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Professor leads meditation exercise

Marli Stewart
STAFF WRITER

Jerry Wellik is a professor at SCSU leading free Qigong (CHEE-kung) classes for students, faculty and staff.

The classes are from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the martial arts room in Halenbeck Hall.

“Even something as small as a headache can be taken away by these techniques,”

Wellik said.

The purpose of these sessions is to exercise and meditate in a group setting to work with the energy in the body to get a balance. The theory is that energy can be neither created nor destroyed, but it can be transformed. Illnesses such as depression, backaches and migraines can be relieved from these exercises by transforming energy through these guided meditations.

FAST FACTS

**Each Qigong class is from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the martial arts room in Halenbeck Hall.*

**Illnesses such as depression, backaches and migraines can be relieved from Qigong exercises.*

“The thing that got me into it was that I had health issues after being in the Vietnam War. It was mostly headaches, and when I started doing these exercises, they just totally went away. Instead of two or three a week, it was maybe once a month or something like that,” Wellik

said.

Qigong comes from China and has been practiced for over 4,000 years. It is the study of energy and how energy works. The sessions Wellik will be leading begin with exercises and move into meditation.

The purpose of these sessions is to help the self and eventually move on to helping others. Wellik and a friend of his, Doug Randolph, started the sessions

because they were working together with Qigong and got a good feeling from their sessions. They wanted to get a larger group together so that the energy movement could be greater and produce more of that good feeling.

“The more people you get involved, the more energy you move in a room,” Randolph said. “If you get

•See Meditation/ Page 3

Pakistan culture night at SCSU

The Pakistan Student Association hosted a culture night themed “Aghaz” last week in Atwood.

Mohammed Hatim
STAFF WRITER

SCSU has a strong tradition of celebrating cultural diversity and strengthening communities by promoting and hosting cultural events.

Events such as these exposes students to different cultures and traditions, ultimately shaping their views of the world and opening minds to different possibilities.

On Thursday evening, it was the turn of Pakistan Student Association (PSA) to celebrate and share their culture with the community of SCSU.

The theme for the night was Aghaz, an Urdu word that means beginning.

This theme was chosen because PSA wanted to showcase how Muslims settled in the subcontinent, which ultimately led to the creation of Pakistan in the year 1947.

According to Taimur Humayun, member of PSA and one of the organizers of the event, more than 400 people had attended the event. Students of SCSU were charged only \$1 for this event.

“We wanted to share our culture with the community of St. Cloud and we did not want money to be a barrier towards that,” Humayun said. “Students, through the student activity fees, have already contributed towards the event.”

This event also bucked the trend of staging cultural nights on weekends, instead having it on Thursday evening. Humayun also said that preparation for the event has been going on for more than a month.

As it happens with all the cultural events, this event started with the singing of the national anthems of the U.S. and Pakistan.

It was followed up with speeches from the present dignitaries.

A detailed presentation was made on the history and creation of Pakistan, showing

•See Culture night/ Page 3



JAKOB GILK/VISUALS EDITOR

Four snow removal trucks work as a team to clear Roosevelt Road early Tuesday afternoon. 6.3 inches of snow fell on Tuesday, which set a new high snow fall record for March 31 according to SCSU meteorologist Bob Weisman. The snow and rain that fell on Tuesday also pushed the total precipitation for the month to 4.66 inches that passed the old record of 4.53 inches in March 1987. Though most of the upcoming seven-day forecast shows partly sunny days, a little more snow is expected on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Silent auction raises funds for kaleidoscope playground

Megan Junkermeier
STAFF WRITER

Since 2001, more than 700 students have been working together to bring the Kaleidoscope Playground to the park. This year, a silent auction will gather more funds for the playground.

The community decided that a playground in Wilson Park would be beneficial, so over the past few years, the department of community studies has found ways to efficiently raise money for the cause.

The auction was held Wednesday in Atwood from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will continue today during the same hours.

Three professors, Rona Karasik, Phyllis Greenberg and Pamela Mittlefehldt are working on the service learning project.

FAST FACTS

**More than 700 students have been raising money for the playground. Students in CMTY 195 are required to participate in the project.*

“We want to be getting college students to realize they can do something,” Karasik said.

The Central MN Community Foundation, St. Cloud East Side Boosters and the St. Cloud Parks and Recreation Board assist the SCSU Department of Community Studies in this project to build the playground.

“The playground brings many people together, that’s how you build a so-

cial capital,” Karasik said.

Kaitlyn Bensen, an SCSU freshman currently living on campus, is in the CMTY 195 class.

“Students gathered items for the silent auction,” Bensen said. “We asked our families and businesses and companies around St. Cloud.”

“There is something for everyone at the auction this year,” Karasik said.

Items this year include children’s toys, jewelry, dishes, restaurant items such as sauces from Buffalo Wild Wings and small decorative items.

Students who assisted in the silent auction are currently in the class CMTY 195, and involvement is required.

“We were looking at how we teach community involvement and we want

•See Silent auction/ Page 4

Grant for spring break safety

Misty Sweeter
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This year’s spring break planning may have been a little different for some students because of the warnings aimed at tourists headed to Mexico.

These travel warnings might have prompted more students to actually think about their safety while on vacation. On campus, SCSU Peer Educators conducted a safety awareness campaign the week before spring break to encourage students to stay safe and healthy on their spring break trips.

Peer Educators received a \$500 grant for the first time through the North Central College Health Association (NCCHA). They used the money to create the Safer Spring Break Awareness Campaign.

“(We) purchased Safer Spring Break promotional items that were distributed to students at our various awareness booths and programs such as water bottles, sunscreen, ChapStick, condoms, Band-Aids, posters and brochures,” Lee Zutzy, treasurer of Peer Educators, said in an e-mail.

“I think they were excited to have a larger than ‘normal’ awareness campaign,” Troy Shafer, Peer Educator

•See Peer Educators/ Page 4

Newest social network: Twitter

Nicole Gillespie
STAFF WRITER

Just when people thought that they had gotten caught up with their Facebook and MySpace pages, Twitter comes out of nowhere as the newest “service for friends, family, and co-workers to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of quick frequent answers to one quick question: What are you doing?” as stated by the homepage of the Twitter Web site.

It is easy to join and is

similar to its friends Facebook and MySpace in that it is free.

The process to join consists of going to the site at www.twitter.com, clicking the “join” button, giving a name and e-mail, creating a username and password, and clicking the “create account” button.

Once users have created their accounts, similar to a blog, they can easily access that account without having to go to the Twitter home page every time by typing in the URL http://twitter.com/

USERNAME.

Users can start finding friends on other networks such as Yahoo and Google by accessing those accounts and searching the Twitter site.

Users can also invite a friend to join Twitter by simply e-mailing them.

Once users have found some friends, they can choose to “follow” friends’ sites. Every time users access each other’s accounts, updates from their friends’ pages will show up on a news feed on the page.

Many people may ask themselves, “Why should I join Twitter when I already have plenty of networking accounts?” Many employers are searching for employees on Twitter and people are using it as a chance to impress each other.

Various companies and businesses from The New York Times to CNN.com are finding that in order to maintain interest with younger generations, they must keep up with the ever-expanding

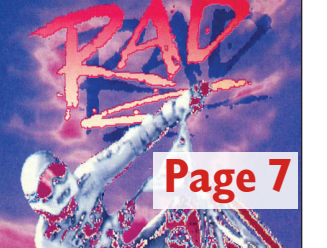
•See Twitter/ Page 3

Professor leads Qigong class



Jerry Wellik leads a meditation class each Tuesday and Thursday in Halenbeck hall.

Top five worst films on bikes



Assistant news editor Jack Hennes probes the film world’s movies involving bicycles.

Merritt takes flight to the top



SCSU wrestler Tad Merritt excels in his first year, earning NSIC rookie of the year.

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Local

KVSC sports, news teams win AP awards

ST. CLOUD — SCSU’s student-run radio station, KVSC 88.1 FM, has earned six Minnesota Associated Press Broadcasters Awards for the station’s sports and news teams.

The awards will be presented at the Midwest Journalism Conference on May 27 in Bloomington. KVSC student reporters competed against commercial and non-commercial broadcasters in Minnesota. Aaron Bjorkstrand picked up multiple awards including best in show, radio class one and first place feature for “Rage Against Abuse,” as well as first place, sports reporting for “Husky Hockey Review.”

State

Craigslist killer gets life in prison

SHAKOPEE, Minn. — A Scott County District judge sentenced a man from Savage to life in prison without the chance of parole in the shooting death of a woman lured to his home via a baby-sitting ad on Craigslist.

The judge sentenced Michael John Anderson, 20, on Wednesday morning. Anderson was convicted of first-degree premeditated murder.

Scott County prosecutor Ron Hocevar told the jury Anderson simply wanted to kill someone on Oct. 25, 2007.

Nation

Mother dares teens to chug vodka

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A mother is accused of providing alcohol to minors and offering \$10 to whomever could chug a glass of vodka the fastest.

Two girls were hospitalized after the party incident in February. Authorities in Kansas City say Karen Christine Downs and Kelsee Guest, 25 face felony child endangerment charges alleging they provided liquor and beer to six 13 and 14-year-old teens at a birthday party for Downs’ daughter.

Downs allegedly offered money to the fastest drinker and Guest is accused of pouring vodka shots.

World

North Korea threatens U.S. planes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea accused the U.S. of spying on the site of a rocket launch and threatened to shoot down any U.S. planes that intrude into its airspace.

North Korea said it will send a communications satellite into orbit on the multistage rocket between April 4 and 8.

The U.S., South Korea and Japan think the country is using the launch to test long-range missile technology and are warning the nation that they will face sanctions under a U.N. Security Council resolution banning it from ballistic activity.

Weird news

Man crashes bar stool, gets DUI

NEWARK, Ohio — Authorities in Ohio said a man has been charged with drunken driving after he crashed his motorized bar stool powered by a deconstructed lawn mower.

Police say Kile Wygle, 28, was charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated after he told an officer at the hospital that he had consumed 15 beers.

Wygle told police his motorized bar stool can go up to 38 mph. He has pleaded not guilty and has requested a jury trial.

This day in history

Interesting events from the past

- 0742 Charlemagne is born, the first Holy Roman emperor
- 1502 English crown prince Arthur dies
- 1595 Cornelis de Houtman’s departs to Asia through Cape of Good Hope
- 1794 Josiah Pierson patents a rivet machine
- 1792 Congress establishes the Philadelphia mint
- 1891 Artist Max Ernst is born in Germany
- 1931 Teenage girl strikes out Babe Ruth & Lou Gehrig in an exhibition game

Campus Crime

Report



1. (3/29/09) Damage to property (state gate arm), B-Lot
2. (3/29/09) Parking violation (handicap), Miller Pay Lot
3. (3/30/09) Vandalism (state property), Holes Hall
4. (3/31/09) Theft (personal bicycle), Atwood Memorial Center (grounds)
5. (3/31/09) Property found (personal checks), Miller Center

Chronicle Online Poll

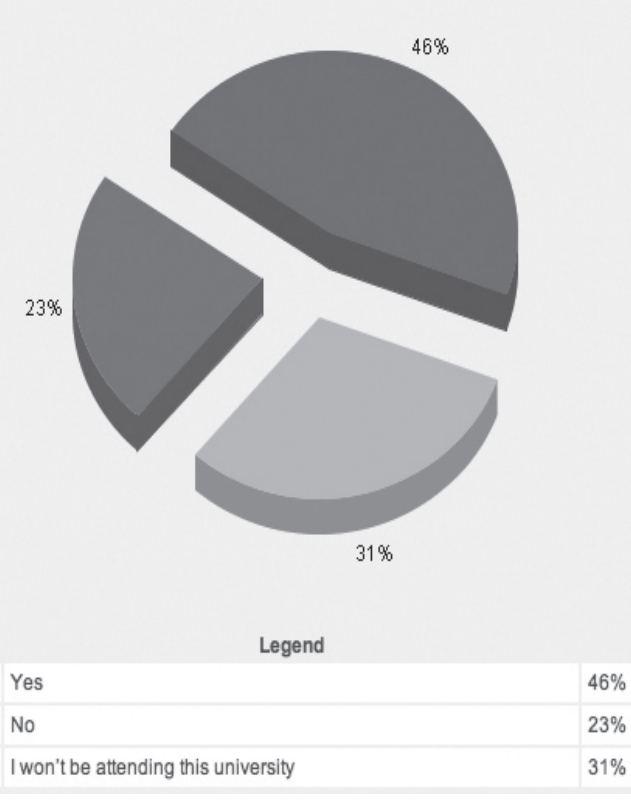
Will summer ever come?

- ✓ Yes, of course summer will come.
- ✓ No, summer doesn’t exist in Minnesota.
- ✓ I don’t know, let’s play it by ear.

Vote at www.universitychronicle.com

Last week’s question:

Have you found a place to live for next school year?



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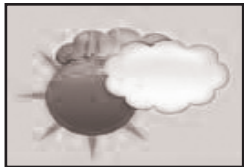
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Corrections

The University Chronicle prides itself on journalistic integrity. We usually do not publish misinformation, but we are prone to human mistakes. We will correct any errors of fact or misspelled names promptly. Call 308-4086 with any corrections.

Local weather forecast

Thursday



Partly Cloudy
High: 38 °F
Low: 20 °F

Friday



Partly Cloudy
High: 43 °F
Low: 25 °F

Saturday



Chance Snow
High: 44 °F
Low: 25 °F

Sunday



Slight Chance Rain/Snow
High: 39 °F
Low: 25 °F

Meditation

Continued from Page 1

10 people in a room, the buzz is crazy.”
Randolph is another person who got involved with Qigong because of health issues. “For me it is a tool to dabble with,” he said. “I was diagnosed with stage four cancer last year and for me it’s been a tool that I can reach for to help battle the disease, because so much of your life is out of your control.”
The track coach has been going to these sessions and is

thinking about setting up sessions for just his track team to use visualization and controlled breathing to help develop their skills.
For those who think this sounds silly, professor Wellik said, “Just come and try it once and talk to someone who has been doing it for a while.”
The people who come get a good feeling from it. They are commercial bankers and business owners as well as

students, faculty and staff on campus. “It has been very positive for them to take that time out of their day to work on themselves,” Randolph said.
Randolph also said people believe they can’t do purposeful meditation. But it depends on what meditation they are trying to do. If they are trying to float off the ground or talk to spirits in another world, it won’t be beneficial to use meditation.
“The reality is that we meditate every day,” Randolph said. “It’s called sleep, because our brain is still active while we sleep but our body is not. In guided meditation, we find that sleep state in a conscious, intentional way.”

“I was diagnosed with stage four cancer last year and for me it’s been a tool that I can reach for to help battle the disease because so much of your life is out of your control.”

Doug Randolph
Practices Qigong Meditation

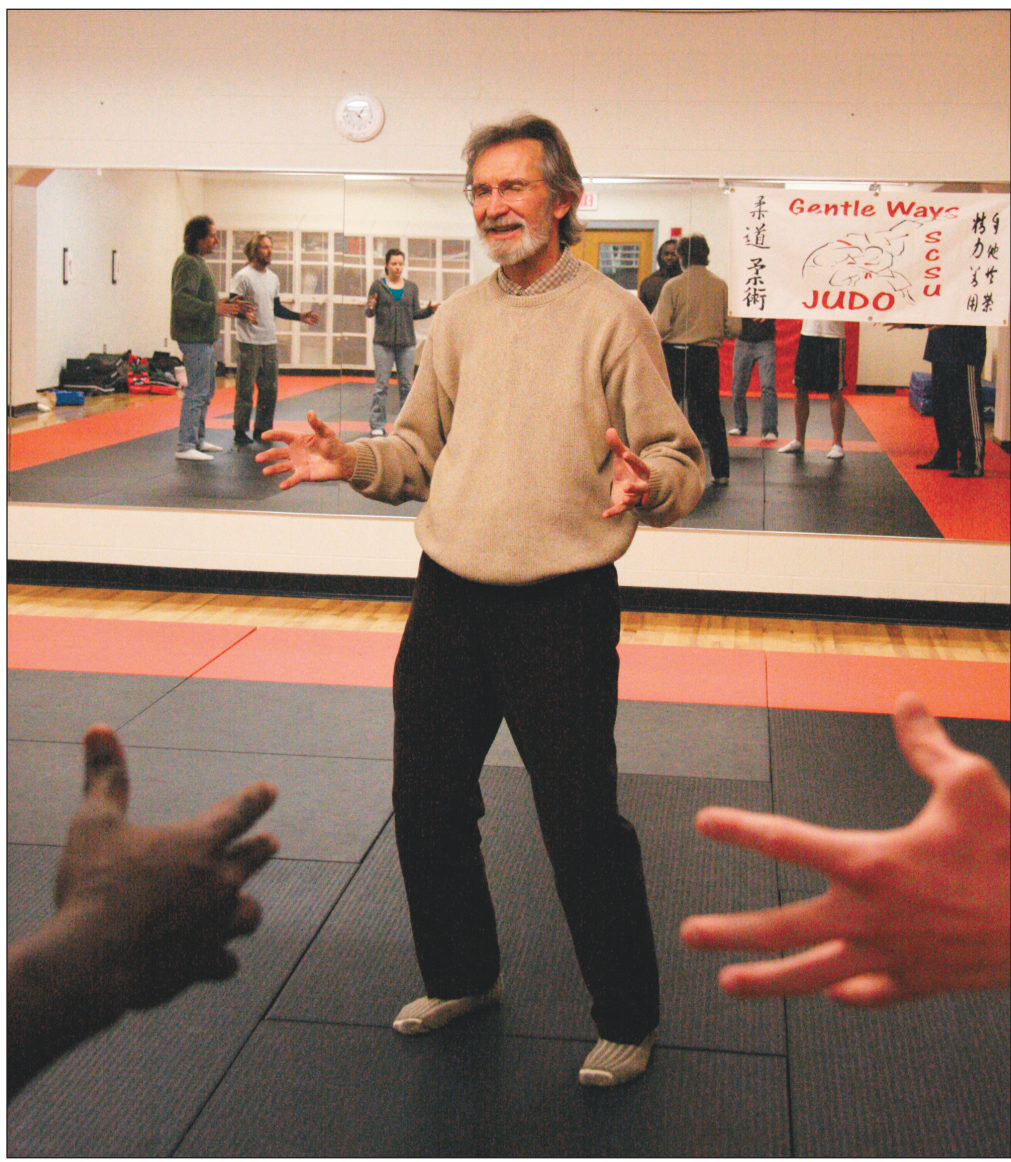
Culture night

Continued from Page 1

how Muslims settled down in the sub-continent during the early centuries, which led to the creation of Pakistan.
The presentation included a brief description of Indus Valley civilization, which thrived in the region that includes what today is known as Pakistan, India and Afghanistan.
Writings and complex water and drainage systems discovered during this civilization period have continued to fascinate the world since they were discovered.
This presentation was followed by a traditional

dance. The event also included a dinner with multiple Pakistani delicacies in buffet fashion.
A video presentation of well known Pakistanis gathered the loudest cheers from the crowd, especially when the video flashed some of the cricketers that Pakistan has produced.
Cricket is a game that is followed passionately in Pakistan and some of the finest talent cricket has ever produced comes from Pakistan.
A moment of silence was observed at the beginning of the event to show solidarity

for the recent attacks on Sri Lankan cricketers in Pakistan.
The event ended with a fashion show showcasing the traditional costumes of women and men from Pakistan. Participants in this fashion show included Western and South Asian students.
Lyncol Tamariz, a graduate student and native of Peru who attended the event, said the event was a good learning curve for him.
“I think it is important to learn new things and try new culture, and events like this provide a good platform for us to learn,” Tamariz said. “My country is also known for spicy food, but the final taste of this spices is different between our countries, something that I discovered today.” He said he was looking forward to the evening as one his friends was performing for the event.



JAKOB GILK/VISUALS EDITOR

Jerry Wellik leads a group in an exercise called “breathing of the universe” Tuesday in the martial arts room in Halenbeck Hall.

Twitter

Continued from Page 1

technology and its continuous flow of new applications.
An employee from the Minneapolis division of Weber Shandwick, the largest public relations firm in the world, came to speak in professor Lisa Heinrich’s Public Relations 438 senior capstone class and he said that Twitter

is becoming more popular because it acts similarly to a blog in that users can update information that might be of use to clients or co-workers and that “anything that you can put on your resume to make you stand out is good,” and new media seems to be one of those elements presently.

Businesses are not the only ones jumping on the “tweeting” band wagon, stars such as Shaquille O’Neal have their own Twitter sites as well and use them to keep fans closer to the action of their daily lives.
The PRSSA organization at SCSU has created a Twitter account as well.
Some people are still not convinced. As Timo Miller, a senior at SCSU said, “I have heard about it, but I am not that interested in joining as I already have a Facebook and a MySpace page.”

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SCSU participates in health survey

Kalpana Dahal

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Minnesota schools helped conduct a student health survey to find out about the general health of their students last month.

The survey went from February 16 until March 31 and was conducted by the Boynton Health Service, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

“Creating a healthy community by working with students, faculty and staff of the University of Minnesota to achieve physical, emotional and social well-being” is the mission of Boynton Health Service.

There are 10 schools that participated this year: Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Bemidji State University, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, Minnesota State Community and Technical College—Moorhead, Normandale Community College, North Hennepin Community College,

FAST FACTS

* 10 schools participated in the survey.

*The survey measured eight key areas of student health.

*25,077 students were invited to participate.

*The survey was developed by Boynton Health Service.

Northwest Technical College, Riverland Community College, University of the Virgin Islands and SCSU.

After taking a random sample of 25 percent to 50 percent students from each school depending on the total number of students enrolled in the school, students are selected for the survey.

A total of 25,077 undergraduate and graduate students from 14 Minnesota colleges and universities were invited to participate in the college health survey.

E-mails and postcards with unique usernames and passwords were sent to those

selected students. Just for completing the survey, students were entered into a prize drawing, which will be April 3.

Three students will win gift cards worth \$3,000, \$1,000 and \$500 to any combination of the stores: Target, Best Buy, Macy's, Home Depot, IKEA, The Apple Store, Tiffany & Co., Sports Authority, Scheel's, and Cabela's every two weeks.

Plus, students who have completed the survey will have a chance to win an iPod touch hand held computer.

The survey was developed by Boynton Health

Service at the University of Minnesota in 2005 and in 2006, 12 additional Minnesota colleges and universities were surveyed with the help of a grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Since then they have conducted the survey at over 35 post-secondary education institutions in Minnesota.

It was designed to give postsecondary institutions a comprehensive look at the health of their students which measures eight key areas: health insurance and health care utilization, mental health, alcohol and other drug use, tobacco use, personal safety, financial health, nutrition and physical activity and sexual health.

The survey collected a wide variety of health status and health behavior information, as well as information on the academic impact of those two areas.

“Our hope is that schools will use this information to improve or create programs or policies which will im-

prove the health and academic performance of their students,” said Maria Rudie, associate program director of health marketing and promotion for Boynton Health Service.

The 2008 health survey's implications included that Minnesota institutions of higher education must help their students develop the skills and knowledge to function with a global perspective, appreciate the value of community and civic engagement and experience the benefits of living in a diverse world.

To realize these missions, the schools must provide an environment that helps safeguard and improve student health so students can fully participate in all aspects of academic life and also be prepared to become productive members of society once they graduate.

For more information visit <http://www.bhs.umn.edu/healthsurvey/index.htm>.

Peer educators

Continued from Page 1

adviser, said in an e-mail. “I think they did a great job in a short amount of time.”

Peer Educators' mission statement is “Dedicated to increasing awareness in areas of health and wellness; encouraging safer behaviors and choices; encouraging positive healthy lifestyles, and promoting healthy minds and bodies,” Shafer said.

There are other colleges that run safety awareness campaigns around spring break and can apply for the grant.

“Any college or university is eligible in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota,” Zutz said.

The requirements to be

eligible for the NCCCHA grant include that the applicant's institution must be in good standing with NCCCHA and have a project or program that relates to college health.

“It was primarily an awareness campaign with a lot of promotional items and it will continue throughout the semester,” Shafer said.

The 12 members of Peer Educators are doing some post-spring break evaluating of the campaign.

“It is definitely an ongoing process throughout the rest of the school year. It is difficult to change behaviors, but we will focus on educating and increase awareness through various pro-

grams and outreach activities,” Zutz said.

Peer Educators chose to do a spring break campaign because of NCCCHA's schedule. They hold two meetings a year to review applications and the timing was best to do a spring break campaign.

According to the SCSU health services Web site, Peer Educators are “a dynamic group of SCSU students who are involved in health education and health promotion activities around campus.

“They are responsible for programming, planning events, marketing and education around a variety of health issues concerning SCSU students. They are involved in planning for Alcohol Awareness Week, Sexual Responsibility Week, Great American Smokeout, World AIDS Day, etc.”

Another event hosted by Peer Educators is a health fair that will be Wednesday, April 22 in Atwood. It is free and open to the public.

Silent auction

Continued from Page 1

students to actually practice the skills,” Karasik said.

“I like more hands-on class work, where you can go out and do it, not just read about it,” Bensen said. “Our work days on Thursdays are focused on raising money.”

Other fundraisers and events are held through Karasik's class as well.

“In the class, there are four groups: grants, fundraising, publicity and sales,” Bensen said.

On April 9, a barbecue will be held and two Minnesota Vikings cheerleaders are coming to SCSU. It will be

in Barden Park.

Students who get their picture taken with the cheerleaders from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. will raise more money for the project. The pictures cost \$5, and the money goes toward the Kaleidoscope Playground.

KCLD radio station will play music and students who attend have a chance to win an autographed football jersey.

For more information about the silent auction or the upcoming events, contact professor Rona Karasik at 320-308-5224.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TODAY

• On the Verge

At 8 p.m. on the Performing Arts Center Arena Stage. Multiple performances from March 31 to April 5.

FRIDAY

• First Amendment Forum

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Atwood Little Theatre. Religion in the media will be discussed by media professionals.

• Employer Feedback Fridays

From 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Centennial Hall room 215. A Career Services program designed to give students direct contact with knowledgeable employers.

SATURDAY

• Nepal Night 2009

At 5 p.m. in Ritsche Auditorium, hosted by Nepalese Student Association. The program will showcase various performances designed to reflect Nepali culture and tradition. The program will be followed by a dinner buffet featuring authentic cuisine.

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MS

Carole, diagnosed in 2005
Geoffrey, diagnosed in 1987

Media outlets reporting too much unimportant news

This week, AOL News dedicated a glorified news story to rumors surrounding Michelle Obama.

Is the pregnant? Well, no. Does she want to become pregnant? Nope, she set that record straight on Oprah. But still, AOL News feels it is necessary to start an online poll asking “Should the Obamas have another child?” as if it is really up to the AOL customer base.

AOL is not the only news organization guilty of headlining frivolous news stories. The AP wire has dedicated a handful of stories this past month to the now-infamous “Octomom,” Nadya Suleman, the woman who gave birth to the longest-surviving set of octuplets.

CNN, also guilty of this frivolous news, thought it was news in itself that they used a hologram to present the election results in their election night coverage; they created a news story about how they cover news.

For the last year consumers have seen headlines of stories that simply do not matter from every mainstream media source. In fact, if someone could find a mainstream media outlet that is not guilty of headlining ridiculous news, please, let me know.

The following is a list of “news” stories that I wish I had not seen or heard of, keep in mind these were classified as “news” by media outlets.

Obama is obsessed with his BlackBerry, their family bought their first puppy and Michelle Obama’s fashion sense is not traditional.

Tony Romo cheats on Jessica Simpson, she gains weight from it.

Barry Bonds and Alex Rodriguez use steroids.

Michael Phelps hits a bong and “Twilight” star Kristen Stewart is also photographed smoking pot.

Sarah Palin’s post-election coverage; she was interviewed in front of a turkey being killed.

Seriously, the list goes on and on. But what I am more concerned about is the news stories that citizens are missing out on simply because “news” such as this is consuming media resources.

As a result of the 2003 invasion in Iraq over one million Iraqis have died. This

Dana Johnson



News Editor

figure was not researched or discovered by American media. A British polling group, Opinion Research Business (ORB) did that reporting. Another poll conducted by ORB revealed that approximately 80 percent of Iraqi deaths are directly U.S. perpetrated.

Many people also believe now that since Barack Obama is in office we no longer need to worry about the war in Iraq. They are overlooking the fact that the military budget is still expanding and wars of occupation and aggression will likely continue.

Obama has kept in place the outgoing administrations’ Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. In order to end this war we need to keep our government under scrutiny even if there is a new administration. Mainstream media is not helping citizens do this.

I’m a journalism major and an avid consumer of media, yet I did not hear anything about these continued problems in Iraq until I found Project Censored. Led by Peter Phillips and Andrew Roth, Project Censored is managed through the department of sociology at Sonoma State University. This eye-opening organization has been printing “The Top 25 Censored Stories” of the year since 1996 in a book once a year, while updating their Web site www.projectcensored.org frequently.

Their current headlines are appalling: “Global Starvation Ignored by American Policy Elites,” “Security and Prosperity Partnership: Militarized NAFTA,” and “Seizing War Protesters’ Assets.” Project Censored also goes to extremes to try to keep the mainstream media in line. Currently they are conducting a study of a bias that may exist in the Associated Press.

It is sad that an organization such as this even needs to exist. There should not even be a question as to whether or not media is doing its job in bringing citizens the news they need to hear.

As consumers, though, we also need to hold the media accountable for what they are reporting on. Think twice before you click on that AOL news story about Jessica Simpson’s “baby bump,” think about the news you really should be getting.

The opinions expressed on the Commentary and Opinions pages are not necessarily those of the college, university system or student body.

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First Amendment Forum to be held Friday about religion in news

This Friday in the Atwood Little Theatre, the SCSU Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) chapter and the department of mass communications will present the 37th annual First Amendment Forum titled “Reporting God? Religion, News and Freedom.”

The event is free and begins at 9 a.m. with a keynote presentation by University of Washington professor and author of books, “The God Strategy: How Religion Became a Weapon in American Politics,” and “God Willing? Political Fundamentalism in the White House, the ‘War on Terror,’ and the Echoing Press,” David Domke.

Following Domke’s presentation of “Religion as a Political Weapon” at 10 a.m. is a panel discussion on news media and religion, featuring Allie Shah of the Star Tribune, Ambar Espinoza of Minnesota Public Radio, David Unze of the St. Cloud Times, SCSU professor of religious studies Joseph Edelheit and professor Hassam Mohamud of the Islamic University of Minnesota.

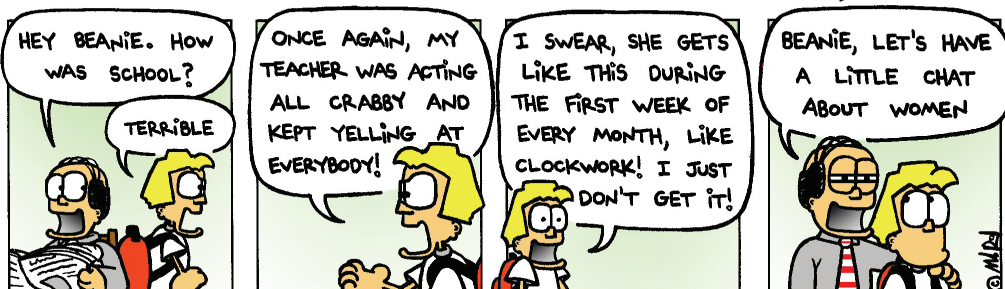
After the panel discussion will be the presentation of the Defense of the First Amendment Award from Robert Shaw of the Minnesota Newspaper Association to SCSU mass communications professor and University Chronicle adviser, Michael Vadnie.

After an hour lunch break at 12:15 p.m., another panel will present, discussing how news media covers communities of faith. This panel features Diana and Dawn Madsen of the Spirit 92.9 Morning Show, Julie Opoti of African newspaper of Minnesota — Msale, Mordecai Specktor of the American Jewish World, editor of the Twin Cities Archdiocese newspaper The Catholic Spirit and the St. Cloud Diocese newspaper The Visitor, Joe Towalski and consultant Nehrwr Abdul-Wahid.

The presentation will forum will conclude at 3:30 p.m.

Anyone interested in attending the forum is welcome.

BEANIE



Stem cells give life, not death

The ongoing debate in Republican and Christian circles over the use of embryonic stem cells in research for otherwise incurable diseases is puzzling and hypocritical.

The National Association for the Advancement of Preborn Children recently accused President Obama of violating constitutional rights of a frozen embryo and “enslaving” it like the Nazis did Jews during the Holocaust.

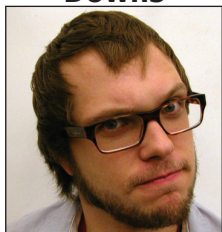
Their lawsuit suggests that “government funding of human embryo stem cell research and experimentation is what led to the Nazi experimentation on concentration camp prisoners during World War II.”

These religious nuts are not only completely ridiculous and scientifically ignorant, but they’re apparently also anti-Semitic.

The fact of the matter is that embryonic stem cells have real potential to reverse the painful, crippling effects of increasingly common dis-

eases like Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s and diabetes.

Andy Downs



Opinions Editor

This would in turn give people who are already alive and capable of feeling pain and suffering a second chance at living their life. But these anti-stem cell groups call it murder of “human life.” The last time I checked, human life consists of more than 50 to 150 cells.

These groups are adamantly against this type of “murder” but are also completely willing to send young,

100 trillion-celled human life to war, knowing full well there will be real-life casualties.

But don’t worry, these religious circles who hate potentially curing dreadful diseases can justify the death of soldiers and civilians in war by praying for their safety.

Instead of praying for the soldiers they know are likely going to die, how about praying for the Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s sufferers who are being denied a likely cure to their miseries.

Well, that would just be a nose dive further into hypocrisy. You can’t pray for them to get better when you’re already praying for federal judges to basically kill them.

And if “enslaving” embryos is just like Jews being enslaved during the Holocaust, what about those being actually enslaved by degenerative neurological diseases? They probably wouldn’t stoop to a comparison like that.

What ever happened to helping the meek?

Praying now available online

A new form of religious exploitation — or help, as it’s marketed — has emerged.



Ashlee Dent

InformationAgePrayer.com has created a revolutionary way to have your prayers said without you ever having to lift a lip. For a small fee, their computers will voice pre-selected requests to your choice of Allah, Yahweh or God.

The company explains, “We use state of the art text to speech synthesizers to voice each prayer at a volume and speed equivalent to [sic] typical person praying.”

This quote comes straight

from their Web site. Please note the mistype of there being no “a” before the word “typical.”

If they can mess up their own advertising, what of your precious prayers? No one’s perfect, but if this company is truly inspired by the Holiest of Holies, wouldn’t he gently point out this error to make them look a bit more legitimate?

Maybe he, just like the users of this service, is just too busy, tired or forgetful to say anything.

One option saps — or in their words, “customers” — have is to pay for prayers for their health. Along with this possibility, the makers of this scam suggest that users “Make God’s task easy and always see and follow direc-

tions of a medical doctor!”

Great idea. You’d hate to burden God with the difficult chore of having to completely cure someone all by himself, wouldn’t you?

My favorite available prayer of theirs, however, is for “Economic Stability.” You can have a machine ask this of God at the “discounted rate” of only \$3.95 a month.

Thank heavens for this low, low rate. In this economy, you’d hate to see people throwing away their money.

On a more serious note, I guess I shouldn’t be surprised that people are now programming computers to pray for them.

Religion has been programming people to pray for millennia.

Quote of the Day:

“Medical science has proven time and again that when the resources are provided, great progress in the treatment, cure and prevention of disease can occur.”

Michael J. Fox

Stem cell advocate and Parkinson’s sufferer

Letters to the Chronicle

Tobacco not at fault for health problems

One way to recognize the “smoking ban crusade” as a fraud is in the alleged desire to “protect workers” (even ones who don’t want protection). Where else do we see the corporate establishment protecting workers? Virtually nowhere.

Plus, workers are arbitrarily not protected from other indoor pollutants, even the most well-known harmful ones like chlorine bleaches and disinfectants, pesticides, toxic emissions from treated wood and plastics, etc. Arbitrary law is automatically unjust law.

We have not yet been told why typical cigarettes are so harmful — as compared to plain tobacco which, apparently, has not yet been studied for real or even potential harms.

Researchers “studied” undefined, unanalyzed smoking products contaminated with

any of 450 tobacco pesticide residues with dioxin-creating chlorine substances; PO-210 radiation from still-legal (!) phosphate fertilizers; burn-accelerants; addiction-enhancing, kid-attracting additives; and with any of about 1,400 untested, often toxic non-tobacco additives, which perhaps do not contain even a shred of tobacco. They then conclude that “tobacco kills”!

Anyone in Science 101 who submitted such work would be kicked out of school. Or, perhaps hired by the chlorine/pesticide/etc. industries to help cover up their crimes.

Interestingly though, cigarettes are *not* required to contain tobacco, unless it says so on the package. They may well be made from industrial waste cellulose camouflaged to seem like tobacco—with a measured shot of nicotine added, of course. Google “U.S. Patent 3978866” for just one

example.

Google “Fauxbacco” for more; things the anti-smoke and pro-smoke sides will not mention.

Bottom line is that smoking bans *help* the cigarette cartel (including pesticides, chlorine, additives, pharmaceutical, etc. and all their insurers and investors) evade liabilities and charges for its biggest crime: Product adulteration with some of the worst industrial pollutants on Earth, secretly poisoning and experimenting upon millions of people without informed consent.

Smoking bans are about distracting, about blaming the victims and about scapegoating a conveniently “sinful” natural plant.

John Jonik
Philadelphia, Penn.

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Street light safety issue resolved by Mayor Kleis

Tim Stang



Asst. Sports Editor

I would like to applaud Mayor Dave Kleis, city engineer Stephen Gaetz, Xcel Energy and the City of St. Cloud for their fast action on a safety concern that I made them aware of this week.

After walking home from downtown on Sunday night, I noticed that there were at least 16 straight streetlights out on Fifth Avenue between the Miller Center and Division Street. These lights were without power for a minimum of three weeks.

Fifth Avenue is a road on which a lot of students travel by foot at night, either heading north from the Miller Center or south from downtown. Not lighting this area was a definite safety issue that had the capability of affecting students in a negative way if it was not addressed.

In 2007 the City of St. Cloud reported 3,208 “Part I Offenses” which were defined as murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson. Included in those 3,208 offenses were 2,467 cases of larceny. Where do the majority of these types of offenses take place?

Where an area is poorly lit or not lit at all, such as Fifth Avenue. So I took it upon myself to let some community leaders know about the situation.

Monday morning I sent out an e-mail to a few prominent members of the community of St. Cloud including the mayor, President Potter of SCSU and the chief of police. I told them about the situation, why I thought there was reason to be concerned about the lack of lighting and I asked if the school had ever requested the lights to be fixed.

Within six hours I heard from three members of the city’s administration including Kleis who told me “public safety is our city’s top priority.” Gaetz told me that the city just became aware of the lights not working and that they would be fixed that night. And they were fixed by Tuesday night.

I still have not heard from either Chief Ballantine or President Potter.

While sad that no one from the city could notice 16 consecutive lights out, especially on a road that is visible from city hall, it was still impressive how fast Kleis, Gaetz and others involved corrected the situation.

But still several questions remain. Where were the St. Cloud police? They travel Fifth Avenue routinely and not one could think, “Hey there are no lights here, maybe I should tell the city about this one.”

I understand they have a busy job writing “seasonal/winter” parking tickets when it is 40 degrees but it would not have taken too much energy or time to tell someone at city hall about the lack of lighting if they truly care about the safety of SCSU students.

Where was SCSU Public Safety? They are on this campus to ensure the safety of students. They travel the road quite a bit as well and could have notified the city about a lack of lighting on a major stretch of campus.

Lastly, where were the students of SCSU? It should not have taken so long for the city to become aware of the situation. Anyone can e-mail or call the mayor.

I encourage any students who see potential safety concerns in the city to go straight to Mayor Kleis. It appears he is willing to listen to our concerns and will act on them if necessary.

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PAGE 7

Worst bicycle films ever

Jack Hennes

FILM COLUMN

Now that spring is struggling to emerge in central Minnesota, it is time to start thinking about busting out that old bicycle.

If you have that itching to take your Huffy for a spin, hopefully you'll enjoy this list. Well here they are, the moment you've all been waiting for: The absolute worst bicycling movies ever made. (Best enjoyed under the influence.)

5. Breaking Away (1979)

A young Dennis Quaid stars in this 1979 cycling classic, where four friends attempt to "break away" from their hometown of Bloomington, Ind. after graduating high school.

Dave Stoller (Quaid) plays an ambitious teenager with a strangely amusing infatuation with an Italian cycling team.

Stoller and his friends Mike (Quaid), Cyril (Daniel Stern) and Moocher (yes, that's really his name in the movie) feud with pompous college cyclists who attend Indiana University.

When his beloved Italian cycling team comes to town for a race, they hilariously shove a bike pump in the spokes of Dave's wheel.

Dave's bike wheel buckles and he is thrown into the ditch.

Before long, Dave enters Indiana University's "Little 500" bicycle race with his team, The Cutters, and proves his cardiovascular system is superior by nearly lapping the competition.

Dave is injured and his team loses ground, but eventually tapes himself to his bike and dramatically comes back to win the race.

"Breaking Away" gloriously showcases the cheese factor of cycling, Indiana and the fantastic duo of Dennis Quaid and Daniel Stern.

The inspirational aspect of this film is enough to bring back the nostalgic sports memories of middle-aged men, an aspect that helped it win an Oscar for best screenplay.

With any luck, this Oscar-winning film might inspire you to trash your bike and question whether members of the Academy are cocaine addicts or just hopeless in general.

4. American Flyers (1985)

This amazingly bad flick stars a young Kevin Costner and some guy named David Marshall Grant.

While Grant has proved he is only good enough for TV, Costner elegantly plays a doctor at Wisconsin State University (which is pretend) in Madison, Wisc.

Marcus Summers (Costner) convinces his emotionally unstable brother David (Grant) to move to Madison and train for "The Hell of the West," a grueling bicycle race across the Rocky Mountains.

Marcus conceals the fact that he carries the same hereditary cerebral tumor that took the life of their father.

Marcus feels the effects of the tumor during the second heat of the race and is forced to quit.

One must note the hilarious wobbling of Marcus' bicycle as he attempts to climb the mountains with blood spilling from his mouth.

David ends up dramatically finishing the race in first place to show that winning in cycling events is the only way to overcome cerebral tumors.

At 113 minute long, this film has an uncanny brain melting factor that begins in the opening scene and lasts until the credits are done rolling.

Observing Costner's porn mustache is just as satisfying as the entire film. Full of sexual innuendos and dry jokes, this film is certainly one of the worst ever.

3. Quicksilver (1986)

Kevin Bacon stars in this worthless film with a mediocre '80s soundtrack that helps it from gaining a higher position on this list.

Jack Casey (Bacon) loses everything after a risky decision on Wall Street.

In search of a new job and a new way of life, Jack takes a job delivering mail with Kurtzweil's Quicksilver Express Co., Ltd.

Jack befriends many members of the bicycle culture and struggles with the decision of helping his coworkers through their problems with drug dealers.

If the acting wasn't bad enough, a "bicycling dancing" montage occurs in the middle of the film and lasts for nearly 10 minutes.

In this montage, area cyclists perform tricks and bal-

ance on handlebars as a group of about 30 barflies cheer and egg them on.

Another dancing scene occurs in the film, featuring Jack on his bike and his girlfriend on foot.

Kevin Bacon obviously should have stuck to movies like "Footloose," as this is by far the most amusing scene in the whole film.

A fact becomes apparent to the audience while watching this scene; Kevin Bacon and Kenny Loggins will once again rule the world. The film is almost worth watching just to observe Kevin Bacon's goblin-like facial features.

2. Rad (1986)

Apparently 1986 was the year for bad bicycle movies.

Introducing now "Masterpiece Theatre" star Bill Allen as Christopher "Cru" Jones, its unfortunate how "Rad" was entirely shot in full sunlight (actors are squinting in every scene).

Cru is jazzed when Team Mongoose decides to have an ultimate BMX and trick bike race called "Helltrack" in his hometown of Cochran.

Cru and his friends enjoy cruising the streets with their mini trick bikes and evading the town cop.

They also a simple pleasure of Cochran; ass slidin'.

Cru's friends enjoy ass slidin' in the morning, the afternoon, at night and whenever the hell they want.

But in one scene in the film Cru proclaims, "I wanna wait for my ass slidin' with somebody special."

If the insanely stupid

couldn't get any worse, Cru meets a sexy young woman on Team Mongoose.

Cru and this woman attend the high school dance and perform graceful tricks under spotlights to the amusement of the whole school (why does every '80s cycling movie include bike dancing?)

Cru shows off his fantastic BMX skills in the preliminary rounds and gains his spot in the final competition with the best cyclist in the world, Bart Taylor.

The corrupt Team Mongoose owner attempts to keep Cru from racing in the final because he threatens the company from gaining a huge marketing deal bearing Bart Taylor's name.

In the end, Cru is sponsored by his hick town mayor and gains eligibility in the final race.

Cru tears up the competition but takes a spill in the second to last lap. Cru comes back "like a bat outta hell" and is eventually neck and neck with Bart Taylor after a back flip (the back flip inspires the announcer to proclaim, "Oh my heart a back flip! Hulk Hogan eat your heart out!")

Cru ends up winning in dramatic fashion and ends up inviting Bart Taylor into Team Rad.

If you wish to enjoy the brain dripping of "Rad" for yourself, expect to pay up to \$100 as only one set of laser-disc and VHS copies were ever released.

1. The Dirt Bike Kid (1985)

Yeah okay, this movie is about a motorcycle. but it's worse than all the others combined.

Peter Billingsley, best known for his role as Ralphie in "A Christmas Story," stars in this (for lack of a better word) piece of crap movie.

Watch with caution as this movie may cause you to twitch irritably and shift in your seat.

I have often experienced the common brain exploding mental state, I do not experience the common brain exploding this film does to people.

Jack Simmons (Billingsley) trades \$50 of his mother's grocery money and his new bicycle for a dirt bike.

Jack soon finds out that this bike is very special (the dirt bike has two headlamps which act as eyes and can also travel by itself. It often shows displeasure by revving its engine).

After rubbing mud off his new dirt bike, Jack takes it for a spin and discovers that it can fly and evade biker gangs who show up randomly throughout the film (even in a front yard).

Along with his magical dirt bike, Jack saves his little league baseball coach's restaurant from being destroyed for the new location of Hodgkins Bank.

The audience will feel as though they are suffering from Hodgkins disease as they watch and hopefully become more aware of the way our world works; man can only accomplish great things with magical machines.

Music fests of 2009

Ryan Brink

MUSIC COLUMN

Woodstock Music Festival brought us the summer of love in 1969, with three days of peace and music, the first and only truly successful Woodstock.

After that, nothing what so ever has compared to the popularity and success of such a festival.

But recently, the popularity of music festivals have been sky rocketing, in particular the summer of 2009 seems to be a heaven for anyone looking for a three-day music binge.

Now that most line-ups are set in stone and completely ready to get the ball rolling, the rumors have been buzzing about Woodstock '09.

The festival has not been held in 10 years; besides the 1994 event that marked a 25th anniversary, 2009 would be a 40th anniversary bash.

But what to choose? With line-ups getting better and better, slowly approaching a second summer of love, which is the one to go to without Woodstock giving any clues?

Rothbury, taking place in Michigan, is marking only its second year and has one impressive cast.

Headliners are The Dead, Bob Dylan and his band, The String Cheese Incident and Willie Nelson & Family. It sounds like a party from the past all coming back together.

Bonnaroo, in Tennessee, has been one of the more popular festivals in recent times, with massive amounts of musicians and even greater amounts of people every single year.

They have Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, Phish, Beastie Boys and Nine Inch Nails, not to mention more than 30 other excellent bands that will be playing in the ungodly heat.

A much closer and popular Midwest music binge is 10,000 Lakes Festival, in Detroit Lakes, with its ever growing cast of musicians.

Headliners Dave Matthews Band, Widespread Panic, Wilco and Umphrey's McGee are taking over the lakes this summer.

The musicians are hot and growing faster than ever, and



PHOTO COURTESY OF WORDPRESS.COM

The mother of all music festival, Woodstock 1969.

these are only a couple lists of the larger parties. And a new festival is popping up in every corner of America, name any genre and there's an adventure for it.

But how did these all come about and what's with the craze? We still and will always thank Max Yagsur for opening up his 600 acres in New York and inviting over 500,000 people to celebrate Woodstock in 1969.

The idea was for people to escape the chaos of the real world and come relax and enjoy a peaceful weekend of good music.

And that's exactly what they got, besides two deaths, but making up for it with two births, which people saw as a beautiful sign.

This line-up consisted of rock and roll all-stars The Who, Jimi Hendrix, The Grateful Dead, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, Janis Joplin, Jefferson Airplane and much, much more.

Since then, none of the two other Woodstocks held have been nearly as successful, nor as peaceful.

The last one in 1999 turned into Hell on earth and completely ruined the title of three days of peace and music.

As if Satan himself came to the party and turned every single soul into devilish creatures, torching urinals, burning garbage bins and fighting among the mud piles; a true anarchist's dream.

This has gone down in history as the single most unsuccessful festival ever held, even though oddly enough, its forefather held the best festival in human history under the same title.

So the rumors fly about a fourth Woodstock, another attempt to bring back the summer of love and with line-ups being as excellent as they are this summer, it's highly possible.

Another successful

Woodstock is entirely possible; they just need to get a more original feeling cast out there.

Get The Who again, get Led Zeppelin and The Rolling Stones, The Dead, Phish, Willie Nelson, Bob Dylan and Neil Young. It's all possible, but would they all agree after the last flop?

Let's have 2009 be the

summer of love junior; we just need the freedom and

feel that existed back in the

day, some genuine musicians,

good tunes and a fresh buzz,

we're in business.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTOBUCKET.COM

Lady GaGa's "The Fame" lacks talent and has doomed music in general.

Lady GaGa's 'The Fame' an insult to music, talent

Joseph Froemming

ALBUM REVIEW

Lady GaGa is not a musician, nor can her racket be considered music. This is a musical failure that should have been rejected to enter the social fabric of the U.S.

Her album, "The Fame," is shockingly awful. It is torture on the ears and an abomination to music in general.

Yet, she is the logical extension of a new era of "music" made by people who seem to hate music. Plastic beats, plastic vocals and a seemingly plastic person singing the vocals are the essence that is Lady GaGa.

She is not alone. Lily Allen is another example of musical failure that is somehow popular. It seems that at the tail end and the beginning of a new decade, people rush to listen to fake, awful music. Music whose purpose is to force a listener NOT to think.

Just think back to 1999 and remember the biggest selling act of the time. N*SYNC's "No Strings Attached" sold more albums than anyone that year (probably even that decade) and now someone could not sell their copy used for more than a quarter, and that would be considered more like charity than anything else.

The power of music is that it is supposed to hit a chord, emotionally, within a listener.

Yet, Lady GaGa and her ilk are making music that denies people any emotion. It is Muzak for the numb.

Lady GaGa's lyrics are about money, parties and other aspects that people in today's economy simply cannot relate to. She has money and she flaunts it in her fans' faces and they love her for it.

The album, as a whole, sounds the same throughout.

Any attempt to isolate tracks and relate the pros and

cons about them would be redundant.

Simply put: Lady GaGa is rich and parties. Paris Hilton already has that job in the States and we do not need more of that.

Going into this album objectively, this writer had not heard any of Lady GaGa's music before, nor had known much about her.

The 40-some minutes that followed was an experience best represented by the film "Pi," when the main character puts a drill into his skull.

Usually, most albums have a moment that is decent. "The Fame" does not. If there is, the endurance to find it would be equal to finding a nugget of gold in a river of dung.

If one is looking for mindless, emotionless music that is not techno, Lady GaGa is for them.

For everyone else, it is just another brick in the wall in the downfall of music.

Revco goes back to basics

Joseph Froemming
ALBUM REVIEW

A twisted, psychedelic sideshow of dance-drum heavy, distorted guitar-laden music, with lyrics more ob-scene than an adult message board sung with gravely vo-cals bring Revolting Cocks’ latest release, “Sex-O-Olym-pic-O” back to the sound which brought them to cult status nearly two decades ago.

Few acts from the late ‘80s and early ‘90s industrial music scene has survived.

Ministry’s main musi-cal architect, Al Jourgensen, made a crude “super group,” Revolting Cocks in the late ‘80s.

The band has had a re-volving door of strange bed fellows for their studio ef-forts.

Band members have in-cluded Trent Reznor of Nine



PHOTO COURTESY OF BIGTAKEOVER.COM

Revolting Cocks is an industrial super group.

Inch Nails, Rick Nielson and Robin Zander from Cheap Trick, Jello Biafra of Dead Kennedys fame, Butthole Surfers front man Gibby Haynes and ZZ Top’s guitar-ist Billy Gibbons.

This time around, Josh

Bradford, who joined the band in 2006, took the reins on lyric duty, usually re-served for Jourgensen, and brought the band back to their lewd glory days of al-bums such as “Beers, Steers and Queers,” and “Linger

Fickin’ Good.”

“Sex-O-Olympic-O” begins with a dance beat driven song called “Hook-erbot 3000” with a bass line that could cause someone to shake their so-called “thang” to.

This song blends the trance music sounds of Lords of Acid and the metal fury of Pantera.

The next track, “Keys to the City (Vegas Mix),” uses a bass line reminiscent of Nor-man Greenbaum’s “Spirit in the Sky,” and is given an epic, sports anthem vibe of a Gary Glitter/Queen style beat.

This is perhaps the catch-iest track on the album, with a chorus stating “I’m given keys to the city/ so I can hear you chant my name.” In be-tween verses and the chorus, Jourgensen’s ratty vocals simply demand vicodin.

The track, “I’m Not Gay,” is a tripped out, trance dance

tune that has a strange, hyp-notic element in its sound.

The song is not about bashing homosexuals, but the perspective is taken from a homophobic persona who has homosexual tendencies and is trying to suppress with right-wing anti-gay slogans in an attempt to brainwash himself.

The album is consistent and interesting, but offers nothing new to the industrial music genre.

If anything, Jourgensen and crew seemed to have re-verted to the formula which made their sound fresh in the late ‘80s.

They are not alone. Jour-gensen’s main group, Minis-try, recently disbanded.

Hisprotégé, TrentReznor, seems to have become bored with it and has been alluding to ending Nine Inch Nails af-ter this summer.

Other bands of this genre have either gone the way of

the buffalo or have become stagnant and unoriginal.

While it is nice to hear Revolting Cocks still making fun albums, it has a tinge of sadness to it as well.

Revolting Cocks began as a side project for the band members to do things musi-cally that they could not do in their other band.

Now it feels like indus-trial music’s equivalent to a mid-life crisis.

Despite the mixed feel-ings one can attain by over-analyzing this album, “Sex-O-Olympic-O” is still a strong album.

It may be going back to a formula that worked 20 years ago, but it still works fine.

This is a good album, but it falls far from the greatness this band once had.

It is better than every-thing Ministry has done in ten years and is better than 99 percent of what is played on commercial radio.

Risqué art at Pioneer Place



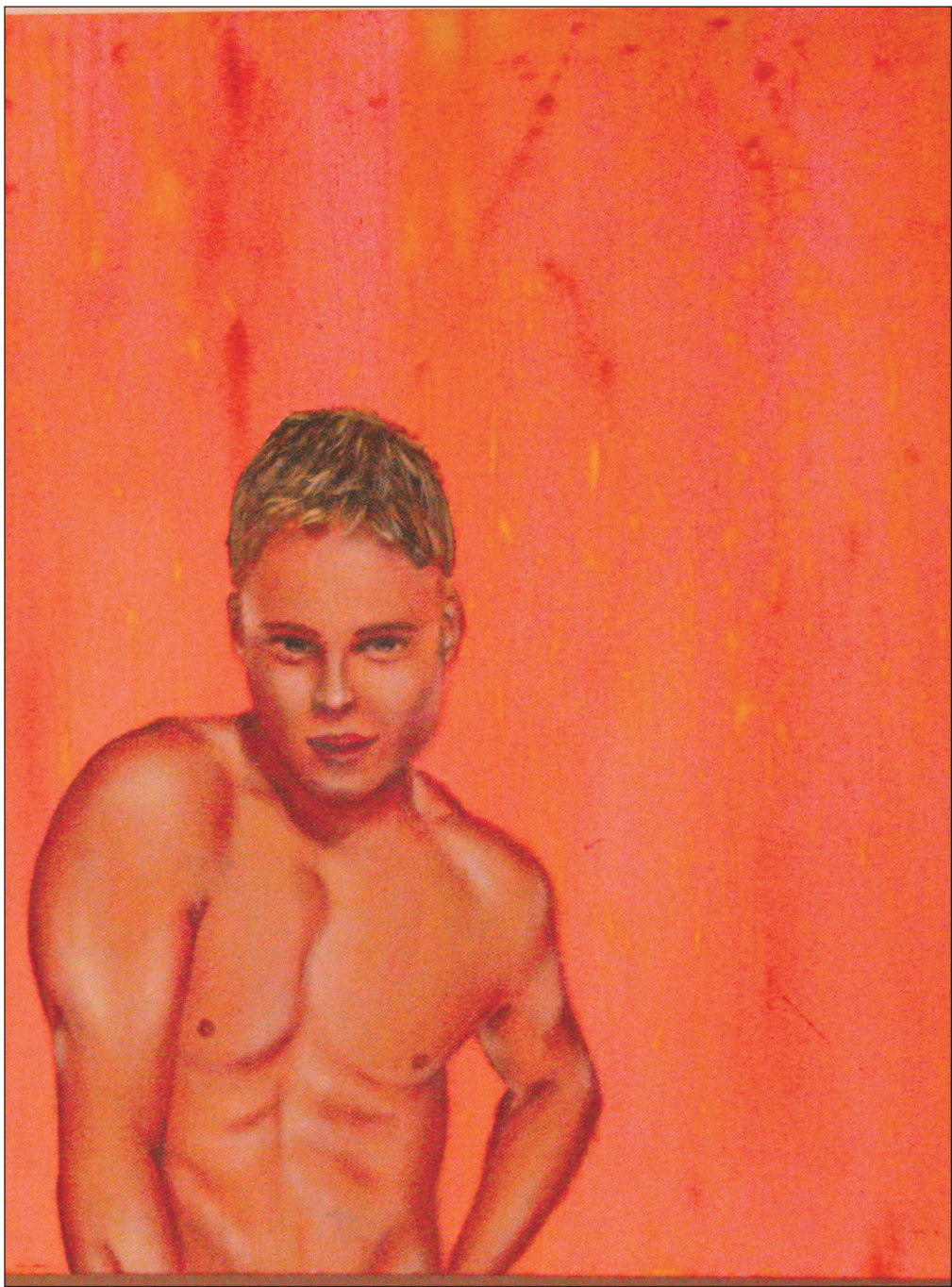
JAKOB GILK/ VISUALS EDITOR

“Pfizer Pinup” by Mark Smith was on display Monday evening at Pioneer Place on Fifth. It was part of the exhibit Risqué put on by students of SCSU.



JAKOB GILK/ VISUALS EDITOR

“Drag Jesus” by Kirissa Grams was part of the exhibit Monday night.



JAKOB GILK/ VISUALS EDITOR

“Real Men Love Pink” by Kelly Roering.

Thursday
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Merritt

Continued from Page 12

Costanzo believes has made Merritt a mat leader in one short year.

“I don’t know about myself expecting it [Merritt’s success], I think he expected it to be that good,” Costanzo said. “That’s what makes

him so good – he expects himself to win every time he’s out there. If he’s in the classroom, he expects a good grade. He’s just that type of person.”

Flying planes is Merritt’s hobby, but wrestling comes

“That’s what makes him so good - he expects himself to win every time he’s out there. If he’s in the classroom, he expects a good grade. He’s just that type of person”

Steve Costanzo

SCSU wrestling coach on Tad Merritt

Weather

Continued from Page 12

“Certainly challenging, but at the same time you have to empathize with the schools up in Fargo and Bismarck where the entire campus is shut down. Our challenges are not the same.

“We have coaches that are from the upper Midwest that know that this is always a possibility. Whatever it takes we are going to provide our student athletes with a safe environment to play games.”

Dolan and Kurtz both would like to see FieldTurf installed at Faber Field. Dolan said that many of the games the Huskies have moved could have been played here.

“I know I am passionate about this FieldTurf and I am passionate because it helps out student athletes and gives them a good experience. If it’s 40 degrees you take the brush and sweep it all off, there is no dirt on the field, you can get games in even if there is snow on the side. It’s really the answer,” Dolan said. “It’s not

only going to benefit St. Cloud but all the high schools that are practicing in the gymnasium right now. It will pay for itself within ten years. Youth baseball, men’s and youth soccer and flag football could all use the field. Minnetonka’s field is used 13-14 hours a day and it is only April.

“You don’t have irrigation, fertilization, and manpower to do all the field maintenance. We have to work with the city, with the River Bats with the amateur teams in the summer. There are no rainouts. It is so much easier sliding on it and easier on the jerseys.”

Kurtz said that he has toured facilities in throughout the Twin Cities and think FieldTurf will eventually be installed when the money is right.

“We have had discussions with the MAC. I think its something that everyone would be excited about when funding is available. It is not inexpensive.”

Kurtz added that SCSU has

second to none right now.

“I’m only going to be able to do it four more years of my life or I’ll have to either coach or start flying,” Merritt said. “I can fly for the rest of my life so I’m loving wrestling more right now.”

The Huskies are hoping that through Merritt’s leadership, he can help the team soar to a conference title and a run at the national championship next season.

“We’re extremely excited, just the fact we have leadership, and he’s a leader, he wants more for this team to be national champions than him personally,” Costanzo said. “That’s the kind of kid he is, wants the best for the team.”

“We already have a bunch of good recruits coming in this year and just like last year,” Merritt said. “We’re just going to keep getting better and aim for the national title.”

similar setups with Husky Stadium and the National Hockey Center.

“It would be no different than other facilities,” Kurtz said. “Come here in the fall and who is at Husky Stadium? Cathedral and Tech and Apollo. The football teams, the soccer teams. We are a university but we are also a resource for central Minnesota.”

SCSU schedule changes

Baseball

- March 21-22 vs. Minnesota-Crookston moved from St. Cloud to Freeman, S.D.
- March 28-29 at Mary (Bismarck, N.D.) cancelled.
- March 29 game added vs. UW-Superior at Minnetonka.
- April 4-5 vs. Minnesota-Duluth moved from St. Cloud to Austin.

Softball

- April 1 vs. Minnesota State-Mankato postponed until April 28.
- April 3 vs. Minnesota State-Moorhead moved from Moorhead to St. Cloud.
- April 5 vs. Minnesota-Crookston moved to St. Cloud.

Women’s tennis

- March 29 at Minnesota State-Moorhead cancelled.
- March 29 game added vs. Minnesota State-Mankato in St. Peter.

Football

Continued from Page 12

Underwood mentioned film study, offseason workouts and the lack of a full staff as reasons last spring was so tough. This year, though, things were different. “We added two coaches and had some continuity,” he said. “Everything was just smoother.”

Players noticed a change as well. “With me, as well, sometimes I winged it. Maybe he did too,” said senior quarterback Mitch Watkins.

“Everybody’s really comfortable with him now,” Geiss said. “We’re just gonna get better.”

With so much talent grad-

uating on the defensive side of the ball, Underwood and Watkins know the offense will have to step up much like the defense did last year.

The defense bailed us out a few times last year,” Watkins said. “If given the opportunity, I’d like to think we (the offense) could return the favor this year.”

Spring practice continues through April 24 when the spring game takes place at Husky Stadium. More information on the Huskies, and their spring schedule, can be found on the SCSU football Web site.



LISA SAARI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Quarterback Tye Dill takes snaps during Wednesday’s practice at the Husky Dome. The Huskies will host their annual spring game on April 24.

Sports Scoreboard

NCAA Division I Men's Hockey Frozen Four (at Washington)

April 9

Bemidji State vs Miami (OH) 5 p.m.
Boston U vs Vermont 8:30 p.m.

April 11

Winner of Bemidji State/Miami vs winner of Boston U/Vermont 7 p.m.

NBA Standings

Western Conference

Northwest

	W	L	PCT	GB
Denver	49	26	.653	-
Portland	47	27	.635	1.5
Utah	46	28	.622	2.5
Oklahoma City	21	53	.284	27.5
Minnesota	21	54	.280	28

Pacific

LA Lakers	58	16	.784	-
Phoenix	40	34	.541	18
Golden State	25	49	.338	33
LA Clippers	18	56	.243	40
Sacramento	16	57	.219	41.5

Southwest

San Antonio	48	26	.649	-
Houston	48	26	.649	-
New Orleans	48	27	.630	1.5
Dallas	44	30	.595	4
Memphis	19	54	.260	28.5

Eastern Conference

Atlantic

	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	56	19	.747	-
Philadelphia	38	35	.521	17
New Jersey	30	44	.405	25.5
New York	29	45	.392	26.5
Toronto	29	46	.427	27

Central

Cleveland	61	13	.824	-
Detroit	36	38	.486	25
Chicago	36	40	.474	26
Milwaukee	32	43	.427	29.5
Indiana	32	43	.427	29.5

Southwest

Orlando	55	19	.743	-
Atlanta	43	32	.573	12.5
Miami	39	35	.527	16
Charlotte	34	40	.459	21
Washington	17	58	.227	38.5



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Sports Scoreboard

Men's Basketball NSIC Standings

Team:	NSIC		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Wayne State (NE)	8	0	17	7
Minnesota State	8	0	15	9
Winona State	4	0	12	7
St. Cloud State	3	1	24	6
Augustana	5	2	13	7
SW MN State	0	0	10	1
Mary	0	0	3	17
Concordia St. Paul	1	3	20	6
Bemidji State	1	6	8	17
Minnesota Crookston	1	7	3	19
Minnesota Duluth	0	4	8	16
Upper Iowa	0	4	6	15
Northern State	0	4	4	12

Game Thursday
Briar Cliff at Wayne State (NE)
Games Friday (Double-headers)
Concordia St. Paul at Wayne State (NE)
Minnesota State at SW MN State
Bemidji State at Winona State
Games Saturday (Double-headers)
Minnesota Duluth at St. Cloud State in Austin
Bemidji State at Winona State
Minnesota Crookston at Upper Iowa
Concordia St. Paul at Wayne State (NE)
Mary at Northern State
Augustana at NW MO State
SW MN State at Minnesota State
Games Sunday (Double-headers)
Minnesota Duluth at St. Cloud State in Austin
Minnesota Crookston at Upper Iowa
Mary at Northern State
Augustana at NW MO State

Softball NSIC Standings

Team:	NSIC		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Augustana	4	0	9	16
Winona State	2	0	22	5
Wayne State (NE)	2	0	17	11
Minnesota Duluth	3	1	12	12
Concordia St. Paul	2	2	18	14
Upper Iowa	2	2	11	9
Bemidji State	2	2	7	9
Minnesota State	0	0	19	5
SW MN State	0	0	8	14
MSU Moorhead	0	0	4	8
Mary	0	0	5	18
St. Cloud State	1	3	14	21
Northern State	0	4	3	16
Minnesota Crookston	0	4	0	12

Games Thursday (Double-headers)
Wayne State (NE) at Winona State
Northern State at SW MN State
Mary at Minnesota State
Mayville State at Augustana

Games Friday (Double-headers)
MSU Moorhead at St. Cloud State
Mary at SW MN State
Winona State at Bemidji State
Northern State at Minnesota State
Mayville State at Augustana

Games Saturday (Double-headers)
Upper Iowa at Bemidji State in Fayette, Iowa
Augustana at Wayne State (NE)
Concordia St. Paul at Minnesota Crookston
Winona State at Minnesota Duluth
Augustana at Wayne State (NE)

Games Sunday (Double-headers)
Minnesota Crookston at St. Cloud State
Concordia St. Paul at MSU Moorhead

Jilted Cutler right to ask for trade

The ESPN love for the dispute is at it again.



Jake Laxen

including the famous exit off the plane that had the “NFL Tonight” staff gloating as if the Beatles hit America – they are at it again.

But this year there are no hillbilly agents carefully planting text messages to the AP, no amply placed Wrangler Jeans commercials in between segments of Favre hurling passes to Mississippi high school students or even no push up in one’s driveway.

Instead it’s almost the complete opposite.

It’s “Where’s Waldo:” The

Jay Cutler edition.

The rocket-armed 26-year-old Denver Broncos quarterback skipped voluntary minicamp workouts – forfeiting \$100,000 – and refused to answer the phone calls of team owner Pat Bowlen and coach Josh McDaniels.

The way it was reported, it reminded me of a high school break-up: The Broncos cheated and now are begging for forgiveness.

The Broncos now say they fully intend to trade the disgruntled quarterback after trying to strike a resolution (my guess is Viking fans will be actively praying in church this weekend).

And somehow throughout all this, ESPN analysts are criminalizing Cutler. In the same way the ego-trip Owens and selfish Favre did.

But certainly his situation is different. Sympathy for Cutler can be argued.

Bowlen fired two-time Su-

per Bowl-winning coach Mike Shanahan during the offseason. If Brad Childress still has a job, what is this man doing in the unemployment line?

While their late season collapse has no excuse, Denver was in a rebuilding project. Cutler was the centerpiece of an offense that could quickly resemble the Rams’ “greatest show on turf.”

There was no doubt Shanahan would be able to keep a potent running game to compliment Cutler and the passing game. The man turns no-namers into names before they leave and then those same players can’t cut it in other systems (Clinton Portis is a giant lone exception).

The defense would get better with drafts and patience.

This team had the Make-up of the Indianapolis Colts with a young Peyton Manning. They gradually built a defense to compliment a monster offense and eventually won the

Lombardi Trophy.

Instead, they brought in so-called whiz kid McDaniels from the New England Patriots.

McDaniels could truly be a mastermind, or he could be a product of Bill Belichick’s system. And not to mention it’s hard not to succeed with Tom Brady, arguably the greatest quarterback ever, throwing bombs to Randy Moss, arguably the most talented receiver ever.

Let’s not forget he coordinated one of the biggest failures in sports history when the Patriots lost perfection to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl, scoring just 14 points.

The Patriots offense also got a lot of boost from a dominant defense. They were able to take more risks and be more innovative because they knew they wouldn’t have to score 30 points to win.

You could make the case he helped Matt Cassel suc-

ceed. But they still were able to gradually progress him along and they still missed the playoffs.

McDaniels came in with the mindset to change the Rocky Mountain culture. But instead of turning it to defense, he tried to trade away Cutler to get Cassel.

Cutler is the face of the franchise and certainly the smallest problem haunting the Broncos. He has a right to be mad.

Especially when the Broncos expected everything to be the same after they attempted to dump him off for a different quarterback. After his massive progression, they still have no confidence in him.

Move on Cutler. And you, contrary to analyst belief, handled this maturely.

Now just pack your bags to Minnesota or Chicago. You’ll certainly never be taken for granted.

Dodgers, Angels, Twins among baseball’s best

Breathe deep the sweet smell of plastic grass, recycled air and steaming blacktop; spring is near and with it comes the great game of baseball.

For one more year, fans of the local nine will have to sit

under the lights inside the big trash bag known as the Metrodome. Next year, the Twins move into Target Field. I got a chance to get closer than I should have (I went in the “Do Not Enter” door), and I must say, it looks awesome.

But, before we get a sunny Twins game, there is a season to be played this year. The following are my predictions and some winners and losers.

NL West

For the first time in recent memory, a team will appear to actually want to win this division out of the gate. The fa-

vorites have to be the Manny Ramirez-led Dodgers. They lost some pitching, but actually have a lineup capable of scoring runs. The other teams in the division can only score “run.”

The winner: Coors Brewing Co. for the sales record they will set as the Rockies finish last. The loser: Coors Brewing Co. They own the naming rights on the Rockies stadium. Advertising doesn’t work when no one sees it.

NL East

I could pick the Mets, but I like to be right. So, I’ll take the defending World Series champion Phillies. I also like the Nationals, but just for Opening Day when Barack “The Dude” Obama rolls out the first pitch.

The winner: Johan Santana; a huge salary and a long offseason. The losers: Tax payers. Citigroup paid \$400 million for naming rights to the Mets new stadium then asked for federal bailout money. Imagine that.

NL Central

Do you know what happens once every 101 years? Lots of things, I’m sure, but the Cubs winning a World Series will not be one of them. They do win division titles, though, and they’re the smart pick this season as well.

The winners: Houston, Cincinnati and St. Louis. After the Brewers mortgaged the future to compete last year, Milwaukee’s only upside is they aren’t the Pirates. The losers: Pittsburgh. Seriously, they can’t possibly charge people for what they put on the field. Can they?

AL West

The Angels will open the season with enough money in the outfield (\$57.4 million combined for their top four outfielders) that owner Art Moreno could buy the Marlins. Twice. The Angels will win the division, but only because the A’s are still a year away.

The winner: Ken Griffey,

Jr. The only retired player who remains active actually got the Mariners to bring him home. And pay him. The losers: Texas fans. I’m just guessing, but I bet President George W. Bush gets a standing ovation when he throws out the first pitch on April 6.

AL East

This division is up for auction on April 1. Bidding starts at \$125 million. To avoid a repeat of last year, no checks will be accepted.

The winners: The real estate agents for CC Sabathia and Mark Teixeira. The loser: Derek Jeter. Not in a bad way, but in an I-feel-sorry-for-him way. The classiest guy in NYC has to deal with A-Rod on a daily basis.

AL Central

The Twins will have to fight for it, but I give them the nod because I think Francisco Liriano will win the Cy Young. The White Sox and

Indians will be hot on Minnesota’s heels, but I simply cannot stand either team.

The winner: Jose Morales. With Jesus Mauer out indefinitely, Morales should be the primary backup to Mike Redmond. The loser: Chronicle sports editor Joe Brown and anyone else who owns anything that has “KC” sewn onto it. (Ed. note: I hate you Kyle).

Postseason

World Series: Just because he can, commissioner Bud Selig will suspend the World Series until all small market teams fold and he can guarantee a profitable, major-city friendly matchup.

AL MVP: Yankees’ ticket scalpers who charge \$5,000 for a bleacher seat...and get it.

NL MVP: John Kruk. The mullet, the wit and the fact he walked away from the game so he could hit the Sizzler’s buffet any time he pleased make him the runaway winner for the 14th consecutive year.

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Huskies open up spring practice

Kyle Stevens
STAFF WRITER

August and the start of the 2009 football season, is a long way off.

The Huskies, however, are back on the field for the first time since their season ending loss to MSU-Mankato on Nov. 8.

Spring practice started on Monday for SCSU and second-year head coach Scott Underwood. Wednesday marked the first day that the team could practice with contact and several of them seemed downright giddy about it.

"The first day coming in with pads is always a huge day," said senior safety Brian

Kampa. "There's always a good, friendly competition between offense and defense. Who's tougher, basically."

It's not just the defense that is ready to hit. Sophomore running back Brandon Geiss was just as excited. And he is the one who gets hit.

"Today's the day," Geiss said with a smile. "It's time to see what we've got and how much we've gained."

As much fun as the first day of contact may be for the players, Underwood may be looking forward to it more than anybody. "We certainly have a lot of question marks on defense," he said about the unit that returns only two starters. "We (the coaching

staff) think there will be a steep learning curve for some of them, but that's what today is about."

The Huskies finished last season, their first in the NSIC, with a 7-4 record. SCSU was led by their defense, especially All-American Ryan Kees and NSIC defensive player of the year Cale Pulczynski.

One of the difficult things last season was the short amount of time Underwood had to get ready for the season. Underwood was named head coach on March 25, 2008. That left him about a week to prepare for spring practice last year.

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LISA SAARI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The SCSU defense lines up for practice on Wednesday. The Huskies, who went 7-4 last season, have only two starters returning to the defense this season.



JAKOB GILK / VISUALS EDITOR

As a redshirt freshman, Tad Merritt set a school record for pins in a season with 17 en route to becoming an All-American at 165 pounds at the NCAA Championships on March 13-14 in Houston.

Merritt flys to the top

When not taking to the air in his plane, Tad Merritt dominates on the mats

Joe Brown
SPORTS EDITOR

Redshirt freshman wrestler Tad Merritt remembers a time last year when he made head coach Steve Costanzo feel like his stomach was in his coach's throat.

But it wasn't on the wrestling mat, it was from Merritt's airplane.

"I took coach up and me and my teammate Alex [Kontz] who's from Canby [Merritt's hometown]," Merritt said, laughing while mimicking his coach's face. "We took him up, kind of scared him, and gave

him a negative G. He wanted to go down right after, that it was pretty funny. You're weightless for a split-second. He didn't like that so much though."

Merritt said that a former teammate from Canby High School got him into the air for the first time. Now in his second year at SCSU, the aviation major has logged 180 hours in the air.

"Got into that my junior year [of high school], I went up with a wrestler from Canby whose a flight instructor now, and asked me if I wanted to go flying and I said 'sure' and I got hooked from there," he said. "Nothing else interested me so that's what I'm sticking to as of now."

Costanzo, the third-year coach of the Huskies, likened the experience to a roller coaster ride.

"It was real fast and real suddenly. But they got a kick out of it," he said. "I was saying some things to them I shouldn't

say but they got a kick out of it.

"Looking back it was kind of funny."

While being in the air is the passion for the aviation major, Merritt excels in the gym. After a 36-8 record and a team season record 17 pins, the 165-pounder was named the NSIC's Rookie of the Year. Along with teammates Brad Padgett (184 pounds) and Derek Skala (174), Merritt became an All-American – the second straight year the Huskies had three All-Americans in the same season.

While competing at Nationals on March 13 and 14 in Houston, Texas, Merritt was stunned by the attention he was receiving.

"I was in a daze still because I had just got up and opened an article and there's my big picture," he said. "It's awesome, a big surprise actually."

Even with his achievements this year, Costanzo believes the

coaching staff made the right decision to redshirt Merritt last season.

"I think Tad needed last year to build as a developmental year," he said. "I'm not saying he couldn't have been an All-American, I think he was coming into this season feeling more prepared, more confident and I'm not sure if he was more ready to get into the mix this season."

In describing his success during his first year wrestling for the Huskies, Merritt was elated to be in the nationals, but was disappointed that he did not become a national champion.

"I kind of was expecting it because it was one of my goals," Merritt said. "It wasn't really a surprise, I was going for a national champ and came up short but I have three more years."

His confidence is what

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SCSU, NSIC adjust to rain, floods

Tim Stang

ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

SCSU baseball coach Pat Dolan is a talkative guy, but even he doesn't like being on the phone this much.

Dolan spent six hours on the phone Wednesday trying to find a place for the Huskies and the University of Minnesota Duluth to play baseball this weekend.

"I am not going to lie and say it is not a hassle," said Dolan, whose Huskies are off to a 24-6 start.

"We have been working with fields from Austin to Minneapolis," Dolan said. "That's part of your job. You want to give the kids the best experience possible. That starts with playing games. We have been fortunate to get 30 games in before April 1. It's all worth it when you play the games."

The NSIC has put safety before games and has told teams not to risk injury to students.

"The safety of the athletes is far more important than a baseball or softball game," said Nick Kordner, assistant commissioner of the NSIC. "At this time of the year you never know what the weather will be like."

Dolan's team is one of many affected by unseasonal weather in the area. The baseball team moved a set of games on March 21 and 22 from SCSU to Freeman, S.D. They also had to postpone a weekend of games with the University of Mary because of the flooding in North Dakota.

Dolan was able to find a willing opponent in the University of Wisconsin-Superior to face the Huskies in Minnetonka.

"We lucked out on that one," Dolan said. "You got to feel bad for the people up in Bismarck. They physically couldn't leave the state. On short notice I looked at some different schedules. UW-Superior was already in the cities to play Concordia St. Paul."

SCSU softball has had to move a number of games as well. A double header with Minnesota State Mankato scheduled for Wednesday has been postponed and double headers this weekend have been moved from Moorhead on Friday and Crookston on Sunday to St. Cloud. The team has also moved a number of games into the Husky Dome.

"Saturday softball was inside, Sunday they tried outside," said athletic director Morris Kurtz. "They got the games in, the field wasn't great, but it was the first time outside all year."

Women's tennis was scheduled to take on Minnesota State Moorhead on last Sunday, but had to change opponents and meet with Minnesota State-Mankato in St. Peter.

"Our teams are anxious to get out," Kurtz said. "So you have to be flexible. Baseball played in Minnetonka, now they are looking at Austin. Softball played at 8 a.m. You have to look at where can the visiting team arrive at safely and what will the weather be like when you get there."

Kurtz said the entire coaching staff at SCSU is prepared for the challenges faced with weather in Minnesota. At the same time he was quick to point out that challenges here are miniscule compared to other places.

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Husky weekend preview

Staff Report

Softball

With the snowy weather in St. Cloud, the Huskies will head indoors for two doubleheaders against conference foes.

On Friday morning, SCSU will host Minnesota State-Moorhead at 9:30 in the Husky Dome. This season, the Dragons are 4-8 with no conference games thus far.

Sunday, the Huskies will host a Sunday night tilt with Minnesota-Crookston. In 12 games, the Golden Eagles are the cellar-dwellers of the NSIC at 0-4 in the conference, 0-12 overall.

The Huskies, who are 1-3 in the NSIC, 14-21 overall, look to move up in the standings, currently sitting in 12th place.

SCSU is led by sophomore Kelly Laas, who is 7th in the NSIC with a .416 batting average.

Baseball

Coming off a sweep of Wisconsin-Superior in Minnetonka, SCSU will hit the road again due to field conditions to take on Minnesota-Duluth in Austin.

The Bulldogs are winless in four conference games this season to go with a 8-16 overall record. David Olson is UMD's top offensive weapon with a .366 average, five home runs and 27 RBIs.

The Bulldogs' pitchers have struggled, giving up 10.47 runs per game this season. Meanwhile, SCSU is sitting in fourth place at 3-1 in the NSIC, 24-6 overall.

Joe Benke is batting .452 this season with three dingers and 18 RBIs. Sam Radbil and Mic Johnson are tied for the team lead in RBIs with 31.

Starting pitchers Logan Birr, Pat DeLaHunt, Tim Scott and David Deminsky are undefeated this season, combining for a 21-0 record.