

Denim Day Shows Solidarity



EMMA JOHNSON • The Reporter

Student and faculty wore denim Wednesday in honor to raise awareness of sexual assault and survivors. The day originated after an Italian court case overturned a ruling saying the 18-year old wasn't a victim of sexual assault because "by wearing jeans that tight, it must have been consensual as you can't get the jeans off yourself." The senators and congresswomen showed up wearing jeans in support of the victim the following day. VARP Director Rachel Maccabee said on the last Wednesday of April, which is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, "People wear denim to show their support and send the message that we believe victims and survivors."

Andree chosen as Student Government Speaker

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor In Chief

Minnesota State's newly elected Student Government held its first meeting Wednesday and elected Abbey Andree as the speaker for the 2024-25 academic year.

Andree resigned from her senator role and took the position of speaker after being sworn in. The speaker acts as the unbiased, non-voting member who runs meetings and collects votes.

Andree ran against Senator Andrew Colleran. Andree said their goals included making a streamlined orientation for new senators and implementing one-on-one discussions with each senator once a semester.

"My biggest goal is to ensure that every student, both in student government and out, feels involved and heard in these processes," Andree said.

Earlier this semester, Andree helped pass the resolution to pro-



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

Abbey Andree was sworn in and elected as the Speaker for the 92nd Student Government.

tect Pro-Palestinian voices, in which Andree had to make nearly 20 amendments. Senator Emily Dittrich said Andree remained neutral in passing the resolution.

"It was something really important to the students who had come to create that resolution and even though there were amendments that needed to be made, she

ensured that she was very respectful to the original resolution, as well as what was required of her as a senator," Dittrich said.

Upon voting for the new speaker, the election failed to reach 60% of the vote for one of the candidates, causing the senate to return to discussion points. Andree and Colleran were brought back up for questioning where they were asked about what it would mean for them to be given the role of speaker.

Colleran said he would be "a support system" while Andree said she would "always champion being an unbiased support for everyone involved." After the senate voted again, Andree received the majority vote.

Former Student Government President Sierra Roiger acted as a temporary speaker until Andree was elected.

The student government will reconvene in the fall on the first Wednesday of the academic year.

Jean Haar Retires After Stellar Service

By AMALIA SHARAF
Staff Writer

After many years of serving in the College of Education, Dean Jean Haar has announced her retirement.

Before coming to Minnesota State Haar worked as a teacher and served as a high school principal. She then came to MSU as a faculty member in the Department of Educational Leadership. Soon after, she was offered a dean's position in the College of Education, where she served as chief academic officer for the college, advocated for student opportunities and represented the college in many other ways.

"Faculty members can have ideas and interests and might ask me as the dean, 'Can you support this work or can you support these students getting involved in this experience?' And I want to be able to say yes, try to figure out how to make that happen because I know the difference that makes in people's experiences," said Haar.

Haar provided leadership and strategic direction to guide the college's work around racial equity and to make changes in policies, procedures, and practices to advance the vision, commitment and values.

She provided support and development of the aviation professional pilot program to include securing and maintaining national accreditation and in partnership with North Star Aviation securing two CRJ700 Jet Simulators for use as a capstone for the program, and to provide students with quality preparation for ongoing training expectations in the industry.

Moreover, Haar increased yearly student scholarships from \$60,000 to \$445,000. Throughout her service at MSU, she connected with different student groups to listen to their concerns and help them overcome obstacles on the way to success.

Haar said she was constantly thinking about ways to support students and create a supportive and encouraging culture.

"I feed a lot off of listening to others and if they have

RETIREMENT on page 2

Drag show highlights student performers



Courtesy Zeke Sorenson

Drag show on campus. Wanda Gag, Hellen Heaven, Luna Muse, Hunky Dory and Luscious Rose from left to right.

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

An Editor's Note explaining the term "drag" was sent out in May 1975 in response to a news article in The Reporter about an unusual kind of campus performance.

Jim Chalgren, director of the campus LGBT center in the 1970s, saw the Ms. Mankato Drag Race as a "right of expression." It has since evolved into the well-known and continuous Gender Bender drag show on campus. It is a living example of Chalgren's vision for promoting student freedom of expression.

The next drag show is 7 p.m. Friday in the CSU Ballroom. Zeke Sorenson, the director of the LGBT Center, said this event is only for student performers and organizers. Sorenson said they were simply there to help advise the students and get them what they needed. They decided to do this because of student interest and conflicting schedules with Drag Me With A Spoon, another drag group that performs regularly on campus. Sorenson said they didn't want to cancel the show, so they created a student drag show.

"The idea of just having a show focused on students to give students the opportunity to take leadership roles and help plan it has a lot of benefits for the students," said Sorenson. "I liked the idea of having a show focusing on students, and my hope is that this creates a new tradition that the fall show will be professional drag queens, and then the spring show, from here on out, we'll always be student-focused."

Students could sign up at the beginning of April. They either emailed Sorenson or filled out a form using the poster's QR code. This past Sunday, there was a workshop where students learned to do drag makeup and got performance tips.

Sorenson said they learned a lot from this process.

"I learned about drag myself. I go to shows. But getting to see the kind of students with more experience than me talk about some of those makeup tutorials and performance tips and learn a little bit about that side of it," said Sorenson. "When students have a passion for something, they tend to rise to the occasion and excel. It's been cool to see the students

who have been planning it with the performers and all the work and time that they've been putting into this."

Sorenson said one thing about this drag show is while it is free for admittance, tipping is appreciated.

"That's a big part of drag culture. For those that have never been to a drag show, it's always customary to tip performers, even if it's just a \$1 bill, to show your appreciation for the performances," said Sorenson. "While these are student performers, students can always use a little extra cash too, so I told them that we would allow audience members to tip."

Sorenson said attending drag shows can help dispel myths about drag, as there is a lot of misinformation about drag shows.

"They can see that it's not what has necessarily been talked about or focused on in conversations or rhetoric surrounding drag shows," Sorenson said. "Also, if it's something they've never experienced, it's always good for students to experience things that are outside of their comfort zones but are also outside of their own personal experiences, helps broaden their horizons."

◀**RETIREMENT** from page 1 something and if it's going to be positive and impact students, I'm all in," said Haar. "And that's the part I like about this position. You get to try to get rid of the barriers or remove things that might get in the way and just create these opportunities."

Haar said she feels the goal of creating a supportive culture was accomplished and with her stepping away from the position, there are people who will continue and advance the work.

"I always say, one person leaving shouldn't curtail or stop any

part of the work. I really feel, when I look at who's in what position, who the faculty are, who the staff are, that we're in a good place," said Haar. "That's an accomplishment that I think is awesome."

Haar accomplished many of her goals and improved many programs within the college.

"It really has been awesome and humbling to hear from people who are acknowledging and thanking me for my service and my time and sharing the impact that us working together made," said Haar. "I was really appreciative of that acknowledgement."

Once retired, she will spend more time with her grandkids while also volunteering in different organizations.

"I don't like homelessness and knowing that there are people who do not have enough food. I think I will volunteer at nonprofits that are really trying to think about how to make sure people have a secure place to be at night and while they're struggling," said Haar.

"I know I'll do something with education, which really is back to connecting with students."

Podcast studio opens in Memorial Library



NATE TILAHUN • The Reporter

Students are now able to make podcasts in the Memorial Library by renting the equipment for high quality content.

By EPHRATA BEZUAYENE
Staff Writer

Minnesota State's Memorial Library added a new feature to its list of services. Students are now able to make scheduled podcast airings or rent podcast equipment.

"There was a demand from the communication department for a podcasting room where it

is more accessible, and where students have more availability in hours. Because the building is open until midnight, and during finals till two, we thought this might be the best place for it," said Michael Gutiérrez, Director of Library Operations and Access Services.

The podcast studio was available for services from the start for a podcasting room where it

PODCAST on page 10

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Adults find it harder to retire

By FATIMA HUSSEIN
The Associated Press

About one-quarter of U.S. adults age 50 and older who are not yet retired say they expect to never retire and 70% are concerned about prices rising faster than their income, an AARP survey finds.

About 1 in 4 have no retirement savings, according to research released Wednesday by the organization that shows how a graying America is worrying more and more about how to make ends meet even as economists and policymakers say the U.S. economy has all but achieved a soft landing after two years of record inflation.

Everyday expenses and housing costs, including rent and mortgage payments, are the biggest reasons why people are unable to save for retirement.

The data will matter this election year as Democratic President Joe Biden and Republican rival Donald Trump are trying to win support from older Americans, who traditionally turn out in high numbers, with their policy proposals.

The AARP's study, based on interviews completed with more than 8,000 people in coordination with the NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, finds that one-third of older adults with credit



CHARLIE RIEDEL • The Associated Press

A quarter of U.S. adults over the age of 50 have no retirement savings, according to a new AARP survey — and 70% of people surveyed are worried about prices rising faster than their income.

card debt carry a balance of more than \$10,000 and 12% have a balance of \$20,000 or more. Additionally, 37% are worried about meeting basic living costs such as food

and housing.

“Far too many people lack access to retirement savings options and this, coupled with higher prices, is making it increasingly hard

for people to choose when to retire,” said Indira Venkateswaran, AARP's senior vice president of research. “Everyday expenses continue to be the top barrier to saving

more for retirement, and some older Americans say that they never expect to retire.”

The share of people 50 and older who say they do not expect to retire has remained steady. It was 23% in January 2022 and 24% that July, according to the study, which is conducted twice a year.

“We are seeing an expansion of older workers staying in the workforce,” said David John, senior strategic policy advisor at the AARP Public Policy Institute. He said this is in part because older workers “don't have sufficient retirement savings. It's a problem and its likely to continue as we go forward.”

Based on the 2022 congressional elections, census data released Tuesday shows that voters 65 and older made up 30.4% of all voters, while Gen Z and millennials accounted for 11.7%.

Biden has tried to court older voters by regularly promoting a \$35 price cap on insulin for people on Medicare. He trumpets Medicare's powers to negotiate directly with drugmakers on the cost of prescription medications.

Trump, in an interview with CNBC in March, indicated he would be open to cuts to Social Security and Medicare. The former president said “there is a lot you can do in terms of entitlements, in terms of cutting.”



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MSU Reporter, the place I will miss the most

By LUKE JACKSON
News Editor

If anyone were to ask me if I have any regrets throughout my time at MSU it would be that I didn't join the Reporter earlier.

As I reflect about my time that I had in Mankato and on campus it is crazy at how fast my time went by.

Coming to Mankato I had no idea what my college career would entail. I had no idea what I would make of it or what if I would find a passion.

Once I joined my new-found second family at the newspaper I can truly say that I have found my passion and I have grown not only in my career but as an individual.

I started as a staff writer and am ending my journey here as a News Editor (and a front desk manager). I found the beauty in the world of Division II sports and got to cover some of our schools best athletes. I also started my own column "A Diabetic Talks" with a goal to raise awareness for the disease.

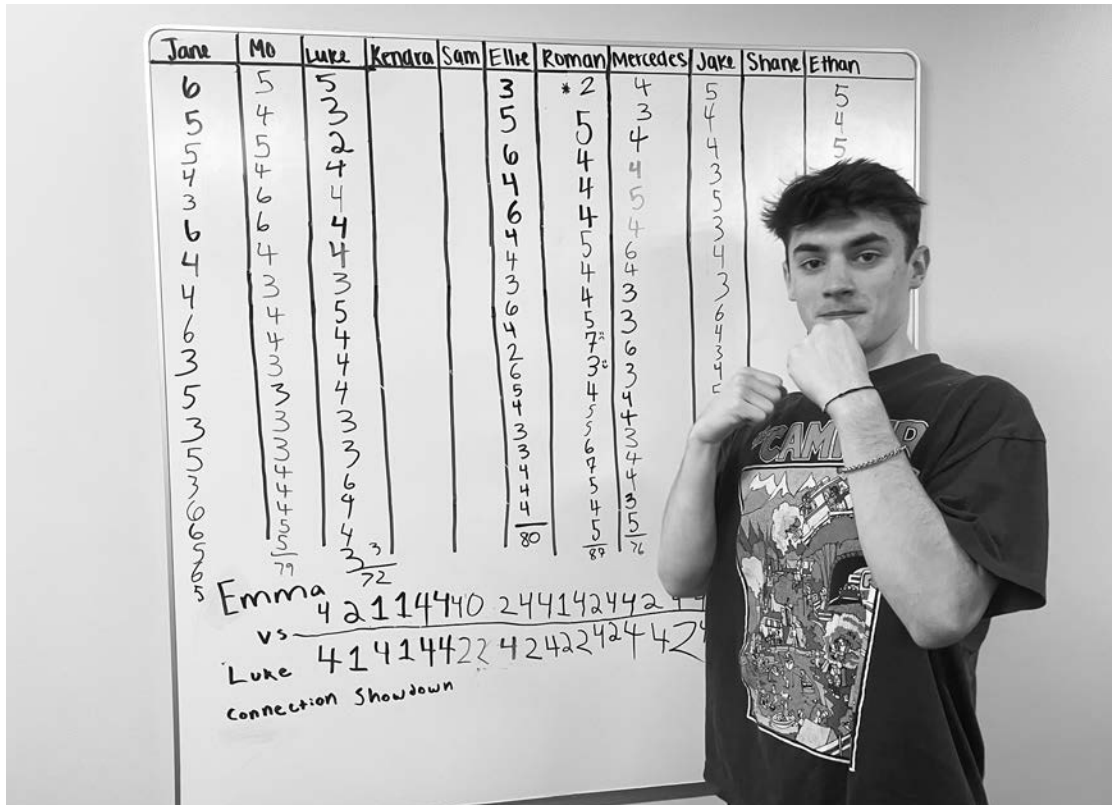
I could talk all day about the stories I wrote and things I accomplished but that is not what made the Reporter special.

The people here gave me my college experience.

They pushed me to be who I am, they challenged me, they became some of my best friends and they are what I'll miss as I move back home.

So to commemorate the people I have met and grown with, I would like to say a few words.

The first person I met here was Jake so I'll start there. Jake is one of the most quintessential parts of the office and hopefully will be my predecessor as a "manager". He helps me grind everyday to get coupon books and newspapers in the students hands. He also grinds with me in Clash Royale, Wordle and Connections. He is my right hand man at the front desk and my biggest rival and competitor. It has been amazing to crack through your shell and get to know you. Go win Wordle next year now that I'm



Courtesy Luke Jackson

The undisputed monthly Wordle Champion Luke Jackson takes a picture next to the Wordle Wall after beating coworkers for the second month in a row and after besting Editor In Chief Emma Johnson in a Connections Showdown. He is now passing his seat on the throne to the future Front Desk Manager Jake Tostenson.

gone.

Next the ad reps. You guys are the driving force for this place and what keeps it running. To Ellie, Ethan, Kendra and Roman I am glad you guys gave this job a chance. It always made our days more interesting when you would come out of your offices to talk and hang out. Keep this place in good hands next year. Continue to walk the road that Mia and Dom paved.

My big bro Sam Ladendorf is the Ad Rep Manager. I will forever appreciate our yap sessions about anything nerdy. Whether we were talking about Game of Thrones, Quentin Tarantino, Red Dead Redemption II or any music genre we always somehow held the same opinion. You always offer life advice and professional advice and if I were to offer you any it would be to finally watch Dune 2.

To the editorial squad, thanks

for being so awesome. We spent hours on end together and somehow never got sick of one another. Our Editor In Chief Emma has followed in the footsteps of Julia Barton and has succeeded fully and done nothing short of an exceptional job. With all the stress that comes with the position she has handled it perfectly and I know the office will strive next year. Our rivalry in Connections will be missed and I promise I was never cheating. Maybe if you're lucky we can run back one more tournament next year.

Mercedes is the Variety Editor and someone who has also done amazing at her role. From the chicken toss to the weekly experiments your voice shined through in our papers and I know that will continue in your career. Despite knowing you prior to my time here, you have gone from my sister's friend to my own friend and

I am glad I got to know you better this year.

To the Sports Editor Mohamed, you have been my rock in the office. I am so grateful you came here from North Carolina and I got to learn all about your life and our differing cultures. This place has given me a lot of friends but it has also given me a brother in you. I could write so much but just know, you're my guy.

Lastly, Robb and Jane.

Robb is our consultant and man, you were intimidating at first. You have taught me so much about the world of journalism and you have pushed me to be my best. I am honored to have learned from you and I can't wait to get that pint of beer Thursday.

Jane is the greatest of all time. The G.O.A.T. The amount of life advice you gave me, the amount of laughs you provided and the way

you took me in I will forever be grateful for. As you say, you know me better than I know myself and it is beyond appreciated how you always want the best for me and every person that walks through your door. You listen to every word I share with you and the care you have radiates off of you daily. You have been a mentor to me and I will make sure to text you my New York Times scores and keep in touch. Thank you for hiring me and being the best boss I could ever ask for.

To my family I just want to say thanks. Your support has never gone unnoticed and I appreciate all you have done for me throughout my journey in college. I have loved all the good job texts from Mom, Dad, Sam and Dino. You guys have shown me how to be a good kid and have helped me transition into the real world. I can't wait to be closer to home and to continue to learn from all of you.

My sister Brooke has been there every time I've ever needed her in Mankato and that was always a relief. You came here first and were the reason I picked this college. Maybe without you I would have never stumbled upon The Reporter. You are truly the cool older sister and have been there for me anytime I needed it. You even took me to the hospital on the drop of a dime notice. Being just one house away or a couple blocks was something few get to experience and I am glad we were the siblings that did.

To my girlfriend Heidi, you have taught me so much about life. You have been the biggest support system I could ask for. You have been there every single day I have been a college student whether we were together or three hours away at our different schools. Every trip home was worth it and everyday apart was too. I could write an essay but I'll just say thank you.

My time at MSU is up but life awaits me now. I thank everyone who has helped me upon my journey and whatever happens next I am excited to see as I am sure it will be chill.

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL MSU GRADUATES AND BEST OF LUCK ON ALL YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS!

PRESIDENT INCH

MSU Reporter, it's been real

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Sports Editor

About 14 months ago, I found out that there was a student-run newspaper on campus that had a sports section. At the time, I was a junior trying to get a degree in mass communication and a minor in film studies who had a goal of one day getting into sports media.

Having that goal was great and all, but I knew I needed to get some experience in sports media before graduating. While my ideal path would be to find something in the podcasting or radio lane, writing for the school's newspaper appealed to me because it would give me some level of experience.

After I applied, had an interview and was hired, I remember being extremely excited that I joined The Reporter after getting a tour of the office and coming in for my first production night to do my mock article. Along with excitement, I was incredibly nervous due to lack of experience, but those nerves were gone in no time due to the immediate support and encouragement that I got from those already working at The Reporter. I was also taking a media writing fundamentals course that semester, so I could immediately put to practice what I was learning in class.

I wasn't exactly sure how much I would like this writing thing, but I've grown to love it. I would like



Courtesy Mohamed Warsame

Luke Jackson and Mohamed Warsame at the Better Newspaper Contest in Minneapolis MN. The two went to the contest supporting their coworkers but plan on taking a clean sweep in the sports category next year.

to take this opportunity to thank our consultant Robb, my previous sports editors and fellow writers for helping me become the writer I am today.

Writing for The Reporter has given me the opportunity to inter-

view some incredibly kind, smart and interesting people which I always feel is a privilege. Being able to cover the women's basketball team this season during their amazing run to being crowned national champions was just incredible.

Nearly a year into my tenure at The Reporter, I became the sports editor, which I never saw myself being but grateful that I did. I would like to thank my writers for being an easy group to work with, being flexible and for doing what was needed for our section. I am

so proud of several issues that our section has produced this semester.

To our editorial staff. Luke, Mercedes and Emma. Wow. I honestly couldn't have asked for better teammates. The thing I have loved the most about our dynamic as a group is that it never felt like pulling teeth when one of us needed help. We just uplifted one another. Thanks again for being patient with me for keeping you guys in the office past midnight a few times.

Beyond the extremely valuable knowledge that I gained during my time at The Reporter as it pertains to what I want to pursue as a career, it is the personal relationships that were born here that I will cherish forever.

Being the sports editor and an office receptionist means that I spend so many hours throughout the week in the office. When I was only a writer, I would spend as much time as I could in the office anyway because of how much I love my coworkers so it never feels like I'm actually working.

To the lady that is responsible for creating such a great working environment, Jane. Thank you Jane for making this place a family atmosphere and caring for us like we're your kids.

When I look back at my time in college, being a part of The Reporter is undoubtedly my biggest highlight.



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Courtesy Dominic Bothe

In Dominic Bothe's time away from The Reporter he spent his time traveling to Utah to Zion National Park.

By DOMINIC BOTHE
Photographer

I honestly had zero clue what I was getting myself into when I applied as an ad rep. Followed by one of my most impressive interview performances to date, which included hanging up the phone five or six times before learning how to use the phone — special shoutout to Baylee and Jane for still giving me a chance.

Flash forward to the fall semester and suddenly I was getting my first real glimpse into the world of business. Little did I know, this would lead to the discovery of some of my favorite hobbies.

It didn't take long before I started looking for other ways to get involved at The Reporter and

found myself as a photographer for various stories. This quickly became one of my most prized hobbies, but also served as one of the best networking opportunities I'd find.

In the span of a few weeks, I had joined the Kato Rugby team, joined various clubs, and somehow became the face behind Stomper, the school mascot for the duration of a hockey season. All from taking photos for assignments, with an open ear and desire for conversation.

I'll miss you all and the random late night production visits, countless laughs in the ad rep office, nacho cheese or the life advice from Jane. Thanks for keeping me sane the past two years.

Special shoutout to all the ad

reps. As Sam would say "You da GOATS."

People say life is short, but in the whirlwind of growing up it never makes sense. But it's true, so enjoy every last second of it. Live your life with no regrets and don't stress out too much about the past. All you can do is learn and move on. And with that, The Reporter season is coming to an end, good-night.

Dominic Bothe
Ad Sales Representative, Photographer, Receptionist, Delivery Boy, Nacho Cheese Enthusiast, Acrobat, Couch Surfer, Caffeine Addict, Emotional Support Specialist, and scarer.

Monsters University, here I come.

Diversity programs gains momentum in states



JOHN HANNA • The Associated Press

The sign above the door to the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging inside the main administration building on the main University of Kansas campus is seen on Friday, April 12, 2024, in Lawrence, Kan.

By DAVID A. LIEB
The Associated Press

A conservative quest to limit diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives is gaining momentum in state capitals and college governing boards, with officials in about one-third of the states now taking some sort of action against it.

Tennessee became the latest when the Republican governor

this week signed legislation that would prohibit banks and other financial institutions from considering a customer's participation — or lack thereof — in "diversity, equity and inclusion training" or "social justice programming."

Higher education institutions and many businesses have long devoted resources to improving diversity and inclusivity.

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Farewell, The Reporter

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

Four years ago, my family dropped me off in my cap and gown at the curb of my highschool. I walked a few steps, solemnly grabbed my diploma, hopped back into my car and drove away. I never went back.

I dreamt of the day I would graduate since I learned how to operate a remote. I watched dozens of Disney films, where graduation day felt more important than a wedding. I anticipated the day I'd toss my cap in the air and yell, "I did it!"

I never predicted a global pandemic would snatch this moment away from me. And I was bitter. I'm still bitter.

I'd be lying if I told you a big reason for pushing through university was to finally have my moment strutting down the stage and turning my tassel.

University was a big wake-up call for me. I thought I knew who Mercedes Kauphusman was before walking through the doors of the Crawford dorm complex, but the truth is, I was just getting to know her.

I had spent the majority of my life living in the worlds of other people, but for the first time ever, I scratched the surface of my own planet.



Courtesy Mercedes Kauphusman

From a very young age Mercedes was always typing away telling stories. In the picture above she was four years old playing with her fake computer preparing for her life at The Reporter.

My college experience has been anything but a nice and easy float down the lazy river.

I've laughed until I cried, cried until I laughed, made mistakes for fun and learned from every mistake. I've experienced heartbreak

— a lot, but I bounced back each time like a boomerang; I figured out my style, figured out my worth, I found my best friends for life and finally, I found a second home within our student newspaper: The MSU Reporter.

For as far back as I can remember, I've always been a storyteller. Once I figured out how to scribble words on paper, I wrote books. I wrote poems.

I wrote in a diary. My collection of written words is an embarrass-

ing, exhilarating array. I carried these letters on my back with nowhere to go until I found The Reporter the second semester of my junior year of college.

Once the news crew decided they liked me enough, I became a part of something. I had never been a part of a team in the same way I was at The Reporter.

I was cut from sports in school, my friends and I always had our own niches and I felt isolated in my passions.

For the first time, I was surrounded by peers who shared the same interests I did and It helped me uncover bits of myself I didn't see before.

They liked me so much I was asked to be the Variety Editor the following year.

It was a grueling, yet thrilling experience. It was anything but easy.

Between balancing the stress of senior year and my own self-identity, keeping up to task with my position's needs was hard.

However, I showed up each and every day to be a part of the team. To see the smiles on my coworkers faces after our paper looked better each and every week.

To embrace my closeted nerdy side in the comfort of people with the same traits.

Despite every sour second, my experience was entirely worth it.

MERCEDES on page 9

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Julianne Pankow

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Editorial

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

Emma Johnson
Editor In Chief

Luke Jackson
News Editor

Mercedes Kauphusman
Variety Editor

Mohamed Warsame
Sports Editor

Don't Work Too Hard This Summer

After weeks of tests, projects and never-ending stress, summer is finally upon us. While summers growing up consisted of spending hours at the pool and hours playing outside, in college, we tend to find ourselves working jobs or internships throughout our nearly four-month break. While it's fine for us to make some cash this summer, it's important to realize work isn't the most important thing to do this summer.

Despite the need to jump into our summer jobs immediately, it can be beneficial for us to take some time off, be it a couple of days or weeks. After being in "go-mode" for three months straight and nearly seven months of academic stressors, it's helpful to rest and recharge.

Between classes, extracurriculars, jobs and our lives outside of academia, it can be a lot for students to take on, becoming overwhelming at times. Finals can be a stressful time of year as well and taking some time off to shake the school stress out of our minds can ensure energy when we finally start our internships or jobs.

Over the summer, it's the perfect opportunity to perfect a work-life balance. It can become easy to be distracted during the school year and assignments and tests can push the care we need to the back burner.

When all we have to focus on in the summer is our jobs, we can learn how to prioritize time for ourselves without all the other responsibilities put upon us during the school year. When we finally come back after summer is over, we can take what we learned from what does and doesn't work for us and start the next year on a fresh note.

As we get older, we think we have to make summer all about work. However, college is the last time you'll be able to have a "summer vacation" before post-grad life makes you work consistently until you retire.

Take those road trips, spend a couple of days at the lake or beach and have those late-night bonfires this summer. We'll remember those fun summer memories years from now as opposed to what minimum-wage job we worked or the unpaid internship we did for class credit.

Summer is one of the best seasons, thanks in part to the lack of school and plenty of time to spend with our friends and family. However, we still have to work to pay for rent, utilities and save up for next year's expenses. We need to realize we can still have fun amidst all the work we're doing. So pump the brakes and take some time to make memories this summer. There will be plenty of time to get back into "hustle culture" come September.

Perspectives

Remembering Mankato's queer heroes



Courtesy Jeremy Redlien

It's been over 50 years since the gay consciousness group received official recognition and became a Registered Student Organization at what was then called Mankato State in the spring of 1973. In October of 1977, Jim Chalgren created the Gay Advisors office, which is now known as the Jim Chalgren LGBT center.

There has been a dedicated queer movement in Mankato going back a very long time and there have been plenty of LGBTQ heroes worthy of being remembered.

But where to begin? It probably goes without saying that there are definitely going to be worthy individuals who wind up being not mentioned here.

First up would be MSC Homosexual. In 1971, a letter to the editor appeared in The Reporter arguing for

WHY NOT TODAY?

By JEREMY REDLIEN

the destigmatization of homosexuality. The letter was signed, "A MSC Homosexual, name withheld upon request" and represented the first time (that I am aware of) a LGBTQ Mankatoan stood up publicly for other LGBTQ Mankatoans.

Then there's Jim Chalgren, whose activism and leadership lead him to being nicknamed "the energizer bunny." In addition to helping create MSU Mankato's LGBT center and lead it for 10 years, he also led two efforts to create an anti-discrimination ordinance that would have made

sexual orientation a protected category in Mankato had it passed. Neither effort succeeded but they exposed the prevalence of discrimination against the LGBTQ people in Mankato.

Consequences of fighting for the LGBTQ community in Mankato for Chalgren included being rejected by his family, receiving regular death threats and having to live in poverty. His friends have noted that he would serve dry pasta to guests at his apartment.

Along with Jim Chalgren, there is also Dr. Alan Kern, the first openly gay faculty member at MSU Mankato. Kern first came out in a Tomorrow column in 1974. The Tomorrow column was a column Kern started that focused on LGBTQ issues.

full story on website ►

Pulse

"What are your summer plans?"

Compiled by Alexis Darkow



KIRAN SAPKOTA,
SOPHOMORE

"Working and going on road trips."



MARLEE WHITTLEF,
FRESHMAN

"Working and going on vacation."



SOPHIA BRUSSOW,
FRESHMAN

"Going to see Zach Bryan in Colorado and work."



SHYLAH VONBERGE,
SOPHOMORE

"Work and travel."



PARKER HATLESTAD,
SOPHOMORE

"Working on video projects."



JUSTIN SCHREIBER,
FRESHMAN

"Working and hanging out with friends."

Saying Goodbye to the Reporter!



Courtesy Samuel Ladendorf

Sam Ladendorf in his natural habitat selling print advertisements on his way to becoming Sales Manager.

By SAMUEL LADENDORF
Advertising Sales Manager

It's weird to be even typing this letter but my time at MSU and at the Reporter has finally come to close. Which is a very bittersweet moment for me.

I started my journey here as an Ad representative my sophomore year and have worked here ever since. I became the ad manager about one year ago and it has been great! I have made so many friends and memories I will always cherish.

The reason I say it is bitter-sweet for me is because I am so excited to move onto the next step of my life. But am going to miss this part of my life so much. There

was a kind of filter working at the Reporter between the real world and my world at the Reporter. Not in a bad way but in the type of way that helped me prepare myself for the world post-grad.

Don't get me wrong there were plenty of real-world problems I had to solve as the ad manager but there was always the underlying feeling that I was a student, and this is a student job. Which gave me the confidence to tackle these hard situations head on.

Like stated above I made so many memories and friends throughout my time at the Reporter. Through the two and half years I spent here a lot of staff came and went. Which meant I worked with around 3 different

"groups" of ad reps. We all had our different chemistry, but we all loved working together every day.

I grew especially close to the writing staff this last year which is something that didn't happen the previous year. We even all got together for drinks or to go bowling on occasion. It all made for such a family feel which is something I won't have for a while in my next workplace. All and all when I look back on my college experience it will be defined by my time and experiences I made at the Reporter.

This is an experience I recommend for anyone to do if they have the chance, you will learn lots and maybe make some lifetime friends along the way.

Mercedes: 'Fingers Crossed'



Courtesy Mercedes Kauphusman

And it feels really good to know I'm finally going to have my moment, free of virus, click-clacking down the stage in my tiny high heels and grabbing my silly diploma in a world I know I'm a part of. I'll cherish it forever.

Before signing off for good, I'd like to thank every human who became a part of my journey. My editorial staff was a miniature family in itself, and I'll forever be so proud of each and every one of you and I know you'll go

on to do amazing things in your own worlds; for my writers, who will keep the variety section alive and thriving and all of the ad representatives who let me weasel in my little brother (the Nepo baby) to carry on my legacy.

I like to think I didn't necessarily find the Reporter, but rather it found its way to me. Hopefully the next time you'll see my name, it'll be placed on some fancy by-line and not on the county jail roster. Fingers crossed!

Letter to the Editor: Campus to Community

By ETHAN ANDERSON

As a college student passionate about community engagement and an intern at the Community Engagement Office on campus, I am writing to emphasize the importance of college students' involvement in their communities. College isn't just about getting a degree; it's also about shaping people who can make a positive difference in society. Volunteering is one way to do this. When students participate, they not only learn and grow but also help make their communities better places. Volunteering offers students the opportunity to gain valuable skills and experiences outside the classroom. Whether it's tutoring local schoolchildren, assisting at a homeless shelter, or participating in environmental clean-up efforts, students can develop leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills that are essential for success in any field. These experiences not only enhance personal growth but also strengthen a student's resume, making them more competitive in the job market upon graduation. Volunteering also teaches em-

pathy and social responsibility. It helps students develop a deeper understanding of societal issues and encourages them to become active participants of positive change. By engaging with diverse communities, students learn to appreciate different perspectives and develop a sense of compassion that extends beyond their surroundings.

Volunteering has significant health benefits for college students as well. Research has shown that volunteering can reduce stress, combat feelings of isolation, and increase overall happiness and satisfaction. In a time when mental health issues among college students are on the rise, promoting community engagement can serve as a powerful antidote, offering students a sense of purpose and fulfillment. More information on these benefits can be found here <https://www.wcsu.edu/community-engagement/benefits-of-volunteering/>

There are numerous ways individuals can get involved in their communities. Within the Mankato area you can volunteer at places like BENCHS, Meals on Wheels, or the Salvation Army. There are

plenty of other opportunities as well. For those with limited free time, even small acts of kindness can make a significant difference, such as helping a neighbor with groceries or participating in a local cleanup event for just an hour. Furthermore, advocacy and awareness-raising activities, such as sharing information on social media or attending community meetings, can be impactful. On campus, we have the Community Engagement Office, which has many resources and opportunities to get out and be engaged within the community. They have a student group called Mavs in Action that any student can join and their website stays up-to-date so you can see upcoming volunteer opportunities: <https://www.mnsu.edu/university-life/activities-and-organizations/community-engagement-office/mavs-in-action/>. As the school year wraps up, I urge you to seek out volunteer opportunities in your local area to stay connected and involved with your community over the summer and when you return to Mankato in the fall be sure to check in with the Community Engagement Office and Mavs in Action to get involved!

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Rush hour chaos in London

By PAN PYLAS
The Associated Press

Five military horses spooked by noise from a building site bolted during routine exercises on Wednesday near Buckingham Palace, threw off four riders and caused chaos as they galloped loose through central London streets and collided with vehicles during the busy morning rush hour.

The commotion erupted when the horses from the Household Cavalry, which were conducting an extended exercise for an upcoming military parade, presumably became alarmed by the sound of concrete falling off a moving walkway at a construction site in Belgravia, a swanky neighborhood just to the west of the palace.

Five of the seven horses ran off and four soldiers were thrown off. Three of them were hospitalized with injuries. None of them were deemed to be life-threatening.

The horses — minus their riders — then ran through main roads in central London, hitting vehicles and stunning commuters as they headed to work. The horses were



JORDAN PETTTTT • The Associated Press

Two horses on the loose bolt through the streets of London near Aldwych, on Wednesday April 24, 2024.

all captured shortly after and are back at the barracks in Hyde Park undergoing medical tests.

Witnesses saw one of the loose animals crashing into a taxi waiting outside the Clermont Hotel nearby, shattering windows. Another of the animals crashed into a tour bus, smashing the windshield.

Pictures and videos shared widely across social media show two of the horses — one white, one black — running at speed down Aldwych, in between London's historic financial center and the busy West End theater district.

The white horse's face and legs were soaked in blood. A British Army spokesperson was not able to confirm what caused the injury.

Megan Morra, who was on her way to work, told the BBC that she saw the striking image of the white horse with a head injury.

"There was a lot of blood," she said. "I was a bit distressed to be honest, looking at the poor horse."

The horses are from the Household Cavalry, the ceremonial guard of the monarch and a feature of state functions in London.

◀PODCAST from page 2

of the spring semester in January. According to Gutiérrez, about 16 bookings have been made between January and spring break.

Students are free to use the space and produce their desired content without any censorship.

"The goal is just to serve the needs of the students. There are other podcasting centers or areas on campus. This is just another one because there was a demand. We also have podcasting equipment that students can check out and they can take home if they don't

want to work in our area or when the area is busy," said Gutiérrez.

The Podcast Studio is situated on the third level of the library at ML3072. The library's online scheduling system allows students to reserve the space for three hours. Within the space is a RodeCaster II

audio production mixer and four PodMic microphones.

"Currently, the studio is located on our third floor. But after next fall, it'll be on our lower level, where students will have even more access. That's the plan," said Gutiérrez.

Students may check out a portable podcast kit from the Education Resource Center (located on the lower level of Memorial Library). The RodeCaster II audio production board, headphones, and two PodMic microphones with stands are all included in the podcast kit.





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SPORTS

A storybook ending for Elijah Hazekamp

By AHMED HASSAN
Staff Writer

Many Minnesota State University fans will remember Elijah Hazekamp as the man who hit the game-winning buzzer beater against Northwest Missouri State to send the Mavericks to the NCAA Elite Eight.

But few people know the man behind that shot.

He'd like to change that.

"I want people to remember me as a nice, genuine guy," he says. "I don't care much at all about people remembering me for the things I did playing basketball. Having good character is much more important."

Hazekamp has been playing basketball for as long as he can remember — a journey that began when he was a child.

"I had a basketball hoop in the front of my driveway at the house I lived in during my childhood," he says. "I shot on it for hours a day no matter the weather. That was where I fell in love with the sport."

Before coming to MSU, Hazekamp spent one year at North Dakota, and then transferred to Truman State for a better fit where he played for three years. He made a run to the Elite Eight in his first season with Truman State, but fell short in the quarterfinals.



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

Hazekamp hit a buzzer beater against Northwest Missouri State to send the Minnesota State men's basketball team to the Elite Eight.

Hazekamp was faced with the tough decision of finding the school to play his final season of his collegiate career ultimately choosing MSU where he's getting his masters in business administration.

"I saw a vision with the makeup of the roster and thought I could add my skills and personality to the team. I also considered how much closer it is to home and my family." Hazekamp is from Sioux City,

Iowa, which meant he spent a lot of time away from home missing golfing, playing sports with his siblings and the fun he used to have with his family and friends. The most important things to

Hazekamp are his faith, family and friends. However, the most important figures in his life are his parents.

"They are truly wonderful people that have supported me wholeheartedly throughout the years, and I hope I can show half of that support to the people I care most about in the future."

Hazekamp's ultimate goal and dream is to get into the coaching world.

"I want to get into the coaching world, whether it is as an assistant or a skills coach. I have had numerous amazing coaches and people over the years and I want to be that person for the young players coming up."

Hazekamp is sticking to his dreams after graduation.

"I want to get into the coaching world. I have some exciting opportunities in front of me that I plan to put my full heart and soul into."

Though his time was short at MSU and in Mankato, Hazekamp will leave no shortage of life-changing memories.

"I will miss my teammates, coaches and the support system surrounding the men's basketball team. The support I felt growing throughout the season was truly special and I will miss being a part of that."

Hazekamp has been through it

HAZEKAMP on page 13

The only 2024 NFL mock draft you will ever need

By HAYDEN LEE
Staff Writer

Welcome to the most accurate mock draft written by two washed up Braham football players. In this mock draft, we will pretend like we are NFL quality scouts and general managers, taking turns drafting this season's top college football players. Michael will begin the draft with pick no. 1, and then pick for all of the odd numbered teams. Hayden will take all of the even numbered teams.

Last year, we did not include trades in our mock draft, but this year, we feel a bit more confident and have included some trades. In some scenarios, it just makes more sense. So, without further ado, please sit back, relax and read up on everything you might need to know about the 2024 NFL Draft.

Pick 1: Chicago Bears, QB Caleb Williams, USC

This pick has been decided since the 2023 Heisman race, and now Chicago has secured the right to draft Caleb Williams, who might be the most hyped prospect since Trevor Lawrence in the 2021 Draft. The first player to draw comparisons to those of Mahomes and Rodgers, Williams definitely has huge expectations. If he pans out, Chicago will become a serious contender for years to come. Is he



RYAN SUN • The Associated Press

If the Vikings can't get within reach of the top 4 quarterbacks, there is no use in even taking one. Go get Drake Maye. Go get JJ. Do NOT settle for Bo Nix.

talented enough to paint his nails? Time will tell.

Pick 2: Washington Commanders: QB Jayden Daniels, LSU

The Commanders will take a QB at this spot: the question is

which one? In my opinion, Drake Maye is the second-best quarterback in the draft, but NFL scouts do not see it that way. I guess that's why I am not one. However, Jayden Daniels is fresh off of a Heisman

trophy that has shot his value through the roof and projects him as a dual-threat, high upside guy worthy of the second pick. Plus, I can't really imagine Drake Maye in a Commanders uniform, it feels

weird.

Pick 3: Minnesota Vikings (Via NE): QB Drake Maye, UNC

There has been no shortage of rumors of the Vikings front office attempting to trade up to secure the future franchise quarterback (the first since Tarkenton). After throwing for 4,321 yards, 38 Touchdowns, and adding another 700 yards and 7 touchdowns on the ground at just the age of 20, he had a bit of a stepback year at the age of 21, but he has a lot of time to work on his mechanics. If Drake Maye is still on the board at 3, the Vikings almost have no choice but to trade up. It would likely take nos. 11, 23 and a future first among maybe more.

Pick 4: Arizona Cardinals: WR Marvin Harrison Jr., Ohio State

Shocker. The Cardinals, who have Michael Wilson slotted in as their WR1, take the best receiver prospect since Calvin Johnson. At the collegiate level, he was unguardable, catching touchdowns while wearing an Apple Watch. At the pro level, he projects to be a contested catch monster that is also very refined in his route-running, similar to AJ Green. Easiest pick in the draft if he falls here.

Pick 5: Los Angeles Chargers: OT Joe Alt, Notre Dame

Another year, another phenom-

MOCK DRAFT on page 12

◀**MOCK DRAFT** from page 11
enal prospect coming out of the school with the most draft picks since the draft was instituted in 1936. Alt is about as 'blue chip' as a prospect comes when you remember that he is the son of former Pro Bowl offensive lineman John Alt and now Joe looks to have all the tools to succeed in the NFL for years to come.

Pick 6: New York Giants: QB J.J. McCarthy, Michigan

Although I do like Malik Nabers here, the Giants have shown interest in McCarthy and his stock has definitely risen since the college season ended. Although they just signed Daniel Jones to a 4 year, \$160 million contract, the contract is not fully guaranteed and they can get out of it. I think if you are the Giants, you have to capitalize when you have a pick like this in a QB draft like this.

Pick 7: Tennessee Titans: OT Olumuyiwa Fashanu, Penn State

The Titans seem to lack offensive identity. This starts with the offensive line. After cutting tackle Andre Dillard in the offseason, they now look to add one of the top tackle prospects to protect the new quarterback Will Levis. The Titans have had an alright offseason, acquiring Calvin Ridley, Tony Pollard, L'Jarius Sneed, and many others, the franchise left tackle would be the cherry on top.

Pick 8: Indianapolis Colts (via ATL): TE Brock Bowers, Georgia

I know the Colts never really trade up, but there is a first time for everything. Anthony Richardson to Brock Bowers would be a connection that Shane Steichen would love to use as part of his RPO-oriented offensive attack. If you are the Colts, you are trending in the right direction, and this player is falling down the draft boards, you have to go get him. He is the perfect TE in this offense and he fits what they draft for. To get this pick, they would likely give up no. 15, no. 46 and no. 151 in exchange for no. 8, no. 187 and no. 197, or something similar to that.

Pick 9: Chicago Bears: WR Malik Nabers, LSU

After enjoying a breakout season, Malik Nabers has quickly become one of the top prospects at wide receiver. Though the Tiggers seem to pass the ball on every down, Nabers seemed to come up clutch almost every time he was given the opportunity. The Bears just drafted who they hope will become the franchise quarterback, and will now have one of the best receiving corps in the NFL. Williams has no way to go but up.

Pick 10: New York Jets: OT Taliese Fuaga, Oregon State

Contrary to popular belief, the Jets offensive line is not fixed after the Tyron Smith and Morgan Moses acquisitions. Both players are in the final stages of their career and have not shown that they should be relied upon to play a full season. If the Jets want to be good, they know they have to be good up front. Here's your solution.

Pick 11: New England Patriots: QB Michael Penix Jr., Washington

Having traded future hall of fame quarterback Mac Jones to the Jaguars, the Pats look to add the next starting quarterback, only the 5th since the greatest of all time left. Michael Penix is about as raw as players come, but his ceiling has yet to be distinguished

by any draft onlookers. A very exciting player who could become one of the next stars of the NFL's most storied franchise.

Pick 12: Denver Broncos: EDGE Dallas Turner, Alabama

The Broncos will be rebuilding for a while, so I don't see how this could be Bo Nix, and I think the Zach Wilson trade has more implications than you would think. Between him or Jarrett Stidham, the Broncos will be horrible regardless, so I think building your team up in other areas could prove to be more beneficial.

Pick 13: Las Vegas Raiders: CB Quinyon Mitchell, Toledo

Quinyon Mitchell is electric. One of the twitchiest, most agile players in the entire draft. He has the potential to be the top corner on the Raiders roster. And though they have many needs, a player like Quinyon is someone worth risking a pick on. The pick would strengthen the secondary to a level they haven't seen consistently in many years.

Pick 14: Jacksonville Jaguars (via NO): WR Rome Odunze, Washington

Jacksonville needs a WR1 in their offense. Christian Kirk and Gabe Davis are each good receivers, but are best suited as slot guys and deep threats. Odunze certainly wouldn't step on their toes, and he would give Trevor Lawrence a WR with seemingly limitless potential. To secure his services, they likely would only have to give up no. 96 and a late round pick swap in addition to no. 17. I think it is also worth noting that the reason this happens is because New Orleans wants to block Atlanta from taking him.

Pick 15: Atlanta Falcons (via IND): EDGE Jared Verse, Florida State

Jared Verse is a phenomenal prospect. The only flaw people really pull away from him seems to be the fact that he is already 24 years old. One could argue that means he's had more time to polish his game as one of the games finest edge rushers, and one could also argue he has less time to develop in the NFL. Though only recording two years at Florida State, he was very productive. He posted 29.5 TFLs and 18 Sacks. Great numbers to build on.

Pick 16: Seattle Seahawks: OT Troy Fautanu, Washington

I think this could be a Jackson Powers-Johnson spot here, but why would the Seahawks pass on a Washington offensive lineman that can provide almost the same amount of versatility. The Seahawks have a great LT with Charles Cross, but is Abe Lucas your guy at RT? I am not as confident. Either way, Fautanu also has inside flexibility, where the Seahawks need help after losing Damien Lewis to the Panthers.

Pick 17: New Orleans Saints: OT JC Latham, Alabama

With the availability of Ryan Ramczyk being in question, and the ability of Trevor Penning being equally as questionable, the Saints need to find a way to protect Derek Carr. Though the defense is lackluster at best, they've already paid a multitude of average players overpriced contracts. It's time to start with the offense.

Pick 18: Cincinnati Bengals: DT Johnny Newton, Illinois

The Bengals would have been

in contention to trade up for Brock Bowers, but the Colts can outdo them at almost every turn, so they landed the star TE. With them sticking and picking, the board has fallen well for them, and they get their pick of the interior defensive linemen after losing D.J. Reader to the Lions. It's really a toss up between him and Byron Murphy II, but Newton is the pick here.

Pick 19: Los Angeles Rams: EDGE Laiatu Latu, UCLA

Laiatu Latu is probably the most polarizing prospect on the defensive side of the ball. He is quite the athlete, scoring out at 9.33 on the RAS this year. He is incredibly agile, lightning fast and posted a career high 21.5 TFLs this past year. Combining that with 52 total pressures, he looks to be one of the more solid edge rushers in this year's draft. Certainly a player to monitor.

Pick 20: Pittsburgh Steelers: CB Terrion Arnold, Alabama

I considered a trade up from the Bills here, but I can't see the Steelers passing up on their pick of the CB talent after what their secondary looked like last year. The Steelers have a great defense due to their pass rush, so let's keep building up their secondary to make them that much better. Arnold is the best true CB on my board, and the Steelers take him here. Simple as that.

Pick 21: Miami Dolphins: DT Byron Murphy II, Texas

After losing Christian Wilkins to the Raiders in free agency, Miami needs to bolster the defensive line. Byron Murphy is the perfect replacement while factoring his size, athleticism, reach, and football knowledge. He is one of the most complete defensive tackle prospects I've ever seen in the draft.

Pick 22: Philadelphia Eagles: DB Cooper DeJean, Iowa

Although I would hate this if it happened, it just makes too much sense. The Eagles' secondary was horrible last year, and even with the acquisition of Kevin Byard it did not get better. DeJean is a defensive back that can play all over the field. He could fill the void of Byard at free safety, he can play on the boundary or he can play in the slot. Whatever you need, he can do it. This would be the easiest way to begin a rebuild on your atrocious secondary.

Pick 23: New England Patriots: WR Brian Thomas, LSU

Brian Thomas led the FBS in touchdowns this past season with 17 receiving touchdowns. The Patriots have seemed to lack talent at the position for the last 10 years. Seems like a simple pick, right? Probably not. The Patriots have one of the poorest outlooks for the 2024 season, and I'm not sure they can do much right now to fight that. The past four years without Brady have not been kind to them, and an inexperienced head coach isn't going to solve any of their problems. Watch them pick

Pick 24: Dallas Cowboys: OT Tyler Guyton, Oklahoma

Although I think the smarter picks here would be JPJ or Amarius Mims, the Cowboys don't always draft smartly, (see Mazi Smith and Luke Schoonmaker from last year's draft). However, Tyler Guyton does provide the

Liverpool's Premier League title hopes hit by 2-0 loss to Everton



JON SUPER • The Associated Press

Everton's Dominic Calvert-Lewin, left, celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Everton and Liverpool at the Goodison Park stadium in Liverpool, Britain, Wednesday.

By JAMES ROBSON
The Associated Press

Jurgen Klopp's hopes of a dream send-off were left in tatters after a 2-0 loss at Everton dealt a major blow to Liverpool's Premier League title bid on Wednesday.

Goals from Jarrad Branthwaite and Dominic Calvert-Lewin at Goodison Park meant Klopp tasted a bitter defeat in his last Merseyside derby before standing down at the end of the season.

"I can only apologize for today to the people. We should have done better and we didn't and that's why we lost," Klopp said.

The loss keeps Liverpool three points behind league leader Arsenal in second place and one ahead of defending champion Manchester City, which is in third and has two games in hand on both of its rivals.

Klopp had spoken last week of needing perfection to win his second title at the club. But this was the latest setback for his team, which has lost two of its last three games in the league.

While the result hurt Liverpool's title chances, it delivered a boost to Everton's survival bid, with the win moving Sean Dyche's team eight points above the relegation zone.

That fact seemed to be of less concern to the home fans, who were too busy reveling in the damage caused to Liverpool's season.

"You lost the league at Goodison Park," they chanted as the final whistle approached and the majority of the 39,000 crowd remained inside the stadium to drink in the atmosphere as the players celebrated on the field.

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Reggie Bush is reinstated as 2005 Heisman Trophy winner



FRANK FRANKLIN II • The Associated Press

Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush of the University of Southern California smiles while posing for photos after a news conference in New York, Dec. 10, 2005. Reggie Bush has been reinstated as the 2005 Heisman Trophy winner, Wednesday.

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

Reggie Bush has his Heisman back.

The Heisman Trust reinstated the former Southern California tailback as the 2005 Heisman Trophy winner on Wednesday, citing fundamental changes in the structure of college athletics during the 14 years since Bush forfeited the trophy and the honor.

Bush gave up his Heisman following an NCAA investigation that found he received what were impermissible benefits during his time with the Trojans. College football players are now allowed to profit from their work in many ways, and the Heisman Trust decided it was time to move past the conflict with one of the most exciting players in the sport's history.

"We are thrilled to welcome Reggie Bush back to the Heisman family in recognition of his collegiate accomplishments," said Michael Comerford, president of The Heisman Trophy Trust. "We considered the enormous changes in college athletics over the last several years in deciding that now is the right time to reinstate the Trophy for Reggie. We are so happy to welcome him back."

The Heisman Trust has returned the trophy to Bush and the

replica to USC. Bush also will be invited to all future Heisman Trophy ceremonies.

Bush won the trophy awarded to the top player in college football after amassing 2,218 yards from scrimmage and scoring 18 touchdowns in 2005. His 784 first-place votes were the fifth most in Heisman history, and the trophy was a crowning achievement for Bush after three seasons at USC as one of the most dynamic college football players in decades.

"I am grateful to once again be recognized as the recipient of the Heisman Trophy," Bush said in a statement. "This reinstatement is not only a personal victory, but also a validation of the tireless efforts of my supporters and advocates who have stood by me throughout this arduous journey."

The reinstatement of Bush gives USC a total of eight Heisman winners, most of any school.

USC typically displays its replicas of the Trojans' Heisman Trophies in the lobby of Heritage Hall, its historic football headquarters, while the retired uniform numbers of its Heisman winners are displayed on huge banners draping the Peristyle at the Coliseum during USC home games. Bush's No. 5 jersey is expected to be back among the honored numbers this fall.

"What a historic day!" said USC coach Lincoln Riley, who coached Caleb Williams to the school's most recent Heisman in 2022. "Reggie's reintroduction to the Heisman Family is a special moment for every person that has been associated with USC football. We are thrilled that Reggie's athletic accomplishments as one of the greatest to ever play the game can officially be recognized."

The USC football program wrote "back where it belongs" in a social media post.

"This is a momentous day for Reggie Bush and the entire USC community as we celebrate the rightful return of his Heisman Trophy," USC athletic director Jen Cohen said. "Reggie's impact at USC and on college football as a whole is truly unmatched. He has displayed the utmost resiliency and heart throughout this process and is so deserving of every accolade and trophy he's ever received. We are grateful to the Heisman Trophy Trust for making this happen."

Bush had his award vacated in 2010 after USC was hit with massive NCAA sanctions when it was found that Bush and his family received money and gifts from fledgling marketing agents who were hoping to represent him.

Missouri State doubled him, he looked for the open man. That's when he unexpectedly found Hazekamp who hadn't scored a point all night.

Hazekamp rose up with 0.07 seconds remaining on the clock and sank the one handed floater to send the Mavericks to the Elite Eight.

"Before that shot I went 0-6 that night, I blacked out for about 10-15 seconds there. I saw the video of me running around and then once I was at the bottom of that pile, things came back to me."

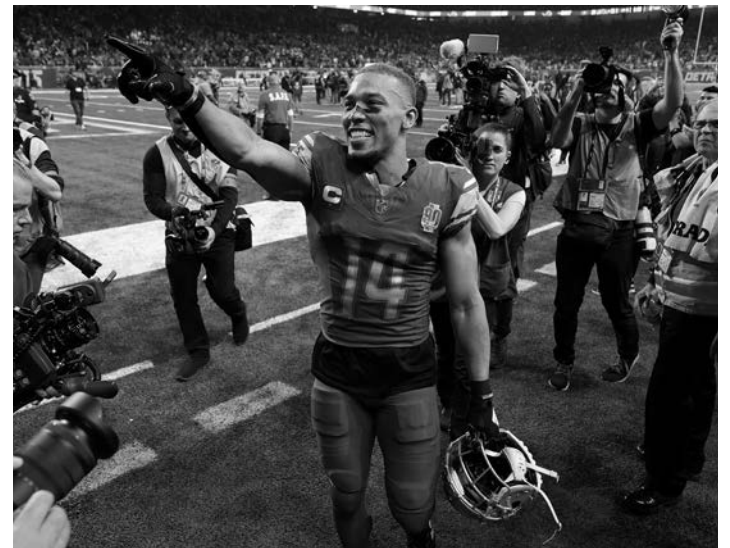
said Hazekamp. "It was slow motion, but I also knew it was going in. Right when I shot it, it felt good and it was only a matter of it going in."
"It's a feeling that I can't justifiably put into words. It is an accomplishment that nobody will ever be able to take away from me. It is an accomplishment that I deserve because of the hard work I have put in over the years. I have had a rollercoaster ride of a basketball journey, and to cap it off with being a national champion is something I will cherish forever."

▶HAZEKAMP from page 11
all in his basketball career from making the NCAA Central Region All-Tournament Team, All-GLVC First Team and making the Elite Eight as a freshman to having the storybook ending in his final season becoming a national champion.

For MSU basketball fans, he'll be best known for the game winning shot in the NCAA Central Region championship.

Malik Willingham with 5 seconds on the clock stormed down the court. When Northwest

Lions agree to contract extensions with St. Brown and Sewell



PAUL SANCYA • The Associated Press

Detroit Lions wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown leaves the field following an NFL football NFC divisional playoff game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, in Detroit.

By LARRY LAGE
The Associated Press

The Detroit Lions have heavily invested in their future, keeping a pair of All-Pro players under contract for the next five seasons.

The Lions and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown agreed to a four-year contract extension worth more than \$120 million with \$77 million in guarantees

and they later came to terms with offensive tackle Penei Sewell on a four-year, \$112 million deal, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The person spoke Wednesday to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the financial terms were not announced.

"Four more years," St. Brown said in an Instagram post.

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Timberwolves take 2-0 lead on Suns

By DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

Jaden McDaniels scored 25 points for a career best in the playoffs and spearheaded another stifling defensive performance by the Minnesota Timberwolves in a 105-93 victory over the Phoenix Suns to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round series on Tuesday night.

Mike Conley and Rudy Gobert each had 18 points for the Wolves to offset a smothering of Anthony Edwards by the Suns, who held him to 15 points on 3-for-12 shooting after allowing him 33 in the opener.

The teams head to Phoenix for Game 3 on Friday night. Minnesota has held a 2-0 series lead only one other time in franchise history, against Denver in the first round in 2004 en route to a 4-1 series victory.

"Everyone down the list has shown they'll be willing to do whatever it takes to sacrifice whatever it is for betterment of the team," said Karl-Anthony Towns, who had 12 points.

Devin Booker scored 20 points, Kevin Durant added 18 and sixth man Eric Gordon had 15 for the Suns, who again failed to get their high-octane offense in gear.

"When they're scoring on us and we're not getting the right stops, we can't not be organized offensively," Suns coach Frank Vogel said. "We had too many posses-



Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards (5) celebrates after making a 3-point shot during the first half of Game 2 of the team's NBA basketball first-round playoff series against the Phoenix Suns, Tuesday, April 23, 2024, in Minneapolis.

sions like that."

The big three of Booker, Durant and Bradley Beal combined to shoot 18 for 45, with McDaniels leading the list of reasons for the slump.

"We can see it. I can feel it. I can see them. It's tough," Gobert said.

"No one likes going against the type of defense that we're playing right now."

After building an eight-point lead in the second quarter and taking a 51-50 edge into halftime, the Suns wore down while Towns got going after early foul trouble.

Phoenix lost guard Grayson Allen to an aggravated ankle sprain in the third quarter.

Minnesota's momentum carried into the fourth quarter, and the crowd noise came with it. Conley found Gobert with a bounce pass off the pick-and-roll for an easy

slam and an 84-76 lead the Wolves later extended to 19 points, before the 17-year veteran point guard swished a corner 3-pointer that electrified the arena.

The "Wolves in 4!" chant popped up in the final minutes.

"The building's been amazing. The fans have been unreal," coach Chris Finch said.

"Our guys have risen to their energy, and we were locked in from the start."

The Wolves used a heavy dose of Edwards on the attack to deliver a 25-point win in Game 1 on Saturday, and the Suns never hesitated to send multiple defenders swarming into his space.

The Timberwolves had trouble making them pay, shooting 9 for 32 from 3-point range.

The bench production that helped them dominate the opener waned a bit.

The whistles were tighter this time, leading to a costly three-foul first quarter for Towns that kept him out until halftime.

But McDaniels, Gobert and anyone else wisely attacked the basket with abandon, making sure the Wolves could use their size advantage inside.

They passed their test of maturity, too. Booker slammed his forearm into McDaniels after a stray elbow, triggering McDaniels into an ill-advised shove that drew him a technical foul.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sam, Huzaifa, Sachita, and Kinzee on your graduation!



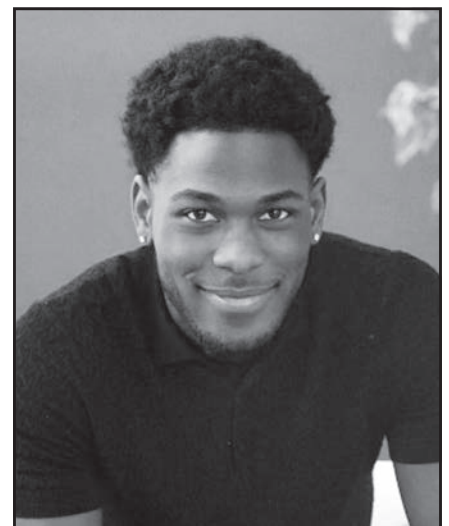
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The Annual Giving team appreciates all of you for fostering alumni and community engagement, advocating for the Maverick community, and building a culture of philanthropy. Along with everyone in University Advancement, we wish you all best of luck with your future endeavors!



MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

ANNUAL GIVING

Luka Dončić and Kyrie Irving lead Mavs over Clippers

By BETH HARRIS
The Associated Press

Led by Luka Dončić and Kyrie Irving, the Dallas Mavericks bounced back to take away home-court advantage from the Los Angeles Clippers and newly returned and rusty Kawhi Leonard.

Dončić scored 32 points, Irving added 23 and the Mavs won 96-93 on Tuesday night to tie their Western Conference first-round playoff series at a game apiece.

“Obviously it was a must-win and everybody was locked in,” said P.J. Washington Jr., who had a big fourth quarter and finished with 18 points. “They punched us in the mouth in Game 1 and we just wanted to respond.”

Game 3 is Friday in Dallas.

Leonard had 15 points and seven rebounds in 35 minutes of his first game since March 31.

He hadn’t played or had any contact practices during that stretch because of inflammation in his surgically repaired right knee.

“I felt good,” Leonard said. “We still got more games to play and more time to get better.”

Just keep trying to get a rhythm back.”

The Mavs led most of the game two days after they trailed by 29 points and eventually lost 109-97.

“We played 48 minutes of physical basketball,” Dallas coach Jason Kidd said. “Both teams were un-



MARK J. TERRILL • The Associated Press

Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Dončić, center, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers forward Paul George, right, and guard James Harden defend during the first half in Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

der 100. It was ‘90s basketball at its best.”

Paul George and James Harden led the Clippers with 22 points each. Ivica Zubac had 13 points and 12 rebounds. The team shot 37% from the floor and made just 8 of 30 3-pointers.

Leonard appeared to pick up steam after halftime and was more active defensively.

“Kawhi is one of the best in the world,” George said.

“He’s going to find his rhythm and we’re going to find our rhythm around him.”

Plagued by poor shooting and behind for much of the game, the Clippers began rallying in the third. Trailing by seven, they outscored the Mavs 19-10 down the stretch to take a 66-65 lead into the fourth. Dončić tied the game at 65-all before getting called for a technical.

Harden’s free throw provided the narrow lead.

“It’s been a long time since he got a technical, so I think he was just trying to see if he could get a technical,” Kidd said. “He is using that to get himself going.”

The Clippers kept it up in the fourth, taking a 73-67 lead.

That’s when the Mavs scored 14 straight points to take an 81-73 lead. Washington hit a 3-pointer in front of the Clippers’ bench, and Dončić and Irving followed with ones of their own in the spurt.

Zubac’s dunk cut the Clippers’ deficit to 84-81 before Maxi Kleber and Dončić sank consecutive 3s.

“The second half is the way we should play the whole game,” Dončić said.

“We got to learn from that.”

The Clippers trailed 93-90 on Leonard’s basket with 20 seconds left. Irving was called for a foul, which the Mavs challenged and got it overturned. Irving made 3 of 4 free throws before George sank a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

“I had two timeouts and we felt we could burn one on a challenge,” Kidd said. “Kyrie said he hit the basketball and he was right.”

Mavs starting center Daniel Gafford hurt his lower back three minutes into the game, but returned in the second quarter although he was scoreless. Tim Hardaway Jr. sprained his right ankle and didn’t return.

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VARIETY

The unification of MSU's arts in 'CARMINA BURANA'



NATHANAEL TILAHUN • The Reporter

Minnesota State's music, theater and dance programs are combining forces in the performance of "Carmina Burana." Three shows will take place April 25-27.

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

Tickets are flying off the shelves as Minnesota State's music, dance and theater programs unite as one through the production of "Carmina Burana."

As its season finale, three "Carmina" performances coordinated by the Department of Performing Arts run from April 25-27 in the

Ted Paul Theatre.

"You're hearing the emotion, you're seeing the emotion, dance in front of you, too; it's so many departments and a whole orchestra," MSU sophomore BFA musical theater candidate Landson Hudson said. "It's not tracks, it's not pre-recorded, you're not watching it on the screen — it's all right there."

Composed by Carl Orff, "Carmina Burana" involves a journey of

24 movements inspired by medieval poems. It pieces together emotional elements of love and pain as well as a lighthearted embracement of spring and drinking festivities.

A transfer student from Kansas City, Missouri, Hudson was granted a part as a vocalist by music professor Nick Wayne. His part consists of three lines in the 12th movement, all in Latin and all sung in opera — a change of pace from

his typical niche in theater.

"It's one thing when you do a whole show and you make a mistake, you have the whole show to prove yourself, but three lines, that's it," Hudson said.

Using a slice of his acting abilities, Hudson will play the part of a living swan being roasted for a tavern of people. Although Hudson will sport a suit, typically the

CARMINA on page 17▶

An end of the year festival for all

By ANAHI ZUNIGA
Staff Writer

Happy pre-finals, Mavericks!

The academic year is almost over and, before students begin to prepare for final projects and exams, the Student Events Team threw one final celebration.

The CSU Mall Fest, a campus tradition, took place Wednesday on the CSU Mall. The event was packed with fun activities, live music and Stomper's 1,000 Ways to Win Ping Pong Ball Drop, where students played for prizes.

Mavericks Traditions Chair Henry Bowring-McDonough said the 1,000 Ways to Win game has been happening since 2017.

"It is a big cherry picker that we put in the middle of the CSU Mall. A big lift that myself, Stomper and

usually another person all stand in. It rises up and then students gather in a crowd at the base of it. And we throw from the top of the cherry picker 1,000 labeled ping pong balls. Each ping pong ball corresponds to a prize," Bowring-McDonough said.

In addition to the ping pong ball drop, other activities included the sports management students running a game called 'Sports around the World,' which is a collection of sports mini games with an international twist to them, along with free food, live music and a petting zoo.

The Student Events Team partners with different organizations every year for new CSU Mall Fest activities. This year the team partnered with Amazon.

"We are partnering with Amazon."
FESTIVAL on page 17▶



DAVIS JENSEN • The Reporter

The Student Events team held its annual CSU Mall Fest Wednesday to celebrate the end of the academic year with food, animals, music, prizes and fun.

My secret to student success

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

Coming into college as a timid freshman, my classrooms were entirely virtual. I logged into Zoom, fell back to sleep and woke up right on time to hear the professor say, "Any questions?" Sometimes, I woke up to find myself in the Zoom alone with the professor. Awkward moment.

Entering my sophomore year, I finally had face-to-face interaction with my peers — a masked-up face, that is. I had to guess if my classmates were actually cute or if I was being mask-fished; the day the ban was lifted, I was shook. It was like an episode of the masked singer.

Prior to the day we saw each other's faces for the first time, I thought I was a social butterfly. As soon as we looked at new, real human faces I lost a bone of my extraverted-self. I forgot how to act.

I barely chatted with my classmates around me, I didn't dare raise my hand to ask a question, I simply tried to blend in with the walls. I didn't create connections with my peers and professors, and I completely focused on my life outside of MSU's campus.

After entering my junior year of college, I had enough. I wanted to make the most of an in-person class, something I was deprived of for nearly two years. So I challenged myself to an attainable goal of raising my hand once per every class period.

I stuck to it. Through groggy eyes during my 8 a.m. classes, I pushed my hand through the air at least once. Over time, I grew more confident in my responses. My professors remembered me and recognized my face in the sea of students lapping the hallways.

As I've sat in a number of classes through the years, I find many students share the same socially anxious habits I had. I notice a lot of silence when professors hope for discussion and I see a complete lack of engagement in material. By doing this one, simple step, it can completely change a classroom dynamic. There is strength in numbers in any case scenario, and if you are the initial person to spark a conversation, more will join right in.

My graduation is now only a week away and this miniscule hack of raising my hand in class has opened more doors than I ever thought. I've built relationships with fellow classmates and professors and gained valuable sources for networking.

SECRET on page 17▶



DAVIS JENSEN • The Reporter

◀**FESTIVAL** from page 16
 zation in order to promote Amazon as a sponsor, but also to gather some more prizes including Amazon gift cards. The prizes are always different,” Bowring-McDonough said.

Overall, Bowring-McDonough said the fest helps bring students together and celebrate MSU pride on campus, and helps celebrate the end of the academic year as “it can be a big release for students to gather with all their friends in the mall.”

“The CSU is a physical but also

a social central point of campus. So honestly, if you are walking from class to class, from building to building, or from your dorm to somewhere, it’s very eye-catching and you’re going to see everyone there,” He said. “It’s a nice way to make the campus feel alive again, at least one more time before we all head home for the summer.”

Warm sunny weather finally made an appearance, students gathered and socialized within the mall fest. Freshmen Emily Holzem and Makena Gens shared their thoughts on the event.

“It’s really fun and I like seeing everyone out on campus. I definitely love the petting zoo. I love the animals and it’s definitely a good thing for the end of the year. I feel like the music is fun, free food, and good vibes,” Holzem said.

“I love all the animals that I’m not usually around, so it’s really fun and interesting and I feel like it’s a great event. It’s getting everyone together and outside. I came here and I forgot I had finals and I’m having so much fun,” Gens said.

Sweden prepares for the 2024 Eurovision Song Contest

By JILL LAWLESS
 The Associated Press

It’s springtime in Europe — time for the annual blossoming of spectacle and sound known as the Eurovision Song Contest.

Taking place in May in Malmö, Sweden, the 68th annual competition will see acts from 37 countries vie for the continent’s pop crown in a feelgood extravaganza that strives — not always successfully — to banish international strife and division. And you don’t have to be in Europe to watch, or to help pick the winner.

Here’s a guide to all things Eurovision.

WHAT IS EUROVISION?

On one level, it’s simple: Eurovision is an international pop music competition in which acts from countries across Europe, and a few beyond it, compete in a live televised contest to be crowned Eurovision champion.

But it’s also much more — a celebration of diversity, national pride and the joyous power of pop. And glitter. So much glitter.

Launched in 1956 to foster unity after World War II, Eurovision has become a campy, feel-good celebration of pop music with an audience of hundreds of millions around the world. It has grown



ROBERT DEAR • The Associated Press

Swedish pop group ABBA celebrate winning the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest on stage at the Brighton Dome in England with their song Waterloo.

from seven countries to almost 40, including non-European nations such as Israel and Australia.

It’s now known for songs that range from anthemic to extremely silly, often with elaborate costumes and spectacular staging.

Paul Jordan, an expert on the contest who is known as “Dr. Eurovision,” said the contest “is almost indescribable in terms of its scale, in terms of its craziness — but I would liken it to probably the musical version of the Olympic Games.”

WHEN AND WHERE IS EUROVISION HAPPENING?

This year’s contest will be held in Malmö in southern Sweden, with two semifinals on May 7 and 9 followed by a grand final on May 11. Traditionally the competition is hosted by the previous year’s winner, and Sweden triumphed in 2023 with “Tattoo,” a power ballad by pop diva Loreen.

The Nordic nation is a Eurovision powerhouse that has won the contest seven times, a number equaled only by Ireland.



Courtesy Flickr

Raising a hand during class times is an excellent way to succeed in school.

◀**SECRET** from page 16
 Most importantly, I came out of my cocoon and became a social butterfly once again.

If there is one secret I could

spill to any undergrad, this is it. Take my advice and raise your hand in class; your professors appreciate it more than you know.

◀**CARMINA** from page 16
 soloist wears a swan costume and is placed on a swivel over a fire.

“They have this big dance about getting roasted alive, and it’s very ceremonial and medieval,” Hudson said. “And then at the end of the song they’re eating the swan.”

While Hudson ties in his familiar process of play preparations, his part mainly focuses on his vocal abilities and how he presents them.

“Rather than making a character, it’s more about making the emotion of the piece,” Hudson said. “With this song you can’t be very timid or shy, you have to be almost fearful,” Hudson said.

Following this particularly dark moment, the mood will transition into lighter movements from spring into meadow, choreographed by MSU second-year graduate student and MFA dance candidate Joe Svihel.

“My section is really about that joy, but also the resistance; hippies are kind of the rebellion of it all, but within that you’re finding your group, you’re finding your

tribe,” Svihel said.

With about 20 dancers in the piece, Svihel has encountered hurdles within scheduling conflicts and balancing the dancers’ many parts.

“The way I approach conversation is, ‘What do you need?’ rather than, ‘What can I give you?’” Svihel said. “I will have my thoughts. I will always have my thoughts, but, ‘What do you feel like you need to make you feel more successful?’”

His guidance has shown itself to be a success; after watching his dancers in collaboration with the alternative elements, Svihel admits, “it’s looking really great.”

“It’s cool to see how the art goes through all these different worlds and characters, and choreographers and their expressions,” Svihel said.

Svihel said he hopes audiences are inspired by the music and dance.

“I hope that they leave thinking more deeply about their own life and how simple actions that they take can affect their course,” Svihel said.

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Phish fans: What happens when they enter the Sphere?

By JOSH CORNFIELD
The Associated Press

Adele, Mariah Carey and Garth Brooks tower over the Las Vegas Strip, peering out from billboards advertising their various casino residencies. But the 20,000 fans marching toward the glowing Sphere last week were there for a band that many Strip visitors have no idea exists.

Over the past 40 years, legions of dedicated Phish fans have followed the Vermont jam band no matter where it goes. This time, it happened to be Las Vegas, for four nights at the \$2.3 billion immersive arena. No two Phish shows are the same, and while the band had played Vegas 26 times before, the Sphere offered a game-changing canvas for its signature light shows.

The fans came in sequined, glittery dresses and tie-dye alike, in button-down shirts and overalls printed with the band's red doughnut logo. Once inside, they were greeted with a LED screen the size of a football field.

Over 68 songs over the four nights, co-creative director Abigail Rosen Holmes would use that expanse to drive fans across bold visual worlds inspired by the four states of matter: solid, liquid, gas and plasma. As Phish jammed, the Sphere's screens became an art show, taking the audience through flowing streams of color and simple dots of light, around an enchanted lake and a field of psychedelic trees, and through a car wash (yes, a car wash).

"It gives me hope," said Sean Marmora, 31, who traveled from New Jersey. "It's inspiring that they're pushing boundaries and doing things that they have never done before."

Some displays were more abstract — during "Sand" and "Chalkdust Torture," specks of light danced on screen in time to the music — while others were easier to discern: "Bathtub Gin" featured computer-generated people on floats made of donuts, pineapples and pizza slices in a wave pool. During "Maze," a narrow line of video blew up into bits across the screen. For "Leaves," hundreds of digital balloons joined the very real balloons flying up inside the Sphere.

"It was a very different Phish show, so special in its own right," said Tim Urbashich. "This is a whole evolutionary experience in what's happening."

Summer Movie Guide: Movies coming to theaters & streaming



DISNEY/PIXAR • The Associated Press

This image released by Disney/Pixar shows Joy, voiced by Amy Poehler, left, and Anxiety, voiced by Maya Hawke, in a scene from "Inside Out 2."

The Associated Press

Are you ready for some movies this summer? There's action-adventure, romance, horror, franchises and anniversary re-releases of some of your favorites populating theaters and streaming services from May through Labor Day. You just have to know where to look.

Things kick off in theaters in May with Universal's Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt action romantic comedy "The Fall Guy" (May 3), a new installment in the Apes series, "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes" (May 10), followed by Jane Schoenbrun's buzzy thriller "I Saw the TV Glow" (May 17) and closing out with the Mad Max prequel "Furiosa" June brings "Hit Man" to Netflix and "Bad Boys 4" to theaters, as well as "Inside Out 2," "The Bikeriders" and the first part of Kevin Costner's Civil War-era Western epic "Horizon: An American Saga."

And while July might not have another "Barbenheimer" showdown, but there's plenty to be excited for including the space race rom-com "Fly Me To the Moon," "Twisters" and, of course, "Deadpool & Wolverine." August has some gems too, including chapter two of "Horizon," a new Alien movie ("Alien: Romulus") and some thrillers like "Cuckoo" and "Trap."

Here's your guide to what's coming to theaters and streaming services this summer.

MAY MOVIE RELEASES

May 2

"Turtles All the Way Down" (MAX, streaming): Based on John Green's popular novel, Isabela Merced plays 17-year-old Aza in this coming-of-age story.

May 3

"The Fall Guy" (Universal, theaters): A love letter to stunt performers (and a funny, slick send-up of the movie industry), Ryan Gosling plays a veteran stunt guy who's enlisted to find a missing movie star (Aaron Taylor-John-

son) so that his crush (Emily Blunt) can finish her directorial debut.

"The Idea of You" (Amazon, streaming): Anne Hathaway plays a single mother in Los Angeles who begins a relationship with a younger pop star, played by Nicholas Galitzine, in this smart and charming romantic comedy.

"Unfrosted" (Netflix, streaming): Jerry Seinfeld makes his directorial debut with this film about the race between cereal rivals Kellogg's and Post to create a new pastry. Seinfeld stars alongside Melissa McCarthy, Jim Gaffigan, Amy Schumer, Hugh Grant, Max Greenfield and many more.

"I Saw the TV Glow," (A24, theaters, wide on May 17): In Jane Schoenbrun's second feature, a Sundance breakout, realities blur for two teenagers (Justice Smith and Brigitte Lundy-Paine) watching a mysterious late-night television show.

"Wildcat" (Oscilloscope, theaters): Ethan Hawke directs his daughter Maya Hawke in this unconventional, artful portrait of American author Flannery O'Connor.

"Evil Does Not Exist" (Side-show and Janus Films, theaters): Ryūsuke Hamaguchi's follow-up to "Drive My Car" is an unnerving slow burn about a father and daughter and their quiet town in the woods outside of Tokyo, whose tranquil way of life threatened when a company decides to build a glamping retreat nearby.

"Jeanne du Barry" (Vertical, theaters on May 2): Maïwenn co-wrote, directs and stars in this period drama about a working class woman who wins over King Louis XV (Johnny Depp).

"Tarot" (Sony, theaters): A horror about what happens to a group of friends.

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Olympian Kristi Yamaguchi inspires a new Barbie doll



MATTEL • The Associated Press

This image provided by Mattel in April 2024 shows the company's Kristi Yamaguchi Barbie doll.

By TERRY TANG
The Associated Press

Like many little girls, a young Kristi Yamaguchi loved playing with Barbie. With a schedule packed with ice skating practices, her Barbie dolls became her "best friends."

So, it's surreal for the decorated Olympian figure skater to now be a Barbie girl herself.

"It's a huge, huge honor. I think a lot of pride comes along with it, not just recognizing the Olympic achievement, but also being rec-

ognized during AAPI Month and following in the footsteps of some incredible women that I idolize — Anna May Wong, Maya Angelou and Rosa Parks," Yamaguchi told The Associated Press. "It's hard to see me put in the category with them."

Yamaguchi, who became the first Asian American to win an individual figure skating gold medal, at the 1992 Winter Olympics, has been immortalized as a doll for Barbie's "Inspiring Women Series," Mattel announced Wednesday.

Mankato Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus

The Mankato Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus will celebrate the **50th Anniversary** of the chorus by presenting their annual show titled "50 Years of Harmony."



April 27th, 1:00 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased from any Riverblenders Chorus member, online at singmankato.com, Cub Foods stores, Hilltop HyVee or Nutter Clothing in St. Peter.



Ticket prices are: \$15 adult and \$5 student

50 Years of Harmony
Hosanna Lutheran Church, Mankato

Zendaya in steamy love triangle in ‘Challengers’

By JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

How sexy can a qualifying tennis tournament in New Rochelle, New York, be? When the on-court drama involves Zendaya, Josh O’Connor and Mike Faist, the answer turns out to be quite a bit more than your average USTA singles match in Luca Guadagnino’s “Challengers.”

The film, directed by Guadagnino from a script by playwright Justin Kuritzkes, may have the appearance of a sports movie. Much of the action happens in between baselines. There are break points and short shorts. But in Guadagnino’s film, what’s being volleyed isn’t just a fuzzy little yellow ball.

“The ball is the ephemeral, invisible force of desire,” says Guadagnino, the director of “Call Me By Your Name” and “Bones and All.” “I wanted to show desire going back and forth.”

The result, by a score of about six-love, is the love triangle of the year. “Challengers,” which Amazon MGM Studios releases in theaters Friday, takes the melodrama of the threesome and gives it a breathless, bi-curious spin. That’s especially due to the multilateral chemistry between Zendaya, O’Connor and Faist — all actors in their late 20s or early 30s, all very capable of smoldering when called upon.

It’s a big-screen statement especially for Zendaya, who’s also

a producer on the film. She plays Tashi, the wife and coach of tennis superstar Art (Faist, the “West Side Story” breakout). Tashi was only relegated to the sidelines because of a career-ending knee injury — though it did little to sap her ambition. When Art, whose passion for tennis is fading, is matched in New Rochelle against an old friend, Patrick (O’Connor, star of Alice Rohrwacher’s recent “La Chimera”), their complicated past is, deliciously, resurrected.

Zendaya gravitated to the project not because it seemed a natural fit for her, but because it wasn’t.

“Because it sounded like a challenge. Because it is so different from me,” Zendaya said in an interview alongside her co-stars. “Sometimes when you’re a little afraid to tackle something like that you, you’re like, ‘Oo, maybe I should do it.’ I don’t want to walk into something and be like, ‘I got this. This is going to be easy.’”

“Challengers” was originally set to open last fall’s Venice Film Festival before it was postponed due to the actors strike. But the delay has only given more time for the buzz around the film to grow. That has a lot to do with the attention on everything Zendaya does, but it also has to do with how the film puts three exciting young actors in the center of the frame, and doesn’t let go.

“What’s special is that the three of us got to lead the movie. That is



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This image released by Metro Goldwyn Mayer Pictures shows Mike Faist, from left, Zendaya and Josh O’Connor in a scene from “Challengers.”

cool,” says O’Connor. “An opportunity to do something like that is so rare.”

“Sometimes I’ve been a part of big ensembles,” adds Zendaya, who co-starred in the recent “Dune: Part Two.” “But it’s just the three of us. We are the cast. While we obviously have other amazing actors that contribute, this is the core thing here. Tennis training and the rehearsal period, it was just us. So thank god that we like each other.”

Guadagnino, known for his organic way of working, compares the weeks he and the three stars spent together preparing in Boston to “kids on the beach creating castles of sand.” Though Faist has some ability, the rest were hopeless at tennis. Guadagnino hadn’t picked up a racquet in his life before stepping onto the set in “Challengers.” Famed tennis coach Brad Gilbert was brought in to help.

But “Challengers” isn’t really

about tennis, that’s just the arena where attraction and emotion in the film ultimately spills out. When it’s pointed out to Guadagnino that the tennis scenes are essentially his movie’s sex scenes, he responds, “Thank you.”

Faist, O’Connor and Zendaya all connected in different ways not just to how desire ebbs and flows but to how the characters are each juggling their fluctuating passions with their careers.

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The Reporter wishes to recognize and appreciates the contributions of these students for their work and dedication to the MSU Reporter.

The Reporter would also like to thank Ahmed Hassan!

GOOD LUCK AHMED!

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