

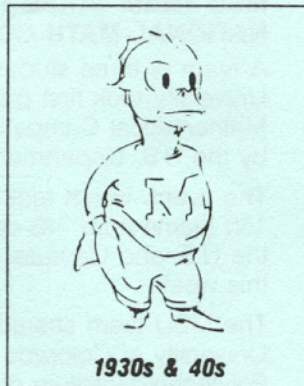
# Continews

moorhead state university newsletter

## THE MSU DRAGON



*The Original*



*1930s & 40s*



*1970s*



*The New*

### MSU DRAGON REVAMPED FOR SECOND CENTURY

Moorhead State University's dragon will slip into the school's second century with a different look—a sleeker, bolder and more abstract appearance than its predecessors.

The newly made-over mascot, unveiled today at a faculty-staff rally, is the first to receive official approval from the university's administration.

"I think it's a marvelous dragon for a new century," says MSU President Dr. Roland Dille. "It's modern and easily identifiable."

The revamped dragon is the creation of Haley Johnson, 23, an MSU art major from Hector, Minn., who graduated this winter. She's now working as a graphic design assistant with The Duffy Group in Minneapolis.

"It was a project for one of my first graphic design courses," Johnson said. "I had no idea the university would select it. But my teacher really liked the design and brought it to the attention of the administration."

Her teacher, Phil Mousseau, has been assigning the dragon as a class graphic design project for the past 15 years and Johnson's, he said, is the best he's seen.

"We've never really had one single dragon that stood for the official school symbol," Mousseau

said. "And in my opinion, the ones we had didn't project the charisma, feeling and severity that are expected of a university mascot."

But he said the new dragon—a geometrical, fire-breathing serpent curled in a tight circle—combines a strong character with an unforgettable shape. "It's compact, vital, aggressive and it's usable in any kind of space."

Moorhead State's dragon was born in the fire that devastated Old Main, the school's central building, on Feb. 9, 1930.

Legend has it that Flora Frick, a prominent physical education professor then, came up with the school mascot when she saw the football team running out of a temporary dressing room below the campus heating plant and said: "They look just like dragons."

Steam rising over a serpentine line of stampeding football heroes makes for a romantic beginning. And a good story. But it's a bit wide of the truth.

Moorhead State adopted the dragon in the spring of 1930 by a vote of the student body, says Clarence "Soc" Glasrud, an MSU alumni and professor emeritus who's currently writing a history of the institution.

"Before then the school's athletic teams were called the Peds, for pedagogues, a fancy word for teachers, and before that they were simply called the Teachers. But a lot of the teacher colleges back then shared the same name."

As school spirit rallied around the catastrophic 1930 fire, Glasrud said, the students decided to vote on a new symbol to express a new campus vitality.

According to *The Mystic*, the campus newspaper then, the name committee insisted that the new mascot, besides reflecting school spirit, "should be a two syllable word, and one that is yelled from the lungs and not the throat."

The choices narrowed down to the Mistics, the Trojans, the Eagles, the Spartans and the winning choice, the Dragons.

Glasrud, who enrolled at Moorhead State the following fall, became a features editor of the 1931 yearbook which dedicated that year's edition to the new post-fire vitality: "To the Dragon...Symbol of the spirit of MSTC (Moorhead State Teachers College): Born of the devastating and purifying fire. . . ."

The original symbol of the dragon, Glasrud said, was drawn by artists at Buckbee Mears Co. in St. Paul who produced the engravings for the yearbook. That original, an oriental-style dragon rising up on its haunches, stood alone as the university's symbol for nearly a decade. It still appears on some Moorhead State athletic uniforms and brochures.

In the late 1930s, however, it was upstaged by Denny the Dragon, a cartoon figure that resembled a Walt Disney duck. Retired Fergus Falls High School audio-visual director Robert Bruns, an Moorhead State student back then, says that classmate Mina (Peoples) Miller, who now lives in Washington, drew the original Denny Dragon and that he continued drawing it into the 1940s.

After that, chaos reigned. An assortment of dragons, ranging from the funny to the fierce, appeared on Moorhead State brochures, football helmets, tee-shirts and stationary. But none of them commanded enough presence to eclipse the others.

Moorhead State's new dragon, however, will supersede all the others.

"As we enter our second century," said President Dille, "we ought to emphasize the pride and campus vitality that a mascot stands for. And this new dragon is an excellent beginning."

### **MSU ENROLLMENT HITS RECORD-SETTING PACE**

Moorhead State University's enrollment is on a record setting pace and could eclipse its previous high of 6,402 full-time and 8,000 overall students set in the 1981-82 school year.

"It surely defies the grim projections of the early 1980s," says MSU Registrar John Tandberg.

Already this year, MSU set records for both fall and winter quarter enrollment and, if preliminary figures hold, it should set a record for spring.

Fall quarter enrollment this year increased 2.2 percent over last year, winter quarter increased 5.5 percent and spring quarter, according to preliminary figures, increased 6.3 percent.

"That puts us at or a little over the enrollment record we set in 1981-82," Tandberg said. "It depends on what those numbers are when we take a final count 10 days after spring quarter ends."

Projections made at the beginning of the decade by the university and Minnesota's Higher Education Coordinating Board underestimated MSU's current enrollment by over 1,000 students.

### **MSU TEAM TAKES FIRST PLACE IN NATIONAL MATH COMPETITION**

A team of three students from Moorhead State University took first place in the national Mathematical Competition in Modeling sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education.

The event, which took place last month, attracted 150 teams from 118 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada. The results were released this week.

The MSU team shared first place with the University of Colorado at Denver, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy, N.Y., and Calvin College of Grand Rapids, Mich.

The competition, in its third and final year of federal funding, was established to promote the study of applied math and to help prepare students for careers in industry and laboratories. It required teams of three students to set up a mathematical model of a realistic applications problem, develop and apply methods to solve the problem, and prepare a report of the results within three days without consulting anyone else.

The three MSU students—Dan Schroeder, Tom Stone and Danny Wendt—won first place by tackling a problem requiring them to determine the maximum height a mixture of salt and road salt should be stored under a domed structure to guarantee the safety of machine operators who must unload it.

The three MSU winners will travel to the Operations Research Society of America's national meeting in New Orleans on May 4-6 where they will present their solutions at a special session. It will be an all-expenses paid trip. They've also been invited to the International Association for Mathematical Modeling forum in St. Louis next August.

\* Dan Schroeder is a junior mathematics major from *Pelican Rapids* (a 1984 graduate of Pelican Rapids High School) and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Schroeder.