

THE

METROPOLITAN

The Metropolitan State University Student Newspaper

# More Mass Transit Coming to the Eastern Metropolitan Area



Railways and other types of public transportation are proposed to expand to the East Metro. (Photo by: Scott Lindell)

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With the development and utilization of light rail transit (LRT), the Twin Cities continues to expand its mass transit capacities. The Northstar Line and Blue Line LRT serve areas in the western and central metro while the Green Line LRT runs through the central corridor, connecting the downtowns of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The ongoing transit development also includes several future expansion proposals, some of which involve much needed service in the east metro area. This includes Metropolitan State’s main campus in Dayton’s Bluff, as well as east St. Paul and its suburbs. As of now, the Green Line’s easternmost stop is at Union Depot in St. Paul’s Lowertown district.

At one point, one of the proposals on

the table was a transit line running through Swede Hollow Park, just next door to Metro State. A railroad once ran through Swede Hollow, so technically, it is a “transit right of way,” according to Tom Cook, who is special assistant to the president at Metro State.

For this reason, federal guidelines required that Swede Hollow at least be considered by the Metropolitan Council. This is an organization that serves the Twin Cities metropolitan area in such aspects as policy-making, planning and providing essential services. Swede Hollow’s consideration had to do with the Rush Line, which is still in the early planning stage. This line would run approximately 80 miles, from Union Depot north to, ultimately, Hinckley. Swede Hollow has since been removed from the list of likely routes, after an initial study by the

Metropolitan Council deemed it an unfavorable choice due to environmental impact and accessibility issues.

Another project that is beyond the planning phase and in development is the Gateway Corridor. This project’s purpose is to provide transit service to meet the needs for businesses and the traveling public, and doing so by connecting the east metro area to the greater Twin Cities region. One facet of the Gateway project is the Gold Line bus rapid transit (or BRT).

This line would start at Union Depot and run east for 12 miles along I-94 in a dedicated lane, on or next to Hudson Road. This means that these exclusive bus lanes would not be added to I-94, but would part of a separate bus-only system (it might also be used by emergency vehicles, when needed). The proposed route would provide all-

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# The History of Metro State’s Morgue

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October is the time of orange leaves, orange pumpkins, and Halloween—which, of course, means orange jack-o’-lanterns. It’s when we dress up as zombies, vampires, goblins and ghosts. We willingly visit haunted houses to have the wits scared out of us.

For whatever reason, many get a charge out of getting spooked. There seems to be a certain invigorating feeling of being alive when facing the darker side and our inevitable demise, even if it’s just for fun. In the spirit of All Hallows Eve, keep that in mind as you read: the Morgue of Metro.

The site where Metro State’s Dayton’s Bluff campus now resides was purchased in the late 1980s, and was the former home of St. John’s hospital. The buildings, where the New Main and



This building was formerly a part of St. John’s Hospital (Photo by: Kevin J. Franken)

Founder’s Hall now stand, were torn down and rebuilt. The structure for St. John’s Hall, however, was left intact and the interior refurbished to suit Metro State’s needs.

Across the street (where the library is now located) was the Nobles build-

ing; this according to Thomas Maida, director of public safety and security at Metro State. The Nobles building housed Metro’s Fine Arts program, among others.

When the Nobles building was torn down for the new library, Fine Arts

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# Healthy Tips for Cold Season

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This is the time of year when the temperature drops and so do immune systems. The change in weather means a few things, and the one I hate most is cold and flu season. During this time of year extra caution should be taken to avoid public nose pickers, and take a little extra care of yourselves.

I’m a germaphobe to the extreme. However, it isn’t out of ignorance. Growing up I had horrible asthma. The year round wheeze that made colds deadly. I would miss weeks of school when a simple head cold would turn into bronchitis and then some times pneumonia. I thought that was all in the past until three years ago. It started with a simple cold, and then went to my lungs. That cold turned into bronchitis.

Luckily, I was attending Minneapolis Community and Technical College at the time, and the student clinic just opened. I was able to get free health care and affordable medication to treat my illness. My husband then boyfriend cared for me and unfortunately came down with the same illness. Both of us missed work (losing wages), and missed classes (falling behind on school work). Being sick as an adult sucks even more than as a kid.

So, try your best to avoid getting sick with these tips:

1. Don’t push a door when it says pull. What I mean to say is pay attention to what you are touching. How many times do we open a door and then touch our faces or eat. Just be aware.
2. Respect your body. As the weather gets colder immune systems weaken. I’m not saying to totally slack off. However, if you are feel-

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# From the Front Page

THE  
METROPOLITAN

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day, frequent BRT service, including multiple stops in places such as east St. Paul, Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale and Woodbury.

It would also include a stop close to Metro State; right now, the proposed stop would be at the junction of Third Street East and Kellogg Boulevard, just a few blocks southeast of Metro’s Dayton’s Bluff campus—although that location could change during the development process.

This could have a significant impact on those attending Metro State, students and faculty. “It would be a great way for both students and employees to access the east side, and for those that don’t own cars, or, for those that do but would rather not spend the time driving,” Cook said. “Along with money, another thing everybody is really short on is time,” he added. “The more time spent behind the wheel is less time studying; if you’ve got an hour-long transit, without having to drive it yourself, you can sit and study on your way there.”

The Gold Line BRT would also have a dual benefit, in that it would provide an all-day reliable service for those who want to come to St. Paul to, for example, shop, while also allowing those in the inner-city a way to get to their jobs in the eastern suburbs. So, in this way, it provides what Cook calls a “two-directional asset.”

Another option still on the table is

to have the initial phase of the Rush Line traveling along East Seventh Street. One consideration regarding this is the added dimension of what Cook called “arterial bus rapid transit,” which has been utilized in other transit systems around the nation. This “hybrid” system involves a standard BRT line, with its own dedicated lane, that temporarily merges into general traffic at “pitch points” (spots such as busy intersections and overpasses where a separate lane isn’t feasible). It then gets back in to a dedicated lane to continue its route.

Of course, all of this is a moot point without the necessary funding and support. One big boost occurred about a year ago when, to paraphrase Cook, the Gold Line project became one of eleven national transit projects to be fast-tracked for review by the Obama Administration. Another potentially big step took place more locally.

On September 1, Governor Dayton met with civic leaders at Woodbury City Hall to discuss the proposed Gateway Gold Line. Members of the Gateway Corridor commission and others took this opportunity to further their point. That being the need for more state investment, and that the project was just as worthwhile as some of the high-profile transit projects in the west metro.

Speaking on behalf of Metro State,

Cook stated that the Gateway bus line would make it easier for students commuting to the east side campus, and would also be beneficial to those coming there to use the new Science Center. Convinced of a need for additional funds, Gov. Dayton said that, while he couldn’t guarantee passage by the Legislature, he would support adding \$3 million for the Gold Line project to the next session’s budget.

The present timeline for the Gold Line BRT to be fully operational is 2023. This might seem like a long time, but a project of this magnitude is quite complex, usually covering a 10-year span. A draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)—for the 12-mile stretch crossing six cities and two counties—is currently being completed. The DEIS uncovers information regarding the impact on areas such as noise levels, parks and public land, air quality, traffic, economic development, and more.

The DEIS also establishes a locally preferred alternative (LPA), a general description of what is, seemingly, the preferred route. All six cities and two counties approved the LPA in the fall of 2014. Next is the Project Development phase, followed by final engineering and, lastly, construction.

Whatever time it takes, the Gold Line BRT will be a welcome addition, and a boost for Metro State—as well as the eastern metropolitan area.

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ing tired. Listen to your body, take naps, take in extra vitamins. Give yourself time to unwind at the end of the day. Stress can wreak havoc on your body.

3. Carry a small bottle of hand sanitizer. At the main campus hand sanitizer is plentiful and spread all over. However, for some reason at midway campus I could not find one sanitizer dispenser. Spend a couple bucks for the added safety.

4. Treat yo-self. Not to anything fun, but to something important: a flu shot. This is important for students with weaker immune systems.

Are you reading this and cursing because you

are already sick? Here is a list of self-care tips to help you get through the flu and colds.

1. Drink tons of fluids. The clearer the better! My mother (a nurse practitioner) always told us how important it is to replace liquids lost from fever and respiratory evaporation. Clear fluids will also help loosen up mucus.

2. Stock up on or make soup. I live on a shoe-string budget, so I make vegetable and bone broth from food scraps and freeze it. It is cheaper than buying it at the store. If you are short on time and money check out Metro’s food shelf. They have healthy options to nourish you whether you are healthy or sick.

3. Stay home! No one wants your germs; moreover, it isn’t wise to stress out your body and mind during illness. The only time I’ll ever say miss a class is if you are sick. Please stay home, because I don’t want you making others ill.

4. Respect those around you and wash your hands! No one likes the local classroom nose picker, especially when they have a cold. Beware of what you are touching and if you blow your nose (or pick it) please WASH YOUR HANDS! This helps reduce the spread of germs and protects people with weakened immune systems.

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moved to the small brick structure on the corner of Maria Avenue and East Seventh Street (across from Burger King).

Still the original structure today, and used for art and music classes, this was formerly the morgue for St. John’s hospital.

Maida believes that the garage door on the east side was used for transporting a body inside. It was then lowered to the basement by means of a casket-sized elevator, where the embalming was performed.

Regarding both the Fine Arts Studio and St. John’s Hall, and having been at Metro State for almost 19 years, Maida recalls,

“There’s been many stories of security officers and cleaners who told of walking through cold spaces or hearing moans and groans,” Maida said. He then added, “I imagine when people know an area and its history, their minds start to wander and think about things.”

Happy Halloween!



Today, the morgue of St. John’s Hospital is Metropolitan State University’s Fine Art Studio (Photo by: Kevin J. Franken)

# On Campus

## Fall Fest 2016 Recap

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September 24, 2016  
Student Center  
Saint Paul Campus

Featured Attractions: Caricatures, Popcorn, Laser Tag, Inflatable Games, Dunk Tank, Rock Wall and Bungee Jump, Face Painting, Chopstick Challenge, Bean Bag Toss, Jumbo Jenga, Connect 4, Photo Booth, Dance Music, DJ D.Mil, Breakdance Performances from House of Dance, Zumba Dance Demonstration Class



## VOICES: Fighting DAPL at Metro State

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Turmoil has been filling North Dakota’s “Standing Rock Reservation.” This stems from the company Energy Transfer building the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) through the Dakotas, Iowa and Illinois. Right off the bat, the pipeline has been redirected from more populous areas of North Dakota into the Standing Rock Tribe’s territory. That is a breach of tribal agreement. But, on a broader level, the proposed path of the pipeline crosses under the Missouri River multiple times, which reasonably allows pause for concern with the possibility of corrosion and poisoning of the river.

Needless to say, this has caused protests and legal action from multiple camps against the state of North Dakota as well as Energy Transfer—rightly so. For many organizations around the country, even if they are not on the ground in North Dakota, the ground in which they walk shows compassion, support, and commitment to the Standing Rock Tribe.

The Voices of Indian Council for Educational Success (VOICES), the Native American Student Group at Metro State, are one of those clubs. Throughout September, VOICES has put out donation bins at the St. Paul and Midway campuses.

*School spirit!* At this year’s Fall Fest, hundreds of students, faculty members, friends and family enjoyed the homecoming festivities planned by the University Activities Board. This special event was fun! It featured numerous games and activities, a cookout, free promotional items, live music and entertainment.

Besides the exciting attractions, students learned about student organizations at Fall Fest 2016. There were approximately 30 student organizations at this event. Each student organization had their own table where they could hand out flyers and information about their organization. Students received details about student events. They also learned about open officer positions and numerous ways to contribute.

All of these organizations welcome students to participate in their events and activities. They

also encourage new members to their group. Students do not have to worry if their major or background relates to the organizations. Most of these student organizations are looking for people that are willing to contribute and show dedication instead.

Students that participate in student activities may enhance their college experience. They also gain knowledge and skills. If you were unable to attend this year’s Fall Fest, Metropolitan State University has an OrgSync website and a Student Life and Leadership Development Office. These resources could help you connect with an organization.

Although donation bins have been taken off campus since late September, VOICES will have their Go Fund Me account through October.

For more information:

www.gofundme.com/2j2mufm4



# On Campus

## Psych Club: A Passion for Helping People

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Although many pursue a psychology degree for a chance to study diverse topics, students mainly select this major for an opportunity to help other people. Future psychologists typically have an innate desire to assist and provide relief to those that need guidance. In a world that can be negative and dark, these individuals see the world more optimistically. They like to see people for their positive attributes and their potential for growth. They also enjoy working with people from all walks of life, including children, teens and the elderly.

Luckily, psychology students (major or non-major) do not have to face challenges alone. Whether they are seeking graduate school or trying to do well on the next exam, students can find assistance with their friends at the Psych Club. The Psych Club is connected to helpful faculty and students. They have an interest in seeing students succeed this semester and beyond. Students that are Psych Club members have the “training partners” they need to help them stay on course. The Psych Club also has many programs that supplement classroom learning.

Before finding work where they can make a difference in someone’s life, future psychologists must complete rigorous training. Sometimes a bachelor’s degree is all they need to secure a



Psych Club attending Fall Fest 2016 (Photo by: Scott Lindell)

job in their chosen occupation. Many, however, realize a need to obtain a graduate degree. A graduate degree in psychology will help open the door to more opportunities in this field. Admission to graduate school is a very challenging endeavor, though. Students seeking entry to a program will experience competitiveness. Admission representatives critically analyze student grades and GRE (Admission Test) scores. They also assess an applicant’s commitment and ambition through written statements and interviews. These guidelines can overwhelm students.

As a student, there are times when studying alone can be distracting. There are also occasions when the course content can be confusing. The Psych Club holds group study sessions throughout the semester to help students with their homework.

On select Mondays, students of the Psych Club will meet from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., with these sessions alternating between Midway Center and the Dayton’s Bluff campus. There are also weekend study sessions from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Room 307 at the Metropolitan State Library and Learning Center. These meetings give students an opportunity to ask questions.

Besides studying for exams, the Psych Club works together on writing skills. Their tips help students prepare for their next paper. Occasionally, there are workshops to go over specific writing techniques, including those used in scientific writing. These unique programs will help students learn how to write scientific manuscripts in APA style. They will receive information on referencing their resources and using concise words. Psych Club leaders

will also review the use of PsychINFO (an informational database) to find material for a research paper.

In October, the Psych Club will host two special events as part of a Graduate School Informational Night series. The first event will take place Oct. 6, in New Main L213, on the Saint Paul Campus. This program will start at 4 p.m. and end at 6 p.m. Representatives from area colleges will discuss their graduate programs. Bethel University, St. Mary’s University and the Adler School of Psychology will provide information on admissions processes. The second event will occur Oct. 27, in New Main L213, on the Saint Paul Campus. This program will start at 4 p.m. and end at 6 p.m. An admissions counselor from our school will discuss graduate programs available at Metropolitan State University. They will also explain the applica-

tion process, including fees, letters of recommendation and personal statements. They will also describe how students can prepare for the GRE examination and pay for graduate school tuition and fees.

If you are interested in attending a Psych Club event, please consult their OrgSync page and RSVP. This page is at [orgsync.com/47774/](https://orgsync.com/47774/) chapter. It contains up-to-date information on programs and activities. They also like to hold fun social activities. You can send questions to the Psych Club email at [metropolitanstatepsychclub@gmail.com](mailto:metropolitanstatepsychclub@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Psych Club Events for Metro State Students:

### Graduate School Informational Sessions

Part 1: October 6, 2016

Part 2: October 27, 2016

Both events will take place in New Main L213 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Please RSVP at the Psych Club’s OrgSync Page

# Student Viewpoints

## Colin Kaepernick: Simply Expressing Freedom of Speech

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One pitfall of a month-long editorial process is that something that’s “in the news” when you start writing about it may no longer be “in the news” once it goes to press. I would guess that, by the time you are reading this, Colin Kaepernick will no longer be in the headlines. Yet, I feel his actions have been momentous enough to merit an article.

Colin Kaepernick, as you are probably well aware, refused to (and, possibly, continues to refuse to) stand for the national anthem. “I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color,” he told NFL Media on August 27th. “To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder.”

The Santa Clara Police Officer’s Association, some of whose represented officers contract as security for the 49ers, called Kaepernick’s statement “obviously insulting, inaccurate, and completely unsupported by facts.” The officers have a right to not contract for the 49ers, but are they correct in saying Kaepernick’s statement is “completely unsupported by facts”?

### Who’s Right?

Unfortunately, it’s hard to obtain reliable statistics when it comes to policing, as departments are generally stingy when it comes to releasing data. For instance, the most recent Beauieu of Justice Statistics (BJS) report relied on a survey of drivers. It found that black individuals (12.8 percent) were more slightly likely to be pulled over than Hispanic individuals (10.4 percent) and white individuals (10.2 percent), while blacks (6.3 percent) and Hispanics (6.6 percent) were significantly more likely than whites to be searched once pulled over (2.3 percent).

The surveys that do exist are based on samples of departments that provide detailed information willingly, but even then may be biased by underreporting. In two separate surveys, from July 2016, both found that while use of lethal force does not significantly vary between blacks and whites, the use of nonlethal force—where individuals are grabbed, pushed, handcuffed, and even tazed—is more commonly used on blacks than it is whites.

At the very least, then, we exist in a fog of uncertainty. Anecdotal accounts will paint the picture that blacks have worse police experience than whites, but the data simply doesn’t exist to prove this one way or the other. Which is where better oversight, reporting, body and dashcams, and training all come into play.

### Unfortunately, Activism Can Backfire

This brings us to Black Lives Matter, a movement which has been instrumental in ushering in many of these reforms. Yet, I fear, they may also be breeding resentment among the whites whose votes and support may be essential to realizing the full spectrum of the changes Black Lives Matter seeks—changes, to be clear, that will benefit everybody. This, I know, ventures into the “white savior” territory—the white-appealing idea that black people can’t possibly save themselves without a white savior; à la To Kill a Mockingbird—yet, in a democracy, there is truth to it so long as whites maintain a majority. A change may be just, it may help literally every person in a country, but if a majority of people believe otherwise, it is unlikely to come about.

I support Black Lives Matter, and I believe every person who has participated in the movement is doing so in order to effect good. But, I worry that some of the activities it has partaken in, such as blocking traffic and disrupting malls and airports, will hurt the movement and its goals. I know many otherwise liberal white people whose opinion of the movement is negative, not because of the goals they support, but because of the methods they employ.

Yet, effective protest still needs to be heard. Yelling into the wind is not “protesting,” which is why these disruptions seem so effective—they will be heard, even if they don’t convince people of one’s cause.

To give numbers to this problem, a recent pew survey found that 12 percent of blacks, 11 percent of Hispanics, and 28 percent of whites oppose the movement, while 36 percent of people don’t understand what the movement’s goals are.



Colin Kaepernick in a 2013 game. (Photo by: Seatacular.com under creative commons)

### Kaepernick is a Hero for Showing Us a Different Way

And this, finally, brings me back to Kaepernick. He has proven that Black Lives Matter can be heard without breeding possible resentment. Sure, some people will be put off by him for being “unpatriotic,” but I suspect that most of these people were never going to be easily convinced to begin with. For this, then, Kaepernick is a hero. He is effectively advancing the goals of police reform without losing mindshare in the process.

And I encourage you, my reader, to consider similar approaches. Social media protest is somewhat maligned these days for so-called “slacktivism,” but this is because people are trying to effect change while being lazy, often supporting causes that they wouldn’t, if they knew better, actually support (Kony 2012, for instance). Yet, it is clear many people would put blood, sweat, and tears into Black Lives Matter, and social media is a great place to convince people of the need for change.

Finally, the best approach, I truly believe, is volunteering in the name of the movement, where you can help the community and spread the word at the same time. If you organize enough people to do so, you might even be able to attract press coverage.

Ultimately, everyone who has participated in Black Lives Matter has my heartfelt thanks. You are working to make the world a better place, and I salute you for it. But please be mindful of how your actions might inadvertently hurt the cause, and be creative in seeking ways of convincing people without inviting backlash. Kaepernick, I believe, has shown us a great example of this.

“To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder.”

-Colin Kaepernick to NFL Media on August 27, 2016



# Tech Corner

## A Quick Resource for PC Building

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For most of the past decade, desktop computers have been sold with insane price markups. Even if the total cost of a computer's components was only about \$500, manufacturers would sell it for around \$800.

Within the past two years, however, this has changed. Desktops were first set aside by consumers for laptops, and now for tablets. In order to compete with these smaller devices, manufacturers have started selling desktops for only minimal profit.

As recently as three years ago, I would have urged consumers with even a modicum of technical knowledge to spend a few hours learning how they can build their desktops from off-the-shelf parts. Today, there is rarely any price incentive to do so.

Instead, I would like to lay out the more nuanced benefits of PC building and, in the next issue, I would like to give you a few pointers for how you might build a PC.

### Okay, So Why Should I Build My Own PC?

Because just as knowing how to change your own oil is non-essential, but still very helpful knowledge, knowing how to build your own computer is an optional skill worth having. The experience you'll gain will make it easy to upgrade and replace computer components without having to buy a whole new desktop. This will save you money down the road, and it will give you greater appreciation for which PC components are worth upgrading.

It's through this process that I've started to appreciate graphical processing units (GPUs). Also known, more simply, as graphics cards, GPUs are the powerhouses behind not just rendering 3D video games but also video editing and even artificial intelligence (I highly recommend this Coding Horror article on the topic: <https://blog.codinghorror.com/thanks-for-ruining-another-game-forever-computers/>).

It's through this process that I've started to disregard the central processing unit (CPU), or, more simply, the processor, which have seen little appreciable performance gains over the last five years. You may have seen Intel spokesperson (and Big Bang Theory star) Jim

Parsons (no relation) encourage you to upgrade to new "faster, lighter" computers (see [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQ\\_GiVoT1M0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQ_GiVoT1M0)). While modern laptops are lighter and do have longer battery lives (thanks almost entirely to a standard set by Apple's MacBook design), the Intel CPUs in them have grown barely 50 percent faster for day-to-day tasks in the past five years. Perhaps this is because Intel now has a virtual monopoly on processor production (long-time competitor AMD is mostly disregarded). Or, perhaps it's because Moore's law—which once stated that CPUs will double in power every few years—has simply ended as silicon instrumentation approaches the atomic level (see <http://www.pcworld.com/article/2030005/why-moores-law-not-mobility-is-killing-the-pc.html>).

Thus, through the knowledge I've gained in building my own PCs, I am smarter even when I buy pre-built computers.

Of course, if you see computers as an annoying tool you have to use for your job, you almost certainly haven't read this far in the article, and you also won't get much out of reading further. My advice is, ultimately, for those who see (or want to see) computers as life-augmenting tools, and those people will benefit tremendously from the PC-building experience.

### Building Your Own PC: Helpful Resources

Put simply, no one article is going to give you all the necessary information for building a PC. For my first build, I spent around 20 hours reading up on the following resources, ensuring that I more understood what I was going to do next:

If you're so inclined, Metro State's CFS 262 class goes into a lot of detail about the inner workings of computers. You could easily see a build as being "practice" for that class, or you could use what you learn from that class to help in building.

Reddit's /r/buildapc forum (<https://reddit.com/r/buildapc>) contains many helpful resources and allows you to ask questions of its users as you go along. Their /r/buildapcsales forum can be used to keep track of discounts, while /r/hardwareswap/ could be a useful resource for second-time builders.

PC Part Picker (<http://pcpartpicker.com/>) is essential to knowing if the components you

select are compatible, for comparing components, and for finding the cheapest place to buy components from. (Seriously: before buying anything, figure out what you want, pick everything out from PC Part Picker, and make sure there are no incompatibilities.)

Logical Increments (<http://www.logicalincrements.com/>) is a helpful rule-of-thumb chart for knowing which components to buy within your price range. It also contains primers on what each component does, and how you should decide if you need a high-end component or not.

-And review sites Anand Tech (<http://www.anandtech.com/>) and Tom's Hardware (<http://www.tomshardware.com/>) have excellent benchmarks and comparisons of nearly every PC component.

In the next issue, I will provide some rules of thumb, both for buying and for assembling your computer, if you decide that's something you want to do. I do have a quick one for now, however: unlike with pre-built computers, you will need to fork out for an operating system.

There is one easy way to get Microsoft Windows for free, though, that being DreamSpark (<https://www.dreamspark.com>). This is an educational resource offered by Microsoft to students of registered universities (including Metro State). You can only get Windows Server for free from it, which is not exactly the same thing as regular Windows, but it comes shockingly close. Server 2012 R2 (the most recent Server release) will run nearly all of the same programs and drivers as Windows 8.1, comes with the normal Windows desktop, and supports most of the same Windows programs.

In my experience, it differs only in two respects: the added server manager program, which can be used to turn your computer into an actual fully-fledged server (but can also be completely ignored); and the strange removal of the Bluetooth stack. Unfortunately, you will not be able to use Bluetooth devices with a Server 2012 R2 installation. Still, by using the slightly different operating system in your build, you may be able to save \$100.

I'll see you in the next issue for more building tips.

# Mann About Town

## An Open Letter to For Profit Colleges

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Hey companies, how is it going?

Well, not great if the news has anything to say about it. With ITT Tech (originally International Telephone and Telegraph) closing its doors, it seems that the Department of Education and the government as a whole has been having a decreasing tolerance towards for-profits. But, is this necessarily a good thing?

As always, it never is that simple. Good and bad are meaningless: is it fair?

It's been a trend in the last ten years; long standing for-profit colleges that had a relatively large student population with comfortable profit margins are on their last rope. With a decrease in government funding in for-profits and decreasing enrollments, resources for the colleges were dwindling rapidly. If anything, the former reason was almost more detrimental than the later. Enrollment is quintessential, absolutely, however when for-profits students already have restrictions on how much federal loans can be put towards classes, the colleges tend to be cut at the knees from the start.

The government has every right to be restrictive. According to forprofitu.org, 47% of students that have defaulted on their loans attended for-profit colleges; almost half. That's not simply an issue of camaraderie of private versus public colleges, but that is viewed as a significant burden on the economy. Even if students don't default, the department of education shows the significant of difference in the median debt. According to the DOE,

Students at for-profit colleges carry a median debt of \$32,700, while at public schools students have a median debt of \$20,000 and \$24,600 at private non-profit schools.

Now, this isn't a matter of quality of education. If the median debt seems low that is because Minnesota ranks #3 for the highest tuition in the entire country. So, we tend to pay a significant amount more than other states. But, if students are able to find meaningful employment post-graduation, the heightened costs are worth it, right? Well, according to a study by the Nation Bureau of Economic Research, applicants with business bachelor's degrees from large online for-profit institutions are about 22 percent less likely to hear back from employers than applicants with similar degrees from nonselective public schools.

This lends itself somewhat easily to the belief that regulations tend to be stricter against for-profits. Is it fair? After all, shouldn't individuals have the opportunity to open institutions if the need and opportunity are present? Absolutely they should. It's almost cliché at this point to bring up one of the most prevalent examples in the entire system.

With Trump University, a shade was permanently cast over For Profit's legitimacy. Reports of \$35,000 "Elite Programs" and playbooks given to advisors designed to essentially swindle money from students give a glimpse into one of the for-profit worst case scenarios. This is ultimately why restriction and oversight is essential. It's one thing to ring rhetoric of "entrepreneurial freedom" when it can ruin the lives of those trying to improve on it. Especially when the value of education, one of the most coveted American institutions, gets taken advantage of for the pursuit of

money over passion of education. Then the institution stands on unstable ground.

This ultimately makes the ITT Tech example so tragic, but realistic. In the midst of a larger scope of reformation, staff, faculty and students are ultimately the ones suffering. However, loan forgiveness or transfer of credits to another university has been made an option, according to the LA Times. So, that's beneficial. But, wasted time is still wasted time. If for-profits are going to succeed in the coming decades, costs to students are going to have to decrease, value of education is going to have to increase, and transparency is essential for government support.

I do have to question what is superior or specialized in for-profits that other public or private colleges don't have? Maybe if they go a little more in depth or have a wider scope, then I could realistically see the appeal. Institutes such as that are so few and far between it's hard to picture. That is the strength of for profits; serving a niche audience in overly specialized fields. But, institutions like ITT Tech or Corinthian Colleges Inc. close because the private and public colleges just do liberal arts and sciences so much more efficiently—and with government support.

Best wishes,  
Brayden Mann

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Writing for the Metropolitan is an excellent way to inform fellow students about important issues and events while enhancing your professional writing credentials.

The Metropolitan welcomes article submissions from all students. Please see submission guidelines on OrgSync.

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# In the Community

## Halloween Festivities on the East Side

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### The Mounds Theater

Built in 1922 The Mounds Theater is hosting Real Haunted Tours for the last three weekends of October. The historical Mounds Theater’s haunted claim is the perfect event to get you in the mood for Halloween. It includes ghost stories about their residential spirits. Like Mary the little girl, or Red the man in the projection booth. Devices to catch paranormal activity are suggested to visitors. One hour-tours held every Friday and Saturday 6 p.m. to midnight.

The last tour of the night has three-hour tour available for those who aren’t the faint of heart. These tours cost extra but not only do you get the original tour; you also get to see the basement and time to roam around on your own. The real Haunted Tours are 16+. In addition they will have sunset tours for a younger crowd. Before the sunsets on October 30th kids 8 to 15 will be able to tour the theater with a less intimidating atmosphere. It is highly suggested to make reservations online before you head out due to sold out tours.

Dates: October 14-15, 21-22, 28-30  
Cost: 1 hour tour- \$20, 3hour tour- \$40, Kids- \$15  
Location: The Historic Mounds Theater  
1029 Hudson Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106  
Contact Info: [www.moundstheatre.org](http://www.moundstheatre.org), (651) 772-2253

### WEQY Radio 104.7

WEQY, East Side Community Radio is hoisting a Community Halloween Party. Held at the Mounds Park United Church on October 31st from 6 to 8 p.m. This is a costume party where all ages welcome for a fun night. The night Includes a free dinner, exciting games, and lots of candy and prizes instore. WEQY claim this is a family friendly, safe and warm event to attend for a fun and remember able Halloween.

Date: Saturday, October 31, 2015 - 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.  
Cost: Free  
Location: Mounds Park United Methodist Church  
1049 Euclid St, St Paul, MN 55106  
Contact Info: 651-774-8736

### The Goat Coffee House

The Goat Coffee House on Metro States 7th Street campus is having a student wide 25% discount for all who come dressed in a costume. Employees will be dressed up Monday October 31st but the discount is available throughout the weekend, Oct 29th to the 31st. For those who enjoy pumpkin The Goat Coffee House Has a featured Pumpkin Spice drink. So, don’t forget to stop by before Class on Saturday and Monday.



(Morguefile Photo: by Darren Hester)

### Wabasha Street Caves’ Tours

The Wabasha Caves have been known for their extensive gangster history involving murder. This background is a breeding ground for a chilling night. Ghost sightings have been reported and The Caves claim that you might experience a paranormal experience during their tours. A handful of tours are offered in October. Ones you should look out for are the Ghost and Graves, Caves and graves, and Lost Souls Tours. The Ghost and Graves includes a bus ride around St. Paul while listening to tales of murders, ghost sightings and graveyards. Caves and Graves is a two-hour tour that not only includes a bus ride but a tour into the caves in the dark as well. Touring the caves by candle light, gives you a hands on experience the same space of ancestors before you. Finally, is the Lost Souls Tour held at 12:30 a.m. every Sunday for the month of October. Tourists are encouraged to bring cameras for potential capture of their own paranormal proof. Reservations should be made before showing up so that The Caves can properly plan.

Dates: refer to The Caves calendar website for dates and times of tours. [www.wabashastreetcaves.com/calendar.html](http://www.wabashastreetcaves.com/calendar.html)  
Cost: \$10- 25  
Location: Wabasha Street Caves  
215 Wabasha Street South, Saint Paul, MN 55107  
Contact Info: [www.wabashastreetcaves.com](http://www.wabashastreetcaves.com), 651-224-1191

### Burger King off 7th Street

If you are willing to put your life on the line and possibly try the scariest meal encountered throughout the month of October, Burger King is the place to go. Cheetos Chicken Fries are now offered at Burger King. They are seeping into the communities around; consume at own risk!

The Metropolitan would like to advertise your business or organization. If you are interested in advertising in the next issue, please contact Brayden Mann at [yb6938yy@metrostate.edu](mailto:yb6938yy@metrostate.edu).