

BRIEFLY STATED

Rolling into awareness . . . A wheelchair is not listed in the course catalog as a tool for the industrial design class at Mankato State U., but Professor Floyd Olson has made a one-hour ride mandatory for his students. As part of the curriculum, students must survey a building on campus while riding in a wheelchair in order to become aware of the needs of handicapped students. Students must first take a walking tour of the building they will later survey in the chair. "They come back and they say, 'Yup, there are no problems,'" Olson said. "All of a sudden they get into the wheelchair and they say, 'That water fountain doesn't work at all, and that bathroom is terrible.'" Todd King, a student who has completed the hour, said that it gave him a new perspective on the accessibility of things to the handicapped. King critiqued the library. "Anybody that will be designing structures for all people should have to do (the wheelchair hour)," King said. "The students come back and they've learned a lot," Olson said. ■ Jason Abraham, *The Reporter*, Mankato State U.

Adoption service finds campus homes for strays

By Kelly MacDonell
 ■ The State News
 Michigan State U.

Lori Hough is a pet broker of sorts. With the help of a friend who houses hard-to-place and stray animals in her Middleville, Mich., home, the Michigan State U. zoology junior "adopts out" dogs and cats to MSU faculty, staff and students.

Since starting the service at MSU last November, Hough has adopted out 12 dogs and one cat.

"Marge (Miller, partner in the adoption service) keeps the animals at her house while I try to find people here that will take the pets," Hough said.

Miller and Hough met last summer while Hough was working at an animal shelter.

"She takes in the problem animals that I can't find homes for right away," Hough said.

In an attempt to save cats and dogs from research — or death — Hough spent the summer working to find owners for the animals brought into the shelter. Her efforts resulted in finding homes for more than 100 dogs and cats, she said.

"People always say, 'I'd love to keep strays,' but doing it is something else," Hough said. "Marge's patience is phenomenal. She's taught me a lot."

Miller, who lives with about 26 dogs and 32 cats, said having so many animals to contend with can be trying at times.

"Sometimes the only place to get away from them is in the bathroom," Miller said. "I had about 30 cats in the house until they trashed the furniture, then I

converted the garage into a 'cattery.'

"I have great friends and a really good support group," Miller said. "And, although I do have a large vet bill, there is a vet that comes out to help me for free."

Miller also purchases her dog food for a special price — \$10 for a 50-pound bag.

But Miller said she still needs more financial help since she only takes donations and does not charge people to adopt the pets.

"There are a lot of good people out there who maybe cannot afford a fee," Miller said.

To combat the rising costs, Miller and Hough are trying to become registered as a nonprofit organization.

"If I could become a nonprofit organization, the businesses I go to could write off the stuff they give to me," she said.

Old Age

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seats when the bell rings, you will not be permitted to leave." Even worse, when I walked into the faculty room, no one asked me for a pass; no one even told me to spit out my chewing gum. Teachers introduced themselves to me by their first names. I was given the power to give detention (a method of shaping the behavior of our youth that I find absolutely repulsive).

As the day progressed I began to get a grip, although I did make my share of mistakes. I let it slip that I refused to give detention, much to the joy of the young monsters, and I said "shit" once and was jeered by a disapproving chorus of "ooohh!"

When the bell rang at the end of the day, I sighed in relief, thinking that I was the biggest moron and all the kids hated me. I was startled out of my self-pity by one of the little girls tapping me on the shoulder. "Would you be our sub every day?" she asked.

I left the school beaming. On the way to my car, I spied the slide that I had slid down so many times as a kid. I climbed to the top and slid down. It was even more fun than I remembered.

Contests

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dig and mashed potato slide.

In the mashed potato dig, contestants stepped into a vat of mashed potatoes and dug for poker chips worth points in the overall competition.

The mashed potato slide involved 44 feet of mashed potatoes spread out on wrestling mats, melted down with butter. Contestants each tried to slide the farthest down the slide.

Contestants received Potato Olympics T-shirts and competed for nearly \$3,000 worth of prizes.

■ Brenda Mobile, *The Daily Iowan*, U. of Iowa and Annie Foote, *The Bulletin*, Emporia State U. contributed to this story.

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