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REPORTER

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Get out and enjoy the warm weather this

STUDENT RUN NEWS SINCE 1926

VARP raises awarness on sexual assault

By AMALIA SHARAF Staff Writer

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, during which the Violence Awareness and Response Program along with the Women's Center will host many events related to the topic.

Rachel Maccabee, the director of VARP, said dedicating a month to recognizing sexual assault allows people to pause and focus on related topics. The events hosted by VARP are aimed at educating students on how to recognize, talk about and respond to sexual assault.

"While most of us, if not all of us, are aware that sexual assault exists, we don't always know how to talk about it," said Maccabee. "We don't always know how to respond to someone who is telling us about it and we don't know how to talk about it to get the help we need."

The VARP office helps students not only in learning about sexual assault and response but also serves as a resource and help that a student may seek. VARP offers confidential advocacy, helps respond to a traumatic event and helps practice consent to prevent violence in the community. As part of the month's program, VARP hosts three writing workshops where students learn techniques for sharing their stories.

"We'll be having trauma-informed writing workshops," said Maccabee. "People can choose to share their stories at the Take Back the Night [event] or not. They can ask someone else to read them, or they can just share them in the writing group, share them with their therapist or their friends or keep them for themselves."

The next event in the series for April is "Stalking Awareness: Know it. Name it. Stop it," which will educate students on recognizing stalking behavior, and finding help and resources to properly respond to possible threats. Last year, there were 37 victims of intimate partner homicide in Minnesota, which VARP will recognize at the "Mavericks: It's on Us" event. In addition to that, students

ASSAULT on page 2>

THE NEW PREZ



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

 $Pictured\ above\ is\ Roshit\ Niraula\ who\ was\ elected\ Wednesday\ to\ become\ next\ year's\ student\ government\ president.$

Student elections attract 1,000 voters

By BIRUK MENGESHA Staff Writer

Roshit Niraula, the student who took over the vice presidency of Minnesota State's student government mid-year, won his bid Wednesday to become next year's student government president.

Niraula was the only candidate for president. He and his running mate, newly elected Vice President Rebecca Jay, ran under the Mavericks United party in Wednesday's elections. About 1,000 students cast votes — which amounts to 8% of the student body — and 29 students were elected to senate positions. Two others will be added next week after a runoff.

"I am really glad almost all of Mavericks United candidates won their seats, which means I and the entire team that I'm running with are able to represent and continue on the works that they have been able to do. I'm also excited to meet all the new senators who will be in their positions, all of the new members of the different boards who were in this election this week. Also because we were able to approve of the fee referendum recommendations that student government made," Niraula said.

Even though Niraula ran unopposed, he said his strategy in running for president was to communicate with different student PRESIDENT on page 5>

Clothing swap for sustainability



Courtesy Sophie Bowe Minnesota State students coordinated a clothing drive to advocate for sustainable fashion in the CSU Wednesday.

By EPHRATA BEZUAYENE \bullet Staff Writer

This Wednesday, a group of three Minnesota State students coordinated a clothing drive to advocate for sustainable fashion and create awareness of the growing fast fashion industry.

The clothing drive was a part of a feminist activism class project, where students had to form groups and generate project ideas that raised awareness about different feminist issues. Sophie Bowe, Abby Johnson, and Caitlin O'Brien chose the topic of fast fashion awareness.

There is a saying that one man's trash is another man's treasure. The three young feminist activists coordinated this event to facilitate a "clothing swap."

Clothing donations were collected for the past month to be showcased at the clothing drive. Students donated various accessories including hats, gloves and handbags.

CLOTHING on page 2▶

Stereotypes and bias at cultural workshop

By LAUREN VISKA Staff Writer

The third and final Culture Understanding Workshop, titled "Stereotypes and Intercultural Collaboration," was held Tuesday.

This was a three-part series in which students learned different ways to communicate with people from different cultures.

The third work-shop's focus was on recognizing bias and stereotypical thinking and finding solutions



Zeke Sorenson

to real-world problems. Zeke Sorenson, one of the speakers, shared insights on fostering cultural collaboration.

The other speaker, Orlando Jayasiri Gunesekere, delved into the topics of microaggressions and stereotypes.

Sorenson emphasized bias is a natural part of our cognitive process, but we are often unaware of how our biases shape our actions.

"It's difficult to acknowledge when we're being called out for maybe making problematic statements or decisions because we haven't taken the time to reflect on our own biases, to acknowledge that when that happens," said Sorenson. "Our tendency is to get very defensive. Somebody points out that something we said may be a little bit racist. Our gut reaction is to get defensive. We may make that comment without realizing the impact that it has on somebody else."

Sorenson said the best way to communicate in those situations is to remember people make mistakes and everyone is human.

Often, people realize their mistakes later in the day and don't reach out, but Sorenson said to reach out to the other person and see what impact it had on them.

"More often than not, we may come to that realization, but our pride or ego will get in the way, and we don't do

WORKSHOP on page 5▶

Muslims worldwide celebrate Eid-al-Fitr



ANJUM NAVEED • The Associated Press

A Muslim child stands beside his father performing an Eid al-Fitr prayer with others, marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

By ANDREW WILKS and NINIEK KARMINI The Associated Press

Muslims around the world celebrated the Eid al-Fitr holiday Wednesday, marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan. But events were overshadowed by the worsening crisis in Gaza and Israel's expected military offensive in Rafah city after six months of war.

"We should not forget our brothers and sisters in Palestine," one imam, Abdulrahman Musa, said in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. "They have been subjected to unjustified aggression and a lot of violence (as) the world is watching in silence."

In a holiday message, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan sent support to Gaza, which he called a "bleeding wound on the conscience of humanity."

In Istanbul, some of the thousands of worshipers at the Aya Sofya Mosque carried Palestinian flags and chanted slogans in support of residents of Gaza, where the United Nations warns that more than a million people are at threat of imminent famine and little aid is allowed in.

Inside Gaza, there was little joy.

Palestinians in the refugee camp of Jabaliya near Gaza City mourned loved ones among the over 33,000 killed in Israel's offensive in response to Hamas's deadly Oct. 7 attack in Israel.

Om Nidal Abu Omeira sat alone among bombed-out buildings and wept on the grave of her mother, son-in-law, and grandson

All were killed in Israel's offensive.

"They (the children) keep saying, 'I miss my father, where is he?' I tell them that he's in heaven," she told The Associated Press. "They start crying, and then I start crying with them."

Elsewhere, people were grateful for the plenty they had after a month of fasting and reflection.

Before the holiday, markets around the world teemed with shoppers.

Residents poured out of cities to return to villages to celebrate with loved ones.

In Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, nearly three-quarters of the population

were traveling for the annual homecoming known locally as "mudik."

"This is a right moment to reconnect, like recharging energy that has been drained almost a year away from home," said civil servant Ridho Alfian.

Jakarta's Istiqlal Grand Mosque, the largest in Southeast Asia, was flooded with devotees. Preachers in their sermons called on people to pray for Muslims in

"This is the time for Muslims and non-Muslims to show humanitarian solidarity, because the conflict in Gaza is not a religious war, but a humanitarian problem," said Jimly Asshiddiqie, who chairs the advisory board of the Indonesian Mosque Council.

In Berlin, worshipers reflected the world, coming from Benin, Ghana, Syria, Afghanistan and Turkev.

"It's a day where we feel grateful for everything we have here, and think and give to those who are poor, facing war and have to go hungry," said Azhra Ahmad, a 45-year-old mother of five.

In Pakistan, authorities deployed more than 100,000 police and paramilitary forces to maintain security at mosques and marketplaces.

In Malaysia, ethnic Malay Muslims performed morning prayers at mosques nationwide just weeks after socks printed with the word "Allah" at a convenience store chain sparked a furor. Many found it offensive.

Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim called for unity and reconciliation, saying no groups should be sidelined based on religion or any other reason.

In Russia, worshipers gathered as their leaders vowed loyalty to fellow citizens amid tensions following last month's attack by an extremist group on a music hall outside Moscow in which 130 people were killed.

The Islamic State group's Afghanistan affiliate claimed responsibility.

"As our country's president, Vladimir Putin, said, terrorism has neither a nationality nor a religion, the chairman of the Council of Muftis in Russia said. "We call to unite against the threat, against those dark forces."

◆CLOTHING from page 1

"We're going to be giving them away for free. It will be like a free shopping day; people can pick out their own clothes. They can see how much potential there is in shopping second hand as opposed to buying new things," said Bowe. "Then whatever we have leftover, we're going to donate to CADA, which is a women's shelter."

CADA (Committee Against Domestic Abuse) is a nonprofit organization serving victims and survivors of relationship abuse and sexual violence. Based in Mankato, they serve victims throughout south-central Minnesota.

Bowe, a senior and outreach coordinator for the event, is a psychology major, minoring in gender and women's studies.

"Our goal with this clothing drive was to raise awareness about the environmental impacts of the fast fashion industry, the impact it has on workers in other countries, and what we can do here, on campus, and in our own daily lives to make a difference and contribute less to the fast fashion industry, said Bowe.

Senior Abby Johnson, a double major in psychology and gender and women's studies, scheduled some aspects of the event.

"Before I learned all this information, I definitely thought sustainable fashion was a lot more out of reach for me just because I am a college student. I have two jobs trying to support myself, so I don't really have a lot of money. Getting

all this information about how it can actually be affordable was just eye-opening. It got me thinking that I can be sustainable; I would not have to buy from places like SHEIN or H&M, which are fast fashion brands," said Johnson

The event coordinators encourage students to steer toward shopping at affordable clothing stores.

"There are many ways to shop sustainably in a cost-effective way, because I know that is the biggest concern for a lot of college students. They can support sustainable fashion by buying secondhand or swapping clothes with their friends and looking at local boutiques and people that make fashion locally instead of large corporations," said Johnson.

The trio also recruited their classmate Sofia Meeh to speak as a guest speaker. Meeh uses recycled materials to produce most of her own clothes. She talked about the difficulties she encountered early on when upcycling clothing and the sense of accomplishment that followed.

"I got involved in this event because, at the beginning, when we were kind of giving ideas, I felt this was the event that I would most want to go to. Being able to pick out a ton of free clothing just sounds awesome. It seems like it would save me a lot of time and a lot of money, and it would really surround me with a lot of my friends and community. It was the event that I was most interested in working towards and being a part

of," said O'Brian, a junior double major in psychology and in gender and women's studies.

The group explained that the project was intended to teach students how to orchestrate activism and learn how to do effective activism.

"It's teaching young feminists how to do activism correctly and basically learning from this event and learning how to continue to do activism for the rest of our lives," said O'Brian

An important part of the class project was for the students to familiarize themselves with problems they may encounter when doing this type of activism project.

"When we actually go out into the world, we do have these activism projects that we want to put-out ourselves and when we do run into those problems, we know how to combat them," said O'Brian

O'Brien explains that sustainable fashion is also a matter of preventing large clothing brands from exploiting factory workers, harming the environment, and making money off young adults.

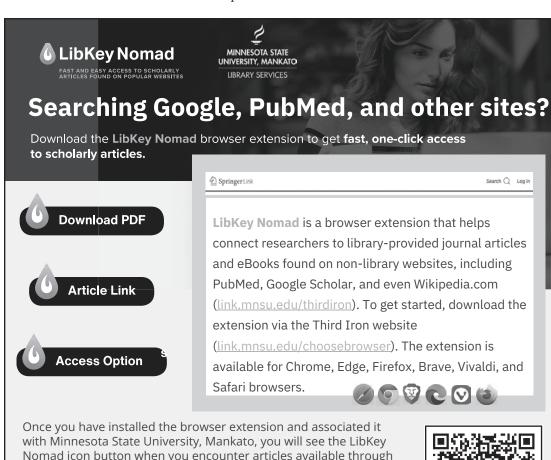
"If someone comes in and they're like, for the past couple months, I've needed a hoodie so bad, let me pop into this event, and they get three hoodies, they saved themselves money as well as not having a company profit from them, exploiting more workers, and damaging the environment. It's really helping everyone involved," said O'Brien.

◆ASSAULT from page 1

will find the resources they need tabling throughout the event. Refreshments and giveaways will be offered to attendees.

"This event is an invitation to recognize that ending sexual violence in our community takes all of us. We all have a role to play. Even if you are someone who doesn't think sexual violence will ever intercede or intersect with your life," said Maccabee. "We will have an interactive memorial to the 37 victims in Minnesota of intimate partner homicide. We're going to invite people to interact with the memorial and place flowers."

Denim Day, Take Back the Night and Clothesline events will take place later in the month. All students are invited to visit the events and acknowledge the traumatic consequences of sexual assault. VARP is a resource that any student can reach out to. They advocate for people of any gender and connect students with other resources. For more information on the events reach out to rachel. maccabee@mnsu.edu



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MINNESOTA STATE

Which states could have abortion on the ballot?

By GEOFF MULVIHILL and KIMBERLEE KRUESI The Associated Press

A push to ask Arizona voters to add a right to abortion to the state constitution took on new stakes this week when the state's Supreme Court ruled that the state can enforce a ban on abortion in all stages of pregnancy.

Arizona is one of several states where abortion might be on the ballot this year. Across the country, there have been increased efforts to put abortion rights questions to voters since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and removed the nationwide right to abortion.

Since that 2022 decision, most Republican-controlled states have new abortion restrictions in effect, including 14 that ban it at every stage of pregnancy.

Most Democrat-dominated states have laws or executive orders to protect access.

Additionally, voters in seven states — California, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, Ohio and Vermont — have sided with abortion rights supporters on ballot measures.

It's not clear yet how many states will vote on measures to enshrine abortion access in November. In some, the question is whether amendment supporters can get enough valid signatures.

In others, it's up to the legisla-



PHIL SEARS • The Associated Press

Supporters of Florida Voice For The Unborn demonstrate outside the fourth floor as legislators work on property insurance bills, May 24, 2022, at the state Capitol in Tallahassee, Fla.

ture. And there's legal wrangling in the process in some states.

Some of the efforts have already failed to reach ballots. Wisconsin's legislative session ended without a state Senate vote on a measure that the House approved to ask voters to ban abortion after 14 weeks. A Louisiana measure to enshrine abortion rights in the state consti-

tution died in committee and one in Maine effectively died when it fell short of receiving the approval of two-thirds of the House.

WHAT'S SECURELY ON 2024 BALLOTS?

FLORIDA

The state Supreme Court ruled on April 1 that a ballot measure to legalize abortion until viability could go on the ballot despite a legal challenge from state Attorney General Ashley Moody, who argued that there are differing views on the meaning of "viability" and that some key terms in the proposed measure are not properly defined.

Advocates collected nearly a million signatures to put a state

constitutional amendment to legalize abortion until viability on the ballot, surpassing the nearly 892,000 required. Sixty percent of voters would hve to agree for it to take effect.

Abortion is legal in Florida through the first 15 weeks of pregnancy. But a separate April 1 state Supreme Court ruling upholding the current law triggers a 2023 law would drop that to six weeks — often before women know they're pregnant — to take effect on May 1.

MARYLAND

Maryland voters this year will also be asked whether to enshrine the right for women to end their pregnancies in the state's constitution in a ballot question put before them by lawmakers last year. The state already protects the right to abortion under state law and Democrats outnumber Republicans 2-1. Abortion is allowed in Maryland until viability.

NEW YORK

New York lawmakers agreed to ask voters to bar discrimination on the basis of pregnancy, pregnancy outcome and reproductive healthcare as part of a broader equal protection amendment. It would also bar discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin and disability. The language of the constitutional amendment does not mention abortion specifically. Abortion is allowed in New York law until viability.



Editoria

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

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Is social media affecting our mental health?

It's nearly impossible to find someone who doesn't have a phone, much less someone who doesn't have a social media app of some kind. With all the good that social media has provided, it has done some detrimental damage to our society as well.

We can't deny the contributions social media has made to society. It's changed the way we communicate with others, grown businesses and exposed us to a variety of sources, be it for entertainment or information. It's allowed us to share moments from our lives with friends, family and Internet friends and lets us show our unique personalities to the world. It can connect us with the news and offer a sense of emotional support. However, a lot of negativity can hide behind the fabricated posts...

According to mcleanhospital.org, interacting on social media releases dopamine, the "feel-good chemical" linked to sex, food and social interaction.

When we post photos and receive likes and feedback, those chemicals are released, allowing us to grow addicted to the high of receiving notoriety. Not knowing if the next post will get more likes than the last makes us eager to see if it will surpass our standards.

The fear of missing out - FOMO - can also create a sense of loneliness. If someone is posting about trips, their relationship and other milestones in their life, it can create a sense of not feeling as accomplished or successful as their friends.

It doesn't help we can edit our photos with a few taps on a screen. Comparing ourselves constantly online is unhealthy for our mindset.

Besides affecting our mental health, it can also affect our physical health as well. Loads of people will turn to their phones to scroll for a "few minutes" on social media which turns into a few hours before they go to sleep.

According to mcleanhospital.org, a 2018 British study found that delayed and decreased sleep led to depression, memory loss and poor work and academic performance.

Being on our phones and computers all the time has led us humans to live a sedentary lifestyle. We are getting lazier and lazier while health problems such as heart issues, obesity and muscle degeneration are on the rise. If we get off our phones for a while, we are doing our mind and body some good.

The key is all about finding balance. Knowing our limits about when social media is becoming too much for us and taking a digital detox from it can help us find a healthy balance. Social media isn't bad, only when it reaches the excesses.

Perspectives

Support for Palestine is no excuse for antisemitism



ARIEL SCHALIT • The Associated Press

I remember hearing about the documentary "Loose Change" quite clearly. It involved my dad and his friend discussing this weird theory that the events of Sept. 11, 2001 were the work of the U.S. government.

It was a theory I had a very hard time wrapping my head

As a teenager, I was a huge fan of The X-Files, the show about aliens and outlandish conspiracy theories. I admit I was a bigger fan of Agent Scully than Mulder, but I thought that there was some plausibility to the idea of the government keeping dark and dangerous secrets from

However, since that time, I have come to realize just how embedded global conspiracy theories are with antisemitism. Not only are many conspiracy theories themselves straight up antisemitic, throw a dart at a list and you're WHY NOT

bound to hit one or two. The Anti Defamation League has published research showing that a tendency toward conspiracy thinking correlates well with antisemitism.

It certainly feels like 9/11-related conspiracy theories are particularly rife with antisemitism.

Antisemitism isn't new but has certainly seen a revival in the wake of the Israel-Hamas war that started in the aftermath of the Oct. 7 attack on Israel by Hamas in 2023. On that day, Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel, killing 1,139 individuals and abducting 253 more.

In the wake of this atroc-

ity, Israel launched a ground invasion into the Gaza strip, in part to rescue the kidnapped hostages, and also to eliminate Hamas.

As the Israel-Hamas war has gone on, a horrifying humanitarian crisis has arisen in the Gaza strip.

There is plenty to criticize Israel for when it comes to the ways it has conducted its war on Hamas. For example, the use of the artificial intelligence system Gospel has raised concerns about how careful Israel has been in its attempts to minimize civilian casualties.

The incident where seven World Central Kitchen workers were killed in an Israeli air strike in spite of the fact that the convoy had been coordinating with the IDF, is even more disturbing given that such an incident was entirely avoidable.

Full story on our website▶

"What is your favorite part of spring?"

Compiled by Davis Jensen



AB BORJON, **JUNIOR**

"The colors of spring."



ALEX VIGIL, **SOPHOMORE**

"Warmer weather."



SENIOR

"Frolicking in fields."



FRESHMAN

"Nice weather."



BRETT MORAN, **SENIOR**

"Going out on walks and listening



EUNYEONG KANG,

SENIOR

"No snow."

Ukraine will be outgunned by Russia 10 to 1 without US help



JOSE LUIS MAGANA • The Associated Press

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

By TARA COPP The Associated Press

The top general for U.S. forces in Europe told Congress Wednesday that Ukraine will be outgunned 10 to one by Russia within a matter of weeks if Congress does not find a way to approve sending more ammunition and weapons to Kyiv soon. The testimony from Army Gen. Christopher Cavoli, head of U.S. European Command, and Celeste Wallander, assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, comes as Congress enters pivotal weeks for voting for aid for Ukraine, but there's no guarantee funding will be improved in time.

Ukraine has been rationing its munitions as Congress has delayed passing its \$60 billion supplemental bill.

'They are now being outshot by the Russian side five to one.

So the Russians fire five times as many artillery shells at the Ukrainians than the Ukrainians are able to fire back. That will immediately go to 10 to one in a matter of weeks," Cavoli said. "We're not talking about months. We're not talking hypothetically."

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson has been trying to find a way forward for the bill that would fund new rounds of munitions production at U.S. firms.

◆ PRESIDENT from page 1 groups and create awareness about his platform.

"I was able to communicate and consult with student groups on what their different priorities are in my different positions within student government. I was a senator for CSET in my first year and this year I ran as an off campus senator. I was also in the role of Academic Affairs Coordinator before I came into the position of student body as a vice president and all of these roles helped me learn the different priorities to set for what students want to see for next year," Niraula said.

One of the goals of the new president next year includes better communication among the entire student body.

"We are looking into workshopping open town halls that I was able to start and continue in my role this year. We're also looking into having open town halls for student leaders where we're able to connect with student leaders from FSL ResLife and other different campus groups and organizations and make sure that we get their input and consultation," Niraula added. "I'm getting some conversations started in terms of diversity, equity inclusion, ensuring that different campus spaces are equitable and accessible to all students."

Niraula and Jay say this ran together as a team because of the unique strengths and weaknesses that they shared.

"I come from a computer science and STEM background. This includes a lot of different skills in my project-based learning with project management, understanding the deliverable, scoping out the requirements, and getting a lot of projects done. Not to mention the experience of being in student government. Where as Rebekka comes in with experience in political science advocacy, working with different campus groups that I have not been able to interact with as I want to. She knows a lot of different people that I've never contacted and she helps amplify the strengths and I think she'll be an amazing Vice President for student government next year," Niraula said.

The experience within student government has allowed Niraula to "learn the workings of student government."

"I've also been a MavPass leader and peer mentor, where I have had to step into a leadership position and all of these different roles and responsibilities with communication skills," Niraula said.

As for Jay, the importance of joining the student government stems from the opportunity of "facilitating positive change throughout the university" and "the opportunity to support Roshit Niraula, whom I look up to greatly."

"I felt I had some great connections on campus. As well as being an involved student, I had good experience and good network to

support Roshit and his initiatives and also work on some of my own," Jay said.

A major goal for Jay is "Accessibility for All." This is a place where student government works with all that MNSU serves.

"This includes increasing our support for professors and faculty in terms of extensive technology, information and training if asked for, having monthly conversations with professors and faculty from a variety of departments and having a way for these people to reach student government with questions and comments. Another goal is to work closely with Student health services to continue to support the work they are doing for our students and find new ways or expand the ways we serve students," Jay commented.

This position allows Jay to become a "voice for students" regardless of the setting.

"I get to hear from all sides on a matter and work to find an end solution that benefits everyone in some way," Jay continued.

Before Jay was given this opportunity, she was involved in various positions.

"I served on the Athletics Fee Committee for the semester as a liaison to student government. This helped me learn about all that goes into committee work, presentations for fees, referendums, budget meetings and continued knowledge on the inner workings of student government," Jay said.

Workshop: 'Stereotypes are bias and exist in the real world'

◆WORKSHOP from page 1 anything about it. Always reach back out to that person and say, 'Hey, you know what? I got defensive. Give me some time to think about this. But let's come back together and talk about that," said Sorenson.

"Leaving that door open, so if that person realizes and wants to continue that relationship, continue working on it, and build upon it, it gives them the opportunity to come back in and know that that person is going to be willing to work with them as well."

Stereotypes and biases exist in the real world; they aren't some myth.

Sorenson said many people are uncomfortable talking about it. Because of that, they may lack understanding or don't take time to reflect.

They also said it takes time to understand it, too, and it doesn't happen overnight.

"If we shy away from talking about it simply because it's uncomfortable, we're never going to get to a point where we can acknowledge that these things happen. Most of the biases we have, we don't even know that we have, but our brains have made those

shortcuts," said Sorenson.

"You have to keep doing the work, and you have to keep being willing to do that reflection and keep doing it."

Sorenson said they hope students who walked away from the three workshops gain a new perspective they hadn't considered. They also hope there will be more of these events, as it allows more students to attend.

Having three sessions doesn't always work with everyone's schedules, and having more would increase the likelihood of students being able to go.

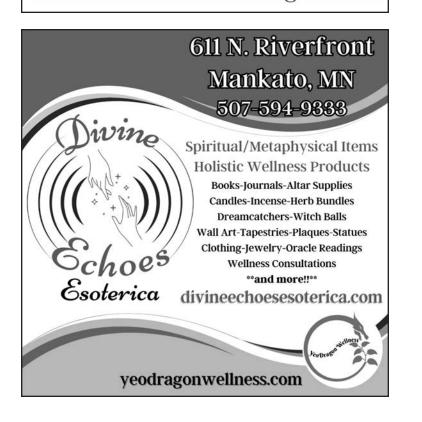
"The topics that we've talked about in these sessions, is it going to be able to give everybody all the knowledge and, it's to give them those perspectives to consider and hopefully give them the encouragement to seek out more knowledge," said Sorenson. "We all have different experiences throughout our life and a lot of times we don't understand it, and that's okay. But the very least we could do is take the time to try to understand why a person does what they do or why a person believes what they do. We may not agree with them and that's okay."

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6 • MSU Reporter Thursday, A

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8 • MSU Reporter Thursday, April 11, 2024

SPORTS

Mavericks on the road to face Bemidji

By AHMED HASSAN Staff Writer

The Minnesota State men's baseball team is back on the road again. The Mavericks travel to Bemidji to face the Bemidji State Beavers in a three game series.

The Mavericks currently sit third in the conference with a 20-11 overall record and a 16-5 conference record currently on a three-game win streak.

The Beavers currently hold a 1-30 overall record and a 0-20 conference record placing them last in the conference.

The Mavericks are coming off a 3-1 series win against Minot State overcoming adversity losing the first game coming back to win the next three while also coming back from a large deficit in game three winning 14-12

The Maverick pitching staff went 3-1 with a 6.43 ERA where they averaged .347 batting average against Minot State. The Mavericks outscored Minot State 46-27 along with walking 23 times and wearing nine HBPs.

After their performances last weekend, the Mavs lead the conference in walks (170), HBPs (54) and sacrifice flies (17). The Mavs also sit second in on base percentage (.428) and



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Minnesota State Mavericks are set to take on the Bemidji State Beavers in a three game series this weekend starting at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. The Mavericks currently sit third in the conference.

runs (252), while sitting in third in RBIs (221).

The Mavs also swept Winona State Wednesday in a two game series winning 6-3 in game one and dominating in game two winning 11-1.

The Mavericks will look to

Louis Magers, Aidan Byrne and Ryan Wickman to lead the way against the Beavers.

Magers has had an impressive season so far leading the team in homeruns with seven while averaging a .274 batting average with 27 runs so far off

of 23 hits. Magers also has a 4.55 ERA and is 2-1 so far this season on the mound.

Byrne leads the Mavs in hits (53), RBIs (35) and TBs (76). Byrne holds a .402 batting average and is second on the team in runs with 37.

Wickman has been dominant so far this season having a great game against Minot State collecting two steals in the series bringing his season total to 17 stolen bases tied fifth all time in steals in MSU history with 48 career bags.

Wickman has 35 runs off of 38 hits so far this season holding a .328 batting average. Wickman is second on the team in RBIs (29) and homeruns (6).

The Beavers have had a season to forget only managing one win so far this season currently on a 20-game losing streak.

The Beavers were swept in four games at University of Sioux Falls this past weekend. The Beavers will play its first home series of the season against the Mavericks.

The Beavers will look to Zach Evenson, Jack Munson and Derek Hoffman to lead the way.

Evenson leads the team in RBIs (11) and homeruns (4) while holding a .272 batting average with 22 hits so far on the season.

Munson has a team high 26 hits holding a .257 batting average while driving in nine runs so far on the season.

Hoffman leads the Beaver pitching staff and has a 13.66 ERA with 28.1 innings pitched and is coming off the best start

BASEBALL on page 9▶

Is J.J. McCarthy really worth three first round picks?

By HAYDEN LEE Staff Writer

Draft season ... My favorite time of year.

As a Vikings fan, there have not been many teams that have given me a reason to think that we were going to win the Super Bowl, so my mind shifts to draft season the second they end the season 8-8 or lose in the Wild Card round.

This season ripped my heart out and then chained it to a semi truck as it drove me all the way down to Atlanta. Now, captain Kirk is gone, for better or for worse, Danielle Hunter left for Houston and we have added 13 new players to the team already. For the first time in a while, I feel like the Vikings have a direction and a future with their roster, but they have a hole at the most important position: quarter-back.

However, with picks 11 and 23 in the first round, we have a chance to trade up to select one of the best quarterbacks in the 2024 NFL Draft: J.J.... McCarthy? The same quarterback that rode the coattails of Jim Harbaugh's power run system

at Michigan to a national championship.

I am not opposed to the idea of J.J. McCarthy, and I am not brainless like some people on X or TikTok that think he will be available in the third round. That's not going to happen and it seems like he will be a top five pick. I think.

Draft season brings a lot of smokescreens and indecisiveness with prospects, most notably at the quarterback position. Now it seems like a lot of teams are interested in J.J. McCarthy because of his potential and his maturity for being one of the youngest quarterbacks in this year's draft.

However, if we were to trade up for him, we would likely have to unload No. 11, 23 and a future first round pick. Personally, I would much rather take that haul and offer it to the Commanders or the Patriots to try and snag Drake Maye. Maye is currently suffering from prospect fatigue, and I think his stock is at an all-time low, at least among the media. I have no idea what some teams are thinking, including the Vikings.

I say all of this to say that I



DARRON CUMMINGS • The Associated Press

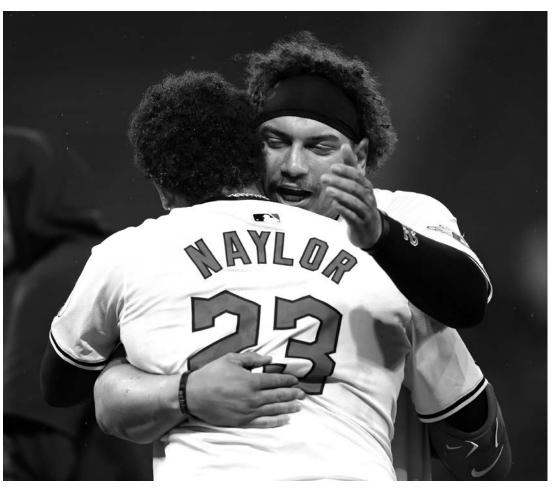
The Vikings are the best landing spot for a rookie QB, and anyone that lands with KOC will have the best rookie OB season of all time.

am actually terrified of what is going to happen on draft night. On one hand, we could trade up and make a decision that propels us into contending status just like the Texans did, although I

think I speak for all Vikings fans when I say we don't want Diggs

OPINION on page 9▶

Bo and Josh Naylor deliver RBIs in 10th, brothers homer in same inning



RON SCHWANE • The Associated Press

Cleveland Guardians' Bo Naylor (23) celebrates his game winning RBI single off Chicago White Sox pitcher Bryan Shaw with Josh Naylor in a baseball game, Wednesday, April 10, 2024, in Cleveland.

By TOM WITHERS The Associated Press

Bo Naylor and Josh Naylor delivered RBI hits in the 10th inning — after the brothers connected for home runs earlier — as the Cleveland Guardians rallied for a 7-6 win over the Chicago White Sox on Wednesday night.

Josh Naylor tied it with an RBI double before turning it over to his brother — on National Siblings Day.

With the bases loaded, Bo Naylor, who hit a two-run homer in the fourth inning — just moments after his brother connected for one — dropped his single into right field off former Guardians reliever Bryan Shaw (0-1) as Cleveland came back after trailing 5-0.

"Playing games as kids prepared us for those moments," Josh Naylor said.

The Naylors, who are a little more than two years apart in age, were unaware their performances came on a day to celebrate brothers and sisters.

"No idea," 28-year-old Josh Naylor said.

"Not a clue," said Bo Naylor, who is 26.

"So it's kind of crazy to be able to share a home run in the same inning with him.

Eli Morgan (1-0) picked up the win as the Guardians improved to 9-3, their best start since going 11-1 in 2002.

Steven Kwan also homered for Cleveland.

The Naylor brothers pulled the Guardians within 5-3 in the fourth on homers off White Sox starter Erick Fedde.

Josh Naylor hit his second

homer in two days, a one-out, 432-foot shot into the center-field bullpens for his third of the season.

After Ramon Laureano was hit by a pitch, Bo Naylor knocked Feede's first pitch over the wall in straightaway center.

Josh Naylor always felt playing alongside his younger brother was possible.

"I dreamt of it as a kid," he said.

"I knew it would come true eventually if we just keep working hard. So it's not really a shock to me. I kind of believed in it from Day One and I knew that if we just continue to work hard at our craft, we'd either play against each other or play with each other."

For Bo Naylor, getting to be teammates with his brother is a blessing.

"Every time I'm in the locker room, I get to be able to hang out with my brother," he said. "It's a new special moment. Every end of inning I get to throw a ball over to him. It's special. I'm super grateful to be able to share these experiences with him."

The White Sox fell to 2-10 amid a rash of major injuries.

Gavin Sheets hit a three-run homer and had five RBIs for Chicago.

"It's a tough lineup over there," said White Sox manager Pedro Grifol.

"It's a scrappy team. It's a good team. We played them well this series, we just need to find ways to drive in runners."

Sheets connected in the third inning off Cleveland starter Tanner Bibee as the White Sox jumped to a 5-0 lead for the

second night in a row.

And for the second straight night, the Guardians came back and tied it.

Before the game, the White Sox learned they'll be without third baseman Yoán Moncada for at least three months, and maybe the rest of this season.

He sustained a severe leg injury while running to first base Tuesday.

The injury was another blow to Chicago's lineup, which has lost its 2-3-4 hitters — Moncada, outfielder Luis Robert Jr. (hip flexor) and slugger Eloy Jimenez — to injuries during its first road trip.

TRAINER'S ROOM

White Sox: Jimenez has improved and it's possible he could be back Friday, when Chicago opens a three-game series at home against Cincinnati.

Jimenez, who has been out since March 31, was off to a slow start, batting just .182 (2 of 11) in three games.

Guardians: RHP Shane Bieber will have Tommy John surgery on Friday in Dallas. Following the game, Bieber was saying goodbye to teammates. He has a long recovery ahead.

UP NEXT

White Sox: Open a threegame series Friday with Cincinnati. Reds LHP Andrew Abbott (0-1, 3.48 ERA) starts the opener against RHP Chris Flexen (0-2, 5.91).

Guardians: Open a threegame series against the Yankees on Friday with RHP Carlos Carrasco (0-0, 4.50 ERA) facing New York RHP Clarke Schmidt (0-0, 4.66).

Blues beat Blackhawks 5-2 to preserve playoff hopes



SCOTT KANE • The Associated Press

St. Louis Blues' Jordan Kyrou (25) controls the puck while under pressure from Chicago Blackhawks' Andreas Athanasiou (89).

By JOE HARRIS
The Associated Press

Jordan Kyrou scored twice and Robert Thomas had a goal and an assist, and the St. Louis Blues beat the Chicago Blackhawks 5-2 on Wednes-

day night.

Zack Bolduc had a goal and an assist, Torey Krug also scored and Brayden Schenn had two assists for St. Louis. Joel Hofer made 18 saves as the Blues improved to 8-1-1 in their last 10 home games against the Blackhawks.

St. Louis preserved its slim playoff hopes. The Blues began the day trailing Vegas, which has a game in hand, by five points for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Philipp Kurashev and Landon Slaggert scored for the Blackhawks. Petr Mrazek was pulled after giving up three goals on three shots over the first 4:37. Arvid Soderblom came on and finished with 21 saves

The Blues ambushed the Blackhawks with four goals in a 4:55 span early in the first period, scoring on their first four shots of the game.

Kyrou started the outburst with two straight goals just 42 seconds apart.

Kyrou has a four-game point streak and has 15 points in his last 10 games (eight goals, seven assists).

Kyrou's first came at 2:04 on a breakaway off an outlet pass from Nick Leddy.

Hofer got his second career NHL point with the secondary assist on the play.

Kyrou struck again at 2:46, with Pavel Buchnevich getting an assist on the play for his 400th career point.

Krug made it 3-0 at 4:37, ending Mrazek's night.

Bolduc greeted Soderblum with his fourth of the season at 6:59. The goal gave the Blues a 4-0 lead before either Blackhawks goalie could record a save.

St. Louis outshot Chicago 9-1 in the first period.

Kurashev got the Blackhawks on the board at 8:40 of the second, giving him points in four of his last five games.

Thomas scored his 25th of the season midway through the third to give the Blues a 5-1 lead.

◆BASEBALL from page 8

of his career pitching in a career-high six innings and allowed just three runs off six hits and struck out three.

The Mavericks travel to Bemidji to play the Beavers in a three game series starting Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

◆OPINION from page 8

back. But on the other hand, we could stay put at no. 11 and draft Bo Nix or Michael Penix and potentially set ourselves back 10 years.

It is safe to say that draft night will determine whether or not I text my grandpa back after some Vikings games this season. Sorry Papa, if we suck I'm blocking your number for real this time.



10 • MSU Reporter Thursday, April 11, 2024

VARIETY

IS TIKTOK'S TIME UP?

Students share opinions on potential nationwide ban





ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

Pictured are a few Mavericks on their phones, potentially scrolling through the popular video app TikTok. As of March 13, TikTok is at risk of a nationwide ban.

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN Variety Editor

The clock is ticking for TikTok, as the popular video app with more than 170 million users worldwide is at risk of a nationwide ban.

The bill for a ban successfully passed through the U.S. House March 13 with a vote of 352-65. If the bill receives the OK from the Senate in the coming months, it will be time to part ways with Tik-Tok trends.

Talk of a ban has been swirling since its launch in 2016 due to its

ownership under Chinese Technology firm ByteDance Ltd. The app is discouraged by some lawmakers, who consider the creativity-driven and vocal platform a national security threat.

Overseen by the Chinese Government, lawmakers worry about a potential data leak upon demand, handing over open access to private information of U.S. users.

On the other hand, the app has become a backbone for younger generations within its eight years. It's a space to share music, dancing and artistic skills; a platform for telling stories, expressing opinions, promoting small businesses, the list

"Hearing about the ban actually making it as far as it has, is humorous. It's funny because it's just kind of unbelievable that this would be the first app that they're banning out of any other apps," said Minnesota State senior Skylar Jeppesen.

Jeppesen, a Psychology major, has used TikTok since it was formerly known as "Musical.ly" from 2014-2016. She continues to view and post videos herself, primarily relatable and comedic content.

"I feel like it would be very difficult considering with COVID, it made everyone kind of awkward and not be able to socially interact, and I feel like a lot of people met people through social media apps like TikTok, especially," Jeppesen said

During the COVID's peak, Tik-Tok became an outlet for millions of users. With no place to explore and socialize in the outside world, many spent their quarantine inside the app's screen. Music gained traction from dancing trends; us-

TIKTOK on page 11▶

'Steely Ann' and 'Joe's Garage' combine faculty forces

By JACK HARDING Staff Writer

Do you know any faculty members who are working at Minnesota State by day and working as a band member by night?

How about Rachel Maccabee of "Steely Ann," and Joe Tougas of "Joe's Garage?"

Steely Ann is a Steely Dan tribute band that puts its own spin on the classic 1970s band by using two female lead vocalists (instead of one male) and by incorporating more Jazz elements.

One of these vocalists, Rachel Maccabee, talked about how the female singers leave Steely Dan's touchy lyrics unchanged as an artistic choice.

"Steely Dan is known for some pretty misogynist and patriarchal lyrics," Maccabee said. "And I think that two women singing them is pretty empowering and you can kind of reframe the way things sound when sung by a woman. It's pretty cool."

Maccabee also works as a Confidential Advocate and Sexual Violence Prevention Specialist at MSU. She talked about how she balances her work and band life, especially during April, which is Sexual As-



Courtesy John Cross/The Free Press

Vocalists in the Steely Ann band recently rehearsed with several members of Joe's Garage. Pictured from the recent gathering are, left to right, Sarah Houle, Jessica Landsteiner, David Viscoli, Ann Fee, Kat Baumann, Rachel Maccabee, Joe Tougas, Evan Bierer, ARK and Scott Rahe.

sault Awareness Month.

"As tired as I am this week with the programming and the students that I work with, I get to meet with my bandmates tonight just to go over a few little details. And there's something very fulfilling about being on stage and singing before an audience. So I balance it not very well and as carefully as I can, and I make time," Maccabee said.

It helps that Steely Ann only has

a couple of gigs a year.

After seeing Steely Ann, Joe Tougas was inspired and wanted to start his own tribute band based on another artist who was big in the

STEELY ANN on page 11▶

Students share cinema at Stompers Film Festival

By ANAHI ZUNIGA Staff Writer

Ever heard of the Cannes Film Festival? How about the Sundance Film Festival?

Now get ready for the Minnesota State's very own Stompers Film Festival.

The Student Events Team announced a film festival in early February, inviting MSU's filmmaking students to submit short film projects. On Tuesday night, all films were shown in front of an audience at the film festival held in the Centennial Student Union Ballroom.

The festival was open to all MSU students; In addition to the showings, there was also a panel of judges consisting of four students and staff. The panel conducted the preliminary and final reviews and selected the films that were presented at the event. All films were reviewed and scored by content, technical and overall quality

The first-place winner received a \$200 prize and will be included in the pre-show presentation week following the film festival. The second-place prize film was awarded a \$50 Best Buy gift card and the Audience Choice award winner received a \$25 Visa card, thanks to the votes of the student body.

At the end of the night, freshman Emmett Johnson won both first and third place.

Known as ECO The Kid through social media and his work, Johnson has done cinematography work for Minnesota State and has done promotional ads for businesses around Min-

His short film "Full Circle" was previously a Best in Fest winner at the EDU Film Festival in 2023 and was shown at the Stomper Film Festival.

The film follows the story of a young man named Michael, showing off his day from the beginning to the end. The film depicts the cycle of drug addiction & abuse along with elements of generational trauma being touched.

Johnson directed and produced his film along with writing and brainstorming the project material.

"It was about two months worth of filmmaking. So it was storyboarding, and then writing the script and editing and shooting all took about two months and the story is about drug addiction. The cycle of drug abuse," he said. "Kids do a lot of drugs and I hope somebody might take away a good piece of advice from it.

After the showing of his film,

CINEMA on page 11▶

Food, fitness and fun in Preska

By ELLIE MESCHKE Staff Writer

A food and fitness expo was held in the Margaret Preska Residence Hall Tuesday that promoted exercise, healthful food and affirmations.

Those who attended got to play games regarding exercise and health, look at healthy recipes and take plenty of Nutrigrain bars. Attendees were also encouraged to scan a QR code that would take them to a website dedicated to helping people make recipes out of the ingredients they have on hand.

"This event is all about staying healthy," Health Education graduate assistant Taylor Ferrazzo said. "We are promoting staying active and eating healthy in a fun, interactive way."

Ferrazzo said the event consisted of different activities that relate to food and fitness. That's how they hope to educate students on different ways to stay healthy. The event included activities where students could learn new stretches, healthy recipes, desk exercises and more.

"This event is a way for students to take a break from all the chaos that occurs at the end of the semester," Ferrazzo said. "It also helps students learn new ways that food and fitness can decrease stress levels."

As Ferrazzo said, finals are just around the corner, and it's crucial that students take care of themselves in the midst of studying and doing homework. According to a study, 31% of stress in students is caused by finals and midterms. Maintaining a healthy diet and exercising regularly can improve mental health and decrease the risk of mental illness.

"As spring semester wraps up, we are ending the year with inspirational rocks. This is part of our 'You Rock' event that occurs at the end of spring semester every



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

A food and fitness expo occurred in Preska Tuesday to promote healthy habits like exercise and eating clean among college students at Minnesota State.

year. These rocks are painted and hidden around campus by our Health PROs. These rocks are a fun way to spread positivity and joy around campus. It is also exciting to see where our rocks end up!" Ferrazzo said.

Whether it's going to the gym or just getting up and walking around, eating less junk food or switching to a new diet entirely, please remember to take care of yourselves during finals week. Your health and wellbeing comes first, no matter the final.

▼TIKTOK from page 10

ers publicized their thoughts and emotions during their first global pandemic — a new, frightening era for young generations.

TikTok was a popular space to speak freely in the form of shortterm content, but along with its position on the charts, it also quickly became a leading app in users' screen time.

"The TikTok ban is fine, it'll get people to stop scrolling for a positive," said MSU student Chase Walters.

TikTok videos can range anywhere from 3 seconds to 10 minutes. For students working toward degrees, this form of content is becoming problematic in terms of procrastination and even addiction.

A study completed by Psychologists published by Frontiers in Psychology concluded short-form video addiction to not only directly impact academic procrastination, but also indirectly cause academic procrastination through attention control.

In TikTok's defense, the app contains an optional timer to re-

strict use to one hour.

"I use TikTok to look up workouts, try new foods and learn new things," said MSU sophomore Amaiya Kauphusman (no relation to the author). "You can definitely choose how you want to use the app, and you can put restrictions of how long you want to use it in a day."

Kauphusman is majoring in Communications and Media and minoring in marketing. On top of the weight of social media under her degree, she produces content of her own geared toward fashion and beauty.

"People use TikTok as a job. People get paid to make TikToks," Kauphusman said. "This could affect me because I would post TikToks in the future for my job most likely. It's what I love to do, and how I get my message out on brands that I work with."

TikTok has become a necessary platform for marketing, especially giving small businesses an opportunity to grow largely and quickly. Businesses can purchase ads, create sponsorships, participate in trends and gain leverage faster than alternative platforms

in the industry.

"TikTok was a great place to make money or boost your business, and with the ban, that puts a lot of people out of a career they built," Walters said, who is currently seeking a degree in business.

Alternatively, TikTok's end would likely not put an end to the world of short-form content. The app has inspired this design for competitors like Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat.

"I don't think the ban will impact much," Walters said. "Just like most things they come and go, and something new will come around. Every app has reels on them now anyways; the damage is kind of already done."

TikTok's CEO Shou Zi Chew is not ready for a replacement just yet, as he released a statement to users in hopes of the app's liberation in the U.S.

"We will not stop fighting and advocating for you," Chew said. "We will continue to do all we can, including exercising our legal rights, to protect this amazing platform that we have built with you."

Margot Robbie making 'Monopoly' movie



EVAN AGOSTINI • The Associated Press Margot Robbie arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party, March 10, 2024, at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills, Calif.

By MARIA SHERMAN

The Associated Press

Margot Robbie has her sights on another toy. The "Barbie" producer and star is making a Monopoly movie, with Hasbro and Lionsgate behind it, the companies announced Wednesday at the CinemaCon conference in Las Vegas.

Robbie, and her production company LuckyChap, were the ones who got "Barbie" to the finish line after many years in development stagnation. The film topped the box office in 2023 with over \$1.4 billion in ticket sales worldwide. And now they'll bring that vision to the classic board game.

Lionsgate is also developing a new "The Blair Witch Project" with the horror experts at Blumhouse, the studio behind "The Purge" and "M3GAN." It will be the first in a multi-year pact between Jason Blum's company and Lionsgate, drawing on the studio's library titles.

The first "Blair Witch" was released in 1999 and became a phenomenon at the box office. It earned \$248 million, spawned two sequels and changed the look of many horror movies to follow.

"I'm a huge admirer of 'The Blair Witch Project,' which brought the idea of found footage horror to mainstream audiences and became a true cultural phenomenon," Blum said in a statement. "I don't think there would have been a 'Paranormal Activity' had there not first been a 'Blair Witch,' so this feels like a truly special opportunity and I'm excited to see where it leads."

◆CINEMA from page 10

Johnson discussed his filmmaking process, including overcoming certain obstacles such as facing conflict in filming locations. He hopes to share the message of the film with others.

Despite having no further plans for his award-winning short film, Johnson said he plans

to continue his work in cinematography through other aspects of art.

"I like filmmaking. I like seeing films. I'm a cinematographer. That's what I do as work so I work with companies all the time and artists and musicians all the time. I'm recording all the time," he said

STEELY ANN from page 10

1970s, one that he was a massive fan of — Frank Zappa. Tougas assembled talented musicians from around town to create Joe's Garage (Also the name of one of Zappa's albums). Tougas does vocals and plays guitar for his band.

At Minnesota State, Tougas works as the Director of Content Marketing, which involves editing for the TODAY, the university's alumni magazine.

Along with work, Tougas stays busy by being in a few different music groups (including an acoustic duo with Ann Fee from Steely Ann) and practicing for hours every night.

Tougas talked about what it's like to perform for an audience, especially students.

"I think it feels great, especially with students because I doubt too many students have heard his music. They may have heard the name, but to have heard the music might be a stretch. So it's exciting for me to share that," Tougas said.

Tougas and Maccabee have

worked together in multiple music projects before. But this Saturday at 8 p.m both Joe's Garage and Steely Ann perform at the Kato Ballroom.

This will be the inaugural run for Tougas' Joe's Garage.

Tougas talked about his passion for Zappa's music and what he prepared for Saturday.

"He's got 62 albums, none of which are the same. And that was in his lifetime. There's been more released since then. He was just so prolific and so experimental that there's bound to be something you would like in his catalog," Tougas said.

"And what I've done with the show is try to assemble stuff of his that's pretty accessible. It shows off his fancy side, but it also shows off his genuine musicianship, and humor and seriousness all at the same time."

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