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# MINNESOTA DAILY NEWS

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U OF M | MINNEAPOLIS | ST PAUL

THURSDAY

JANUARY 22, 2009

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES AT MNDAILY.COM



**CAMPUS & METRO**  
**Student competes at skating nat'l's**  
IT WILL BE Molly Oberstar's second time at the event.  
▶ See **PAGE 5**

**EDITORIALS & OPINIONS**  
**Toward a more perfect union**  
PRESIDENT OBAMA'S inaugural address was meant to guide and unite.  
▶ See **PAGE 8**

**SPORTS**  
**Gophers counting on their big men**  
THE GOPHERS' two freshmen centers will play a crucial role against Purdue tonight.  
▶ See **PAGE 7**



## POLICY

## The long road to Medical School ethics reform

Policy revisions and recommendations are likely to be proposed by March or April.

BY JAKE GROVUM  
jgrovum@mndaily.com

Ethics reform at the University of Minnesota Medical School — once the charge of a single task force — has since ballooned into an in-depth, far-reaching and lengthy affair.

Those anxious for change

should be ready to wait a bit longer. Final recommendations from a separate, high-level committee are likely still months away.

That committee includes a virtual who's-who of Medical School and Academic Health Center administrators. Senior Vice President for Health

Sciences Dr. Frank Cerra, Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy and Medical School Dean Dr. Deborah Powell are all members, among others.

Medical schools across the country have tightened conflict of interest policies in the past two years. The American Medical Student Association — the organization that gave the University's Medical School a 'D' last summer for its current policies — gave six times

more positive reviews in 2008 as it did the year before, AMSA Scorecard Director Gabe Silverman said.

"This is definitely like a tidal wave of policy change that is happening across the country," he said.

With about 25 schools improving their policies in a year,

▶ See **ETHICS** Page 6

Relationships between faculty and industry have gotten the most attention.

## ADMISSIONS

## Med schools look to up enrollment

In 2006, the AAMC called for medical schools to increase enrollment 30 percent by 2015.

BY MIKE LANGSETH  
mlangseth@mndaily.com

Medical schools across the country are answering the Association of American Medical Colleges' call for more doctors, according to a recent survey conducted by Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions.

Eighty-five of the country's 130 medical schools answered the survey, which indicated that 44 percent of those schools are considering raising their enrollments in the next few years.

Amjed Mustafa, Kaplan's director of pre-health programs, said the planned increases are probably the result of a doctor shortage projected in a well-known study by the AAMC.

In 2006, the AAMC called for U.S. medical schools to increase their enrollment 30 percent by 2015 to deal with a shortage of 159,300 doctors, which it predicts by 2025.

Of the 744,000 doctors in the U.S., 250,000 of them were over the age of 55, according to the AAMC study. The study also predicted that the number of Americans over the age of 65 would double, from 35 million to 71 million by 2030. Because of this aging population, they said the number of doctor visits would increase by over 50 percent.

Paul White, the University of Minnesota Medical School's associate dean of admissions, said the Medical School increased its enrollment from 165 to 170 last year, and does not intend to increase the number in the near future.

He said the increase was because the American Medical Association was calling on medical

▶ See **NUMBERS** Page 6

Two years ago, the Medical School admitted 183 students instead of the 165 it usually admitted.

## DEVELOPMENT

## Housing project at Bunge almost done



JULES AMEEL, DAILY

A brand new Habitat for Humanity housing unit located in front of the Bunge Tower. The houses are a part of several new housing units on the site of the Bunge grain elevator.

The 85-unit development at the Bunge grain elevator should be done by the end of April.

BY JAMES ANDERSON  
janderson@mndaily.com

The 85-unit affordable housing development at the Bunge grain elevator site next to Van Cleve Park is on schedule to be completed by the end of April. But a 151-unit condo development at the same location has

been put on hold because of the struggling housing market.

The entire site consists of two supportive rental buildings, five Habitat for Humanity townhouses and the 151-unit high-rise in a renovated Bunge Tower that has yet to be developed.

Charlotte Commons, one of the affordable housing rental

buildings, is complete and currently hosts 35 families.

The second building, which has 50 units, is under construction and is expected to be completed by April 26.

The two buildings are a collaboration between Project for Pride in Living (PPL) and Cabrini Partnership.

PPL is a nonprofit community development agency that helps low-income individuals and families develop and sustain quality

affordable housing with hopes that they become self-sufficient.

Cabrini Partnership assists people who have completed alcohol or chemical dependency treatment. People from the Cabrini Partnership will occupy a total of 20 units between the two buildings.

Alicia Ramey moved into one

▶ See **BUNGE** Page 6

It serves families making 30 and 50 percent of the area's median income.

## JOBS

## U to teach new dental health practitioners

A new mid-level position in the dental field will improve access to oral care.

BY EMMA L. CAREW  
ecarew@mndaily.com

In exam rooms across the country, patients are regularly examined and treated for basic ails by physician's assistants and nurse practitioners. In a few years, the same could be true in the dental field.

A new mid-level dental position, called the oral health practitioner, was created by legislation passed last spring, and students will begin classes this fall at the University of Minnesota and Metropolitan State University.

"It will give us another tool, another option available to

be able to address the significant unmet need in oral health in Minnesota," said Sen. Ann Lynch, DFL-Rochester, author of the legislation.

Last session's bill created a work group that met from August through December of last year. The Legislature will make a final decision on the position's licensure and scope of practice this spring, based on recommendations reported by the work group last week.

Among the recommendations for the new position would be that the OHP would work under a collaborative agreement with a licensed dentist and would work primarily in areas of underserved and uninsured patients.

▶ See **DENTAL** Page 5

The first crop of oral health practitioners will graduate in summer 2011.

## DENTAL HYGIENIST

Provides care that is educational, preventive and therapeutic through scaling and polishing teeth; assesses the gum tissues.

## ORAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER

Proposed legislation would include basic extractions, fillings, preventive care, meeting the needs of routine patients.

## DENTIST

Licensed to diagnose and treat gum and oral diseases, perform advanced restorative procedures (such as fillings, root canals) and oral surgeries.



To view complete description of dental authorizations, go to [www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/?id=150A](http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/?id=150A)

## TRANSPORTATION

## U looks into off-campus shuttles to new stadium

Potential pick-up spots could be existing metro area park-and-ride locations.

BY ANDREW CUMMINS  
acummins@mndaily.com

It wouldn't be quite like the train Hawkeye fans can take to Iowa football games, but the University of Minnesota is looking at providing transportation from off-campus locations to the new stadium next fall.

Parking and Transportation Services is tabulating results from an online survey sent to football season-ticket holders to gauge interest in a potential service.

The purpose of the service would be to provide fans who don't want to deal with parking on campus with an alternative way of getting to TCF Bank Stadium, PTS spokeswoman Mary Sienko said.

There will be about 3,200 parking spaces near the stadium by the time it opens, she said.

While preliminary results have indicated an interest, the University still has to find a partner to actually provide the service.

That potential partner could be Metro Transit.

The company has been communicating with the University on the issue and will utilize the survey results to help determine the viability of a service, spokesman Bob Gibbons said in an e-mail statement.

Metro Transit would use some of its existing park and ride lots in the metro area, according to the statement.

Existing cities in the metro area that have lots include Plymouth, Maplewood and Fridley.

"Those lots are heavily used on weekdays and much less on Saturdays, when most college games are played," Gibbons said.

▶ See **SHUTTLES** Page 5

Ohio State University launched a similar service about 10 years ago.

# Daily Review

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1973

The U.S. Supreme Court rules in *Roe v. Wade* that women, as part of their Constitutional right to privacy, can terminate a pregnancy during its first two trimesters. The ruling was the result of a call by many American women for control over their own reproductive processes. HISTORYCHANNEL.COM/TDIH

## CAMPUS & METRO

### GRE NUMBERS DROP DESPITE RECESSION

THE NUMBER OF test-takers decreased nearly 2 percent from 2007. PAGE 4

### 2 MEN ARRESTED FOR ASSAULT, DRINKING IN DINKYTOWN

THE UNDERAGE MEN were witnessed fighting each other over a taxi. PAGE 4

## SPORTS

### GETTING BIG

THE GOPHERS WILL depend on their two big men tonight as they battle Big Ten foe Purdue at the Barn. PAGE 7

## EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

### CAP

#### STUDENT TUITION

THE UNIVERSITY should look into Pawlenty's proposed tuition cap. PAGE 8

### MORE CAPITOL REQUESTS?

BRUININKS suggesting another building project in a perilous economic time is not fiscally responsible. PAGE 8

## DAILY POLL

### VOTE ONLINE AT WWW.MNDAILY.COM

HOW WILL YOU commute to TCF Bank Stadium next fall?

- ▶ Walking or biking
- ▶ City bus or possibly a shuttle
- ▶ Driving
- ▶ I don't plan on going to football games

## ONLINE MEDIA

TO LISTEN to Radio K broadcasts, go to [www.mndaily.com](http://www.mndaily.com).

TO SEE CAMPUS EVENTS go to [www.mndaily.com/calendar](http://www.mndaily.com/calendar)

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All submissions are welcome, but there is no guarantee of publication.

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## OFFICIAL DAILY BULLETIN

VOL. 110 THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2008, NO. 73

Official administrative information for students, faculty and staff is disseminated through the Official Daily Bulletin; you are encouraged to read it thoroughly to seek items that may affect you.

No notices today.

To be included, notices must be sent to Official Daily Bulletin, 3 Morrill Hall — not to the Daily — two working days prior to publication.

## EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY

HIGH 15°

LOW -9°

Flurries



SATURDAY

HIGH 5°

LOW -9°

Partly cloudy



SUNDAY

HIGH 9°

LOW -2°

Partly cloudy



MONDAY

HIGH 11°

LOW 0°

Mostly cloudy



## WORLD BRIEFING

### Israel's last troops leave Gaza; Obama calls leaders as focus shifts to securing cease-fire

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's last troops left the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, although the cease-fire was frayed when its navy opened fire toward beaches in northern Gaza, and smugglers' tunnels that were targeted in the 23-day campaign against Hamas were active again at the Egyptian border.

The Israeli military said it would investigate allegations by the United Nations and human rights groups that it wrongly used white phosphorous — an ingredient in weapons that inflicts horrific burns.

Although the use of phosphorus weapons is permitted by international law, Amnesty International has accused Israel of committing a "war crime" by using them in densely populated areas.

As the Israeli troops departed and the focus shifted to cementing the fragile cease-fire, Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni went to Europe to rally international support for a plan to halt weapons smuggling into Gaza from Egypt.

A key goal of the offensive, aimed at punishing Hamas militants who have been lobbing rockets at Israel for the last eight years, was destroying the hundreds of tunnels along the eight-mile border used to smuggle weapons into Gaza.

### Guantanamo crimes court halted after Obama's request to review plan for prosecuting terrorists

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP) — The Guantanamo Bay war crimes court came to an abrupt halt Wednesday as military judges granted President Barack Obama's request to suspend proceedings while he reviews his predecessor's strategy for prosecuting terrorists.

The judges quickly agreed to a 120-day suspension of the cases of a Canadian accused of killing an American soldier in Afghanistan and five men charged in the Sept. 11 attacks. Similar orders are expected in other pending cases pending before the Guantanamo military commissions.

Judge Stephen Henley, an Army colonel presiding over the Sept. 11 trial, accepted the prosecution argument that it would be in the "interests of justice" to give the new administration time to do next, a decision tied closely to Obama's pledge to close the detention center.

## TODAY AT MNDAILY.COM

### INAUGURATION FROM THE STREET OF D.C.

View Daily photographer Stephen Maturen's photos of a historic day in Washington.



## MORE MNDAILY.COM EXCLUSIVES

### ▶ MESA PIZZA OPENS DINING HALL

Mesa's manager said the larger space will allow them to serve more customers and possibly expand the menu.

▶ MANKATO POLICE CRACKDOWN ON UNDERAGE DRINKING  
127 underage consumption tickets were given at one party.

## RECENT BLOG-POSTS

▶ MINNESOTA GETS FORMER BRONCOS ASSISTANT AS OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR Upon Further Review

▶ MEN'S BASKETBALL: PRACTICE NOTES Upon Further Review

▶ WASH. RECRUITING GAFFE COULD INCUR PENALTY FOR SCHOOL The Newsstand

▶ UNIVERSITY AVE. CONSTRUCTION UNFINISHED The Newsstand

▶ DAILY DIGEST: U MASTER PLAN, PRACTICE COURT FUNDRAISING The Newsstand

## UPCOMING EVENTS

WHO: Habitat for Humanity — U of M chapter

WHAT: First general meeting of the semester

WHEN: 5:30 or 7 p.m., today

WHERE: 2-122 Molecular and Cellular Biology

PRICE: Free

Inclusion in the events calendar is free for registered University student groups. Go to [MNDAILY.COM/CONTACT](http://MNDAILY.COM/CONTACT) to submit your calendar item.

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**Give your two cents.**

Send letters and submit guest columns to [letters@mndaily.com](mailto:letters@mndaily.com)

MINNESOTA DAILY

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Minneapolis, MN 55414  
Phone: (612) 627-4080  
Fax: (612) 435-5865

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## OFFICE OF THE PUBLISHER

VADIM LAVRUSIK  
Co-publisher and Editor in Chief  
[vlavrusik@mndaily.com](mailto:vlavrusik@mndaily.com)

ROBIN PEREZ  
Co-publisher and Chairwoman  
of the Board  
[rperez@mndaily.com](mailto:rperez@mndaily.com)

JOHN SCHOLZ  
Co-publisher and  
Business Operations Officer  
[jscholz@mndaily.com](mailto:jscholz@mndaily.com)

## NEWS STAFF

MIKE ROSE  
Managing Editor  
[mrose@mndaily.com](mailto:mrose@mndaily.com)

LISA ZEHNER  
Managing Production Editor  
[lzehner@mndaily.com](mailto:lzehner@mndaily.com)

PAUL CORDES  
Sports Editor  
[pcordes@mndaily.com](mailto:pcordes@mndaily.com)

BECKY LANG  
A&E Editor  
[blang@mndaily.com](mailto:blang@mndaily.com)

MATTHEW MEAD  
Photo Editor  
[mmead@mndaily.com](mailto:mmead@mndaily.com)

KEVIN O'LEARY  
Copy Desk Chief  
[koleary@mndaily.com](mailto:koleary@mndaily.com)

KARINA HOLTZ  
Visuals Editor  
[kholtz@mndaily.com](mailto:kholtz@mndaily.com)

MATT KOJETIN  
Multimedia Editor  
[mkojetin@mndaily.com](mailto:mkojetin@mndaily.com)

COURTNEY SINNER  
Campus Editor  
[csinner@mndaily.com](mailto:csinner@mndaily.com)

ANDY MANNIX  
City Editor  
[amannix@mndaily.com](mailto:amannix@mndaily.com)

ANNA EWART  
Policy Editor  
[aeewart@mndaily.com](mailto:aeewart@mndaily.com)

JAKE GROVUM  
Projects Editor  
[jgrovum@mndaily.com](mailto:jgrovum@mndaily.com)

**EDITORIAL STAFF**

JUSTIN HORWATH  
Editorials & Opinions Editor  
[jhorwath@mndaily.com](mailto:jhorwath@mndaily.com)

**BUSINESS STAFF**

WILLIAM CAESAR  
Sales Director  
[wcaesar@mndaily.com](mailto:wcaesar@mndaily.com)

AARON SHAPIRO  
Advertising Production Manager  
[ashapiro@mndaily.com](mailto:ashapiro@mndaily.com)

MEGAN FROST  
Distribution Manager  
[mfrost@mndaily.com](mailto:mfrost@mndaily.com)

ASHLEY WILLIAMS  
Marketing and  
Communications Director  
[awilliams@mndaily.com](mailto:awilliams@mndaily.com)

RANCE RAND  
Controller  
[rrrand@mndaily.com](mailto:rrrand@mndaily.com)

KAT WERB  
Human Resources Manager  
[kwerb@mndaily.com](mailto:kwerb@mndaily.com)

KYLE CUNNINGHAM  
Online Manager  
[kcunningham@mndaily.com](mailto:kcunningham@mndaily.com)

MATT AHO  
Web Designer  
[maho@mndaily.com](mailto:maho@mndaily.com)

KYLE FOSS  
Retail Sales Manager  
[kfoss@mndaily.com](mailto:kfoss@mndaily.com)

JENNY THEROUX  
Classifieds Sales Manager  
[jtheroux@mndaily.com](mailto:jtheroux@mndaily.com)

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The Daily's mission is: 1) to provide coverage of news and events affecting the University community; 2) to provide a forum for the communication and exchange of ideas for the University community; 3) to provide educational training and experience to University students in all areas of newspaper operations; and 4) to operate a fiscally responsible organization to ensure its ability to serve the University in the future.

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# “I love you” doesn't count unless he's sober.



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NEW LINE CINEMA  
 NEW LINE RECORDS

# GRE numbers drop despite recession

The number of test-takers decreased nearly 2 percent from 2007.

BY KATHERINE WOLFE  
kwolfe@mndaily.com

For the first time in four years, the number of students taking the Graduate Record Examination has dropped.

The Educational Testing Service, which administers the exam, expected 675,000 students to take the exam in 2008, but at the end of the year 621,000 students had taken the exam, a nearly 2 percent decrease from 2007.

In 2007 a record 633,000 students took the exam, up 56,000 from 2006.

Nationally, the drop in GRE numbers is a surprise since history indicates graduate school enrollment increases during economic turmoil.

This was the first time

the GRE has seen a decrease during a recession, but September registration numbers did reflect the economic trend, ETS Spokesman Mark McNutt said.

"When you think about the time at which the economy became a crisis in the psyche of American people, were really looking right around September," he said. "We had a record registration number for September."

McNutt said he believes the decrease could be linked to students' concerns over financial aid.

"It's possible that early in the year concern or perceptions of limited access to student loans may have caused some hesitation with some folks," McNutt said.

But tuition aside, students often benefit financially from attending graduate school.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics,

## DECEMBER 2008 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

EDUCATION ATTAINMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Less than a high school diploma	10.9%
High school diploma, no college	7.7%
Some college or associate degree	5.6%
Bachelor's degree and higher	3.7%

\*US POPULATION 25 YEARS OLD AND OLDER  
SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

unemployment rates plummet as education goes up.

The decrease has the University of Minnesota's graduate school worried that application numbers will also be low for fall 2009 admission, Admission Director Dean Tsantir said.

"If the GRE numbers are down, it could be an indicator that application numbers could be down as well," he said. "That's our primary concern right now."

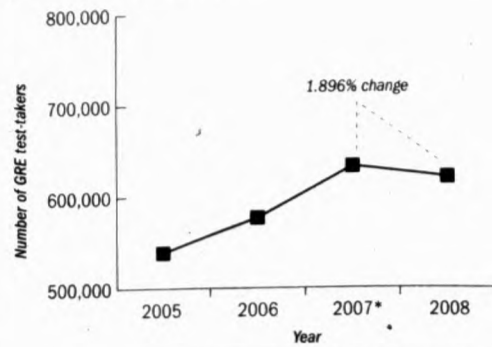
The graduate school will not have a good indicator of application numbers until

March or April.

However, concern over the GRE's influence on application numbers could be overblown since scores can be used for up to five years, McNutt said, and students don't always apply for graduate school right after taking the exam.

ETS encourages students interested in graduate school at some point to take the exam during their junior or senior year in college. McNutt said statistics show students perform better when they take it in those years.

## GRE TEST-TAKERS



\*RECORD AMOUNT / SOURCE: EDUCATION TESTING SERVICES

Testing services encourage students to consider graduate school, but Paul Timmins, the director of the University Of Minnesota's College Of Liberal Arts' Career and Community Learning Center, said graduate school is not for everyone.

Although he said there has been a slight increase in students coming through the CCLC who are interested in graduate school, whether they should attend depends on the students' interests and career goals, Timmins said.

## MPIRG pushes for unlikely student debt relief program

The program would reward college graduates for working in state.

BY DEVIN HENRY  
dhenry@mndaily.com

Students strapped for cash after graduation might find a solution from Minnesota — unless the state's budget problems get in the way first.

Members of the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group are looking to gain support at the state Capitol for a program that would provide debt relief to students who continue to work in Minnesota following graduation. Like other spending, however, the poor economy could hinder its progress through the Legislature.

The plan, called "Opportunity Minnesota," is directly based on a similar program in Maine. University of Minnesota senior Ryan Kennedy said.

The program would provide a tax credit to reimburse students for their state or federal student loan payments — as long as they live and work in Minnesota and graduated from a school in the state.

"It's basically an economic stimulus plan," Kennedy, who also serves as statewide affordable higher education coordinator for MPIRG, said.

Still, Legislature reaction has been predictable — Kennedy said the handful of lawmakers he has met with have expressed concerns about any new spending in a session with

an almost \$5 billion deficit.

"The program is a great idea, we just don't have any money," Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr., DFL-Winona, said. "That's unfortunately going to be the theme of this session. Any new funding proposal is literally off the table."

The idea is that students who work in the state following graduation would pay enough in taxes to make up for the money the state would reimburse for their loan payments.

Proponents say the program would bolster the state's workforce by keeping graduates in state and eventually become a new source of revenue for the state.

"There is definitely some measurable advantage to this," Kennedy said.

In Maine, the state Legislature passed a copy of the proposal, called "Opportunity Maine," in 2007.

Rob Brown, executive director of Opportunity Maine, said the taxes paid by program participants will eventually become a source of nearly \$20 million in extra revenue for the state once the costs plateau in 2018, 10 years after the program began.

"It's a way for the state to say, 'we value you as a college graduate working in our work force so much that we would rather you dedicate your money to paying down your student loans than paying income taxes,'" he said.

In Maine, the program is expected to cost more than \$55 million annually, though costs would be much higher in Minnesota, Elton

Mykerezzi, University assistant professor of applied economics, said.

Mykerezzi, who is working on an economic analysis for Opportunity Minnesota, said costs would be higher because more students would be eligible to utilize the program.

For example, more than 14,000 Maine residents graduated from high school in 2005, making them eligible for the program if they went to college in-state, according to Opportunity Maine. The Minnesota Office of Higher Education projects that more than 64,000 Minnesotans will graduate this year.

Mykerezzi said he hasn't put an exact cost on Opportunity Minnesota yet.

"The truth is that education reform, especially if it has a good chance of working out, is always a desirable thing for legislators," Mykerezzi said. "It might have a chance, if it shows to have promising long-term returns to an investment."

Brown said he wouldn't recommend an initiative like Opportunity Maine to every state, but said it's something he would like to see the Minnesota Legislature at least consider.

Kennedy said he plans on seeking support for the initiative from the Minnesota Student Association and the Student Senate, among other groups.

"We need to look more into ways we can spend a little and get a lot," Kennedy, who is chair of the Student Senate, said.

## 2 men arrested for assault, drinking in Dinkytown

BY NICOLE TOMMERDAHL  
ntommerdahl@mndaily.com

An argument over a taxi early Sunday morning in Dinkytown resulted in the arrest of two men for assault and underage consumption.

Sgt. Rick Doll of the Minneapolis Park Police said he observed Patrick Buckvold, 20, punching University of Minnesota-Duluth student Josh Hohertz around 2 a.m. As the officers arrested Buckvold, one of his friends began punching Hohertz.

Both Buckvold and 20-year-old Alex Heller admitted to being intoxicated, Doll said, and police did not use a breath test. They were arrested and released later that day.

Heller said the altercation began when Hohertz attempted to get into the taxi Heller had called. Hohertz made racially charged

## POLICE REPORT

remarks toward Heller, he said, which incited the assault. Heller, who was scheduled to appear in Hennepin County court Wednesday, said he has rescheduled his court appearance for a later date.

### Mankato police bust 127 minors

The long holiday weekend allowed Mankato police officers time to issue 127 citations for underage drinking, the Star Tribune reported Monday — almost 22 times the number of citations issued at the University of Minnesota last weekend.

Commander Craig Ferricks of the Mankato Police Department said the large-scale

weekend bust was uneventful. "We're always prepared for [underage drinkers] because we do live in a college town," Ferricks said.

The Mankato police have a zero-tolerance policy toward underage drinking, Ferricks said. He said he hopes this policy will help deter future underage drinking.

Comparatively, the University Police Department had a relatively quiet weekend, deputy Chief Chuck Miner said.

Miner said the University area hasn't seen any incidents like that in recent memory, and 127 tickets in one weekend is an unusually high number.

The UMPD issued a total of six underage consumption citations over the holiday weekend at two different incidents, he said.

—Emma Carew contributed to this report.

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# Student competes at skating nat'ls

BY SHIEVA SALEHNIA  
ssalehnia@mndaily.com

After nearly 15 years of climbing the ladder of figure skating competition, first-year retail merchandising student Molly Oberstar will skate a second time at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships this weekend.

The 20-year-old Duluth native qualified for the national competition in November after a first place finish at the Midwestern Sectional Championships in Sugar Land, Texas.

"It was my birthday when I was in Texas for that competition, so it was a good birthday present to myself," Oberstar said.

This year, she will be skating in the hopes of attaining the national title after placing 15th at last year's competition. She said she feels more pressure going into this year's nationals.

"The first time, you don't really know what to expect. So you're just going out there, and you're just doing your job," she said.

Oberstar, a distant relative to U.S. Rep. Jim Oberstar of Minnesota's 8th district, began figure skating when she was 5 years old.

"Then, I was just skating because I was having fun out on the ice," said Oberstar.

But things have become more of a balancing act now that she is a University student, managing a five-day-a-week practice schedule and competitions on top of her course work.

St. Paul Figure Skating Club director and Oberstar's coach Ann Eidson said she has been proud of Oberstar's ability to adjust to her new, and often stressful, lifestyle.

"She did amazingly well adapting to new schedule and the demands of college life."

Eidson said. "She was able to adapt and to really prioritize her life with homework and training so that she could be successful with both."

Eidson said Oberstar's professors have been cooperative with the international-level competitions.

Oberstar, for example, had to take a weeklong absence to travel to Vienna, Austria in October, and another week for the Midwestern Sectional Championships in November.

Oberstar's choreographer, Sebastien Britten, currently in Vietnam, said in an e-mail that "Molly is a choreographer's dream come true."

A former Olympian and former Canadian National Champion, Britten first came in contact with Oberstar in 2006.

"She became my muse," Britten, who works and lives in Montreal, Canada said in the e-mail. "Her desire to achieve

stuff to perfection makes her unique, and one of the best artistic skaters in the world."

Eidson and Britten have high hopes for Oberstar at the national competition taking place in Cleveland this year.

"She deserves it," Britten wrote. "With all the dedicated work she puts into this every single day, she deserves to shine."

Her strongest asset, Eidson said, is that she's the "total package."

"She's a beautiful, artistic skater," Eidson said.

Senior level single ladies begin competing on Thursday with short programs, followed by freestyle routines on Saturday. The U.S. Figure Skating Championships will be aired live on NBC on Saturday and Sunday.

Oberstar was originally going to skate against 2006 Olympic participants Emily Hughes



MATT MEAD, DAILY UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
University first-year Molly Oberstar practices Friday at the Pleasant Ice Arena in St. Paul.

and Kimmie Meissner, but both pulled out of the competition early in the week due to injuries.

Oberstar said nerves can be helpful by getting the "adrenaline pumping."

"It makes you feel like you're in the heat of competition so you're actually a fighter," she said. "You're not just going out there to skate around. It's not just a regular day. You have to be a fighter."

## Dental

from Page 1

"What's being added is the everyday kind of restorative work, more straight forward extractions, fillings," said Thomas Cook, executive assistant to the president at Metropolitan State University. "It allows each practitioner to work at the top of their license."

Other countries, such as New Zealand and Britain, already have a similar position in their health care system.

Lynch said her legislation isn't about benefitting the dental profession, which some see as behind the times in creating a mid-level position.

"The legislation being put forward is for all the people whose voices are not in the room, all the people who don't currently have access to oral health care," she said. Hennepin County Medical

Center reports about 20,000 oral-health related emergency visits each year, she said.

A report made by the work group shows about one-third of Minnesotans do not have dental insurance.

These people, the ones Lynch is concerned about, "they do nothing," she said. "They wait, and they end up in our emergency rooms."

Minnesota would be the first state to create educational programs for a mid-level dental position. Alaska currently licenses a limited number of practitioners to work on reservations, but they are educated overseas.

The University and Metro State programs each look to admit between 10 and 15 students this fall, once the scope of practice bill is passed in the Legislature, defining the exact parameters of the position.

Metropolitan State and Normandale Community College will offer a Master of Science Oral Health Care

Practitioner Program. Admitted students will be required to already have their bachelor's degree and be a currently licensed dental hygienist, Cook said.

The students will receive hands-on training in the existing dental hygiene facilities at Normandale, said Dr. Colleen Brickle, interim dean of health sciences at Normandale, and the degrees will be issued through Metro State, which is a four-year university.

The program will take about two years and a summer, or 44 credit hours, to complete, Brickle said. MN-SCU tuition is expected to be around \$350 per credit.

The University Dental School joined the mix in February as Lynch's original legislation began circulating.

As the state's only accredited dental school, "it was on us to participate in shaping this program," said Patrick Lloyd, dean of the

School of Dentistry.

The University will offer two degrees in dental therapy, a bachelor's degree and a master's, he said.

The bachelor's program will require 120 credits and the master's will require 72 to graduate.

The University's current proposed tuition for the program is \$3,795 per semester for in-state students, or \$303 per credit, if they don't take a full semester course-load. Additional fees around \$600 will cover equipment and supplies.

Because the salary of an OHP would be lower than that of a dentist, despite performing procedures currently handled by the dentist, "it would be factored into the equation for reducing the cost of care," Lynch said.

In order to develop the curriculum, Lynch and other dental faculty traveled around the world and visited educational programs in Britain, Canada and New Zealand to study existing programs.

Christine Blue, the University's director of the division

of dental hygiene, was one of those faculty members, and she said the models in other countries won't be perfectly adaptable here, but many aspects will be.

It's still unknown how much of the dental therapy program will align with the current hygiene track and how much will fall to the dental side, she said, and it will depend on the final parameters set by the Legislature.

Critics of the new position are concerned practitioners with less training than licensed dentists will create a second-standard of care, but Blue said because the OHP students will be trained side-by-side with the dental students, "we really shouldn't be able to tell a difference between these students in the student body."

The first crop of oral health practitioners will graduate in summer 2011 and Cook, of Metro State, believes they will all find jobs immediately.

"The demand for these graduates will outstrip the supply for quite a while," he

said. "They will be snapped up by clinics that serve underserved populations."

Lynch said she knows some dentists are opposed to the recommended scope of practice, and a challenging bill may be introduced this session.

"All I'm asking is that we focus on the need, and that we put this forward as a tool, an option available to address this very real need," she said, adding that dentists who aren't comfortable employing an OHP would not be required to do so.

But Lynch said she believes similar objections were made when the nurse practitioner and physician's assistant positions were created, "and we know today that physician's assistants are an integral and respected part of the medical practice," she said. "I believe there will be a time in Minnesota and this country when the mid-level dental practitioner will share that same repute."

—Emma L. Carew is a senior staff reporter.



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## Shuttles

from Page 1

Metro Transit is looking for ways to accommodate fans who took the light rail to the Metrodome for Gopher games in the past.

Even if final survey results indicate high demand for a shuttle service, Sienko pointed out that it won't necessarily be a good predictor of use.

"What [people] say and what they actually do sometimes don't match up," she said. If the off-campus shuttle

partnership doesn't materialize, the University is still planning an on-campus transportation service that would include shuttles from the St. Paul campus and East Bank to the stadium area.

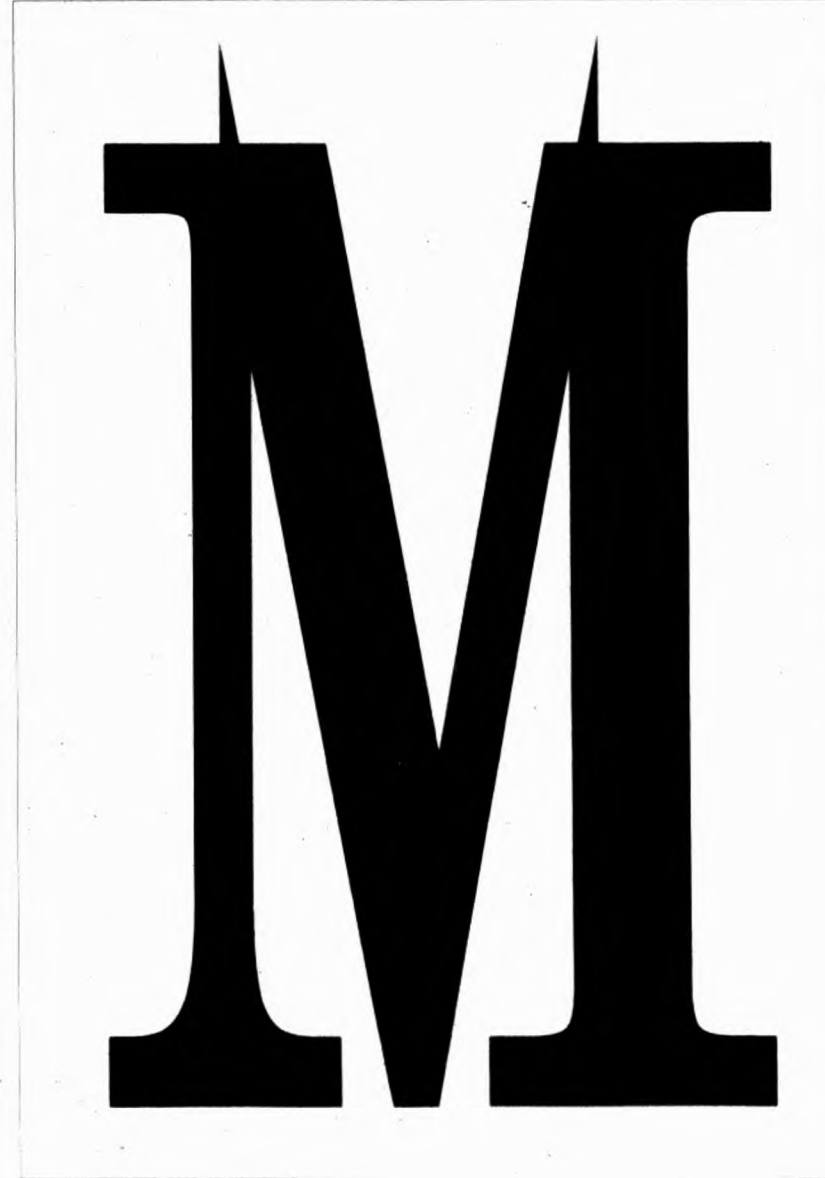
Pending contract negotiations with the Minnesota State Fair, the University also hopes to utilize lots on the fairgrounds to bus fans to the stadium area.

Ohio State University launched a similar service about 10 years ago when it partnered with the Central Ohio Transit Authority, company spokesman Marty Stutz said.

Buckeye fans can park at the state fairgrounds, and for around \$10 they take a shuttle to and from Ohio Stadium, which seats more than twice as many fans as the Gopher stadium will.

The service has become so popular that some fans have said they wouldn't go to games if they had to drive to campus, Stutz said.

"It's not the crowd that's going to hang out and party all night after the game, they're folks who just want a quick, convenient way to get in and out of the game," he said.



# Bunge

► from Page 1

of the Cabrini units with her 17-year-old son in Charlotte Commons last September and says she is thankful for a place to live.

"It's such a blessing," Ramey said. "This time last year I was standing at the

Salvation Army shelter."

Southeast Como Improvement Association Board President Wendy Menken said the neighborhood is "generally" very happy with the development and that SECIA is supportive of it.

However, Menken said that with the addition of the 236-unit development, the added density could pose problems for the area.

"There's a little bit of worry that it's going to put a tremendous amount of usage pressure on that park ... transportation grids and on services," Menken said.

She said that over the years Van Cleve has not been able to afford to provide as many services to the community as it used to.

Menken also said there was a sense that PPL didn't

do a great job of marketing the units to the surrounding community.

Shalaunda Holmes, PPL project manager, said PPL did not market to anyone. People found out about the development through word of mouth, she said.

Holmes said PPL received 200 applications for the 50-unit building.

Menken said that since

the buildings are handicap-accessible, they might have appealed to fixed-income senior citizens who are looking to stay in the neighborhood.

Chad Dipman, land acquisition project manager for Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, said the families who will live in the five townhouses have been selected and will move in when the

properties are registered in April or May.

He said it serves families who make between 30 and 50 percent of the area's median income.

James De Sota, SECIA neighborhood coordinator, said that when the condos are complete, they would be a great place for graduate students and University of Minnesota faculty.

# Ethics

► from Page 1

and the next AMSA scorecard due out in June, comparatively speaking, the University's Medical School has been slow to act.

Still, if the current recommendations were implemented, the Medical School would be "significantly improving" its policies, Silverman said, although they're not without faults.

"We would commend the school if they were to implement a policy along these lines," he said. "In almost all categories they've substantially improved."

## A lengthy process

It's been more than a year since Powell commissioned a task force to address the school's perceived shortcomings with conflict of interest policies.

That task force has since made sweeping recommendations that would increase scrutiny of industry-professor relationships and implement a ban on gifts to doctors, among other changes, that were well-received, even by critics. The University, as an institution, has not yet taken a stance on the recommendations.

The other committee will analyze the task force's recommendations, along with an external review of current policies and community focus groups, before presenting recommendations likely in March or April of this year.

There are positive things in the recommendations, Cerra said, but added there needs to be more dialogue to make sure revisions are done correctly.

## Conflicts: the risk and the reward

Relationships, including sometimes incredibly lucrative consulting and speaking

contracts between faculty and industry, and the collaboration that has led to many medical advances, have been the most public aspect of the ongoing ethics reform debate across the country.

Officials at the Medical School have been balancing between what they call the benefits of relationships with industry and the need for ethics reform.

To that end, Cerra said the higher-level committee's intent is "to make a very clear statement of the value that is gained from relationships between our faculty and industry, while at the same time saying there needs to be appropriate conflict of interest policies and procedures in place."

Cerra lauded the disclosure aspect of the recommendations specifically. It would require all faculty to disclose financial relationships.

"Conflicts of interest are like budgets to me, the more transparency the better," he said. "I truly believe in a 100 percent transparency."

Disclosure has been the word du jour for Medical School officials throughout the reform process, yet critics say bringing those relationships to light can make them more acceptable and even increase bias.

The idea that disclosure alone will fix the problem is "just misguided," Dr. Carl Elliott, a professor in the University's Center for Bioethics, said.

"Disclosure is a nonsolution," he said. "The money is still there. It's still a conflict but it's just a transparent conflict."

Aside from that aspect, Elliott said the recommendations don't address advisory and consulting relationships that tend to be the most lucrative for faculty.

"They close up all the small things, the lunches for the residents and that sort

of thing," he said, "but they leave the really big things in place."

## Students push for reform

For everyday students at the University's Medical School, the reform process has been generally a closed one. The original task force's recommendations were circulated among school faculty, but not the general student body, although there were a few students on the task force.

Had the recommendations not been leaked to the media, it's possible that medical students wouldn't have had a chance to comment, AMSA's Minnesota chapter President Hannah Shacter said, and that's a problem.

"Students' voices should be heard on this," she said. "That's the only way to change it."

AMSA-Minnesota's official response to Powell regarding the recommendations was largely positive, although it did call for more conflict of interest training for students.

"Our conversations with our peers have revealed enormous ignorance on the implications of conflicts of interest in Medicine," the response reads.

That is of particular concern, students say, because by nature medical schools lay the groundwork for what kind of doctors the students will become.

"We're the doctors of tomorrow," AMSA-Minnesota's secretary Joy Brintnall said.

Still, aside from concerns over the integrity of research and patient care, AMSA-Minnesota's concerns have a much more practical aim.

"What we care about is the integrity of our education," Shacter said. "If they're in a stance to benefit it's going to affect my knowledge, what my curriculum is going to be."

# Numbers

► from Page 1

schools to train more doctors. The barrier to increasing enrollment further is finding enough places for third- and fourth-year students to complete practical training.

Two years ago, the medical school admitted 183 students instead of the 165 it had normally been admitting, Hannah Shacter, the president of the American Medical Student Association at the University, said. That was because an above-average number of students took the school's acceptance offers.

The school has had to spread students out further than normal for their clinic days this year, she said. Next year, when her class enters "clinicals" full-time, Shacter anticipates things being tight because of the limited number of hospital beds currently available for teaching in the Twin Cities.

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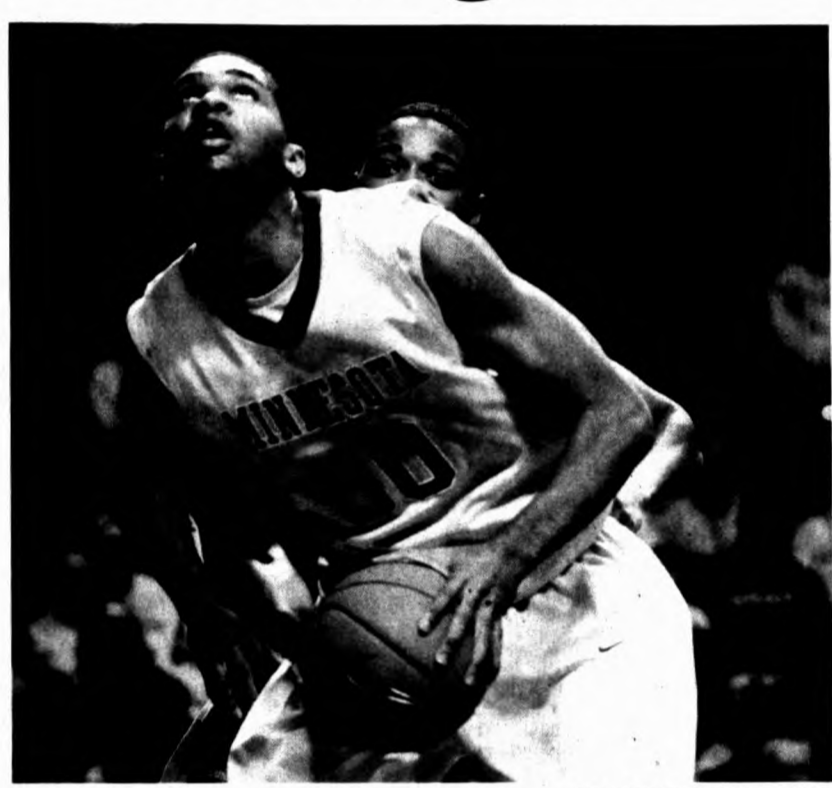
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# Sports

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

### Gophers counting on their big men



MARIJA MAJERLE, DAILY FILE PHOTO

Freshman Ralph Sampson eyes the basket during a game at the Barn this season. Minnesota will be looking to Sampson and Colton Iverson for increased production tonight.

BY TREVOR BORN  
tborn@mndaily.com

There was a question in the back of many Gophers fans' minds, though it was hushed by the team's winning. After a disappointing loss to unranked Northwestern on Sunday, it's more pertinent. What happened to the big guys? In Sunday's upset, true freshman Colton Iverson scored twice in the first five minutes of the game and didn't score again the rest of the way. Fellow freshman Ralph Sampson III finished with two points. With No. 18 Purdue coming to Williams Arena tonight, at 6 p.m., the Gophers will have a size advantage in the post and a need to use it. "We really have to look to get the ball to the big guys," forward Damian Johnson said. "They'll have a height advantage. Colton hasn't been as involved as he used to, but I think he's going to get out of it." Against Purdue's man-to-man defense, Iverson and Sampson should have the chance to get some looks in-

side. They'll go against Purdue sophomore JaJuan Johnson, who gives up size to both Iverson and Sampson. It'll be especially important for the two freshmen to contribute with senior center Jonathan Williams limited by a strained calf muscle. Head coach Tubby Smith said he'll try to avoid having Iverson and Sampson on the floor at the same time. "We have to get the ball inside more, but ... we're probably going to change our lineup some," Smith said. Since his 14-point game against Virginia on Dec. 2, Iverson has averaged less than four points per game. His rebounding has dwindled, too, with an average of less than two over the past five games. Sampson's scoring has been a little better, but not much. The problem, it appears, has as much to do with the offense as Iverson and Sampson individually. Against the zone defenses of Wisconsin and Northwestern, the team focused more on outside jump shooting, as Iverson had just one shot against Wisconsin in 17 minutes of play. "On any team, you need

great guards to win," junior guard Lawrence Westbrook said. "If we have good guard play, it'll be easier for them to get open down low." It worked against Wisconsin, but was their downfall against Northwestern, when they shot just 34.5 percent from the field in the second half and lost a three-point half-time lead. "The main reason we struggled is we weren't getting the ball to them as much as we should've been," Johnson said. "Colton scored a little bit in the first half, but we didn't get the ball back to him or Ralph in the perimeter." **Payton suspended** Smith announced Wednesday that the team suspended junior guard Kevin Payton indefinitely due to academic reasons. Payton has played in eight of the team's 18 games and hasn't scored. "It's very disappointing. But life is like that. You make your own bed and have to make some decisions," Smith said. "But hopefully he'll get what he has to get done, done."

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

### Minn. gets chance to notch another big win



MATT MEAD, DAILY FILE PHOTO

Junior center Ashley Ellis-Milan has been playing some of the best basketball of her career and is hoping to continue that momentum into tonight's matchup on the road at Purdue.

### The Gophers will take on Purdue tonight on the road.

BY LUKE MIDDENDORF  
lmiddendorf@mndaily.com

Beating No. 15-ranked Ohio State on the road for the first time in team history last Thursday was a significant accomplishment for the University of Minnesota women's basketball team. A week before that, the Gophers took down a tough Indian squad at home — a team that currently sits atop the Big Ten standings. On Thursday, Minnesota hits the road to face the next toughest conference opponent: Purdue — which the Gophers are currently tied with for third place in the Big Ten. While the Gophers have fared well against the conference's top teams in the last two weeks, Minnesota struggled against teams below them in the Big Ten standings. A 17-point loss on the road to Iowa on Jan. 11, and needing a second-half comeback to achieve a narrow victory over Michigan on Sunday, showed both the depth the Big Ten has this season and how the Gophers need to come ready to play every game. "We've got to play extremely well to win on the road as a team," Minnesota coach Pam Borton said. "We're going to have to be very balanced and everyone is going to have to be on the same

page to win there." One key to the Gophers' recent success has been the progression of junior forward Ashley Ellis-Milan, who on Tuesday was named co-Big Ten Player of the Week after averaging 18 points and eight rebounds in Minnesota's past two victories. "I think I have been playing pretty well not just these past two games, but for a while now," Ellis-Milan said. "And post presence is a key to our team's success." "We've got to play extremely well to win on the road as a team." **PAM BORTON** Gophers coach Ellis-Milan shot 63 percent on the week and averaged 38 minutes per game. "I think a lot of what makes Ashley a good player is her heart," Borton said. "And when you have the heart of a lion and her intensity, that's what makes Ashley a great player." Facing more double-teams is something that Ellis-Milan expects now that she is getting more offensive recognition. But she said she is always willing to kick the ball out to

any of the Gophers excellent 3-point shooters — including Minnesota's other Big Ten Player of the Week this season: guard Katie Ohm. Ohm leads the team this season in 3-point percentage with a clip of 46 percent. "People have to step up and hit some open shots because we are going to have some open people," Borton said. At the same time that Minnesota is riding high after two straight victories, Purdue is coming off a tough 71-57 loss to Indiana — the same team the Gophers beat on Jan. 8 and the Hoosiers only conference loss this season. But the Boilermaker roster is loaded with talent, topped by All-American forward Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton, who averages 13.1 points and 9.4 rebounds a game. Before Purdue's loss to Indiana — which finished the game with the Boilermakers on a 17-1 scoring run — Wisdom-Hylton led Purdue on a four-game win-streak of its own. Borton said after the Michigan win that every game will be a challenge this season in the Big Ten. The ups and downs that Minnesota and Purdue have already faced in conference play truly prove her point. "We look at it day-to-day and try and come in here every day to get better," Borton said. "We had a great last week, and we want to put together another great week this week."

## FOOTBALL

### Fisch to lead offense

BY AUSTIN CUMBLAD  
acumblad@mndaily.com

Minnesota head coach Tim Brewster took his time. He exercised "due diligence." And two weeks and a day after Mike Dunbar resigned his position as the Gophers' offensive coordinator, Brewster found his man. It was announced Wednesday that former Denver Broncos wide receiver coach Jedd Fisch will assume the offensive coordinator position at Minnesota. "Jedd possesses a vast understanding of offensive football," Brewster said. "Jedd has tremendous people skills and will be an excellent recruiter. He is a young, rising star in the profession who is committed to helping us build a winner here at Minnesota. I could not be more excited that he has agreed to join our staff." Like Brewster, Fisch has high hopes for the Gophers. "I've known coach Brewster for seven years and I know together, we're going to win a Big Ten Championship," he said.

## MEN'S HOCKEY

### Hoeffel, Ness earn WCHA awards after sweeping St. Cloud State

BY BRIAN DEUTSCH  
bdeutsch@mndaily.com

After sweeping St. Cloud State for the second time this season — the team's only two sweeps all year — two members of the Minnesota men's hockey team were honored this week by the Western Collegiate Hockey Association. Sophomore forward Mike Hoeffel was awarded the conference's Offensive Player of the Week after tallying an assist and three goals, including Saturday's game-winner over the weekend. "It feels good to put a good weekend together personally but most importantly team-wise — getting the sweep," Hoeffel said. "That feels the best." Minnesota coach Don Lucia noted that Hoeffel, who was one of three Gophers playing for the U.S. team at IIHF World U20 Championship this month, looked better than two weeks ago when Minnesota was swiftly swept by North Dakota. "I'm sure those guys felt a lot better this weekend than last weekend coming back from World Juniors, because that is a mental and physical grind," Lucia said

over the weekend. "When everybody else gets to shut it down for a couple weeks, they get more intense hockey." Meanwhile, freshman defenseman Aaron Ness, who unsuccessfully tried out for the U.S. team, was honored as the Rookie of the Week for his four assist performance against the Huskies. Ness also earned the conference's Defensive Player of the Week honor two weeks ago after the Dodge Holiday Classic. "That's the least thing you saw tonight was great goaltending." **BOB MOTZKO** Huskies coach The New York Islanders' draft pick scored his first career goal that weekend — one he would have missed had he made the U.S. roster. Sioux sophomore defenseman Jake Marto earned the WCHA's Defensive Player of the Week award after tallying three goals over the weekend. Minnesota (12-5-5, 9-4-3 WCHA) is off this weekend



PAUL BANGASSER, DAILY FILE PHOTO

Sophomore forward Mike Hoeffel brought home Offensive Player of the Week honors for his assist and three goals.

before returning to action Jan. 30-31 in a home series with Minnesota State. **Fallout from SCSU series** Although 14 goals in a game padded the offensive stats for Minnesota and St.

following the second period. Sophomore keeper Dan Dunn came out in the third to replace the New York Islanders prospect and actually posted the best statistical performance of the night by stopping five of the six shots he faced (.833). However, Dunn's lone slipup — a blue-line, wrist shot from Hoeffel — proved to be the game winner. Gophers junior forward Ryan Stoa tapped in an empty-netter for Minnesota's eighth and final goal. Minnesota's Alex Kangas, a sophomore, didn't fare much better than his counterparts — giving up 6 goals on 31 shots (.806). After giving up 11 goals and being pulled twice two weeks ago in Grand Forks, Kangas bounced back by stopping 24-of-25 shots in Friday's 5-1 win before Saturday's offensive outpouring. None of the netminders impressed former Gophers assistant and current Huskies head coach Bob Motzko. "That's the least thing you saw tonight was great goaltending ... The goalies needed to make a save somewhere, just mix in one save in there."

# Editorials & Opinions

The Editorials & Opinions department is independent of the newsroom. The editorial board prepares the editorials labeled "EDITORIALS," which are the opinion of The Minnesota Daily as an institution but not representative of Daily employees' opinions. Columnists' opinions are their own.

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 Phone: (612) 627-4070 Phone: (612) 435-2099  
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## EDITORIALS

### Cap student tuition

The University should look into Pawlenty's proposed tuition cap.

Gov. Tim Pawlenty might be on to something. Although our executive is seldom a recipient of compliment from this page, his recent proposal to impose a tuition cap on Minnesota's colleges and universities is praiseworthy.

According to the Project on Student Debt, upon receiving a diploma, Minnesota students are saddled with the nation's fifth-highest average debt loads. It's a bad situation. But to hear University administrators talk about the issue, one would be led to believe that the only thing worse than churning out debt-ridden students is a tuition cap that would attempt to fight the financial burden. University President Bob Bruininks argued that the tuition cap would "severely compromise" the University — despite the fact that tuition and fees only comprise 23.1 percent of the University's budget.

Ultimately, this idea is titanic in proportion: conceptually grand, but ultimately doomed. When the governor pushed for a tuition cap in 2003, he submitted a proposal to "cap yearly tuition increases at 15 percent per year." In response, the University contended that it was not legally bound to the proposal on the basis that the University was founded prior to Minnesota's official statehood, and that the state therefore had no governing power over the school. We humbly mention that in-state undergraduate tuition has increased nearly 40 percent since then.

The governor's plan will be laid out next Tuesday with the rest of the state budget. We expect institutional resistance to caps, and students who want to see smaller tuition increases should get ready to fight for them. Until then, some food for thought: if the University is unwilling to accept tuition caps again, how much will they hike it this time?

### More capitol requests?

Another building project in a bad economy is not fiscally responsible.

A proposed \$36 million center that would allow the University of Minnesota community to park and ride the coming Central Corridor light-rail transit line and give bicycle commuters a place to shower, repair and store their bikes, as well as connect the light rail with buses, is apparently a better means of creating jobs than thawing the current hiring freeze.

According to a letter sent to Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), President Bob Bruininks suggested such a transportation hub that would be located in the Stadium Village area. Though the letter isn't a formal request, the center was one of a number of infrastructure projects that construction could start immediately on if funding for higher education were to be included as part of the economic stimulus package.

Yet a park-and-ride system usually works best in less trafficked area. Southwest Transit has numerous park-and-ride locations, most of which are in areas that traffic is less busy and riders are usually seeking to get to urban areas in Minneapolis and take the bus to avoid congested traffic.

The University community is already busy with traffic, yet Bruininks says that the idea of multiple transportation modes intersecting in one spot is "exciting," when the project risks infeasibility because commuters are likely to already be close to their destinations, as Jason Cao, an assistant professor of transportation planning at the Humphrey Institute, says in a Daily report.

It is for that reason we look at this tenuous proposal with scrutiny. The \$36 million spent to fund the hub could better be used elsewhere, such as saving departments and faculty jobs at the University. The president should focus his efforts that are specific to the University's current needs, and that is creating jobs that are at the University, not near it.

## DEATHS IN IRAQ

U.S. SOLDIERS: 4,228 — IRAQI CIVILIANS: 90,443-PLUS

## DEATHS IN AFGHANISTAN

U.S. SOLDIERS: 635 — AFGHAN CIVILIANS: UNKNOWN



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Response to hiring pause column

I want to thank The Minnesota Daily and professor Eva von Dassow for Tuesday's interesting column about the hiring pause.

As a lecturer teaching at the University since 2001 — before that I was a doctoral student here — I have also watched with dismay the proliferation of senior administrators, the increases in tuition and the drastic decrease in support to faculty (in terms of TA support with much larger classes to teach) and to students. It is true that it's not all due to decrease in support by the state, although this decrease has been drastic as well.

The situation of lecturers, which von Dassow does not mention, is even dire. As non-tenured track and often highly qualified instructors, we perform a valuable role in the University with no job security, no or very small salary increases and under conditions of almost total social exclusion. We are not recognized as faculty and therefore not included in most events, professional or social, organized for faculty. It is possible to work in a department for years without most faculty members even knowing who you are. In my case, I research, publish and lecture internationally as well.

But the more important question is what to do about these serious issues. Von Dassow seems to call on student activism at the end of her column: You are not getting what you are paying for.

Again, how to act? Thinking through these issues calmly in open and ongoing discussions with representatives of all constituencies in this University (including senior administrators) would seem a good start. In April 2008, a remarkable first step took place on this campus: Rethinking the University. Some CLA graduate students took the initiative and with the support of some departmental money and other sources, they organized a very professional academic conference with participation of their peers, faculty and lecturers. They are planning another one for this April and I recommend that the Daily send someone to cover it. Perhaps professor von Dassow could participate.

Keep up the good job of informing us and making us think.

Catherine Guisan  
 University lecturer

### Obama: close Guantanamo

Amnesty International is an organization for the protection of human rights worldwide. One topic Amnesty has been advocating for is the closure of Guantanamo Bay. The local Amnesty chapter at the University held a rally on Thursday in front of Coffman for the closure of Guantanamo. Amnesty is calling for President Barack Obama to shut down the detention center that has come under fire for suspected torturing of

prisoners, including water boarding. As a leader in the world, the United States is a role model to other countries. The detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay have diminished the United States' reputation, providing a magnet for criticism from allies and enemies alike.

By showing them that we can, in fact, not torture our prisoners from the "War on Terror," it is likely that other governments would do the same. In his first 100 days in office, we would like President Obama to announce a plan and date to close Guantanamo. In addition, Amnesty would like President Obama to issue an executive order to ban torture and other ill treatment, as defined under international law. We also hope our new president will ensure that an independent commission is set up to investigate abuses committed by the U.S. government in its "War on Terror."

University of Minnesota students are doing their part to support Amnesty's issues by showing up to the rally, where petitions were signed and sent to the new president. Hopefully the United States is turning over a new leaf in policies against torture. To learn more about human rights and what you can do to help, come to Amnesty meetings on campus, room 202 in Coffman on Fridays at 3:30.

Erin Cowles  
 University student

## POLITICS

### Toward a more perfect union

President Obama's inaugural address was meant to guide and unite.

As we ponder the wonderful movement in American politics that President Barack Obama represents in terms of minority access to the mechanisms of real power in our country, it may also seem fitting to analyze some of what he said during his inaugural speech in order to know what our role can be to help in the nation time of need.

President Obama started out by saying he was "humbled, grateful, and mindful of the sacrifices borne by our ancestors." But he also mentioned "gathering clouds and raging storms."

Some sacrifices will be needed now much more than at anytime since the greatest generation led our country. But imbued with the knowledge of what Americans can and have already accomplished through sacrifice and through service for their children and grandchildren should instill confidence in us all.

But President Obama wasn't talking about the kind of service that pays homage to racial division, class warfare or red and blue states. He was talking about what the founding fathers were talking about: that all are created equal, all are free and all deserve the chance to go after their fair measure of the pursuit of happiness.

In invoking the memory of our collective American ancestors, President Obama reminded us that America didn't become great through short cuts or settling for less, but through hard work and risk taking — and from doers.

As a citizen of this country and an African-American, I am especially proud of what we have accomplished in becoming the first predominately white western nation to elect a black man to the highest office in the land. It is a shining example of what President Obama called "the quiet force of progress throughout our history."

But with the willingness and support of the American people to role up our collective sleeves, we can ensure a great future for ourselves and future generations.

Paul Edward Hamilton is a University student. Please send comments to letters@mndaily.com.

## CAMPUS

### A night encounter with Bruininks

After seeing the president's video, my curiosity drew me to his Morill office. A tale of wealth and murder ensued.

Don't get me wrong: I loved President Barack Obama's inauguration. Undoubtedly, it was one of the few positive political occurrences I have seen thus far in my Bush-and-Cheney-ridden adolescence. The millions of citizens stretching back into the horizon, singing, chanting and wanting more and more of the man who appears to many like a ray of sun on a rainy day. It was nice, simply put.

But my mind has been other places ever since I received University President Bob Bruininks video e-mail reply to our questions. We, the students — hence real people — asked and our true president answered. The man did not swagger or smirk at his MacBook as he reviewed every last question in his boudoir.

At his favorite dark walnut table, he tirelessly compiled notes for hours — some sources say days — until that desk was covered with loose-leafed scrawling and empty glasses of water. The video, edited to minimalistic perfection, compiles our deepest concerns:

◆ The money we pay is mostly not going toward the TCF Coliseum or other construction projects. Private investors and others mostly pay for that.



MATT GRIMLEY  
 Columnist

◆ On average, every student receives \$6,000 to attend through scholarships. Twelve percent of the students come here tuition-free with Pell Grants, too.

◆ The University will do everything possible to keep down tuition; and reductions in other areas of the budget will only help our president and the University through the hardship.

◆ Bob Bruininks had a hard time adjusting to college life in his first semester.

I felt the tingle of his persona ring throughout my body when it had ended. "Bruininks!" I shouted to myself. Respected by his community as a man with a vision, resilient through the onslaught of economic peril and gracious in his choice to wear the colors of the team for which he would take a bullet.

There was a night last week when I felt particularly Bruininksian, and I decided I needed to see the man. Dressed

in the colors of moonlight and subterfuge, I crept along the dark corners of his building until I came to his window; and, throwing my grappling hook onto what window sill there was, I ascended his wall. I pulled myself up by the finger tips and lifted my head just far enough to peek into his office.

Candelabras, gold and silver trimmed, lined the bookshelves throughout the room. Strong yellow light quavered and revealed a bull elephant's head mounted on the wall behind his chair, still gasping for breath. And on his desk I saw a marble bust of a scraggly-haired old cuss who I knew to be Andrew Jackson. My eyes moved back across the room to where dozens of swords, of every nationality and size, hung against the wall: bastard swords, Japanese Tanto Daggers, Katana Swords, dirks and numerous broadswords. Suddenly, in the shadows of the corner, I beheld a faint glow. A spear, as tall as the room, stood alone. As its glow increased, I wondered aloud, "Could it be? The fabled Spear of Destiny?"

I pulled myself closer to the window to see better Bruininks' substantial wealth. Bang! Someone — something — bashed against the window, and I tumbled to the cold ground. After recovering in the snow bank, I walked away, muttering his name softly in the moonlit glow: "Bruininks."

Matt Grimley welcomes comments at mgrimley@mndaily.com.

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# Opinions

## CAMPUS

# Med school ethics not an oxymoron

The Medical School needs to take steps to repair its damaged reputation.

No one ever told task force members — at least not me — about the history of [Professor Leo] Furcht and [Medical School Dean Dr. Deborah] Powell. Maybe everyone else knew. But I was the outsider on this task force — the journalism guy from across the street. I am disappointed and feel misled."

—Journalism Professor Gary Schwitzer commenting on his HealthNews Blog on UThink

I can understand how Professor Schwitzer would be disappointed with Powell and Furcht. A lot of people share that disappointment.

It is difficult for me to criticize the Medical School because of the many good people who work here: Warren Warrick, Karen Ash, Abhi Humar, David Hunter, Keith Skubit, Doug Yee and Dave Thomas. I could easily list a page more of wonderful colleagues. But criticism has become necessary because — in admin speak — mistakes were made.

According to University investigative reports obtained by the Star Tribune, "A professor who is leading the University of Minnesota Medical School's effort to write tougher ethics rules was himself disciplined in 2004 for secretly steering a \$501,000

research grant to his own company."

Powell appointed a conflict of interest policy violator, Laboratory Medicine & Pathology department chair Leo Furcht, to serve as co-chair of a panel tasked to recommend a new conflict of interest policy for the Medical School. Dr. Powell's husband is a medical school faculty member in Dr. Furcht's department.

Furcht, the chairman of lab medicine and pathology, was reprimanded for a "serious violation" of University conflict of interest policies in connection with a grant from Baxter Healthcare for stem cell research at the Medical School, according to the investigation, which the newspaper received through the state's public records law.

Responses to the Star-Tribune pre-Christmas news report about this situation are telling. Dr. Powell justified her appointment of Furcht without disclosing his violations by saying, "I did not think it was relevant." The Star Tribune further reported that "Frank Cerra, the university's senior vice president for health sciences, said Friday he was familiar with the case but couldn't recall details. He said Furcht's experience could help inform the conflict of interest committee's work."

This doesn't pass the smell test. Furcht is accused of having in years past diverted about a half million dollars in research funds. He has made millions of dollars in what seem conflicted business dealings. Someone's moral compass is demagnetized.

As Margaret Soltan, an English professor at George Washington University, writes on her blog, "[An editorial] in the Minneapolis Star Tribune notes that the most charitable description of what's been going on at the clubby University of Minnesota medical school would be 'bizarre.'"

Fortunately, there are people on campus willing to speak up as Gary Schwitzer has. Carl Elliot of the University's Center for Bioethics, not a member of the panel, has commented in the Star Tribune that Furcht's task force involved in developing new rules on financial relationships with industry should itself be free of conflict of interest and that Furcht should be removed from the committee.

The AHC and the medical school administration are fond of talking about change. Doctors Cerra and Furcht have been administrators since before re-engineering days — during the brief reign of terror of AHC Provost William Brody and the ill-fated tenure wars at Minnesota. Powell is nearing the end of a distinguished career. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Pepsi-Cola for which she was compensated \$130,651 in 2007 according to a proxy statement. She has said that one of the benefits of her work for Pepsi is the opportunity to learn how organizations plan and handle succession. Perhaps this experience could be put to use here at the University?

The larger issue of national importance is the widespread problem of conflicts of

interest in medical schools. As former editor of the New England Journal of Medicine Marcia Angell put it in the January 15 New York Review of Books:

"[A]pologists might argue that the pharmaceutical industry is merely trying to do its primary job — further the interests of its investors — and sometimes it goes a little too far. Physicians, medical schools and professional organizations have no such excuse, since their only fiduciary responsibility is to patients. The mission of medical schools and teaching hospitals — and what justifies their tax-exempt status — is to educate the next generation of physicians, carry out scientifically important research, and care for the sickest members of society. It is not to enter into lucrative commercial alliances with the pharmaceutical industry."

The conflict of interest issue has dragged on for more than a year and a half at the University. Let's repair the credibility damage done by the Furcht appointment and other disclosure issues. Professors like Schwitzer shouldn't be pulled up short by questionable practices in our University. Foot-dragging in this matter is not appropriate while we are trying to convince the citizens of our state to support their public medical school. Let's get a policy to the Board of Regents as soon as possible for their approval.

Bill Gleason is a University Medical School faculty member and a 1973 University graduate. Please send comments to letters@mndaily.com.

## ENVIRONMENT

# Give me green or give me death

Bush's last-minute environmental death clauses warrant lots of anger.

There is some seriously sick irony in knowing that while the rest of us were consciously trying to improve our character with carefully selected New Year's resolutions, George W. Bush and his frat boys were gutting the American underbelly with last-minute regulations. The only thought that makes me more ill is that we're all too sunken-eyed and broken-hearted about the diminishing green in our pockets to notice the real tragedy: the diminishing green on our ground.

In his final hours, former President Bush went great lengths to ensure that his legacy would never harbor any rumors of a love affair with Nature. A Dec. 25 Rolling Stone article lists a few of the environmental setbacks injected by the administration: the expansion of uranium mining near the Grand Canyon, the elimination of major provisions of the Endangered Species Act, and the opening of millions of acres of wild lands to mining interests.

In his book, "The Abstract Wild," Jack Turner upbraids our human indifference to these losses. "We have forgotten the relation between violence and the sacred, forgotten that the wars in Ireland, Palestine and Kashmir are, in part, about sacred land," he asserts. "If you go to Mecca and blaspheme the Black Stone, the believers will feed you to the midges, piece by piece. Go to Yellowstone and destroy grizzlies and grizzly habitat and the believers will dress up in bear costumes, sing songs and sign petitions. This is charming, but it suggests no sense of blasphemy."



ASHLEY DRESSER  
Columnist

It is time to get pissed off. The current economic recession has shown us a need for the drastic political and economic restructuring of our world. Along with these goals, we must demand a firmer sense of environmental dignity. Because really taking care of our environment is the best long-term health care plan we could ever have.

If you're already scorning me as a tree-hugger, wake up. You wouldn't scorn your mother when she fed you, clothed you, and provided you with everything you needed to survive, and that's essentially what our earth does, whether you choose to understand it or not. So if you're not angry yet, keep reading.

As of November, federal agencies are no longer required to complete impact assessments on endangered species or the greenhouse effect before allowing logging, mining, or other development to commence, the Rolling Stone article outlines. Since December, mountain mining industries are authorized to dump waste into neighboring streams and

valleys and air pollution standards were lifted so that coal companies can now operate closer to national parks.

Predictably, oil companies got a steal. Their royalty payments were cut in half, falling from 12.5 to 5 percent, and approximately 2 million acres of scenic land in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming are now at their disposal for the mining of oil shale. This latter agreement is far from practical: Oil shale mining is a process that requires an excess of the West's already scarce water supply. If that isn't bad enough, according to the National Resources Defense Council, factory farms now operate under self-regulation. Farmers can let their animal waste seep unmonitored into America's waterways if they don't "personally" deem it dangerous enough to require a permit. The guarantee that our drinking water is safe has suddenly become significantly murkier.

To me, these offenses are just as infuriating as our social security crisis and the embarrassing state of our schools. I was born a country girl and thus, I view the government's environmental exploitation as a personal affront to my identity. Yet this sense of place does not translate easily to the city kid or suburban slicker. As Turner lamented earlier, a disturbing divide exists in what we all define as sacred.

This divide could be due to our lack of place-based education. Local ecology and environmental ethics are rarely incorporated into our school curriculum. The first time I was offered environmental science (as an elective only) was not until high school. Even then, it was widely regarded as a stoner class where one learned to identify bird calls and wander aimlessly around the school prairie. No one took it seriously.

We are anthropocentric creatures by societal default, meaning: We view humans as the center of the universe. We do not marvel at nature as a spectacular entity in and of itself, we worship it only for its usefulness that it provides to humankind. We take its resources, we commoditize its beauty for profit and we make a killing.

Moreover, we do a fair amount of killing in the process. If you can't take the environment seriously, at least realize that environmental greed, or the want of natural resources, is one of the leading causes of humanitarian havoc in the world. It is what led us to the war in Iraq and it is what leads us to continually exploit and oppress the Third World.

While I was working as a backcountry guide in Maine last summer, I was appalled that the only way my teenage kids could express their appreciation for their wilderness experience was in terms of monetary value.

"How much would it cost to buy this mountain?" they'd ask, and I was tempted to reply, "About the same as your hospital bill after I chuck you off of it, you slimy little capitalist." Kids!

Yet their commentary alludes to the alarming disconnect over who is ultimately responsible for our well-being. Yes, we have lost respect for our government because it consistently manipulates our trust, but let's never lose respect for our environment. It has done nothing short of giving us everything. Turner suggests the answer is this: "To reverse our current state, we must become so intimate with the wild, that we answer its destruction from the gut. Like when we discover the landlady strangling our cat."

Ashley Dresser welcomes comments at addresser@mndaily.com.

## ECONOMIC CRISIS

# Hard times hit higher education

The impact of the recession on higher education — an already increasingly expensive product — is vast and growing.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Economists are asserting this recession will be a protracted one. Accordingly, colleges and universities — including the University of Minnesota — are not immune from its repercussions. And many of those institutions are indisputably going to find that state legislatures won't meet their budget requests. Tuition will rise exponentially.

Here's a glance at how student editorial boards from across the nation have been reacting.

### Emory University

When Harvard sneezes, the rest of higher education gets a cold.

This recession it will be essential to see how Harvard's recent announcement of a sizable blow to its endowment will affect the rest of higher education. Harvard's \$36.9 billion endowment lost 22 percent of its value since August and is in danger of falling as much as 30 percent by the end of the fiscal year.

What's so shocking about this announcement is that Harvard was not required to make it. Harvard customarily reports on the state of its endowment at the end of the fiscal year, June 30. But in the letter sent to its deans, Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust

and a vice president explained that the "current extraordinary circumstances" prompted the interim report. Harvard wanted to alert its community that the drop would be felt across the board and that it would take a toll on the university's budgets.

Emory's administrators have made several efforts to address the recession and its impact on our own community, and it is our hope that they will keep those up and perhaps follow Harvard's lead in providing updates on the endowment to the community at large. The administration announced at the beginning of the year that the endowment was estimated to drop by 2 percent for the fiscal year ended Aug. 31, but there has not been an update since.

Increased transparency will not solve our problems, but it could go a long way toward reassuring the community about the financial state of the place their lives revolve around, particularly if the recession could prompt cuts in programming, research or scholarship budgets.

This editorial was originally published in the Emory Wheel.

### Iowa State University

Each state in the country was given a grade report by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. Based on the report, Iowa has some things to be proud of and some things to work on.

The bad news is that Iowa, and 48 other states, received an F in affordability of

higher education. California escaped with a C- because of its dirt-cheap two-year colleges. The results were startling not just for Iowa, but the entire country. In Iowa, it was found that poor and working class families must pay 40 percent of their income to pay for costs at two-year colleges, and 47 percent at four-year institutions, even after financial aid. Iowa undergrads are borrowing an average of \$4,856 per year in loans. If trends continue, the center has estimated that most Americans won't be able to afford higher education before long.

Iowa's universities have done a lot of good things this past year, but when the regents review a tuition increase in Cedar Falls, we hope these statistics force them to take pause. Iowa needs real solutions — needs-based financial aid, smarter budget cuts and reduced student fees — to keep college affordable for those the state has worked hard to get into higher education.

This editorial was originally published in the Iowa State Daily.

### University of Arizona

It's official: In-state tuition will rise by \$545 next year, with a \$2,275 hike for out-of-state students. The hike, which matched President Robert Shelton's original proposal, was approved in an astonishing move by the Arizona Board of Regents — or, to be more precise, one member of the board of regents.

The Arizona Student Association board

chair Michael Slugocki defended the decision by invoking the specter of impending catastrophe: "If hundreds of classes are cut, if 50 faculty [members] are fired because of this and the quality of our degree goes down, is that a good thing for the university?" Is it a good thing for the university if countless potential students are deprived of the chance to attend the UA because its president decided to raise tuition by almost 10 percent during the worst economic crisis the United States has experienced since the Great Depression? Is it a good thing for the university if students' grades suffer, because they don't have enough money to pay for classes and textbooks and pay for their food and rent?

We've yet to hear any dynamic new proposals for finding new funding sources for the university. Instead, we've heard about the need to "rethink our priorities" — that is, slashing inessential programs and classes. Now we're told that the university needs to raise tuition in order to avoid slashing programs and classes. It's not enough to complain that the state government isn't giving the university enough funding. Of course it's not. But that's the situation, and with Arizona facing crippling deficits, it's not going to change any time soon. It's also not enough to simply push the financial burden onto students. If the university pushes hard enough, it's going to push its student body right out of class.

This editorial was originally published in the Arizona Daily Wildcat. Please send comments to letters@mndaily.com.

## A&amp;E

## EVENT

## My night with monsters

Monster Jam rolled into Minneapolis.

BY TONY LIBERA  
tiberam@mndaily.com

Every year, one show comes to town that is so powerful, so monstrous and so overwhelmingly masculine that advertisers have no choice but to have their commercials voiced over by a guy that sounds like the Macho Man after he's smoked a pack of unfiltered heaters. It is an affair rooted in raw animalistic intensity, where the masters of mechanical befemoths like El Matador, King Krunch and the legendary Grave Digger can transcend the level of "modest proletarian" and attain the hallowed rank of "hero." Here, they soar through the heavens at 40 miles per hour — or at least that's how it feels when you're caught inside the swirling maelstrom known simply as Monster Jam.

I'll be honest; at first I was skeptical about going to the sacred grounds of the redneck Mecca. I'm a 20-year-old with all my original teeth. Monster Jam isn't for people like me — or so I thought.

Arriving at the Metrodome fashionably late, I meandered up to the ticket booth while the roar of engines and the groan of Nick-elback echoed from inside. I politely asked for a ticket and the woman behind the counter said, "20 bucks." Now, I distinctly remember the guy



Graave Diggerrrr!!

from the commercial stating, "Super seats are still just 10 bucks!" Nonetheless, I ended up paying \$20 for nose-bleed tickets. Things were not looking promising as I passed through the turnstile and had my giant cardboard sign confiscated.

But once inside that battered old arena, I lost myself in Monster Jam madness. After buying an ill-fitting Grave Digger T-shirt, I forced my way through the surprisingly

packed stadium and situated myself behind a large group of drunken yahoos near the very top of the Dome. It was there that I saw the true face of Monster Jam. As it turns out, the event has taken on a new life à la Rocky Horror, where hipsters dress up in sleeveless flannels, John Deere hats and fake mullets, get hammered and scream the names of their favorite trucks as they come barreling onto the track. I'm not

sure at what point it became cool to ironically go to Monster Jam, but those attending earnestly were greatly outnumbered.

All irony aside, there was something oddly endearing about watching giant cars fly through the air. The initial wave of tongue-in-cheek elation turned into actual euphoria as the racing event began.

For those unfamiliar with the Monster Jam format, it consists of a few minor

spectacles (back-flipping four-wheelers and a trailer race) and two main events: racing and freestyle. Freestyle is where things get saucy as the trucks hit ramps and roll over full-size trailers in order to gain outrageous height and earn arbitrary points. Bounty Hunter won the relatively tame racing competition before the stage was set for the glorious main event. As rampant alcohol intoxication took effect and

the crowd grew restless, Air Force Afterburner took to the course, revving his engine and hitting random dirt jumps and plowing over cars in the name of liberty. I'm not sure if anyone really understood the point system but, at one time, there were big air cameras flashing from around the Dome and, all together, fans would shout out, "U-S-A!" It was a moment of pure jingoistic delight.

The real highlight of the night came toward the very end, when the infamous Grave Digger graced the crowd with its shadowy presence. The truck made its way out from the starting block like a magnificent black stallion, its pirate flag waving in the stale Metrodome air. The run to follow validated every Monster Jam commercial I've ever seen and made the entire night worthwhile. Grave Digger hit every jump with devil-may-care speed, obtained Icarus-esque height and destroyed everything in its path. In the end, Grave Digger was victorious, winning the freestyle event and the hearts of everyone in attendance.

I left the Metrodome jubilant and exhausted, finally understanding the wonder that is Monster Jam. I strongly encourage everyone to make the pilgrimage once in their life. Whether your intent is ironic or your love is pure, everyone will find enjoyment in this dazzling spectacle.

PHOTO COURTESY JOHN BROWN

## MUSIC

## Gangs. Drugs. War. Rap?

Words rarely associated with one another, but St. Paul Slim's got a lot to say about them.

BY JAY M. BOLLER  
jboller@mndaily.com

Considering the artificial résumé boasted by many a mainstream rapper — narcotics, firearms and the like — their brags need to be taken with a serious grain of salt. Be that as it may, local emcee St. Paul Slim can back each of those claims and wield a mic with the best of them, too. A native of Chicago, St. Paul Slim moved to the Twin Cities while still very much in his youth and started rapping at the ripe age of 10. From there, drugs, gangs and violence were a daily reality. Then came an unexpected twist: Slim joined the United States Marine Corps.

Today, with a mind both street- and battlefield-tested, St. Paul Slim is gaining a foothold in the always-thriving Twin Cities hip-hop scene. Having recently released "The Slim Case" — his solid debut EP — Slim has been in the studio crafting his proper full-length follow up, "The Love and Money Movement." With his varied beats, Jay-Z-channeled flow and uber-confident swagger, Slim has all the tools to be the next in a long line of stellar underground Twin Cities emcees.

Now that it's been out for a while and there's

some perspective, do you still feel good about the EP you released?

Yeah, I ain't got no bad reviews on it. The only thing people expressed to me on it is they want more songs.

What should people expect from your forthcoming record?

People should expect a lot of feel-good music, a lot of flashy songs. Not where I'm bragging on material items, but a lot of songs where I'm basically having a good time.

Tell me about your time in the Marines and how — if at all — it impacted your perspective on life and on hip-hop.

The Marines was an eye-opener. Before that, I was kind of set in a certain way, a certain frame of mind. When I got into the Marine Corps, it opened my eyes to a broader perspective of life and experience. I experienced a lot of different things that molded the way I do hip-hop today.

In the write-up on your MySpace page, it says you rap about gangs and guns because you've experienced both. Do you want to elaborate on that at all?

A lot of my family members are in gangs. Most of my

▶ See SLIM Page 11

## SOCIAL NETWORKING

## Interested in: coming out on Facebook

As Facebook gains momentum, sexuality becomes more open and more complicated.

BY JOHN SAND  
jsand@mndaily.com

Facebook has been nibbling away at users' privacy for quite some time, notably ruining one-night-stands for good (if real names are exchanged) and destroying blissful parental ignorance of just what happens when college kids hit keggers instead of textbooks.

With the way information is constantly shared through multitudes of status updates and photo albums, it's no surprise that controversial personal information is rather suddenly being discussed. Thousands of gay men and women have used the social information highway to come out to their peers simply through the "interested in" selection, not to mention that changing a "favorite music" selection to Christina Aguilera along with showing up in a few rowdy party pics can speak volumes in their own right. All a social networker can do is sit back and watch as their newly announced (or suggested) sexuality blazes through the newsfeeds of 400 "friends."

Though the methods of coming out are beginning to change dramatically, they tend to glaze over the experimentation with and discovery of one's own sexuality, which has historically been associated with beginning the coming-out process. The emotional context is completely removed from the process, though its

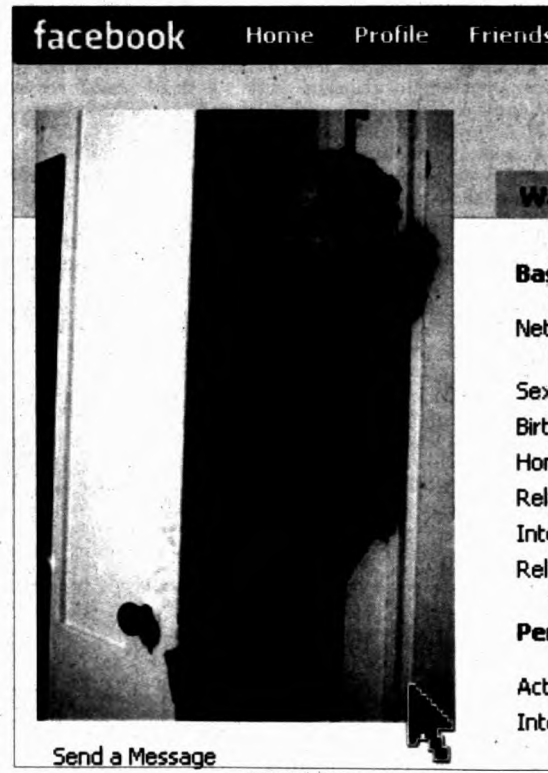
impact is no less real. The self-exploration and interpersonal dialogue involved in coming out has inspired writers like Dan Savage and Augusten Burroughs, and helped to define the GLBT progression of this century. The new question is whether Facebook's little white checkbox is selling modern youth short.

The problem begins with exactly how sexual orientation is defined. Certainly "interested in" can't cover the entire spectrum. Facebook could take a note or two from the Kinsey Report, which places heterosexuality and homosexuality on a scale from zero to six.

There have been groups that request to make orientation an even more explicit declaration on the social networking site, like a group that proposes a sexuality box to define a student as gay, straight, bisexual or unsure. Their proposition asks users to acknowledge the true fluidity of one's sexual identity.

A group called "Interested in needs changing to gay, straight, bi or unsure" declares, "Why not give people the option of stating whether they are gay, straight, bi-curious, open-minded... whatever really!"

To further complicate this emotional investment, Facebook isn't exclusively for students (and hasn't been for a while), so posting sexuality isn't typing it into a secluded



KARINA HOLTZ, DAILY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

world of liberal, open-minded students, but is communicating with a living breathing world full of aunts, uncles and parents.

On openness, Facebook investor Peter Thiel told GQ, "There really is a generational divide, where younger people in the U.S. are generally more open to putting themselves out there. My hope is that we're going to end up with a far

more tolerant society, where the erosion of privacy, to the extent it erodes, will be offset by increased tolerance."

Whether we admit it or not, Facebook is intrinsic to this generation's modes of social interaction, capturing many of the defining moments in our lives. Coming out is another way to create space for oneself on the big, developing world of the Internet.

## CALENDAR

THIS WEEK'S HITS — BRIEFLY

## A&amp;E EDITOR

Becky Lang  
(612) 627-4070, ext. 3237  
blang@mndaily.com

## ASSISTANT A&amp;E EDITOR

Jay Boller  
(612) 627-4070, ext. 3013  
jboller@mndaily.com

Corrections:  
errors@mndaily.com  
2221 University Ave. S.E. Suite 450  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

## FRIDAY

## NAGAS AT THE NASH

NAGAS STANDS FOR North American Graduate Art Survey and equals a plethora of college art from the continent that Gov. Sarah Palin may or may not be able to describe. The poster features a head covered in shaving cream popping out of a bath, so a fair amount of whimsy can be expected.

▶ Public reception 6 p.m.  
▶ Nash Gallery

## FRIDAY

## BACKGROUND NOISE CREW

SAMPLING EVERYTHING FROM "Blood Sugar Sex Magik" — era Chili Peppers to the type of bawdy saxophone lick beloved by '90s sitcom themes, Background Noise Crew is bound to at least induce nostalgia if not delight the ears. Plus their CD release party is at the Dinkytown, so making the commute won't get the old boots too soggy.

▶ 9 p.m.  
▶ \$2 (21+), \$4 (18+)  
▶ The Dinkytown Cafe

## SATURDAY

## BOUNCING SOULS

MORE THAN 20 YEARS into a career of cheery pogo-punk, New Jersey's Bouncing Souls have solidified their legacy as one of the 1990s' premier underground rock acts. Even with ages pushing 40, the band remains famous for their childish but highly energetic stage antics. The Triple Rock's punky veneer suits the band well, so expect an entirely packed house.

▶ 5 p.m.  
▶ \$20  
▶ Triple Rock Social Club

ART

# Sex, war and awkward teens

A modern Japanese play at the Walker tells the story of a few famous days in March.

BY TOM JOHNSON  
tjohnson@mndaily.com

The performance of "Five Days in March," which ran at the Walker recently, is notably modern. It feels like a friend telling you the story of their weekend. The result straddles the line between being fascinating and meaningless at the same time.

The company performing "Five Days in March" is a young Japanese group that calls themselves "chelf-itsch." Their name comes from a mispronunciation of the word "selfish" and is meant to represent a view of modern Japanese culture that the group seeks to portray.

The play is made up of a few stories whose plots alone are pretty simple: Two lovers in a hotel, friends at a protest, a girl asking another guy for his phone number and two guys at a concert.

The five days of the title

refer to the first few days of the Iraq war in March 2003, when all of the action takes place. However, for the most part, the war is referenced through the characters' detached and shallow knowledge of it. The dialogue is conversational and the characters primarily seem interested in talking about other things.

Two guys marching in a war protest talk about the restaurants around the area they are marching. People hook up in a love hotel for five straight days without exchanging names and rejoice in knowing that their fling will coincide with the beginning and the ending of the War in Iraq. In their five days, they become saddened by the price of seafood.

The street-clothed youths telling the stories are constantly moving in quirky, awkward gestures — stretching, massaging themselves or balancing

on one leg. They deliver their stories in mostly unenthused-sounding Japanese (English subtitles projected above) and their words are often directed at the audience.

The dialogue of the story is jumbled and told in a series of anecdotes. The actors pick up each other's narratives and change from first to third person so that viewers can tell which is a re-enactment and which is the real thing. As a result, the stories are bound together in a collective confusion that makes the play flow.

In many ways, the point of "Five Days in March" is to paint a picture of the docile life of the Japanese youngsters in modern times. The characters, while living fairly normal lives, are trying to grasp at significance through glazed outlooks.

Near the end of the play, one of the two lovers at the love hotel walks around the town trying not to lose the feeling of the strange world she has inhabited in the past few days, though she



A performer moves as French words are screened on a blue backdrop. PHOTO COURTESY THOMAS BREMOND

PHOTO COURTESY THOMAS BREMOND

can't quite define what that feeling is.

The performance was delivered with a deadpan humor, and despite the lack of decorated rhetoric, the pacing of the stories created a

compelling mix of perspectives, time frames and settings.

Like listening to a friend recounting their weekend exploits (or browsing around on Facebook),

"Five Days in March" remains undeniably engaging by producing a feeling that there may be some kind of meaning waiting in the quotidian — if only you could just find it.

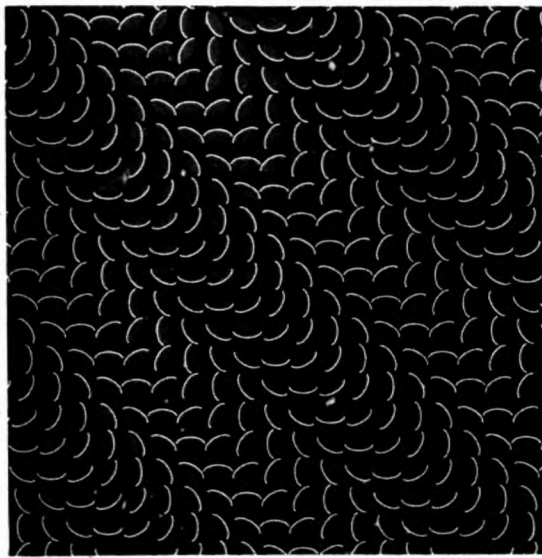


PHOTO COURTESY DOMINO RECORDS  
This album cover not to be taken with cough medicine.

MUSIC

## It's here! And it's pulsing!

Animal Collective have outdone themselves musically, AND made the optical illusion cool again.

BY IAN POWER  
ipower@mndaily.com

The release of Animal Collective's ninth album "Merriweather Post Pavillion" has come amidst feverish anticipation.

Buzz about the new album had reached an ecstatic pitch these past few weeks — and for good reason. The deliciously experimental anamorphous group, which seems to relish the impossibility of being pinned down under one genre,

has somehow honed in on the noise-pop-psychedelic touch of Midas. With their discography now approaching double digits, the band is headed nowhere but up.

Animal Collective has continued to refine their art at breakneck speed (six releases since 2005) with "Merriweather Post Pavillion," a cumulative symbiotic balance of noise and pop, cheering

and chants, dissonance and irresistible melody. The polished and balanced "Merriweather" begs to be pitted against any other Animal Collective record and just may become an early shoe-in for "Album of 2009."

The songs all share the caring and celebratory overtone of dreamy euphoria, which the band has honed to a trademark, and

"Merriweather" finds their sound expertly mixed with sublime harmonies and melodic vocalization. The result is reminiscent of The Beatles'

"Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" and a pop-driven tendency for catchy repetition that will have listeners toe-tapping and singing along to the most raucous of choruses.

Where tracks like "My Girls," and "Lion in a Coma" serve to satisfy our need for catchy dizzy-pop anthems, the entire album's 11 tracks span the spectrum of delirium from valium to speed.

Long story short, 2009 is off to a collectively positive start. In the face of a bleak economic situation mixed with a hopeful political shift, Animal Collective just may be the soundtrack to "Change" for the upcoming year.

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**Slim**  
from Page 10

family members dealt drugs at one point in time, used drugs at one point in time — even myself. As far as guns are concerned, my military career speaks for itself. I'm qualified to use anything you put in front of me. Not only that: As a youth, I carried a gun. And the thing about that is: I know the consequences and repercussions of all aspects of the criminal life, so when I talk about it, I don't speak in a glorification sense. 'Cause I done seen the good and I've seen the worse. And the worse, to me, outweighs the good. The only good thing about crime and gangs is your opportunity for financial gain. But, the bad side of it, which is jail, death, heart aches, paranoia and all the things that go along with that outweigh the good.

**Why do you make hip-hop, and what does it mean to you personally?**

I make hip-hop music because it's the expression from which I came. It's the outlet that people from the ghetto use. It's my outlet. Hip-hop means the current news — to walk a certain way and to know a certain thing. To be hip is to have knowledge, to be up to date, up to speed, and the hop is how you walk. It's an expression of your level of intelligence.

**ACE Thursdays**

MUSIC

# A winter's tale with Bon Iver

He loves the vocoder, but don't let that distract you.

BY KARA NESVIG  
knesvig@mndaily.com

Justin Vernon, the man behind critics' darling and indie-kid favorite band Bon Iver, has a voice like a forest in the middle of winter, and it's no coincidence that he recorded his much-lauded first album, "For Emma, Forever Ago" in a tiny Wisconsin cabin in the cold. Just a hint of Bon Iver immediately brings to mind the images of winds blowing the icicles like wind chimes and a feeling of the silent stillness on the coldest night of the year. The new Bon Iver EP, "Blood Bank," resonates with the concept of seasons, again feeling most at home in the coldest one.

Though succinct in its four-song run, "Blood Bank" is a heavy piece of work. The title track, despite an atypical song structure with its lack of a definite chorus and vague lyrics (is it about AIDS?), details falling in love while donating blood. It's the stand-out of the EP, thrumming beautifully with the pace of a pulse. With Bon Iver, it's easy to listen to each song seven times and still not fully grasp the song's intricacies.

"Woods" is a bookend to Imogen Heap's ubiquitous "Hide and Seek," the sparse



PHOTO COURTESY JAGJAGUWAR RECORDS

(and entirely studio-tweaked) tune heard playing in nearly every pivotal emotional climax on primetime television in 2004. Bon Iver loves his vocoder, and when he uses his actual voice, it helps him conjure something startlingly intimate.

"Beach Baby" is an abrupt two minutes, but it's sweeter and more delicate than the other songs on the EP, with a slide guitar overlay reminiscent of a postcard from Hawaii inscribed with "Wish you were here."

"Babys" sounds like a child repeatedly striking

chords on an old out-of-tune piano, alternating between an eerie major and minor. It builds to a typical Bon Iver whispery climax. It's haunting, but it isn't unique. Most of the songs on "Blood Bank" sound just like outtakes from the "For Emma" recording sessions, and though the Bon Iver aesthetic is pleasing to many, sometimes the repetition is grating.

The four songs on "Blood Bank" are "ideas" of songs versus actual concrete pieces of musical work. They float through your fingers like wisps.

**ARTIST:** Bon Iver  
**ALBUM:** "Blood Bank" (EP)  
**LABEL:** JagJagUWar

MUSIC

# New Andrew Bird album more of the same (AKA beautiful music)

The Midwestern Crooner proves that some things shouldn't be changed.

BY IAN POWER  
ipower@mndaily.com

No one expects brazen and trailblazing experimentalism from Andrew Bird's fourth solo studio effort, "Noble Beast." By this point, fans of the homegrown Midwestern crooner have come to both hope and anticipate consistent and polished quality from a Bird album. Immune to passing fancies, newfangled bandwagons or cheap stylistic awakenings, Andrew Bird has a good thing going and seems to see no advantage in fudging it up through reinvention.

"Noble Beast," which dropped Jan. 20, is a welcome addition to the Bird catalogue, and although the album mostly steers clear of uncharted waters, it still somehow remains both captivating and new.

The album gets off to a safely enthusiastic start with its opening track "Oh No," a balance of tried and tested Bird techniques as well as a catchy toe-tapping loop reminiscent of the more pop-driven tunes



PHOTO COURTESY FAT POSSUM RECORDS

on 2007's "Armchair Apocrypha." He even touches base on contemporary fashion with a reference to a trendy new type of undies when he croons "with nothing but a one-size and a veil."

Although it remains securely traditional, "Noble Beast" won't disappoint listeners looking for a new side of Bird. Both "Nomenclature" and "Not a

Robot, But a Ghost" offer a new face to the artist's music; the latter being carried largely by a beat reminiscent of Radiohead's latest sound.

Examining his musical techniques, the album delivers a continuation of Bird's favorite methods: folksy Djangoesque

**WHO:** Andrew Bird  
**WHAT:** Noble Beast  
**WHEN:** April 11  
**WHERE:** The State Theatre

► See BIRD Page 14

MUSIC

# Gay Witch Abortion go 'Maverick'

The Minneapolis rockers impress with their debut LP.

BY JAY M. BOLLER  
jboller@mndaily.com

Naming a band Gay Witch Abortion is a double-edged sword. First, it's both a spectacular and horrendous entry into the band name lexicon, a name whose unique duality is an absolute guarantee to attract curious music fans. The tricky part, though, is with that instant piquing of interests, a band with such a name is either going to define itself as a legitimate contender or a gimmicky throw-away. There's just no middle ground.

Thankfully, Minneapolis' own Gay Witch Abortion has harnessed their nomen de awesome and are firmly cemented as scene fixtures. The two-piece rock outfit consists of Jesse Bottomley on guitar and Shawn Walker manning the drums. Together, they cultivate a sonic identity that summons what the hypothetical rapping of The Black Keys by Big Black might sound like. The result is a relentless and uncompromising breed of breakneck sludge rock that's only occasionally peppered with Bottomley's so-so vocal drone. But the relative absence of singing from GWA's approach is almost certainly by design, because their sound functions best as a pure, simple two-piece rock assault. Now, after toying with fans for years by not releasing a record, GWA's



PHOTO COURTESY LEARNING CURVE RECORDS  
GWA practicing their "scaring pro-lifers" faces.

debut LP finally arrived in the form of "Maverick."

"Maverick's" opening number, "Asleep With Giants," is a crash course in GWA and, in turn, the album itself. It features the finger-bleeding pace and distortion-added vibe of Bottomley's guitar attempting to tear out of the massive wall of sound that is Walker's drum work. Essentially, GWA thrives in their ability to make minimalism enormous. Other standouts include the surprisingly hooky "Your Own Militia," the epic tempo shifting of "Church Buffet" and the inter-splicing of machine gun riffing with slashing surf rock chords in "Curses." During the disc's weaker moments, of which there are very few, GWA strays into distracting and pointless territory — the ambient noise


of "Unblinking Sun" and the sampling of mooring bovine on "Group Think" being prime examples.

Gay Witch Abortion currently sit comfortably as one of the Twin Cities' premier underground bands, so expectations were very high for "Maverick," and the band does not disappoint. In an indie scene ripe with ironic kids trying constantly to out-ironify one another, the unbridled, earnest and uncompromising rock of GWA is a breath of fresh air and, perhaps, a testament to Bottomley's and Walker's advanced ages (they're in their mid-30s). To call them merely a rock band, though, is unfair. It's the chances they take and the sound-defining murky tone they employ that keep "Maverick" wholly unsafe and undeniably exciting.

**GAY WITCH ABORTION**  
**ALBUM:** "Maverick"  
**LABEL:** Learning Curve Records

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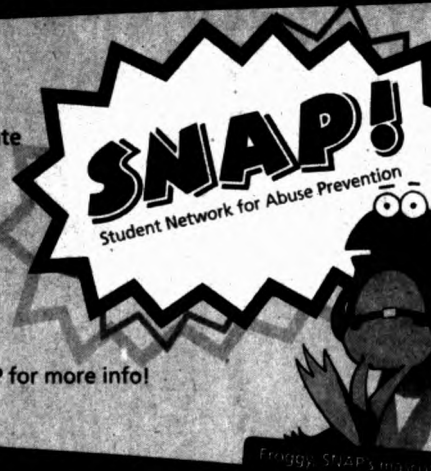
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## MINNESOTA DAILY



BOOKS

# Back with a bone to pick

The U.S.'s resident bitter skeleton spouts off again.

BY KARA NESVIG  
knesvig@mndaily.com

Barack Obama won the presidency and Ann Coulter is pissed. So of course she's got a bad, bad taste in her mouth, and with her new book "Guilty: Liberal 'Victims' and Their Assault on America," she's out to expose liberals as the true bullies and the press as their slingshot.

Coulter makes her living being outrageous, running off at the mouth about topics guaranteed to raise the hackles on any American. (Sept. 11 widows, Barack Obama, comparing Christians to Nazis; the list never ends.) An objective reader has to assume the reason that her books remain New York Times bestsellers is because of their bordering-on-ridiculous content, not because Coulter has an assembly line of faithful followers hanging and agreeing on her every word. She's really cranked "Guilty" out in record time, because it talks about recent issues like the Gov. Sarah Palin catastrophe, the John Edwards sex scandal and the Franken senatorial race.

"Guilty" begins with a meandering 33-page "thesis," with Coulter's hectic train of thought and ranting pace, pointing her skeletal, accusatory fingers at fake memoirists, racists, single moms, The New York Times, and, of course, the liberal media. She tries to

argue that racism is a dying concept by pointing out that there are more "crush fetishists" (men who are aroused by women in stiletto heels crushing frogs and talking dirty to said amphibians) than there are members of the Ku Klux Klan.

Coulter really has it out for single moms, blaming them for societal problems and accusing them of depriving prospective adoptive parents of children. She paints Angelina Jolie as a baby-hungry slut pre-Pitt and points her claw at Hollywood for glorifying the single mom lifestyle. She despises sex education in schools, going so far as to assume that every kindergartner in the public school system is currently familiar with the purpose of condoms.

You can imagine how Coulter feels about the media's adoration of Barack Obama; the back cover of the book proclaims it in bold letters: "The media wanted to screw Obama, but only in the sense that they literally wanted to have sex with him." Coulter refers to Obama throughout the book by a variety of nicknames: Obama the Redeemer, Obambi and B. Hussein Obama. It begins to border on the ridiculous, but ridiculousness is Coulter's shtick, whether she readily admits it or not.

To be fair, which happens to be one of Coulter's favorite phrases in an attempt to legitimize her vindictive arguments against the "liberal media," she does

manage to raise a few valid points, though most of them get lost in her lengthy diatribes. It's as if Coulter sat down to blog and came away with a book. Once in awhile she's funny in a spiteful, sarcastic manner and "Guilty" satisfies its purpose by pushing buttons. There is an astounding 33 pages of citation to back up her facts, so even if she's distorting reality in her own controversial way, at least she's showing us her detective work.

Coulter makes some totally ridiculous claims, like that "Fox News" is the least biased news station in the nation, and tries to back that up by hating on Keith Olbermann and Chris Matthews. She also hates on Halle Berry for using "race baiting" to win her Oscar for "Monster's Ball" and then claiming that the moment was "so much bigger than me."

While reading "Guilty," and while watching Coulter on her various television appearances to promote the book, one has to wonder why she's so bitter. The panel on "The View" attempted, despite their evident dislike of the skinny blonde, to give Coulter reasonable space to discuss certain concepts in "Guilty," though Coulter preferred to turn the conversation to their supposed "attacks" on her personally. It's likely that her sour visage isn't going to go away, because after reading "Guilty," it's obvious that Ann Coulter can get "torked" off about anything, anywhere.

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR  
**ANN COULTER**



# GUILTY

PHOTO COURTESY CROWN FORUM  
Extensive Photoshop attempts to humanize her always fails.

BOOKS

# 'Eve' proves to be an apple that's hard not to savor

The novel recounting the life of Eve is harder to walk away from than the Garden of Eden.

BY IAN POWER  
ipower@mndaily.com

The Old Testament is ripe with possibility for fan fiction. With more material to draw from than "Star Wars" and "Star Trek" combined, The Bible part one is chock full of intrigue and scandal.

Murder, incest, seduction, transfiguration, snakes, forbidden fruit, banishment and bigamy; the list goes on and on. Yet, it is dangerous territory to try to write a work of fiction out of the most well-known book on the planet. Fiction written out of biblical texts exists in the same way that covers of Beatles songs do: People will

always wonder, "Who are you kidding?" Thankfully, Elissa Elliott's debut novel recounting the life of Eve does not fall short of the mark but, instead, approaches it with grace and originality.

"Eve" exists somewhere between the Genesis-like magical history of Gabriel Marquez's "One Hundred Years of Solitude," and Ann Carson's cryptic and mythical "Autobiography of Red." The story, which recounts the birth of humanity from Eden through the death of Abel to the end of Adam and Eve, is retold from the point of view of Eve, as well as her three daughters.

A balance of ingeniously woven prose, anthropological history and biblical text, "Eve" is carried along with the help of Elliott's sensual and evocative voice. The allegorical universality of the book of

Genesis becomes a treatment on womanhood, good and evil, faith, maternity and the inherently fragile nature of humanity. The story of the first humans is a lot like the first seasons of "Lost": it's steamy, and there are even "others" in the form of a non-Israelite civilization the family comes in contact with.

"Eve" will leave readers racing to discover an end already known. The tragedy of "Eve" is truly Shakespearean, a tragedy already familiar and understood.

The appeal then becomes the telling, the journey up to that point and the parts invented. Luckily, Elliott's craft is up to the challenge. The idea of the novel may be the initial draw, but it is the author's writing which will keep your faith until the end. Now, if only Sunday service could be this interesting ...

**"EVE: A NOVEL OF THE FIRST WOMAN"**  
AUTHOR: Elissa Elliott  
PUBLISHER: Random House  
PAGES: 419  
PRICE: \$24



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FILM

# Life after death



He loves it when you call him Big Poppa.

PHOTO COURTESY PHIL CARUSO/FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

The Notorious B.I.G. is resurrected on the silver screen.

BY TONY LIBERA  
tlibera@mndaily.com

More than a decade has passed since Biggie Smalls was gunned down in Los Angeles, and the story has since become as notorious as its protagonist, with new conspiracy theories popping up each day and (for some odd reason) a continuing necessity to choose sides in the long-dead East Coast vs. West Coast feud.

But many of those who grew up listening to B.I.G. records were too young to fully understand the events surrounding his death and knew little about his formative years. "Notorious" strives to shed light on these events, giving an adequate, but at times bland, account of Biggie's life, chronicling his rise from common hustler to rap superstar.

The film is the brainchild of the artist formerly known as Puff Daddy, Sean "Diddy" Combs, who wanted to pay homage to his dearly departed friend. Tracing Biggie's humble

origins as Christopher Wallace, the film takes us through the Brooklyn rapper's early days, highlighting his intelligence and amiability, and detailing just how he overcame his situation and became a legend.

But while the real-life events might have been fantastic and awe-inspiring, their dramatization is only moderately entertaining and hardly ever rousing. At 100 minutes, the film trudges through the bare-essentials, leaving little time to expound on the lesser-known happenings in the rapper's life or to even touch upon the now-famous events with any semblance of poignancy.

These problems are partly attributable to a lackluster script, penned by Reggie Rock Bythewood, whose other notable screenplay was for the appalling "Biker Boyz," and poor direction from George Tillman,

Jr. ("Barbershop" series) who fails to imbue the story with any sentimentality that doesn't plunge into schmaltz territory.

The film's saving grace is the spot-on lead performance by newcomer Jamal Woolard. Woolard perfectly captures everything from Biggie's swagger

to his vocal inflection. His only flaw — and it is a minor one — is that his rapping voice isn't low

enough to capture Biggie's true flow. In a movie peppered with song covers, this is somewhat of a distraction.

Also, Natori Naughton, formerly of 3LW fame, delivers an entertaining performance as Lil' Kim, one of the few characters that actually changes over the course of the movie. The other performances are hardly worth mentioning as they are either way off the mark (Anthony Mackie as Tupac) or just overdramatic (Angela Bassett as Biggie's mom, Voletta Wallace).

But the film's real nail in the coffin is the fact that the Diddy produced it. The film loses all credibility from Combs' constant meddling. He asserts himself as the primary influence in everything that Biggie ever did, with the film alleging that it was Puffy that pulled him out of the streets, made his first record as great as it was, and acted as his spiritual guide, telling him, "You can't change the world until you change yourself." Deep, Puff.

In addition, the pseudo-inspirational ending tacked on by Combs is enough to break the already dangerously high schmaltz-meter, and the obvious reworking of the events makes for a severely biased film.

It's regrettable that "Notorious" can't capture the boldness its subject displayed through his storied life. This might be the glossiest biopic in recent memory as the filmmakers decided to forgo the wonders of Biggie's reality and instead make a basic rise and fall narrative. Maybe someday there will be a film that does justice to his story, but unfortunately "Notorious" was not it.

★★★☆☆

KNOW & THROW

BY JOHN SAND · jsand@mndaily.com

Welcome to 2009, space cadets. We know that your break has been pretty stressful, what with all the slightly R-rated Facebook chats and trips to your hometown dive bars, but school won't wait and neither will A&E.

Remember, we're dropping in on your lecture once a month to make sure you're not doing anything Ann Coulter would do while persecuting single mothers (like getting a sex change and wearing wonky black dresses).

## What to know:

▶ We've done the convoluted scientific research to find that chest hair is back with a vengeance. If Ed Westwick can rock it in GQ, we expect you to stop Bicing your chest twice a week and grow what the good Lord gave ya.

▶ Though we're not too wild about American Idol's umpteenth season, we're totally stoked that one of our own has made it "Hollywood." Bright and bubbly, Casey Carlson from Minneapolis better get ready to be a local celebrity this semester!

▶ In the ranks of trashy television, VH1's "Rock of Love Bus" is really something else altogether. Part violent soap opera, part Playboy centerfold, constant smut and emotional disconnect continue in full force for your viewing pleasure.

▶ If you're tired of gulping down those vodka-diet-cranberries in an effort to get hammered while keeping off the pounds, there's a beer for you. MGD 64 may just be a 3.2 brew, but who can argue with 64 calories a bottle? It's science.

▶ Hands down, "Oh No They Didn't" — a celebrity gossip Live Journal community — is all of the dirt without the faulty attempts at sarcasm and constant influx of Tara Reid bikini photos peddled by "The Superficial."

## What to throw:

▶ Guys, we know you've got a few bottles of Axe body spray lurking in your bedroom or somewhere next to your sink, and with their clever marketing, who could blame you? Not-so-sadly, it's time to ditch the suffocating spray and don some real deodorant (we recommend Old Spice "After Hours").

▶ Something we've been absolutely dreading for quite some time is coming our way. The Fray somehow stopped crying alone for a bit to produce a new album. Though that in itself was a feat, we'd rather they stay under the sheets and take another dose of Prozac.

▶ Ever since George Clooney left "ER" way back when, the show's been taking a nosedive. Considering it's been 10 seasons since his departure, we're just surprised it didn't hit rock bottom a long time ago.

▶ We don't care if the McCafe lattes are good or not. We're boycotting them simply because their ads pin coffee drinkers as pretentious hippies who don't know anything about football.

## Bird

▶ from Page 12

guitar/violin duality, grandiose whistling and that open-air-at-night feel which lends his music so well to live performance.

"Noble Beast" may not show Bird entering a new era of music-making, but it does make it clear that his type of music has become a melancholy, clever and lovely brand.

got something on your mind?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

When our opinions don't make it into print, we express them anyway.

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Representing the viewpoints of the Daily editorial board.

MNDAILY.COM/BLOGS

Center for Arts & Medicine  
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www.bioethics.umn.edu

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- Jule Schumacher, M.F.A. (Director, Creative Writing Program)

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Course Directors:  
Mary Faith Marshall, Ph.D., Director, Center for Arts and Medicine  
Marilyn Mellor, M.D., M.F.A., Pediatric ER Physician and Poet

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**got something on your mind?**  
 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# SUDOKU



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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).

**SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE**

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1	3	9	8	4	2	5	7	6

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## Daily Horoscopes

**Today's Birthday (1/22):** Your heart is moved to compassion by the suffering of others. Some are very far away, but that doesn't deter you. With a dedicated group, you can be of great assistance. Get involved.

**To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.**  
Written By: Linda C. Black

**Aries (3/21 - 4/19):** Today is a 9 - Persistence is required, but it definitely pays off. After being turned back over and over again, you finally make it through. Good thing you never give up.

**Libra (9/23 - 10/22):** Today is a 9 - Get the facts to back up your theories. This makes you even more in demand at meetings and cocktail parties. You're not just a pretty face. You're also smart.

**Taurus (4/20 - 5/20):** Today is a 6 - Don't gamble with your savings; you can't afford to risk a cent. You can use it to get a better deal, however. That wouldn't be such a risk. Remember, no funny stuff.

**Scorpio (10/23 - 11/21):** Today is a 6 - Bit by bit, you're making your dreams come true. It isn't easy, but it sure is satisfying. Get the best deals you can so your money goes further. Do the research.

**Gemini (5/21 - 6/21):** Today is an 8 - Go along with your partner's suggestion. This could work out very well. And it will amaze your partner if you don't argue. Just smile and you'll drive him or her crazy.

**Sagittarius (11/22 - 12/21):** Today is an 8 - Sometimes the line between fantasy and reality gets very thin. Concentrate on what you most want to have happen. Ignore all the negative stuff. Do what you need to do.

**Cancer (6/22 - 7/22):** Today is an 8 - You always have a little something in reserve. It helps you rest easy at night. Pick a number to shoot for in the coming year. You'll really sleep well after you get there.

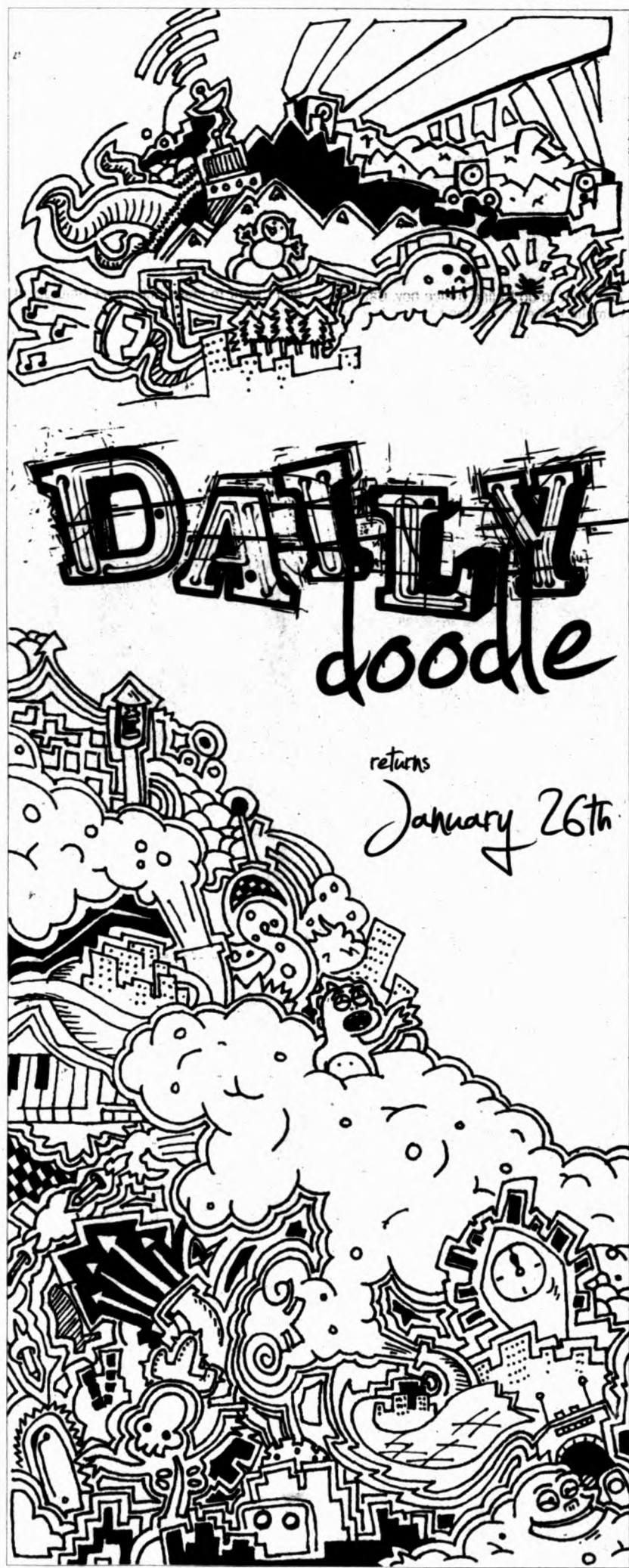
**Capricorn (12/22 - 1/19):** Today is a 6 - You're pretty good at finding buried treasure. You have a knack. Something you discover now falls into that category. This ought to be fun.

**Leo (7/23 - 8/22):** Today is an 8 - Sometimes, in order to get what you want, you have to start off doing something else. Don't even mention what you're up to, so you won't have to explain. Let it be a surprise.

**Aquarius (1/20 - 2/18):** Today is an 8 - Finish whatever you're working on. That means everything, not just your favorites. The more you get done, the more the fog in your head clears up, and that's a wonderful thing.

**Virgo (8/23 - 9/22):** Today is a 7 - Don't let your fantasies for a better life stay in your head. Write them down, if nothing else. That's a magical step in making them come true. Convince yourself you can.

**Pisces (2/19 - 3/20):** Today is a 6 - Some of the confusion will clear up in the next few days. Now it's being identified and that's an important step. Be patient if you don't quite understand what's going on yet.



# DAILY doodle

returns *January 26th*

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No appointment is necessary. Visits last approximately 10 minutes. Service is provided on first-come, first-served basis. Gopher Quick Clinic may reach capacity prior to 5:00 p.m. depending on demand.  
Visit [www.bhs.umn.edu/quickclinic](http://www.bhs.umn.edu/quickclinic) for complete list of services.
- Schedule an Appointment**  
Minneapolis Clinic  
Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
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Dental Clinic (612) 624-9998  
Eye Clinic (612) 624-2134  
Mental Health Clinic (612) 624-1444  
St. Paul Clinic  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Tuesday and Friday 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
General (612) 624-7700
- Urgent Care**  
If possible, first call (612) 625-3222 to let Urgent Care know you are coming in. Then just come to Boynton's main check-in desk on the third floor (entry level).  
When the health service is closed, proceed to University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview.  
For life-threatening emergencies, call 911.

Boynton Health Service  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday  
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**THE DAILY**

# NETWORK

**Hope you all made the best of Hump Day, Networkkia. You know this jarred freak did. :-)** We talk a lot here in Networkkia about the personal failures of Carlson School students, also the perpetual geekiness of my Backtalk page counterpart, **Dr. Smelly Date**. But it's starting to feel a little stale, Networkkia. So send in those letters — let the world know what little things around campus give you mildly homicidal tendencies. There's a whole world of NUTTholes and NUTThags out there, and I believe that as Networkkians, we can expand our horizons.

**from IT, huh? No immune system ...** And as any loving mother would tell you, they are WRONG. First they get sick, then their friends get sick, and pretty sure these three kids who must not look good in jackets are responsible for 50,000 people sneezing. **Net: This is also the logic behind the plague.** On behalf of the sick student body, I want to thank you ... and for god sake put some clothes on. **Net: Maybe you have a sick body (and not the good kind). If that's the case, YOU keep your clothes on, Naked Icicle. And don't come back without them.**

### FROM: Pissed Commuter

Network, I'm peeved. **Net: Well gosh, Commuter, I'm jeeved.** The University of Minnesota sends their little street-sweeping goons out to push the slush from off of the campus sidewalks and splashes it on students traipsing to class. Personally, I don't care if I have to walk through a puddle or two to get from A to B. **Net: Clearly, you've never tried to get from point A to B in a jar, NUTThole.** And I don't think we have to make it easier for coasties with their high heels and thousand dollar boots to walk to class. **Net: I'm detecting a whiff of Wisconsin accent. Commuter, you ARE BANNED.** Just don't spray your sidewalk NUTT on me. **Net: And don't spray your Scennie NUTT on us.**

### FROM: NAKED ICICLE

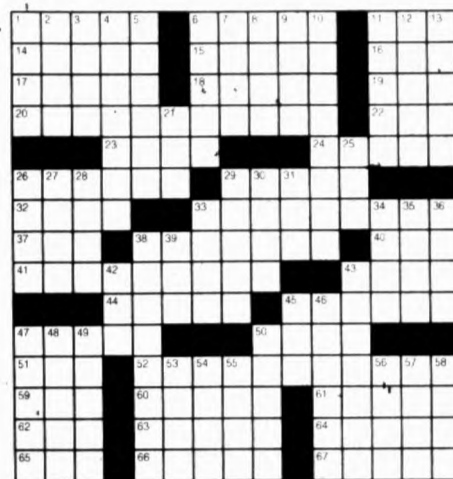
What's the deal with these kids walking around in short-sleeve shirts? **NET: Just for the record, I never wear a shirt.** It's the middle of the winter. Just because it is -20 degrees last week, doesn't mean it's warm. **Net: As someone who's jar liquid just unfroze, I would disagree with you, Naked.** Students wonder why they always get sick. I'll tell you why: These stupid kids think they can be stronger than the weather. **Net: You must be one of the scrawny, specky twits**

### FROM: optimus00prime

From the time we enter grade school all the way up until about ... sophomore year of college, we're always told we can be whatever we want to be and do whatever we want to do. NOT TRUE. **Net: Ah, the cold harsh reality check letter. Gotta have at least one of those every day. I'm sure you're infinitely qualified to be giving whatever advice you're about to dispense there, Optimus.** There are certain things I or others and individuals can't do, whether it be because of physical, **Net: I am, of course, assuming you mean "physical"** — mental or financial limitations (or even racial or gender limitations), some things are impossible for people to accomplish. **Net: You, for instance, appear to be unable to spell correctly. Indeed, Optimus, you shall never be crowned National Spelling Bee Queen. I do hope that was not your secret hope and dream. Wait, actually, I DO hope that it was ...** The sooner a person realizes that in life the better. There would be less wasted years in college, switching of majors and shattered dreams if adults would stop telling children their entire life that they can do whatever they want. **Net: You were one of those kids whose parents told them right away there wasn't a tooth fairy, huh? Cynical, but true. PS. Don't trust a ho. Net: Or strangers. Definitely not strangers.**

## DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**  
 1 Lanterns  
 6 Elicit  
 11 Fathers  
 14 Numskull  
 15 Animal toxin  
 16 Sales agt.  
 17 "West Side Story" heroine  
 18 Slur over  
 19 Raw mineral  
 20 Start of a quip  
 22 Triumph  
 23 Fox chaser?  
 24 Ocean speck  
 26 Of poor quality  
 29 Spoiled kids  
 32 Blaze the trail  
 33 Part 2 of quip  
 37 Bobby of the Bruins  
 38 DOA sites  
 40 Coffee server  
 41 Part 3 of quip  
 44 Manitoba tribe  
 45 Gray and - Moran  
 45 Lists of candidates  
 47 Donkey calls  
 50 Long, narrow inlets  
 51 Set the pace  
 52 End of quip  
 59 Publishing grp.  
 60 Concerning bees  
 61 City on Baranof Island  
 62 Dine  
 63 Dogie catcher  
 64 Range of the Rockies  
 65 Superlative ending  
 66 Martin of "Apocalypse Now"  
 67 Borneo ape, briefly
- DOWN**  
 1 Peru's capital  
 2 First grandfather  
 3 Actress Sorvino  
 4 Fingered, in a way  
 5 One way up  
 6 Special occasion  
 7 Mark for removal  
 8 Part of UNLV  
 9 Morse message  
 10 Honorable retirement title  
 11 Slink about  
 12 Eagle's nest  
 13 Exhausted  
 21 Tofu source  
 25 Draft org.  
 26 Coagulate  
 27 Queen of Olympus  
 28 Justice Warren  
 29 False  
 30 Decisive defeat  
 31 Vigoda or Burrows  
 33 Disney sci-fi flick  
 34 Mongol's tent  
 35 Shade source  
 36 Persons  
 38 Western lawmen  
 39 Kyoto sash  
 42 Vocal pitch  
 43 Register operator  
 45 Female sib  
 46 Stops in open water  
 47 Above it all  
 48 Picture puzzle  
 49 Alter to fit  
 50 Talk and talk  
 53 Moonfish  
 54 Sage  
 55 Foundation  
 56 Blues singer James  
 57 Sacred image; var.  
 58 Caroled



By Alan P. Olschwang  
 Huntington Beach, CA 1/22/09

### Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

LEASH BONN ITEM  
 ERICA LVII NHRA  
 AIDANQUINN TOTS  
 REARGUE JEROMES  
 VEE PARANA  
 SNEER WAS VESTS  
 WARS DPW GERMAN  
 IRR SAMUNN ARU  
 SCOTTY EMUSNOB  
 SOLAR PEP CENTS  
 FLUMES TOE  
 CALUMET PRUDHOE  
 ROYS ARTHUR PENN  
 ANNE LOWE SOWED  
 WENS SLOW EDNAS

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Send your entry and name to: [Network@MNDaily.com](mailto:Network@MNDaily.com)

MATH MATTERS  
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## Mathematics Making Sense of Sensors

Thursday, January 22, 2009  
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Sensor networks are poised to affect our societies in dramatic ways. They are embedded into products we use each day, such as airbags, hearing aids, and networked cell phone systems. Sensors are tiny devices that collect information. When connected to a larger network, they manage vast amounts of data. Managing that data so we don't drown in it requires answers from mathematics.

Sensor networks monitor environmental changes in rain forests and are used in nanotechnology and biomedical testing. They are widely used in law enforcement and in homeland security. These networks are changing our lives and our social norms. Christ says: "And the impacts we are seeing today are incomparable to changes that are coming." He will describe a recent calculus for sensor network data, whose origins lie in algebraic topology.

Robert Christ  
 Andrea Mitchell University Professor  
 Mathematics & Electrical Engineering  
 University of Pennsylvania

[www.ima.umn.edu](http://www.ima.umn.edu)

## DR. DATE

A DAILY DOSE OF RELATIONSHIP ADVICE

**Dearest Dr. Date,**  
 I am a freshman, and I have been a little down lately. First semester I met a couple of guys, but it never went anywhere past two or three "dates" and always ended with me feeling used and abused! Second semester I really want to meet more guys and get them to like me enough to stick around for a while. However, it's hard to compete with some of the pretty ladies on this campus, and I don't know just what to do to find a nice boy. Can you compile some sort of top ten list of how a girl like me can be sexy and endearing to the general populace of young men at the University? And please set all joking aside for this one!  
 —Tall, Blonde and Lonely

**Long Tall Sally,**  
 No jokes?!? How am I supposed to do my job? Don't you know that laughter is the best medicine? Look, I'll try, but I'm not making any promises. Without further ado, the first top 10 list of 2009: How to charm the fellas:  
 1) If you ask your date "What are you thinking about?" and he says "nothing" pretend you're satisfied and/or joke about it. Don't keep prying away.  
 2) Since you evidently think that you are below-average on the sexy scale, you may be inclined to pancake your makeup. Don't do it.  
 3) Don't slather yourself in perfume, either. A few tasteful spritzes will suffice.  
 4) Don't let yourself be used; if you offer everything you've got to give, lots of guys will take it all and leave nothing in return. Have you ever seen one of those houses where the big bowl of Halloween candy says "Please take one?" If it doesn't work for candy, it won't work for dating.  
 5) Try to challenge your men. Take a contrary position once in a while. Don't fight, but make it clear that you're independent.  
 6) Smile.  
 7) Don't be needy. Good God, don't be needy. You may feel needy, but again, you want to appear to be independent.  
 8) Learn to appreciate "guy" things. Can you identify various types of beer? Do you drink beer? Can you explain how the "offsides" rule is different in hockey and football (or, if you're into Euro types, soccer)? This isn't so you can placate men's egos. This is so you can engage them on their turf. To put it into the female version of the experience, wouldn't you love to be dating a man who you can talk to about shoes?  
 9) Be bold. Say hi to men who you like. If you wait for them to come to you, you can't be disappointed if they walk on by. You're not a piece of meat in the freezer waiting for your day to get picked up; you're a woman who wants to meet someone, go get 'em! Plus, confidence is sexy ...  
 10) Remember that you're a freshman, and you're in no rush to do anything. Relax and enjoy your remaining three to seven years of college.  
 —Dr. Date

**To the wise Dr. Date,**  
 I've been dating this amazing girl since we first met during the summer after we both graduated from high school. I've loved every minute of the past year and a half. We're great for each other; we trust each other deeply, the sex is amazing and no one has ever made me happier. We're both very happy with each other. Of course, there's a catch. Can two mature, driven college students have a meaningful relationship when one half of the relationship puts school first? Lately, my time during the week has been almost completely monopolized by various academic pursuits. I don't want to look back on my time spent here and regret the time I spent with my nose in a book, but I'm also very dedicated when it comes to school. So what do you think? Should I keep up with my studies and risk leaving her feeling left out, or should I be happy with C's and give this sweet girl the attention she deserves?  
 —Committed nerd

**Nerd,**  
 Well, kinda both. If you're going to be in a relationship, you owe it to your S.O. to treat them well. However, that does not mean forgetting your studies and shooting for C's. What it means is talking with her and feeling out what it means to be in a relationship and in higher education. Find out how much attention she needs and give her at least that much. Find out how much attention your studies need and give them at least that much. Trust me, you can balance the two (with a little help from your gal pal). You've put your heart and tens of thousands of dollars into your relationship and your education; don't let either be a wasted investment.  
 On the other hand, if you need to choose one, pick school (sorry, Nerd's girlfriend).  
 —Dr. Date

**Dr. Date,**  
 I have a little bit of a problem. Basically, I'm a gay dude who's looking for guys who aren't necessarily the typical gay guy. I'm not into theater, and I actually follow sports pretty closely. Unfortunately, I kind of feel like at this rate, I'm going to die alone. All the guys who are ever interested in me aren't really my type, and any guy I'm ever interested in turns out to be straight. Anyway, how am I supposed to meet a guy on the same page as me?  
 —Picky Pansy

**Picky,**  
 The fact that you self-identify as a "gay dude" says it all. I'm sure I've never heard any of my gay friends use the word "dude." Anyway, if you're spending time at places that are well-known "gay hangouts" you're on the wrong track. Men like you probably don't feel like you fit in there, so you won't find the kind of guy you're looking for in a place like that. Ironically, this means that the place you're most likely to find a gay man who is your type is in places where straight men hang out. The trouble you face is in separating the Kings from the Queens, if you catch my drift.  
 I've known a couple of gay men who were in ROTC/armed forces who actually were a lot like you describe yourself to be. Keep your eyes open for the uniform (only the guys in camo, though; Navy/Air Force are a different story entirely).  
 —Dr. Date

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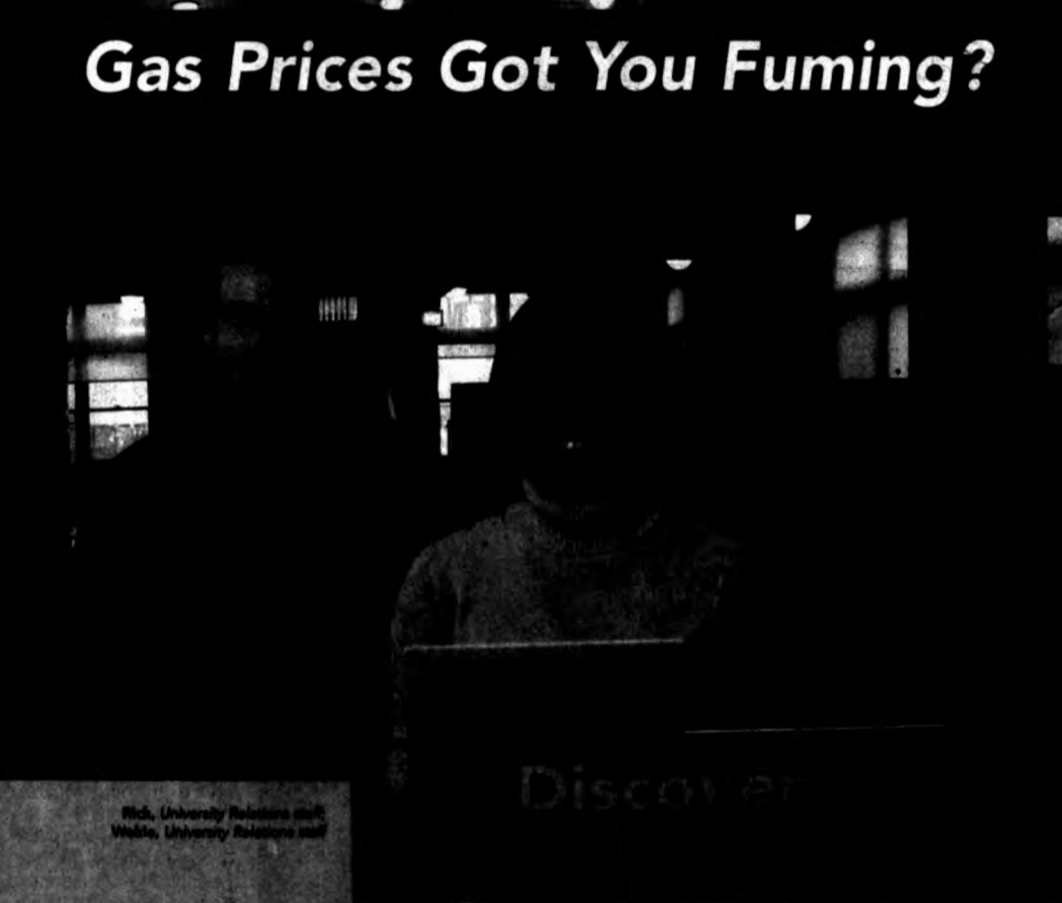
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

