

Africa Night connects culture's roots

By AMALIA SHARAF
Staff Writer

African Night was back at the CSU Ballroom on Apr. 13, highlighting the culture of many international students.

The annual event was themed "Roots of Africa." Zoe Gorah, president of the African Student Association, said they wanted to debunk the myths about Africa.

"Everyone has this stereotypical image of Africa, but we don't really have what exactly is put out," said Gorah. "This time we're taking the stereotypical African village theme, but owning it and doing it ourselves and showing people how we would do it, instead of how people see us."

Gorah said people were excited about making "a home away from home" because this is the place where they were able to show off their flags, cultural clothing and food.

"For me it's good because I'm far away from home so I don't get to eat my traditional food that often," said junior Edidiong Ukoenn. "It's always good to return to



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

Africa Night in the Centennial Student Union's ballroom highlights the culture of international students. This year they took the stereotypical view of African villages and made it their theme making it their own.

the traditional dishes that we eat a lot."

Besides the cultural dishes, attendees got to see the fashion show.

Students presented their cultural dresses and, later, walked on the

stage with the flags of the countries they represented.

In addition to that, African Night offered a talent show.

"A lot of the performances are cultural dances from villages or songs that are popular," said Lauled Nyanwleh, vice president for the African Student Association.

One performance featured The Boys, african students who collaborated together to sing about unity. Members of "The Boys" represented four different countries in Africa.

Gorah said the 300 people who attended made new connections, tried food and watched different performances throughout the night.

"I came here to Africa Night because I wanted to see the culture as well as share my own culture with others," said junior from Ethiopia Makda Asmelash. "I also wanted to listen to different music, see what the other culture looks like, as well as meeting new people at the event. It's a really good opportunity to have every African and non-African students united."

Student leader accomplishments honored at ceremony

By JEREMY REDLIEN
Staff Writer

On Sunday Minnesota State gave out awards in 13 different categories at its 20th annual Student Leadership Awards Ceremony to bring attention to accomplishments of student leaders.

"This university wouldn't be anything without our student leaders. Our world and student activities depend on a vibrant campus where student leaders step up, they take leadership positions, and they leave their group to make it better and to add things on a regular basis for our community," said Mark Constantine, director of the Centennial Student Union and Student Activities, in his remarks at the beginning of the ceremony.

Student leaders were given awards for their contributions to the campus. Many of the awards given to students were for demonstrating leadership characteristics and traits such as commitment to diversity, volunteer work and civic responsibility.

Awards included the Outstanding Recognized Student Organization, Outstanding Campus Volunteer, and the Scott Hagebak Centennial Student Union Hall of Fame.

A buffet consisting of food, cake



JEREMY REDLIEN • The Reporter

The 20th annual Student Leadership Award Ceremony gave out awards to 13 different categories to honor student leaders across campus.

and drinks was available to attendees.

In interviews after the ceremony awardees had various reactions to their winning awards and spoke to different motivations that drove

them to take on leadership roles.

"I always love to be involved and be a voice to represent thousands of students on campus and for me it's just an honor to see a problem and step up to be a leader,"

said Victor Nguyen, winner of the Unsung Hero award.

Nomin Sanadheera was the winner of the Scott Hagebak Centennial Student Union Hall of Fame award and spoke about his

growth as an individual.

"I'm very happy that people actually saw the commitment that I've had and I'm also happy that I grew into a person that deserved this award. Because when I first came here, I was not very outgoing, I was not very involved," said Sanadheera.

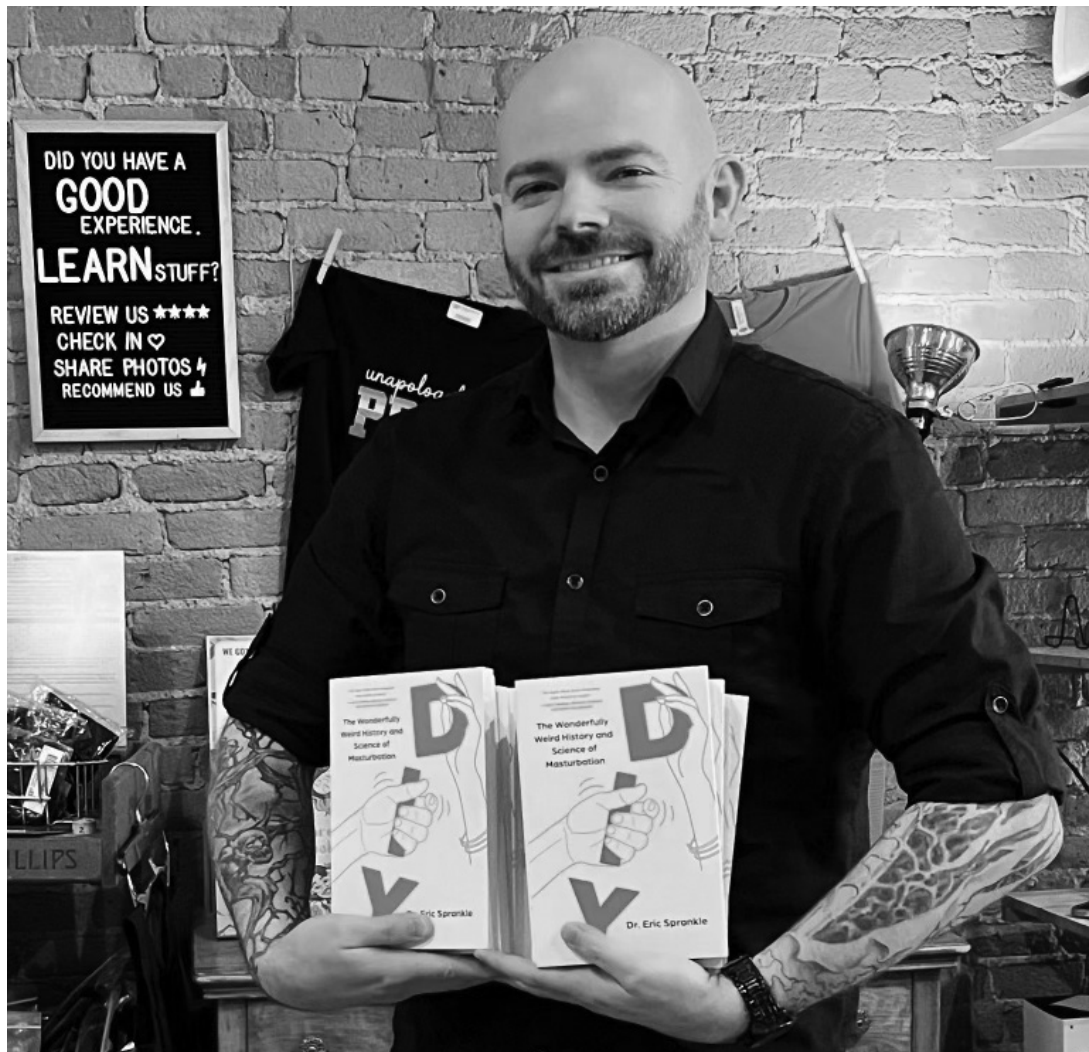
Emily Dietrich was one of the winners of the Outstanding Collegian award, and spoke about how her initial motivation to get more involved on campus came from being a nontraditional student.

"The initial inspiration was to get involved on campus because as a nontraditional student and off campus my goal was to stay on campus as long as I possibly could every single day, because I knew if I went home, I would never do my homework," said Emily Dietrich, winner of the Outstanding Collegian award.

Dietrich also emphasized the importance of students getting involved with on campus activities.

"Students who haven't been out in the world yet don't realize that the opportunities that they have in college right now is the biggest culmination of those opportunities that you're ever gonna have. It would just be the worst thing ever to not take advantage of that," said Dietrich.

Masturbation: It's NORMAL



Courtesy Eric Sprankle

Pictured above is Eric Sprankle holding his book called 'DIY: The Wonderfully Weird History and Science of Masturbation.'

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

One of the reasons Corn Flakes were invented was because Dr. John Harvey Kellogg wanted young people to stop masturbating. He designed a bland food item to dampen the sex drives of young people. He thought that the blandness of the cereal would eradicate penile and clitoral erections nationwide.

This is one of the many things people will learn in Eric Sprankle's book, 'DIY: The Wonderfully Weird History and Science of Masturbation,' which came out March 19, 2024. He said he wasn't planning on writing this book, but after some comments on an Instagram post, it changed his mind and made him want to understand where the comments came from and why so many people are gullible to believe the misinformation.

"A couple of years ago, I posted something on Instagram about masturbation. I just essentially said something along the lines of 'have a worry-free orgasm today,' basically just normalizing it, and there's nothing unhealthy about masturbating," said Sprankle. "I got a few comments from people. 'You're being unprofessional.' 'This is unethical.' 'You need to warn your followers about all the dangers of masturbating.' And I'm like, where is this coming from? So that sparked my interest."

Sprankle's book is both educational and adds some humor to the topic. He added comedy as his way of communicating.

"It's hard for me not to be flippant about things and so I wanted to be very intentional with this topic to be humorous, throughout and I think that it makes it stand out amongst sexual health books in my field," said Sprankle. "Interviewing the topics can be interesting, sometimes it can be dry reading. I wanted to offer readers within sexual health within sex ed a little bit of a different voice and the voice that they're used to for me on social media, so it matches my tone of voice with that."

The topic of masturbation is a bit of a taboo topic, but it didn't scare Sprankle from writing about it. He said it's taboo because many cultures have different views on sex and sexuality. We (the U.S.) have a hierarchy of sexual appropriateness, and what is most socially acceptable is penile-vaginal intercourse within the confines of heterosexual marriage. People find it difficult to object to this on a societal level, especially when it comes to procreation.

"You start moving down the list this hierarchy of what is acceptable; people who aren't married, people who are the same gender having sex. Masturbation is down there, as well as things that aren't socially acceptable because it doesn't fit into this one area that is socially acceptable: partnered sex, married for the purpose of procreation," said Sprankle. "Sex by yourself. No procreation. Not part of a loving bond between two people. So it can be viewed as like selfish, unnecessary distraction, an unhealthy coping mechanism, a sign of deviance, all these differ-

ent things because it doesn't like just fit into what society wants you to do with your own body."

There is a chapter in the book which covers religion. Sprankle said religion plays a big role in societal attitudes about sexuality and masturbation. While the book does cover religion in most chapters, he said there was enough information out there where he could write a whole chapter on it. He said something he learned about the religions surprised him and it was the way they look at masturbation condemnation. They all say God created genitals for one reason: express marital love in the hopes of procreation.

"Every imaginable sexual behavior with the exception of one and masturbation falls into that. Masturbation isn't uniquely condemned as a sexual sin. It's just one of dozens of sexual sins because it doesn't fulfill God's purpose for our bodies and particularly our genitals and sexuality," said Sprankle. "Sometimes there's a greater focus on masturbation within these religions, because it's considered the most easily accessible and the highest frequently engaged in sexual sin that you can engage in. It's a sin literally at your fingertips. You don't need a partner, you can do it yourself."

People can buy this book where books are sold, including Barnes and Noble, Amazon and if people want signed copies, they can stop by Next Chapter Booksellers in St. Paul, Smitten Kitten in Minneapolis or head over to drsprankle.com.

Supreme Court allows gender-affirming care ban in Idaho



AMANDA ANDRADE-RHOADES • The Associated Press

The Supreme Court of the United States is seen in Washington, March 26, 2024.

The Associated Press

The Supreme Court is allowing Idaho to enforce its ban on gender-affirming care for transgender youth while lawsuits over the law proceed, reversing lower courts.

The justices' order Monday allows the state to put in a place a 2023 law that subjects physicians to up to 10 years in prison if they provide hormones, puberty blockers or other gender-affirming care to people under age 18. Under the court's order, the two transgender teens who sued to challenge the law still will be able to obtain care.

The court's three liberal justices would have kept the law on hold. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson wrote that it would have been better to let the case proceed "unfettered by our intervention." Justice Neil Gorsuch of the conservative majority wrote that it is "a welcome development" that the court is reining in an overly broad lower court order.

A federal judge in Idaho had blocked the law in its entirety after determining that it was necessary to do so to protect the teens, who are identified under pseudonyms in court papers.

Lawyers for the teens wrote in court papers that the teens'

"gender dysphoria has been dramatically alleviated as a result of puberty blockers and estrogen therapy."

Opponents of the law have said it will likely increase suicide rates among teens. The law's backers have said it is necessary to "protect children" from medical or surgical treatments for gender dysphoria, though there's little indication that gender-affirming surgeries are being performed on transgender youth in Idaho.

Gender-affirming care for youth is supported by every major medical organization, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychiatric Association.

Medical professionals define gender dysphoria as severe psychological distress experienced by those whose gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth.

The action comes as the justices also may soon consider whether to take up bans in Kentucky and Tennessee that an appeals court allowed to be enforced in the midst of legal fights.

At least 23 states have enacted laws restricting or banning gender-affirming medical care for transgender minors, and most of those states face lawsuits.

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Good Counsel Learning Center

World donors pledge \$2.1 billion in aid for Sudan



PATRICIA SIMON • The Associated Press

Sudanese Children suffering from malnutrition are treated at an MSF clinic in Metche Camp, Chad, near the Sudanese border, Saturday, April 6, 2024.

By BARBARA SURK and SAMY MAGDY
The Associated Press

World donors pledged more than \$2.1 billion in humanitarian aid for Sudan after a yearlong war that has pushed its population to the brink of famine, French President Emmanuel Macron said Monday.

Macron spoke at the end of an international conference in Paris aimed at drumming up support for Sudan's 51 million people. The aid will go to food, water, medicines and other urgent needs, he said, without providing a specific timeline.

Top diplomatic envoys, U.N. officials and aid agencies urged Sudan's warring parties to stop attacks on civilians and allow access for humanitarian aid, and called for immediate international mediation efforts toward peace. Members of Sudan's civil society took part in the Paris meeting, but neither the Sudanese army nor its rival paramilitary were represented.

Sudan descended into conflict in April last year when simmering tensions between the military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces exploded into open fighting in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere across the country.

"Much of the world has been focused on the crisis that was generated in the Middle East. As concerning as those developments are, other dramatic life-and-death emergencies are being pushed into the shadows," United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres told reporters after the Security Council met on Sudan on Monday.

"The world is forgetting about the people of Sudan," he said.

The United Nations' humanitarian campaign needs some \$2.7 billion this year to get food, health care and other supplies to 24 million people in Sudan — nearly half its population. So far, funders have given only \$145 million, about 5%, according to the U.N.'s humanitarian office, known as OCHA.

After Monday's conference, Macron said, "We are today at 2 billion euros (\$2.1 billion) for Sudan." Of that, some 900 million

euros comes from EU countries, he said.

Monday's conference among 58 countries also called on regional powers to stop funding Sudan's war. Without naming them, Macron said, "The amount we raised today remains probably less than all the money raised by several powers" to wage a proxy conflict in Sudan.

More than 14,000 people have been killed and at least 33,000 have been wounded in the yearlong war. Nearly 9 million people have been forced to flee their homes either to safer areas inside Sudan or to neighboring countries, according to the U.N. Hunger, sexual violence against women and girls and continued displacement are rampant and much of the country's infrastructure — homes, hospitals and schools — has been reduced to rubble.

"We cannot let this nightmare slide from view," Guterres said in a video message to the Paris conference.

"It's time to support the Sudanese people. It's time to silence the guns," he added.

French Foreign Minister Stéphane Sejourne said the aim of the conference was to mobilize humanitarian funding to help Sudanese people, who have been victims of both a "terrible war" and "international indifference."

The European Union's crisis management commissioner, Janez Lenarcic, said the 27-member bloc wants to ensure that Sudan is not forgotten as wars in Gaza and Ukraine dominate the international news.

"People of Sudan, caught up in this emergency, are almost completely invisible," Lenarcic said. Sudan has turned into one of the worst humanitarian disasters ever on the African continent, he said, and added: "It is our duty not to look away."

President of the International Committee of the Red Cross Mirjana Spoljaric warned that humanitarian action is increasingly politicized in Sudan and humanitarian workers are risking their lives to get vital aid to people.

"Securing a military advantage cannot be pursued regardless of the human cost," Spoljaric said.

Bird flu spreads to more animals

By JONEL ALECCIA
AP Health Writer

A bird flu outbreak in U.S. dairy cows has grown to affect more than two dozen herds in eight states, just weeks after the nation's largest egg producer found the virus in its chickens.

Health officials stress that the risk to the public is low and that the U.S. food supply remains safe and stable.

"At this time, there continues to be no concern that this circumstance poses a risk to consumer health, or that it affects the safety of the interstate commercial milk supply," the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said in a statement.

Here's what you need to know about bird flu and food:

WHICH STATES HAVE FOUND BIRD FLU IN DAIRY COWS?

As of Friday, the strain of bird flu that has killed millions of wild birds in recent years has been found in at least 26 dairy herds in eight U.S. states: Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas and South Dakota.

The virus, known as Type A H5N1, has been detected in a range of mammals over the last few years, but this is the first time it has been found in cattle, according to federal health and animal agencies. Genetic analysis of the virus does not show that it has changed to spread more easily in people, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

HOW IS BIRD FLU AFFECTING FOOD PRODUCTION?

Agriculture officials in at least 17 states have restricted imports of dairy cattle from states where the virus has been detected, but, so far,



CHARLIE LITCHFIELD • The Associated Press

A line of Holstein dairy cows feed through a fence at a dairy farm in Idaho on March 11, 2009. As of April 11, 2024

government agencies say it's had little effect on commercial milk production. Officials believe cows likely have been infected by exposure to wild birds, but said cow-to-cow spread "cannot be ruled out."

Farmers are testing cows that show symptoms of infection, including sharply reduced milk supply and lethargy. Animals that show signs or test positive for illness are being separated from other animals on the farms. The animals appear to recover within two weeks.

U.S. egg producers are watching the situation closely after bird flu was detected in chickens in Texas and Michigan. Millions of birds have been killed, but the FDA said the risk of affected eggs getting into the retail market or causing infections in humans is low because of federal inspections and other safeguards.

DOES PASTEURIZATION KILL BIRD FLU?

Scientists say there's no evi-

dence to suggest that people can contract the virus by consuming food that's been pasteurized, or heat-treated — or properly cooked.

"It's not a food safety concern," said Lee-Ann Jaykus, an emeritus food microbiologist and virologist at North Carolina State University.

Two people in U.S. have been infected with bird flu to date. A Texas dairy worker who was in close contact with an infected cow recently developed a mild eye infection and has recovered. In 2022, a prison inmate in a work program caught it while killing infected birds at a Colorado poultry farm. His only symptom was fatigue, and he recovered.

IS GROCERY STORE MILK SAFE FROM BIRD FLU?

Yes, according to food safety experts and government officials.

U.S. producers are barred from selling milk from sick cows and must divert and destroy it.

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Being a leader sets you up for success

When we were younger, being a leader may have seemed like something that would not carry much significance outside of minor things. Whether that be getting chosen to lead our classmates when an activity was going on in class or perhaps our parents trusted us with a task that required us to lead our siblings.

While these things that we might have done may not have carried an incredible amount of importance on its own, these moments that taught us the leadership that are important in our lives as current students and beyond college.

One of the major skills that we can learn as students before we go out into the world and go do whatever it is our heart desires is leadership because of how valuable it can be.

Most industries and companies are looking for employees that they know that they can trust to do things on time and right first and foremost. They are also searching for people that can help others and lead them to do their jobs properly.

Not to say that they are searching for people to others' jobs for them, but it is a valuable asset for a company to have those leaders so that they know things are running smoothly. No big time bosses or owners want to constantly have to worry about day-to-day operations.

Now in case anyone is wondering, how does this benefit us? Well when our bosses are looking to promote someone into senior positions, that's when they start looking at our leadership skills as a quality that they want someone in that position to have.

While these are some of the ways that being a leader can benefit us in our careers, there are a lot of benefits that come from being a leader right now as a student.

First of all, it just feels great to be able to help people. It also gives us the opportunity to network and build relationships with our fellow students.

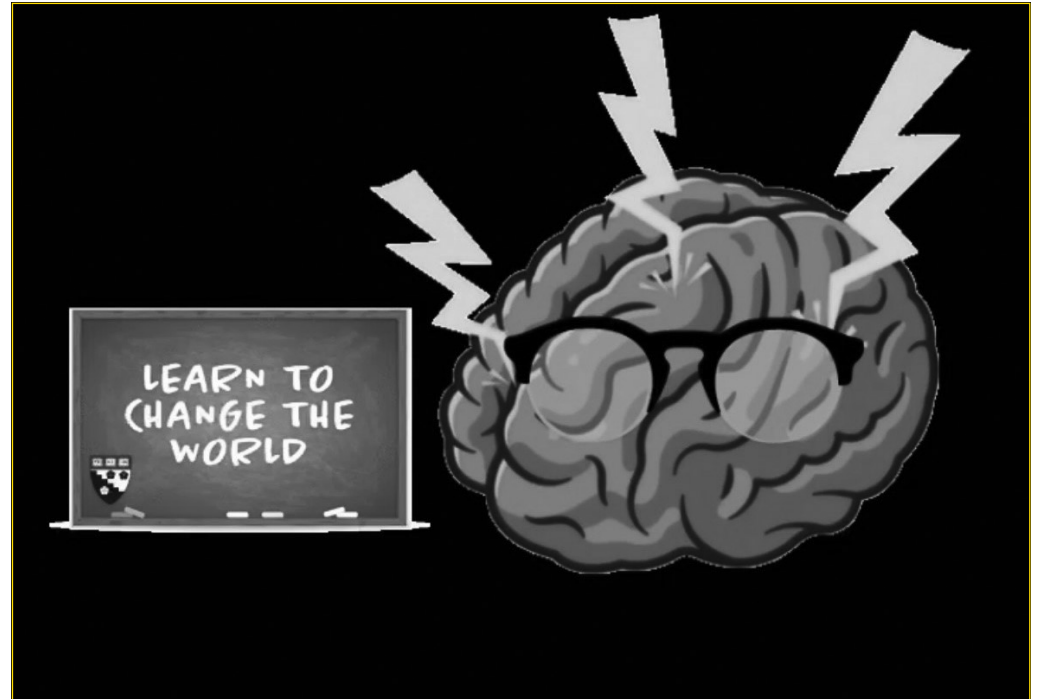
All of us students want to find like-minded people and others that we can share memories with to make our college experience better. Sticking our noses into various campus activities or events and offering our ideas, thoughts and leadership is a great way of meeting people.

Looking for a place to show our leadership skills doesn't even need to be that hard of a search. We can even start by doing it in the very classrooms that we spend so much time in every week.

If we know something that a classmate doesn't, offer a solution. Let's not hide the great ideas that our minds come up with and share them with others.

Perspectives

Mindful Journeys: What Anxiety Can Teach You



Courtesy Emma Johnson

When something bad happens in our lives, we immediately put it upon ourselves to take the blame for what's going wrong. We tend to say "Why me?" "Why is this happening?" or "What did I do to deserve this?" Hurdles can be seen as enormous setbacks and make us seem like we learned nothing from our past.



Emma Johnson
Editor In Chief

For me, those thoughts and several more have floated through my head for months. My anxiety turned my life upside down and it came on so quickly, I didn't have time to process all the reasons my anxiety could have been brought on in the first place. All while trying to deal with my symptoms, this growing sense of pity, fear and dread of the unknown teamed up with my anxiety. I knew there were worse things in the world I could be going through, but each day felt like another struggle to survive.

While writing one night in my anxiety-calming journal, I came across a prompt that asked me to think about "anxiety's praiseworthy core," and how anxiety has helped me. I was taken aback. Anxiety was supposed to help me?! Something that had been tormenting me, forcing me to completely alter the way I lived my life for 20 years, was supposed to be "praiseworthy?" I could usually write the first things that came to my mind, but I had to sit with this prompt for a

while. After a couple of hours, I realized my anxiety had been somewhat beneficial to me. Here's some of what anxiety has taught me:

How important it is to listen to your body. Anxiety is your mind trying to alert you of dangers nearby, enacting your "fight or flight" mode to go into effect. Even though I'm not being chased by bears or jumping off a cliff, it's allowed me to think about what could be causing my mind to react to certain situations. Observing how my body reacts to these situations, participating in self-care and responding to what it needs at the moment has also been insightful.

How strong I am. Having anxiety is no easy feat. Going through your day while trying to make it look like there's a full-on battle internally is a whole other issue. It ebbs and flows and you have to go day

COLUMN on page 5▶

Pulse

"What is your most unpopular opinion?"

Compiled by Dylan Long



OLIVIA STARK,
JUNIOR

"Pineapple on pizza."



ANNABELLE MILLES,
JUNIOR

"Chic Fil A is overrated."



ZACH STOCKLAND,
FRESHMAN

"Starbucks is overrated."



BEN HUNCHA,
JUNIOR

"I don't like Prince."



JAMMI OGALLA,
FRESHMAN

"Soccer is actually fun if you play it."



ANGELO CUCCI,
JUNIOR

"Fleetwood Mac is bad."

Stabbing breaks out at Sydney mall killing 6 people



RICK RYCROFT • The Associated Press

People are led out from the Westfield Shopping Centre where multiple people were stabbed in Sydney, Saturday, April 13, 2024.

By RICK RYCROFT
The Associated Press

A man stabbed six people to death at a busy Sydney shopping center Saturday before he was fatally shot, police said, with hundreds fleeing the chaotic scene, many weeping as they carried their children. Eight people, including a 9-month-old, were injured.

New South Wales police said they believed a 40-year-old man was responsible for the Saturday afternoon attack at the Westfield Shopping Centre in Bondi Junction, in the city's eastern suburbs and not far from the world-famous Bondi Beach.

They said they were not able to name him until a formal identification had taken place but that they weren't treating the attack as terrorism-related.

The man was shot dead by a police inspector after he turned and raised a knife, New South Wales Assistant Police Commissioner Anthony Cooke told reporters.

"This all happened very, very quickly — the officer that was in the vicinity attended on her own, was guided to the location of the offender by people who were in the center," he said. "She took the actions that she did saving a range of people's lives."

The attack at the shopping center, one of the country's busiest

and which was a hub of activity on a particularly warm fall afternoon, began around 3:10 p.m. and police were swiftly called.

"They just said run, run, run — someone's been stabbed," one witness told ABC TV in Australia. "(The attacker) was walking really calmly like he was having an ice cream in a park. And then he went up the escalators ... and probably within about a minute we heard three gunshots."

Six of the victims — five women and a man — and the suspect died.

The officer conducted CPR on the attacker until the arrival of paramedics, who also worked on the man.

New South Wales Police Commissioner Karen Webb said the eight injured people were being treated at hospitals. The baby was in surgery, but it was too early to know the condition, she said.

"We are confident that there is no ongoing risk, and we are dealing with one person who is now deceased," Webb said in a later briefing. "It's not a terrorism incident."

Witnesses were shocked at the rare outburst of violence. Australia enacted strict gun laws after a man killed 35 and wounded another 23 in 1996, in Tasmania.

"I saw all the people running and I didn't know what was happening," said Ayush Singh. "I thought it was some people play-

ing a prank or something and after some time I saw a guy with a knife running from the footpath to the cafe where I work."

He said police arrived quickly and told everyone to stay put.

Singh said he saw the man running just meters (yards) away as he wielded a knife.

"I didn't hear him say anything," he added. "Just a random guy stabbing people. Mad guy."

Video footage shared online appears to show a man confronting the attacker on an escalator in the shopping center by holding what appeared to be a post towards him.

Roi Huberman, a sound engineer at ABC TV in Australia, told the network that he sheltered in a store during the incident.

"And suddenly we heard a shot or maybe two shots and we didn't know what to do," he said. "Then the very capable person in the store took us to the back where it can be locked. She then locked the store and then she then let us through the back and now we are out."

As the attack unfolded, panicked individuals streamed out of the shopping center, many with children in their arms. Paramedics treated injured people at the scene.

The shopping center and the surrounding area remains in lockdown as police piece together what went on.

◀ **COLUMN from page 4**
by day. When it becomes a lot, I tell myself that I've survived through all of the days I thought I wouldn't be able to make it through. It's taught me that I'm resilient and how, while it feels like I'm weak, I'm incredibly strong mentally to keep going forward in the hopes things will become better.

Finally, it's taught me that I'm not alone in my struggles.

It can feel isolating and no one understands what you're going through. I consider myself blessed to have friends and family who have opened up about their mental health, what's worked for them and just being able to have people who say "I get what you're going through." Even social media has provided me with great advice and motivation from other people who put their reassurances online.

To know that I'm not having to deal with this huge weight on my shoulders alone has been comforting enough.

Are there days where my anxiety still makes me question its helpfulness? Of course. However, while it's still a pain most days, it's allowed me to adopt a new mindset where I give myself more grace, patience and a reminder I can get through anything.

Reasons why your Tax Day refund may be bigger this year



SUSAN WALSH • The Associated Press

The exterior of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) building is seen in Washington, on March 22, 2013.

By FATIMA HUSSEIN
The Associated Press

On this Tax Day, refunds are looking a bit bigger for taxpayers.

According to the latest IRS statistics, the average income tax refund so far this season is \$3,011, up \$123 from last year. Two out of three taxpayers expect to receive a refund.

The IRS is promoting the customer service improvements the agency rolled out since receiving tens of billions in new funding dollars through Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act. Getting refunds out faster — to some people in just over a week — is part of the promotion.

So far, the IRS has delivered more than \$200 billion in refunds through early April, and the latest agency numbers show that 101 million people have filed returns this tax season.

At least one prominent person did not get a refund. President Joe Biden on Monday released the tax returns he filed with his wife, Jill, showing that he still owed the IRS \$334 and the state of Delaware \$1,480. But Jill Biden qualified for a \$433 refund from Virginia, where she teaches. The Biden earned \$619,976 and paid a federal income tax rate of 23.7%.

From cutting phone wait times to digitizing more documents and

improving the "Where's My Refund" tool to show more account details in plain language, agency leaders are trying to bring attention to what's been done to repair the image of the IRS as an outdated and maligned tax collector.

The promotion also in part is meant to quickly normalize a more efficient and effective IRS before congressional Republicans threaten another round of spending cuts to the agency. So time is of the essence for both taxpayers and the agency.

"This filing season, the IRS has built off past successes and reached new milestones," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said on a Friday call with reporters. "It's showing that when it has the resources it needs, it will provide taxpayers the service they deserve."

"It's clear that we're seeing historic improvements in taxpayer service levels, and the agency is rebounding from some very tough and lean years during the past decade," said IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel.

For most people, April 15 is the last day to submit tax returns or to file an extension.

The IRS says call wait times have been cut down to three minutes this tax season, compared with the average 28 minutes in 2022.

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US helps Israel shoot down 'nearly all' Iran-launched attacks



ADAM SCHULTZ • The Associated Press

From left to right, facing Biden are, Central Intelligence Agency Director William Burns; Avril Haines, Director of National Intelligence; Secretary of State Antony Blinken and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan.

By ZEKE MILLER and
MICHELLE L. PRICE
The Associated Press

President Joe Biden lauded American forces who helped Israel down “nearly all” of the drones and missiles fired by Iran and vowed to coordinate a global response to Tehran’s unprecedented attack. The Pentagon said U.S. forces intercepted “dozens of missiles” and drones launched from Iran, Iraq, Syria and Yemen that were headed toward Israel.

With regional tensions at their highest since the Israel-Hamas war began six months ago, Biden pledged on Saturday that American support for Israel’s defense against attacks by Iran and its proxies is “ironclad.” The attack marked the first time Iran has launched a direct military assault on Israel, risking a wider regional conflict.

Biden made clear in a call to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the U.S. would not participate in any offensive action against Iran, according to a senior administration official who was not authorized to publicly discuss the private conversation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. and Israel had been bracing for an attack for days after Iran said it would retaliate for a suspected Israeli strike this month on an Iranian consular building in Syria that killed 12 people, including two senior Iranian generals in the Revolutionary Guard’s elite Quds Force.

“At my direction, to support the defense of Israel, the U.S. military moved aircraft and ballistic missile defense destroyers to the region over the course of the past week,” Biden said in a statement late Saturday. “Thanks to these deployments and the extraordinary skill of our servicemembers, we helped Israel take down nearly all of the incoming drones and missiles.”

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in a statement said the U.S. took out dozens of the attacks, but did not provide details on ships or aircraft involved in the operation that commanders had been preparing for over the past two weeks.

“Our forces remain postured

to protect U.S. troops and partners in the region, provide further support for Israel’s defense, and enhance regional stability,” Austin said, adding that troops are standing ready to prevent any further conflict.

Biden had cut short a weekend stay at his Delaware beach house to meet with his national security team at the White House, returning to Washington minutes before Israeli officials confirmed that they had detected drones being launched toward their territory from Iran.

He convened a principals meeting of the National Security Council in the White House Situation Room to discuss the unfolding situation, the White House said, before speaking with Netanyahu.

“I told him that Israel demonstrated a remarkable capacity to defend against and defeat even unprecedented attacks – sending a clear message to its foes that they cannot effectively threaten the security of Israel,” Biden said.

Biden added that he would convene a meeting of the Group of Seven advanced democracies on Sunday “to coordinate a united diplomatic response to Iran’s brazen attack.”

The Pentagon reported that Austin had spoken twice with his Israeli counterpart to praise the “extraordinary defensive measures and strong cooperation undertaken to defeat this Iranian attack against Israel” and again stated clearly that “Israel could count on full U.S. support to defend Israel against any future attacks by Iran and its regional proxies.” National security adviser Jake Sullivan also spoke with his counterpart to reinforce Washington’s “ironclad commitment to the security of Israel.”

National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said in a statement that “Iran has begun an airborne attack against Israel.” She added: “The United States will stand with the people of Israel and support their defense against these threats from Iran.”

Biden on Friday said the United States was “devoted” to defending Israel and that “Iran will not succeed.” Asked by reporters what his message was for Iran, the president’s only reply was: “Don’t.”

Americans need more sleep study shows

By DEEPTI HAJELA and
LINLEY SANDERS
The Associated Press

If you’re feeling — YAWN — sleepy or tired while you read this and wish you could get some more shut-eye, you’re not alone. A majority of Americans say they would feel better if they could have more sleep, according to a new poll.

But in the U.S., the ethos of grinding and pulling yourself up by your own bootstraps is ubiquitous, both in the country’s beginnings and our current environment of always-on technology and work hours. And getting enough sleep can seem like a dream.

The Gallup poll, released Monday, found 57% of Americans say they would feel better if they could get more sleep, while only 42% say they are getting as much sleep as they need. That’s a first in Gallup polling since 2001; in 2013, when Americans were last asked, it was just about the reverse — 56% saying they got the needed sleep and 43% saying they didn’t.

Younger women, under the age of 50, were especially likely to report they aren’t getting enough rest.

The poll also asked respondents to report how many hours of sleep they usually get per night: Only 26% said they got eight or more hours, which is around the amount that sleep experts say is recommended for health and mental well-being. Just over half, 53%, reported getting six to seven hours. And 20% said they got five hours or less, a jump from the 14% who reported getting the least amount of sleep in 2013.

(And just to make you feel even more tired, in 1942, the vast



KRISTOPHER RADDER • The Associated Press

Chad Burnett, a graduating senior from Hinsdale, N.H. Middle High School, takes a small nap before the commencement ceremony on Saturday, June 17, 2023.

majority of Americans were sleeping more. Some 59% said they slept eight or more hours, while 33% said they slept six to seven hours. What even IS that?)

THE REASONS AREN’T EXACTLY CLEAR

The poll doesn’t get into reasons WHY Americans aren’t getting the sleep they need, and since Gallup last asked the question in 2013, there’s no data breaking down the particular impact of the last four years and the pandemic era.

But what’s notable, says Sarah Fioroni, senior researcher at Gallup, is the shift in the last decade toward more Americans thinking they would benefit from more sleep and particularly the jump in the number of those saying they get five or less hours.

“That five hours or less category ... was almost not really heard of in 1942,” Fioroni said. “There’s almost nobody that said they slept five hours or less.”

In modern American life, there also has been “this pervasive belief about how sleep was unnecessary — that it was this period of inactivity where little to nothing was actually happening and that took up time that could have been better used,” said Joseph Dzierzewski, vice president for research and scientific affairs at the National Sleep Foundation.

It’s only relatively recently that the importance of sleep to physical, mental and emotional health has started to percolate more in the general population, he said.

And there’s still a long way to go. For some Americans, like Justine Broughal, 31, a self-employed event planner with two small children, there simply aren’t enough hours in the day. So even though she recognizes the importance of sleep, it often comes in below other priorities like her 4-month-old son, who still wakes up throughout the night, or her 3-year-old daughter.

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SPORTS

Mavericks on fire with eighth win a row

By AHMED HASSAN
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State men's baseball team's run of dominance continues after they swept the Bemidji State Beavers for their eighth win in a row.

The Mavericks entered the series on a five-game win streak traveling to Bemidji to face the Beavers in a three-game series.

The Mavs dominated beating the Beavers Saturday beating them 21-0 and 18-1 which continued the momentum into Sunday with an 11-6 win.

The Mavericks propelled to second in the conference standing after the sweep. They now hold a 23-11 record and 19-5 conference record.

The Mavericks however are not settling for second as Louis Magers wants to make the push for first.

"We like where we are at, but want that #1 spot," said Magers.

"We have the chance to do that with the rest of our games this month."

The Mavericks entered game one fresh off a series sweep against Winona State at home and are outscoring opponents 99-25 since April 5th.

The Mavericks got the scoring started in the second inning with one run and didn't look back by



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Minnesota State baseball team are back in action Wednesday away at Sioux Falls to face USF in a doubleheader at 1:30 p.m.

going on a tear the rest of the game. They scored 20 more runs while the Maverick pitching staff held the Beavers scoreless in seven innings.

The Mavericks kept the same energy in game two as they start-

ed off the top of the first inning by scoring six runs.

The Mavs were unable to get anything going in the second inning, but found the spark in the third inning by scoring five runs.

The Mavs kept the momentum going by scoring seven more runs between the fourth and seventh innings to close out the Beavers.

Ryan Wickman collected two steals in game two, and he took sole

possession of fifth place among MSU All-time steal leaders.

The Mavericks collected runs in 11/14 of the innings that were played in both games, out-hitting the Beavers 37-8.

The Mavs were able to find versatility in the offense as 16 players registered a run, while 12 players recorded an RBI against the Beaver pitching rotation.

Ryan Friedges, Louis Magers, Tanner Thompson and Zach Stroch were highlights of the offense, as they scored two or more runs and recorded four or more RBIs.

Magers had a good day at the mound, collecting seven strikeouts and holding five scoreless innings.

The Mavs took the lead early in game two by scoring runs in each of the first four innings, and took an 8-1 lead.

The Beavers made a push through the fifth and seventh innings by holding the Maverick offense scoreless in that time frame, while getting their second run of the game in the fifth to cut the Maverick lead to six.

Magers helped take the game for the Mavs in the top of the eighth with an RBI double to right field.

The Beavers still kept on fighting, scoring four in the eighth and ninth innings to chip at the

EIGHTH on page 8 ▶

Most dangerous NBA Play-In Tournament teams

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Sports Editor

In a blink of an eye, the NBA Regular Season has come and gone. After a season full of entertaining basketball and storylines, it's time for big boy basketball.

Before the postseason starts Saturday, the seventh and eighth seed in both conferences need to be determined.

The NBA Play-In Tournament begins Tuesday with the New Orleans Pelicans taking on the Los Angeles Lakers to play for the chance at the seven seed and the right to play the reigning NBA Champions, the Denver Nuggets.

The loser will take on the winner of Tuesday's matchup between the Sacramento Kings and the Golden State Warriors. In the Eastern Conference, the Philadelphia 76ers will take on the Miami Heat for the seven seed Wednesday.

The loser will play for the eight seed against the winner of the Chicago Bulls and Atlanta Hawks matchup Wednesday.

Last season taught us that we can't completely write off these play-in teams. Here are three teams that can make a deep run this post-season.

1. Miami Heat

If there was ever a case to be



BRANDON DILL • The Associated Press

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) goes up for a dunk next to Memphis Grizzlies center Trey Jemison during the second half of an NBA basketball game Friday, April 12, 2024, in Memphis, Tenn.

made for a play-in team having a chance to make a deep run in the playoffs, it's last year's Heat. After losing their first play-in game to the Hawks, the Heat beat the Bulls

to secure themselves the eight seed. Their reward was facing the number one seeded Milwaukee Bucks. How did they fare you might ask? Well they dismantled them in five

games in what will go as one of the most improbable playoff series wins.

They then went through the New York Knicks in the second

round before beating the Boston Celtics in a wild seven-game series they were up 3-0 in.

The Heat's magical run was ended by the Nuggets in the NBA Finals. Similarly to last season, they have not ended the regular season well.

Despite that, this iteration of Heat with Jimmy Butler, Bam Adebayo and Eric Spolster have earned respect when it's playoff time. They've improbably made the finals twice in the last four seasons and aren't afraid of any team they could face in the East.

The main thing that will need to happen for them to make a deep run is for "Playoff Jimmy" to be activated by Butler. They will also likely not have Caleb Martin playing like Michael Jordan in his prime like he was in the Celtics series, so they need others like Terry Rozier and Tyler Herro to help with scoring load.

2. Los Angeles Lakers

Just like the Heat, the Lakers made a deep run in last year's playoffs after surviving the play-in tournament.

They too saw their championship hopes crushed by the Nuggets. For the Lakers it was in the Western Conference Finals.

This season for the Lakers has

PLAY-IN on page 8 ▶

Minnesota State softball sprinting toward the finish line



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

Minnesota State plays next in a double-header at home on Tuesday against Winona State. Both games will be played at the MSU Softball Diamond at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

By HAYDEN LEE
Staff Writer

With a 35-11 record and losing just five games in the last month, the Minnesota State softball team is in hot pursuit of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference's top seed.

With just under two weeks left in the season, the Mavericks sit at no. 3 in the NSIC, behind Concordia St. Paul (34-8) and Augustana, (34-13) who are on a 16-game winning streak. The Mavericks will have their chance to dethrone the Vikings in their final games of the season, a double-header in Augustana on April 28.

Over the weekend, the Mavericks were on the road against their in-state rivals, St. Cloud State and Minnesota Duluth. The Mavericks were able to take home a 7-1, 10-5 sweep over the Huskies, but split the series against the Bulldogs, 2-6 and 5-0.

In their first game against the Huskies, three first-inning runs were enough to power the Mavericks to a victory, but two runs in the sixth and seventh inning were the dagger in a great game for

ace McKayla Armbruster. Armbruster pitched a complete game where she allowed just four hits, one run and struck out five batters. She also pitched and won in the following game, giving her 16 wins on the season, compared to just five losses. In the next game, the Huskies came out and scored the first two runs of the game in their first at-bat. The Huskies were able to build up a 4-1 lead heading into the sixth inning, but two great rallies in the sixth and seventh innings gave the Mavericks the 10-5 win. The Mavericks scored all nine of their runs in the sixth and seventh inning runs with two outs.

"We got determined to win and grit it out," said head coach Lori Meyer in a press release posted to the Maverick Athletics website. "We battled with great at bats and capitalized on their mistakes and had some great baserunning. It was great for us to score nine runs all with two outs in those final innings." In their first game against Duluth, the Mavericks would have no such luck coming back against a multi-run lead. The Bulldogs got up 4-0, courtesy of a

grand slam in the first inning and never looked back. The Mavericks would put up one run in the second and third inning, but those two runs would be the only ones they would score, leading to a 6-2 defeat at the paws of the Bulldogs.

However, they would bounce back with a 5-0 win in the next game, where Armbruster pitched a two-hit complete game shutout, not allowing a baserunner until the bottom of the fifth. Ellie Tahlman and Rhyann Fritz led the way offensively with a combined four hits and all five runs batted in for the winning team.

"Our ability to get runners on base and have good at bats set us up for success in game two," Meyer said. "We were able to get timely hits with runners in scoring position. [Armbruster] pitched great, I love how she competed on the mound. UMD is a tough offensive team to shutout."

Next up for the Mavericks is a Tuesday doubleheader at home against Winona State. The first game begins at 2 p.m. and the second game will begin shortly after at the MSU Softball Diamond.

be in round one as there would be more time to rest between games for Davis and James than there would be later in the playoffs. If they were to find themselves playing the number one seed Oklahoma City Thunder instead, it would be much more ideal as they have shown they have the Thunder's number this season.

3. Philadelphia 76ers

The 76ers season was somewhat halted when Joel Embiid had a meniscus injury that kept him sidelined for a couple of months. It was a shame because he was having another MVP-caliber season before he got hurt. Apart from the Embiid injury, this season has been about the next step Tyrese Maxey took in his career.

Maxey ended the regular sea-

son averaging 25.9 points and 6.2 assists.

Now they enter the play-in tournament red-hot and on an eight-game winning streak.

If they can beat the Heat and get that seven seed to avoid playing a Celtics team that has owned them in the playoffs over the past several years, they could make some noise.

They traded for Buddy Heild to help with some offense, added some experience with Kyle Lowry and they now have Nick Nurse at head coach.

The most important thing is if Embiid can get himself up to speed and back to playing his best ball quickly. He's the one guy that almost nobody has an answer for.

MavWeek Challenge looks to raise money for scholarships



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

The MavWeek Challenge runs until Sunday, April 21. Fans, alumni and supporters can make donations on the Maverick Athletics website.

By LUKE JACKSON
News Editor

Over the past two years, Minnesota State Athletics has raised more than \$245,000 for scholarships.

This year, the MavWeek Challenge is set to raise \$154,000 to support all 20 MSU teams.

MavWeek Challenge is a year-long effort to raise scholarship money for all teams at MSU.

Scholarships help student athletes be successful, and it would not be possible without donors.

Over the past two years there have been 2,200 gifts to the various athletic programs at Mankato.

All funds raised during the MavWeek Challenge support scholarships of the sport of the donor's choosing.

"This is an important week for all of our coaches and student-athletes.

We have enjoyed an outstanding year, but success like that does not happen without the resources to make it happen," Director of Athletics Kevin Buisman in a press release.

"Scholarships are the lifeblood of the program and allow highly motivated coaches to attract exceptional talent.

The MavWeek Challenge supports that mission."

Each of MSU's 20 coaches has a dedicated post on the MavWeek YouTube channel in which they advocate for their respective sports and explain how donations will support their teams.

"Your gift will go directly to our program and help us continue to build on the success you have come to know and expect," said women's basketball Head Coach Emilee Thiesse.

In a partnership with Maverick Athletics and Minnesota State's annual giving department, the MavWeek Challenge uses the crowdfunding platform Community Funded to process the gifts.

Fans, alumni and supporters of Maverick Athletics can make their donations to the challenge online at msumavericks.com/MavWeek.

Those interested in establishing a matching gift to the MavWeek Challenge can contact Minnesota State Senior Associate Director of Athletics, Scott Nelsen at 507.389.2930 or scott.nelsen@mnsu.edu to get the process started.

The MavWeek Challenge runs now through the end of the day on Sunday, April 21.

◀PLAY-IN from page 7

been a strange one. They've been inconsistent throughout despite having a relatively healthy Anthony Davis and LeBron James. Their season high was winning the inaugural NBA In-Season Tournament.

They've also gathered some momentum heading into the play-in games as they have won 11 of their last 14 games.

A big stumbling block for them making another deep playoff run would be if they were to win their matchup with the Pelicans which would force them to play the Nuggets in the first round.

Now there won't be a soul that would pick the Lakers in this potential matchup, but their best chance of beating Denver could

◀EIGHTH from page 7

Maverick lead, but it was too little too late.

"Our pitchers did an exceptional job throwing strikes, especially George making his first career start," head coach Matt Magers stated.

"Offensively we produced up and down the lineup, scoring in six different innings.

Byrne especially had a great day at the plate and on the bases."

Aidan Byrne and Matthew Fleischhacker led the way for the Maverick offense. Byrne went 5-5 at the plate, along with scoring two runs and two RBIs.

He also got a career-high four

stolen bases.

Fleischhacker was responsible for three of the Mavericks' walks on the day.

Sam George dominated for the Mavs on the mound as he collected eight strikeouts and threw the Mavs first immaculate inning of the season in the bottom of the second by recording 36 of 43 pitches for strikes.

"It was good to get three wins on the road, we are in the home stretch of our conference schedule now," said Magers.

The Mavericks are back in action Wednesday away at Sioux Falls to face USF in a doubleheader at 1:30 p.m.

Tiger Woods finishes Masters with his highest score as a pro



DAVID J. PHILLIP • The Associated Press

Tiger Woods waves after his final round at the Masters golf tournament at Augusta National Golf Club Sunday, April 14, 2024, in Augusta, Ga.

By STEVE REED
The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Tiger Woods finished the Masters on Sunday with a record he could do without, walking off the course with a 16-over 304, his highest 72-hole score in a career that spans three decades.

Woods' previous high was 302 at the Memorial in 2015. He has only failed to break 300 one other time at the Masters two years ago when he shot 78-78 on the weekend and finished at 301.

Despite the score, Woods called it a "good week" and said he's going to begin preparing for the other three majors including the PGA Championship in May, the U.S. Open in June and the British Open in July.

"This is a golf course I knew going into it, so I'm going to do my homework going forward at Pinehurst, Valhalla and Troon," Woods said. "But that's kind of the game plan."

Overall, he wasn't unhappy with how he played.

"Coming in here, not having played a full tournament in a very long time, it was a good fight on Thursday and Friday," Woods said.

"Unfortunately (Saturday) didn't quite turn out the way I wanted it to."

It hardly mattered to the crowd. The 48-year-old Woods, who is still dealing with the effects of numerous surgeries that have impacted his body and limited his playing time on the PGA Tour, received a huge roar from the crowd as he pitched close to the hole on No. 18 and made par.

Wearing his traditional Sunday red, Woods tipped his hat to the crowd.

Woods has played only 24 holes in one tournament going into the Masters

"I'm just going to keep lifting, keep the motor going, keep the body moving, keep getting stronger, keep progressing," Woods said. "Hopefully the practice sessions will keep getting longer."

Woods was in last place among the 60 players who made the cut when he finished.

The previous time he finished in last place was in the 2020 Genesis Invitational at Riviera.

Still, the patrons flocked to see the man who took golf's popularity to new heights, even if he isn't been the dominant player he once was at Augusta National.

Woods hasn't really been competitive here since 2020 when he finished tied for 38th one year after his stunning fifth victory at age 43.

He finished 13 over two years ago, then was forced to withdraw in 2023 in the third round due to injuries that weren't helped by the cold, rainy weather that had taken an obvious physical toll on his body.

For a short time this week Woods showed glimpses of past greatness, relying mostly on his knowledge of the course.

He played the first two rounds in 1 over to make the cut for a record 24th time.

But the final two rounds were a struggle for Woods, who posted his worst round of his career at a major with an 82 on Saturday.

"It's always nice coming back here because I know the golf course, I know how to play it," Woods said. "I can kind of simulate shots."

Granted, it's never quite the same as getting out here and doing it."

He played the final 36 holes in 15 over, shooting 77 on Sunday in his 100th career round at the Masters.

Before the round Woods appeared to receive some swing tips

from his 15-year-old son Charlie on the practice range.

Things started off well enough, but that didn't last long.

After playing the first two holes in 1 under, Woods made a bogey on No. 3 before things started to unravel on the par-4 fifth hole when he took an unplayable lie and had to be driven back to the tee box in a golf cart to hit again.

He wound up with a triple-bogey 7.

He added another bogey on the 6th.

He nearly chipped in from the sand on No. 16, giving fans a thrill and bringing back fond memories of his iconic chip in in 2005 en route to the fourth of his five championships at Augusta.

Woods said the toughest part of the week for him was battling the wind, which reached 45 mph at times with gusts.

"What it was doing out here to the golf shots and the balls and putting, how difficult the course was playing," Woods said.

"It doesn't take much to get out of position here."

Unfortunately, I got out of position a lot (Saturday) and a couple times today."

The once-dominant Woods played with Neal Shipley, the only amateur to make the cut at the Masters.

It was a stark reminder of just how long Woods has been around.

Woods' streak of cuts made at the Masters began in 1997, before the 23-year-old Shipley was born.

Even with Woods being out of contention he still attracting the usual huge throng of fans eager just to get a glimpse of the player that became the face of the sport.

Fans applaud after every Woods' shot — good or bad — and continue to shout encouragement his way.

Advantage Man City in the Premier League title race



JON SUPER • The Associated Press

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah reacts during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Crystal Palace at Anfield Stadium in Liverpool.

By STEVE DOUGLAS
The Associated Press

With a certain inevitability, Manchester City is suddenly in charge of the Premier League title race.

Arsenal and Liverpool both produced lethargic performances under pressure and lost home matches on Sunday, leaving City — seeking an unprecedented fourth straight English top-flight title — with a two-point lead with six games remaining.

After Liverpool lost 1-0 to Crystal Palace for its first league defeat at Anfield in 18 months, Arsenal was beaten 2-0 by Aston Villa for its first league defeat in 2024.

With the three contenders entering this weekend separated by one point, this season's title race was being billed as the best in years — and potentially one for

the ages.

There might still be twists and turns but many will be ready to already crown City, which beat Luton 5-1 on Saturday and rarely drops points in the final months of title campaigns, as the likely top team in England.

Again.

It was around this time of the year that Arsenal started to implode last season, as a typically fast-finishing City reeled in Mikel Arteta's team.

Has it happened again? Playing between a double-header against Bayern Munich in the Champions League quarterfinals, Arsenal's players certainly lacked their usual spark as goals by Leon Bailey in the 84th and Ollie Watkins — who grew up supporting Arsenal — earned fourth-place Villa a big win in its own bid for Champions League qualification.

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VARIETY

BBNO\$ ROCKS MSU

By JACK HARDING
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State Student Events Team hosted their annual Spring concert, this time featuring Canadian rapper bbno\$ (pronounced “baby no money”).

The stage was set up in the middle of the Bresnan Arena and started at 7:30 p.m. on April 11.

Before bbno\$ took the stage, another rapper Dwyne Roland was the opening act. The audience seemed to vibe with him, despite few people knowing him prior.

Once bbno\$ came on, he made quite an impression by starting with Rick Astley’s “Never Gonna Give You Up,” effectively “Rickrolling” the audience.

Fans know him for his comedic, unserious music style and lyrics. He made that clear to everyone through not only the lyrics, but also by his charismatic demeanor and reading from a cookbook. Yes, you read that right.

During every concert, bbno\$ reads from, signs and gives away an ordinary old cookbook to whoever goes the hardest.

The Canadian rapper is also well known for his many collaborations with Minnesota rapper Yung Gravy, so of course he performed a few of those songs. Since Gravy himself wasn’t there to do his verses in those songs, bbno\$ pulled a couple students up to the stage to do them.

One of these students was Senior Isaac Hagen. He happened to be wearing a Yung Gravy shirt and had almost the same hair as him, an obvious first pick for bbno\$.

“I was a little nervous at first. I definitely forgot the lyrics to the song. It was definitely unexpected and something I’ve always wanted to do,” Hagen said. “I’ve worn the jersey to the concert I’ve gone to before at the State Fair. And then I’ve dressed up as him for Halloween a few times as well.”

BBNO\$ on page 11



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

Canadian rapper, singer and songwriter bbno\$ brought Hip-hop and R&B to Minnesota State Thursday in Bresnan Arena.

Life’s unfairness brings life lessons in morality

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

“Life isn’t sunshine, rainbows and butterflies where everything is given to you for free.”

This is a quote that the tipsy, late night, freshman in college version of me told a random college kid at the eatery in our dorm complex after he ripped out a piece of his hair and placed it in his nearly finished burger.

He wanted another one for free.

After working my tail off inside restaurants since I was 15-years-old, I dealt with plenty of kids like him. He wasn’t homeless, broke or starving. He was a boy well on his way to his freshman-15 with long enough hair to frame his scheme and a large enough ego to drive his motivation.

Of course, he got his priceless burger.

Maybe I shouldn’t have been so upset about a kid I never saw again, failing to pay \$7 for his food. It didn’t affect me. I paid for my meal.

However, whether it was a \$7 burger or the entire supply, a price tag wasn’t my issue. It was the principal of the activity.

Initially, I was upset about life’s unfairness. How did this boy have the ability to live the life he wanted without a fear of karma, yet I grew anxious if I forgot to scan a bag at self-checkout?

Reflecting on my blow up almost 4 years later, I realized his morality is what truly irked me.

His ability to jab a finger in someone else’s face and accuse them of poisoning a meal with a hair follicle — one of which belonged to his own head. He thought about himself, not about the worker’s boss potentially jabbing a finger at them later on.

In today’s society, we see a lot of people like him. Some may refer to them as “Karens.” Others simply call them, “selfish.” Concisely, it is the ability to use another’s loss for one’s own gain.

So what are we supposed to do about it?

We don’t have control over anybody else but ourselves. Alternatively, we do have control over what we can say and do for others. We can use our tools and tongue to stick up for those who can’t.

Not everyone will listen, some might cackle at an attempt to distinguish their flame, but one small act can result in a larger impact.

Maybe it’s sprinkling positivity and uplifting compliments to other humans in the world.

LIFE on page 11

Witness reality shift live on ‘Round Trip Ticket’

By ANAHI ZUNIGA
Staff Writer

Ever wonder what would happen if a play itself begins to shift into multiple stories along with its characters?

That is what the theater department’s last studio play is all about.

In this hilarious, original production written by MSU alumna and playwright Bruce Jones, “Round Trip Ticket” presents two actors starring in a movie as spies, who are undercover as gangsters and who are also roleplaying as actors, with the story containing action in form of sword fighting, tap dancing and fisticuffs.

Currently a lawyer in Minneapolis, Jones himself has been teaching a playwriting course at MSU during the spring semester and has currently been assisting production on the revival of his show, saying how wonderful it is to see his play be performed by MSU students.

“I’m really enjoying it. It’s great to see. It’s great to have a chance to update the play and to be able to see these new actors trying it and trying out the jokes, and seeing how things work and with the new director as well,” Jones said.

Jones was first inspired by a production called, “The Real Inspector Hound,” written by Tom Stoppard, which motivated the former to

write his own play in college and was then first presented in 1975 in the Pit Theatre within the Crawford building.

“It was about a couple of theater critics who were watching a play. And eventually they kind of got absorbed into the play that they were watching. I thought, what would happen if you extended that and it became circular, so that everybody was part of not only the play ahead of them, but also the play behind them? It just kind of formed itself into a triangle and I wrote it from there,” Jones said.

Jones said the current version of the play was rewritten with the help of the cast and crew, in order for it

to appeal to modern audiences and performers, mentioning how there were, “references to magazines that were present in the 1970s that aren’t around anymore and commercial jingles from TV commercials that everybody knew.”

“I went back through the play and there were a lot of things that I thought still worked. But there were things that didn’t work. There were pop culture references that nobody now would remember or the people who are coming up today wouldn’t have ever heard them. I had to go in and take those out, change those, modernize them to recognize the existence of modern

ROUND on page 11



◀**BBNO\$** from page 10

Hagen has been listening to their music since high school. He

DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

explained why he's such a big fan.

"A lot of their songs are more

throwback-y but modern, so it's got the sounds of the 70s and 80s for some of the catches at the beginning of the song. And their lyrics relate to everyday life and it's just really inspiring and energetic," Hagen said.

After Hagen, the other student that went on stage to sing with bbno\$ and cover Gravy's verses was Junior Amina Huda.

"I wasn't expecting a whole crowd of people to cheer my name at someone else's concert," Huda said.

Huda has also been a longtime fan of bbno\$ and Gravy's music. She talked about why she likes their music so much.

"It's different, it's funky, like the beats aren't your normal 'grab off-the-shelf' kind of beats. It's interesting to listen to and that's what I look for in music," Huda said.

bbno\$ was so impressed with Huda's performance, he gifted her the coveted cookbook.

In effort to make this concert even more memorable for students, bbno\$ would casually insert "MSU" into the lyrics, even if it didn't make sense. It clearly worked because the crowd laughed and cheered every time.

Maggie Rogers on her album 'Don't Forget Me'



AMY HARRIS • The Associated Press

Maggie Rogers performs on Day 3 of the Lollapalooza Music Festival on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023, at Grant Park in Chicago.

By **ELISE RYAN**

The Associated Press

Maggie Rogers wrote and recorded her new album, "Don't Forget Me," over five days last winter. The songs came quickly and chronologically, as if she was writing "different scenes in a movie."

"I've been writing songs now for 15 years, and so I think I've just come into this place where I really trust my process and my craft. I think because of that, I was in a place where I was willing to just play," Rogers said in a Zoom interview ahead of the album's release.

The result is a record that Rogers calls "relaxed," one that finds her "unguarded and present."

The mood is lighter than Rogers' electric 2022 album "Surrender," which was in many ways a release of pent-up pandemic energy — a collection of songs that begged to be experienced live and with a crowd. And it leans more heavily on acoustic sounds than 2019's "Heard it in a Past Life," the first album Rogers released after a video of Pharrell Williams reacting to her song, "Alaska," in a New York University class went viral.

As Rogers explains it: If "Heard it in a Past Life" is air and "Surrender" is fire, "Don't Forget Me" is earth.

Like her past projects — and her studies at Harvard's Divinity School — community is a through-line of "Don't Forget Me." Rogers name-drops friends and tells their stories alongside hers. She has welcomed the way the new songs have united crowds, and looks forward to continuing to foster that joyous, present, environment on tour.

"I'm excited to be able to meet people in it," she said, referencing the album's Friday release.

That community-first quality of her music is something that fans, too, embrace: New York's Gaia Music Collective, for example, organized a "one-day choir" of Rogers' song "Light On." Four

hundred people gathered to learn and perform an arrangement of the song, a cappella.

"She also is thinking about music as a connective force, as a thing that can bring us and our stories together," said Matt Goldstein, the group's founder and co-director. "It's no accident that her music feels good to sing together."

This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: "Surrender" felt like an album that had to be moved through and experienced with a crowd. How do you see this album being embodied?

Rogers: This record was always made for the car. I really wanted to make a record that felt like a Sunday driving record, because to me, those are some of the most intimate moments that I've had with music or with an album — when I'm singing along to a song in the car and it feels like that artist or that song is like a friend in my passenger seat. Those are some of my favorite records, and they're the records I turn to for comfort over and over again. And you know, in this big, crazy, completely insane, existential, world, if that's something that I could offer to the world through my music, I think that that is really special.

AP: Could you say more about how you see your three studio albums in relation to each other? I liked how you described each of them as elements — air, fire, earth.

Rogers: I think categorizing them in that way is just a way to help give context to them. To me, they're all really important reflections on different periods in my life. And my songwriting is pretty consistent at the center of all these things. It's mostly the way that like my producer brain has chosen to dress up the songs at their core, and that has more to do with creative expression or curiosity more than anything.

In each record, I'm just trying to be as present and authentic as I can.



DAVIS JENSEN • The Reporter

Minnesota State's Theater Department is showcasing comedy, "Round Trip Ticket." The show will play April 17-20.

◀**ROUND** from page 10

singers and modern commercials and internet aspects of it," Jones said.

MSU freshmen Ryan Peltier and Arthur Gonzalez are set to star in the two lead roles of this fast moving comedy.

Portraying the roles of Teri True/Toni Wayne/Thorn, Peltier said how she may relate to some of her characters' qualities.

"Teri True is a Hollywood actor, and she's kind of a little short sometimes. And unfortunately, I relate to that. Sometimes, if I'm tired, I just am a little snippy," Peltier said. "Thorne has a lot of respect for authority figures which I totally agree with, I think. And then Toni is kind of sassy and a little laid back and just goes with the flow; she's not super worried about anything which on good days, I can relate to."

For Gonzalez, who is portraying the roles of Stephen Squires/Snyder/Sammy Wayne, he said he was able to have the opportunity to build up his own, "interpretation of these characters without

the expectation that they're supposed to be a certain way."

He lists similar traits he shares with his characters.

"The big thing with my characters is a lot of them are very unstable, which I don't know if I completely relate to but I kind of do. The three different characters are completely different and I feel like that sometimes. Each day I can be a different person. And here, I'm completely switching from a different person to a different person," Gonzalez said. "He's kind of having a hard time. He ends up messing things up from himself. But the nice thing is, he has somebody always there in every single universe to be there for him and that's kind of how I feel in my life sometimes. Sometimes, I feel like I need somebody to help pick me up to get me where I need to be."

Peltier and Gonzalez share what they expect on opening night and how with three remarkable stories shifting all at once, it's a one of a kind comedy students wouldn't want to miss.

"I'm hoping we have a good

crowd. I know it's a little tough because people have classes in the morning. But it's a great show, regardless. I think it's a bunch of fun and it's something that you can really deep dive into with different universes and everything and it's just a lot of fun," Peltier said.

"I expect a lot of the audience to be very confused at first because it's a very confusing show. But by the end of it, I hope they're going to grow really attached to all of the characters because they're all so funny and unique and special in their own way," Gonzalez said. "So by the end of the show, even though you might not fully understand everything about the play, you'll enjoy it anyway because I think not understanding it completely is part of the fun."

"Round Trip Ticket" will be shown on April 17-20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Andreas Theatre at the Earley Center for Performing Arts. To purchase, visit <https://mnsueventtickets.universitytickets.com> or the Box Office from 4-6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

◀**LIFE** from page 10

Maybe it's quietly cleaning up a space someone else destroyed. Maybe it's abruptly yelling at a dorm eatery thief, "Life isn't sunshine, rainbows and butterflies

where everything is given to you for free."

Whatever it is, heading the right way the moral compass guides us to is a practice we can continue to hike toward.

'Sleeping Beauty' exhibit for next Met Gala

By JOCELYN NOVECK
The Associated Press

Fashion, most would surely agree, is meant to be seen. Not heard, and certainly not smelled.

But Andrew Bolton, the curatorial mastermind behind the blockbuster fashion exhibits at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute, begs to differ. His newest show, to be launched by the starry Met Gala next month, seeks to provide a multi-sensory experience, engaging not just the eyes but the nose, the ears — and even the fingertips, a traditional no-no in a museum.

Open to the public beginning May 10, "Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion" features 250 items that are being revived from years of slumber in the institute's vast archive, with some in such a delicate state of demise that they can't be draped on a mannequin or shown upright. These garments will lie in glass coffins — yes, like Sleeping Beauty herself.

As ever, celebrity guests at the May 6 gala, which this year is being hosted by Zendaya, Jennifer Lopez, Bad Bunny and Chris Hemsworth, will get the first look at the exhibit. With a dress code defined as "The Garden of Time," one can expect lots of creative, garden-themed riffs. But will anyone go so far as to actually wear a living garden? As he began mounting the exhibit late last week, Bolton shared that there's

just such a garment in the show, a coat that has been planted with oat, rye and wheatgrass.

The garment, designed by Jonathan Anderson of the label LOEWE (a sponsor of the show), is currently "growing" right now in a tent at the museum, with its own irrigation system. It will be displayed in all its green glory for the first week, after which it will be replaced with a version, also grown for the show, that has dried out. As the museum puts it, the coat "will grow and die over the course of the exhibition."

"Sleeping Beauties" will be organized around themes of earth, air and water — but also, Bolton says, around the various senses. The garden gallery where the coat will be displayed is one of four areas devoted to the sense of smell.

This means viewers will be able to sample scents connected to various garments. But it doesn't mean that a floral gown, for example, will be accompanied by a floral scent. The reality is much more complex.

"What we're really presenting is the olfactory history of the garment," Bolton says. "And that's the scent of the person who wore it, the natural body odors that they emitted, what they smoked, what they ate, where they lived." For these galleries, the museum worked with Norwegian "smell artist" Sissel Tolaas, who took 57 "molecular readings" of garments, all to create scents that will waft through the



NICK KNIGHT • The Associated Press

This image released by The Metropolitan Museum of Art shows a British waistcoat. The waistcoat is one of many items included in The Costume Institute's 2024 exhibition, "Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion."

rooms and enhance the visitor's connection to the items on display.

But garments also create sound. Especially if the garment is embroidered, as is one famous gown by the late Alexander McQueen, with dried and bleached razor clams.

Because the original dress

would be too fragile to now record the sounds it makes in movement, curators made a duplicate — with the same kind of razor clams that McQueen collected from a beach in Norfolk, England — and then isolated and recorded the sound in an echo-free chamber at Bingham-

ton University. The effect, Bolton says, is "to capture the minutiae of movements."

The same effect is achieved with a silk taffeta garment, featuring a sound called "scroop," a combination of the words "scrape" and "whoop."

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