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Minnesota State University, Mankato



Caffeine community

A look at the variety of coffee shops in Mankato
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Parking, smoking addressed at open forum

REBECCA MCQUISTON
staff writer

There has been a lot of discussion about the parking situation on campus as implications of a possible parking ramp or deck are being debated as a solution.

During Thursday's open forum, Minnesota State President Richard Davenport, MSSA president Ryan Anderson and others addressed parking and transportation concerns of MSU students

Vice President of Finance and Administration Rick Straka compared the expense of building a ramp to basic surface parking.

A surface parking lot costs about \$1,500 per stall to grade, asphalt, curb and drain the land, while a ramp costs about \$20,000 per stall, he reported. The surface parking lot would be built on the perimeter of campus with a robust shuttle system that would still be less expensive than building a ramp.

A question arose about what administration is doing to increase the convenience of the bus system through campus. Straka said MSU has been working with city and county officials to tie MSU's transportation system in with the city bus system. Student government pays for a bus route out of activity fees, and there is a city bus route through campus. A shuttle runs every six to eight minutes from the lots.

"One of the best kept secrets on campus is what a robust shuttle system we already have in place to get from our distant parking to the core of campus," Straka said.

Davenport spoke about moving forward to a more pedestrian friendly campus over the next five years. He said the university is headed toward creating a more beautiful



Davenport

Students helping students

MSU's Center for Academic Success celebrates National Tutoring Week

DANNIE HIGGINBOTHAM
staff writer

The Center for Academic Success is celebrating National Tutoring Week this week.

The CAS is Minnesota State's on-campus tutoring site that offers help to students in a variety of subjects, ranging from math to writing.

Bill Wagner, a peer tutor at the CAS, said he works as a math tutor because he enjoys helping others.

"It makes me feel good to help people understand things they were struggling with when they came in," Wagner said. "Sometimes classes are so big that it's hard for students to contact professors with questions, so it's good they have somewhere like here to go."

Hannah Winkler, a graduate assistant who works as a writing tutor, agreed.

"Many students either don't know about the center or are too afraid to come," Winkler said. "It can be overwhelming to come in and ask another student for help, but once people are able to get past that fear they can find we can be a lot of help."

Winkler said she believes her time tutoring will help her when she begins a career in social work.

"This is exactly what I'll do for a living," Winkler said. "Social work is all about helping people with their problems and finding resolutions."

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In the Bioenergy Days tech tent, set up in the Otto Arena parking lot, Swedish company Abionova demonstrated equipment used for bioheat, including boiler systems and burners for solid biofuels.

The energy of change

International Bioenergy Days brought new ideas about renewable energy to Minnesota

SHANNON KELLER
staff writer

The Swedish came to town and were impressed with what they saw. Not just because of Minnesota's large Scandinavian population, but also because of its advancements in renewable energy.

International Bioenergy Days (IBED) is a traveling conference that originated in Sweden and was at Minnesota State all last week. This was the first time the conference ever came to the U.S. and it chose Minnesota because of the positive future it has as a leadership state in renewable energy.

"They decided to come here because of our past record with renewable energy and they see the state continuing in a good direction," said John Frey, dean emeritus of the College of Science, Engineering & Technology. "The plan is for Minnesota to run on 25 percent renewable energy by 2020 and Sweden saw that as a good investment."

Frey was interested in getting the traveling congress to come to MSU because he is involved with the BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota and the International Renewable Energy Technology Institute (IRETI). He found it important

to find a location that was a good fit for the conference.

"We are trying to highlight Minnesota as a state," Bob Ryan, the 2008 IBED conference chairman, said in a news release. "Participants of the conference need to see the state and view the different assets and companies that are leading Minnesota in our renewable energy efforts."

Frey said the Swedish government was interested in bringing its technology to the U.S. because it would be good for both countries. Sweden already runs on 50 percent renewable energy using items

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One writer's journey into the vegetarian world

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