



Jeff Kitson/NW

CHILD'S PLAY Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity members held a teeter-totter-athon outside JCPenney's in the Westwood Mall. The group was at the mall on Saturday accepting donations dur-

Events help counter-act Coulter's speech

by CASSANDRA STUROS
associate news editor

Ann Coulter's upcoming visit to NMU has sparked many different reactions from the positive to the very negative; the latter reaction sparked the idea for Tolerance Week.

A group of students brought their concerns over the conservative ideologue's April 14 speech to the Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee, where the idea for the week was formed.

A series of events have been planned for Tolerance Week. The events will be put on by a number of different student groups and faculty. The week starts Saturday, April 12 in the Cadillac Room of the University Center.

Jaime Engvall, a junior Spanish and international studies major, is in charge of "Don't Take it Personally," an event where students can send in stories of discrimination at Northern that will be re-enacted by other students.

The readings will take place Wednesday, April 16, at 7 p.m. in

Whitman Commons.

Engvall said while Tolerance Week was inspired by Coulter's visit, the purpose of the events is not just to protest her speech.

"It's a great opportunity to talk about something that's important," she said. "I've seen active discrimination on campus, and everyone can learn more about tolerance and what's going on in the area."

Many of us are in some way a minority; we all have things in common.
— Paul Lehmborg, English professor

Nancy Kenok, a sophomore international studies major, is also working on "Don't Take it Personally," and said she is glad Coulter is coming to NMU.

"I think she has the right to come here and talk; the First Amendment clearly states free speech," she said. "I've actually been wanting something like this to happen because I've witnessed discrimination on campus even before Ann Coulter. Her coming

here has been a good opportunity to spark this whole thing."

Paul Lehmborg, an English professor and Buddhist priest, will speak at the Truth Rally, another event being put on for Tolerance Week. The rally will take place 5:30-7 p.m. Monday, April 14, near the Vandament Arena.

Lehmborg said that, as a Buddhist priest, he believes in commonality and the idea of everyone being tied together. He said that, in speaking at the Truth Rally, he wishes to celebrate that idea.

"Many of us are in some way a minority; we all have things in common," he said. "[But] we all have aspects of our lives that are really uncommon and [shouldn't] be singled out in those matters that we don't have in common with other people."

Lehmborg said he believes this event is a more positive way to get the message out about tolerance than Coulter's speech.

"I want to be a different voice than the voice that I think Ann Coulter is going to present," he

Please see **FORUM** on Page 2

Webster wins 2008 election

by KYLE WHITNEY
editor in chief

Hobie Webster, a junior pre-law major, was elected as the next president of ASNMU in Tuesday's general election.

Webster received just over 45 percent of the more than 1,800 votes cast in the election, which ran



WEBSTER

from 12:01 a.m. to 6 p.m. Senior Kash Dhanapal finished second, while seniors Neal Glatt and Brian Lantto finished third and fourth, respectively.

"I am surprised at the margin (of victory), really," said Webster, who tallied 255 votes more than Dhanapal. "I thought it was going to come down to, literally, a handful of votes."

Webster's vice presidential candidate, junior Jaclyn Calamaro, was also elected, defeating sophomore Keith Voorheis by a margin of 989-797.

While campaigning, Webster said that he and Calamaro began to feel as though they needed to make up ground on their opponents.

"Our assumption was that we were coming from behind for the entire race. Neal was the experienced candidate and Kash had a lot of experience in residence halls," Webster said. "I think it was that extra underdog mentality that made us work harder to get the vote out."

Tuesday's voter turnout was the highest for an ASNMU election since 2004 and nearly doubled the numbers from last year. Dhanapal said he believed the reason behind the high turnout was because so many candidates were running.

"I think it was that there were so many of us running at the same time that we all came into contact with different people at different times," he said. "That personal contact is probably what made it happen."

Webster said the number of candidates, combined with their legitimacy, contributed to the

interest across campus.

"I think it was the competition between the candidates. I think there was a quality of candidates that probably hasn't been there," he said. "This time we had four candidates, three of whom had several hundred people voting for them."

With the elections over, Dhanapal said he would consider joining ASNMU in some capacity next semester. Glatt, who said he was surprised by the results, left no doubts as to whether he would remain a part of ASNMU.

"Absolutely," he said. "I love this school. I told people I would return, and I'm going to."

Webster, who started the transition process on Wednesday morning, will be officially sworn in on Tuesday, April 15. He said he would attempt to hire an Information Technology Director and a new ASNMU treasurer as soon as possible.

"I really appreciate the job (current treasurer) Katey Newton has done and I appreciate her dedication over the last three years, but there will be a new chairperson of the SFC," he said.

The main goal for the next few weeks is to get ASNMU operating smoothly, Webster said.

"We'll be working these last two weeks to make sure everyone is on the same page heading into the summer," he said. "That'll give them an opportunity to reflect on the upcoming year and maybe start to think about projects that we can do."

Tuesday's election also marked the end of the road for NMU's Collegiate Readership Program.

Ballot initiative No. 1, which proposed a \$5.76 increase to the Student Activity Fee in exchange for the delivery of 350 daily issues of USA Today and The New York Times, was voted down, 972-858.

"It's shut down. We've established that this vote was a true measure of how the students feel about it," said Glatt, who is also the chairman of the ASNMU Readership Program Committee. "That's the end of the program. There won't be papers on campus."

Full ASNMU results on page 2

ASNMU RESULTS are IN

Student Government for Northern Michigan University

President

Hobie Webster - 836
 Kash Dhanapal - 581
 Neal Glatt - 394
 Brian Lantto - 32

Vice President

Jaclyn Calamaro - 989
 Keith Voorheis - 797

On-Campus Representative

Kalli Thurgood - 202

Off-Campus Representative

Amy Hickey - 288
 Holly Kasberger - 180
 Nick Hinrichsen - 175
 Chris 'Vito' Chlystek - 136
 Brittany Broad - 109
 Tom Wynsma - 74

Up-Campus Representative

Laura Smith - 142
 Jeff Thomas - 108

College of Arts & Sciences Representative

Mallory Mahoney - 375
 Josh Corbat - 291
 Laura Schmidt - 231
 Stephen Baumler - 196

College of Professional Studies Representative

Mary Raymond - 263
 Dani Dumke - 196

College of Graduate Studies Representative

Christina Merrill - 49

Down-Campus Representative

Jason Morgan - 517

Proposed \$5.76 increase to Student Activity Fee (SAF) for Collegiate Readership Program

No - 972
 Yes - 858

Proposed 56 cent increase to SAF for Radio X

Yes - 1145
 No - 696

Proposed 5 cent increase to SAF for The North Wind

Yes - 1334
 No - 500

FORUM
Continued from Page 1

said. "She seems to be a provocateur; maybe we're going to provoke in a different way."

Kyle Bonini, president of the College Republicans, said this kind of reaction is exactly what he wanted.

"We wanted people to talk about it and become involved and more active," he said. "This event goes beyond the people who are attending the event; the people who are protesting and opposed to it are part of it."

Bonini said the idea of bringing Coulter to campus was to have a speaker who understood people and allowed them to experience a conservative view.

"Ann Coulter's opinions are diverse," he said. "Freedom of speech belongs

to everybody, not to just a select few. We shouldn't just bring in speakers who a few people are comfortable with. We are supposed to show people different sides of things."

Judy Puncochar, chair of the Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee, said students' involvement in educating the campus on tolerance is encouraging.

"It's really quite exciting to see the interest in doing very positive, proactive events planned around cultural diversity," Puncochar said.

Students took the issue of Coulter coming here and turned it into a positive ongoing movement to bring about tolerance, she said.

"To see diversity as a value and certainly respect is key here," she said. "The level of pro-tolerance and pro-diversity and doing something positive is wonderful."

Corrections

In last week's article "Outdoor magazine recognizes Marquette," the final quote should have been attributed to Harvey Wallace.

Last week's article "Relay for Life exceeds goals," should have described Jessica Butina as a survivor of cancer. Her mother was not affected by cancer.

Map Key

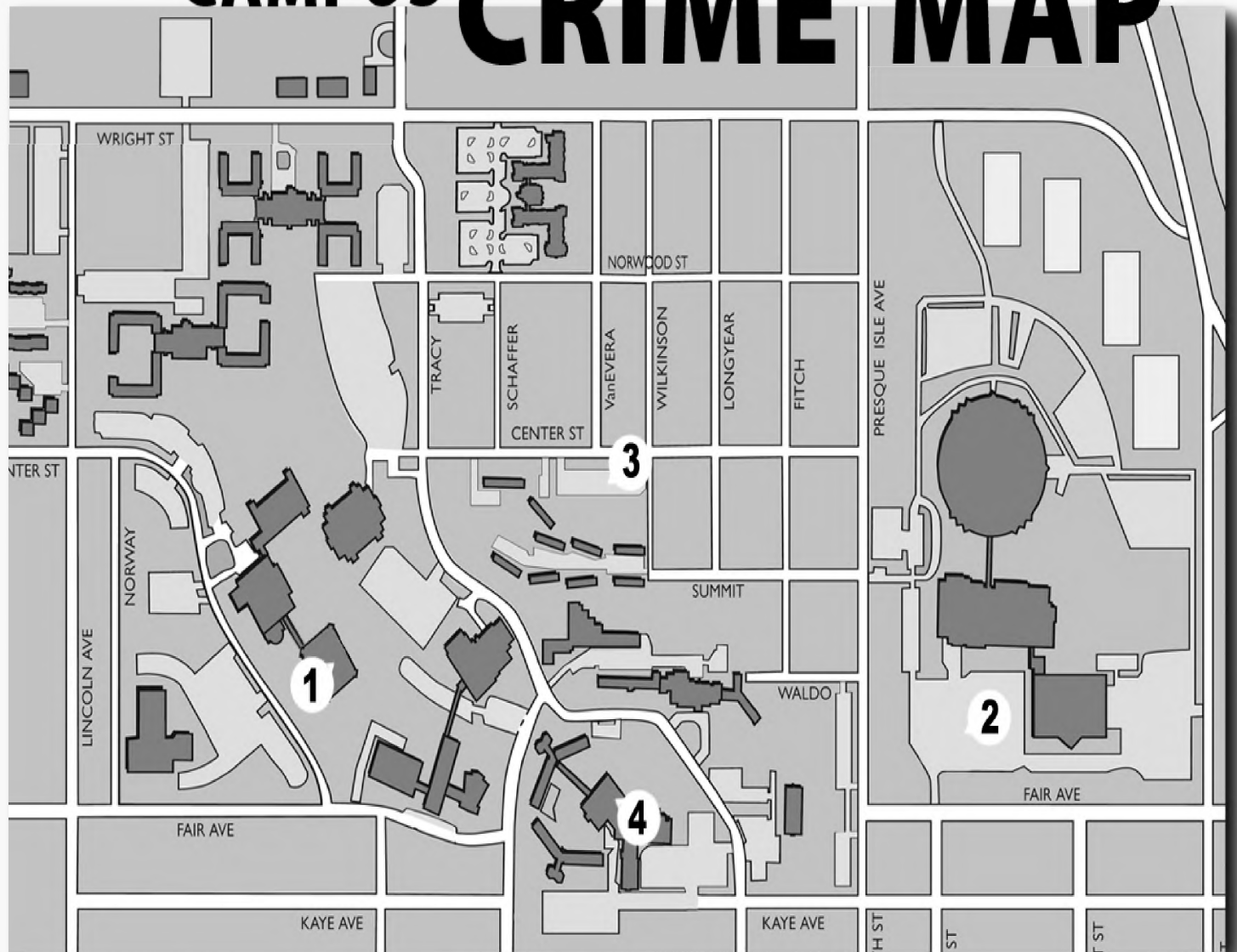
1) On April 1, a laptop was stolen from Jamrich. The case is still open.

2) On April 1, a 2005 Dodge Ram 1500 was stolen from Lot 60. The vehicle has been recovered and two juveniles were arrested.

3) On April 5, several underage individuals were found in possession of alcohol in Lot 21. They have been referred to the Dean of Students Office.

4) On April 6, a laptop was stolen from the University Center. The case is still open.

CAMPUS CRIME MAP



BRIEFS

Campus

Student research to be on display

The 13th Celebration of Student Research, Creative Works and Academic Learning will be held on Thursday, April 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the lower level of the LRC. The celebration, which was started to display the many creative works of NMU students, showcases students who have conducted research, a creative work or a service learning project, said Cynthia Prosen, dean of graduate studies and research and sponsor of the event. Past projects have included posters, sea lamprey work, musicians, student-created films, art exhibits and play presentations. Only the posters will be judged and presented as three "Best of Show" posters in categories of best undergraduate poster, graduate poster and class poster. Five \$300 TLC laptop awards will recognize innovative uses by students of the laptop in the academic environment, said Prosen. Students were asked to submit a brief description of their project by the end of March and nearly 75 submissions were received. "[I] encourage all students to attend this event, both to learn about scholarly opportunities that they might like to become involved with in the future, and to cheer on their fellow students," said Prosen. "This really is a terrific way for us to celebrate learning that goes on at NMU, both inside and out of the classroom." The event is free to NMU students and the general public. Cookies and soft drinks will be provided.

—Sarah Eberhard

State

Program helps women plan ahead

A new family planning program is available to Michigan women. The program, Plan First, offers free family planning services to women between the ages of 19 and 44 who are not currently pregnant and qualify for the program, said Linda Loeffler, department analyst for the Michigan Department of Community Health. Loeffler said services such as initial screenings, lab tests, office visits, sterilization and pregnancy prevention through contraceptives are offered for those in the program. Plan First was started one year ago by the state of Michigan in an attempt to decrease the rate of infant mortality and allow for healthier babies, Loeffler added. When pregnancies are planned, women tend to get more prenatal care, resulting in a healthier child, she said. Women can obtain applications through the local health department or the State Department of Human Services. Loeffler said that women interested in gaining more information on the program can call 1-800-642-3195. For more information, apply online by visiting www.michigan.gov/mdch.

—Carrie Carlson

Weird News

Postal workers pestered by poultry

Rather than rain or snow, or even dogs, postal workers in a Wisconsin neighborhood near Owen Conservation Park are being pestered by wild turkeys this spring. Mara Wilhite, manager of the Hilldale Station Post Office, said she expected to deal with all manner of issues when she went to work for the U.S. Post Office, but turkeys were not one of them. "Just when you thought you'd heard it all," she said. About five to 10 of the birds have been pecking at the postal workers as they make their rounds, and some of the birds have attacked the letter carriers with the sharp spurs on their legs. One of the birds went through the open door of a mail truck and scratched the driver. Wilhite sought help in the matter from Eric Lobner, regional wildlife program supervisor for the state Department of Natural Resources. Lobner said the behavior is clearly tied to the breeding season, which started recently and runs through about mid-May. Color plays an important role in turkey breeding, he said, with the color of the male's head during mating season changing from gaudy blue to white to red. Lobner speculated that perhaps the turkeys are attracted to the red, white and blue postal trucks. Postal workers were armed with water pistols, but Lober said that while the squirts of water worked for a while, the turkeys now seem accustomed to it. Some workers have been using long sticks to fend off the birds, he said, adding that he will meet with Wilhite next week to discuss other possible solutions.

—Associated Press



Julia Woehrer/NW

NMU President Les Wong discussed popular topics with DJ Gavin Telfer, such as the Road Map to 2015 and Campus Master Plan, on the air at Radio X on Wednesday afternoon.

Wong addresses plans for NMU on Radio X

by ASHLEY BERKEN
news editor

Several hot button issues, including the infamous Ann Coulter speech, John Stossel's comments on the proposed campus smoking ban and upcoming changes to not only physical but also academic aspects of NMU were discussed in the latest session of "Let's Chat" with NMU President Les Wong.

Wong sat down with DJ Gavin Telfer Wednesday on Radio X and touched on the College Republicans bringing Coulter to NMU.

"The main point for me isn't the First Amendment thing; it isn't about who she is," Wong said. "The students who made the decision followed their own processes. They asked good, solid questions and they had good, solid discussions. They gathered what appears to be the right information to make a good decision and they made that decision."

"When students are that effective and competent, I'm going to stand by their decision. They did the right things and they acted responsibly and I support that."

Wong also commented on 20/20 news anchor John Stossel's recent campus speech, which made light of what Wong said is a serious issue.

"Even John Stossel was teasing me about smoking in your car with the windows up and down and that kind of thing," Wong said. "I think he did do a disservice of making light of the study. We do know that second-hand smoke at certain levels is deleterious to health."

The committee deciding on the smoking policy at Northern should be formed by the end of

the semester, he said. Wong added that he hopes the committee will reach a fair decision by the fall of 2009.

"If New York City can control smoking in places like restaurants and bars, I have to believe that Northern can do it in a way that satisfies everyone," he said.

However, the topic that is drawing the most student interest is the new Roadmap to 2015, which includes the Campus Master Plan and academic goals for Northern. The main topic is the prospective changes to the graduation requirements for Northern students, Wong said.

"Probably the most distinct

I think there's no doubt that a student union building is high on everybody's list.

— Les Wong, NMU president

issue is to tackle quickly, install and reinvigorate liberal studies," Wong said. "We need to sit down in a short amount of time and offer up a liberal studies program that makes sense to students and is both challenging and really gets students engaged, and gets them ready for their major."

Wong's goal with the Roadmap is to start executing the goals on the plan and also making changes to it as they are needed.

"As I said to the community, if [the Roadmap] looks unchanged in 2013, something went wrong. Something really went wrong," he said. "There are small things that we can change; this document should change, this document should evolve."

As far as changes go, students involved with the Native Plants

Area worked on a compromise with administrators to make sure it wasn't removed from campus, Wong said.

"The final draft of [the Campus Master Plan] is being put together by our consultants," he said. "It represents a nice closure to a very open and inclusive process. We found some compromises, for instance, in the Native Plants Area and I think everyone's pretty content with that; it's sort of a 'no one wins, no one loses' kind of thing. It was a constructive discussion and my kudos to the students who were involved with that. I felt they did a really professional job, not only holding their positions but realizing that everybody needs to negotiate somewhere."

The plan includes many physical changes to NMU such as the removal of Carey Hall, the Summit Street Apartments and possibly West Hall, along with renovation of Lee Hall for an alumni center. However, a popular topic with students is the implementation of a student union. The building might temporarily stand next to the Native Plants Area until funding can be secured for a larger structure.

"I think there's no doubt that a student union building is high on everybody's list," Wong said.

He said that after his three-and-a-half years at Northern he still has a lot to give and change on the campus and feels attached to the campus and Marquette as a whole.

"If the community continues to appreciate the work that (wife) Phyllis and I are doing and continue to invite us to stay here we would love to stay," Wong said. "This has been a magical place for me personally and professionally. With the Roadmap, I feel invested in getting part of that done."

NMU hosts established writers

by CARSON LEMAHIEU
staff writer

On April 17, the department of English, the MFA Program in creative writing and "Passages North" literary magazine will bring award-winning writer Elizabeth McCracken to NMU's campus.

She will read one of her written works in the Cadillac Room in the University Center at 7:30 p.m.

McCracken is the author of "The Giant's House" and "Niagara Falls All Over Again" as well as the short story collection "Here's Your Hat What's Your Hurry." She is currently promoting her forthcoming memoir "An Exact Replica of a Figment of My Imagination," which is being released later this summer.

"Elizabeth McCracken was an instructor of mine when I was at the Iowa Writers Workshop, and that's one of the reasons I wanted to bring her in," said Rebecca Johns, writing professor and organizer of the visiting writers program. "She was the best teacher I've ever had, hands down, and I think the students here will really benefit from her speaking."

McCracken is one of many visiting writers whom Johns has worked to bring to Northern. Writers who visited NMU earlier in the year include essayist John 'd Gata and author Pam Houston. Johns said the visiting writers program gives students an opportunity to be exposed to accomplished authors.

"Anyone who aspires to work in any kind of field needs to know how to take the next step," Johns said. "They need to see how other people do it and to have a chance to

speak to well-known writers and ask them questions and meet them and know who they are."

Senior writing major Tim Johnston said he has attended many of the visiting writer seminars during his four years at NMU.

"It was interesting to get other perspectives on different genres of writing," Johnston said. "As a writing major, it's nice to see other people who succeeded at writing and make a living doing it."

As a writing major, it's nice to see other people who succeeded at writing and make a living doing it.

**- Tim Johnston,
senior
writing major**

In addition to the visiting writing seminar by McCracken, the English department also released a list of visiting writers who will teach different genre seminars this summer. Included in this list are fiction writer Josh Emmons, lyric essayist Andrea Hollander-Budy and poet John Rybicki.

Each writer will spend two weeks at NMU teaching a seminar class on his/her respective genre. The classes are listed in both the undergraduate and graduate writing program to make them available to more students, Johns said. She said another reason the class is open to both undergrads and grad students is because of the valuable experience it offers

to all students.

"It's great for the English writing students to get a different perspective on what's going on in the world of writing other than just the people on faculty," Johns said.

Emmons is the author of "The Loss of Leon Meed" and the upcoming "Prescription for a Superior Existence." He is the recipient of a Michener-Copernicus Fellowship and a PEN/American Center Grant. He is teaching a seminar on fiction writing.

Hollander-Budy will teach a special course on the lyric essay. She has authored numerous books and is a recipient of a Pushcart Prize in Nonfiction and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in poetry.

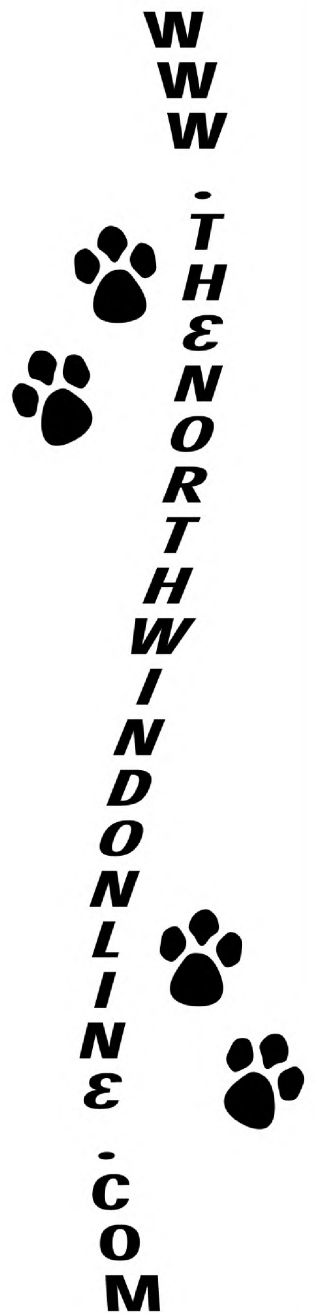
Rybicki is a well-known Michigan poet, whose poem "We Bed Down Into Water" was chosen for inclusion in "The Best American Poetry 2008."

Johns said she pursued the authors who are teaching the seminars because they are very current and intriguing authors in their genres.

"I ask around for recommendations and that usually helps in the genres that I'm not as familiar with, which are nonfiction and poetry," Johns said. "We look for people who are doing exciting things in their respective genres, people who are publishing and people who have their summers free."

While teaching the seminar the authors live in on-campus apartments provided to them by the university. Johns said that NMU has a good track record of bringing successful writers to participate in the visiting writing seminars.

"Usually the first person I go to ends up accepting," she said. "It's good experience for them and it's great for us."



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Campus honors student workers

April 13 – 19 marks National Student Employment Week said Director of Career Services John Frick, and NMU's Career Services is encouraging on and off-campus employers to participate by recognizing jobs well done at the student level.

At NMU, the week—named by the National Student Employment Association—sets out to celebrate the work done by the more than 2,000 student employees.

"It's our job at Career Services to let everyone know that it's Student Employment Week," Frick said. "We help offices come up with ideas to use in recognizing great work done by the students."

Some of these ideas are listed on the Career Services Web site and can be found at www.nmu.edu/careers. They include decorating bulletin boards with employee names, making small care packages for student employees and giving gift certificates from local businesses.

"In our office, small things are given to the students every day of the week," Frick said. "I can't tell you what they are because it's a secret, but we like to make ours a week-long celebration."

Other groups on campus are also getting into the spirit this year. NMU's Audio and Visual services will go around campus and videotape students at work.

The footage will be shown on Public TV13 as a special tribute to the student workers, Frick said. Student Employment Week is also a chance for working students to appreciate the professional and educational opportunities given to them by their employers, but ultimately the week gives these employers a chance to say thank you for all the work students do, he added.

—John Pann

Storm chaser shares stories

When Bill Bernard isn't serving as the Associate Provost for Student Services and Enrollment at NMU, he can probably be found chasing storms in the southern United States.

Bernard shared his experiences as a storm chaser Tuesday night at the Mead Auditorium in the West Science Building. Bernard's presentation included pictures, stories and video clips. Bernard said he first began chasing storms after his brother asked him to join the storm chasing team he was involved with.

He said he was skeptical at first, but has returned every spring since, this year marking his 12th as a storm chaser. During the presentation, Bernard shared photos of forming storms, tornadoes and cloud formations.

He took questions and shared stories, remembering once chasing 21 tornadoes in the course of only two days.

Bernard and his team have been the subjects of documentaries by MSNBC and video clips from one of the documentaries were shown at the presentation. Bernard also shared his own video clips from his years of chasing tornadoes. He and his team travel each spring to Amarillo, Texas, where they set up home base and chase storms in multiple southern states during their two week vacation.

"We do it for the rush, that's how I relax," Bernard said. "It's the most relaxing thing I do all year."

The presentation was sponsored by the Superior Geography Club and Gamma Theta Upsilon.

—Brooke Gudwer

marquette music scene

Thursday, April 10

Northland Pub:
UpFront & Company:
Vango's:

Billy Alberts, 8:30 p.m.
Fort Pastor, 10 p.m.
Jim & Ray, 9:30 p.m.

Friday, April 11

Matrixx-Skyboxx:
UpFront & Company:

Dirty Sanchez, 10:30 p.m.
Bumpus, 10 p.m.

Saturday, April 12

Matrixx-Skyboxx:
UpFront & Company:

Dirty Sanchez, 10:30 p.m.
Bumpus, 10 p.m.

Sunday, April 13

Reynolds Recital Hall:
Masonic Temple

Percussion Studio Recital, 3 p.m.
NMU Lake Effect Show Choir, 6 p.m.

Monday, April 14

Lagniappe Cajun Creole Eatery:

Zydecology, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15

UpFront & Company:

Terra Cotta Half Life, 10 p.m.

Wednesday, April 16

Matrixx-Skyboxx:
UpFront & Company:

Wisecrack, 10:30 p.m.
Jupiter One with Slipt, 10 p.m.

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Editorial

Election undemocratic

On Tuesday, April 8, NMU students turned out to cast their votes in the 2008 ASNMU general election.

Those individuals who voted should treasure the memory, as Tuesday was likely one of the only times in their lives that they will be a part of a truly democratic election.

During almost every national election, voters are pelted with stories of the underdog, the kid from Smalltown, America, the president that never should have been.

In 1992, we heard about Bill Clinton, the original "comeback kid," who progressed from the streets of tiny Hope, Ark., to the Oval Office. This year the electorate is blessed with the heartwarming tales of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

Clinton is the first female presidential candidate to ever make real political waves. Obama, who never misses a chance to tell the nation about his father from Kenya and his mother from Kansas, uses his candidacy to illustrate the American Dream. It seems that if he can do it, you can, too. But that's not exactly true.

The basic idea of a democracy is, of course, that anyone in the country can rise up and occupy the highest office in the land. The painful truth is that if you have a dream of one day becoming the president of the United States, you'd better start preparing today, because you will need an enormous amount of money before you even stand a chance.

Just look at the numbers from this year's campaigns.

John McCain wrapped up the Republican nomination weeks ago and he did so cheaply, spending only \$56 million at this point.

Obama and Clinton are still in a fight for the Democratic nomination, and each has spent in excess of \$130 million during the campaigns. In the month of February alone, the two Democratic candidates combined to spend more than \$71 million.

And when Mitt Romney dropped out of the running a couple of months back, it was claimed that he had raised \$105 million, still more than any other Republican nominee has been able to muster. Of course, \$35.4 million of that money came from Romney's own pocket.

Anyone with any hope of becoming president must have a small fortune, despite his/her background. The school-teacher from Detroit or the corn farmer from Nebraska has virtually no chance of ever taking office.

A true democracy is one in which any citizen can stand up and ask for the chance to lead. But with today's election process, only the rich can ask for that.

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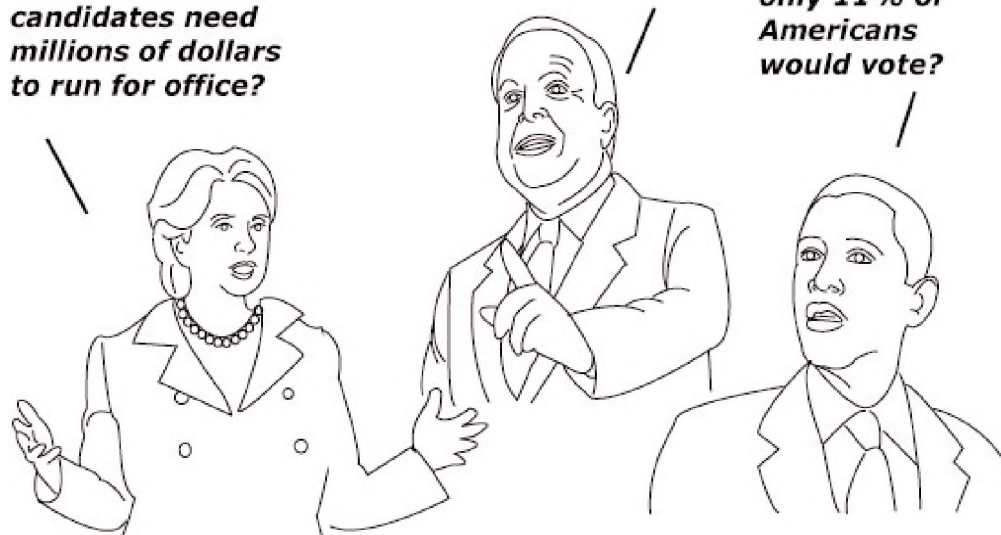
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Andrew McCanna
 opinion@thenorthwind.org

America needs a better election process! Look at NMU. Do their candidates need millions of dollars to run for office?

Wouldn't an NMU student government type of election be more democratic?

Does that mean only 11% of Americans would vote?



Letters to the Editor

Baseball still America's pastime

Having just finished Mr. Curt Kemp's baseball primer in the April 3 issue of The North Wind, I would like to congratulate him on a well written article. Baseball has been and always will be America's sport. Other sports, such as football and basketball, have grown in popularity over the last couple decades, and may have delusions of being the new "national pastime," but baseball will always be as welcoming as a warm apple pie.

For starters, baseball's 2007 attendance was slightly fewer than 80,000,000 people for the year. This equals 10,000,000 more than combined attendance of football, basketball, hockey and soccer.

Baseball is the only sport where you have to count on your teammates to win a game. If one or two athletes have an outstanding game, they still are required to sit and watch their teammates and hope they can produce something as well. The one-on-one aspect of a pitcher-batter duel is the purest moment in all of sports. Like two gunslingers in the old west, they both bring their skills to the table. Sometimes they win, sometimes they lose, but regardless of the outcome, the fan is screaming, sobbing or dancing. The baseball fan is never let down.

Mr. Kemp did a wonderful write-up of conveying the emotion we should all feel when the snow thaws and the best season of all starts — baseball season.

Cody Fleming, Graduate Administrative Assistant

Coulter is shock-jock

America. This country is known for free speech. And it is a great thing to have free speech. But, do some people take the idea of free speech too far? It is highly possible. I believe Ann Coulter takes her views a little too far.

One of my biggest problems with Ann Coulter is her views on women's right to vote. A quote from Coulter: "If we took away women's right to vote, we'd never have to worry about another Democrat president. It's kind of a pipe dream, it's a personal fantasy of mine..." I have two major problems with this quotation. No. 1 being that Ann Coulter is trying to silence the views of the liberals in this country. Sure, Ann may be expressing her freedom of speech, but the cost of this view is that she is robbing many people of their freedom of speech.

This leads me into the second problem with the quotation. She is trying to rob people of their right to vote. The Constitution guarantees that everyone has the right to vote in this country regardless of sex. If Coulter succeeds in this, she will be robbing the Constitutional rights of many Americans. It only fascinates me more that Coulter, an American woman herself, feels that women should have their right to vote taken away.

A few people have been going around saying that those who feel Coulter should not be allowed on campus do not believe in Constitutional rights. But how am I not supporting Constitutional rights if Coulter is running around trying to spread her beliefs that women should

not be allowed to vote? Coulter is trying to single-handedly silence the rights of liberals and women in this country, leaving only the conservatives with any Constitutional rights. I feel this is wrong and it needs to be stood up to.

Perhaps Coulter is trying to express many of her views for shock value. You present something that will grab the audience's attention, such as denying women the right to vote, people will pay attention to you. And this may be what she is striving to do.

Sure, Coulter may have freedom of speech just like the rest of us. But she should not try to use her freedom of speech to silence the freedoms of others. Based on all of my views, I will be boycotting Coulter's speech here at Northern Michigan University and I urge anyone who shares similar views to join me.

James Simmons Senior

web poll question

Are you attending Ann Coulter's speech on Monday?

- Of course. I've been looking forward to it for weeks.
- Yeah. I think my friends are going, so I may as well.
- No. I've better things to do with my time.
- I won't be listening, but I'll be protesting.

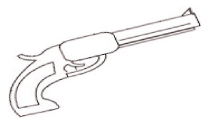
Letter Policy

Letters to the Editor must include full name, year, major and a phone number for verification. Please limit letters to 350 words or less. All letters may be edited for grammar and may be cut due to

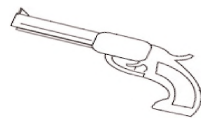
limited spacing. Letters can be submitted via e-mail to opinion@thenorthwind.org or mailed to Room 2310 University Center, Marquette, MI 49855.

Comments on www.thenorth-

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Dueling Columns: Gun Control



It should be illegal for Americans to own handguns.

Gun ownership is a principle this country was founded on.



by Jackie Stark

For the first time in years, the Supreme Court agreed to examine a case concerning the Constitution's **S e c o n d** Amendment.

On March 18, the Court heard arguments on the

Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975, a Washington D.C. gun ban.

The last thing this gun-crazy country needs is more people owning and carrying handguns. Handguns serve little other purpose than shooting other human beings. While rifles and shotguns can obviously kill people, they can at least be used for hunting. And it's much harder to hide a rifle in public than a pistol.

The Second Amendment declares "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the People to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

The operative words of that sentence are "A well-regulated Militia." The founding fathers, when drafting this awkwardly-worded sentence, intended for an American militia to have the right to bear arms. This amendment does not give every American the right to keep any weapon they so choose.

And even if the founding fathers did think every American should own a gun, they certainly couldn't have imagined the guns of today. When the amendment was ratified in 1791, guns were fired by flintlock, and could only shoot one bullet before having to be reloaded, which took a significant amount of time in itself. There was no such thing as a Colt .45, or a Glock. To think that the founding fathers would want every American to have the right to walk around with these types of guns is ludicrous.

According to Bureau of Justice Statistics, homicides committed with handguns far outnumber any other type of homicide. The obvious solution, to me, is to take away the handguns. And while outlawing handguns doesn't mean people won't be able to get them, it does mean that it will be harder to get them.

And the argument that banning con-

cealed weapons leaves the law-abiding citizens defenseless while the criminals walk around armed to the teeth seems ridiculous to me.

As we've seen in almost any mass shooting, whether it be in schools, malls or people's homes, sometimes the criminal is the last person you would ever suspect. Letting people walk around with a gun in their pockets is not the solution. It is only asking for innocent people to get hurt.

Perhaps the most compelling argument of all against handgun ownership is the ease with which accidents can happen with handguns. Everyone has heard the scare stories about the kid who shot his friend, thinking the gun wasn't loaded. And while those mythical children never seemed real, the three-year-old Detroit girl who shot herself in the head serves as a reminder of what handguns can do. Reportedly, the gun was owned by one of the girl's parents, and one parent was home at the time of the shooting. Clearly, not every American can handle the responsibility that comes with owning a handgun, which is much easier to fire than a shotgun or a rifle.

In my perfect world, guns wouldn't exist. It will never cease to amaze me what kind of devices human beings can think of to kill each other with. But since a gun-less world is something that will only exist in my dreams, I'll settle for one in which handguns are illegal.



by Kyle Whitney

Once upon a time, a group of all-knowing legislators in Washington, D.C., passed a law that violated one of the basic principles upon which this country was founded.

The law—the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975—was implemented by the District of Columbia City Council in 1976 and banned residents of the city from owning handguns, automatic firearms, high-capacity semi-automatic firearms and unregistered firearms.

More than 30 years passed before a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals overturned the law, citing its unconstitutionality and forcing a nation-wide debate in March, 2007.

That ruling was appealed, and the Court heard oral arguments last month. The highest court in the land is expected to reach what could be a precedent-setting decision by the end of June.

But it really shouldn't be this hard, should it?

Too often, the debate on gun control has followed distinct party lines, with the Democrats calling for stricter weapons regulation and the Republicans demanding the opposite. The truth, however, is that this not a partisan issue. It is a consti-

tutional issue. And the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees every citizen's right to own a gun.

While some people may disregard the constitutional argument, citing technicalities with comma placement or original intent when it comes to those exact lines in the document, facts are hard to ignore.

And the simple fact is this: Gun laws don't stop gun crimes.

According to the FBI, the national murder rate in 2005 was an estimated 5.6 murders per 100,000 Americans. In Washington, D.C.—a city of about half a million people—there were 195 murders in 2005. That equates to an astounding 35 murders per 100,000 people, more than six times the national average.

Keep in mind that all of these murders are taking place in a city that outlawed most firearms three decades ago.

At this point, many people will say that the criminals are just buying the weapons from the neighboring states that have fewer restrictions, such as Maryland or Virginia. Following this course of logic, those two states must be hotbeds for gun crime, right? But in nearby Arlington County, Va., which is home to about 200,000 people, there were five murders in 2005. Arlington County, which has no gun ban, averaged just over 2.5 murders per 100,000 people.

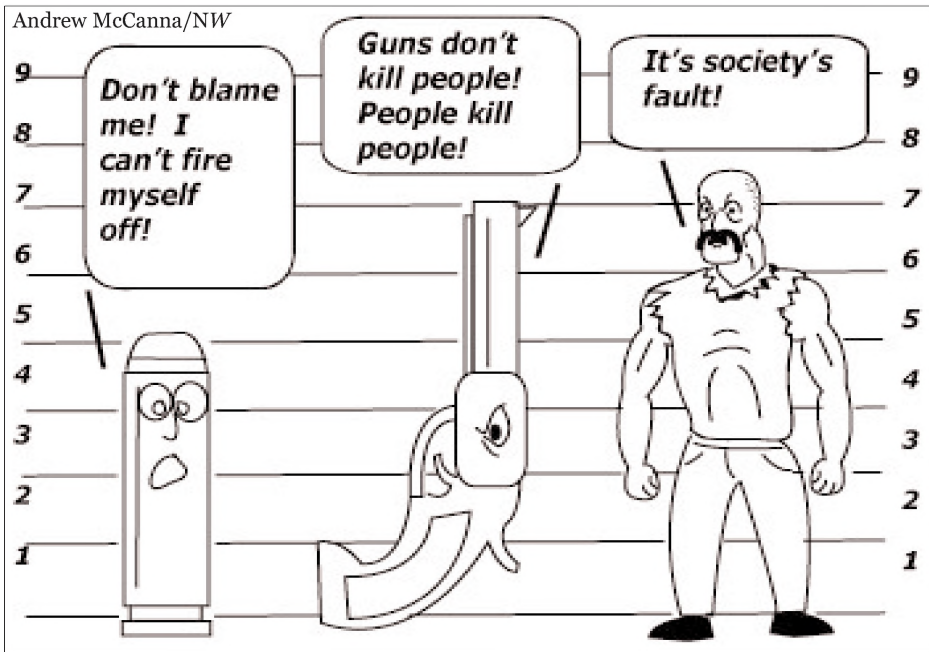
In that same year, there were 21 murders in Montgomery County, Md., an area that was home to 918,000 people. That means that for every 100,000 residents, there were about two murders.

Although those two states are much more relaxed when it comes to gun regulation, the violent crime rates are nowhere near those of Washington, D.C.

This is mainly due to the fact that, nine times out of 10, a violent criminal has no respect for a gun law. And that criminal will have no respect for an unarmed populace that is unable to fight back.

The biggest problem in Washington, D.C. isn't that the criminals might leave the state to buy a handgun. The problem is that an honest citizen is not able to.

Thirty years ago, when the District of Columbia City Council chose to ignore the average citizen's right to carry a firearm, they also chose to ignore those citizen's right to protect themselves.



SOUND OFF

What is your position on gun control?

— Compiled by Jeff Kitson



Bryce Olejniczak
senior, digital cinema

"If everyone was allowed to carry a gun, there would be a lot less crime, because criminals would be afraid of getting shot."



Will Shaw
junior, automotive tech.

"Guns protect people. People shoot people. Guns don't shoot guns. Gun control? You mean people control."



Adam Constance
sophomore, business management

"Less is more."



Trevor Pellerite
junior, english/writing

"The second amendment is an antiquated law. The purpose should be reevaluated and restated."



Kevin Sande
freshman, history ed.

"People should have the right to own a gun and keep it in their house, but there should be stricter rules to obtain a gun."

Sports lovers unashamed

Staff Column



by Curt Kemp

When I sat down to write this column the only thoughts running through my mind were of the Detroit Tigers' winless start, the NBA's playoff races and NCAA tournaments. So, I asked myself: Is it wrong to follow the world of sports so closely?

I've made a point to follow the presidential election. I've kept tabs on the campus community and the ASNMU elections. And, I work at a newspaper. So to say that I'm out of touch would be a stretch.

But my web browser goes to ESPN.com when it loads. And I'm OK with that.

With all the depressing news that surround us every day—the war in Iraq, the plummeting economy and the constant-rising gas costs—don't we all need a break?

The world of sports provides just that—an opportunity to step away from the day's grind and

witness some of the greatest athletic accomplishments in history.

Tiger Woods is one of the greatest golfers of all time, and right now, is at the top of his game. New York Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez may go on to break the all-time record in home runs. Some might even say that Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant is the best professional basketball player ever.

In the last week, college basketball fans witnessed another achievement for one of the greatest coaches ever—when Pat Summitt, with a 983-182 all-time record, picked up her eighth national championship for the Tennessee Lady Vols. On that team is 6-foot-6-inch Candace Parker, a player who will be remembered amongst the top-three players of all-time.

Though to say that all sports have been an untainted oasis in a desert of darkness would be naïve, not to mention overly descriptive.

Barry Bonds, the current all-time leader in home runs, will have a legacy forever marred in the steroid scandal. The NBA will forever be tainted because of one rogue referee who bet on basketball. As for soccer, there are betting scandals and overzealous fans.

The difference, when it comes

to sports is that the few black eyes are coupled with hundreds of stories of glory. With politics, the economy and the legislature, the bad outweighs the good.

Bonds taking performance-enhancing drugs to hit more home runs pales in comparison to the atrocities of the Bush administration. Bonds tainted America's game, but Bush demoralized thousands of Americans with his declaration of war.

Look at the front page of the New York Times. It's not often that you'll see a diplomat kissing a baby or handing over fistfuls of cash to those less fortunate—unless it's a campaign photo. More often, the front page is a photo from some war-torn country or a soldier trudging through said country.

Former U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren may have put it best when he commented on how he read a newspaper: "I always turn to the sports page first, which records people's accomplishments. The front page has nothing but man's failures."

I don't mean to suggest merely brushing aside man's failures and turning on the Masters golf tournament. But, I'd rather watch the Tigers start off 0-7 in the Major League Baseball season than see America involved in another armed conflict.

Help at home, then abroad

Guest Column



by Jessica Parker

It's wonderful that so many people today are making themselves aware of problems in other parts of the world and offering a helping hand. It is evident that there is not only an increase in awareness of foreign issues, but an increase in interest, openness, and willingness to engage in problem solving worldwide.

This new openness is especially prevalent in high school and college students. I commend all who have given time and/or funds to help make a difference in areas like Darfur and other third world countries. This awareness demonstrates not only a willingness to give, but also the level of maturity that must be present in order for young people to help with problems outside of themselves and put great effort into alleviating them.

My only concern in this situation is this: If we are concentrating all of our energy on issues far from us, who is taking care of our own communities? If we are exhausting all of our time and money on issues away from home, what energy is left over for the areas where we live? Since we have found it within ourselves to give help to those struggling in foreign nations, we should be able to focus some of our energy on our own communities as well.

This concern is not only directed toward individuals and community organizations, but also toward our government. The amount of money offered by the United States to foreign aid, although it changes yearly, is surely an outstanding number. Through foreign aid, including goods and services, our government expends a large amount of resources that could be used to relieve problems from which our own country is suffering.

I am not denying the importance of foreign aid, or saying that we should not help those in need, but that our government is not investing adequate funds on helping those in need within our country. Shouldn't the welfare of U. S. citizens be first and foremost in the minds of our government officials? I find it disturbing that while state and federally-funded organizations are experiencing massive budget cuts, our government continues to shovel money away from our problems.

I encourage all who are interested in volunteering to look for opportunities at home as well as worldwide. Although some of the problems in our local communities aren't as severe or as visible to the media as foreign issues, our problems are just as real, and need real attention. It is important that we give back to our own communities, because if we don't help ourselves, who will?

For instance, every community needs environmental maintenance. If you're most interested in saving the environment, get involved in a local "Adopt A Highway" program where you can take a stretch of highway and keep the land around it free from the garbage and debris caused by passersby. The same type of work is needed in parks and other public areas. Take action in your community by volunteering to maintain the land. Or if you're looking for a summer job, apply through your city to do anything from cleaning up litter to planting flowers and mowing lawns.

Environmental help is not the only way to get involved. Hands-on experience working directly with people can be attained through volunteering at a local homeless shelter. Or if you love animals, contact your county's humane society. They're always looking for volunteers to walk dogs, socialize the cats, feed animals, clean or even help with adoption paper work. The training session is usually fairly short and they are willing to work around your schedule.

I've barely begun to scratch the surface of opportunities that are available in all of our communities, and if you have the good nature and enthusiasm it takes to help with foreign issues, local problems should be no problem at all. I think it's time to give back to the areas that we take from the most—our own communities.

If we don't, no one will, and the issues will grow exponentially until they become the issues that the media are interested in. I urge you not to let our communities suffer by allowing problems to go without attention and therefore escalate out of control.

Take action in your own community and watch the difference being made right before your eyes.

Olympic protests valid

Staff Column



by Carson LeMahieu

Earlier this week, protesters in Europe surrounded the Olympic Torch as it moved through Paris, causing the cancellation of part of the torch relay. The protesters put out the torch twice before it was loaded into a van.

Later that same day, in San Francisco, protesters scaled the Golden Gate Bridge and unfurled banners reading "One Dream One World" and "Free Tibet."

On Wednesday, 6,000 more protesters were set to crowd the streets of San Francisco to protest the American portion of the torch relay. In total, the relay is an 85,000-mile global journey that is meant to build excitement for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

These protests come in the wake of a renewed Chinese crackdown on the autonomous region of Tibet and a crackdown on human rights activists across the country.

China's extensive list of human rights violations includes the unlawful detainment of hundreds of activists, summary execution of thousands of prisoners each year and a ban on non-state-sanctioned religions. There are also allegations of forced abortions and the relocation of Beijing's poor and homeless to the rural countryside.

One notable incident is the arrest and conviction of well-known HIV activist Hu Jia.

Hu was arrested and charged with "inciting subversion of state power," and was sentenced to three and a half years in prison. His crime was posting an internet blog in which he voiced his opinion that the Chinese government is using the Olympic Games to try and make the world forget about human rights abuses.

It is a disgrace that the International Olympic Committee granted a country with such egregious human rights violations as China the right to host the Olympic games.

Its decision shouldn't come as a complete shock, however. Past Olympic games have been awarded to the U.S.S.R. in the midst of communist rule, and to Nazi Germany mere years before the Holocaust began.

This year, while other Americans' televisions are beam-

ing images of the blazing torch, medal ceremonies and American flags into their living rooms, my TV will remain off. I won't be watching one race, game or match of this year's Olympics, in my own personal protest of China's continued human rights violations.

Friends of mine have called me stupid, crazy, even unpatriotic in my refusal to catch the so-called "Olympic fever." But is it really unpatriotic to denounce an event which China will attempt to use as propaganda for how far their country has come?

By watching the Olympics and buying into the message of progress being conveyed by their Chinese hosts, I would be ignoring the fact that China leads the world in executions, routinely arrests and prosecutes activists and has oppressed the Tibetan people for years.

I've also been told that I'm wasting my time—that I'm just one person out of hundreds of millions worldwide, and my own personal boycott of the Olympics won't solve anything.

I'm resigned to the fact that neither NBC nor the International Olympic Committee will notice my solitary defiance, but at least I will be able to go on knowing that I did my part not to support a repressive regime.

Free speech shouldn't include violent porn

Guest Column



by Anne Bradley

Free speech is an issue that affects all Americans, whether they realize it or not. Hanging an American flag upside down in a window, declaring communist views and walking in a protest are all protected under the First Amendment, and all seem to be weighty and important ways to communicate an idea. However, I doubt many people think about the First Amendment.

One person, Professor Catherine MacKinnon of the University of Michigan law school, has been spearheading the anti-pornography movement, forcing people to think about porn as free speech. She believes there is a direct link between the prevalence of pornographic material and crimes against women, and defines porn as material which shows women (or men, or children) being degraded, hurt or raped. This is different from erotica, which is sexual material in

which both parties involved in the sexual activity can be perceived by the viewer as being equal participants.

Viewed in this light, should the right to view pornography be protected? When violence is involved, I believe restriction may be warranted. When it comes down to free speech rights in making porn to the equal protection of women under the law, we have to strike a balance.

Traditionally, the religious right has criticized the pornography industry for its 'moral degradation' and its ability to corrupt those who watch it. Religious leaders often claim pornography is an affront to family and religious values.

They maintain the corrupting force of pornography is severe enough to warrant government control over the media. These leaders have gained allegiance from an unlikely source—portions of the feminist left.

Pornography has recently come under attack from this group because of the idea that the material being distributed is inherently degrading to women. Porn, according to MacKinnon, leads to women being harassed in the workplace, leads men to believe women enjoy being humiliated and raped and leads society to feel women hold a less-

er place than men.

MacKinnon argues that all pornography which depicts degradation of women is harmful not only to the woman in the pornography, but to women as a whole. She pioneered legislation in Canada which would allow women to seek civil remedies if they believed they had sustained damage as a result of viewing pornography.

However, there is another side to feminist thought about this issue. Nadine Strossen, president of the ACLU and former law professor, takes the opposite angle and argues women do not need to be protected through laws. She also holds that all pornography is protected speech, as long as it is consenting adults in the films. Since those who make porn, even violent porn, are in the minority, she believes their viewpoint should also be protected.

Violent and degrading pornography, material that depicts women enjoying (or not) rape, pain and humiliation, is fundamentally wrong. Violent porn is different from violence in movies because the person watching porn is associating himself as the good guy, with hurting someone in conjunction with having sex with them. What is this teaching men and women who watch these violent, sexual films? That men are

men if they hurt the person they are having sex with, and women should be hurt and degraded, because that's how they (or their partner) get sexual satisfaction.

The statistics on Internet pornography are staggering. According to Internet Pornography Statistics by Jerry Ropelato as a part of the Internet Filter Reviews, over 12 percent of the Internet contains pornographic Web sites. Some 25 percent of search engine requests were related to pornography every day, and 35 percent of all peer-to-peer downloads were of pornography. Every second, \$3,075.64 is being spent on pornography worldwide. With such huge numbers, is it possible women can overcome the stigma transferred through pornography?

One could perhaps look at the civil rights movement for inspiration. It is no longer acceptable, at least most places in the states, to (openly) call someone a racial slur or any of the multitude of terms which were in wide use through the American vernacular years ago. However, you can still call a woman a sexist slur or any other derogatory term.

The Ethical Spectacle puts it best, "The racial taunt says, 'You are an animal, not a human being,' and the sexual taunt says, 'You have no identity, no person-

ality—you are a collection of appealing body parts.'"

Pornography where the woman is seen as a target of violence is not speech which will help disabuse society of the notion that women are not as worthy of protection as those who make and view pornography.

GUEST COLUMNISTS WANTED!

We're looking to expand the range of viewpoints on the North Wind opinion pages.

If you are involved in an issue on campus and would be interested in writing a guest column about it for The North Wind, please contact us at 227-2545 or opinion@thenorthwind.org

Tell us a little bit about yourself and the issue you would like to write about.

Congratulations and Welcome to the Student Leader Fellowship Program, the 2008-2010

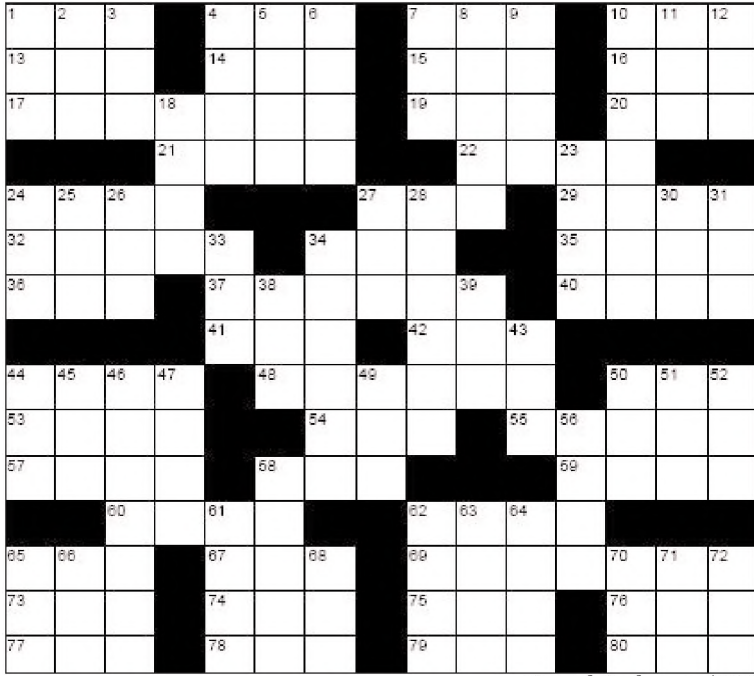
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Lauren Veale
Lacey Wallace
Whitney Warren
Thomas Wynsma



Crystal Gochenour/NW

ACROSS

- 1 Limited (abbr.)
- 4 Receive
- 7 Pixie
- 10 Expression of surprise
- 13 Tree
- 14 Shaft of light
- 15 Note of debt
- 16 Kitten's cry
- 17 Belch (2 wds.)
- 19 ___ A Small World...
- 20 Night bird
- 21 Can
- 22 Island
- 24 Subdue
- 27 Extremely high frequency (abbr.)
- 29 Tides
- 32 Speaks to God
- 34 ___ Lanka
- 35 Dress
- 36 Picnic pest
- 37 Speaks angrily
- 40 Russian ruler
- 41 West by north
- 42 Precedes an alias

- 44 Far away
- 48 Subclass including ticks and mites
- 50 Travel term
- 53 Prego's competition
- 54 Attempt
- 55 Expiring
- 57 Alter
- 58 Talk
- 59 Get from the earth
- 60 Siamese
- 62 Fashionable
- 65 Congressional vote
- 67 Headed
- 69 Desert (2 wds.)
- 73 Eastern Time
- 74 Wooden sheet
- 75 Moose relative
- 76 Wing
- 77 Ball holder
- 78 Lyric poem
- 79 Used to be
- 80 Pearl

DOWN

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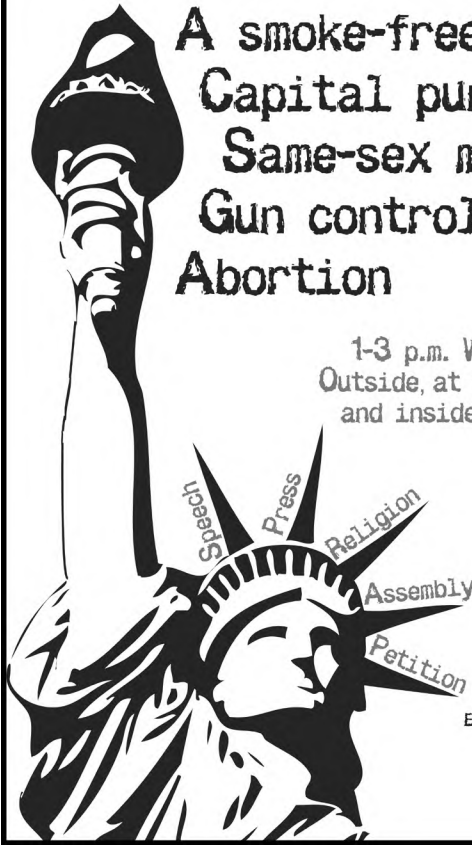
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- 23 For fear that
- 24 Accountant
- 25 Vase
- 26 Gnawer
- 27 Stray
- 28 1st Everest conqueror
- 30 Women's undergarment
- 31 Title of respect
- 33 South-southwest
- 34 Holy places
- 38 BB association
- 39 Winter sport
- 43 Put together
- 44 Is
- 45 Passing trend
- 46 Tremor
- 47 Candy bar Baby ___
- 49 Boat
- 50 Seven
- 51 Hotel
- 52 Grow older
- 56 Song by the Village People
- 58 Cede
- 61 Dog food brand
- 62 Sailors
- 63 ___ hoop (child's toy)
- 64 Pen fillers
- 65 Still
- 66 East-southeast
- 68 Imbue
- 70 Tail movement
- 71 Brew
- 72 Sweet potato

First Amendment Day 2008

Open your ears. Speak your mind.

Students square off in soapbox debates on hot topics including:

- A smoke-free NMU
- Capital punishment
- Same-sex marriage
- Gun control
- Abortion

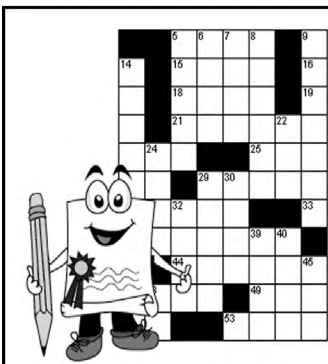


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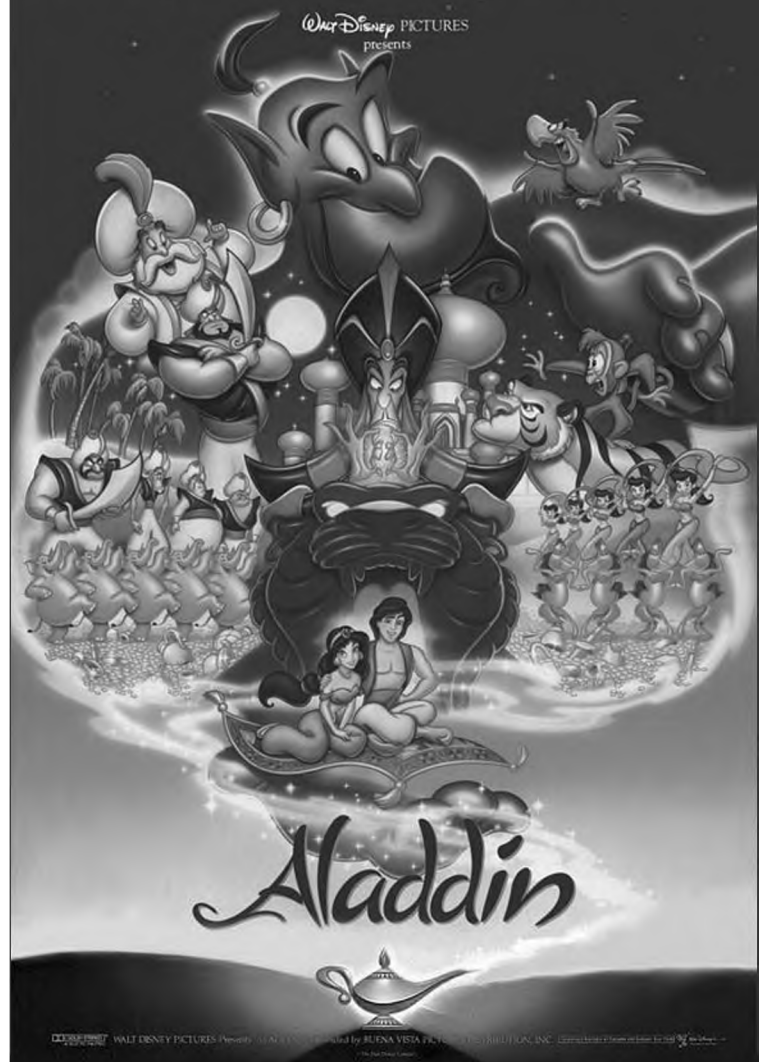
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Far left: Photography major Amanda Shellnut's "All Good Girls Play Games."

Top left: Beth Millner's "Neighborhood" jewelry piece. (Photo courtesy of Beth Millner)

Bottom left: Beth Millner files a pendant in the jewelry studio. (Photo by Amanda Shellnut/NW)

Below: One of Amanda Riederer's poster designs for her "Don't Throw the Baby Out with the Bath Water" series.



IT IS: A Senior Art Exhibit

DeVos displays 42 senior art and design students' works

by JAMIE REED
managing editor

Beth Millner spends most of her weekdays sitting in lectures and art classes. And lately, instead of heading home to relax or work on homework, the senior art and design major has been spending her free time in the art studio, putting the finishing touches on the last projects of her college career.

"I've been building all of my display cases by hand," said Millner, who has a concentration in jewelry and metal-smithing. "That's been kind of stressful. My fiancé and I have spent long hours doing woodworking, which I'm not used to. I generally stay and work in the studio until 10 p.m. almost every day. I work a lot, maybe more than most people."

Millner's hard work and long hours will culminate with the opening of the Senior Art Exhibit on Wednesday, April 16 in the DeVos Art Museum. The exhibit, "It Is: A Senior Art Exhibition" will host the work of 42 senior art and design students.

Because every major in the art and design department will be involved, the exhibit will showcase everything from furniture and graphic design to photography and electronic imaging, said Melissa Matuscak, curator of the DeVos Art Museum. Matuscak was hired last June and said she is looking forward to hosting her second senior art exhibit at NMU.

"I think it's a good group [of artwork]," she said. "It's a really diverse group. Sometimes with the senior shows there's one concentration that's a little more



Amanda Shellnut/NW

Senior Joe Gardner, an art and design major with a concentration in furniture design, sands a chair that will be featured in next week's senior exhibit.

prevalent in the show than other concentrations. But this show has a good representation from all the different areas in the school."

Although DeVos hosts many art exhibits throughout the year, Matuscak said the senior art exhibit is especially unique because it symbolizes what's happening on Northern's campus.

"It's a representation of what the students are doing and it's the culmination of how the university has affected the way they make their artwork."

Millner said she has mixed feelings on

presenting her artwork in the exhibit, an experience, she said, that has her thinking about the impending future.

"I'm excited to put this big body of work that I've been working on for a while now out there for the public to see," she said. "My family is going to be here which will be kind of interesting too. I'm a little bit nervous about graduation and finishing school with an art degree is a little nerve-wracking."

Another graduating art and design senior who will be featured in the show is Joe Gardner, who has a concentration in furni-

ture design. Gardner said the senior show is a representation of a student's work for the entire semester, something he said he finds a little daunting.

"It's kind of a collaboration of all your work you've been doing up to this point," he said. "It takes a lot of time and effort and it's just really tedious work."

NMU students looking to get inspired or discover what their fellow classmates have been up to should visit the exhibit, Matuscak said.

"This is definitely art that is reflecting our current times," she said. "These are the reflections of our young people who are the next generation of artists."

"It Is: A Senior Art Exhibition" will run until May 2 and end with a free public closing reception. Three awards will be given away at the reception, including Best of Show, Best Graphic Design and the Provost Purchase Award, which is new this year.

Matuscak said that Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Susan Koch wanted to find a new way to highlight student art. The winner of the Provost Award will have his or her piece of artwork purchased by NMU and displayed in the Provost's office as well as added to the DeVos permanent collection, Matuscak said.

Music at the reception will be provided by a three-piece NMU jazz band. Food and refreshments will also be served.

Editor's note: Amanda Shellnut, whose photography is featured in the exhibit and on the top of this page, is also the photo editor of The North Wind.

Professor debuts latest documentary

by JOSH SNYDER
staff writer

With the rhythmic sounds of the Teal Lake Drum filling the air, a near sold-out crowd packed into Jamrich 102 Friday evening, eagerly anticipating the latest documentary, "Ojibwe Drum Songs," from sociology professor Michael Loukinen and Learning Resources electronic technician Grant Guston.

The film, which is the fourth in the four-part Ojibwe series, ran approximately 50 minutes and looked at how integral the role of the drum is in Ojibwe culture and history. Much of the footage that was shown has rarely been seen by non-natives, and even many natives have never seen the proceedings.

Elder Jim Williams, who's interviewed throughout the

film, said making a film about such a sacred aspect of his heritage was a long, but important process.

"It was kind of grueling at times," Williams said, adding that, although difficult, it was a positive experience. "Looking at it now, I'm glad I was a part of it."

Williams said he helped make the documentary so this knowledge could be passed down to younger generations. Understanding one's past is crucial and that's what this film helps the viewer to realize, he said.

For Loukinen, filming this documentary brought on some interesting challenges, primarily the ability to film an event not typically seen by outsiders.

"It was very intense," Loukinen said. He added that it took nearly three years to make the film, and much of that time

was spent building a relationship with Williams and the community.

"[I was] developing the trust of the people," he said. "Developing the trust of Jim Williams."

While establishing these relationships, Loukinen also took the time to work on other projects, which slowed production down considerably. He also had to overcome one major problem — a lack of visuals for the film. He said, with a subject matter so focused on music and sound, he had to rely on Guston to help give the film a visual flair.

"I asked Grant to dig deep with the special effects," he said. "I felt that we really needed it because we had so few visual aspects."

Guston said that making this film, along with the others in the Ojibwe series, has had a

tremendous impact on him.

"The drum means a lot to me now," Guston said. "Everything [American Indians] do is spiritually powerful. They have so much to offer."

Guston reiterated that filming "Ojibwe Drum Songs" was challenging because there were plenty of scenes which they could not show in the final version of the film.

"There's so many things we wanted to share, but couldn't," he said. "We're honoring the sacred nature of things."

In the end, Guston hopes this won't deter viewers, and that people can take away the same appreciation he has for learning about different cultures and histories.

"I just hope they can find some appreciation. You're trying to share with them what you discovered."

Film Review:

'Drum Songs' an insightful, entertaining documentary

★★★★☆

by JOSH SNYDER
staff writer

The documentary is possibly the most difficult genre of film to make. To be able to capture that fly on the wall perspective can sometimes seem downright impossible. But that didn't deter director Michael Loukinen in his latest, "Ojibwe Drum Songs." In his attempt to capture the tradition of the drum on camera, Loukinen has succeeded in making a great, although brief, documentary that offers a glimpse into a world most will never get to see.

The film documents the Ojibwe's use of the drum in their history and culture. With the focus primarily on elder Jim Williams, "Drum Songs" shows sacred ceremonies with Native Americans dancing and playing the drum while Williams puts it all into perspective. A wide array of songs are discussed, with their meanings and contemporary significance explained by Williams.

Unfortunately, documentaries are often made on subjects that aren't all that interesting. Luckily, that's not the case here. The viewer is treated to seeing something not even all Native Americans will witness. Because of the sensitive nature of putting these songs and dances on film, Loukinen handles the production with great care. It's clear that he not only has a passion for filmmaking, but a respect for the Ojibwe.

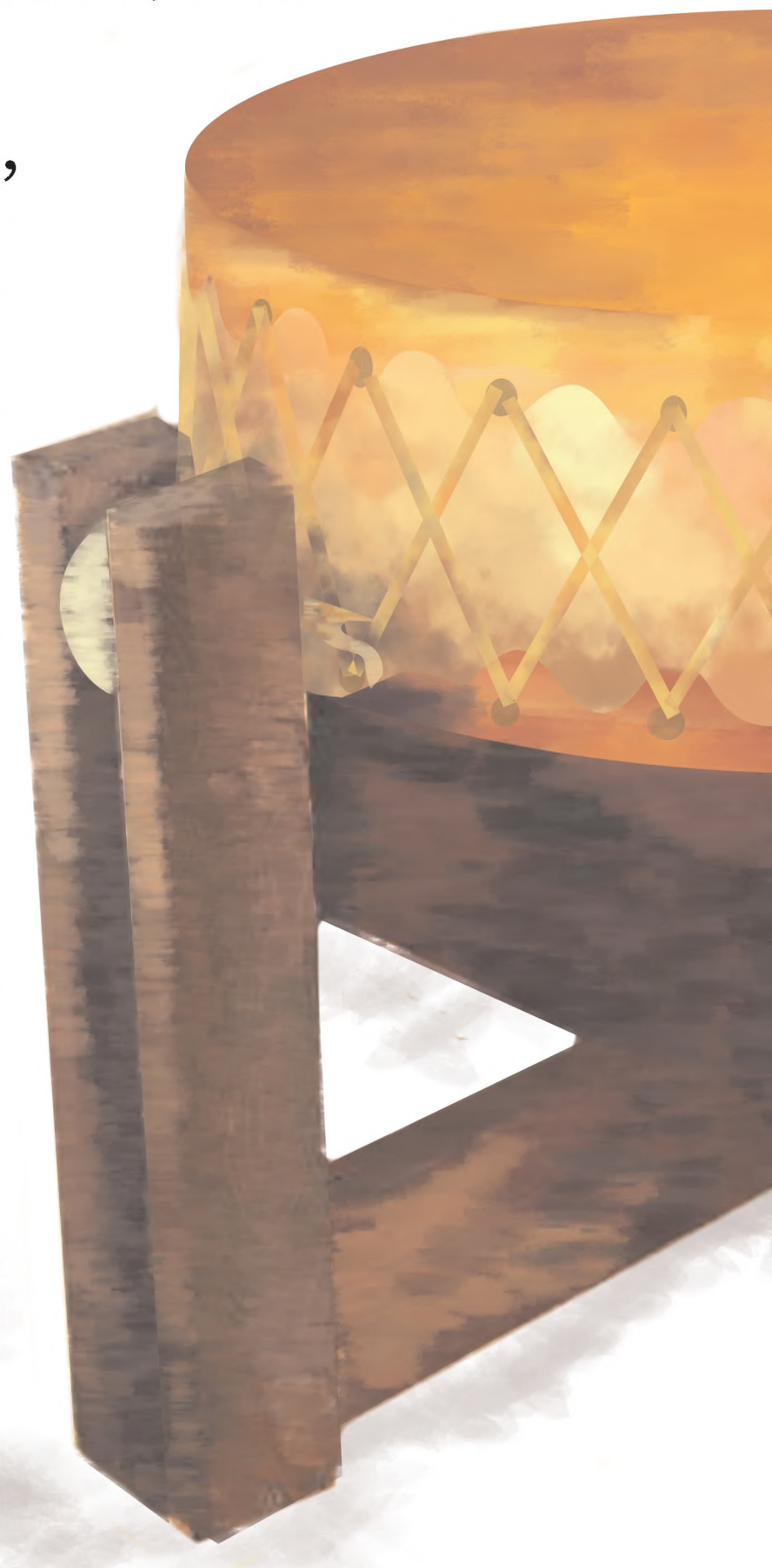
After watching this film, I truly felt like I was seeing something that wasn't only

special, but rare. That said, I did feel there could have been more content. This might have been due to Loukinen's respect of the source material, some of which was too sacred to be filmed. Regardless, I felt like the scope of this film could have been widened and encompassed a little more.

Unlike mainstream documentarians like Michael Moore, Loukinen knows to stay off camera and let his subjects do the talking. In fact, there is no narrator, just Williams and other tribe members discussing aspects of the drum. This allows viewers to focus on the subject and not be guided or manipulated through a narrator. With such unique subject matter, it's nice that we get a clear view of the proceedings and not a guy with a microphone asking questions or telling you what to think.

A common problem documentaries face is pacing the flow of information. Given the rhythmic nature of the subject, Loukinen seems to pace "Drum Songs" to fit the flow of the music.

With the lack of a concrete film scene in the U.P., most films tend to be documentaries revolving around the area's unique history. Although it would be nice to see the scene branch out more, it's also great to see that we have one more good film we can add to our collection, and one that documents something deeper than a historical locale. Despite a limited budget and a topic which provided plenty of hurdles for Loukinen, the film is still a success. If you ever get the chance to see this film, don't miss it.



Michael Loukinen: Professor by day, filmmaker for life

by JOSH SNYDER
staff writer

Sinking back in his rocker-recliner and sipping on coffee from his hunter-green mug, Professor Michael Loukinen seems to be the epitome of the carefree, laidback teacher who greatly enjoys his work. But as he reflects on a film career that's spanned nearly three decades, his start in filmmaking wasn't as easy going as he lets on.

For the past 31 years, Loukinen has worked as a sociology professor at NMU. He's managed to balance the stresses of teaching classes with being able to make award-winning documentaries, a feat unto itself. But it was in the classroom where he began to develop a passion for making films. It all started as a teaching aide.

"It was an attempt to keep my students awake," Loukinen said.

Loukinen found that when he began using exact quotes from sources he was lecturing on in classes, students took more of an inter-

est. He then began using audio clips before moving onto 35 mm slide shows. He eventually settled on 16 mm film and has since been making his own films.

When he first started working with film, Loukinen knew the best way to learn was to work with professionals and experience filmmaking firsthand. He said that out of all the people he worked with, the one who stuck with him was a Czech editor named Miroslav Janek. It was through him that Loukinen learned the many techniques which have become signature in his films.

"He taught me about pacing," Loukinen said. "He taught me about montage."

Loukinen's first film, 1982's "Finnish American Lives," took a look at three generations of Finnish Americans living on a small family farm. For Loukinen, "Lives" holds a special place in his heart. After making the film, he was able to go over to Finland to premiere it and visit distant relatives. It was then that he discovered the inspiration that led him to make his most recent "Ojibwe" series of films.

"On a scorching hot August day, I was greeted by a cousin ... She was welcoming her American cousin to his Finnish roots. She showed me an old black and white picture of my great grandmother ... a black-haired woman who looked like she could have been Black Elk's (an American Indian chief) sister."

Although Loukinen knew that his father knew nothing of their heritage, he began noticing similarities between his father's beliefs and those of his relatives in Finland.

"Even though he had been a devout Apostolic Lutheran, he had indigenous ways," he said. "In the woods is where he talked religion. He was a Lutheran but he was also something else that he never explicitly acknowledged."

This path led Loukinen to make films about Native Americans. But before digital film became commonplace, working with analog film was expensive and time consuming. He had difficulties finding money to fly people into Marquette, pay for their lodging and compensate them for their work. After a while, he began to travel, flying to New York and other cities over weekends to get his editing taken care of in professional studios. But with the unpredictable U.P. weather causing flight delays and the exhaustion of travel wearing him down, Loukinen felt that he would, unfortunately, have to give up film.

But in the summer of 1997, he met NMU graduate Grant Guston. Guston was working with computers

and filming digitally, something Loukinen didn't know how to do. The two realized they could learn a great deal from each other.

"He has taught me so much," Loukinen said. "We really complement each other."

"I've had the ability to work with the best graphic artist in the U.P. Grant's a rocket scientist when it comes to digital media."

When universities switched over to digital, Guston worked as an integrator — someone who helps implement the new technology into a campus. This caught the eye of Loukinen, and the two agreed to start working together.

"Initially, he was looking for someone to make the transition from 16 mm to digital film," Guston said, adding that he was a likely candidate to help make that transition.

"I was the computerized editing guinea pig for the film and video production program here at Northern," he said.

Guston added that working with Loukinen has really opened him up to a large group of cultures, which has enhanced his life.

"I've developed a social conscious," he said. Guston added that he's still learning a lot of important lessons about making films.

"What I'm still learning from him is that he has no fear towards a subject he's passionate about. You need that in filmmaking. It just takes a tremendous will," Guston said.

Loukinen has also recently started working with assistant sociology professor Kristen Carroll. Carroll said the two plan on making environmental-focused films. One proposed project looks at the role that rivers and other bodies of water play in various cultures.

"I am currently collaborating with Professor Loukinen and outstanding sociology senior of the year, Daniel Hall, on a film about the sacredness of water in many cultural traditions throughout the world," Carroll said.

She added that, regarding the release of Loukinen's latest film, "Ojibwe Drum Songs," she was glad to see so many people attend the premiere.

Loukinen said working with Guston and Carroll, who offer their own unique viewpoints, has helped him continue to make films.

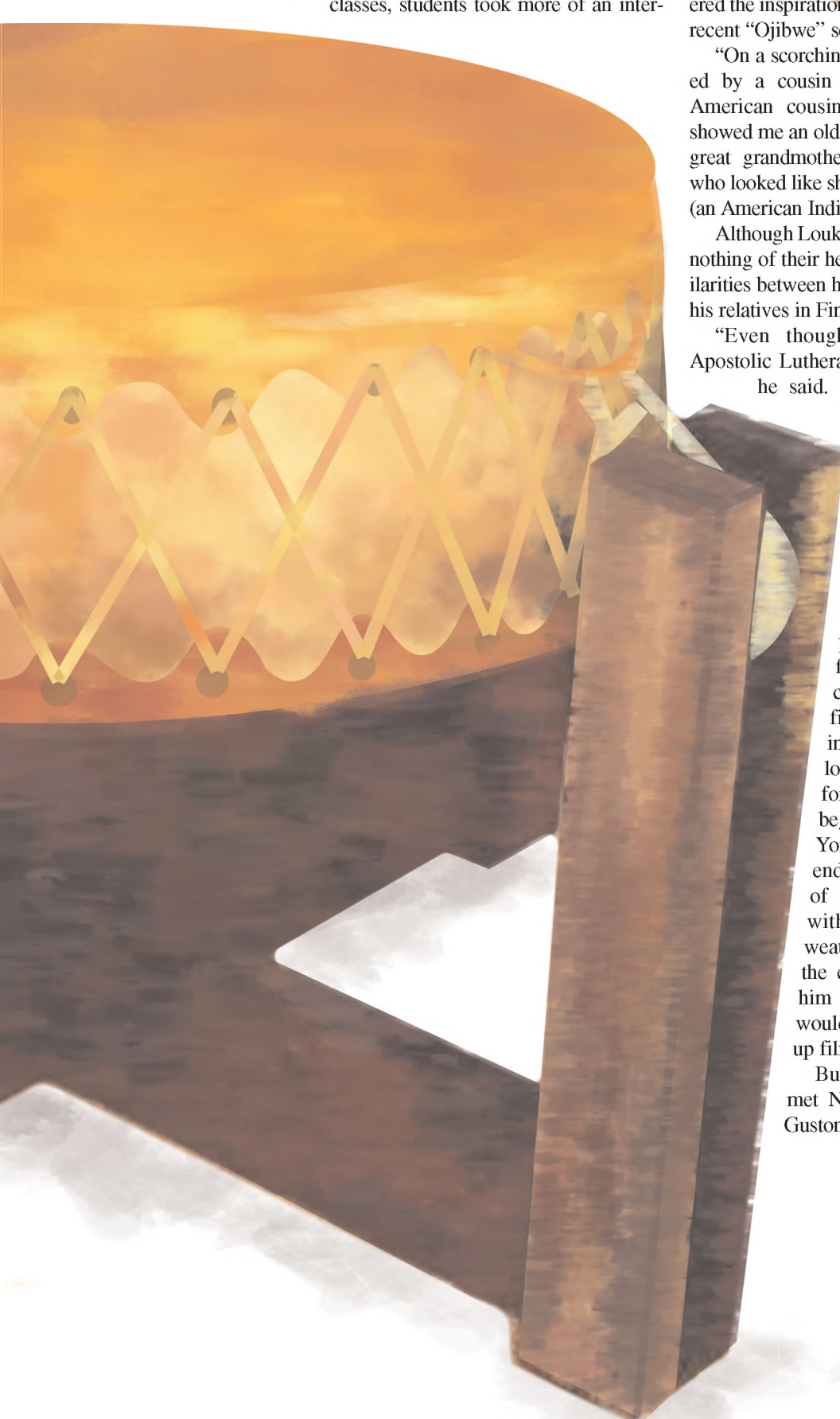
"Just the prospect of working with Guston and Carroll keeps me going and will probably make me stay in the filmmaking business," he said.

Loukinen has two films currently in the works — one of which, "Ojibwe Birch Bark Wigwam," has already been completed and will premiere sometime in the fall of 2008. The other is a documentary that looks at the myths surrounding alcohol-related spousal abuse.

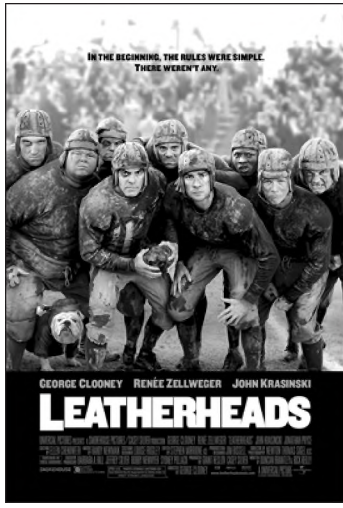
Although he said that he is done with the Ojibwe film series, he said he would like to go back and revisit his Finnish roots.

"My film journey over the last three decades, in retrospect, seems to have been a way to find in my outside world that which might always have been buried deep inside."

To learn more about Loukinen and his films, visit his Web site at www.upnorthfilms.org.



Clooney's football flick fun, but flawed



★★★★☆

by JOSH SNYDER
staff writer

Who would have thought that George Clooney could be one of the most promising directors of the 2000s? But with dramas like "Good Night, and Good Luck," he's certainly making a name for himself behind the camera. For his latest, Clooney decided to try something different. "Leatherheads" is a slapstick comedy about the early days of football and, despite a few drawbacks, it's an entertaining film that stands out in a bleak theater season.

Set in the mid 1920s, "Leatherheads" is the story of pro-football player Dodge Connelly (Clooney), star of the Duluth Bulldogs. Pro-football then wasn't the glamorous sport it is today. There were few rules and just as few fans. When Connelly's told his team, like many others,

is in danger of folding, he decides to seek out star college player and war hero Carter Rutherford (John Krasinski) in hopes of revitalizing the sport. However, reporter Lexie Littleton (Renee Zellweger) is writing a story about the popular Rutherford, trying to uncover the truth behind his supposed war heroics. As she and Connelly each pursue Rutherford, a strange love triangle forms, with lies and football all caught in the middle.

What drives "Leatherheads" is its cast. The chemistry between Clooney and Zellweger is great and feels natural. Not to be outdone, Krasinski puts in a great performance and holds his own against a seasoned cast. It's nice to finally see him break out of the mold created by his character Jim on "The Office" and it proves his future is bright. Clooney, on the other hand, is playing his typical, smooth-talking boozier who gets the girl. Despite this, he's as entertaining as always and his performance will make women swoon and guys jealous.

For being a comedy, "Leatherheads" isn't filled with many laughs. The humor is by no means terrible, but it isn't gut busting either. It's packed with so many elements other than comedy that it seems Clooney wasn't sure what film he wanted to make. In fact, I'd be hard pressed to classify this film in any genre. It's a comedy, drama, period piece and sports film all rolled into one. It's sort of like a jack-of-all-trades, never really succeeding in any particular area, but doing an alright job at all of them. Although it gives the film an interesting feel, it's ultimately unfocused and takes away any impact it could have had.

Because of this lack of focus, the story is sparse, which is surprising compared to Clooney's previous efforts. It feels like a subplot to a much better film. However, the one aspect where "Leatherheads" really shines is in the dialogue. It fits the atmosphere well and never feels contrived. Not only was it enjoyable to listen to, but it helped strengthen the bond between Clooney and Zellweger.

While the dialogue may be good, the pacing definitely needs work. The film is 30 minutes too long, and the structure of the narrative needs a second look. If Clooney would have spent more time on editing, many of these problems would be

gone, making the whole film that much better.

For those interested in the era, "Leatherheads" is a unique film that offers up enough entertainment to make it an enjoyable experience. It may not be historically accurate, but it portrays that time in American history well enough to cover up many of these otherwise glaring flaws. And although not as good as previous Clooney efforts, it's still fun. For those who are huge Clooney fans, it's worth seeing in theaters. It's a nice break, especially from the garbage that's been littering theaters as of late. However, for sports fans, I would wait for the DVD.



Smooth-talking director, star and ladies man George Clooney finds himself in a love triangle with Renee Zellweger and John Krasinski in "Leatherheads."

Cheap thrills save 'Ruins' from failing



★★★★☆

by JOSH SNYDER
staff writer

In many ways, Carter Smith's "The Ruins" is a lot like another 2008 release: "Rambo." Although "Rambo" is definitely the better film, "Ruins" still has plenty in common with it, starting with the so-bad-it's-good feel the movie exudes. Both are over the top, with characters thrust into unbelievable situations in jungles far from any civilization. And despite low production values, both are surprisingly entertaining, even if just for an hour and a half.

A group of college students on vacation in Mexico decide to take in a little bit of the local culture before they leave. They learn of an ancient Mayan temple that's off the beaten path and decide to make the trek out to the isolated locale. Once they arrive, a small group of local villagers appear, vio-

lently refusing to let them leave. After spending the evening atop the temple, it becomes clear why they can't go — it's infested with a plant-like virus, which can easily spread and kill anything in its path.

Let's just get this out of the way — the production value of "Ruins" is terrible. The acting, dialogue, editing and cinematography are all bad. The computer-generated effects are somewhat decent, but it's nothing spectacular. But with a film like this, no reasonable person should be expecting anything above average. So when all these aspects hit at a mediocre level, it's not nearly as offensive as it normally would be.

That said, the violence is so ridiculous that you can't help but have at least some fun with it, despite its gruesome nature. The story plays upon America's fears of foreign, unknown lands, where civility and reason are thrown out the window. While the idea is nothing new, it's sure to have you squirming in your seat on at least a couple occasions.

What "Ruins" does well is pacing. There is hardly any time wasted on these drunk, spaced-out kids getting to the temple — a definite plus. And considering that the majority of the film takes place atop an ancient ruin and still manages to entertain says a lot about how well it's paced.

It's nice that we don't spend too much time getting to know the four characters because they are one-dimensional and boring. With "Ruins," it's quickly becoming clearer that the attractive college student who loves to do nothing but party is turning into the new clichéd character who everyone loves to hate. Smith understands this

and plays upon this aspect in a big way. Any scene that involves the slightest bit of character development revolves around excessive drinking and sex. And it's hilarious to watch these characters complain about visiting an ancient Mayan temple, something most would love to experience. It's this complete disregard for anything that may enrich their lives that ends up having the audience rooting for the deadly virus to kill them. Truly, there were no sympathies from anyone in the audience when something terrible happened to these students.

With low production values, a bad story and flat characters, it seems like there's isn't much value in this movie. But these flaws are the film's strengths. It does the cheesy,

B-level horror film remarkably well. You can expect a lot of laughter, and I don't think that it's unintentional. Smith knew that audiences would be laughing at some of the absurd twists in the story, and these moments are focused on more than plot or character development for that specific reason.

The first few months of every year are always the worst in terms of the quality of films. When each weekend brings more films that studios wish they never would have green-lit, a film such as "The Ruins" offers a nice change of pace. This is by no means a good movie, but it still entertains and shocks. And that's exactly what it sets out to do.



Jonathan Tucker peers down at the locals from atop ancient Mayan ruins. Despite a weak story and flat characters, "The Ruins" still winds up entertaining.

Raconteurs brilliant on sophomore effort



★★★★★

by ADAM DOMPIERRE
staff writer

Two years after The Raconteurs' debut, "Broken Boy Soldiers," it still sounds strange to hear Jack White with a full band. Luckily the additions of fellow Detroit guitarist Brendan Benson and an upgraded rhythm section via the Greenhornes have given White's songwriting a shot in the arm. The collaboration has been even more beneficial for Benson, who is finally reaching a larger audience after spending years just short of stardom as a solo artist.

While not as immediately catchy as their first album, "Consolers of the Lonely" is a raucous tour-de-force that captivates the listener's attention

from beginning to end.

White is simply the best thing music has going for it today. His guitar playing and singing style are so expressive and earnest that one cannot help but get swept up in his work. Showing no signs of a creative decline, White's songs are still as effortlessly affecting as the opening notes of "Seven Nation Army" were four years ago. While still leaning heavily toward garage rock, White tries out a few new tricks on "Consolers of the Lonely" as well.

"Carolina Drama," like an evil twin of Bob Dylan's "Lily, Rosemary, and the Jack of Hearts," is an acoustic murder ballad dark enough to make Nick Cave proud. Juggling such disparate characters as a priest, an abusive boyfriend and a milkman, White weaves stark images ("The white milk dripped down with the blood") into a tale that leaves the listener hanging on his every word. It's the kind of major artistic leap that sets White apart from his contemporaries.

While he never threatens to unseat White as the group's superstar, Benson contributes some great songs as well. His

Raconteurs' compositions never quite match his solo work melodically, but the added edge provided by his bandmates more than makes up for it. Content to let White handle the more bluesy and rockier numbers, Benson finds a niche as the more melodic Raconteur. "Many Shades of Black" sounds like something Led Zeppelin would've written for the Crystals while "The Switch and the Spur" makes use of mariachi trumpets for a distinctly southwestern sound. Benson's smoother vocals compliment White's bluesman howls well, and they trade guitar riffs throughout the album to great effect.

Perhaps the most pleasant surprise on "Consolers of the Lonely" is its diversity. Reaching across decades to pull influences from such wide-ranging genres as '60s pop, '70s guitar bands and '80s arena rock, The Raconteurs have solidified their place as one of today's most exciting bands. True, there is no standout single like "Steady as She Goes," but risk-takers like "Carolina Drama" are a worthy substitute. The band's third release can't come soon enough.



Radio X's top weekly album plays:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The Dirtbombs
"We Have You Surrounded" | 6. Eric Wilson
"The Twenties" |
| 2. Death Cab for Cutie
"I Will Possess Your Heart" | 7. This Last Breath
"110 Positions On A One Night Stand" |
| 3. The Kills
"Midnight Boom" | 8. Be Your Own Pet
"Get Awkward" |
| 4. Jupiter One
"Jupiter One" | 9. Black Box Revelation
"Set Your Head On Fire" |
| 5. The A.K.A.'s
"Everybody Make Some Noise" | 10. Landon
"One Woman Army" |



Week's top RUCKUS downloads:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Flo Rida
"Low" | 6. Colbie Caillat
"Realize" |
| 2. Leona Lewis
"Bleeding Love" | 7. Wyclef Jean
"Sweetest Girl" |
| 3. Timbaland
"Apologize" | 8. Timbaland
"The Way I Are" |
| 4. Jordin Sparks
"No Air" | 9. Chris Brown
"With You" |
| 5. Colbie Caillat
"Bubbly" | 10. OneRepublic
"Stop and Stare" |

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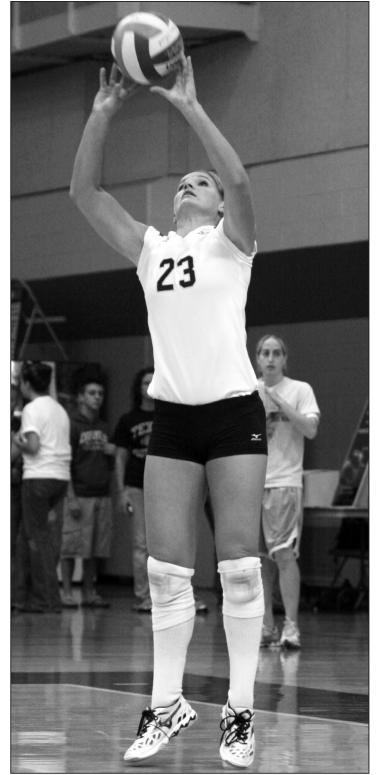
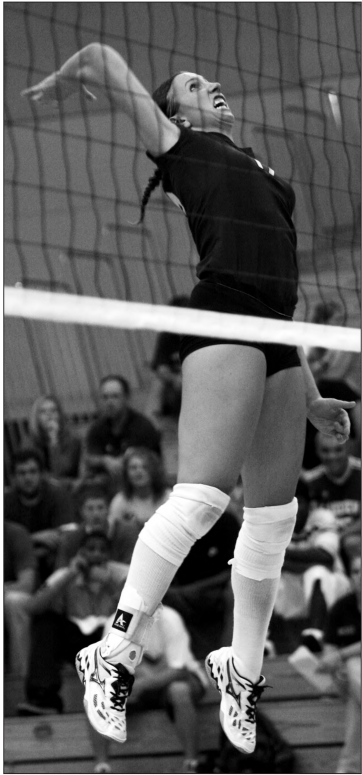
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Volleyball team wins four in tourney



Photos by Spencer Bouchard/NW

From left to right: Sophomore Mandie Meyer goes up for a kill in a game last season, head coach Dominic Yoder watches on, and sophomore Cassie Osiecki sets.

by GORDON BEEDLE
associate sports editor

The NMU volleyball team swept through the Eastern Michigan University tournament on Saturday.

The 'Cat won all four matches against Cleveland State, Toledo, Oakland and Northwood University.

The team played in all of the matches over the course of one day.

In the first match of the EMU Spring Bash, the Wildcats fell behind Division I team Cleveland State, losing the first game 17-25, but quickly rebounded to win the next two 25-20 and 16-14.

"We started out real sluggish

in game one against Cleveland State. But in game two, we came back and played really well. And then they just got better throughout the course of the day," head coach Dominic Yoder said.

In the second game of the day, the 'Cats squared off against another D-I team, Toledo. NMU won 2-0, with the games scored 25-8 and 25-16. Yoder said he was proud of the persistence his team showed and how they didn't back down against D-I competition.

"Against Toledo, they just were relentless. [NMU] wouldn't allow any points scored unearned," he added. "It's amazing to watch them play like that."

In the third game in the tournament, the Wildcats brought

home another victory against D-I opponents, beating Oakland 2-0, games scores of 25-20 and 25-23. Yoder said the D-I schools were surprised by how his team played.

"We saw we can play with some of the better D-I teams and that is going to allow us to play with the best D-II teams," Yoder said.

For the fourth and final game of the tournament, the 'Cats faced Great Lakes Intercollegiate Conference (GLIAC) North Division rival Northwood University and continued the tournament's theme of success. NMU shut out Northwood 2-0, winning both games, 25-15 and 25-11.

Yoder said it was important to get these wins but still believed there was room for improvement.

"I think what we need to continue working on—as a team—is just continue polishing the technical aspect of the game and the individual aspect of the game," he said. "We are going to work on some different systemic things when it comes to our offensive plays and hopefully be able to incorporate those into our fall season."

The reason the Wildcats play these spring tournaments is to be better off come the fall season, Yoder said.

"It just each day raises the bar for each one of them; not only for themselves but for their team-

mates," he said

For the Wildcats, their spring season isn't over yet, as they travel to the University of Minnesota-Duluth this weekend. The 'Cats will play matches against U-M Duluth, U-M Duluth alumni, University of Wisconsin Superior and St. Cloud State. Even with the team's recent success, Yoder still looks for his team to develop.

"It definitely doesn't make us feel content. We're wanting the next step now. And now we're thinking we are right there at the top of our conference," Yoder said. "Now we need to push towards competing for a regional title and being in the elite eight and hopefully the final four and final two."

NMU track opens up outdoor season

by CURT KEMP
sports editor

The NMU varsity track team participated in the Bulldog Invitational last weekend, hosted by Ferris State University.

The unscored event was the first outdoor meet of the season for NMU track.

"It was our first meet, our first time outdoors and I think we started out better than we did last year—which is great, because we had a good team last year," head coach Tom Barnes said.

In the field events, the 'Cats were particularly strong. Barnes said although the results were not available for the event, sophomore Krista Squiers was able to break her own outdoor record in the hammer throw, throwing over 133 feet.

Squiers finished third in the javelin, with senior teammate Callie Boik finishing sixth in the

same event.

"She was really close to her best performance in the javelin," Barnes said. "In her first meet, she was less than a foot away from her personal best performance—and we haven't even thrown the javelin outdoors."

In the long jump, the 'Cats put two athletes in the top five, with senior Danielle St. Onge at 5.07 meters in fourth place and junior Leslie Luehmann at 5.16 meters, good for third place.

Additionally, Luehmann and St. Onge both finished in the top five for the triple jump.

"That was our first time outdoors on a runway," Barnes said about the team's performance in the jumping events. "And we haven't even had our (sand) pit (to train on)."

The 100-meter dash saw the Wildcats place three runners in the top 10.

St. Onge finished sixth (12.80

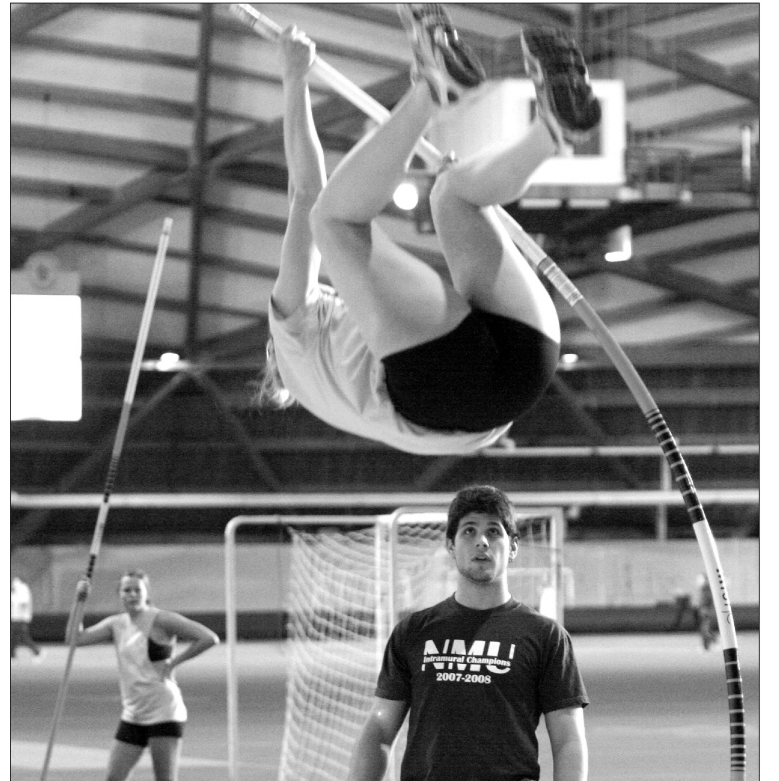
seconds), freshman Brittnee Balbierz eighth (13.00) and senior Kaylee Laakso finished 10th (13.04).

In the distance races, NMU was forced to leave four top cross country performers home, and was led by a freshman Michelle Bisig. She finished second in the 5k with a time 18:59.91.

Assistant coach Jenny Ryan said the track team could potentially place distance runners in the national competition.

"I think we have a couple of women who have a shot at making some national provisional times anyway," Ryan said. "It's going to be interesting. I think overall, this is going to be one of the best distance teams that we've had for this track program for the entire time we've had this program."

The next meet for the track team is April 12 at Saginaw Valley State.



Spencer Bouchard/NW

NMU track athlete Paris Malin practices the pole vault at the Dome last week. She was one of two Wildcats competing in the event on Saturday.

USOEC wrestler Harry Lester eyes 2008 summer Olympics and a dream

by GORDON BEEDLE
associate sports editor

Possibly the most emotional moment in sports happens at the Olympic ceremony.

There, the gold medalist stands on the highest podium, with his or her country's flag draped behind, and the national anthem rings throughout the stadium.

This scene is the lifelong dream of Harry Lester, a United States Olympic Education Center (USOEC) Greco-Roman wrestler.

"It's what I work for. I don't want to go out [of the USOEC] without being able to go to the Olympics," Lester said. "It is what every wrestler dreams of."

Lester, 24, is the most decorated wrestler at the USOEC. In the 66-kg weight class, he has won a Pan-American gold, two world bronze medals and a Senior National title in Greco-Roman.

He has become a world-renown wrestler and said his days of winning are far from over.

"I think by far I am the best wrestler in my weight class in the United States," he said. "I also think I am the best wrestler in my weight class in the world."

Even with his past success he is not yet qualified to wrestle in Beijing this summer. He must first win the Olympic Trials on June 12 in Las Vegas, and only one wrestler from each weight class will continue to the Olympics.

The coaches of the U.S. National Team see Lester's success and his chances of making the team and are starting to believe in him and his dream.

"He has the heart. He has the skill. He is athletic and he has talent," said Ike Anderson, the developmental coach for Greco-Roman USA Wrestling. "We all know Harry has potential to be on the podium come August."

While the path to the podium is in Lester's foresights, the entire road leading up to now has been a long one.

No hard feelings

In his senior year of high school at Cuyahoga Falls Valley Christian Academy in Akron, Ohio, Lester met Northern's USOEC coaches and was interested in the program. However, he took a full scholarship to wrestle collegiately for Iowa State University.

ISU's head coach at the time was Bobby Douglas, the first African American inducted in the Wrestling Hall of Fame. Douglas was a role model of Lester's and his reason for going there.

ISU has produced eight national championships and the prestigious Cael Sanderson but this wasn't enough for



Harry Lester (bottom) is the first USOEC wrestler to win a Senior Nationals title. Lester's parnets have already booked a flight and a room in Beijing for the summer Olympics.

Lester.

While at ISU, he was falling out of love with the collegiate style of wrestling.

Lester said he was bored with it and his mind was clouded by his Olympic dreams.

"It was just the whole feeling," Lester said. "When you're really serious with a sport and you put hours and hours into it each day you have to have some type of love or some type of connection, and while I was at

Iowa State I just lost that connection for wrestling."

Lester stayed with ISU for his red-shirt year, but it became apparent his heart wasn't with the team. The desire for earning Olympic Gold soon outweighed the chance of an NCAA championship for Lester.

"His focus was on wrestling, but not collegiate wrestling. I could see that," Douglas said. "I think he was struggling. I'm not totally blind. I think it was a tough decision for him to make."

In 2002 Lester told his coach he was transferring to NMU to train in Greco-Roman wrestling and pursue the Olympics. This decision was one of the hardest for Lester because he didn't want to letdown his coach.

"It was difficult to leave Bobby. I could definitely see the disappointment in his face," Lester said. "But once Bobby saw I had found my path, I think he was alright with it in his head and in his heart."

Northern to train for the Olympics under the eyes of head coach Ivan Ivanov and assistant coach Jim Gruenwald. Lester said the two coaches made the transition of styles from collegiate to Greco-Roman simple.

"A good wrestler will find a way to adjust in his style. Especially when his heart is there," Ivanov said. "And that is what happened with Harry. He realized a bigger part of his heart was here."

It didn't take long for Lester's talent to show. After being with the USOEC for just one year he started beating the top-ranked wrestlers and received national recognition. Both Ivanov and Gruenwald have competed in the Olympics and know what it takes to be at that level. They could see the potential in Lester and believed in him.

"It was a system that was easy to believe in," Lester said. "[Ivanov and Gruenwald] started to put things in my head like, 'You can be the No. 1 guy. You can win Olympic medals. You can win world medals.' And I finally just started believing in that."

Lester went on to win two world bronze medals—one at the University Games in 2005 and one at the World Games in 2006. These victories made him the most prized wrestler ever to come out of the USOEC.

Over the next two years Lester used these successes as motivation to keep his eyes on the path toward Olympic greatness as he trained for it.

"I'm tired of that dirty gold color. I want the real gold," Lester said. "All I can think about is Beijing, and not making it would be a major disappointment."

With only months before the Olympics, Lester's dream of standing on the podium donning the red, white and blue listening to the "Star Spangled Banner" is in his mind more than ever.

Not having Lester in the lineup left a void in the weight class which took Douglas two years to fill.

"It crippled our wrestling program," Douglas said. "It was difficult for me to let him go but I always try and do what's in the best interest of the athlete and I felt that it was in his best interest to pursue his dream."

'Dirty gold'

In November of 2002, Lester moved to



Lester ducks the grapple of a USOEC wrestler. He was the first state champion at his high school —Cuyahoga Falls Christian Academy in Akron, Ohio.

Spencer Bouchard/NW



Spencer Bouchard/NW

The NMU soccer team, along with NMU club soccer, Michigan Tech, Northwood, Scotia and the NMU alumni soccer tea, played in the spring tournament at the Dome.

NMU soccer team uses the spring to prepare for 2008



by CURT KEMP
sports editor

The NMU soccer team continued its spring training last weekend as they hosted a weekend tournament at the Superior Dome against four teams.

The soccer team competed against Michigan Tech, Northwood, Scotia — a club team from Canada, an NMU soccer alumni team and the NMU women's club team.

The tournament was unscored and NMU head coach Matt Granstrand said the team was mainly focused on trying new things and working on developing players.

"We don't keep stats," Granstrand said. "If we did, we did really well, but we're not interested in that. I mean, if it was a tournament we probably would have won it. But for us it's just to see where we are."

The soccer team rotated different players throughout the game, hoping that the younger players would gain experience. Granstrand added that next year's team would be mainly juniors and seniors — 12 of 21 roster spots.

"We're pleased," he said. "We're an upperclassmen team now, we're an older team and we've got a lot of returners, so we're just trying to fine tune things."

The soccer team finished the 2007 season with a 12-5-2 record, including a 3-3-2 record in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC). NMU finished in sixth place in the conference, behind — in order — Grand Valley, Mercyhurst, Findlay, Saginaw Valley and Ferris.

Superstar senior Renee LeBlanc led the team in scoring

with nine goals. The 'Cats also lost seniors Amanda Gadowski, Megan Ford and Jami Bebee.

The top returning scorer for the Wildcats in 2008 will be sophomore Kari Buckel, who picked up six goals in 2007. Of Buckel's six goals, two were game winners.

In goal, the Wildcats will sport junior Kara Music for the third year in a row. Music played in 18 games last season and had a goals against average of 0.9 last season.

Granstrand said he hopes the spring experience in this tournament will help the team for the following season — a season where the team is hopeful to make the NCAA tournament.

"Our goal every year is to make the national championship," he said. "When I first came here, only four (teams) made it to the playoffs in each region. Now it's six and six is easier — it's still difficult, but it's easier than four."

Included on the 2008 women's soccer team will be six new faces — three recruited freshman and three walk-ons. The recruits are Jessica Baker (goalie), Brittany Buckingham (forward) and Missy Mohr (defender). Granstrand said some of the six new players will be fighting for starting positions.

"I like the players who are coming," he said. "They will push the girls who are already here. My job is to try to find better players; their job is to keep working hard and playing the spot and not finding someone who can take their spot."

The first regular season home game for the Wildcats is a tournament is August 30-31. This event brings Bemidji State, Minnesota-Duluth and St. Cloud State to NMU.



Photos by Spencer Bouchard/NW

Casey Wilcox (top), Meghan Sarna (middle) and Brittney Buchanan (bottom) play in the Superior Dome on Saturday and Sunday during the home tournament.

Meghan Sarna (top), Kaelah Mizzi (middle) and Andrea Lebert (bottom) are returning players for the Wildcat soccer for the 2008 campaign.



Football prepares to 'spring' into season

by CURT KEMP
sports editor

The NMU football team hasn't had a lot of success in the past two years. And it's to be expected.

NMU head coach Bernie Anderson took the reigns of the program in 2006, and was given the task of turning around a program that was—to put it mildly—in shambles.

Aside from the end of the 2007 season-in which the

Wildcats won four of their final six games—the 'Cats have had little success, accumulating two losing seasons and a 7-13 overall record.

For the 2008 season, Northern brings in two new full-time coaches: quarterbacks and wide receivers coach Dan Mettlach and defensive coordinator Randy Awrey. Both coaches bring a championship mentality to NMU—having both been a part of at least one GLIAC championship: Mettlach as a player under Anderson at MTU and Awrey while head coach at Saginaw Valley State.

"We've all been around winning at other places and now we're trying to bring that all together here, and get things back on the right track," Mettlach said.

With the NMU football team nearing the end of its spring football practices, there are still several positions still up for grab, specifically the starting quarterback position, and an entirely new defensive scheme to learn.

THE FOUR QUARTERBACKS

With four quarterbacks vying for the starting position, the football team still has an unknown offensive leader. Among the four are two freshmen and two sophomores: Matt Blanchard, freshman from Lake Zurich, Ill., Vincent Church, a sophomore from Grand Junction, Ben Hempel, a sophomore from Franklin, Wisc. and Carter Kopach, a freshman from Bolingbrook, Ill.

Anderson said each of the quarterbacks brings something different to the team.

"The quarterback situation is the key position on the offensive side of the ball," Anderson said. "Everything from the leadership to the fact that he has the ball in his hands on every snap."

As far as a time table for the decision process, NMU's quarterback coach had this to say: "It's going to be a process we would

like to be able to come out of spring and have an idea of who it's going to be."

Mettlach added that the battle for the starting positions has only helped the team through spring practice.

"It's not just at quarterback. We have competition at plenty of spots now," he said. "That's also something that's going to help the whole team in practice. It's going to bring up the intensity and the tempo (of the practices). It's better for us, that way we don't have anybody getting lazy."

THE OFFENSE

NMU touts first-team all conference running back Mark Bossuah in the backfield, who is fronted by an offensive line that's been together for three years.

"I think the offensive line has stepped up and become the dominating force," Anderson said. "I think the offensive line is as good as anybody in the league."

On the outside, NMU has no lack of depth.

"We are very fortunate to go about six, seven, eight guys deep at that position," Mettlach said. "A lot of schools struggle to find two or three wide receivers."

"We are very fortunate at that position," he added. "We have good leadership at the position, and quite a few athletes as well. We feel good about that spot."

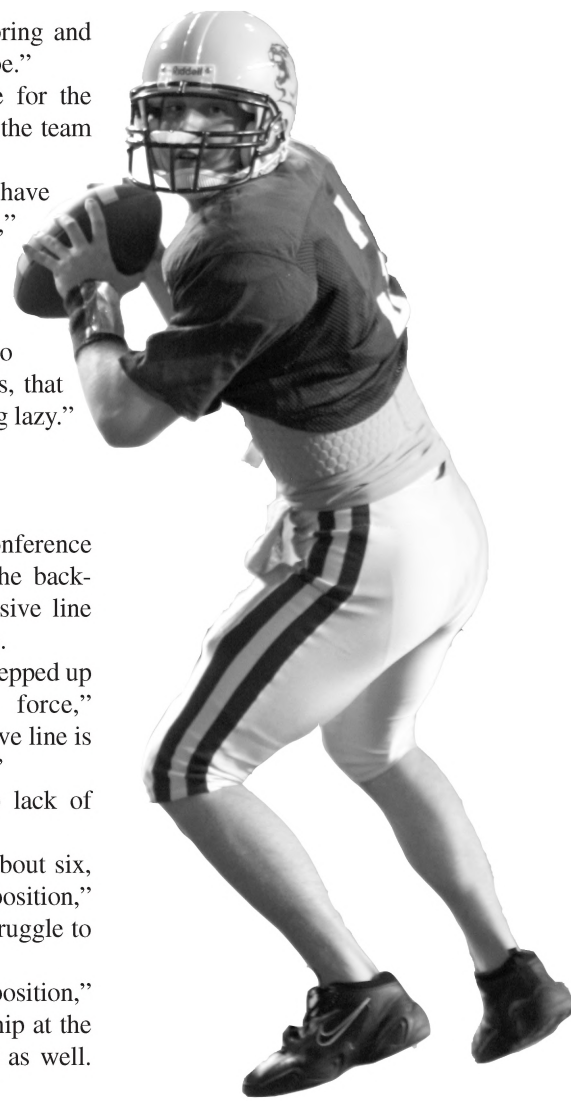
THE DEFENSE

Last year, NMU ranked 10th out of 13 teams in the conference for scoring defense.

"Defense is a concern," Anderson said. "We were not a very good defense a year ago. Plus, now we have new coaches and a new system—that puts a lot of things up in the air."

With Awrey at the helm of the defense, this year's defense is designed to be more simplistic than in the past, in order to avoid mental errors.

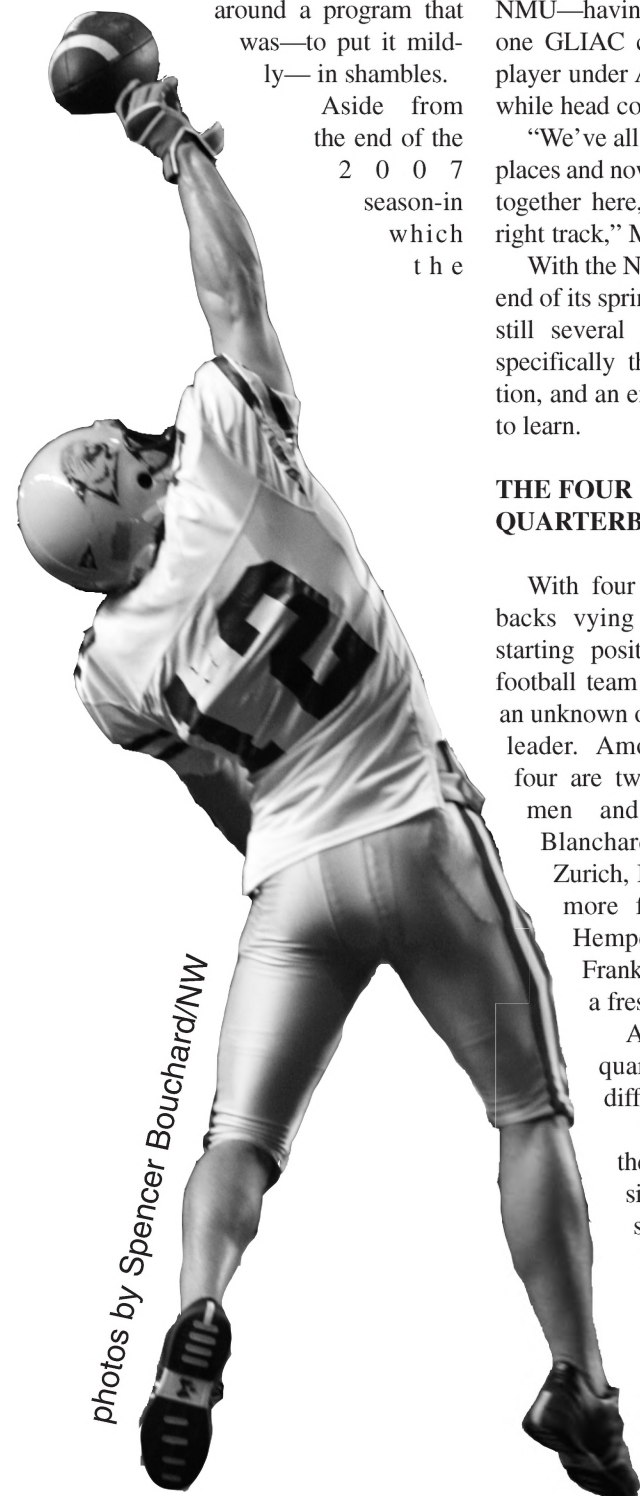
"Our job as coaches is to make sure that they're ready to play on Saturday—and they don't have to do a lot of thinking,"



METTLACH



AWREY



photos by Spencer Bouchard/NW

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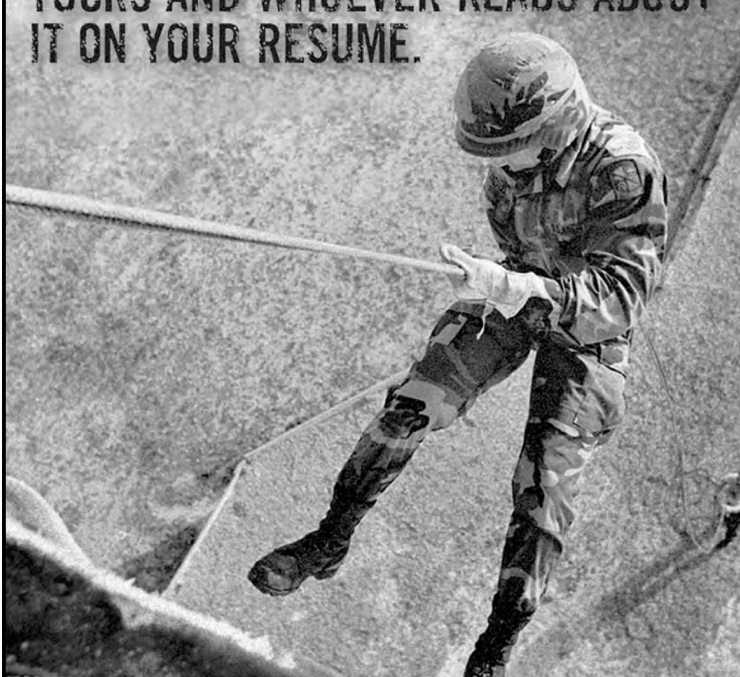


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TODAY, APRIL 10

Event: Intersvarsity Christian Fellowship will meet from 6-10 p.m. in the Pioneer A & B Rooms of the University Center.

Event: Superior Geography Club will host a Euchre Tournament Fundraiser from 6-10 p.m. in the Erie Room of the University Center.

Event: Campus Crusade for Christ will meet from 7-10 p.m. in the Brule Room of the University Center.

Event: First Aid Productions will meet from 7-8 p.m. in the Nicolet Room of the University Center.

Event: The Swing Club will meet from 7-11 p.m. in the Superior Room of the University Center.

Event: Victory Over Death will meet from 7-10 p.m. in the Marquette Room of the University Center.

Event: The Superior Geography Club will host the High Five Groundation Benefit Concert for SEVA Foundation at 5 p.m. at Upfront and Company.

Film: "The Third Man" (NR) will show at 9 p.m. in JXJ 102. Admission is free to NMU students and \$1 for non-students.

FRI., APRIL 11

Event: Budo Taijitsu will meet from 6-8 p.m. in the Pioneer B Room of the University Center.

Event: Primetime Productions will host a card night at 7 p.m. in the Gant/Spalding basement.

SAT., APRIL 12

Event: "Lake Effect-NMU Show Choir Dinner Concert" will be held at 6 p.m. in the Masonic Building. The cost is \$15.

Film: "Aladdin" (G) will show at 6:30 p.m. in JXJ 102. Admission is free to NMU students and \$1 for non-students.

Film: "Juno" (PG-13) will show at 9 p.m. in JXJ 102. Admission is free to NMU students and \$1 for non-students.

SUN., APRIL 13

Event: Golden Z-Club will meet from 5-7 p.m. in the Cadillac Room of the University Center.

Event: NMU Fencing Club will meet from 1-3 p.m. in the Superior Room of the University Center.

Event: NMU Paranormal Research Team will meet from 5-

7 p.m. in the Brule Room of the University Center.

Event: Victory Over Death will meet from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Nicolet Room of the University Center.

Event: Latin Dance Club will meet from 7-9 p.m. in the Superior Room of the University Center.

Film: "Juno" (PG-13) will show at 6:30 and 9 p.m. in JXJ 102. Admission is free to NMU students and \$1 for non-students.

MON., APRIL 14

Event: "Biology Seminar Series: The Age Structure, Length, Condition, and Movement of Resident and Coaster Brook Trout in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Michigan" will host a lecture with Paul Kusnierz at 11 a.m. in the Mead Auditorium in the West Science Building.

Event: Intersvarsity Christian Fellowship will meet from 5-10 p.m. in the Nicolet Room of the University Center.

Event: Steppin' Out Dance Club will meet from 6:30-11 p.m. in the Superior Room of the University Center.

Event: NMU Cuong Nhu Oriental Martial Arts will meet

from 6:45-9:15 p.m. in the Pioneer B Room of the University Center.

Event: The Latin American Student Organization will host a Forum on Tolerance from 7-10 p.m. in the Huron/Erie Rooms of the University Center.

TUES., APRIL 15

Event: NMU International Dance Club will meet from 6:30-11 p.m. in the Superior Room of the University Center.

Event: Campus Free Thought Alliance will meet from 7-9 p.m. in the Pioneer B Room at the University Center.

Film: "Oil on Ice" will be presented by Project Hot Seat at 7 p.m. in JXJ 102. Admission is free to NMU students and \$1 for non-students.

WED., APRIL 15

Event: NMU International Dance Club will meet from 5-7 p.m. in the Superior Room at the University Center.

Event: Budo Taijitsu will meet from 6-8 p.m. in the Pioneer B Room at the University Center.

Editor's Note: Send your organization's meetings or events to editor@thenorthwind.org or call The North Wind office at 227-2545.

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Shout Outs

Roommate — Bo keeps freaking out. People are going to think we abuse her. — **Tired**

World's Worst Partner — We should really work on fighting less. I doubt this is helping. — **World's Best Partner**

Girls — I think we are in dire need of some Prom Night this weekend. P.S. Turns out, I don't think booze kills mono. Sorry guys— **Smash**

Ruth — At least you have pants on. — **Smash**

Bre — I'm buying you a stripper pole for your birthday. — **Smash**

Jeremy — Congratulations! I wish you both all the happiness in the world. You guys deserve it. — **Jackie**

O's — Keep this going for at least a few more weeks before you go in the tank. Please? — **Shane**

Lollapalooza — Best headlines evvvverrr. Thanks. — **Shane**

Ian — Start reading the paper. — **Roomates**

Tracy — Shox rox my sox. — **Birthday boy**

Stark — No comics! Thank you for the week off. — **Shane**

Ashley Rae —No more fighting, you are my BFF, so deal—**Dylan**

Dylan— I think you're a stud, but could you for real think of a decent nickname for me? — **Cassandra**

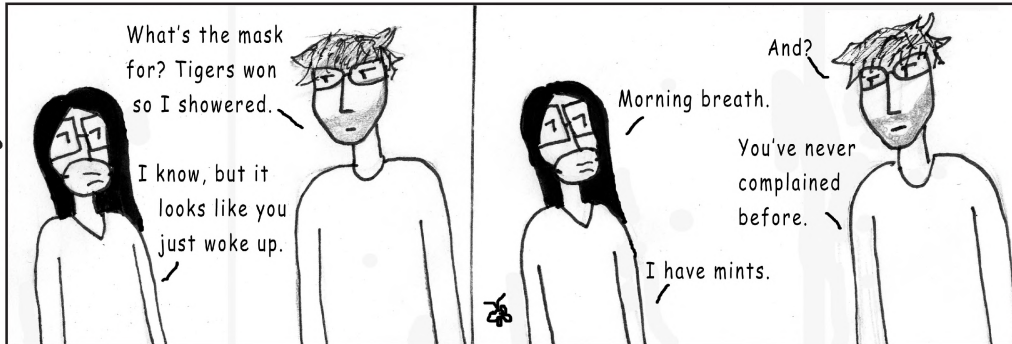
Parentals — See you Friday! I'm looking forward to your visit. — **Daughter**

Old Greg — Thank you for making my entire week full of your quotes. — **Not a scary man-fish**

Inspirations

- Snow in April
- Lots of coffee
- Gun bans
- Wednesday fights
- Drunk dials
- Snow in April
- Weekend visits
- Making sandwiches
- Two more issues
- Emu
- Snow in April

Snow Days



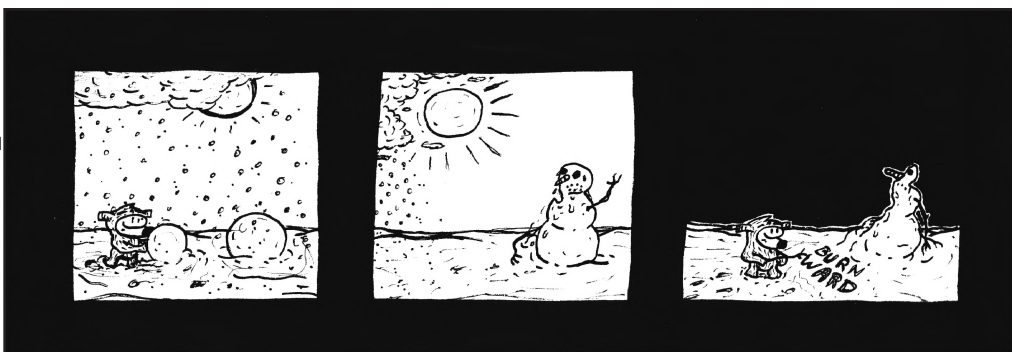
Susan Page

The Assassin Sessions



Andrew McCanna

Stick People



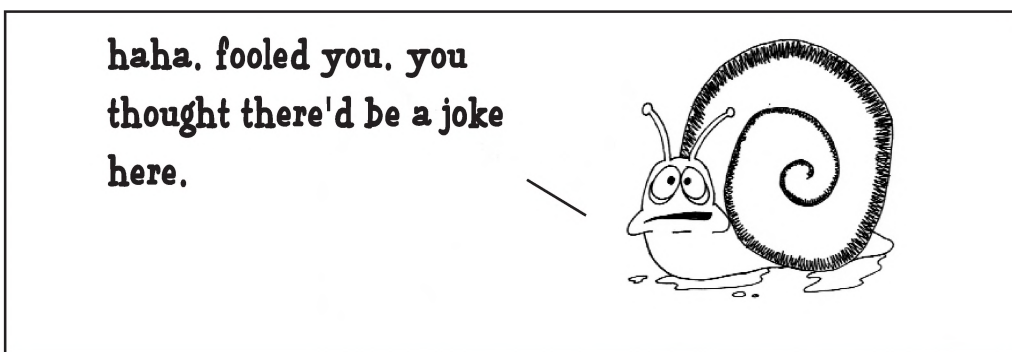
Sean Chevrier

Creative Diarrhea



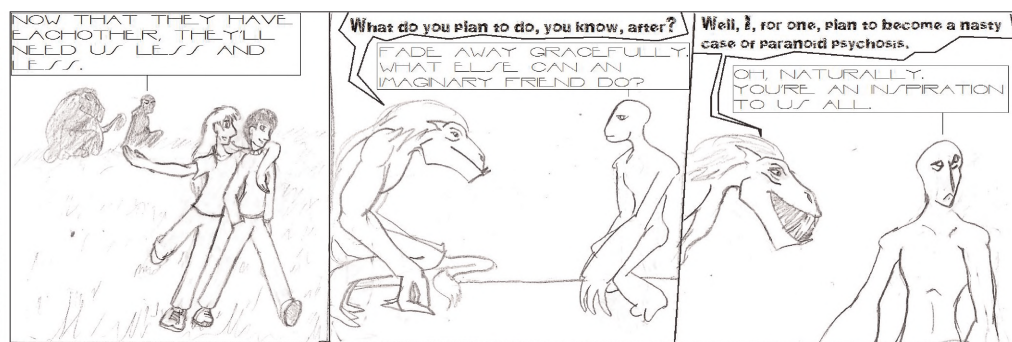
Alex Stevens

Snail's Tales



NW Staff

Ellen's Friend



Matt Peach

Australian Mudwizard

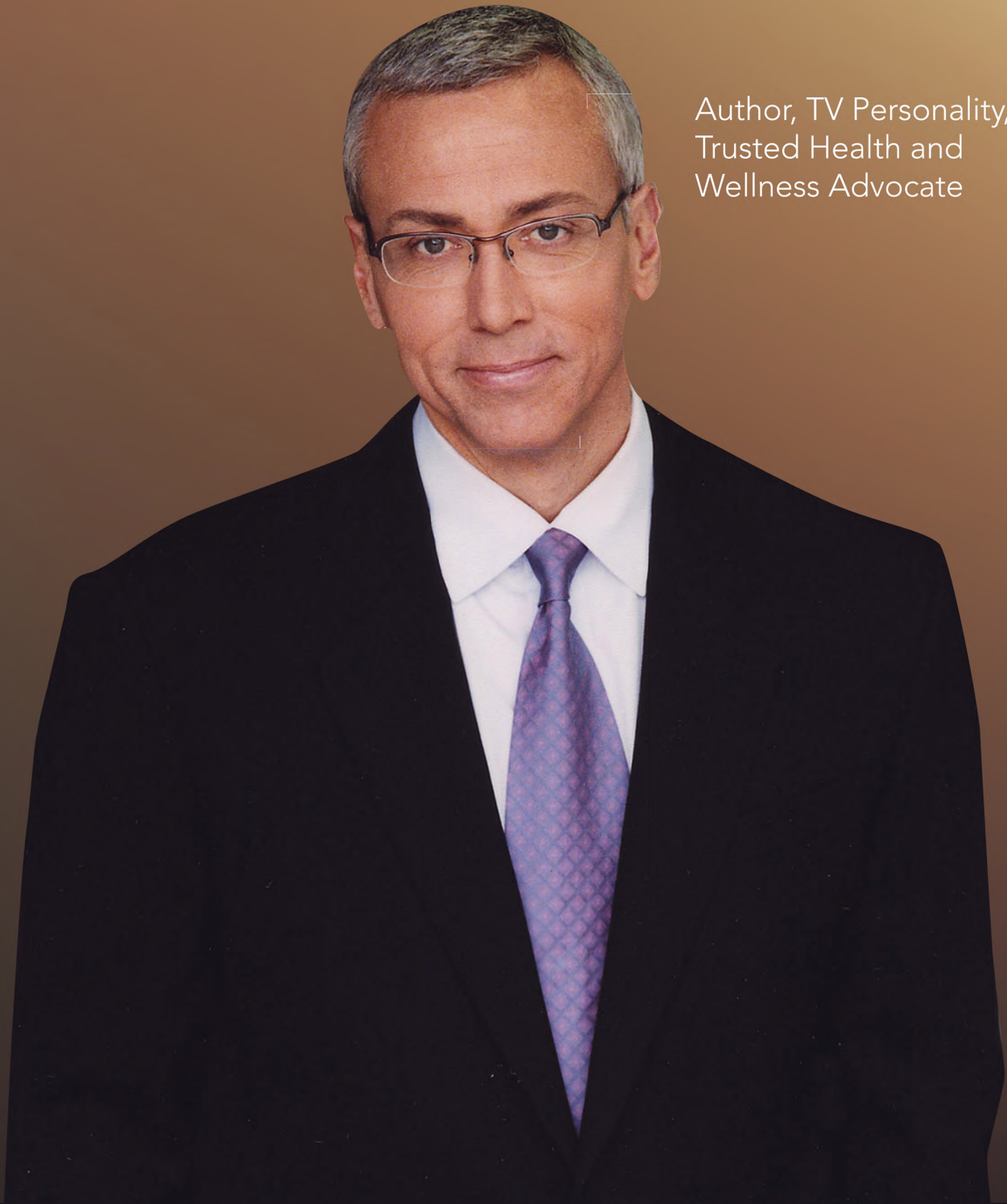


Sean Baptist

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