



the
campus
eye

SPRING 2018

ANOKA-RAMSEY STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Vandalism and Harassment in Mosaic Center

Man verbally harasses students in Mosaic Center and defaces map.

Max Brown, Editor-in-Chief

A man entered the Mosaic Center on the Coon Rapids campus March 27 and began verbally harassing students while defacing a world map with politically-charged vandalism. The offender was not a registered student, staff member or faculty at Anoka-Ramsey.

Zamzam Mohamed, a student in the Mosaic Center at the time of the incident, said that the man entered the room and approached the map with confidence and familiarity with the Mosaic

center's layout, despite not being a student.

"It was like he knew where he was...he walked straight to the back, cursing 'f— Palestine, it will always be Israel' and he crossed off Palestine on the map," Mohamed said.

The division between Palestinian and Israeli land has been a controversial international issue for decades, and one without a clear international consensus. The

creation of the original Israeli state in 1947 was an effort to offer reparations to the Jewish people following World War II and the Holocaust. The original model was a two-state solution that split Palestine, a British protectorate at the time, into a Palestinian state and Israeli state. During various conflicts over the past 50 years, Israel has militarily occupied several territories claimed by Palestine, including Gaza. The vandalism has been interpreted as

a show of rejecting statehood.

After the incident, Mohamed and a group of other students confronted the man, who was sitting outside in the student center. The man offered to pay for the vandalism while repeating the phrase "it's America" without explaining what he meant. He continued to denounce Palestine, saying they are "killing [his] people."

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Investigation into Student Senate President-Elect page 5



Attention: This is a Lockdown page 9



Students gather in the Mosaic Center as a show of solidarity after the incident.

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OUR MISSION

The Campus Eye is published by students of the Coon Rapids and Cambridge campuses of Anoka-Ramsey Community College.

The purpose of The Campus Eye is to provide news from both campuses and views of their students and staff. The newspaper also provides an opportunity for student reporters, photographers and designers to gain experience covering news and producing a newspaper.

Articles on these pages represent the opinions of the writers and not The Campus Eye, Coon Rapids/Cambridge Campuses or the student

WRITE TO THE CAMPUS EYE

If you are an Anoka-Ramsey student and are interested in submitting a story to our media organization, please review the submission guidelines. Please email us with any questions. Thank you for your interest!

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Max Brown
Editor-in-Chief

Transparency between the leaders and those under them is critical to the success of any organization. This holds true for the highest offices in our government, governors – presidents, senators – down to something as humble as a community college student senate.

The students senate holds a good deal of influence at Anoka-Ramsey: they control activity funding, ultimately deciding which activities can receive their requests and which are cut if the budget runs thin; they control catering and food options on campus, which is very important to students who rely on the cafeteria for their meals, especially if that student has medical or religious considerations in their diet; they also have influence over textbook suppliers, a core tenet of the cost and quality of education on campus.

With all the power student senate wields, it is only fair that students have a voice in what happens, or at least who decides. A chain of events, first identified by The Campus Eye last fall, seems to indicate

otherwise.

An email with the subject line “We want your opinion,” which provides a link to a SurveyMonkey poll along with a vague description, would not draw most student’s attention. The email would go ignored like most autogenerated school notifications, yet this is how the student senate runs its presidential election.

What this results in is a situation like the one from the last several years, where voter turnout has been consistently below 300 students despite a student body of over 6000.

Even the presidents who are elected by the student body have a habit of not being kept around. Elijah Muhammed was elected twice by the student body, both in the 2017 and 2018 elections. In 2017 he was removed by the student senate in and replaced by a non-elected senator. An attempt to remove him again this semester has prompted concern from many on campus including President Kent Hanson.

The senate has ignored every opportunity to be transparent with The Campus Eye regarding the case. Current president Rachel Bray has refused to address the issue with Muhammed in any meeting where a member of The Campus Eye was present. Ultimately, the senate decided to address the issue in a meeting when it wasn’t on the agenda, preventing anyone who wanted to know the outcome from attending. Even more egregiously, they removed a Campus Eye reporter who was in attendance. Not only

was this unethical and nontransparent, it violates Minnesota’s Open Meeting Law, which stipulates that

“A public body must close meetings for preliminary consideration of allegations or charges against an individual subject to its authority. If the members of the public body conclude that discipline may be warranted as a result of those charges, further meetings or hearings relating to the charges must be open. Meetings must also be open at the request of the individual who is the subject of the meeting.”

By removing a member of the press from the meeting, which was a “further meeting” as defined under the law, the student senate has violated state law in their attempts to keep the press and the public in the dark on the issue.

Student senate is powerful. While they may not have the reach of state and national government, their actions still exert influence on the finances and quality of education of thousands of students every year. With this power, they must be held to the same standards of fairness and transparency of much larger bodies. The Campus Eye acts as a check on this power. If anyone at Anoka-Ramsey acts in a way that impedes on the voice, safety or education of the students, The Campus Eye investigates to ensure that the student body’s best interests are served. Thank you for reading, Max Brown



Coon Rapids campus

Jan. 29 – Public safety was notified of a disturbance in classroom B202 when a student was acting out with overtly suspicious behavior and speaking loudly. The student fled when approached but was safely detained by the CRPD and was in custody

Feb. 6 – An employee at the Coon Rapids campus reported a driv

er who was screaming at a second driver because the first driver thought they had taken their open parking spot. The first driver had yielded the parking spot to the irate second driver, though the second driver continued to banter until the second driver left the scene.

March 19 – Student reported to Coon Rapids police and Public Safety when another student gained access to her car and was “teaching his girlfriend a lesson.” The car was found in disarray and the second student said he had mistaken the car and provided a name to the owner.

March 27 – Public Safety was contacted by a person who admitted damaging a map located in Mosaic Center at Coon Rapids campus. Two student witnesses provided additional information when saying there was also provoking language while the person damaged the map. Law enforcement was contacted and police reports were filed.

Selections from the campus security reports are written by the public safety staff and edited for clarity by The Campus Eye.

newswire

Vandalism and Harassment in Mosaic Center

(Continued from Cover)

Eyewitnesses say that the man came to the Mosaic Center from the “quiet room”, where his erratic behavior was already making students uncomfortable. Student Menna Rageh encountered the man on her way into the room and considered his behavior unusual and disquieting.

“He was standing outside with a campus map in his hand and he was writing things down and crossing things out on his map, like, abruptly.”

The man entered the room while Rageh was praying and continued acting erratically.

“He walked into the quiet room... and stood and stared facing at the wall for about a minute and 50 seconds...it was really uncomfortable and suspicious...all the sudden he just closed his

bag, packed his stuff up and left,” Rageh said.

In response to the incident, an event was held in the Mosaic center the following day.

“Me and a few other girls held an event in the Mosaic...a lot of faculty members were there, and we were making ribbons with the colors of the flag of Palestine just to show solidarity...as a group we talked about it, President Kent [Hanson] was there... we discussed what had happened, they were sharing what was going to be done...pretty much reassuring us that we are welcome at this school,” Mohamed said. Rageh and Mohamed reported the incident, at which point campus security escorted the man off campus. Mohamed felt that the response wasn’t enough.

“We just felt like it wasn’t reassuring enough to know that we were

going to be safe and comfortable in this school...that this man is just going to walk away with nothing happening,” Mohamed said.

This event comes in light of student concerns over the so-called “Punish a Muslim Day.” In early March, fliers were anonymously delivered to homes and businesses in several English cities declaring April 3 “Punish a Muslim Day.”

The fliers described Muslims as “those who would like nothing more than to do us harm and turn our democracies into Sharia led police states,” and offered point values for various offenses against Muslims, including verbal abuse, physical assault, removing a Muslim woman’s hijab, and burning a Mosque. Anoka-Ramsey students are concerned that the events in England may inspire violence in the U.S.



A picture of the vandalized map

Mosaic Center hosts “Meet a Muslim Day”

In response to vandalism incident, Mosaic Center holds day of solidarity

Max Brown, Editor-in-Chief

Students in the Mosaic Center held “Meet a Muslim Day” on April 3 to encourage solidarity and acceptance after a vandalism incident the previous week. Many students, staff and faculty attended the event.

The event was held to encourage acceptance of Muslim and other minority communities on campus. An open discussion was hosted by students to comment on trends they saw on campus with diversity and suggest ways to foster it.

“We only see people from multicultural backgrounds...there’s a whole group of students who should be seeing this conversation but aren’t,” a frequent visitor of the Mosaic Center said.



Students expressed frustrations, proposed solutions, and reflected on current successes.

Several other students expressed frustration at lack of engagement from students outside the minority communities, saying that students from majority backgrounds must make more of an effort to reach out.

“Someone who has more privilege than us...they can use their louder voice. We need someone with more privilege and power to boost us,” said one student.

Student Elijah Muhammed posed the question “How can we improve connectedness?” In response, several students said that people from white majority backgrounds must make more of an effort.

“We just gotta do our part, and hope to god white people do their part,” one student commented.

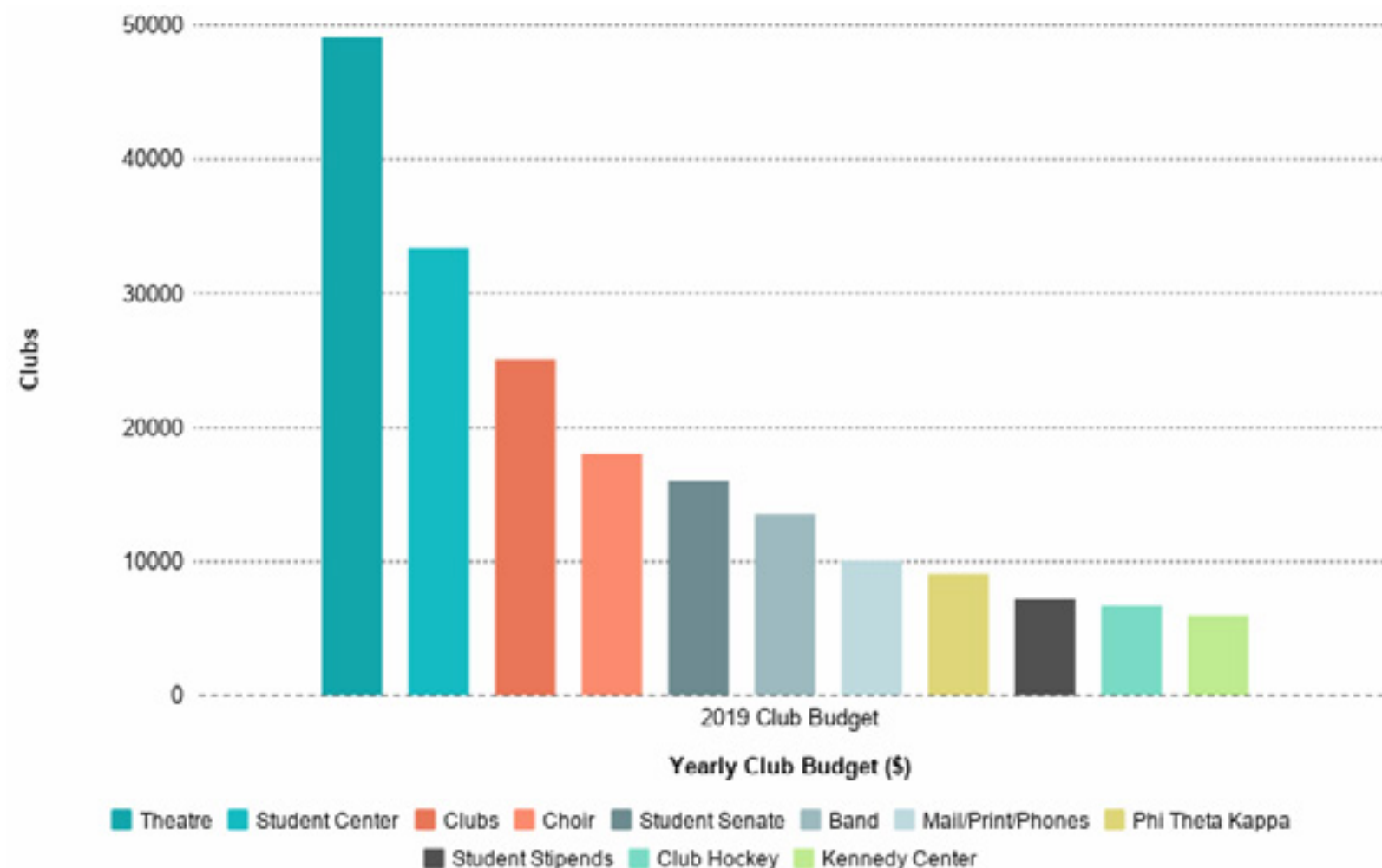
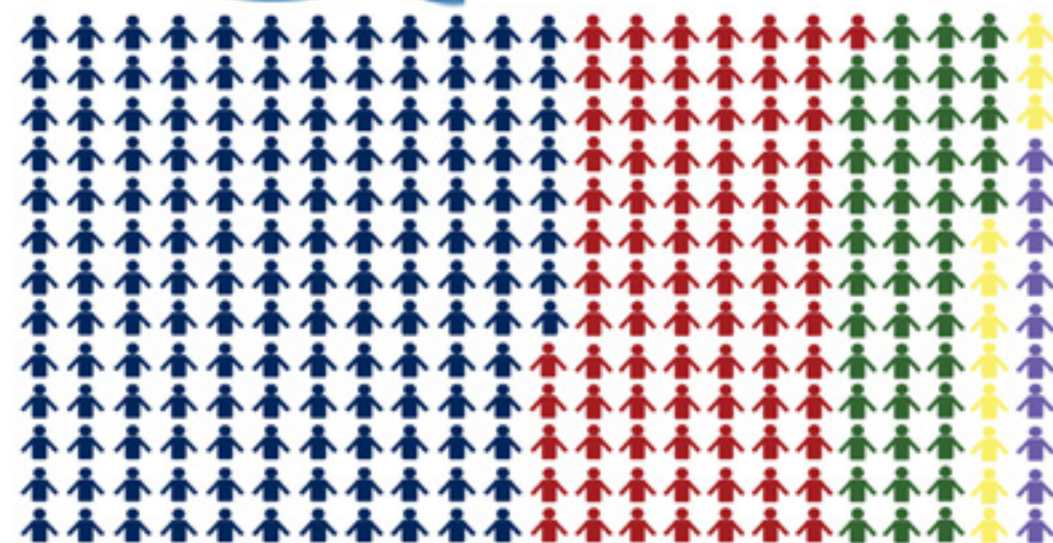
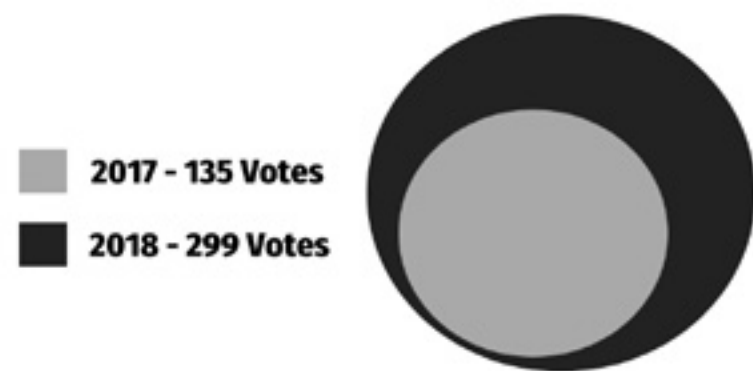
Students also reiterated the importance of the Mosaic Center, expressing gratitude that Anoka-Ramsey had this resource while other local community colleges, such as North Hennepin, do not.

President Kent Hanson was in attendance and expressed frustration with the lack of progress toward acceptance but was optimistic about the school’s efforts to improve the situation.

“I wish we were a bit farther down the road than we are, but I have hope. I think we have a good plan. It’s a journey, and I’m glad we’re on that journey,” Hanson said.

ELECTION 2018

Elijah Muhammad captured the 2018 Anoka-Ramsey Student Senate presidential election, defeating his two challengers by winning more than half of the votes cast. Voter turnout for the 2018 election was more than double that of 2017.



A look at the 2019 Coon Rapids' Club Budgets

Who is Our New Student Senate President?

Anoka-Ramsey President Kent Hanson steps in as student senate president-elect is almost removed by senate
Tirzah Wiebolt, Staff Writer

The Coon Rapids campus student senate attempted to remove President-elect Elijah Muhammad from office on April 18 for telling a student the process to vote through school email and closing the door to the veterna's lounge on campus while talking to students.

Muhammad won the 2018 election with 50 percent of the student body vote.

Muhammad's removal is not final. President Hanson stepped in April 23 to conduct his own investigation.

"I have faith in the system," Muhammad said. But there is no way for him to appeal regardless of the outcome.

The student senate investigation that led to Muhammad's removal was led by current president Rachel Bray and included Senate Communications Director Ocean Lamoureux. Bray and Muhammad have a documented verbal altercation from earlier this school year. Lamoureux ran against Muhammed in the election last month they currently have a no contact order from the school due to an incident that is not currently public knowledge.

The decision to remove Muhammad started after an investigation that was brought about by several anonymous notes from the student suggestion box. According to the student senate bylaws all notes must be read and discussed. There were four notes in total with complaints about Muhammad. Three said the exact same thing while the fourth was a long letter with many complaints about Muhammad.

While all the notes were anonymous, the letter in the suggestion box was traced to its source and was discredited by the investigation. However, the contents of the letter were placed into the notes for the student senate meeting and put up on the school website before being investigated.

"I have been maligned in public and apologized to behind closed doors," said Muhammad.

While investigating the situation one member of the Campus Eye attempted to attend the public student senate meeting on April 18 and was asked to leave by Bray when the investigation was brought up. Journalists' right to attend such public events is protected by law. Muhammad's removal was not included in the agenda or notes from the senate meeting which is against student senate bylaws.

On April 23, after the results of the investigation had been told to Muhammad, President Hanson decided to launch his own investigation into the matter. Bray received a letter from President Hanson informing her that Muhammad is to remain in his current position until his investigation is completed.

"I recently became aware that the Coon Rapids Student Senate acted to remove President-elect Elijah Muhammad. Because of concerns raised about the action of overturning the results of the election, I have decided to exercise my authority to pause the removal of Mr. Muhammad pending a review of the facts and process underlying this decision," President Hanson wrote in his letter to Bray.

It is not known at this time who will be looking into these concerns. LeadMN, the organization that oversees the student senate



Coon Rapids Student Senate President-Elect Photo Credit: Elijah Muhammad

and many other student senates in Minnesota is aware of Muhammad's removal. Mike Dean, the executive director of LeadMN, was on campus April 23 to investigate matters and talk to those involved.

"There was unethical behavior according to the student senate constitution. Everything is still undecided" said Joyce Traczyk, the academic advisor for the student senate. She declined to comment any more until the investigation is complete.

Muhammad said he is hopeful for his future.

"In moments like these I remember the lessons of my mother, this lesson being, no matter the turbulence always stay focused downstream," Muhammad said.

The Campus Eye has reached out to current Student Senate President Bray by email and in person and she has declined to comment on the investigation or the contents of this article.



Coon Rapids 2018 Student Senate Photo Credit: anokaramsey.edu

Hi, Am I in the Right Class?

Part Time Professors Get Replaced Last Minute
Michael Nguyen, Staff Writer

Students looking to attend Anoka-Ramsey fall semester were able to start registering for classes April 19. Students will begin the process of signing up for courses and professors will also begin preparing for these courses. But the question remains, are the students getting exactly what they sign up for?

The relationships formed between students and professors have proven to be an important factor of the college experience. It is no surprise many students form relationships with professors and look to take courses from them in the future.

“I believe the professor is a huge part in my success as a student. Them willing to take the time and help me on questions,” Anoka-Ramsey student Jared Ross said.

Students signing up for courses may be looking forward to learn from their favorite professor. If that professor happens to be part time, the student may be in for a surprise.

Ross was a part of a situation where a professor was switched out right before the semester began. He had previously taken a course with a professor and signed up to take this professor again the following semester.

“The expectations of how things

are done on problems change. Another would not knowing the professor as well and having to gain a new relationship,” replied Ross when asking what some of his struggles were when switching professors.

The term used for a part time faculty member is “adjunct.” According to contract arrangements with the Minnesota State system, only full time faculty are guaranteed a yearly salary regardless of how many credits they teach a semester. Part time employees however are only compensated after the course begins. This means that regardless if a part time faculty member spends months preparing for a course, they will only be paid for the credits after the course has begun.

Often times the courses are canceled weeks before the semester begins.

“I literally found out the day of the class,” replied Daniel Wallerius, student at Anoka-Ramsey when speaking about finding out about his professor being switched out.

The reason the college would switch out a part-time professor for a full-time professor comes down to money. Full time faculty salaries are guaranteed. If a course assigned gets canceled they still make the same salary. Courses get canceled when en-

rollment for a class doesn’t fill. The college wants to sure that full time faculty are used efficiently and teaching the max amounts of credits. When this happens, part-time faculty are often negatively affected.

To help fill the course load for full-time faculty, deans from Anoka-Ramsey take courses away from part time faculty. This act leaves many part time faculty subject to preparing for a class for months only to have the class taken away sometimes weeks before the semester begins. This impacts them financially because their compensation is dependent on the course beginning. Losing credits can also cause a part time faculty member to lose health benefits or cause them to have to pay more for the benefits they currently have.

Jim Biederman, Anoka Ramsey’s faculty grievance representative said, “It’s really about spending the money coming from the state and students in the most cost efficient way.”

When approaching part time professors to speak out on this matter, many expressed their displeasure on past experiences on losing a class. They talked about how much time they felt was spent on preparing for the course that went uncompensated. Many stated they wish to remain anonymous for fear of losing future employment opportunities.

“I can see why a faculty member would be frustrated and upset and not wanting to speak out, they understand that it’s probably not going to change anything.” Stated Biederman

According to Biederman about 30 percent of credits taught at this college are taught by part time faculty. The main factor in making sure classes don’t get

canceled is enrollment growth. Biederman states that the recent decline in enrollment is why we have seen classes being canceled and taken away from part time faculty happen more frequently.

“It is painful, it’s disruptive to all the faculty, its disruptive to the students who sign up for a class from a specific faculty member and it gets switched to somebody else at the last minute,” said Biederman.

Another Generation Returns to School

Fifty-five-year-old Anoka-Ramsey student Julie Ploetz shares her experiences.

Ashley Johnson, Staff Writer

“It’s important that my son sees me go through school,” says Julie Ploetz, a 55 year-old nontraditional student at ARCC. She has a 16 year-old son who is still in school at Cambridge-Isanti High School.

Ploetz maximizes the time she has to go back to school herself while her son is finishing his last two years of high school. She explained that there are advantages of having a busy child and that her son’s schedule impacts how she uses her time.

since 2000.”

Because cleaning houses can be hard on the body, Ploetz has returned to school in search of a new career. “House cleaning is getting a lot harder overall physically, especially on my back.”

Another age-related concern she had is technology, which she did not grow up using like most ARCC students have. She explained that this is one of the most difficult parts for her coming back to school.

Despite the challenges she faces being an older student, Ploetz is motivated and determined to pursue her new career.

“Fortunately, I have a son that is really busy right now. He’s in robotics and archery at Cambridge High School, so some nights I’m not picking him up until seven o’clock. Those are the nights I do what I need to do, whether it be school-work or personal things.”

Ploetz is attending ARCC to become a dental hygienist. She is currently self employed and runs a house cleaning business.

“I try to work four days a week. I run a house cleaning business, I’ve done that



Ploetz and her son at the Grand Canyon in the fall of 2017. Photo Credit: Julie Ploetz

Former Anoka-Ramsey Student Senate President Runs for Congressional Seat

From Student Senate President to Mayor of North Branch and Now Running for Congresswoman, Kirsten Hagen-Kennedy shares her experience.

Andrea Gerrard, Staff Writer

Community college is often viewed as a stepping stone to greater things, but the skills learned at a community college can stick with students well beyond transfer or graduation. One of those skills is leadership. Making the most of their time in college can lead to great things, if students are able to maintain that momentum.

One Anoka-Ramsey alum became a leader early on in her college career and continues to blaze trails ever since. From being a single mother to becoming Student Senate President from 2010-2012 at Cambridge campus, to being elected as a local politician, Kirsten Hagen-Kennedy is looking forward to her greatest challenge yet: running for Minnesota State Congress.

Most recently in her career, Hagen-Kennedy is well known as the current mayor of the city of North Branch, a community where many Cambridge campus reside. Many of her leadership philosophies originated from time serving as Senate president.

“Get to know the people that you are serving,” Hagen-Kennedy recommends to aspiring politicians, reflecting on the lessons she learned during her time at Anoka-Ramsey. “Find people who do not participate. Work on the things that you know you can work on. Make sure the work you do is for the people you serve.”

During her time as Student Senate President, Hagen-Kennedy championed issues such as helping to create the Gay-Straight Alliance club, bringing 12-step addiction recovery programming to

campus, and fighting to create a food shelf on campus. Although the food shelf did not come to fruition, and the 12-step programming is no longer on campus, she was not deterred in making sure that the voices of her community were heard.

Hagen-Kennedy did not win her first election running for Student Senate President, but she built a strong bond among her classmates and community members.

She plans to do the same with her upcoming run for state congressional office. She has formed a strong bond with mentor and outgoing congressman, Rick Nolan, who has advised her in her current role as mayor.

Hagen-Kennedy plans to develop a grassroots connection to the larger community she will hopefully represent and to become connected to the issues that mean the most to them. “Money problems are everyone’s issue,” says Hagen-Kennedy. She cares about larger issues such as homelessness, health care and education. As a former student herself, and with children who are grown and currently in college, Hagen-Kennedy understands the value an education plays in providing opportunities to our community.



One of Kirsten Hagen-Kennedy’s campaign photos. Photo Credit: Kirsten Hagen-Kennedy

Rick Nolen took office on January 3, 2013 at the age of 74 and has decided to retire from office. He has announced his support for Hagen-Kennedy to succeed him as a congresswoman. Hagen-Kennedy is ready to take on the challenges that face the people of Minnesota.

National Health Freedom Action Visits Coon Rapids

Complementary and Alternative Medicine Club invites speaker from National Health Freedom Action.

Max Brown, Editor-in-Chief, Luke Gentle, Web Editor

Jerri Johnson, president of National Health Freedom Action, spoke at Coon Rapids on Tuesday on the issues of vaccine safety and the rights of alternative medicine practitioners. Johnson’s talk was hosted by the Complementary and Alternative Medicine Club. Anoka Ramsey biology professor and club advisor Joan McKearnan were also in attendance and offered her viewpoints during the group discussion.

Johnson’s focus was on the risks of vaccination. Johnson claims that vaccines, particularly the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine, put recipients at risk for neurological damage. Johnson’s stance is largely based on her work in the Somali community of the Twin Cities, where a recent measles outbreak has been blamed on members of the Somali community choosing not to vaccinate their children.

Johnson believes that their fears were justified, claiming to have personally worked with many Somali families whose children were neurologically impaired shortly after receiving the MMR vaccine. Johnson blames trace ingredients, such as mercury and aluminum, in vaccines as a possible cause.

McKearnan claims that these trace ingredients are not found in the right quantity or chemical composition to pose a realistic threat to patients.

Johnson also addressed the burden imposed by current medicinal practice laws on practitioners of alternative medicine.

Most states currently define practicing medicine as attempting to diagnose or treat illness or injury and require anyone partaking in these activities to have a license, which has caused some alternative medicine practitioners legal trouble. The Board of National Health Freedom has lobbied in the past to change medicinal laws to give alternative medicine practitioners broader rights to practice.

In response to this, McKearnan claims that “there should be some licensing so that not just any snake oil salesman can come down the line and say, ‘I can cure you of whatever you have’”.

One thing both parties agreed on was that a mixture of western and alternative medicine is ideal for living a healthy life.

“I like to have access to conventional method(s)... if I break an arm or if I had a stroke, I’d go to the hospital. But if I have chronic kind of illness like if I had allergies or depression or hormonal imbalances or asthma then I would like to choose to see holistic practitioners that work in a very natural, gentle ways to restore my body to balance,” Johnson stated.

McKearnan similarly stated, “I do believe that holistic medicine has its place in medicinal practicing. Studies have shown a lot of mind over matter can be significant in the healing process and holistic medicine can help with that.”

Cambridge Student Earns Coveted Internship at Steger Wilderness Center

Caitlin Augdahl's experience demonstrates why students should take up extracurricular activities.

Julia Yates, Staff Writer

Caitlin Augdahl is a senior in high school and is a full-time PSEO student at Anoka-Ramsey Cambridge campus. When Augdahl took classes at her high school, she reflected that she did not want to get involved in extracurriculars at the high school. Having the opportunity to do PSEO has allowed Augdahl to see the difference between high school and college and the benefit of being involved on campus. Augdahl states, “PSEO is such a great thing, so happy I got to do it!”

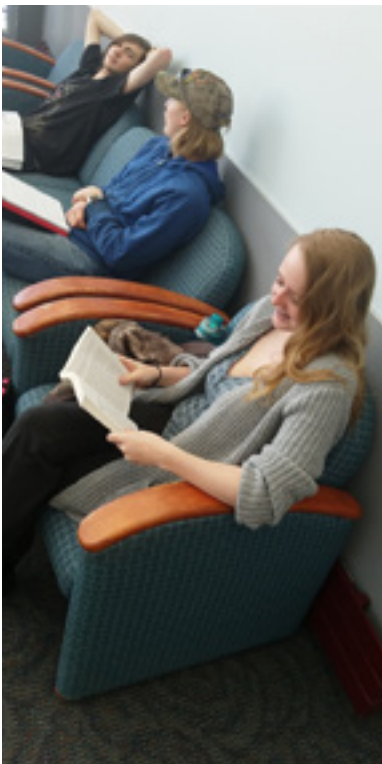
Since being a PSEO student, Augdahl is now the president of Psychology Club, a new Phi Theta Kappa member and Environmental Club (E-club) member. Additionally, Augdahl volunteers at Family Pathways food shelf in Cambridge and Rough Start Rescue, out of Princeton.

Through her involvement on campus, and specifically E-club, she had the opportunity to go

to Steger Wilderness Center on three different occasions this academic year. Will Steger is a wilderness explorer who founded the Steger Wilderness Center in Ely, Minnesota, an organization that’s mission is to provide life changing wilderness experiences that allow individuals to grow their passion for the outdoors. Additionally, Anoka-Ramsey Cambridge faculty members Melaine Waite-Altringer and Peter Wahlstrom are members on the Board of Directors at Steger Wilderness Center.

Augdahl first visited the center as part of instructor Wahlstrom’s ethics course. “After the first time I went up there, I wanted to stay there. It was like ‘aw that’s amazing.’” says Augdahl.

While Augdahl was at Steger Wilderness Center for the second time, which was to attend E-club’s Ice Ball event, an annual ice harvesting event in February, Wahlstrom told her about the Ste-



ARCC student Caitlin Augdahl (right) working on homework while enjoying college life. Photo Credit: Julia Yates

ger Internship. She reached out to speak to Will Steger individually about the internship while at the Ice Ball.

Augdahl knew that she wanted to apply for this opportunity. After further consideration, Augdahl investigated the internship on Steger’s website and decided to apply. The application process consisted of a formal application, a phone interview and some waiting. Augdahl was selected for the internship and will be serving as the cook’s assistant this approaching summer.



Environmental Club's group of students who visited the Steger's Wilderness Center during the fall 2017 semester trip. Photo Credit: Caitlin Augdahl

A Room for Everyone

The Mosaic Center open house week brings students of all backgrounds together.

Ben Harvey, Staff Writer

During a four day stretch in late January, the Office of Diversity and Multiculturalism used the allure of food and conversation to entice students to visit an open house hosted in the Mosaic Center at the Coon Rapids campus. From coffee and pizza to popcorn and nachos, each day of the event offered different refreshment options that helped spark introductions between students of all backgrounds.

Venoreen Browne-Boatswain, the Director of Diversity and Multiculturalism at Anoka-Ramsey since 2014, explained that the goal of the open house week was to attract more students to the Mosaic Center so they could experience all it has to offer.

“The Mosaic Center is a place where students can come and interact with other students who are different than themselves,” she said.

“[People] think that it’s a room for students of color, but it’s indeed a room for everyone here, and it’s a way for people to get to know each other.”

Although only twenty percent of Anoka-Ramsey students are students of color, per a profile put together by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, Boatswain believes her office still plays a crucial role in the dynamic on campus.

“Diversity is all of us. Everyone here. My work here is to help prepare this entire college for the world, and that includes every student, whether they are white, black, Muslim, African, whatever.”

She also stressed how students who take advantage of the Mosaic Center and become familiar with

people of different backgrounds gain skills they’ll likely use in their career. “You may be hired by an employer today thinking that you are an employee maybe just in Coon Rapids. Next thing you know, you have to go overseas or you may be working with someone from overseas,” she stated.

“We are a global world, and each culture and each individual matter[s].”

Students who attended the Mosaic Center definitely shared a strong appreciation of the unique diversity at Anoka-Ramsey. Chaia Thao, a student interested in pursuing a career in nursing, explained that her experiences at the school have made her feel “comfortable as a minority.” However, she still values opportunities to meet people who share her background.

When asked if diversity (or a lack thereof) would have any effect on which school she would pick to transfer to after she finished her time at Anoka-Ramsey, Thao stated, “If I see someone who looks the same as I do, I’ll feel more connected with the school. I feel like I’ll feel more accepted if there’s diversity there.”

The Office of Diversity and Multiculturalism open house week allowed students meet new faces and enjoy a variety of refreshments.

Attention: This is a Lockdown

In wake of Parkland, Florida shooting, students and staff press for active shooter training
Max Brown, Editor-in-Chief, additional reporting by Ben Harvey and Sam Peterson, Staff Writers

In response to the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, Anoka Ramsey’s Public Safety office has taken new measures to prevent violence on campus. On Feb. 21, one week after the shooting, Public Safety Director Cliff Anderson emailed Coon Rapids, Cambridge and Anoka Tech a plan outlining a new “selective enforcement” policy.

“In an effort to lessen anxieties and instill confidence, the Office of Public Safety for Anoka-Ramsey and Anoka Tech is teaming up with our community police departments who will conduct random enforcement patrols on all three campuses...Moving forward, we will continue to evaluate our public safety and security measures on our campuses,” Anderson said.

Anderson describes selective enforcement as “[law enforcement] for a period of time [will] be assigned to our campus specific... and in doing that, that would include patrolling, walk-throughs, meeting and talking with different people...walk-throughs and patrols are random in scope, we’re not targeting, we’re not looking for anything in specific.”

A staff member wishing to remain anonymous has expressed concern with what they feel to be a lack of preparation and training given to staff.

“I haven’t gotten any formal training... but I did do a required online security training. They called it active shooter training, and it’s basically a video just telling you the steps you should take if something like that were to happen.” said the anonymous staffer.

Anoka-Ramsey’s current procedure, given to students and staff, is the “run, hide, fight” protocol. The anonymous staff member describes this protocol as “run away as fast as you can towards the exit, hide if you can’t run—lock yourself somewhere—and fight if you have to.”

Currently, Anoka-Ramsey has online training for staff, as well as literature and other online materials for students to access. Anoka-Ramsey does not offer drills or other kind of live simulation, which is concerning to some students and staff.

“I think it would be nice to have some kind of protocol. I think the fight, hide, run drill is very general, and I’m afraid that that could cause chaos and panic, so that’s why I’m not that comfortable,” said the anonymous staff member.

Public Safety held a lockdown drill at Anoka Tech on April 14, and is looking to expand into other preparation materials, such as police-view simulations of an active shooting.

Public Safety staff Ed Wilberg stated that many of Anoka-Ramsey’s safety materials are from sources not created specifically for Anoka-Ramsey. This was in response to criticisms about the lack of drills and that the “run, hide, fight” guidelines are too vague. He also claims that the “run, hide, fight” guidelines will vary based on where an individual is on campus during a shooting and where they are relative to the active shooter, which limits the effectiveness of drills.

Wilberg also stressed that recognizing potential warning signs that an individual may be inclined toward violence and reporting the signs will ultimately be far more effective than attempting to stop or mitigate a violent outburst once it has started.

“When we’re talking about prevention...we’re talking about preventing a situation where it’s a student who has become disconnected from the rest of the student body and lashes out, as some school related shootings are,” Wilberg said.

Wilberg specifically mentions the CARE program as a good resource for this situation. The Anoka-Ramsey website describes the CARE Team as a team that “works with students to find solutions to academic, social and personal situations that may impact the potential for student success.”

“It’d be helpful if not only faculty and staff, but especially students, become aware of the CARE program, and what their resources are, and what they can do to help...to draw that person into the community of the college,” Wilberg said.

Even though the Public Safety department offers many resources, such as department presentations, public access security reports, and referrals to programs like CARE, many students and faculty are unaware of these resources. Anderson stated that he is “not satisfied” with the level of communication between students and faculty and Public Safety.

“I don’t think we’re ever going to be satisfied until we can talk to

every student and every faculty member, whether that’s in a classroom, face-to-face, or in a message...I send out a monthly crime report, we also have a daily crime report on our blog site that’s open to the public [and] covers both campuses,” Anderson said.

Anderson said that a great amount of information on public safety exists and is communicated using multiple means, but that it is underutilized. He encourages students to become involved and find communication channels that will work.

“If [students] don’t think public safety is doing enough, I really would love to talk with them and set up an appointment, so we can find better ways for students to feel better about that particular [concern]. That’s one I take personally, and we’re gonna do better,” Anderon said

Anderson also stated that whatever Public Safety plans on in the future, it can only work as a coordinated effort between staff, students and faculty.

“Whether it’s student centered, faculty centered, or staff centered, we can’t do our job alone. We need the entire campus community to be eyes and ears, to act as one as best we can, and then to instill confidence. We have a shared interest for security and safety,” Anderson said.



Run, Hide, Fight diagram (image credit: U.S. Army)

sports

Anoka-Ramsey Athletes Inducted into Hall of Fame

Exceptional former Anoka-Ramsey athletes honored at ceremony

Max Brown, Editor-in-Chief

On Feb. 16, current and former Anoka-Ramsey athletes and faculty gathered in the Legacy Room on the Coon Rapids campus for the 2018 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. 2018’s inductees included Jim Bebeau, Jordan Noska Hageman, Alexis Bradseth Swenson, Walter Ross Jr. and the 1975 State Championship Women’s Volleyball team.

The volleyball team, which was three years old in 1975, won the state championship and competed in the National Tournament in Miami. The team’s success coincided with the introduction on Title IX policies at Anoka-Ramsey. Title IX, signed into national law by Richard Nixon in 1972. Title IX mandated that any school activity receiving federal funding must not discriminate or withhold participation based on sex.

Coach Pat Hicks recalls the disparities faced by women’s athlet-

ics prior to Title IX: “Before Title IX, I was receiving three credits per sport while the men were receiving ten. We didn’t have basically uniforms or anything else, so [a teammate’s mother] made [the assistant coach] and I matching uniforms...and this was for the national tournament.”

Assistant Coach Cheryl Becker shared some of the improvements that followed the introduction of Title IX.

“It was the first time a women’s team had shoes bought for their team to compete in. They were gold Converse low-tops...not even volleyball shoes, but we didn’t care because we had gold, Converse low-tops, just like the guys...It was a time in history when women’s athletics were finally being recognized and finally giving us the opportunity to come and play.”

Becker credits Title IX for helping their team succeed, and for setting a precedent for success within Golden Rams volleyball.

“This was a team that carried the banner high...for the very first year that Title IX was in effect for this team, to come together under (coach) Pat and to go to nationals was a milestone I think we started for the school, and it’s continued on obviously,” Becker said.

Also inducted was Walter Ross Jr. Ross played football for Anoka Ramsey from 1979-81 and continued to play for the University of Minnesota and Northern State. Ross played for the then-St. Louis Cardinals in the NFL for one

year, and finished his career playing for New Orleans and Tampa Bay in the United States Football League before it was terminated.

Other inductees that evening included Jim Bebeau, who wrestled for Anoka-Ramsey between 1988-89, and placed 2nd in the

national tournament, Jordan Noska Hageman, who was named NJCAA 1st Team All-American in 2007 and 2008 for volleyball, and Alexis Bradseth Swenson, who played basketball from 2001-2003 and lead the NCJAA in steals per game during the 2002-3 season.



From left to right: Walter Ross Jr., Jordan Noska Hageman, Alexis Bradseth Swenson, Jim Bebeau and the 1975 Women’s Volleyball Team

Men’s Baseball Season Overview as of April 24	
Home record	0-0
Away record	0-2
Neutral record	2-10
Overall record	2-12

Runs per game average	3.9
Batting Average	.275



The Golden Rams Baseball Team during their May 1 game. (image credit: Golden Rams Athletics)

Women’s Softball Season Overview as of April 24	
Home record	0-0
Away record	4-2
Neutral record	14-7
Conference record	6-0
Overall record	18-9

Runs per game average	10.1
Batting Average	.410



The Golden Rams Softball Team during their April 10 game. (image credit: Golden Rams Athletics)

sports



Men’s Basketball Season Overview	
Home record	13-4
Away record	6-5
Neutral record	0-2
Conference record	12-2
Overall record	19-11

Points per game average	84.1
Field goal average	47.3%

Women’s Basketball Season Overview	
Home record	7-8
Away record	4-6
Neutral record	0-2
Conference record	9-5
Overall record	11-16

Points per game average	59.7
Field goal average	34.9%



Women’s Team Finishes Strong

Women’s team enters postseason despite a slow start

David Lammers, Staff Writer

The women’s team made it to the post season, which was one of its main goals for the season. The team entered the post season with a record of 11-15. Five of the teams last 11 wins came in the month of February. This success helped propel them to the post season.

The women had to play against Rochester Community and Technical College, who had a good season. The team was close at half time, but Rochester came strong out of the gates in the third quar-

ter. Rochester scored 27 points in the quarter. Rochester was able to pull away, and eventually win the game by 16 points.

Even though the team lost their first game in the post season they were happy to be there. The team made it to the championship last year, and they were hoping to repeat.

Unfortunately, the team didn’t get to play at home like the men’s team did.

Men’s Basketball Reaches Championship

Men’s basketball team plays in home-court Championship against Minnesota West

David Lammers, Staff Writer

The men’s team had a strong end to the season, winning their last game by nearly 30. The team hit triple digits in their last game for only the fourth time this season. The boys entered the postseason with a record of 17-10.

This year the regionals were held at Anoka-Ramsey, giving the team home-court advantage throughout the tournament.

Anoka-Ramsey played their first game of the postseason against Mesabi Range CTC, winning by 30 points. The team then had to play Vermillion Community College, which they had no trouble taking care of. Anoka-Ramsey won by 15.

Next, the team had to play one of the best teams in the region,

Minnesota West Community and Technical College.

This game was the championship, on Anoka- Ramsey’s home court. Unfortunately, the team lost. But the silver lining was that the team made it to the championship two years in a row.

viewpoints

Learning to Love

Seeing past race, religion, and sexual orientation to create a better world

Michael Nguyen, Staff Writer

We all begin our lives as babies without any knowledge of the world that surrounds us. When a person is born, they don't know the difference between blue and orange or black and white. A newborn can't tell the difference between rich or poor, gay or straight. A newborn doesn't chose to be a Christian or a Muslim. We are born into this world without any preconceptions and judgements on how life should be lived. So as a person gets older, how do all of these things change?

We now live in a world where everything and everyone is classi-

fied. People are labeled like they are items in a Walmart. Labels such as black, white, gay, straight, Christian, Muslim, transgender, Republican and the list goes on.

"We were all humans until race disconnected us, religion separated us, politics divided us and wealth classified us." Said Pravinnee Hurbungs

What will it take for people to begins seeing one another for their character and not their differences? As children, we grow up not knowing the differences in skin color, religion, or sexual orientation until these differences

are pointed out. As a person gets older they are taught by society that conformity is more important than individuality. They are taught that different is weird and you need to fit in. People have been unconsciously trained to be afraid of things they do not understand.

"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." Said Nelson Mandela

Mandela's solution to fixing the hate in the world was to start learning how to love each other. If we are capable of learning how to discriminate and judge one another, we are also capable of learning how to love.

It's now time to unlearn and change the way we treat others. The world is filled with hate and division and nothing will change unless we change ourselves. Take a second out of your day to introduce yourself to someone you're unfamiliar with. Learning about someone else could ultimately allow you to learn about yourself.

Change starts in small places. A college like Anoka Ramsey can be an example to the rest of the world that no matter what color your skin is, what part of the world your family is from, and who you choose to date does not dictate the type of person you are. Everyone deals with stress; everyone gets afraid and everyone wants to be loved. As like most social movements, it starts with a group of open minded caring individuals. It's time to stop being afraid of each other and realize that love has no labels.

Our World is Strange

A look at the series of short stories featured for this semester's Two Rivers Reading Series

Gabriel Tronson, Guest Contributor

"There's Something I Want You to do" is a collection of 10 intertwined short stories. These stories bring together a handful of people all facing different hardships amid a turbulent—and very often odd—world.

The book follows a wide array of different characters, all with their own obsessions, wishes, vices, and virtues to cope with. These characters intertwine with one another in surprising ways; some characters from separate stories being best friends, others never meeting.

Every story is real enough to seem like the characters could be your neighbor (especially if you live in Minneapolis, where the stories are centered around), yet strange enough in a way that seems so perfectly human. Much of the character development takes odd, sharp turns that creates contradiction and a page-turning tension. For example, the character Elijah, who shows up the most throughout these stories, starts as

a kind pediatrician, but begins having "visitations" that start to rock his reality.

The development of each character is presented masterfully by author Charles Baxter. Another example of this is Sarah, one of the oddest characters I've experienced. A comedian who tells Benny, her boyfriend, that she doesn't want him to kiss her, yet they can make love. I was never certain what Sarah was thinking; she kept me guessing.

Baxter's works in subtly choosing moments we would take for granted, and lacing them with meanings powerful enough to make his characters pop out of the pages with silent description. Such as when it's described that Amelia, a translator living in Italy, and working on a poem aptly named "Impossibility," is weakened when she is recognized as American.

Much of the book's quiet genius is presented through the dialogue.

Through the sections of dialogue, we are shown who the characters are. "I was afraid you would find me," one character says to his gay lover after being found on the river bank, weakened from an addiction to pain killers. Picking apart what each character says feels like opening gateways to their souls.

The dialogue also adds to an overall sense of abnormality as conversations carry on between characters in ways that seemed hilariously odd and ruthlessly real. This sense of abnormality is a direct opposite with how real the characters and stories feel. This contradiction created an overall sense of tension that kept me driving through the stories.

"There's Something I Want You to Do" was certain to remind me the world is a strange place every chance it got. The stories felt centered around the ambiguity of life in a masterfully constructed way that left me feeling closer to my fellow human.

Gabriel Tronson is an AFA creative writing major



arts

Where's That?

Matt Dickson, Staff Photographer



Can you figure out where these unique spots on campus are?

Now that our trees have leaves on them, some spots may be tricky to discover.



Yes, What She Said

Theater department's production of He Said and She Said entertained audiences with music and humor.
By Julia Yates, Staff Writer

The theatre department hosted their annual Cambridge campus theater production, a one act play titled He Said and She Said, in early March.

Preluding the production was a short musical performance by Anoka-Ramsey students Josie Barstad, Janet Bolstad, Ashley Johnson, Leheca Merkouris, Abby Paulus and Mary Satre. This musical performance acted as a part of the one act itself by enabling the actors to sing in the time frame and characters of the play. This short prelude supplemented the overall submersion into this 1918 time period and helped to intrigue the audience to become invested in the storyline.

Barstad stated that one of the more difficult parts of the interlude was, “memorizing songs and being able to take good breaths.” But in the end, Barstad stated that it was all worth it because she got

to see her mom’s smiling face afterward.

Lisa Weaver, the director, stated that one of her favorite parts of the play was this interlude at the very beginning, commenting, “it really came together in a great way.”

He Said and She Said was performed by just four of the students from the musical interlude, Johnson, Merkouris, Paulus and Peterson, and is a light-hearted play about an old lady, Mrs. Packard (played by Johnson), who wreaks havoc on a small dinner party with her gossiping and lies. As the dinner party guests all try to untie these lies, their interpretations are confusing each other even more, resulting in this “he said and she said” business. Not to worry, though, because this web of confusion makes for a rather hilarious and dramatic ending.



In the midst of all the drama and confusion, Felix (Michael Peterson) attempts to make the truth known. Image Credit: Andrea Gerrard

Paulus, who played Diana the dinner guest at the root of Mrs. Packard’s lies, reflected that this web of confusion is her favorite

part. “I am a dramatic person in general.” She also said that a challenge of rehearsing this play was that with all her course materials, it was challenging to find time to memorize her lines.



By the end of the dinner party, characters Diane (Abby Paulus, left), Enid (Leheca Merkouris, center) and Felix (Michael Petereson, right) celebrate the abrupt departure of Mrs. Packard (Ashley Johnson). Image Credit: Andrea Gerrard

Much Ado about Nothing - Except Enjoyment

Being entertained is easy at Anoka-Ramsey's spring comedy
Cassandra Bauer, Staff Writer

In this comedy, Hero, played by Caitlyn Sparks, and her groom-to-be, Claudio, played by Chase Siegfried, collaborate with commanding officer Don Pedro, played by Luke Martin, to hatch a matchmaking scheme prior to their wedding. They target Benedick, played by Jim Belden, and Beatrice, played by Tricia Buerke. It is known to be a tough task because both are sharp-witted and greatly detest both love and each other. A lot of gossip and meddling from a variety of characters complicates everything.

Director Blayn Lemke’s take on this Shakespearean comedy has the audience take to the stage.

This is the third play that Lemke has directed where the audience gets to experience the action up close by being seated on stage. In addition, some lucky members of the audience get to become instrumental helpers in the scenery too. Lemke seems passionate about this type of play performance.

“You can’t fake it when you’re this close,” Lemke said. The performers get the opportunity to not only master the words of Shakespeare but also the confidence of being only feet from their audience.

The comedy, set in 16th century Messina, Sicily brings the audi-

ence back in time with a simple set, time-period style clothing, while the director’s choice to also include steampunk accents adds a contemporary modern sensation. The jazz funk music by Lettuce, proposed by a student, allows the dancing in the play to continue with a contemporary modern re-vamp.

“Much Ado about Nothing,” directed by Blayn Lemke, was a great experience. It will revive the audience’s passion for theatrical comedy and jump back in time with a fun twist.



Claudio and Hero's wedding. Photo Credit: Cassandra Bauer



Benedick and Beatrice dancing. Photo Credit: Cassandra Bauer



Claudio asking for Hero's hand in marriage. Photo Credit: Cassandra Bauer

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