

The Oak Leaves

Manchester University Issue XIII - March 8, 2013

Zirin Discusses Human Rights in Athletics



Hannah Schutter
Staff Writer

Keeping the tradition of Manchester's Discussion Day alive, political sports-writer David Zirin spoke to a full audience on Feb. 27. Although this opportunity is technically a day free from classes, it does not mean learning does not occur. With Cordier Auditorium packed to the brim, Dean Glenn Sharfman introduced the topic of the day's first educational presentation by saying that "you can always talk sports at the dinner table."

While Zirin's speech was about sports, it was quickly apparent that the lecture was going to touch on more serious topics. Appealing to the day's theme of "human rights," Zirin stated that his purpose was to speak about the connection between sports and human rights.

Focusing on activist athletes, Zirin explained the influence that athletes have on social issues, referring to them as weathervanes that show where politics are going. Ranging from Jackie Robinson's hardships as the first African American MLB player to Muhammad Ali being the weathervane of the 1960s by opposing the Vietnam War to the creation of the Olympic Project for Human Rights by Olympic runners

Tommy Smith and John Carlos, Zirin's vast knowledge clearly supported his claim that athletes do more than play their respective sports.

As evidenced by his writing relationship with Carlos, some athletes do aspire for more than sponsorship deals and luxury cars. During the 1966 Olympic Project, African American athletes requested changes like hiring more African American Olympic coaches and uninviting apartheid nations Rhodesia and South Africa. Ultimately, Zirin noted that, while before their time, athletes that stuck their necks out helped win the fight for racial equality.

Making sure to keep his presentation modern and relevant, Zirin pointed out the issues that athletes are dealing with today, making the weathervane move in the direction of LGBT rights and mental health. Mentioning the recent scandal of Manti Te'o and his "imaginary" girlfriend, Zirin pointed out how NFL drafters were inappropriately asking Te'o about his sexual orientation, as if that has any effect on how well he plays football.

In addition, Zirin spoke on the stigma attached to suffering from a mental illness and how athletes these days are

fighting for their own mental health care as well as advocating health care for all. With most athletes being mentally ill, as he characterized them, it is an issue that needs to be addressed.

"Being at this Discussion Day presentation was inspiring," said junior Patrick McNinch. "Because I am a student athlete and a sports fan, it was eye opening to see how much social issues affect the world of athletics."

Zirin's speech set the tone for a successful Discussion Day, the first with Manchester as a university.

GAME CHANGER Political sports writer David Zirin opened MU's Discussion Day on Feb. 23 with a talk about the relationship between sports and human rights. The majority of Zirin's talk was focused upon activist athletes' influence on social issues and how they stand as "weathervanes" of changing minds. *Photo by Felicia Nichols*

Various Discussion Topics Covered in Panels

Charlaine Grosse
Staff Writer

An informative and interactive day based on a different theme each year, Discussion Day put human rights in the spotlight. In addition to a comprehensive VIA with David Zirin about human rights and sports in the morning and a film festival at night, a panel of workshops were held throughout the day in the Academic Center. Manchester University students, alumni, professors and staff members presented those discussions.

According to many of the individuals who attended the events, Discussion Day was useful and a success because it was a great way to foster learning. It provided a wide variety of different topics for students to learn about, including the right to higher education, human trafficking, the reality of immigration, anti-Semitism and gender-based violence.

This year's theme was widely appreciated by the audience. "I loved the idea of a human rights day," said Elizabeth McKenney, a first-year student majoring in history. "It was the first time I felt really excited about a VIA."

Indeed, according to Jaspreet Kaur, a first-year student majoring in Biology-Chemistry and minoring in Peace Studies, the University could not have picked up a better theme than the human rights. "There are so many human rights violations

around the world that go unreported," Kaur said. "Having human rights as the topic brings attention to some of the most important issues around the world."

left knowing a lot more about the corruption and human rights violations in Haiti," Kaur said. "Overall, Discussion Day was very empowering."

According to McK-

low students," Kaur said. "Discussion Day provided us with an array of opinions."

Manchester University students were really enjoying the idea of

On the whole, this unusual day scored with an outstanding audience,

Martin Garcia, first-year student majoring in Biology-Chemistry went to the human trafficking session, which was directed by Dr. Susan Klein. "I decided to attend Discussion Day in order to expand my knowledge on the topic of human rights," Garcia said. "In addition, I decided to attend the human trafficking session because I wanted to educate myself on an issue that my home country of Mexico faces."

Brittney Allen, a sophomore student majoring in Social Work, also attended the human trafficking discussion and was very enthusiastic about the outcome of Discussion Day. "I really hope that Discussion Day continues for the years to come because I feel like people would really be able to benefit from different topics being discussed about our environment and the world we live in," Allen said.

Andrew Burgess, sophomore majoring in Marketing, attended the anti-Semitism discussion. He took both Professor Planer's and Professor Margolies' classes and thought that they could provide valuable insight on anti-Semitism and how it still exists. "I enjoyed Discussion Day because I learned a lot about a topic that I would have otherwise known nothing about," Burgess said.



EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCES In Professor Jena Oke's discussion panel students investigated how human rights are utilized and expressed in contemporary art. Oke's panel was one of many held on the afternoon of Feb. 27 during Discussion Day. *Photo by Felicia Nichols*

Kaur presented "When Hope Makes Us Live: Seeking Effective Human Rights Work in Haiti," about her January trip to Haiti, along with Kay Guyer and Rachel Ulrich. "People who came to my workshop

enney, Discussion Day was a good reminder that there are many injustices and human rights violations going on in the world beyond what we see every day. "We have the responsibility to care about others, to try

being able to choose which discussion and what topic they wanted to learn about throughout the day. They also liked to learn from other students. "I think it was an amazing opportunity for students to learn from fel-

some workshops were victims of their success. "Silent Epidemic: Rape," "Human Trafficking" and "Anti-Semitism" discussions had part of their audience even sitting of the floor.

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Around Campus

MU's TWLOHA Hosts 'Living Stories' Concert

Catherine Lange
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Feb. 23, MU's To Write Love On Her Arms (TWLOHA) chapter hosted a "Living Stories" benefit concert in Wampler Auditorium. The concert was to promote "healing through music and showing that everyone has a story," according to concert organizer and TWLOHA president Sam Thumpston.

The lineup included Jacob's Generation, To All Aspiring, and Leon. However, To All Aspiring was unable to perform, as they had been recording prior to the event and were not prepared to play at the concert.

Jacob's Generation opened the concert and asked attendees to participate in a moment of praise and worship. A row formed before the stage and attendees were encouraged to clap.

During the concert, lanyards, bracelets and water bottles were made available for sale. Donations were also collected.

Among the concert attendees were MU students Danielle Maher, Rylie White, and Anna Roberts.

Overall, attendees had a positive experience at the concert. "It was fun,"

White said. "We didn't stay the whole time, but we stayed for a lot of the first band and half of the sec-

cob's Generation also performed poetry to music.

The second act, Leon, a contemporary

music is really fun. Their lead singer is really talented and wants to come to MU for Pre-Pharmacy."

great cause.

"I've been a member since seventh grade, but I've never been a part

Write Love on Her Arms is all about."

Approximately 20 people were present at 7:30 p.m., and turnout was low throughout. "I thought there was going to be more people there than there were, but there were more people not in TWLOHA than I thought there would be," Maher said. "It was exciting to see new faces."

Roberts agreed. "I was kind of expecting a little bit more [people to attend], but it seemed like there were more when we moved to the front," she said.

All three concurred that they would like to see the concert become an annual event. "It was a great time, and I think everybody should have that experience," Maher said.



LIVE ON STAGE Leon, a contemporary high school band, performs at the "Living Stories" benefit concert hosted by MU's To Write Love On Her Arms UChapter on Saturday, Feb. 23, at Wampler Auditorium. Along with Leon, Jacob's Generation also performed at the event.

Photo courtesy of Leon

ond." Roberts was partial to Jacob's Generation's praise music. "I prefer that type of music," Roberts said. The drummer for Ja-

band, received a positive review from Maher. "They were a high school band and the highlight of the night," Maher said. "Their

Maher elaborated on her role as a member of To Write Love on Her Arms. "They spread a good message," she said. "It's a

of a fundraiser like that for any charity," she continued. "I think everybody's role within the club is to spread the word of what To

BSU Marches on MU Campus for Solidarity

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Kaitie Kemper
Staff Writer

Ear-to-ear grins, laughs and enthusiastic chants were showcased during the Black Student Union's second annual March for Solidarity on Thursday, Feb. 28. The event started at 3:30 p.m. in the Intercultural Center where a diverse group of black, white and Hispanic Manchester University students of different sexualities met to create unique signs to carry during the march. After designing posters, the group began their trek around campus at 4 p.m.

The main theme of the march—"Spartans Walk as One"—was displayed in oversized, black lettering on a giant, fluorescent yellow sign that required three people at the front of the pack to hold. "The March for Solidarity is when we come together as a group and march as one," said Lexi Salcedo, MU junior and BSU secretary. "We throw away all of the stereotypes and everything that separates us based on race or ethnic belief."

The BSU was inspired to host this event for another prominent reason. "It's Black History Month right now," Salcedo said. "We do this in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s March on Washington."

The vivacious group made the circuit around campus sporting

their handcrafted signs that read "peace," "equality for all," "some people are gay—get over it," "March for Solidarity" and "be a voice for those who do not have one." This sparked student, professor and staff interest, while drawing in more participants along the way.

Echoes of chants like, "Resist, rise up, flip the system over, put the people on top," were heard along the route that began at the Intercultural Center, turned right on College Ave., left onto East St., left onto the sidewalk between Cordier Auditorium and the Academic and Science Centers, through the parking lot between Schwalm Hall and Neher Maintenance Center, and then veered left between Calvin Ulrey and the Administration Building before returning to the starting point.

Participants' spirits were cheerful upon reentering the Intercultural Center after the march, and a new appreciation for the event and the campus community was sparked. "I think it went extremely well," said Joseph Myers, MU junior and BSU president. "I was glad that we picked people up on the way. People got very involved, and it was very energizing to say the least. I felt great afterwards! It was good to get the people staring at us like we were crazy, and the energy that came off the

march was great."

Aliyah Johnson, MU junior and BSU treasurer, was thrilled with the intensity of the march. "I think the chants were awesome," she said enthusiastically. "I loved it! Even if my throat's a little sore, that's alright because it went really well. The energy was really good, and I'm glad so many people came out and were excited to do it because that's the most important part of the whole thing."

Myers thinks that the March for Solidarity is beneficial for participants and spectators alike. "At the very least, this shows that the campus is unified more than people believe," he said. "Even if we only had seven people here right now, people would still see us all marching. They would see a diverse group of people and think 'Hey, that's a group of people who stand out every day, but here they are all together.' No matter the number of people that show up for the event, it's about solidarity."

Myers, creator of the theme "Spartans Walk as One," has long-term goals for this short, powerful phrase. "I hope it finds its way through campus and promotes unity," he said. "We're really trying to bring people together because, as Spartans, we should support each other."

Correction

In our Mar. 1 edition, the photo accompanying the MUIA Valentine's Dance story was credited Vivien Carter but was actually taken by Yousra Kamoona.

The Oak Leaves regrets this error.

Around Campus

Students Watch Films, Discuss Human Rights

Kari Cottingim
Staff Writer

During the evening of Discussion Day, a film festival was held so that students could learn more about human rights. The five films shown were "Two Spirits," "Bitter Seeds," "Lives worth Living," "Half the Sky" and "Which Way Home."

The films were chosen by the Discussion Day committee, which consisted of professors Jeff Osborne, Cheri Krueckeberg, Bradley Yoder, Vicki Eastman, Katy GrayBrown and Peace Studies intern Rebecca Creath. This committee reviewed films that were featured in other human rights film festivals and chose ones they thought would be relevant to the campus community.

The committee's goal was to show students the wide variety of topics that fit under human rights, which is why they chose to create the film festival rather than just one movie. "I think films are a good way to expose people to new ideas, which is what we were going for," Creath said. They hoped to give students the opportunity to see a film about an issue that they might not have known anything about beforehand.

The committee was able to obtain the films with the help of a grant from the United States Institute of Peace.

"Two Spirits" was a documentary of a 16-year-

old Navajo boy who was "two spirited" according to the Navajo traditions. In

are doing." "Bitter Seeds" focused on the issues of lo-

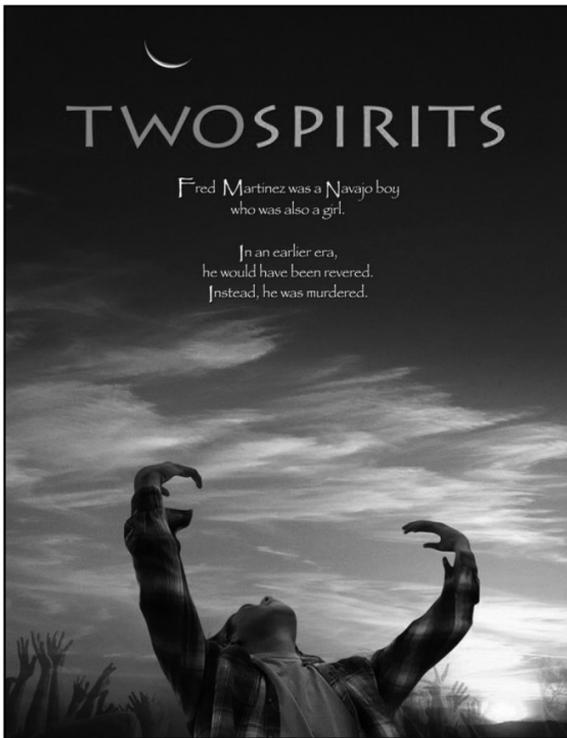
balization and genetically modified seeds which we were hoping that science

I didn't realize that it was such a controversy," she said.

there will be sex trafficking which was discussed in the movie and in the discussion after," Allison Shrack said. Recently, a huge chain of sex trafficking in Bloomington, IN, was busted. "That really opened my eyes because that's where my sister goes to school," Shrack said.

"Which Way Home" was about two runaway children who try to cross the Mexican border into the United States. It was an example of the struggles that immigrants face and, "the parents in the film didn't care that their six year olds were running away because they knew that they were trying to make better lives for themselves," Jorge Gomez said. When it was time for discussion, Gomez noted that a lot of audience members were "shocked." "A lot of people in the room didn't know how it was for the kids, they thought the kids were just being bad trying to get over here, and they didn't really see that they were trying to do better for their families. People don't see how much people struggle over there," he said.

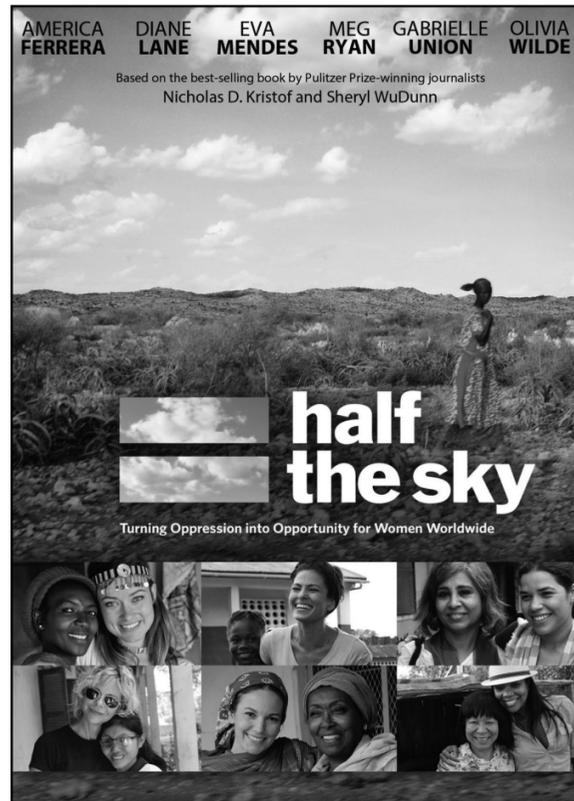
The students who discussed the issues all had positive comments about what it taught them or those surrounding them. They all said that they would like the opportunity to see the films that they were unable to watch.



Photos courtesy of http://www.bilerico.com/2011/06/two_spirits_the_last_thing_fred_saw.php and <http://www.amandahalle.com/2012/10/25/moving-pictures/>

today's society this means that he was transgender. This boy was murdered because of his gender identity and was the youngest person ever to be murdered in a hate crime. "It's one of those movies that really makes you think about the other side of it," said Lacy Emery, student supporter of gay rights. "Lots of people pick on people who are different without really thinking about what they

calization through the eyes of Indian farmers. These farmers have been committing suicide in huge numbers because of the debt they are acquiring due to their inability to afford the care needed for the genetically modified seeds they use to grow their crops. Every 30 minutes an Indian farmer who is unable to provide for his family commits suicide. "The two parts were glo-



students in general might be interested in," Creath said.

"Lives Worth Living" is about the political struggle for the Americans with Disabilities Movement. "We thought this was really important because often we forget about disability rights as human rights," Creath said.

Brittney Lake agreed. "It made me more aware of disability rights because

"Half the Sky" is a film about the oppression of women worldwide and discussed issues such as sex trafficking, forced prostitution, gender-based violence, and other closely related areas. It is originally a four hour film that was filmed in 10 different countries in hopes of showing how big of an issue women's rights is. "My view on sex trafficking changed because all over the world

Mock Trial Team Performs Well at Regionals

Mike Dixon
Staff Writer

Manchester University's mock trial team attended a regional tournament on Feb. 23 in South Bend, IN. They placed 12 out of 22 teams, only a single win and a few points short of continuing the competition with a national tournament bid. They achieved the best score of their year, which is no small feat given six of the ten team members are new to mock trial.

Benjamin Crim, an experienced member of mock trial, feels very optimistic about the team's competition and how this year may determine future competitions. "In my four years of mock trial," Crim said, "I have never been more satisfied with our performance." He added that although the amount of new members proved to be a detriment this year, it may prove to make them more powerful next year. With so many new members gaining experience this year, he expects a large and capable team to follow.

James Harry, vice president of the mock trial

team, says that the team did "exceptionally well" at the tournament considering the Ivy League colleges that they faced. He also remarked that the competition was a culmination of their earlier, less successful tournaments and invitationals. Notre Dame's competition was a similar challenge that required the team to learn from their early season. They were as successful in this venture as in the regional tournament.

Dr. Leonard Williams, one of the professors overseeing the team, acknowledges the bumpy road to their most recent competition. He says that the team has improved and they turned out to be competitive.

Crim and James agree that the toughest part of mock trial is its practice hours. The team meets twice a week from 6 to 10 p.m. Outside of practice, witnesses and attorneys are expected to work together, writing opening and closing statements, cross and direct examination questions, and revise them all. Williams and Crim agree that mock trial is much like an athletic sport in that it requires a lot of dedication, involves big teams that are hard to surpass, and builds a strong team spirit.

Despite its demanding amount of practice, mock trial is considered to be a major asset to college students of any background. Crim is an accounting major, yet he says that job interviewers take interest to his activity in mock trial because they prove "excellent communication and problem solving skills." James says that mock trial teaches its members how to think analytically, how to apply logic to solve problems, and how to competently speak publicly.

Williams added that "the friendships formed in mock trial are lasting." At the end of March, the team will be hosting a bowling tournament in order to raise funds. Participants will be able to compete for prizes and the team's members will be attending. Further details are sure to come towards the end of the month.

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Around Campus

Hunger Banquet Opens Participants' Eyes

Caleb Noffsinger
Staff Writer

The Hunger Banquet was one of Discussion Day's main events. This program involved a meal that signified the different income margins throughout our world and what people's meals would be like based on their yearly salaries. The idea was to show how people in impoverished countries live and how people act toward them.

A large room in the Upper Union was split into three different sections. Approximately 35 percent of participants sat at a long wooden table, and had a pasta dinner with a few drink selections. However, they had to serve themselves. This group identified as the middle class with an income of about \$900 – \$20000 per year.

The group in another corner of the room was sectioned off by a rope and a cloth wall, which hid where their food was being served. They sat at a round table — complete with table cloth — and were served by Chef and some of his helpers. These 15 represented the upper class that makes well over \$20000 per year. Their meal included multiple courses and very well

prepared food.

In the middle of the room there were circles of chairs with boxes — made to look like crates with sharpie. This group encompassed 50 percent of the participants. They were supposed to be the lower class to impoverished members of society who make less than \$900 per year. This income bracket lives with many health and psychological issues, and is barely able to get the food they need to survive. Participants were fed a small amount of rice and beans. However, the portions were a little large for the simulation because there was a fear that people would not get enough to at the event.

The community feel helped develop communication within the groups. "The three groups were unexpected," said first-year Jacob Ray. "I guess I thought we'd be in a descending order of food. The three groups helped create a more community feel to it."

The way the groups were broken down was not pointless. They represented the general amount of the world's population that fell into these categories. Each person was also given a charac-

ter card that told him or her what people in other countries—and even many within our own country—

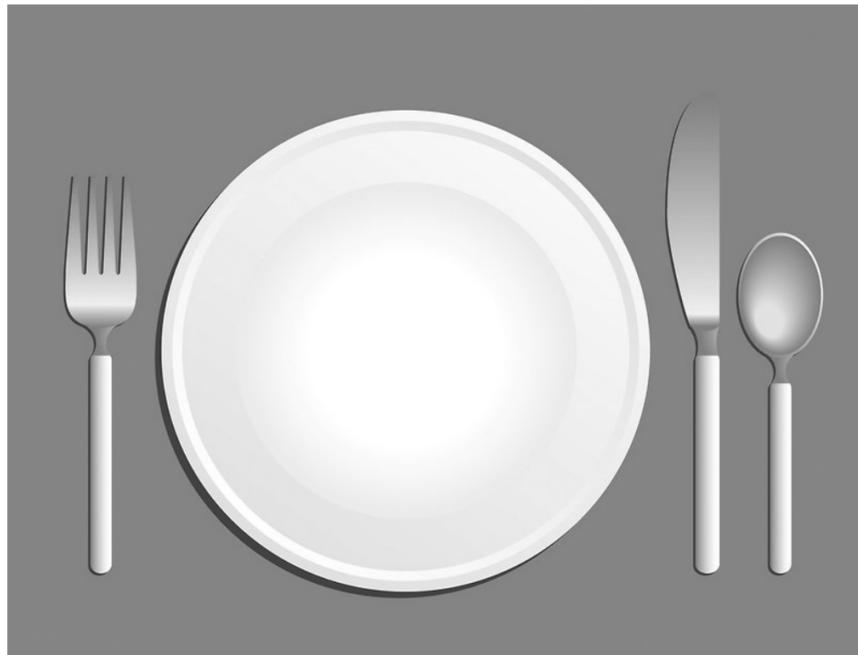
gressed, many people from the upper and middle classes began to feel sorry for those in the center

tions feel about wealthier countries who "give." While they certainly are grateful for the kindness of those

Lloyd, who sat with the lower class group. This appeared to be the prominent topic of many conversations within the different groups at the banquet.

After the banquet was over, many people dispersed, but a few stayed to convey what their groups had talked about with those in other groups. "We can't just send food and expect change," said Jonathan Ulrich, who was sitting at the middle-class table. "We have to change the source as well." His comment opened the discussion about charities who give food to those in need, and how many organizations do not keep their promises.

Many participant learned valuable lessons. Those in the lower and middle class were given food boxes at the end to alleviate any hunger pangs felt in their stomachs after the small meal they were given. "I would go again," Ray said. "I think next time I'd do something to shake up the groups, like invite the poverty class to come eat the middle class food with us." His optimism was shared by many attendees who said that they look forward to another Hunger Banquet in the future.



Courtesy of http://leightonphotography.photoshelter.com/image/I0000m_pp.ysK7uQ

have to deal with on a daily basis.

During the simulation, participants were told that they could only eat when they were told to. The upper and middle classes were able to eat as soon as the opening speech ended. The lower class had to wait until they were dismissed.

As the meal pro-

and gave them what they did not eat. Yet the lower class, seemed to feel further diminished by their kindness. The intentions were kind, but the lower class soon appeared to feel like second rate humans being fed off of scraps. During the small group discussions, participants concluded that this is how people in other na-

who help, they are given lesser quality, cheaper food, while those who can afford it eat three meals a day of unparalleled quality that many in this world will never enjoy.

Many students left with changed perspectives. "It was just crazy to see and feel the class difference, even in a fake setting," said junior David

Mindiola Travels to Minnesota to Study Wolves

David Lloyd
Staff Writer

While students took trips to Australia, Jerusalem and Prague during January, first-year environmental studies major Joe Mindiola traveled to Minnesota for the month to study the predator and prey ecology of the native wolf population.

Dr. Jerry Sweeten contacted Mindiola, like numerous other students of the environmental studies and biology department, about the opportunity and Mindiola decided to jump at the chance to work with the wolves.

"I received the e-mail and immediately became excited," Mindiola said. "I talked to other people about going, but I was the only one that signed up and it was great."

After a long drive to Minnesota with his father, Mindiola ended up in Sandstone, MN, at the Audubon Center of the North Woods, an environmental learning center as well as an animal rehabilitation center for the local wildlife.

The group stayed in a lodge at Sandstone. After the daily ritual of class at the Center for three hours to begin each day, the rest of the day consisted of various

team-building activities, as well as becoming familiar and knowledgeable with the surrounding woods and weather. This included traveling to neighboring cities, such as Ely and eventually along North Shore Lake Superior.

Mindiola learned how to make a quinzhee hut, which is similar to an igloo but not as sturdy. He also learned how to avoid and deal with frostbite, since it was a constant threat with the Minnesota weather. "It was constantly cold," said Mindiola with a knowing smile. "I think it was in the teens once, but that was the warmest it ever got. One of the weirdest things was that my nose hairs were constantly frozen. You would ruffle and scratch your nose, but nothing would change."

The coldest day was 20 below, and that was the high for the day," he continued. "We went for a night hike that evening, and I don't even want to think about how cold it was then."

But the main point of the trip was to study the wolves. Mindiola spent the majority of his time working with wolves and learning how to track them. "We would go through the woods and see tracks almost everywhere, but I only saw one wolf outside of the rehabilitation and breeding centers," he said.

"It was incredible to see the effects that wolves

have on our habitat though. They are a keystone predator, which means that without them or without the correct amount of them, the entire environment would fall apart. Less wolves would mean more elk, which would mean less brush on the trees, which would end kill the grass, and then dirt would be kicked into the streams and affect the fish. It's just one big fragile cycle."

Mindiola also gained experience with radio telemetry, which is used to track wolves with a special collar they wear. "We went up in a four-person plane, including the pilot, and were able to see the entire landscape," he said.

As much fun as he had, Mindiola did have one scare over the trip. "We had seen a moose vertebrae in the woods, and once the group arrived back at camp I went back to retrieve it," he said, grinning sheepishly. "As I was grabbing the vertebrae, there was a loud crack in the brush, and I looked up and took off. The last thing I wanted that day was to be attacked by another moose."

Mindiola, who was the second-youngest participant in the camp, looks back fondly on the trip. "It was a great experience," he said. "I had a great time with the group I had, and I'm looking forward to another opportunity such as this one."

York Investigates Bacteria in Instruments

Jacob Ray
Staff Writer

Your saxophone may produce beautiful music, but it looks like notes aren't the only things hiding in there — germs abound inside the golden instrument. Intrigued by this repository, Tiffany York began researching the amount of bacteria, specifically *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus cereus*, and *Diplococcus mucosa*, that could be found in the pep band's musical instruments after a game.

Focusing on the saxophone, trumpet and flute, York would swab the mouthpieces, the bodies, and keys of the instruments. Then she would take the swabs back to the lab and place them on Brain-heart agar plates, leaving them to incubate for 24–48 hours. York performed the experiments for over a month, starting the second week of January and ending the second

week of February.

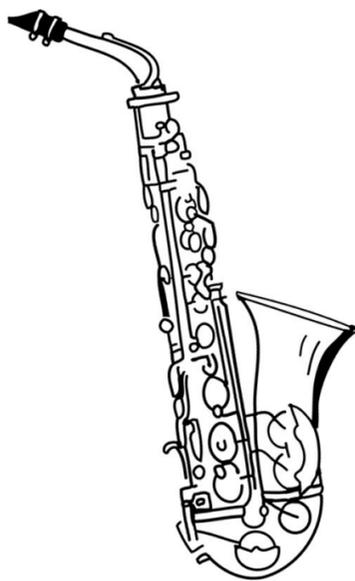
S. aureus, *B. cereus*, and *N. mucosa* are human pathogens, which cause disease in humans. Don't worry though; the immune system takes care of these three without much trouble. *S. aureus* is known for causing skin infections, such as boils. *B. cereus* causes foodborne illnesses. Lastly, *N. mucosa* is connected to pneumonia. These bacteria can be found within musical instrument and can live for up to 72 hours, due to the fact food particles provide nutrients.

In the end, traces of each bacterium were found in every instrument, but not all tests came back positive. "Human pathogens are very, very hard to grow in the lab, so that made it difficult to get accurate results," York said. "It probably wasn't grown long enough in the lab." Another problem that York faced was that the band members most likely

cleaning their instruments between the game and

bacteria] just nasty."

York found that



www.hellokids.com

Photo courtesy of http://www.hellokids.com/c_19328/coloring

York swabbing, because as she puts it, "that's [the

the flute contained the least amount of bacteria,

which she believes happens because the bodies and mouthpieces sometimes have a silver plating on them. "Silver is a natural anti-microbial," she said. "Bacteria can't grow because there's a natural agent in silver that doesn't allow it." The Saxophone was found to have the most bacteria. "Because of having the mouthpiece and the constantly wet reed, there gets to be a little more spit build-up," York said.

Although Professor Rachel Polando was in Australia through most of the project, she still oversaw the process. York resorted to e-mail and utilized the help of Dr. Hicks. "He's more of an ecologist," York said, "so he was, 'Well, I think this is it.'"

York thinks the band will begin cleaning their instruments better once she tells them about her findings. She thinks one of the most interest-

Around Campus

Hip Hop Artist Devine Carama Performs at MU

Heather Elson
Staff Writer

Devine Carama, an emerging hip hop artist, showed Manchester students that there is an alternative to the typical hip hop which plays on the radio. Carama was brought in by Black Student Union (BSU) to perform his uplifting hip hop and spoken word on Thursday, Feb. 21.

BSU is in charge of finding a presenter for Black History Month and this year they wanted to give the student body an alternative from the typical VIA speaker. "We wanted to express a different avenue of Black History that people may or may not be familiar with," said Joseph Myers, BSU president. They brought in a spoken word artist because spoken word is a huge part of Black History. BSU thought Carama would be a great performer to present their new avenue that they wanted to explore.

Carama is originally from Lexington, Kentucky. At the age of 17 he opened for LL Cool J. The styling of music he produces can be compared to artists such as Jay-Z, Lupe Fiasco, Kanye West and Common. The inspirations behind his songs come



Photo courtesy of <http://hiphopspeakeasy.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/pic107.jpg>

from his everyday life including his daughters and his culture.

"I'm really motivated by the balance that I feel

hip hop needs because hip hop needs [more than] just the same old thing," Carama said. The balance that he describes is about

hip hop and the radio. He mentioned that the radio plays what sells and manipulates people into liking a song by playing it over

and over again until listeners fall for its scheme and it becomes his/her favorite song.

His idea of radio

and human rights was very inspirational because it not only talked about how women are to be treated like queens, but also opened the eyes of the crowd and made them realize that hip hop does not have to be derogative but uplifting. "What he said about what's on the radio is very true," said Aliyah Johnson, treasurer of BSU. "All you hear is stuff about big booty hoes and things that have nothing to lift you up or make you a better person."

Carama's music is truthful and relatable because it allows listeners to reflect upon his message, for he is not about his songs making the charts but about sending a positive message to a world that is corrupted by derogatory music.

The turnout was smaller than what Myers would have preferred but he believes that the people who were there and learned from Carama's message got a lot out of it. "The most important thing to me is having people that experience something go home to reflect on it because they had a good time and understood the message," he said.

Opinion: Pacers Need Support from Hoosiers

Matt Harter
Sports Columnist

The sport of basketball has long been synonymous with the state of Indiana.

Hoosiers from all over the state have always looked forward to November, which signals the beginning of another high school basketball season. High school basketball tournament action is even more exciting, especially when high schools were not placed in specific classes. The beauty of Indiana high school basketball was highlighted

in the movie "Hoosiers," where Milan, a school with an enrollment of 161 defeated the Muncie Central Bearcats, with an enrollment of 1,662, to garner the state championship title. College basketball also has not disappointed in Indiana, with Indiana University's five national championships and Butler University's "Milan-esque" runs to the national championship game in 2010 and 2011.

Even professional basketball has received much love in Indiana. Hall of Famers Mel Daniels

and Roger Brown donned the Pacer's blue and gold during the team's American Basketball Association (ABA) years. During the last decade of the twentieth century, sounds of "It's Miller Time" echoed throughout the halls of Market Square Arena, as sharpshooter Reggie Miller brought life to downtown Indianapolis. That life has been dying out ever since the infamous Pacers-and-Pistons brawl in 2004.

Indianapolis natives were embarrassed to be affiliated with a team of "thugs" and individuals who represented the state of Indiana poorly, namely Ron Artest (Metta World Peace), Stephen Jackson and David Harrison. Attendance for the Indiana Pacers has dropped significantly ever since that year.

But now, the current Pacers team is an antonym of the word thug. Larry Bird, former President of Basketball Operations for the Pacers, brought in several truly good men to represent the state of Indiana, some through the draft and others through free agency. He drafted guys like Danny Granger, Paul George, Roy Hibbert and Tyler Hansbrough. Bird picked up good character guys in David West through free agency and George Hill through a draft night trade. Not one of these players has ever been arrested or spoken about as being an embarrassment to the city or the game of basketball. Yet, for some reason, attendance at Banker's Life Fieldhouse is still lacking.

Currently, the Indiana Pacers are 26th out of 30 teams for average attendance. There are 18 teams with poorer records than the Pacers that draw more fans to their games.

If Indiana is the basketball state, then why

don't Hoosiers support their Pacers? Several possible reasons have been brought up in the sporting world, all of which I have a hard time understanding.

Colin Cowherd, a radio host for ESPN, decided that race was the culprit for the, at times, half-full Banker's Life Fieldhouse. I don't know where to even start with this argument for the simple fact that it's just plain ridiculous! Why then, does Indianapolis support the Indianapolis Colts? It's unfortunate and silly to even bring up this possibility.

A more sensible argument is the poor economy the nation is facing. However, in 2012, Indianapolis's unemployment rate was at eight percent; the national average was about eight percent. Indianapolis isn't having any more trouble than other cities across the nation. Several NBA cities had larger unemployment rates than Indianapolis and yet drew more fans to their arenas.

Also, for most games at Banker's Life Fieldhouse, fans can buy tickets for less than 20 dollars. That's not much more expensive than going to a movie and buying popcorn.

There are also several people who still think the Pacers are the same team as 2004 and that's why they don't show up to games. Come on people! The Indiana Pacers are becoming one of the most, if not the most respected team in the NBA. Hibbert, the Pacer's starting center, created "Area 55 (Hibbert's jersey number)" in 2010 in which he held auditions to select 55 people whom he would purchase season tickets for. Throughout the past several years, I have read many articles online talking about events Hibbert has held for his "Area 55" members. He has taken his members to movies and played dodge ball with them. I can't think of any other team in the NBA whose players treat their

fans this good. Hill and George also have their own section titled, "G2 Zone."

The Pacers are also very active in the community. West hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for Indianapolis residents, the team hosted a toy drive during Christmas, players went shopping at Circle Centre Mall with kids whose parents couldn't afford to buy presents, and players have made numerous hospital visits.

This team is becoming one of the best in the NBA. They work their tails off, have high character, are unselfish, and by the way, are 7-1 against the Eastern Conference's top teams (Miami Heat, New York Knicks and Chicago Bulls) this season.

Stop coming up with excuses, Hoosiers, because there are none! Support this team that Indiana can be proud of. "It's Pacer Time!"

January Athletic Training Student of the Month



Mark Sexton

Hometown: Fort Wayne, IN
Future Plans: Physical Therapy School

Activities: Football, MUATC
Current Sport: Women's Basketball



Photo courtesy of <http://content.sportslogos.net/logos/6/224/full/3084.gif>



Spartan Sports



MU Softball Splits in Season-Opening Games

Ariel Smith
Staff Writer

Last weekend was the start of the softball season with Manchester traveling to Centre College in Danville, Ky.

They won one of two games played there and though the season is just starting, sophomore Ashlea Nash said the team has been working hard during the off-season to prepare for this year; she has high hopes for the year.

The team has several new members as well as several returners that makes the team a diverse mix from all classes.

Nash would like to see a winning season for the team and hopes to beat last year's undefeated Anderson in conference. "I feel like we have prepared so much more in the off-season than we did last year," Nash said. "We are all more focused this year and we know what we want to accomplish."

She hopes that with all the preparation that this year could be a conference winning one for the girls.

Nash is one of the team's pitchers as well as juggling first base on occasion. It's the pitcher's job to set the game in motion. "I'm involved in every single play that goes on during



"SPRING" TRAINING Due to winter's seemingly endless presence, the softball team practices indoors at the PERC. The team played its first two games of the season last Sunday in Danville, Ky. The Spartans defeated Centre College 11-10 in extra innings but fell to Spalding 4-5 in the second game. The team plays its next games at home in a doubleheader against Huntington on Thursday, Mar. 14, beginning at 3 p.m. *Photo by Alexah Parnin*

the game and I absolutely love it," Nash said. "It fits my personality really well and knowing my team is behind me is the best feeling."

With the season just starting, the team has the next two months ahead of them with lots of practices and many games to work their way towards

their goals.

The next game against Huntington on Thursday, March 14, 2013 will be the opening home game starting at 3 p.m.

The following Sunday, March 17—the start of Spring Break for MU students—will mark the beginning of the team's week-long stay in Florida

with several games to keep them busy.

Track Teams Set Goals for Outdoor Season

Kate Rosenbaum
Staff Writer

The Wisconsin meet on Saturday, March 2nd created four top 10 finishers for Manchester. This list included senior Zeth Baker, sophomore Alex Lissade-Gardner, and the pair of sophomore Brianna Martinez and senior Karla Madrigal.

"Our team goals really depend on us holding each other accountable to our individual goals," said Martinez when discussing the similarities between the goals created between herself and the team.

Sophomore Bridgette Rowe said: "As a team we want to win conference and work together to do everything we can to win conference. Individually I'm trying to qualify for nationals in high jump and keep my triple jump as good as I can get."

A solid workout regime, eating properly, and getting enough sleep is what many of Manchester's runners consider to be the best way to prepare for meets and offseason work. "We do a four week conditioning season in September through October," Junior Andrea Keller said. "So you have to keep in shape. If you go home for Christmas break you can come out of shape all over again.



IN IT TO WIN IT Members of the Manchester men's and women's track teams train outdoors despite the cold weather. The teams just wrapped up their indoor track seasons and are currently preparing for the upcoming outdoor track season. The first outdoor meet of the season for both teams will take place on Saturday, Mar. 30, at the Hanover Invitational. *Photo by Maia Marusak*

January is always a little rough."

Sophomore Austin Finley said: "You don't really know what you need to do to keep you at your peak condition."

The pressures

created for individuals throughout the course of the season are all dealt with in individual ways by the runners. "I think that makes me run harder," Sophomore Megan Taylor said. "You not only run

for yourself, but you are running for all of the other hardworking individuals on your team. Letting them down would be the worst thing that could happen to me.

"I do a little bit of

everything, wherever the team needs someone," Taylor continued. "This year I have competed in the 4X200 relay, Distance Medley Relay, 4X400 relay, 400, 800, and the mile."

Junior Kyle Davis

said: "The pressure's not too bad. Coach Cashdollar and I usually talk before about the game plan and I just try to do my best and score as many points as possible throughout the meet."

Injuries throughout the season tend to be one of the biggest struggles that runners face. Junior Jasmine Espino-Muniz noted that she has dealt with injuries every year, ranging from a meniscus tear, an inflamed tendon, misaligned hips, and coming close to having a concussion. Her remedy for these injuries is what she calls "stretching rehab, and taking it day by day."

Another issue Manchester runners said they must deal with is figuring out a way to keep up with their busy schedules. "My biggest struggle is time management," Junior Curtis Nordmann said. "It can be difficult to deal with classes, practice, and homework during the week. Fitting everything into my schedule can be hard. Plus meets on the weekend take up a lot of time as well."

Even through all of the tribulations, the track team seems very motivated by their sport.

Discussion Day Panels *cont.*

Janina Traxler, French professor, appreciated the Discussion Day theme for 2013. "I thought that the choice of topic was quite strong," Traxler said. "But in addition, the sessions were well imagined to attract a range of people and to offer a range of activities."

For the next sessions she suggested possible future topics such as money and other forms of influence in government.

Some of the students who never experienced Discussion Day had preconceived ideas about what it would be like, but quickly realized that they were errone-

ous. "I thought it would be a boring and mundane day, but it was the complete opposite," Garcia said. "Discussion Day was refreshing, educational and a new experience at Manchester University for me."

Discussion Day is definitely one of the assets that contribute to Manchester University's uniqueness and the outstanding attendance of this year helped show that students support this idea.

Spartan Sports Weekend Events

Saturday, March 9

Baseball - at DePauw (DH)
Men's Tennis - vs. Huntington @ Alma, MI
- at Alma

Sunday, March 10

Baseball - vs. DePauw (DH)