn't take too long to respond. Sam Morton ripped a shot on Brian Halasz, collected his own rebound and scored to make

it 2-1.

Luc Wilson made it 3-1 after stealing a pass in the neutral zone and shooting it to the far post.

Sam Morton got his second of the night three minutes into the third period for his 24th of the season.

The Mavericks finished off the Wildcats in the last two minutes of the game with two goals courtesy of Tyler Haskins on an empty net and Brian Carrabes for his 10th goal of the season and second of the night to give the Mavs a 6-1 win.

"Winning is Unbelievable, playoff hockey in general is unbelievable," said Sam Morton after the game. "You can't get numb to the feeling of winning, but at the same time you want to stay dialed cause there's more work to do."

The Mavericks were outshot 27-23 by the Wildcats, but 26 saves from Tracy and 12 blocked shots from the Mavs held them to no goals in the second and third period.

After their sweep against the Wildcats, the Mavericks advance to the semifinals of the CCHA playoffs where they will face Michigan Tech in a single game series.

"I think a lot of (our success) is just how tight we are as a group," Wilson said after Saturday's game. "The big story all year has been about the guys that returned. A lot of those guys stepped up and paved the way for our group. When playoffs come around, it's do or die. You want to play as long as possible and keep your group together and we've really bought into that. We're excited to be moving on."

"We feel that we will represent the central region in a class manner."

The Mavericks will take on no. 8 seed Arkansas Tech in the Taylor Center on March 16 at 5 p.m. when they take the court next.

European football power rankings



DAVE SHOPLAND • The Associated Press

Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk reacts during the English League Cup final soccer match between Chelsea and Liverpool at Wembley Stadium in London, Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024.

By AHMED HASSAN
Staff Writer

With the UEFA Champions League round of 16 getting underway, and the title races around Europe becoming tight. It's officially time to rank Europe's top eight in form football teams currently.

8. Galatasaray

Galatasaray are unbeaten in their last two league games ever since they were eliminated from the Turkish Cup.

Galatasaray sit on top of the league with 78 points, making them a force to reckon with after their 6-1 battering of Caykur Rizespor.

7. PSG

PSG have drawn their last three games, and are nowhere near the team that they were last year, but they sit a top Ligue 1 with 56 points, 10 above Brest in second.

PSG's dominant display over Real Sociedad in the Champions League round of 16 was a sign that this team is here to play.

6. Real Madrid

The Spanish Giants have been nothing short of dominant this season, and won their last league game against Celta Vigo 4-0. Madrid were not at their best against Leipzig, but advanced to the quarter finals of the Champions league.

Madrid sit comfortably at the top of the league, but the Spanish giants need to play better football

if they intend to make another run in the Champions League.

5. Manchester City

Manchester City have won three of their last five league games, which places them third in the Premier League with 63 points. Manchester City were lucky to gain a point against Liverpool who outplayed them in their 1-1 draw.

City took care of Copenhagen, beating them 3-1 to advance to the quarter finals of the Champions League.

4. Arsenal

Arsenal sit at the top of the Premier league, tied with Liverpool with 64 points, but lead on goal difference.

Arsenal are coming off of a 2-1 win against Brentford and a 6-0 battering of Sheffield United.

They still have their work cut out for them against Porto, who they face in the second leg of the Champions League down 1-0.

3. Bayer Leverkusen

They remain unbeaten in the Bundesliga, and are in first place with 67 points, 10 clear of the top.

Leverkusen have won their past five games, and show no signs of slowing down.

2. Liverpool

Liverpool are tied with Arsenal in the Premier League on points, but sit in second place due to goal difference.

Liverpool looked great against Man City, and seemed as if they'd find a way to win, but a contro-

RANKINGS on page 9 ▶

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◀NCAA from page 7

Following their Tournament win, the Mavericks were moved up to no. 1 in Division II and were awarded the opportunity to host the NCAA Central Region Tour-

nament.

"We are excited about hosting the Central Region Tournament here in Mankato," said Margenthaler in a press release posted to the Maverick Athletics website.

Cousins leaves Vikings for big new contract with Falcons



DUANE BURLESON • The Associated Press

Minnesota Vikings' Kirk Cousins throws during the first half of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions, Dec. 11, 2022, in Detroit. Cousins is leaving Minnesota for Atlanta.

By DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

Kirk Cousins is leaving Minnesota for Atlanta, landing another big contract with a well-timed foray into free agency.

Cousins agreed Monday to a four-year, \$180 million deal with the Falcons, according to a person with knowledge of the terms, speaking on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because the deal can't be signed until Wednesday when the new league year begins.

Cousins gets a \$50 million signing bonus and his salaries for 2024 and 2025 are fully guaranteed, the person said. The annu-

al average value of \$45 million would reach the top 10 for quarterbacks in the NFL.

Atlanta had a glaring need at quarterback after cycling through Desmond Ridder and Tyler Heinicke last season, and Cousins' wife, Julie, grew up in Alpharetta, a suburb of Atlanta.

The fit was obvious, even if that meant the 35-year-old had to leave a comfortable situation in Minnesota.

And guess what? The Falcons are scheduled to play a road game against the Vikings in the 2024 season.

"After significant and positive dialogue with Kirk and his representatives, we were unable to reach agreement on a contract

that fits the short and long-term visions for both Kirk and the Minnesota Vikings," general manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah said in a statement distributed by the team. "Kirk holds a special place in Vikings history, and we appreciate his leadership and contributions to the team and the Minneapolis-St. Paul community over the past six seasons.

We wish him, his wife, Julie, and their children all the best."

After moving on from their franchise player Matt Ryan in 2022, the Falcons drafted Ridder in the third round after signing Marcus Mariota. Neither move panned out, and the Falcons have failed to win more than seven games for six straight seasons.

them off in the Europa League.

1. Inter

They're 16 points clear at the top, and have won their last 10 games. They lead Atletico Madrid on aggregate going into the second leg of the Champions League.

Inter have been playing the best football, and the Italian giants are the real deal. They've taken control of Serie A, and are in a prime position in the Champions League to make the run.

◀RANKINGS from page 8

versial call at the end caused them to drop points.

Liverpool have been playing wonderful football, and will look to take that momentum into the second leg against Sparta to finish

◀TITLE from page 7

ther cut into the Mavericks' lead. A layup by Lexie Schneider for the Marauders would be the last score in the quarter with over two minutes left. The Mavs went into the final quarter up 63-53.

The fourth quarter began with a three-pointer by Herzberg to jumpstart a 11-2 run by the Mavericks. The Marauders got a three of their own with six minutes left to cut their deficit to 78-62, but the Mavs would see out the rest of the game on their way to winning the conference title.

MSU ended the game shooting 44% from the field, going six for 19 from three-point range and making 19 of 23 free throws. The Mavs forced the Marauders to commit 32 turnovers, which

led to them scoring 46 points off those turnovers.

The Mavs had five different players score in the double digits. Batt led the MSU in scoring with 16 points. She also had five assists and three steals. Bursch had 14 points, Herzberg had 13 and Bremer had 10 points, two steals and a block.

A point of emphasis in the championship game was to try to prevent some of the Marauders' key players from getting into their flow.

"In the final, UMary had multiple key players in their starting lineup and our focus was to take them out of their flow as much as possible. Lexie Schneider, was one they would for sure look to. She was the Offensive Player of

the Year, so we knew we had to take her out of what she likes to do. I think overall we handled our game plan very well, none of their top players seemed to be playing comfortably. We also talk about how our offensive flow will come and our defense really allowed us to get rolling offensively in that game," Bremer said.

Despite bringing MSU its first conference title, the team believes that they are capable of much more.

"Just the heart and focus from this team was unmatched, and was a great experience for us all and we know that we are capable of much more with the season not being done yet," Bremer said.

Klopp and Guardiola serve up another Premier League classic but Arsenal is the big winner



JON SUPER • The Associated Press

Manchester City's Jeremy Doku, foreground, and Liverpool's Alexis Mac Allister fight for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Manchester City, at Anfield stadium.

By JAMES ROBSON
The Associated Press

Liverpool and Manchester City showed the Premier League what it will be missing when Jürgen Klopp walks away at the end of the season.

Anfield played host to a typically full-blooded, high octane clash of titans in the last English top-flight encounter between Klopp and Pep Guardiola before the Liverpool manager stands down.

No wonder Guardiola says he will sleep easier when his long-time rival is no longer standing in his way.

He likened Liverpool to a "tsunami" as the defending champions had to dig deep to survive long periods of pressure in the second half.

"Oh my God, they come from everywhere," Guardiola said after a 1-1 draw on Sunday that kept second-place Liverpool one point ahead of City in third.

Arsenal ended the weekend top of the standings on goal difference, but the Londoners' 2-1 win at Brentford on Saturday felt like a sub plot in comparison to the latest and possibly last clash between Klopp and Guardiola.

John Stones gave City a first-half lead and Alexis Mac Allister leveled from the penalty spot after the break.

That only told part of the story of a thrilling encounter, which saw Luis Diaz miss a big chance to fire Liverpool ahead and Phil Foden and Jeremy Doku hit the woodwork for City.

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VARIETY

Eduardo C. Corral explores linguistic borders

By ANAHI ZUNIGA
Staff Writer

The Good Thunder Reading Series continues, this time featuring writer and poet Eduardo C. Corral.

Corral visited Minnesota State Feb. 29 and held a workshop where MSU students had the opportunity to generate creative work with Corral's guidance. The workshop was followed by a craft talk and Q&A where Corral explained his writing process. He finished the night with a reading at the Carnegie Art Center in Mankato.

Corral discussed several themes he uses in his written works and how they reflect the lives of immigrants and Mexican Americans.

"I often write about the borderlands, the space between Mexico and the United States in the southwest, so then Arizona, where I was born and raised, so I write about a lot of voice persona. Poems that are in my voice, border crossers, men, women and children just crossing the border back and forth," Corral said. "Another big component of subject matter in my work is maybe familial palms; father figures and mother figures. It can be very complicated and fraught, and another thing I really kind of focused on is queerness. Like what does it mean to be queer in a Mexican-American family? What does it mean to be queer living in the borderlands?"

Corral earned degrees from Arizona State University and the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. He debuted his collection of poetry, "Slow Lightning," in 2021 and won the Yale Younger Poets prize, making him the first Latino recipient of the award.

His second collection, "Guillotine," was released in 2020. It ex-

plores the unexpected portrayals of contradiction, survival and human interiority through the voices of undocumented immigrants, border patrol and scorned lovers.

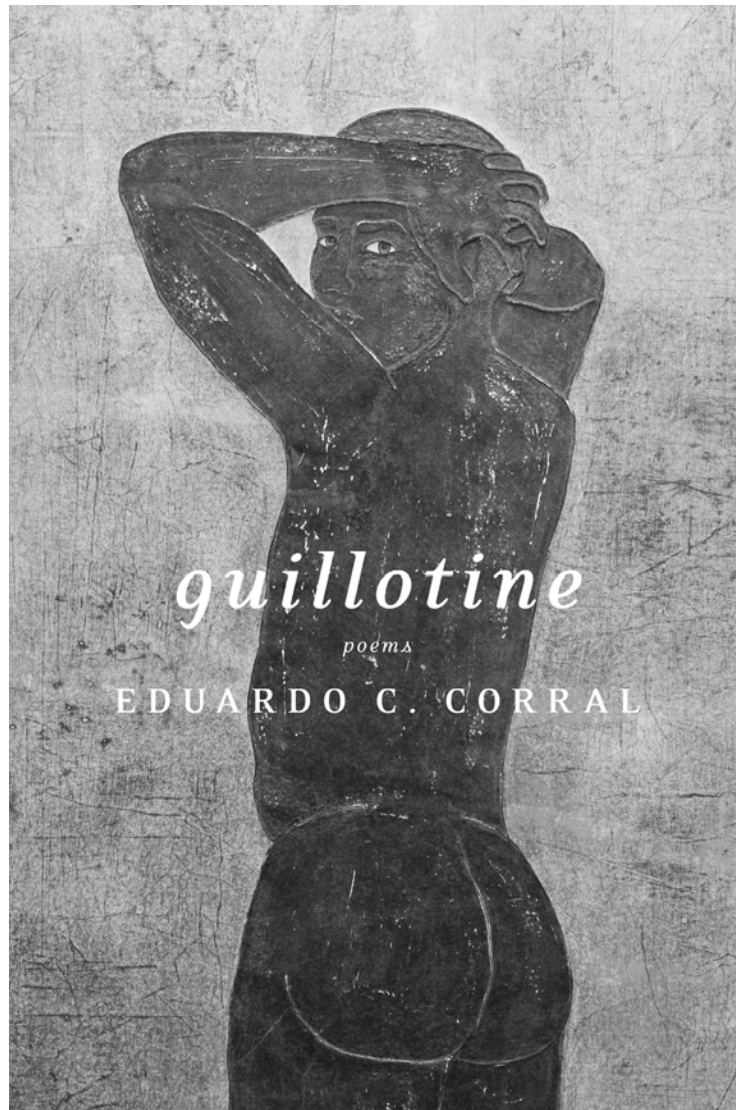
Among both published collections of poems, Corral said several of his best poems hold meaningful themes many learning institutions analyze and that many audiences can try to find ways to resonate with them.

"It's strange because what you think is your personal best and what the audience or editors or anthologists think are your best, it doesn't overlap. Like for the first book, I think the best poem is 'In Colorado My Father Scoured and Stacked Dishes,' which is a poem often anthologized from that book. With the second book, I think the best poem is a persona titled 'Border Patrol Agent,' he said. "But the poem that people often talk about and want to reprint is a short poem called 'Questions for My Body,'"

Corral has been praised for the treatment of history and meticulous exploration of sexuality he includes in his works which has earned him several honors and awards. He has also been highly praised for his harmonization of Spanish and English, a form of writing that he said does not come easy but instead comes naturally.

"If you're asking to add Spanish, it's probably not organically. It can work and try it out to see if it works. But it just comes with practice. At first, anytime you try something new with your writing, even your own personal life, it takes a while for it to become habitual, for you to become comfortable with it," Corral said.

Corral said he encourages students to be open and to explore



Courtesy Graywolf Press

Author and poet Eduardo C. Corral visited MSU to discuss writing Feb. 29. Corral released his second collection of poems titled, "Guillotine," (pictured) in 2020.

language which can help them develop their own form of writing and as a professor himself, he is glad to mentor his students into unlocking their full potential as writers.

"What matters is not what you

write about; it's how you use language with intention. So all writing is based on language, words, syllables. Out of that arises music. Out of that arises speaker, landscape,

CORRAL on page 11

MSU's Wind Ensemble leaps toward freedom

By ELLIE MESCHKE
Staff Writer

Minnesota State University's Wind Ensemble performed a concert Feb. 29 titled "Leaping Toward Freedom" Conducted by Amy Roisum

The ensemble performed five songs: "Play" by Carl Holmquist, "A Movement for Rosa" by Mark Camphouse, "Islas y Montañas (Parts 2: Volver a la Montaña and 3: Seis Manuel)" by Shelley Hanson, "Arabesque" by Samuel R. Hazo, and "O Magnum Mysterium," which was conducted by one of the students, Takuto Koseki.

Flute player Sky Kempf, who performed a solo during "A Movement for Rosa," said, "We started preparing at the beginning of the semester, although we had the Honor Band concert on Jan. 26, so we spent some of our rehearsal time reviewing the songs we were performing at that concert, but Jan. 26 onwards we spent four days a week rehearsing our songs for this concert."



Courtesy mnsu.edu

Minnesota State's Wind Ensemble performed "Leaping Toward Freedom" in the Elias J. Halling Recital Hall Feb. 29. The ensemble is comprised of 45-50 students.

"I always love performing in front of an audience. It heightens my adrenaline and I get into a zone where all I can think about is the music and how it's sounding. Concerts are usually a one day thing, so we get one chance to show off

what we've been working on to our friends and family and there's something really special in that," Kempf also said.

MSU provides several music ensemble classes every semester, ranging from the Wind Ensem-

ble in Concert Bands to the Colorguard in the Maverick Machine Athletic Bands. Regardless of major or skill, all students are welcome to apply to join an ensemble, although some may require an audition.

"I 100% would perform in a concert like this again. I've been part of Wind Ensemble since sophomore year and always come back the next semester, because I enjoy our rehearsals and concerts so much. We actually have another concert this semester: "Carmina Burana," which will be a collaboration between the music, theater and dance departments. I've never worked with so many people for a concert before, and I'm extremely excited for that," Kempf said.

To join a music ensemble, simply apply for one in e-services, just as you would for any other class. To see what kind of ensembles are available, go to the music ensembles page on the school website, or contact a teacher who is in charge of the ensemble you're interested in.

Reversing the spring break crash

By MERCEDES
KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

Heading back to the books after a week of rest feels similar to returning to prison after the escape of a lifetime.

Although spring break's end hits like a jolt, it's important to take a breath and focus back on the academic road lying ahead.

During the final few months after spring break, the work gets harder, our brains pulsate, we grow more and more eager for summer break to arrive. It is normal to experience an educational slump after a break filled with fun and festivities and summer on the horizon, but it is also necessary to care for the time in between.

Our brains like to hit the reset button once we are away from the keyboard, and it can feel almost unfamiliar to start getting into the swing of things again. Clicking on the D2L tab, checking our inboxes, opening up a blank word document — these steps can feel like an assignment in itself at this point in the academic year, but we must persevere.

Whether spring break consisted of seven days rotting in bed or seven days partying at a nightclub, a week without our minds at work is bound to bring about exhaustion. We broke a routine, and our bodies recognized the change in schedule. However, drinking plenty of water, eating a hardy meal, working out and pushing for an early bedtime can get us back on track with our health.

The intimidation of the end of the year itinerary strikes the hardest after spring break. Professors are cramming in last-minute lectures to prepare for final projects, essays and papers. Our list of to-dos may become lengthy, but we need to take each day at a time rather than all of them at once in order to finish the year with a bang.

For those graduating college like myself, it is especially difficult to continue keeping up with a day-to-day school routine on the brink of turning the tassel. It becomes increasingly difficult to balance a regular school and work routine (a handful in itself) with job applications, as well as the anticipation of landing one. We need to be extra mindful in these next few months to not overwork ourselves and appreciate every day we have left in university. We are almost there, and it will go by faster than we know it.

Until the beginning of May while the obligations pile on, remember the feelings of stress and anxiousness are completely normal, and as much as they are normal, they are also tempo-

SPRING on page 11

Oscar Moments: Talk of war, peace and Ken-demonium



CHRIS PIZELLO • The Associated Press

Ryan Gosling performs the song "I'm Just Ken" from the movie "Barbie" during the Oscars on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

By JOCELYN NOVECK
The Associated Press

There was talk of war — past conflicts, and current ones — and pleas for peace. There was a painful reminder of the recent death of Alexei Navalny. There were protests outside the Dolby Theatre, calling for a cease-fire in Gaza. And there was a bit of election-year politics, too, from host Jimmy Kimmel.

But the Oscars telecast is always a chaotic mix of moods and tones, and so even on a night ruled by somber themes, where the academy crowned a film about the atomic bomb, there were joyful giggles when naked — well, almost — John Cena came out to present (naturally) the costume award, a throwback to the famous 1974 stalker. And the crowd was united in joyful silliness when Ryan Gosling took the stage (with a slew of fellow Kens) to sing "I'm Just Ken" from "Barbie," causing what could only be called "Ken-demonium." Ken may not have his own house in Barbie Land, but he sure owned this one.

The night, though, belonged not to "Barbie" but to its partner in the cultural and marketing phenomenon known as "Barbenheimer." Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" won seven Oscars and cemented Nolan's place in Hollywood history. The film's haul included a satisfying win for longtime Nolan collaborator Cillian Murphy, who won best actor, and an emotional win for Robert Downey Jr., his first Oscar in an up-and-down career.

Those wins were expected, but there were still a few surprises. In the closest race, Emma Stone won her second Oscar for her hugely inventive performance in "Poor Things," a victory that denied Lily Gladstone a chance to make history as the first Native American to win an Oscar.

And lest anyone forget this is an election year, Kimmel, back for the fourth time, came onstage late in the show to read out a critical social media post from one Donald Trump.

"Thank you for watching," said Kimmel, a zealous critic of the former president. "Isn't it past your jail time?"

More of the night's notable moments:

A LATE START...

Viewers tuning in at the beginning may have been perplexed to find commercials instead. When he came on, Kimmel noted the show was already running five minutes late. His monologue was perhaps a little snark-heavy — it's OK, maybe, to joke about the length of "Killers of the Flower Moon" (so long you could drive to Oklahoma and solve the case yourself) but maybe less OK to joke about a Holocaust-themed film being considered "rom-com" material in Germany. Still, he warmed hearts by introducing the beloved dog Messi from "Anatomy of a Fall," and earned a standing ovation when he brought out film crews and truckers, hailing them for refusing to cross the picket line during recent labor strikes by actors and writers.

BUT THEN A KILLER

SPEECH

By 30 minutes in, only one award had been presented, but luckily it was to Da'Vine Joy Randolph. She'd been favored all along to win best supporting actress for "The Holdovers," but she reduced many to tears with a poignant speech about her road to triumph. "For so long I've always wanted to be different," said Randolph. "And now I realize I just need to be myself." She thanked a mentor, saying "when I was the only Black girl in that class, you saw me and you told me I was enough." And she thanked her publicist, saying she knew that was unusual "but you don't have a publicist like I have a publicist!" Randolph added toward the end: "I pray to God that I get to do this more than once." Hear, hear.

DOWNEY JR. THANKS 'MY TERRIBLE CHILDHOOD'

Downey Jr.'s supporting actor victory for "Oppenheimer" may also have been expected, but that didn't make his speech any less moving. It was his third nomination in a long Hollywood career marked by highs and lows. "I'd like to thank my terrible childhood," Downey said, pausing — "and the academy, in that order." He acknowledged that he had "needed this job more than it needed me," and thanked not only Nolan but his stylist, his publicist and, finally, his entertainment lawyer of many years, who spent half that time "trying to get me insured" — a reference to a series of arrests for drug-related charges and a year in prison that followed Downey's first Oscar nod 30 years ago.

◀**SPRING** from page 10
rary. Make an effort to reach out to those around you, fellow stu-

dents who may be experiencing similar emotions and offer support. Spring break may be over,

but summer break is just around the corner ready to embrace each Minnesotan in a big, warm hug.

◀**CORRAL** from page 10
emotion, intellectual thinking. So just pay attention to language. How it's used around you, how you use it. You can keep note-

books and jot things down so pay attention to language," He said. "That's the foundation for any kind of literature."

Corral's published books are available for purchase on Amazon and for more information, visit <https://www.eduardoccorral.com/>

In year 25, Planet Comicon Kansas City celebrates its origin story



NICK INGRAM • The Associated Press

Courtney, left and Josh Thornton from Tulsa, Okla. dressed as Ahsoka Tano and Anakin Skywalker from the Star Wars franchise attend the 25th annual Planet Comicon Kansas City on Friday, March 8, 2024 in Kansas City, Mo.

By NICK INGRAM and
SUMMER BALLENTINE
The Associated Press

Celebrities, artists and tens of thousands of fans proud to call themselves nerds are converging in Kansas City for the Missouri city's 25th annual Planet Comicon this weekend.

Devotees ranging from "Potterheads" — lovers of the popular Harry Potter series — to "furrries"

— people dressed as cartoonish animals — can test niche trivia skills, compete in Pokémon battles and show off intricate, handmade outfits in homage to their fictional heroes.

Top guests include Ian McDiarmid, who CEO and founder Chris Jackson described as the "quintessential villain" in his portrayal of Star Wars' Emperor Palpatine, infamous for luring Darth Vader to the dark side.

MEN ON BOATS


BY JACLYN BACKHAUS

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