

NEWS

AI Pornography and
Elon Musk

SPORTS

Swim and Dive
Women's Soccer

A&C

Pink Aid IV
Review: "The Fatal Flaw"

OPINIONS

AI in Class
Billionaires Suck

FEATURES

First Friday Lectures
Ask the Editors

LORING PARK SHOOTING RAISES QUESTIONS OF COMMUNITY RESPONSE IN TRAGIC EVENTS

Teyah Parent features editor

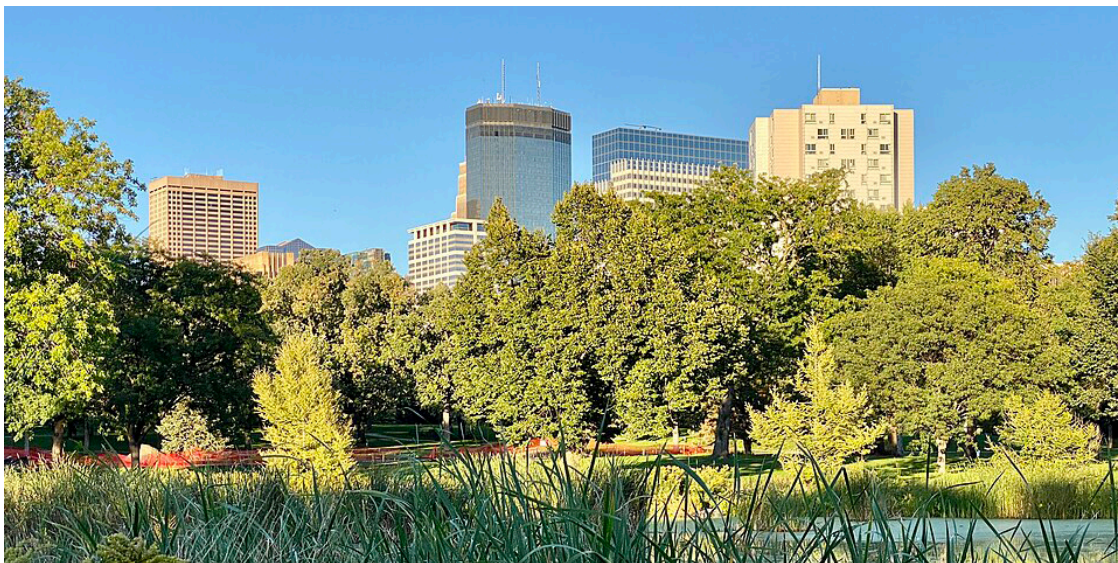


Photo of Minneapolis skyline from Loring Park, taken by W. Lemay on Sept. 25, 2021, sourced from Wikimedia Commons

A shooting at a high-rise apartment building in Loring Park on Sept. 2 left three dead and several others injured, including three Minneapolis police officers. The incident occurred at Shoreline Plaza, formerly known as Loring Towers, at 15 E. Grant St., just south of downtown Minneapolis.

The shooting began just after 4:00 P.M. Wednesday afternoon at Shoreline Plaza, formerly known as Loring Towers, at 15 E. Grant St. Officers arrived at the building and entered while gunfire was still being reported inside.

According to the Minneapolis Police Department and reporting from the Minnesota Star Tribune, officers encountered multiple victims as they moved through the building. Three Minneapolis police officers were injured during the response. Two were shot, while a third officer sustained another injury. Several civilians were also transported to Hennepin Healthcare.

The two civilians killed were identified as 63-year-old Dale Henry Spry and 61-year-old Muse Afrah, both residents of the apartment building. The suspected shooter was identified by authorities as 35-year-old Carlton Johnson II, who also died during the incident.

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MPR News reported that Johnson had been facing eviction from Shoreline Plaza and that tensions between him, other residents and building management had escalated in the months leading up to the shooting. Court records show that the building's owner filed an eviction complaint against Johnson in June.

New information after the shooting indicates that there were warning signs immediately before the attack. According to reporting based on emails and other records, Johnson sent a message to apartment staff the night before the shooting that included a threat of violence. The message came as Johnson faced an ongoing dispute with building management and an impending eviction.

Residents had also previously reported concerning behavior. "MPR News" reported that police had been called to the building over allegations involving Johnson, including gun threats and the display of a firearm.

Despite those previous reports, Johnson was not charged in connection with an earlier incident. Authorities have said investigators did not have sufficient evidence at the time to pursue criminal charges. The circumstances surrounding the previous complaints are now receiving renewed attention as investigators work to understand how the shooting unfolded. Authorities have continued examining Johnson's history, the reports made before the shooting and the sequence of events that led to the deaths and injuries.

The incident raises broader questions about how communities and authorities respond when residents report concerning or threatening behavior. The FBI is assisting the Minneapolis Police Department with the investigation, but investigators have not publicly established a definitive motive for the shooting, and it remains unclear what role, if any, Johnson's previous interactions with residents or law enforcement played in the events of Sept. 2.

As the investigation continues, the impact of the shooting extends beyond the immediate scene. Residents, first responders and members of the surrounding Minneapolis community are left to process the deaths and injuries, while questions remain about the events that preceded the violence.

"The incident raises broader questions about how communities and authorities respond when residents report concerning or threatening behavior."

-Teyah Parent

-MSA Link Up

Hagfors 150A, Sept. 15 @ 4 p.m.

-AASA First General Meeting

Marshall Room, Sept. 16 @ 12 p.m.

-The Echo General Meeting

Echo Office, Sept. 17 @ 11:50 a.m.

SPORTING EVENTS

-Men's Soccer vs. Simpson

Edor Nelson Field, Sept. 15 @ 5 p.m.

-Women's Soccer vs. St. Mary's

St. Paul, April 21 @ 3:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

-Football vs. St. Scholastica

Edor Nelson Field, Sept. 19 @ 12 p.m.

WE'RE
LOOKING FOR...

**ARTIST
SPOTLIGHTS!**

Are you an artist seeking opportunity to share your art with the community? Interested in a PAID advertisement of your work?

Submit an Artist Spotlight!

If you are interested, send 3-5 pieces, a photo of yourself, and a 100-200 word bio to our Arts & Culture editor, Avery Cheeseman (cheesema@augsborg.edu)!

All Artist Spotlights are paid \$15. We look forward to seeing your submission!

Minnesota Bans AI Pornography, Elon Musk Fights Back

Jessica Tezoquipa news editor

On Aug. 1, a first-in-the-nation law passed prohibiting the use, advertisement and dissemination of “nudification technology” in Minnesota. Banning the act of using a known person’s image to generate pornography is facing resistance from Elon Musk’s artificial intelligence (AI) company xAI. According to MPR, each unlawful use could face a penalty of \$500,000 for the companies that violate this law.

xAI sued the state of Minnesota, claiming this law violates the First Amendment. Federal Judge Donovan Frank denied xAI from blocking the law after it filed a lawsuit for a temporary restraining order against HF 1606. “We took great care to make sure that this law doesn’t touch the First Amendment and respects art and only targets the specific image that we wanted to target, which is nudified images that they are not legal,” Quade said, according to CBS News. Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison says that this law does not prohibit free speech, but it “merely puts guardrails in place on a tool that has the potential to hurt individual Minnesotans.”

Musk claims this law is “clumsy” and that xAI already polices users to pinpoint bad actors. In the lawsuit, xAI claims it “strictly prohibits its users from generating nude or sexualized images of people without their consent,” and xAI in the past “filed suit against users who evade its extensive technological blockers to generate such images.” Judge Donovan Frank allowed the law to go into effect, stating Musk waited too long to file his motion.

Augsburg student Graciela Ryan believes that “AI is unethical [because] to generate those images it takes photos of real people who did not consent to being portrayed

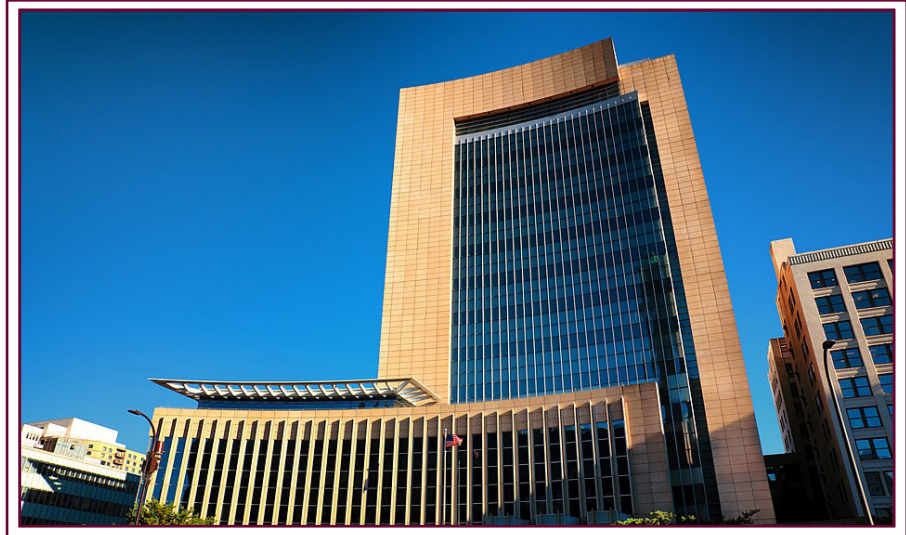


Photo of Federal Courthouse for the District of Minnesota in Downtown Minneapolis, taken by Tony Webster on Oct. 17, 2018, sourced from Wikimedia Commons

in such a manner. I would consider it a form of assault.” Ryan states further that “it is very disturbing, the fact that people are fighting so hard to make sure that AI pornography is legal and, specifically, child pornography is legal. Obviously generating such images is wrong, [because] those images take the photos of real children and run them through these generators to create these images. It’s not somehow different from real pornography that depicts children; it uses their photos to create AI child pornography.”

“AI is unethical [because] to generate those images it takes photos of real people who did not consent to being portrayed in such a manner. I would consider it a form of assault.”

-Graciela Ryan

Another Augsburg student Leo Dennis spoke on what the opposition to these policies felt like to him. “Protecting people who use AI to make porn of children is protecting pedophiles.” He also shared his thoughts on people who wanted the ban lifted. “The want to have it is still rooted in wanting to have sex with children, so it’s wrong.” Lastly, Dennis shared an impact of AI porn that he felt has not been brought up in conversations such as this one but that he finds important, “I think AI porn should be banned out right because its taking away jobs from people who already are doing sex work which they might be forced into because of how horrible the economy is right now.”

Support for this bill at Augsburg is clear from the people interviewed. It seems that sentiment is shared outside of Minnesota as well, as other states have reached out to Sen. Erin Maye Quade, who authored the bill to pass similar statutes. While still in effect, this will be an ongoing legal battle.

A Deep Dive into Augsburg Swim Team as Search for Coach Continues

Kaia Anderson online publishing coordinator



Photo of the Augsburg swim and dive team, taken by Kevin Healy on Oct. 24, 2025

Augsburg's women's swim and dive team has struggled to stay afloat over the past three years. From low recruitment to a lack of coaching staff, the team's fate remains uncertain. Problems first arose during the 2023-24 season, when the team began training under Hamline coaches after Augsburg's coaches stepped down. This solution, however, was only temporary. The final decision was to pause the swim team in 2024. During the following year, Augsburg planned to hire a coach and recruit swimmers in an attempt to revive the program.

The missing coach is not the only issue the team faced. Since the 2022-23 season, there has been a

drop in swimmers. While there had been previous dips in roster count, since 2010 there were about 10 members; the team then decreased the following year. That was not the case when the roster dropped to seven swimmers in 2022. Instead, the trend continued into the next season, with only six competitors. According to the NCAA, there must be eight active members on a team to be considered NCAA eligible. The significance and enforcement of this rule is unclear, as Augsburg has competed with fewer than eight members for the past three seasons.

Pausing the team appeared to yield results. Zach Wood was hired as head coach, and Madeline Weil was hired as diving coach. There was also a fair

amount of recruiting and interest for the 2025-26 season. At least a dozen potential recruits toured campus and attended informational meetings about the upcoming season. However, when the 2025-26 season began, there were only five participants: four swimmers, enough to compete in relays, and a lone diver. Despite the small numbers, the team persisted.

In May, it was announced over a Zoom meeting that Wood would no longer be Augsburg's swim and dive coach. During the same meeting, the team was told a search for a new coach would begin, and that Wood would remain through part of the summer to help with the transition. There were also hopes of having a team for the upcoming school year.

No news was shared from that point until mid-August, when an email was sent asking the team to schedule individual meetings with Amy Cooper, head of the athletic department. The meetings were intended to discuss athletes' schedules, what they wanted in a coach, and their hopes for the upcoming season. The consensus was that if there were a team this year, it would look very different than in previous years. Practice might be only a few times a week with a part-time coach, raising the question: Would they be ready to compete while swimming just three times a week? One follow-up email was sent a week later, but since then there has been no new information and no confirmation about whether the 2026-27 season will happen.

With low numbers, no coach and no communication, it seems unlikely that there will be a 2026-27 season.

"When the 2025-26 season began, there were only five participants: four swimmers, enough to compete in relays, and a lone diver."

-Kaia Anderson

Augsburg Women's Soccer Aims for MIAC Amidst Coaching Changes

Kaia Anderson online publishing coordinator

Danielle Mendez recently took over as head coach of the Augsburg women's soccer team for the current season. The decision was announced in July after Clara Webby resigned at the end of the 2025-26 academic year. Mendez began her journey at St. Catherine University, where she majored in exercise science. She then earned her master's degree at the University of Minnesota. During her time at St. Catherine, she was a goalkeeper on the Wildcats' soccer team and also played semi-pro for two seasons with the Minnesota Twinstars after finishing her schooling. Mendez has coached club soccer, girls' youth teams and university teams such as St. Olaf, Concordia-St. Paul and the University of North Dakota. She has led teams to championship competitions, team records and All-MIAC honors. I spoke with McKenna Nachreiner, one of the captains of the team. Nachreiner has played for Augsburg since her freshman year, starting all 19 games her first season. She plays as an outside forward. We discussed her experience on the team and what Mendez has been like as a coach.

As captain, Nachreiner is a leader for her team on and off the field. She said being a leader means being "someone who is there for the team, trusts and supports everyone and values relationships with coaches and teammates." She also said everyone on the team must step up and be a leader, not just the captains. This aligns with the encouragement given to student-athletes to set examples for their peers by balancing sports and academics and bringing their best to everything they do. As a senior, she hopes to leave a legacy at Augsburg within the soccer program. "I want to make a difference in this program



Photo of the Augsburg Women's Soccer team, taken by Augsburg Athletics on Oct. 20

and leave it better than when I arrived [...] I want to enjoy this season, appreciate the time with my teammates one last time and enjoy playing the game I love for one last year. Winning a MIAC championship would be pretty fun, though."

"I want to make a difference in this program and leave it better than when I arrived [...] I want to enjoy this season, appreciate the time with my teammates one last time and enjoy playing the game I love for one last year. Winning a MIAC championship would be pretty fun, though."

-McKenna Nachreiner

Nachreiner also provided insight into what training has been like under Mendez. "Training with Danielle has been great. She pushes us to be our best selves and is a very good coach with lots of knowledge of the game." She added that the culture of the team has not changed significantly since the coaching change, but there has been more competition during practices and a greater push for athletes to improve.

Their next game is Sept. 16 at Edor Nelson Field. Best of luck to Danielle Mendez on your first year with this incredible team, and to McKenna Nachreiner during your final season at Augsburg. I hope you get your MIAC championship.

Pink Aid IV Brings Twin Cities Together for Trans Mutual Aid

Teyah Parent *features editor*



Photo of The Big Cheese performing at the Pink IV Event, taken by Quinn McClurg on Sept. 5

The room at New City Center was filled with music, drag and community on Sept. 5 as local artists came together for Pink Aid IV, a fundraising event organized by Pink Place and Twin Cities Trans Mutual Aid (TCTMA). For TCTMA, events like Pink Aid are part of the effort to provide direct support for the Twin Cities trans community. The organization describes itself as a grassroots, community-led organization that assists gender-nonconforming, trans and intersex people in Minneapolis and St. Paul with meeting their needs. Pink Aid uses Minneapolis' do-it-yourself (DIY) music and drag communities to create a space where people can contribute while also celebrating local performers. The fundraiser featured musical acts including Anita Velveeta, Doll Chaser, Virginia's Basement and Jonger, alongside a lineup of drag performers including but not limited to: Mink Hole, Sprinkles Sparkles, Father Les Behavior, Davie Bash and The Big Cheese.

"It is an amazing way for trans and queer people to come together because

of the rollback of trans rights under this administration and with some of the bathroom bills that we're seeing, along with the increase in barriers that prevent access to gender affirming care—especially for youth. An influx of trans people are coming to the Twin Cities as a sort of safe haven. This organization really supports the rights of trans people who live here to not only just live, but survive and succeed," states Avery Cheeseman, the drag king known as The Big Cheese.

The citizens of the Twin Cities who are allies, or even members of the trans community came together to celebrate art and foster a strong sense of community. For performers, participating in an event like Pink Aid means more than just taking the stage. It offers an opportunity to use the existing artistic community to support people who may need financial or material assistance.

According to Cheeseman, "art is a really important way to understand someone's heart and soul. Drag and performance art in general has a really strong

connection to the queer movement. Drag is a wonderful way to both highlight and critique the world around us. A big part of drag looks at this idea: how can we move forward positively, and what are the possibilities of imagining a future where we can all live and thrive? It does a really good job of allowing people to just ponder these things and experience community involvement while growing as an individual in self-discovery."

In the Twin Cities, music, drag and grassroots organizing intersect to create spaces that are entertaining and community-oriented. For TCTMA and its supporters, the event offered another opportunity to turn local creativity into tangible support for members of the trans community. Seeing local trans artists and activists all working together to raise money for the trans people in their own community is such a beautiful precedent in a way that uses creativity to build fruitful community ties. Artists were not compensated for this event. It was local performers, vendors and drag artists who decided to get involved without any monetary compensation. Grassroots organizing is very much a labor of love. What better way to give your time, energy and heart than to perform/showcase your own art, see the art of others and support an awesome cause?

Review: Paris Paloma's "The Fatal Flaw" Crafts a Gallery in Your Mind

Teyah Parent *features editor*

Released Sept. 4, the 12-track album is, in one word, about "love." But Paris Paloma has always approached love as something political, destructive, beautiful and complicated. She is interested in the uncomfortable, where devotion becomes obsession, where tenderness is the same as resentment. With paintings and history being the main metaphor topic throughout the album, listening feels less like a collection of songs and more like a gallery you are walking through.

The opening track, "Miyazaki," is a song about art, artificial intelligence and the fear of losing something human in the process of progress. It is unconventionally cohesive with the love theme, showing just how much she loves and appreciates her art enough to say that she will not let anyone take it. Loving something because it is human is a main theme here as well.

Then comes "Rothko," where the album's idea of love becomes much more personal. The song captures wanting to experience love deeply and wondering why you can not feel it the way you are supposed to. Paloma uses the image of standing in front of a Rothko painting—something famously capable of an emotional response—and not crying. Personally, this was my immediate favorite.

"Good Girl" turns love inward. It is learning to love yourself without constantly demanding that your body or appearance become something acceptable by society. The song feels less like a triumphant declaration of self-love and more like an exhausted reminder: you are allowed to stop fighting yourself, and that the best thing you can do for your body is to stop fighting it. Whereas "Good



Photo of Paris Paloma at the 2026 Montreux Jazz Festival, taken by Kalai Ramu on July 13, sourced from Wikimedia Commons

Boy" takes everything Paloma has been saying about love and masculinity and turns it outward. The song is furious and deliberately confrontational, aimed at the kind of masculinity that turns resentment into an identity. But underneath all that anger is another form of love: the desire for men to become better, kinder people instead of being trapped by destructive ideas of what manhood is supposed to be.

"I Cry in Front of Paintings" is the emotional answer to "Rothko." At the beginning of the album, Paloma wonders why she cannot feel love and emotion in the way she thinks she should. By the end, she understands that emotional breakthroughs do not always look the way you expect them to. She has learned what good love feels like: gentle, nourishing, challenging and safe. More importantly, you can choose what kind of love you accept.

That's what makes "The Fatal Flaw" so satisfying as a complete album. It does not move from bad love to good love in some neat, uncomplicated progression. Instead,

it wanders through all the messy spaces in between. Sometimes love is exhilarating. Sometimes it is suffocating. Sometimes it is friendship. Sometimes it is anger. Sometimes it is learning to stop treating yourself like an enemy. And sometimes, it is about accepting that the things we find most beautiful can also frighten us, hurt us and expose the most vulnerable parts of ourselves. After all that, it is being able to stand in front of something beautiful and finally let yourself feel it.

"Sometimes love is [...] being able to stand in front of something beautiful and finally let yourself feel it."

- Teyah Parent

AI Requirements in Class Teaches Students Not to Learn

Pluto Koehnen *opinions editor*

With the sudden uptick in artificial intelligence (AI), school systems have had to sculpt themselves into a new standard. However, this transition has led some programs to require the use of AI, effectively singling out and cheating students who refuse to use the technology. While the adaptation can indicate a progressive school, requiring the use of said AI in coursework can signal lackluster academics.

Requiring students to participate in the use of AI can enable them to rely on the tool, and in extension use the technology beyond guidelines. On paper, educating a new generation to use a tool to formulate an email sounds effective, but in reality it can snowball. Efficiency is addicting. Why would we write a five page paper when we could spend a night with peers? Why spend hours on a presentation when a machine can construct one in minutes? While the intention of introducing AI as a helpful tool may be good, the practice may not. Students could begin applying AI to finals, midterms or large presentations rather than digesting the information themselves. If a student isn't properly consuming the courses they are paying for, not only are they harming themselves, they are harming their future employers or employees.

Furthermore, it's hypocritical to educate students on biology, environmental science and nature conservation while simultaneously encouraging them to operate AI. AI's current environmental footprint is anything but positive. Environmentally, AI's consequences outweigh its potential positives, with water depletion, electronic waste and carbon emissions being the largest concerns. AI

data centers are predominantly located in locations with profuse fossil fuels. These coal-fired and gas-fired power plants release copious amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere when burned, which in turn contributes to global climate change. Furthermore, AI has furnished the proliferation of water scarcity. Bloomberg Technology reports that data centers have worsened the demand for water as coal and gas plants require large amounts of freshwater for cooling. It's nonsensical to educate students on environmental concerns while pushing them to contribute to the issue.

A similar rationale can be applied to humanities majors. Students who are studying creativity, art, literature, philosophy and human history are now

expected to abandon their human-aligned courses and careers for AI. AI assists to limit the human mind. It is a barricade in human-made work. Rather than going an extra step to rephrase a sentence, complete a painting or study a historical figure, AI is capable of replacing your mind. It's human nature to rely on the easier, efficient path. Humans have spent centuries designing products to make our lives effortless: the wheel, the rifle, the highway. We thrive in adaptation. However, we are now conditioned to trade our values and passions for efficiency. So many of my friends and family are humanities majors. It's insincere for any school to support humanities majors while simultaneously promoting a mindless tool that deteriorates the arts.

As a whole, AI has the potential to do great things. In the medical field, in the military, to help humans thrive, etc. However, requiring students to use such an invasive tool to simply manage their schedule or construct an email is demeaning. Students attend school to learn; forcing them to rely on AI only teaches that speed matters more than knowledge and growth.

***“It’s hypocritical
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- Pluto Koehnen

If You Have a Billion, No One Should Be Broke

Leo Dennis contributor

Giving up all that you care about in order to work a job just for basic necessities should not be seen as normal. We as a society have been groomed to believe and expect that there is no other solution than to give in and encourage others to suffer the same fate. We act as cogs in a machine and reap no benefit for our dehumanization.

An example of this: having a limited amount of money and resources forces people who wish to further their education into the workforce immediately after graduating high school. It also encourages people to join the military so they can pay for their education. As someone who was worried about paying for college, I considered going into the military just to afford tuition, which may come as a surprise to people who know me since I am intensely anti-government. Sadly, I know I'm not the only one in this situation. However, people experiencing no other source of income will resort to measures that go against their morals.

One of my goals was to continue learning and earn at least a bachelor's degree in order to obtain a stable job in the unstable job market. It would make sense for the military to pay for your college if you plan to go into something related to one of their fields. However, I'm majoring in Creative Writing and never plan to work for the United States military. In order to essentially buy a degree, one could potentially be trading their life for it. Luckily, I was able to apply and receive some scholarships so I can afford college now.

One person's income used to support an entire household. Now two people

working over 40 hours a week can barely scrape by to support their household. Meanwhile, healthcare keeps getting cut, thanks to the Trump Administration, so people with health issues are left far worse off than at the beginning of the year, according to The United States Senate Committee on Finance. Everything is becoming more and more expensive while the people actually paying for everything are making nothing in return. According to ZipRecruiter, the average salary of an Amazon

unthinkable to the common worker. They have more money than one could ever conceive of while claiming that they need far more. Billionaires should not exist. Many people cannot afford a roof over their head and people look down on them for it. Meanwhile, they still praise those who have the resources to completely eradicate the housing issue. Why are people blaming those in hard times instead of the people benefiting from how poorly others are doing?

“They have more money than one could ever conceive of while claiming that they need far more. Billionaires should not exist.”

- Leo Dennis

Warehouse Worker is \$36,300 per year. In comparison, according to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, the cost of living for a lone adult in Minnesota is \$50,893 before taxes. Where is that person getting that extra money from?

In short, they aren't. That's why there's a housing shortage. Over 101,000 affordable places to rent are no longer available for extremely low-income families. This is forcing people who are trying so hard just to make ends meet give up their shelter. The next time someone tries to say the economy is thriving, remind them that a fascist with 34 felonies is not a valuable source of information.

Billionaires continue to spend egregious amounts of money on things that are

Schwartz School First Friday Lecture Series Embraces Innate Creativity

Teyah Parent features editor



Photo of Leon Wang at the First Friday Lecture Series, taken by Teyah Parent on Sept. 4

On Friday, Sept. 4, Augsburg University's Schwartz School of the Arts—which brings together narrative, performing and visual arts—opened its first-ever First Friday Lecture series with a discussion centered on one question: What does it mean to be an artist in tumultuous times? The event featured Leon Wang, an architect, artist, educator and advocate whose work spans more than two decades. Wang is also the founder of Firebird Design and the Creativity Center for Learning and Leadership.

Growing up in Taiwan during a period of authoritarian rule and martial law, Wang saw the effects of political repression firsthand. His father was a political prisoner, and Wang described living through difficult years that eventually led toward Taiwan's transition to democracy. Those experiences shaped his understanding of the relationship between humanity, protest and creative action. For Wang, creativity is not limited to a traditional canvas or a particular artistic discipline. Art can exist through action, participation and simply showing up. He referenced

art forms such as street theater and emphasized that impactful creative work does not always need to be monumental.

“For Wang, creativity is not limited to a traditional canvas or a particular artistic discipline. Art can exist through action, participation and simply showing up.”

-Teyah Parent

“Everyone has the potential for creativity” was one of the central ideas explored throughout the lecture, and with creativity comes the potential for hope.

Wang works with students ranging from elementary school to college. He prefers to keep young people at the center of the creative process. The challenge, he suggested, is finding the connection between an idea and its impact. His approach to teaching encourages people to use their hands and creativity to express what is in their hearts, transforming ideas into voices capable of making an impact. “If we do this right, the art can open up doors,” Wang said. “You can write your own headline.”

That idea has also appeared in Wang's work at Augsburg. He discussed the “One Day in May” campaign project, which contributed to conversations surrounding race and ethnicity on campus and preceded the establishment of Augsburg's Critical Race and Ethnicity Studies major in 2021. The project served as an example of creativity moving beyond artistic expression and into community action and institutional change.

As the First Friday Lecture series continues, Art at the Edge of Hope established creativity as more than a finished product. For Augsburg's Schwartz School of the Arts, the semester's opening lecture offered a challenge to artists and students alike: in tumultuous times, creativity may not solve every problem, but it can create connection, demand dignity and help communities imagine something different. Creativity is innate: people create because they want to thrive. The act of showing up, participating and making one's voice heard can in itself become a creative expression. The next First Friday Lecture will take place on Oct. 2 at 12:20 p.m. in Sateren Auditorium.

Letter From the Editors 2026-27

We, the editorial staff of the Echo for the 2026-27 school year, are dedicated to providing Augsburg community members of all identities and experiences a fair and open platform to state their grievances, inform the community, critique the systems in power and celebrate each other. In order to ensure our publication remains a well balanced, fair and high quality student publication, we have created this list of goals and commitments.

The goals of the editorial staff of the Echo for this year are as follows:

1. Focus on inclusion of a diverse range of interests and majors

Through new positions, a variety of activities and a dedication to increase readership and involvement from lesser-connected students, we strive to further engagement with students and staff.

2. Foster deeper relationships between the Echo and outside communities Using an enhanced commitment to communication, the Echo hopes to build fruitful and longstanding relationships with many institutions within Augsburg and the Cedar-Riverside area.

Our commitments to the Augsburg community and the surrounding communities in the Cedar-Riverside and Minneapolis area are as follows:

1. High Journalistic Standards

The Echo aims to strengthen its journalistic writing skills and integrity. We want to be accurate, consistent and up to par with the journalistic standards of AP style



Photo of the 2026-27 Echo Editorial Board, taken by Hafsa Ahmed on Sept. 3

insofar as those standards do not exclude community voices. Educate our writers on plagiarism and using original verbiage.

2. Politically Active

The Echo aims to be politically active in its story coverage. Our journal will not shy away from doing political education stories or covering politically-charged issues.

3. Community Centered

The Echo aims to be a community centered publication in its story coverage and practices. We will center the voices of the Augsburg and greater Cedar-Riverside community in all we do.

We as the Echo board recognize the times that we live in, including the incredibly divisive political landscape that informs much of the culture of today.

Given the landscape of the current political climate and the administration in power, it is imperative that we work as the Augsburg student body to foster community and

support one another. We will always be in support of making voices heard.

Our position as Augsburg's student newspaper gives us the platform to influence campus politics as we provide a space for students to speak about topics that matter to them.

We will continue to provide and cultivate a space where all students can speak about the political issues that matter most to them without bias in our overall coverage as a journalistic entity. The Echo welcomes students who would like to share their thoughts about any current political topic in our Opinions section. We also encourage all students on campus to stay up to date with the current events reported not only in the Echo but those reported on by the news sources of the wider world.

Have a Question? Ask the Editors!

College can be a very confusing time. Students feel like they need to know everything or else they will fail, but at the same time many feel like they can't ask questions or they don't know who to ask. The Echo is here to alleviate this problem. We have opened up an "Ask the Editors" form. Want advice from upperclassmen? Itching to get involved with more things while still balancing school? Questions that you are too nervous to ask your friends about being an adult? This is the form for you.

Once you fill out the form, a member of the Echo Board may write an article answering it. It's that simple! Responses will begin in the spring, subject to demand. We look forward to seeing your questions!



Updates to the Student Lounge Make the Space a Connection Hub

Check out the updates to the student lounge! New beanbags! A ping pong table! A beautiful new pool table! If you have more updates you would like to see, keep an eye out for a suggestions form coming out from Campus Life!



Opinions expressed in The Echo are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of staff, administration, faculty or the remainder of student body. Submissions can be sent to echo@augsborg.edu, which should be between 450-550 words and accompanied by writer's name and information.

All submissions are property of The Echo and subject to revision.