

Student safety is highest priority
During extreme weather, cancelling classes is the right choice for students and faculty.

Marquette Symphony hosts guests
Soloist Haeji Kim, a fifteen year old violinist, joins regional orchestra for "Heart Strings Concert."

Wildcat basketball team
Teamwork brings Wildcat victories for men's and women's varsity teams.

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New vice president elected by ASNMU

By Jenean Zahran
Contributing writer

During their meeting on Monday Jan. 4, ASNMU announced they have appointed Amber Lopota as their new vice president.

Including winter break, ASNMU has been without a vice president for three months. Lopota, a non-traditional student, wanted to be part of an organization that was long-term and aimed their contributions toward the student body.

"I am interested in making my involvement and contribution long-term, but I wanted something that wasn't a social group," Lopota said. "A faculty member recommended that I apply to ASNMU."

Lopota has high hopes for ASNMU and has some ideas in the works, hoping to benefit the student body of NMU.

"Right now, I have a project I am working on where the goal is to create donate folders for students who need them, things such as coats, gloves," Lopota said. "I know that students are often in need of winter gear and supplies. I'd like to see that type of project become a regular thing."

"I am excited to be a part of ASNMU and to see what we can accomplish together," Lopota said. "I am looking forward to working with the ASNMU members and faculty to make a difference on campus."

For more information on ASNMU, visit www.asnmumichigan.org.

ASNMU is a student organization that provides support and resources for students on campus. They offer a variety of services, including tutoring, career counseling, and financial aid assistance.

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ASNMU • Page 2

Officials clarify snow day policy Forecast, ease of travel both considered

By Amanda Monthel
news editor

With two consecutive cold days in mid-January and inclement weather last week, some students have been wondering how school officials justify cancelling classes due to bad weather.

Director of Public Safety and Police Services Mike Bath said such a decision is situational, and pinpointing the particular amount of snow that may result in cancelled classes is nearly impossible.

"It's not necessarily just how much snow," Bath said. "It's a combination of how much snow, the visibility, and the forecast — that's the big one."

Last Thursday, Jan. 3, Public Safety went through the process of calling a potential snow day, but did not complete the process on grounds of little snow being in the forecast.

"We went through the whole process, but the forecast was

such that the snow had stopped already and it was more of a cleanup as opposed to [issues with] road conditions," Bath said. "We had in fact talked with the grounds guys and they figured they'd have everything cleaned up so that we could operate under normal conditions. But if it was going to be storming until 2 p.m., we would have done something a little differently."

Grounds maintenance is one of the top priorities in the event of inclement weather, and being able to clear sidewalks and roadways in time for students and faculty to arrive on campus is one of the main concerns when discussing the potential of a snow day.

"Our main concern in regards to whether or not school is open or closed is our ability to clear the parking lots and sidewalks of snow so that faculty and staff and students are able to access buildings," said

See SNOW • Page 6



Alumni honored for education methods

By Shaina James
editor in chief

NMU alumni and early childhood educator Amy Ahola is being recognized by Microsoft's Worldwide Education as one of the 365 Heroes in Global Education on www.dailyadventures.com this week.

Shortly after graduating in 2005, Ahola, originally from Houghton, opened her business Child Central Station Family Home Daycare, located in Marquette.

The website will feature a different educator everyday for 365 days. These interviews will be written by Anthony Salcito, vice president of Microsoft's Worldwide Education. Ahola's interview will be featured Friday, Feb. 8.

Ahola said she was recognized because someone from

the company found her blog, www.childcentralstation.com and kept coming back to it.

"They aren't just looking at traditional classroom educators," Ahola said. "They have research, college professors and high school teachers."

Ahola said she is the only early childhood educator that has been featured so far.

"I'm still floured," Ahola said. "At first that they even found me. It's an exciting thing for me, but I'm still having trouble processing it."

According to Ahola, some of the things Microsoft's Worldwide Education was looking for



Photo courtesy of Amy Ahola
Amy Ahola is being honored as one of the 365 Heroes in Global Education for her teaching methods. A music station, along with a garden, giant sandbox and many other activities are set up outside for children to play and use for learning exercises.

when recognizing educators was alternative ways of teaching. Ahola spends a lot of time with the children outdoors, including napping in tents and taking field

trips. "We have an outdoor classroom that is always evolving."

See AHOLA • Page 3

Faculty and staff provide resources for mental health

By Amanda Montheil
news editor

Walking through the library on any given day, it's easy to see the origins of what could grow into potential mental health concerns for students — stacks of books, a large coffee in hand, yawning or perhaps a head on the table from exhaustion, all clear signs of a stressful week in academia.

Yet, these are all normal sights for a library and, more so, normal lifestyles for college students. As Counseling and Consultation Services clinical social worker Cathy Greer Cole said, the college lifestyle can sometimes compromise the importance of sleep, nutrition and exercise. This, she said, may make college students increasingly susceptible to depression, anxiety and other mental health concerns.

"College students are humans, and dealing with issues of depression, anxiety, life stressors, adjustment to change and loss and all of the above are just part of the human condition," Cole said. "However, there, can be more stress in terms of being away from home and I also think there are certain practical things like sleep and nutrition that can play a part in aggravating underlying issues of depression and anxiety."

Cole said she and her colleagues see around 24 to 28 students every week for individual counseling or consultation. The office also provides group counseling, which typically includes seven to 10 students per group.

"At first, I went in (to the campus counseling office) and that was actually what (psychologist John MacDevitt) suggested right away," said Shea Cherro, a student who has been using the consultation and counseling services office for over a year, in regards to the group counseling options. "He was like 'I'm starting a group session tonight.' I was like, 'no thank you,' but I went

and just fell in love with it."

Cherro, who is a senior studying community health education, said that she is now doing one-on-one therapy with MacDevitt, and has been enjoying it so far this semester. Additionally, Cherro tries to be as open as possible with friends and family in regards to her mental health concerns, hoping that in the future others facing similar concerns will not be afraid to open up.

"I think in general mental health isn't talked about enough," she said. "It's a topic that is very worrisome to talk about for people. But the more I can talk about it and make other people feel good about it, the better."

Cherro has been one of the many leading influences in establishing the To Write Love on Her Arms NMU chapter, which aims to raise awareness about student mental health concerns and also provides a peer resource for students.

In addition to this growing campus organization, Northern provides a variety of other resources on campus for students facing anxiety, depression and other concerns.

"Like many college counseling centers across the country, we could use more staffing resources because the need is there," she said. "Some larger campuses also have additional resources through student mental health programs such as Active Minds at the University of Michigan that is a peer support program for students with mental health needs."

There are, however, an array of other campus resources that are helpful for students. Among them are the light therapy rooms located in the counseling office at 3405 Hedgcock, which are available for individuals who may be experiencing symptoms of Seasonal Affective Disorder, and include a lamp that emits artificial sunlight.

Another service provided by the counseling and consultation office are emergency appointments, which

are available Monday through Friday during office hours for students who are experiencing a crisis, suicidal thoughts or other mental health emergencies.

However, Cole emphasized the importance—and prevalence—of preventative measures in all of this. NMU, she said, has a good system in place in order to provide students with resources to prevent these sorts of concerns.

"Students can help themselves by taking preventative measures such as regular exercise," she said. "I mean, in terms of being able to use exercise and the PEIF as a great preventative measure — that can also be helpful when an individual is going through depression. Exercise can go a long way."

Student resident adviser Kristina Mazic of the Fantasia House in Halverson Hall said she tries to provide that sort of resource to the residents in her hall.

"My job is to just listen and guide them but I'm not really a therapist, so I can't treat them like that," Mazic said. "But I do always recommend the counseling center on campus and I know a lot of them end up going there, and find it very helpful. Listening is always good though."

And while counseling is helpful, students can also benefit from utilizing the health center, where they may be provided with a medication consultation.

"We try to look at other things first," Cole said in reference to medication. "For example, we emphasize sleep, stress and nutrition before considering medication. If they're doing those things and still having a hard time, I might suggest they have what I call a medication consultation and talk to a doctor."

"Usually it's a combination of things. If you're staying up all night and you're not eating well and then you go on an antidepressant, it's like you're taking anti-cholesterol medication and eating at McDonalds every day."



State News

Michigan union members have been responding to news this week that the United States Postal Service home delivery week will decrease by one day nationally, making both Saturday and Sunday non-delivery days.

Beginning Aug. 5, the USPS will be eliminating one day of their delivery week, citing that this effort will save the struggling agency about \$2 billion every year.

Packages will, however, still be delivered on Saturdays. Those with post office boxes will also get their mail delivered.

The move comes after a particularly difficult year in 2012, in which they lost \$16 billion.

National News

In maintaining the goals outlined in his inauguration speech in early January, President Barack Obama has made executive moves on not only gun control legislation and immigration reform, but also climate change and environmental issues, according to www.reuters.com.

Lisa Jackson, the departing chief of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, said Obama has made it clear that he is serious about addressing climate change as Jackson prepares to leave the White House later this month.

According to Jackson, the hopes of Obama to further address climate change may be hindered by the current economic and budgetary agenda of Congress, but asserts that the president is focused on cooperating with Congress to tackle climate change.

"I don't think you need any clues," Jackson said, in reference to Obama's new goals regarding climate change. "The president has been very clear."

International News

Beijing authorities are blaming two oil companies for the record breaking pollution levels in China's capital city, according to www.reuters.com.

The two oil companies, China National Petroleum Corp and the Sinopec Group, are being held responsible for the growing pollution levels in the city of more than 20 million people. Both companies have disregarded environmental regulations in regards to diesel engine emission standards, which occurs when oil companies skimp on removing the sulfur content of the diesel. The initial investments of removing sulfur from oil, which makes the oil emissions more "clean," is estimated to cost oil companies billions of dollars.

Weird News

Skeletal remains found under a parking lot in England were verified on Monday as being those of Richard III, an English king who died in battle in 1485 after only two years on the English throne. Richard III was the last English king to die in battle, however the half-millennium mystery of where he was buried sparked many questions as to what he had died from, as well as other details of his life.

The skeleton of the English monarch showed signs of extensive stab wounds, which were assumed to have been administered by King Henry VIII and his soldiers during a conflict known as the Wars of the Roses.

It was determined through DNA testing that the bones exhumed did in fact belong to Richard III, however the confirmation came only after a descendant of Richard's sister, Anne of York, provided matching DNA that archeologists could make the link.

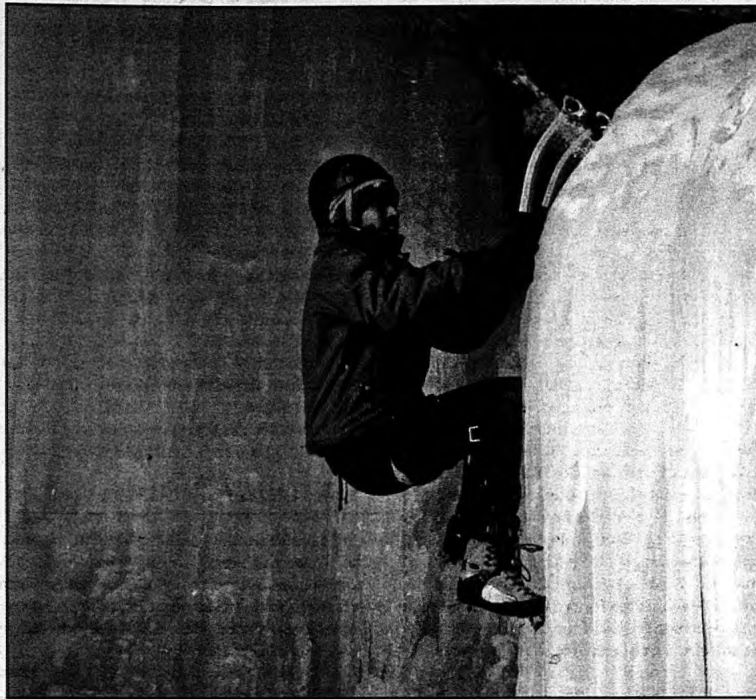
— Compiled from news sources



Dan Marchky/NW

Northern has many resources available for students who may be experiencing symptoms of an array of different mental concerns. Above all, however, it is suggested that students take steps to eat healthy, get enough sleep and exercise daily.

Picking up on Ice Climbing



Amanda Monthei/NW

Topher Fast, a senior environmental studies major, practices tooling techniques while waiting to ice climb at the Michigan Icefest in Munising on Saturday, Feb. 2. The annual festival, held on and near Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, draws hundreds of climbers and speakers to the area, including world-class athletes.

Public Safety warns of crosswalk danger

By NW Staff

According to Director of Public Safety and Police Services Mike Bath, many complaints have come to the Public Safety office in recent weeks regarding students walking blindly into crosswalks on campus.

Bath said he has received a handful of calls concerning students who do not stop to see if cars are approaching crosswalks and walk in front of cars without looking to see if any cars are coming.

He said the combination of

distracted drivers and distracted walkers or bikers can result in an especially bad circumstance.

"Nobody has been hit, but you've heard of the phrase 'distracted driving'," he said. "Well I use that right up there with distracted walking. And if you put the two together, it could be a dangerous situation."

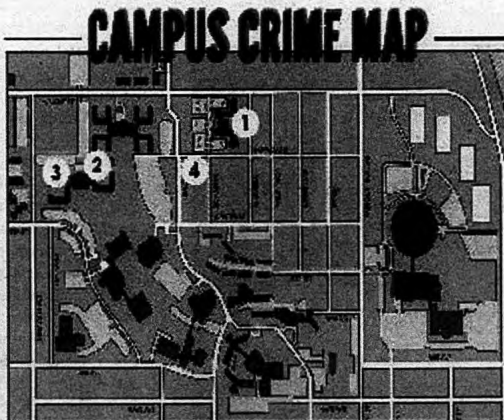
The biggest issue with crosswalks is that cars may not be able to stop as quickly as necessary for a walker who doesn't stop or look and just walks into the street. This is especially true in the winter months, according to Bath.

"When cars have to slam on their brakes because someone just walked right out in front of them in the crosswalk, (it's a problem)," Bath said. "Especially with the cold weather, when a lot of people have their hoods up and their iPods in their ears or they're texting as they're walking and not paying attention."

Bath said those who walk, bike, or drive on campus should remain appropriately vigilant as they travel around campus, suggesting that all parties slow down or stop at crosswalks and remain alert and undistracted.

KEY

1. At 5:27 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 1, Malicious Destruction of University Property was reported at the Woodland apartments.
2. At 1:55 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1, a student in Halverson Hall was found in possession of marijuana.
3. At 10:20 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1, a student in Gant Hall was reported for Criminal Sexual conduct of the 3rd degree.
4. At 1:37 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 2, Larceny from a motor vehicle was reported at Lot 14.



AHOLA
Continued from Page 1

Ahola said. "We have a real mud pit, giant sand box, an outdoor music station and a garden. The children helped with all of that."

A lot of the equipment is made by Ahola and her husband and out of recycled materials.

"A lot of the time things are so expensive, so we did a lot of do it yourself things."

Since Ahola runs a home-based childcare center, she is allowed to care for 12 children at a time, even though more children are enrolled because many of them are not full time.

Along with running Child Central Station Family Home Daycare, Ahola participates in training and collaborates with a lot of people in the education field.

Ahola and her daycare will also be featured in the new book "Get Over It: Re-learning Guidance Practices" by Dan Hodgins.

Ahola graduated from

Northern in 2005 with a bachelors degree in Psychology and received two master level certificates in Facilitating Training and Performance Improvement in 2010.

Jim Suksi, one of Ahola's former psychology professors, remembers her as an outstanding student.

"Her work was always excellent," Suksi said. "She was a deep and critical thinker. As of a result of her success in the classroom, she could use it in her role as a trainer."

Ahola is currently applying to graduate school to get her full masters degree. The certificates that she received were for taking classes that will count toward her masters degree.

According to Suksi the certificates are more like areas of specialization within a program.

"Her success in graduate studies provided a foundation that complimented her work and has helped her success," Suksi said. "I am very proud of her."



Courtesy of Amy Ahola

Amy Ahola participates in training and works with other educators. She is constantly evolving her childcare center inside and outside.

Corrections

In the Thursday, Jan. 31 issue, in the article on Page 1 titled "Gun Legislation Draws Reactions from U.P. Residents," the author meant to reference only semi-automatic weapons, not automatic weapons, in the entirety of the article. We apologize for the confusion and misinformation.

In the Thursday, Jan. 31 issue, the caption for the photo on Page 2 was wrong. The musicians on the left were Tim DeMarte and Tim Clancy, in that order.

In the Thursday, Jan. 31 issues, Governor Snyder's name was misspelled. We regret the error.

ASNMU

Continued from Page 1

noisemakers used at sporting events.

"Profits from selling the thunder sticks would go toward a student event on campus," said Rep Julie Goldberg, general studies. "If it gets approved, it would most likely happen next year during football season."

In addition to appointing Lopota to vice president, ASNMU also swore in five new representatives during their meeting, one of them being a member of a fraternity on campus. This is the first time a member of Northern's Greek population has been involved in ASNMU, according to Lopota.

Spots are currently open for new representatives, and applications for new members are always being accepted. An application is available on the ASNMU website at www.nmu.edu/asnmnu that students can fill out and submit. Interested parties will be pre-screened by the dean of students office to ensure they meet qualification requirements, according to Lopota.

"We encourage everyone interested to apply, as our group is constantly changing due to outside obligations taking members," Lopota said.

ASNMU is now also accepting non-ASNMU students to become part of the election committee for their elections coming up in April. Anyone interested in joining the committee must be

appointed by a current member of ASNMU, according to Lopota.

To gather new ideas and information from other public universities across Michigan, ASNMU will be attending the Student Association of Michigan (SAM) conference at Wayne State University on Monday, Feb. 18 to Wednesday, Feb. 20.

"I think it is important that the students understand how having the (vice president) spot filled is going to accelerate what ASNMU is doing, enable committee formation and fuel the fires all the enthusiastic new representatives have," Lopota said. "Anytime they want they can reach out to us, and we will act as a megaphone for them to the administration."



Justin Key/NW

Members of the ASNMU general assembly engage in discussion during a recent meeting. Members of the assembly appointed a new vice president, Amber Lopota, to the board this week after nearly three months without one.

Campus Events:

Friday, Feb. 8: Medical Emergencies in the Classroom Workshop, 2 to 3 p.m. in the Back Room of the University Center. Cost is free.

Friday, Feb. 8 and Saturday, Feb. 9: Men's hockey versus Ferris State, 7:30 p.m. in the Berry Events Center.

Saturday, Feb. 9: Beaumier Coffee House Series featuring Sam and Taylor, starts at 7 p.m. in the Peter White Lounge of the University Center. Cost is free, but donations are encouraged.

Sunday, Feb. 10: Winter Fly Fishing Class, 12 to 6 p.m. at the PEIF. Cost is \$40 for members.

Monday, Feb. 11: Gender, Communication and Bike Maintenance Workshop from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Back Room of the University Center. Cost is free.

Tuesday, Feb. 12: Deadline for Winterfest 2013 entries, happening all day.

Off-Campus Events:

Saturday, Feb. 9: Snowshoe History Tour, begins at 1 p.m. at the Presque Isle Pavilion. Cost is free.

Saturday, Feb 9: Eben Ice Caves Trip with the ORC, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., meet at the PEIF. Cost is \$25 for members and includes snowshoe rentals and transportation to and from the Eben Ice Caves.



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Student earns professional mountain biking license

By Ellen Holmes
contributing writer

While it may be winter, one can find senior Cooper Dendel doing one of three things: biking to class, snowbiking or otherwise finding ways to exercise outside.

Dendel, an elementary education major who received her professional racing license last week after two years of competitive mountain biking, is, after all, preparing for a heavy mountain biking race schedule in the coming 2013 season.

Dendel was convinced to enter her first race when she was a freshman at NMU by a former math teacher in her hometown of Harbor Springs, Mich. That year, she took first place in the sport division of the Cry Baby Classic at Nubs Nob.

Afterwards, Dendel was introduced to Bob South, owner of No Boundaries Outdoors in Boyne City, Mich., who offered Dendel a team jersey and invited her to become a member of the shop's race team in the upcoming Iceman Cometh Challenge.

"At the time, I had no idea what the Iceman was," Dendel said. "I was like, '30 miles, I don't think so.' I had just finished a 12.5 mile race and was done, and I couldn't imagine 30 miles. They said I had to do it, it wasn't really a choice at that point, so I signed up."

After taking another first place finish in the 15-to-18-year-old women's division at the Iceman, Dendel adopted the saying, "If you win your category, you have to move up a category." It became her motto, pushing her to win in her division at nearly every upcoming race.

After that, Dendel spent the summer of 2012 as a member of the Marquette-based Quick Stop-Culver's team, competing in the Wisconsin Off Road Series (WORS) across the Midwest. The Fat

Tire Festival in Copper Harbor and remaining a participant in the Iceman, which runs from Kalkaska, Mich. to Traverse City, Mich.

With the WORS series races, Dendel said she grew in confidence and ability. By taking the first place podium in her first WORS category one race—which is one level below the Pro (Elite) class—Dendel was quickly moved up to the Elite class where she competed in three more of the WORS series races.

The technical singletrack that makes up the Fat Tire Festival has become a specialty for Dendel, which led to her goal for the 2012 season of placing first overall for women in the race.

In September, Dendel met that goal. In November, racing against 2012 Olympic bronze medal finisher Georgia Gould in the Iceman, Dendel again competed in the Elite division and took seventh place.

Yet Dendel doesn't see biking in her free time as training and maintains the aspect of fun that has kept her in the sport for this long.

"I wouldn't say I really train more or less," Dendel said. "I'll go out and ride, mostly by myself, and keep going until I'm tired and I want to head home. I don't have

a bike computer, so I don't know how far I go. It's all about having fun."

Next season, Dendel will begin her pro career, which will allow her to race outside of the country and be placed in new divisions.

She will continue racing for the Quick Stop-Culver's team, and is looking forward to doing as many local races as possible.

"I love the trails around here, and it's just fun to compete on your home territory," Dendel said.

Dendel is looking forward to her first race of the season, the WORS Iola Bump 'N' Jump, which takes place in Iolo, Wis. on Sunday, May 5.



Frank King/NW
Cooper Dendel, a senior, celebrates taking a first place in the Fat Tire Festival in Copper Harbor this September.

"To prepare for next season, I get to class by bike, snowbike two to three times per week, downhill ski five to six days a week and eat Culver's frozen custard to keep my sponsor in business," Dendel said. "I even have the five-day forecast on my phone for the next five flavor-of-the-days."

I'll go out and ride, mostly by myself, and keep going until I'm tired and I want to head home. I don't have a bike computer, so I don't know how far I go. It's all about having fun.

— Cooper Dendel
student mountain biker

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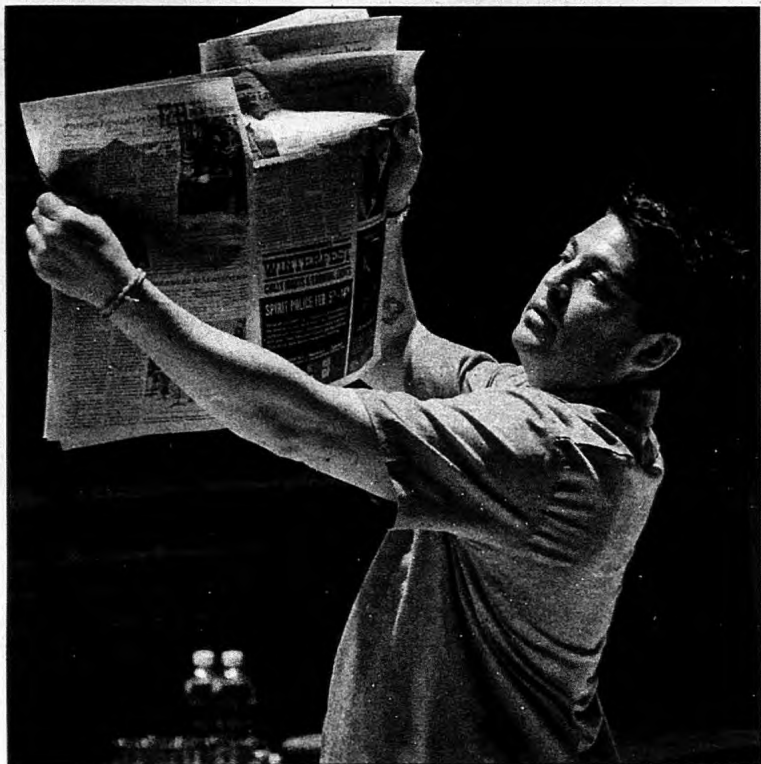
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The Food Dude Checks out The North Wind



Justin Key/NW

During his presentation on Tuesday, Feb. 5, Kevin 'The Food Dude' Roberts checks out the preview of his presentation in the Jan. 31 North Wind. Roberts emphasizes the importance of eating healthy in college.

SNOW

Continued from Page 1

Kathy Richards, associate vice president of engineering and planning. "[We have to] make sure that they have safe passage."

And with so much riding on the decision of canceling classes — including professors getting behind on lesson plans and therefore students getting behind on assignments — it's important for the decision to be made collectively among many different campus officials.

"Simply missing those two days had a real effect on due dates for at least two different assignments," said Sandra Burr, a professor in the English department. "Those kinds of things trigger an accumulation effect, almost like the domino effect, and some classes can be more dramatic than others."

"But it can really be a nightmare."

The process of closing campus begins at around 4:30 a.m. on mornings when the weather is expected to cause issues.

Bath said the initial course of action involves checking with the National Weather Service to verify what is happening outside and what is expected in the forecast.

In the event of snow, road reports and conversations with

the road commission are the next step.

"We'll talk to the grounds department and see what their time frame is in being able to clean campus up prior to school starting," Bath said. "Then they call me and I get all the information and then I contact the provost, Dr. Paul Lang, and collectively we make a determination one way or the other."

In discussing the importance, and ultimate decisiveness, of looking at the forecast for the coming day, Bath recalled a situation in early 2012 when this forecast system applied perfectly.

"There was a day where we called school and there was green grass showing," he said. "It didn't start snowing until about 11 a.m., but by 1:30 p.m. we had almost a foot of snow on the ground and you couldn't see the front of your car."

"That was based on the predictions of what they thought was coming. It's hard to cancel school when there's grass outside the window, but that day the weather turned and we based a lot of it on that. But you have to look at every (potential snow day) based on the circumstances involved."

To get snow day and other emergency updates students and faculty can sign up for the Emergency Text alert program through www.myweb.nmu.edu/alerts.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Ilyasah Shabazz & Ta-Nehisi Coates

Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of civil rights activist Malcolm X, will talk about her memoir, "Growing Up X," the legacy of Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz, and the lessons she learned personally from the values instilled by her parents.

Ta-Nehisi Coates, author of "The Beautiful Struggle" and editor of *The Atlantic Monthly* magazine, will discuss what it means to be Black and the future of Black culture in America.

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EDITORIAL



Inclement weather policy lauded

There has been discussion among students as to whether or not NMU should have canceled classes on Tuesday, Jan. 22, and Wednesday, Jan. 23.

While the conditions on Tuesday were severe, with temperatures dropping well below zero, some students believe the decision to attend class should be left up to the individual.

The lack of uniformity regarding attendance at NMU makes this choice one which may affect a student's grade. Some professors require full attendance, while others do not. This is one factor that influences a student's choice to brave the weather.

Students and faculty should also take into account those who commute, and not just by car, but by bike and foot. When the temperature is well below zero, merely being outside for a period of 15 to 20 minutes can put students at risk for frostbite.

When torrents of snow and blistering wind buffet campus and local roadways, it becomes incredibly dangerous for those driving, walking and biking to even make it to campus.

NMU's "Inclement Weather Policy" indicates that "it is recognized, however, that under certain extreme weather conditions, students and/or staff members cannot and should not attempt to come to campus; this is a decision which must ultimately be made by each individual, regardless of the reason."

Frigid temperatures and massive snowfall are reason enough to cancel classes as a matter of public safety. Though students pay for their classes, there is no lecture at NMU worth putting your life at risk to attend.

When the weather is bad, the roads are slick with ice and the temperatures are dangerously low, NMU should cancel classes in the interest of the student body.

While individuals always have the choice to skip out on a class because of dangerous conditions, the university has a policy for a reason: the administration does not want their students to put themselves in danger in order to attend classes.

The inclement weather protects students from the elements and academic punishment for a reasonable absence.

Harsh weather merits snow day



Staff Column

Cody Boyer

When I first came to NMU, I was ready for a school that boasted hardiness when it came to facing the harsh winter elements not present in the Lower Peninsula.

I came packed with boxes full of hand, feet and head warmers, as well as long underwear, wool socks and a menagerie of other things to prepare for winter's fury.

Still, I am not alone in my confusion following some of the school closings that have occurred recently, along with the closings that did not occur.

No matter if NMU has school or not, I still have to ride a bus into town and get busy working on campus at my jobs.

I love school, and I usually cringe when we have a day off because that means I am going to be stockpiled with even more work for weeks to come. I can only resort to thinking that putting hard-working and tuition-paying students in danger is not right.

There are other times when inclement weather is just too severe to ignore.

On Thursday, Jan. 31, most of the Upper Peninsula and parts of the Lower Peninsula suffered one of the largest winter storms of the season. According to TV6, the weather was "too dangerous for civilians to endure," especially for long-distance commuters.

Every public school in the area was closed, and many local businesses closed or locked their doors early due to the storm.

Northern Michigan University remained open.

Following a week with two back-to-back days off, NMU appeared to be returning back into the hardy school I had first heard it to be. To me, it looked like the weather was probably not as bad as it seemed outside my window.

That is, until I hit the streets to get to campus in the morning.

As per my usual routine, I waited for the city bus to swing by my house at around 9 a.m. Something immediately was amiss, as a completely different bus driver arrived at my location 15 minutes late. Once onboard, I learned that most of the buses were running behind due to the weather. We did not make it far when the bus careened into a

ditch. It happened in an instant, and the bus driver handled the situation perfectly. She called for assistance, and informed us to wait just a few minutes.

A passing tow truck (they were quite busy that day) saw us there and pulled over to give us a hand. The tow truck then slid into the ditch right in front of us.

I asked if I could get off the bus and walk back to my house, seeing as it wasn't too far away and I usually am a dedicated walker.

I was able to borrow a car from a friend to get to my 10 a.m. class, and I was off again.

I got stuck right in the middle of a road near campus.

A Public Safety official was driving nearby when I first lost my traction in the street and was at my location in no time to dig me out. In that time period, it became evident to me that these weather conditions were beyond ordinary "U.P. winter weather."

Still, Public Safety was doing a fantastic job at helping people get through the entire situation.

According to the Public Safety page on www.nmu.edu, "the decision to cancel classes due to inclement weather is made cooperatively by the director of Public Safety and Police Services and NMU's provost and vice president of Academic Affairs."

I completely understand having two days of closure due to dangerously cold temperatures for the surrounding public schools in the area and even for NMU students.

However, the weather conditions on that Thursday were clearly more severe. When city buses and tow trucks are having issues staying on the road, then commuters in small and large cars, in theory, must be having even more trouble.

When an establishment such as Northern Michigan University must close its doors on cloudless days twice in a row while remaining open for session on a day when cars are getting stuck in the middle of residential streets near its campus, then something is just not right.

We understand that we should be used to inclement weather, but we also know inclement weather enough and have lived within it long enough to know how to deal with dangerously cold conditions.

Marquette residents and NMU students should be prepared enough to handle the harsh conditions up here.

Cold days off are fine, but they should not inhibit the decision to cancel school on a day when weather is clearly more dangerous.

THE NORTH WIND

editor.northwind@gmail.com
www.thenorthwindonline.com

- Shaina James editor.northwind@gmail.com Editor in Chief
- Amanda Monthei news.northwind@gmail.com News Editor
- Lee McClelland opinion.northwind@gmail.com Opinion Editor
- Nolan Krebs features.northwind@gmail.com Features Editor
- Cody Boyer sports.northwind@gmail.com Sports Editor
- Kristen Koehler Photo Editor
- Andrea Pink Layout/Online Editor
- Saige James Copy Editor
- Holly Kasberger Business Manager
- Brandy Hayden Office Manager
- Liz Dunstan Advertising Design Manager
- Kristy Basolo Adviser

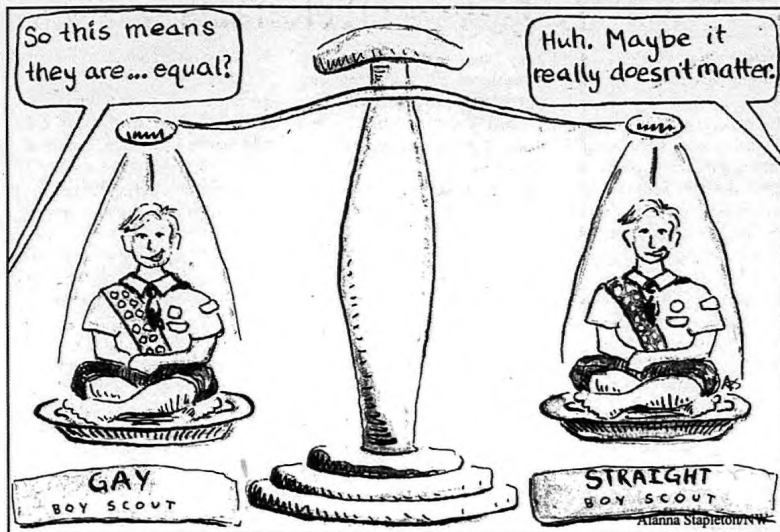
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Letter Policy

Letters to the Editor must include a full name, year, major and phone number for verification. Limit letters to 250 words or less.

All letters may be edited for grammar and length.

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Scouting out equality for gays

Weekly Take Away



Lee McClelland

On Monday, Jan. 28, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) made an announcement: the ban on gays in the Boy Scouts is up for elimination in May.

Director of Public Relations for the BSA Deron Smith gave a written statement that said two very important things. One, the BSA would eliminate the national policy on gays. Two, the decision would be left up to local chapters of the BSA.

"The Boy Scouts would not, under any circumstances, dictate a position to units, members or parents. Under this proposed policy, the BSA would not require any chartered organization to act in ways inconsistent with that organization's mission, principles or religious beliefs," Smith said.

Most chapters of the BSA are managed and run by religious institutions. But then, that is not a real surprise when one considers that the BSA was started as an organization in 1911 with close ties to the Protestant-based Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

The BSA has deep-rooted principles based in Christian morality. The Scouts' Oath reads: "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight."

Here is where contention has risen in the past between the BSA and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) community.

What is an organization to do when religion and sexual orientation conflict with one another? These are, after all, two very

powerful identities present in a person's life.

The organization has had a ban on gays joining based on the premise that gays are not morally straight or clean. The Christian opposition to equality for gays believes, based on biblical text, that gays are immoral and an abomination.

Taking this into perspective, the BSA has held in the past that gays do not live up to the Scouts' Oath, namely the morally straight portion.

For the most part, the BSA has had a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in place with regards to sexual orientation. When members have come out and announced their orientation, the BSA has denied their membership.

In 2000, a case came before the United States Supreme Court regarding gays in the BSA. The court decided in *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale* that because the BSA, at the time, "[did] not want to promote homosexual conduct as a legitimate form of behavior," Dale's association went against their moral underpinnings.

Since the BSA is a private organization, public statutes regarding discrimination cannot be applied to the Scouts. Furthermore, the court said requiring Dale to be admitted back into his duty as a Scoutmaster would violate the group's First Amendment right, by way of expressive association — meaning that allowing a gay man to be in the Scouts would go against its value system.

All of this is tricky when discussing equality for those in the LGBT community. Being gay isn't a choice, and I firmly believe that. When I was born, I was straight. No one told me, I just knew. It's the same for everyone else.

For those who believe homosexuality is akin to sexual deviance, I say you are making an illogical leap when constructing an opinion about gays.

The fear of a gay man acting as

Scoutmaster is one of ignorance. To be gay is not to be a pedophile. To be gay is not to have an insatiable sexual appetite for those of the same sex, regardless of their appearance. Homophobia exists because, in our society, it is still permissible.

So when I heard the Boy Scouts had made an announcement about lifting the ban on gays, I did not think it was a great leap forward for equality, but a public relations move, one which will not change the fact that those who become Scouts come from Christian families, some of whom do not acknowledge gays as people who exhibit a legitimate behavior.

To the BSA, I would say your organization is heading in the right direction. Now, it is a matter of instilling in the minds of those who are anti-gay or homophobic that being gay is no different than being straight in terms of sexual identity.

The question you have to ask yourself is complex: can one be both gay and Christian?

My answer would be yes. Denying your sexual identity is denying a part of yourself to the world. One can be a good person and a gay person.

And why shouldn't a gay child or gay Scoutmaster have the opportunity to be a part of an organization that helps individuals maintain physical, mental and spiritual wellness?

When Americans acknowledge gay identity as a legitimate one, then our society will move in the right direction. The only thing that the LGBT community is asking for is the opportunity to enjoy the things everybody else does.

So let gays become Boy Scouts. Let them be children. Let them be mentors. Let them be equals.

Editor's Note: This column is a part of a month-long series discussing human identity and how it pertains to conflicts within and between cultures.

Black History Month racist

Guest Column



Robert Thomas

If February is Black History Month, September is National Hispanic Heritage Month and November is Native American Heritage Month, which month is White History Month?

There is an unfortunate, common belief in this country that white history is American history. We see the accomplishments of whites as the accomplishments of our country, while minorities remain in obscurity.

The "separate but equal" doctrine that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fought so hard to abolish still exists, veiled behind seemingly compassionate acts of respect. While many say racial segregation is dead, I believe the void between races is as alive today as it was in 1963.

Our society is built off the belief that separation between peoples is imminent and essential. There seems to be a necessity for towering social fences that polarize rich and poor; white and black; male and female.

By paying tribute to the lush, diverse cultural backgrounds that inhabit the ethnic rainforest that is the United States, in the form of reserved periods of reverence, Americans are only perpetuating the racial separation that we believe we are suppressing.

Merriam-Webster defines segregation as "the separation for special treatment or observation of individuals or items from a larger group." Segregating by race is essentially enabling an ignorant filter to be placed over one's intake and management of information.

Alan R. Templeton, professor of biology of Arts and Sciences at Washington University considers race as "...a real cultural, political

and economic concept in society, but it is not a biological concept, and that unfortunately is what many people wrongfully consider to be the essence of race in humans — genetic differences."

When somebody looks different, sounds different or acts different, humans tend to find it extremely difficult to not act upon these striking variances. The idea of race and the consequential social detachment that ensues is wholly human and does nothing but tear apart the innate relationships between human beings.

I am certain that many of you have been forced to listen to parents or elders drilling the statement "your actions speak louder than your words."

The actions of our society exhibit a general compassion for the rights and equality of minorities. How we choose to display such sympathies proves our inclination toward this lasting separation. American heritage should reflect the clichéd "melting-pot" illusion.

In being "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all," we bestow upon ourselves the obligation to actually resemble such a nation. Setting aside special periods of commemoration is in every way contrary to the idea of equality.

Our country is stating that we will remember and honor white contributions to society every day, while particularly reserving the months of February, September and November for those minorities who happened to chip in.

True equality will be seen when the distinctions between people are expunged. It will be seen when the connotations following a woman wearing a burqa are equivalent to the connotations following a man wearing a suit.

I leave you with a quote from Morgan Freeman: "Stop talking about [race]. I'm going to stop calling you a white man. And I'm going to ask you to stop calling me a black man."

Letter to the editor

Dear the members of the application to SLEP Student Leader Fellowship program will come on Friday, Feb. 8.

As a member of the "Panama Block," I know the impact of the SLEP on how I view myself as a leader and how the tools I have gained will help me in the workplace and beyond.

During the two-year program, you and a competitively selected "block" of students are given the opportunity to aspire and flourish in an environment tailored to your success and personal growth.

One of the cornerstones of the SLEP experience, the Community Service Internship (CSI), is customized to your tastes and

interests and is an incredible vehicle to achieving your potential.

While creating inside school legal robotics during my CSI, I gained an extremely functional foundation for leadership.

The SLEP has forced me to accomplish, create and grow beyond my comfort zones. Today, I am a better person because of the SLEP.

Please consider applying for this fantastic program. More information and eligibility requirements are available at www.nmu.edu/slep.

Taylor Tibbott
senior, secondary education

Gridlock in legislature means government works



Guest Column

Justin Bis

A lot of people are upset by the gridlock in Washington, D.C. I, for one, think this gridlock is one of the best features of American government. Why? Congress is divided — but so are the American people.

If the American people are divided, then their Congress ought to be divided. Because what is the alternative? Half of the people not being represented?

When I hear cries for Republicans to compromise (never cries for Democrats to compromise), I'm skeptical because it leaves a large part of the electorate unrepresented. There are many people who believe fervently in the ideas those representatives profess.

Dismissing political actors as radicals and extremists is not how

you solve the present political crisis. Leaving people without a voice is not how we solve our problems.

That is not to say I don't find it troubling Americans are divided. I do. I'm very worried the division between left and right is turning from an intellectual dispute into visceral hatred on both sides. Hatred has no place in civil government. But we must understand why people are divided and what's at stake.

There are two broad camps in American politics: conservatism and social liberalism. Briefly defined, that is people who are skeptical of government, utopia and rational planning; and those who are for it. Americans are divided between those who are skeptical of power and those who wish to embrace it.

It is no secret that I embrace conservatism. My belief in limited government is nicely summed up in one of George Washington's most famous quotations: "Government is not reason; it is not eloquent; it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fear-

ful master." There's a lot at stake when using government to solve problems.

Government is the policeman, the judge, the executioner, the military official — government has the power of life and death. Fearful and constrained, we must be with such power. We must be cautious and deliberate when discussing policy, or else we rush into action and use such power irresponsibly.

On the complete other side of the fence, we have social liberalism. Social liberals believe government can improve people's lives if we make the right programs, pass the right laws and implement the right regulation into everyday affairs.

Central to this thinking is the idea that some people are more qualified to run your life than you.

Social liberalism is an arrogant philosophy. They believe they know how the economy works: they have the right equations and graphs to map out the entire system of millions of individual actors interacting with each other — and more — that they can control it.

They believe they know how the entire ecosystem works: that they can pinpoint every chemical, every reaction, every molecule — and that if there's a problem, they can command all of man and all of nature to solve it. But they really don't know that much.

Instead, they create a well-intentioned plan that doesn't take every variable into account, and then there are unintended consequences.

Those unintended consequences range in seriousness, based on the amount of power the mistake possesses: while an employee making a mistake could be fired, a company making a mistake could go out of business, a government making a mistake — hundreds, thousands of people could lose their jobs, businesses could close or people could even die.

Remember, government is force. I know it's corny, but to quote Gandalf, "Many that live deserve death. And some that die deserve life. Can you give it to them? Then do not be too eager to deal out death in judgment. For even

the very wise cannot see all ends."

But of course, we need government. We need there to be a protecting force in our lives or else there would be anarchy and mass violence. We need government as a threat against violence. We need it, but we need to realize how powerful a tool it really is.

Its application needs to be limited as much as possible because we might be wrong and a misapplication could be fatal.

This is why I am glad there is gridlock. I would rather government not act than to act imprudently, rather Congress bicker than have a serious rollback of the Second Amendment, than have carbon taxes, than have another disastrous stimulus package.

I, like roughly half of Americans, sleep easier when Congress is out of session rather than in it. I do not hate Democrats; I just don't agree with their philosophy. In fact, I think it's dangerous.

Perhaps the nastiness of American politics would end if we came to understand where the other side comes from.

Women in United States military fight on front lines for equality



Guest Column

Ellen Lindholm

Women have been serving in our country in many different ways during the wars that helped women become independent and kept Americans free.

One of the most famous women to be on the front lines was Molly Pitcher. She is known for bringing "pitchers" of water to soldiers on the battlefield. There were even a few women who dared to impersonate men in order to serve in combat.

Because of the influence of patriarchy from the English founders of the colonies, ideals about women being the weaker, fairer and to put it bluntly, a less intelligent sex, were deeply ingrained in

our nation's culture. Men believed women couldn't possibly handle the physical and mental strain of combat or war.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, women who wanted to serve during wartime were only allowed to serve as nurses, laundresses, cooks or on the home front. Then in 1941, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps was formed.

From 1948 until 1994, women serving in the military had gradually gained more privileges and seniority. But in 1994, after all of the progress made for women in the military, the Pentagon instituted the Combat Exclusion Policy. This new policy prohibited women from being assigned to infantry, artillery, armor and other such combat roles.

The Secretary of Defense permitted the different branches of the military to close positions to women if the units and positions are required to physically collocate and remain with direct ground

combat units. The service secretary claimed the cost of providing separate living arrangements for women could be considered a burden and the job-related physical requirements would exclude the majority of service women.

The purpose of this change was to expand opportunities for women in the services. Additionally, the secretary promised that no units or positions previously open to women would be closed. The secretary also issued a definition of direct combat to ensure that it would span every branch of the military consistently.

At that time, officials in the Department of Defense believed the integration of women into direct combat did not have congressional or public support. Transcripts of a 1994 press briefing showed that officials also believed assigning women to direct combat units "would not contribute to the readiness and effectiveness of those

units" because of physical strength, stamina and privacy issues.

Women currently make up 14 percent of our 1.4 million active military personnel. Although women were not allowed to officially serve in combat, many had to engage in combat throughout the war in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan. This caused the lines to be blurred between the roles of combat and non-combat personnel.

Essentially there were no "non-combat" areas, and the law did not recognize this as reality. In these wars, more than 800 women were wounded and more than 150 were killed. Women obviously have been serving throughout this combat ban, but they have hardly been recognized for their service.

On Thursday, Jan. 24, the 1994 ban on women in our armed forces was finally lifted. With the ban being lifted, more than 230,000 new positions now will be available to service women. Women will have

the opportunity to move up in the ranks, hold higher seniority positions and participate fully in any military operation. "They serve, they're wounded, and they die right next to each other. The time has come to recognize that reality," Secretary Leon Panetta said.

Holding people back from what they believe is their calling in life is unforgivable. This is the land of opportunity, and discriminating against women as to not allow them to follow their dreams is just shameful. This is about honor and service as much as it is about jobs and opportunity.

Lifting the ban on women in combat is a major step towards gender equality. Those who meet qualifications for combat should be able to serve in that capacity regardless of race, sexuality or gender. Through these steps towards equality our military will be stronger, more talented and more diverse than ever.

Sound Off

Does winter weather affect your mood?

Compiled by Dan Marchky



Mark Makosky
sophomore, undeclared
"I love the winter weather and the cold."



Tara Truscott
sophomore, photography
"Winter depresses me because I enjoy long walks on the beach with a really good book."



Michael DeWaele
junior, clinical lab science
"Yes. It restricts me from doing things I love."



Kall Zender
senior, creative writing
"It does not affect my mood. I do winter sports and it makes me happy."



Paige Howard
junior, respiratory therapy
"I like winter! I enjoy winter sports, and taking Vitamin D helps me."

NMU WinterFest shines with 'WINTER NIGHTS' and 'CARNIVAL LIGHTS'

By Nolan Krebs
features editor

For a lot of students, part of NMU's allure is its seasonal identity as a snow-lover's paradise.

Starting Friday, Feb. 15, student groups, residence hall houses and other university-affiliated organizations will be competing against each other in the 2013 NMU WinterFest, an event that special events committee adviser Lizzie Corser said is a reminder of the place students hold dear.

"From a student perspective, WinterFest is an opportunity to celebrate the winter wonderland we all fell in love with at Northern," Corser said. "From an organizations perspective, it's a great way to create community for the group and reach out to new members."

From the notorious human sled dog races to the airband competition, the

week-long event is a celebration of school spirit, said special events coordinator Jordan Paquet.

"It starts with the U.P. 200, and all week long we'll have competitions for students to win some free stuff, as well as cash prizes," Paquet said.

The U.P. 200, an annual sled dog race which runs through downtown Marquette, starts at 7 p.m. on Washington Street. The next WinterFest event, the kickoff for a campus-wide game of Clue, begins at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 17 in Pioneer Room B of the UC.

"For Clue, we'll have a medallion hid on campus and release clues about where it's hidden," Paquet said.

Clues will be distributed every night, until Friday, Feb. 22, or until the medallion is found.

From 4 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 18, the Mar-

ketplace will be holding a WinterFest dinner to match this year's theme — "Winter Nights and Carnival Lights."

"The Marketplace will be serving food that goes along with the theme, in this case it'll be carnival food," Paquet said.

A banner competition will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19 at the Berry Events Center, followed by an openskate from 6 to 9 p.m. Groups are encouraged to decorate banners that support WinterFest and the men and women's basketball teams; and will be displayed throughout the week at the basketball games versus Lake Superior State University.

An airband competition will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20 in Jamrich 102. Groups will compete by choosing a song to lip sync and choreograph dances to. The Beaumier

Upper Peninsula Heritage Center will be hosting a euchre tournament at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 22 in the Great Lakes Rooms of the UC.

The human sled dog races will take place at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23 on the Payne/Halverson fields.

"The groups get to make their own sled out of whatever materials, some choose a shopping cart," Paquet said. "Then they race around the course on the Payne/Halverson fields."

Saturday's events will end with the broomball championship game at 3 p.m. behind the Superior Dome.

At 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 24, the Beaumier Heritage Center will be sponsoring a Great Yooper Folk Dance in the Great Lakes Rooms, and there will be a Women's Hair Drive from noon to 5 p.m. on the Payne/Halverson Lobby.

"Winners for each event

will get a lot of free stuff, and the overall winner will get bragging rights and a \$200 cash prize," Paquet said.

Paquet also said students interested in helping to plan activities like WinterFest are encouraged to attend meetings. The special events committee meets on Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Back Room of the University Center.

The deadline to submit entries for the airband competition, human sled dog races, Clue and the banner competition is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 12. Completed entry forms, which can be found at www.nmu.edu/winterfest, should be turned in to Room 1205 of the UC.

For more information about NMU WinterFest, call the special events committee at (906) 227-1622.



Photo courtesy of Center for Student Engagement. Students prepare for the human sled dog races, a popular event at the annual NMU WinterFest.



Photo courtesy of Center for Student Engagement. A student prepares for stiff competition in the human sled dog races on the Payne/Halverson fields.



Photo courtesy of Center for Student Engagement. The airband competition requires groups to choreograph a dance for their choice of song.



Photo courtesy of Center for Student Engagement. NMU WinterFest is a week-long event each year that pits student groups and organizations against each other in different events.



Photo courtesy of Center for Student Engagement. The recreational broomball championship game will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23 behind the Superior Dome.



Photo courtesy of Center for Student Engagement. The Berry Events Center will host an openskate from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19.

'Heart Strings' concert features guest musicians

By Nick Brown
contributing writer

Around this time of year, U.P. residents might be looking for a way to stave off the cabin fever due to the subzero temperatures, vicious winds and overcast skies — all of which can make the great outdoors an increasingly difficult place to be.

Those looking for indoor comfort may find it in music of the Marquette Symphony Orchestra, which will be holding its semi-annual concert on Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Kaufman Auditorium.

The concert is entitled "Heart Strings" and will feature guest violinist Haeji Kim, the winner of the Marquette Symphony Orchestra's Youth Concerto Competition for Strings.

"She's 15 and she's phenomenal," said Kathy Maynard, president of the board of trustees for the Marquette Symphony Orchestra.

According to the Dearborn Symphony Orchestra website, Kim has been playing violin since she was 5 years old. Since then, Kim has received instruction from teachers at the University of Michigan and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Kim will be performing Wieniawski's "Violin Concerto No. 1 in F Sharp Minor" with orchestral accompaniment.

The orchestra will also be performing "Overture to War and Peace" by Prokofiev and Randall Thompson's "Symphony No. 2" with guest conductor Robert Ritsema. Ritsema has also been the principal cellist in the Marquette Symphony Orchestra for 12 years. The pieces for the concert are unique, Ritsema said, and aren't something one would hear often.

"All of the pieces we'll be performing

are very unusual," Ritsema said. "They are seldom heard pieces, especially 'Violin Concerto No.1.' [Kim] will be performing them with us, and she's just a fantastic player and still a high schooler."

The Marquette Symphony Orchestra holds around four concerts a year in Marquette, typically in September, November, February and May. According to the group's website, the Marquette Symphony Orchestra took shape in 1996 and began performing in 1997 as a regional symphony orchestra.

The group has 72 players, 60 of which are from Marquette County and includes public school students, while others reside in the Lower Peninsula and northern Wisconsin.

The spring concert, which will take place on Saturday, April 20 at the Kaufman Auditorium, will feature Wei-Wei Le as a guest violinist.

"She is just a wonder," Maynard said.

Le is an assistant professor at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and has played with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London and Queensland Symphony in Australia. Le also played with the Marquette Symphony in the October concert of 2011.

"[Le] was here last year and just dazzled the audience," Maynard said.

Tickets for the "Heart Strings" concert are available at all NMU EZ ticket outlets and cost \$12 for students and children 13 to 18. Tiered seating is available and costs \$17, \$27 and \$32 respectively for adults.

For more information about the concert of upcoming events with the Marquette Symphony Orchestra, visit www.marquettesymphony.org.



Dr. Jacob Cui, Principal Conductor
Marquette Symphony Orchestra
With Guest Conductor Robert Ritsema

Heart Strings

7:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 9, 2013 at Kaufman Auditorium

Guest Soloist Haeji Kim, winner of the MSO Youth Concerto Competition for Strings, will join the Symphony as they perform *Violin Concerto No. 1, F sharp minor* by Wieniawski

The Symphony will also perform *Overture to War and Peace* by Prokofiev and *Symphony No. 2* by Thompson

Tickets on Sale Now!
Adults \$17, \$27, \$32 Tiered Seating
Students: \$12

Children 13-18: \$12 Under 13: \$9
Tickets Available at NMU EZ Ticket Outlets
906-227-1032,
www.NMU.edu/tickets

www.MarquetteSymphony.org



Photo courtesy of John French
The 'Heart Strings' concert will host guest soloist Haeji Kim of the MSO Youth Concerto.

Paranormal Research Team investigates spirits of Marquette

By Mikenzie Frost
contributing writer

Not everyone believes in ghosts, but according to a CBS News poll, almost half of Americans do.

For the Paranormal Research Team (PRT) at NMU, dealing with skeptics hasn't put a damper on recruiting new members.

"We welcome skeptics to come to our meetings to check us out," said PRT president Brooke Linn. "We even have some skeptics on the team. The only thing we ask is that you have an open mind."

The PRT has been an active student organization at NMU since 2003; according to the description on NMU's student organization website, "the Paranormal Research Team serves to educate themselves as well as the community on the paranormal by gathering and collecting data."

Despite being around for nearly a decade, only recently have they grown to the size that they are today.

According to Linn, PRT started to grow last year and now has between 18 and 20 active members.

Membership isn't limited to only NMU students, Linn said, and some members commute from as far as Escanaba. The

only requirements to join the PRT are to come to three consecutive meetings, pay the \$20 per semester dues for a T-shirt and gas to and from investigation sites and to complete the training to use their equipment.

Each member of the team must receive training if they want to participate in any scientific research that they conduct, Linn said.

This is because PRT uses actual scientific data when either confirming or denying any paranormal activity. If the paranormal activity that is confirmed by PRT

requires further investigation, Linn said, they will make sure that the clients receives the attention that is necessary for them.

PRT works with the community and will do investigations for private homes as well as businesses. Although Linn cannot disclose exactly where the group has confirmed activity, Linn said they have had some confirmed significant temperature changes, spirit interaction and electronic voice phenomena, otherwise known as EVP, which is the capture of spirit voices on magnetic tape as audio recordings.

Throughout the year, PRT puts on two large, campus-wide events. In the fall, PRT presents Haunted Tours of Marquette, in which the members take groups of people who are interested in the paranormal activity to all of the supposedly haunted locations around town.

The Presque Isle breakwall, various residence halls and the abandoned Holy Family Orphanage are all considered frequent stops for the spirits that like to wander around the area.

The abandoned orphanage is something of a legend among

both new students and old, said senior English major Dane Branson.

"[The orphanage] definitely has the reputation of where to go when you want to get spooked," Branson said. "Especially when students are new here, there's a lot of rumors about it and kids want to check it out."

While Branson said he has never ventured inside of the building, the outside can be just as spine-tingling.

"Even just driving by or looking at it, you get the idea that it's definitely haunted," Branson said.

Linn said some people have said that they have heard some eerie, rickety and suspicious noises around the residence halls, as well.

This spring, PRT will be presenting a guest speaker for the entire campus. Linn said details have not been revealed just yet as to whom it is actually going to be, but the speaker will be a psychic medium who will give a lecture for a portion of the presentation and then open it up to a gallery reading at the end.

The Paranormal Research Team meets every Sunday in New Science 1205 from 5 to 7 p.m.

For more information about the PRT or upcoming events, email Linn at blinn@nmu.edu.



Nolan Krebs/NW
The Presque Isle breakwall is considered by the Paranormal Research Team to be a hot spot for spiritual activity.

Local Natives take flight with 'Hummingbird'



Album: Hummingbird
Artist: Local Natives
Release Date: January 29
Label: Frenchkiss Records
Runtime: 44:06



By Barry Winslow
 staff writer

It is incredible how musical genres become less apparent and more difficult to pinpoint over time — perhaps this makes new artist finds more amusing and fun to listen to today.

What remains true, though, is how acts like Local Natives have a keen way of blending genres that we are familiar with into something new, fresh and seemingly simple at first listen, but are seeping with subtle aural complexities.

Local Natives, a four-piece indie rock band hailing from Silver

Lake, Calif., is a perfect example of this multi-genre framework.

Comprised of guitarists Ryan Hahn and Taylor Rice, keyboardist Kelcey Ayer and drummer Matt Frazier, the band bursted onto the indie rock scene in early 2010 with their eponymous and highly regarded debut, "Gorilla Manor."

Drenched in fluid three-part harmonies with Hahn, Rice and Ayer all handling vocal duties and catchy, clink-ity drum hooks, "Gorilla Manor" easily rivaled such similar releases as Fleet Foxes' self-titled debut and Grizzly Bear's "Veckitunist."

However, they were also grounded to a sound that was purely their own and identifiable.

The hits from "Gorilla Man-

or," such as "Wide Eyes" and "Sun Hands," received attention on radio stations and caught the ears of new fans by playing nine shows at the 2009 SXSW festival in Austin, TX.

The band set out on a European tour in 2011 as the opening act for the ever-popular Edward Sharpe & the Magnetic Zeros.

Taking a bit of time to breathe after their 2011 tour, Local Natives has returned with their second album, "Hummingbird," released on Tuesday, Jan. 29 on Frenchkiss Records.

Where "Gorilla Manor" was surprising, upbeat and melodic, "Hummingbird" finds itself more soft-spoken, smooth and dreamlike.

Matt Frazier's drumming is a focal point in the band's sound, as it has always been at the forefront and as equally important, if not more so, than the vocals themselves.

The band has definitely matured on "Hummingbird," as the band is less sporadic with their song structures and seem more confident in their musical direction.

The mastering and recording is much cleaner, which gives the entire album an astral and glassy tone.

The first track, "You & I," creeps into existence with echoey

guitar layering that blends into simple piano chording and Rice's distinguishable soprano vocals. Very similar to the marching drums and reverberated landscapes found on Grizzly Bear songs, the track finally breaks free of its drumming pattern and free falls into a colorful array of atmospheric guitars and brass horns.

The second tune, "Heavy Feet," starts quietly, relying on quick and staccato snare taps and gradually molds into a liquid smooth vocal harmony over atmospheric electric guitar lines.

The fifth track, "Breakers," is the album's high point, as Rice and gang take vocal harmony to new limits.

Layers upon layers of dreamlike harmony stretch and bend through galactic synth tones and crazy looping guitar fills. This is the definition of technicolor vocal splendor and is the best track I've heard from the group yet.

"Black Balloons," the seventh song, is a cut constructed around a very simple, airy guitar pattern and is backed by a hefty base of deep organ fills. The songs builds in strength until finally halting atop visceral guitar shrieks and blasting vocals.

The ninth track, "Mt. Washington," is a gentle acoustic track that floats dreamily along a cloud

of clean guitar effects with wiggly repeats and Hammond organ notation. Rice repeats the line "I don't have to see you right now/ I don't have to see you right now" and puts the song to rest as peacefully as it started with a lengthy fade out.

The eleventh and final track, "Bowery," is yet another peaceful tune. Sophisticated drumming is again at the forefront, and another harmonious vocal attack drenches the songs high end.

Screaming, yet soft guitar patterns rise from under Rice's vocals and speed along without a sense of normalcy or predictability — a perfect way to end this dynamite collection of tracks.

Local Natives is a force to be reckoned with. The band has come such a long way since 2009's "Gorilla Manor," which is quite the feat in itself as "Gorilla" is a magnificent debut.

Fans of Local Natives will likely be blown away with what this album has to offer, even if at times it can get a bit soft-spoken and heartfelt.

If you are a fan of the music by Grizzly Bear, Bon Iver, The National or Fleet Foxes, then "Hummingbird" should most definitely find its way into your car's stereo system — just be sure to roll down your windows so others can hear it, too.

Photograph by Jeffrey M. Harper

"If you can dream it, you can do it!"

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California punks FIDLAR release catchy debut



Album: FIDLAR
 Artist: FIDLAR
 Release Date: January 22
 Label: Morn+Pop
 Runtime: 39 minutes



By Kate Clark
 contributing writer

The band FIDLAR, who released their self-titled debut in January, has not put much effort into differentiating themselves from every other surf band who calls California home.

FIDLAR is loud and would like everyone to know how much they enjoy the beach and getting high.

What sets them apart from the pack, however, is how rudely they deliver this message. Try comparing them to fellow LA native Beth Consentino of Best Coast, who laments over wishing her cat, Snacks, could speak and the fact

her fling is taking her weed.

Then there's FIDLAR singer Zac Carp, who would like everyone to know in the album's opener he drinks "cheap beer, so what," which is followed by a few shouts of well-known explicit words.

While the record isn't very original, and it'd be a stretch to even call it good, "FIDLAR" is as addictively catchy as the substances that came into most their songs.

The band, whose name is an acronym for the skater saying, "F*ck it Dog, Life's a Risk" is composed of Carp, Brandon Schwartzel and brothers Elvis and Max Kuehn, the sons of T.S.O.L.'s Greg Kuehn.

The four-piece began playing together in 2009 and, like most groups of their generation, re-

leased a set of demos through the Internet.

In the spring of 2011, FIDLAR released a four song EP, "DIYDUI," with White Iris Records. Three of those songs, "No Waves," "Wake Bake Skate" and "Wait for the Man," appear on the full-length album with a few tweaks here and there.

"Wake," with its slowed down tempo and peppy guitar lead, is the most changed, with new tracks "Cheap Beer" and "Cocaine" borrowing from its original energy.

"FIDLAR" crams 14 songs and one hidden track into the album's 39 minutes. Like most punk

bands, it lacks a whole lot of variety and almost all of the tracks follow the same fuzzed-up three-chord progression.

Songs "Stoked and Broke" and "Paycheck" can easily be skipped over and unmissed. They aren't bad, but songs

with sluggish guitars and woozy singing are one in a thousand.

Despite this, and that FIDLAR's sound is exactly like every other Californian band that came out of a garage, some of tracks off the "FIDLAR" are painfully catchy.

"No Waves," with added little handclaps and barely-there keyboards, manages to stand on its own.

"Wait for the Man" has remained relatively unchanged from its original appearance on "DIYDUI," and that's a good thing.

"Gimmie Something" is the one-song exception where FIDLAR

chooses to step away from their tried and tested formula, something that the band should do more of.

It's also a track where Carp doesn't sound like that kid who got high one time and now requires everyone to know about it.

This isn't an album that requires a lot of thought while listening unless there is a philosophical reason to why the titular character of "Max Can't Surf" can't do so because he's a ginger.

Otherwise, "FIDLAR" is solid and noisy debut record from a young band who still has time to figure out their own sound — as long as they don't overdose first.



Photo courtesy of FIDLAR
 FIDLAR, a punk band from Los Angeles, craft songs that follow simple but catchy progressions.

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Offensive rally seals upset over Tech

Undermanned 'Cats walk away from home game with a 59-55 win

By Katie Bultman
staff writer

The men's basketball team has faced injuries throughout much of the season, and with only eight members eligible to play, the 'Cats overcame that setback and took advantage of the home crowd to earn a victory over rival Michigan Tech in a 59-55 win.

On Saturday, Feb. 2, the Berry Events Center held nearly triple the attendance of previous season men's basketball games when 923 fans gathered to support the rival game between the Northern Michigan Wildcats and the Michigan Tech Huskies.

The teams met in a game that went back and forth between the two rivals with 14 lead changes.

The game resulted in a 59-55 Wildcat win to upset the now 10-5 conference Huskies.

Head coach Doug Lewis said the effort going into the win was a victory in itself after the rough stretch that the team had faced.

"More than anything, our guys felt great because of the adversity we've been through with all of the injuries," Lewis said. "They have continued to work hard and having it pay off was a big relief to our young guys who are growing up and understanding what it takes at this level."

Junior forward Matt Craggs finished the game with a team-high of 20 points for the win. Craggs added eight rebounds, two steals and two assists. Junior forward Scooter Johnson chipped in nine points and eight rebounds for the team.

Freshman guard Stephen Pelkofer added 11 points, nine of which he scored off of three-point shots. The first shot of the game came after Pelkofer took a three-point shot from behind the arc, putting the 'Cats at a lead within the first minute of the game.

The Wildcats held the largest lead of the game at four minutes into play when they were up by a

nine-point margin. Going into the second half, Michigan Tech was up 28-27 over the 'Cats, but the lead did not last long. In the second half, the team leads changed 11 times as the men battled to the final buzzer for the victory.

Lewis said the rivalry out on the court played a big factor in how close the game was.

"The main thing is that this was a rival game and you have to be ready to play," Lewis said. "Rival games go down to the wire, and this is going to give us the confidence going into two tough games this weekend. Now we know that we can beat any team in this conference."

NMU took down 29 boards in comparison to the 23 from the Huskies. The 'Cats also beat the Huskies from the free-throw line, where NMU was 79 percent with 11 out of 14 free throws and Tech was at 71 percent.

With only eight turnovers, the Wildcats handled the ball better against Michigan Tech than they had in previous games throughout the season, where the team has racked up around 15 turnovers in several nights of play.

Sophomore forward Kendall Jackson said the Wildcats took

the lead in every portion of the game on Saturday afternoon.

"We controlled Ali (Hader), their big man," Jackson said. "We played together as a team and limited turnovers. We won every aspect of the game. The large turnout pumped us up to play and we were happy to beat our rivals."

This upcoming weekend the Wildcats face Grand Valley State University at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7 at the Berry Events Center. The 'Cats then play at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9 against Ferris State University in another home game.

Senior forward TJ Cameron said the win against Michigan Tech should work as a team drive for the remainder of the season, especially in some of the tougher games.

"We knew what we had to do to get the win for the fans (last weekend) and it all played out," Cameron said. "In rivalry games, all records go out the window, and after the game there was a lot of excitement. It was crazy in the locker room. Now we are going to continue trying to win every game, and now that the momentum is positive hopefully it'll carry over."



Justin Key/NW

Senior forward TJ Cameron (1) has a 3-point percentage of .468, making 22 out of 47 baskets this season. Cameron has also contributed 126 points.

GLIACs dominated by Wildcat skiers

By Dustin Anand
contributing writer

The Northern Michigan University Nordic men's ski team coasted to first place in the Central Collegiate Ski Association Championship at the Al Quaal Recreational Center in Ishpeming, Mich.

The CCSA Championship started Saturday, Feb. 2. The competition was a combination of sprint races, relays, mass-start skate race and individual classic race.

Saturday's event consisted of a freestyle sprint and Sunday was the classic relay race, both of which the men's and women's team won overall with total of points.

The men's team topped first place in the 1.6 kilometer freestyle sprint.

Junior George Cartwright finished first place along with junior Ben Hugus in fourth and junior Erik Soderman in 6th for the men's Green and Gold team. For the women's team, three athletes scored in the top 10.

Cartwright said he was pleased with his team's performance and the dedication everyone had.

"This weekend went well for the team," Cartwright said. "As a team, we won all the events for both men and women. We expected nothing less."

The 'Cats total points topped

six other schools to win the event. A few schools who competed were Michigan Tech, Alaska-Fairbanks and UW-Green Bay.

"The CCSA championship is sort of an overall cup based on various event," Cartwright said. "I had a solid weekend. I was fortunate to have two other very solid skiers on my team."

New part-time assistant coach Ingrid Fjeldheim said the team exceeded their expectations thus far in the CCSA Championship.

"As a coach, it's so rewarding to see all the athlete's hard work for training and dedication pay off," Fjeldheim said. "We saw some great improvements in technique and, of course, some fast skiing."

The men's team rallied up 73 points claiming first place with Michigan Tech coming in third with 64 points.

"The season has been going very well," Fjeldheim said. "The team meshes really well, both men's and women's. It's a great group of athletes, mature and professional."

The Wildcat men's team finished on a high note placing in first Sunday in the classic relays. The 'Cats maintained the lead to stay on top as Erik Soderman, sophomore Kyle Bratrud and Cartwright raced to first place in the men's 3x10-kilometer relay.

"Everybody worked well together, and we ended up taking

home the entire event," Soderman said. "The new course out at Al Quaal is fantastic to ski on, and the event was well executed."

With the big finish of the men's classic relay, the 'Cats locked up first position with 78 points, with College of Saint Scholastica finishing in second with 69 points and Michigan Tech with 60 according to NMU Press Box.

For the women's team, the 'Cats held the title with 78 points. Trailing behind was University of Alaska Fairbanks with 69 points and Michigan Tech with 60 points

also according to NMU Press Box.

"We saw great improvements in technique and of course some fast skiing," Fjeldheim said. "It was an easy weekend for waxing which always makes the coach's job a bit easier. It was fun to be able to race on our home course."

Fjeldheim said she looks forward for players to qualify for the NCAA championship and that the top 13 athletes at the NCAA tournament will be announced All-Americans.

"The biggest goal for all colle-

giate ski athletes is to compete at the NCAA in March," Fjeldheim said. "We are aiming to qualify a complete team, which is with three men and three women."

The 'Cats look to tag-team with other athletes in the region to compete with the other regions. The NCAA championship will be held in Middlebury, Vt., starting on Wednesday, March 6. The 'Cats will continue the CCSA Championship for the distance portion on Saturday, Feb. 16 through Sunday, Feb. 17 in Coleraine, Minn.



Justin Key/NW

Junior George Cartwright competed in the 1.6 kilometer freestyle sprint, placing in first place followed by juniors Erik Soderman and Ben Hugus. Cartwright also took first with his teammates in the 3x10 kilometer relay.

Tech falls to Wildcats

Excitement in the Berry after taking down the Huskies boosts team morale

By Katie Bultman
staff writer

The women's basketball team celebrates every win with a Wildcat chant, but on Saturday afternoon the team chant was filled with even more excitement than usual after defeating rival Michigan Tech, 69-60.

Prior to the game on Saturday, Feb. 2 at the Berry Events Center, the Huskies were 11-3 in the GLIAC.

The Wildcats stepped on the floor as the underdog with a 7-7 conference record, and were able to clinch the win over Tech. NMU improved the conference record to 8-7, forcing the Huskies down to second in the conference rankings.

"We were so excited," said sophomore forward Maria Almquist following the 'Cats comeback from a 15 point deficit in the second period. "We celebrate every win with a chant at the end of the game, but, on Saturday, it went on extra long. We all jumped on each other afterwards."

The team excitement came when the 'Cats more than doubled the Huskies on rebounds, taking down 48 over Michigan Tech's 20 to end the game. Sophomore forward Abbey DeBruin accounted for one-fourth of the team's rebounds, as she grabbed 12 for the books.

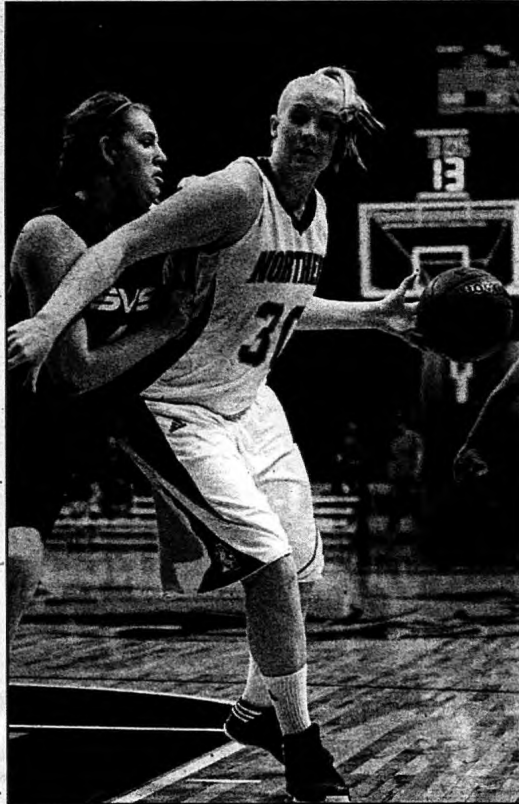
Head coach Troy Mattson said the rebounding was a huge factor in the win for Northern Michigan.

"The girls wanted the game more than Tech, and we really beat them up on the boards," Mattson said. "We had 13 offensive rebounds in the second half, and the girls and the coaches were all excited that we played so well in the last 15 minutes of the game."

Northern Michigan was down by 12 points at the half, 30-18.

Michigan Tech was able to raise the lead, to as much as a 15-point advantage with 15:07 left in the game, which was the point at which Mattson said the girls played their hardest.

Sophomore guard Alyssa Cola finished with a team-high of 22 points and ended up 100 percent from the free throw line, sinking



Justin Key/NW
Freshman forward Nea Makela (30) works her way around an SVSU guard earlier in the season. Makela earned 12 points total on Saturday.

12 out of 12 shots from the charity stripe.

Sophomore guard Lauren Gruber finished with 14 points and grabbed 8 rebounds in addition to making 100 percent of her shots from the free throw line. Gruber made 6 out of 6 to add to the Wildcat victory margin. Freshman forward Nea Makela contributed 12 points while chipping in six rebounds.

Freshman guard Anna Liewen, who finished with 10 points and eight rebounds, said the turning point in the game was a play that happened just after that 15-minute mark.

"The turning point came when we made a stop on defense, so it was our ball," Liewen said. "Down the court Nea missed a layup, and I saved the ball from going out of bounce. Alyssa

got the ball from me and took a shot and missed, but Lauren got an offensive rebound and made the basket. We more than doubled them on the boards, and if we play like that we can beat anyone we want to if we just keep that consistency."

The team finished with 46 percent on

baskets from the floor, and also finished 79 percent from the charity stripe, making 27 of the 34 free shots taken.

Mattson said during the game the team focused on three primary goals that needed to be accomplished for the win.

"We started to attack on offense the second half, and we said that there were three things to focus on," Mattson said. "We needed to beat up on the glass, get the ball inside to the centers, which we did by getting the ball to Nea (Makela) and attack on the dribble, and everybody did these three things."

This weekend the Wildcats will take the court at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7, at the Berry Events Center to play third-ranked Grand Valley State University.

At 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9 the girls take the home court again to play Ferris State University.

Mattson said the win this past weekend will serve as motivation for the difficulty of the upcoming games.

"Anytime you beat a rival school, you feel good," Mattson said. "The girls did it with complete effort and that's where they will continue to get better and bring some energy."

Swimmers look toward GLIAC finals

By Cody Boyer
sports editor

After making national standings and taking part in a home meet celebrating their seniors, the NMU swimming and diving team is gearing up to attend the 2013 GLIAC Championships.

The swim team will be traveling to Canton, Ohio after taking 24th out of 25 NCAA Division II swimming and diving teams.

No. 6 Ashland University will be hosting the competitions at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 6 through Saturday, Feb. 9.

NMU head coach Heidi Voigt said she is feeling confident about her team's abilities as they prepare to travel to the championships.

"I feel pretty good," Voigt said. "I feel that we were a bit under-ranked so we should surprise everyone. The seniors are looking good, and everyone is just aiming at doing well during their final swims."

Last season, the Wildcats finished fourth place out of nine other teams.

Wayne State University, currently ranked second in the conference, placed first, while Grand Valley (12th) placed second and Indianapolis (not ranked) took third.

NMU was ranked eighth in the NCAA.

Voigt said the championships are unique compared to other competitions the team has experienced throughout the season.

"It is so different than any other meet," Voigt said. "There is always a lot more pressure. Our segment is really about setting up for a great swim, but you could cut the atmosphere with a knife."

The Wildcats highlighted last year's GLIAC Championships in the 200-yard backstroke.

Sophomore Abby Alzaga placed second in the event, while sophomore Emily Bourguignon placed third.

Sophomore Emily Brennan took second place in the 400-yard individual medley.

Brennan also broke a school record in the event (4:27.97) to become an NCAA Championship provisional qualifier.

Sophomore Molly Kear-

ney said she is looking forward in competing in this year's championships after not competing in them last season.

"It will definitely be an exciting competition for me," Kearney said. "I think our team is prepared for it, and everyone is pumped. I also think we have a lot of girls who are qualified for Nationals later in the season."

Voigt said Kearney is one of the several athletes that she expects will be a great turnout in her event as they go into the competitions.

"Molly really is a great diver," Voigt said. "She was really looking good earlier this week, and deserves a turn-of-the-head."

Voigt also said the relay team is adding a lot of promise to the team's ranks.

"We also have a really good-looking relay team," Voigt said. "They could really bring a great beginning to the week."

Following the GLIAC Championship, the Wildcats could be getting ready to return to Ohio later in the season to compete in the NCAA Championship if members of the team qualify for the competition.

Last season, sophomore Emily Brennan provisionally qualified for the NCAA when she broke a school record during the 2012 GLIAC Championship in the 400-yard individual medley.

Alzaga also qualified for Nationals.

Alzaga placed eighth in the 200-yard backstroke, achieving All-American status.

The team also earned the Team Scholar All-American Award last season following Nationals.

The award was given due to the team holding a cumulative GPA of 3.4 or above.

The NCAA Championship takes place at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 5 through Saturday, March 9 in Cleveland, Ohio.

"Everyone has been working extremely hard this season," Kearney said. "The work ethic is a lot more prevalent this time around, and everyone has been improving since the beginning. It's a friendly and happy environment for all of us."

Runners grab victories in Wisconsin

By William Burns
staff writer

The Northern Michigan University women's track and field team was in Stevens Point, Wis. on Saturday, Feb. 2 competing at the Pointer Invitational where the Wildcats earned four first-place finishes during the meet.

Sophomore Brittni Wirtz competed in two events over the weekend. Wirtz took first place in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.88 seconds. Wirtz also competed in the 200-meter dash and ran for a time of 26.45 seconds, which earned her a fourth-place spot in the event.

Wirtz also tied her overall best time for the 200-meter competition and said she was really happy with how everyone performed.

"Everyone did really good this weekend," Wirtz said. "A lot of people got their best records and every one seemed to have been really excited with how their races went."

Everyone did really good this weekend. A lot of people got their best records and everyone seemed to have been really excited with how their races went.

— Brittni Wirtz
Sophomore

In the 400-meter relay seniors Brooke Granquist and Colby West and junior Sydney Schultz along with sophomore Caitlin Keskey ended up in third place with a time of 4:17.87.

Juniors Mallory Celaya and Evelyne Ruiz and sophomore Emily Allen competed in the 3000-meter run. Celaya ran a time of 10:53.96, which was good enough to get her into the top five.

Allen came in 12th place with a time of 11:10.78, while Ruiz followed in 13th place while running for a time of 11:11.92. The 5,000-meter run included junior Chelsea Farquhar, sophomore Olivia Howard and seniors Rita Woitas and Brittany Loomis.

The Wildcats took the top three spots with Farquhar winning with a time of 18:47.04. Howard took second with a time of 19:18.32. Rounding out the top three was Woitas, who ran a time of 19:26.34. Loomis placed eighth in the event with a time of 20:33.22.

Senior and captain Delaney Lovett competed in the triple jump and was just .15 meters short of taking first place.

With a leap of 10.78 meters, Lovett took second place. Lovett said she is happy with the result but said she

knows she can do better.

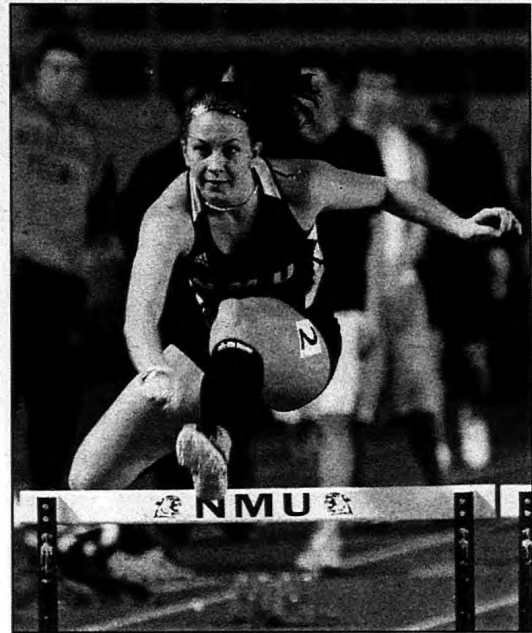
"It wasn't my best jump," Lovett said. "It was good enough to get me a second place finish. I know I can do better. I am going to be working on my approach this week and get myself ready for next weekend's event."

The distance medley also was a success for the lady 'Cats as they won the event. Sophomores Katie Granquist and Larissa Halonen, along with freshmen Jaylee Brown and Abby Roche competed in the event and ran for a time of 13:11.51.

Junior Cheyenne Stewart participated in two events at the Pointer Invitational. Stewart competed in the long jump where she made a leap of 5.53 meters and took first place. She also participated in the high jump where she placed second after jumping 1.61 meters. Stewart said she was pleased with how she and her squad performed this last weekend but knows there is still a lot of work to do in between now and the end of the season.

"We still have a long way to go in terms of training," Stewart said. "We have a lot of strength training and a lot to accomplish before we head towards our conference meet."

For the Indoor Pentathlon, Brooke Granquist placed second after falling just 139 points short UW-Eau Claire's Kelsey Weigel.



Justin Key/NW

Senior Brooke Granquist took third in the 55-meter hurdles at the 2012 Northern Challenge. Granquist took first in the pentathlon on Saturday.

During the pentathlon, Brooke Granquist competed in the 800-meter run where she took first place with a time of 2:34.27.

Granquist also came in third place for the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 10.02 seconds. She

finished the pentathlon with total score of 2931 points.

The Wildcats will be on the road again on Friday, Feb. 8 and Saturday Feb. 9 to compete in Al-lendale, Mich. at the Grand Valley State University Big Meet.

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Slow starts lead to big wins for 'Cats

By Georgette Breen-Naylor
contributing writer

The men's club hockey team played their final two home games of the season against an opponent in their conference.

Northern Illinois University traveled up to Marquette to play the 'Cats at the Lakeview Arena this weekend on Friday, Feb. 1 and Saturday, Feb. 2. The 'Cats

had an opportunity to add to their season total of wins as they went up against Northern Illinois and Finlandia. The 'Cats started off slow in their first game at home. The 'Cats fell behind 1:0 in the first period but were able to tie in the second with a goal from freshman Karsten Heppler.

"It was a slow start," Heppler said. "It was disappointing, but we tied."

The 'Cats fell behind 2-1 until a goal by junior center Neeco Belanger in the closing minutes of the game tied the score, 2-2. That goal would be the final goal of the game as the 'Cats had to settle for a tie. Sophomore forward Dean Potila said the team had some opportunities that they did not take advantage of.

"We had some good chances of scoring," Potila said. "There's always tomorrow."

The second game against Northern Illinois proved to be a different game. The 'Cats were able to come out strong in their second game against Northern Illinois and had them playing from behind the whole game. The team was able to hold the lead the whole game with goals from Neeco Belanger, sophomore Wolff Belanger, senior center Brad Gicopoulos and Heppler.

Compared to the first game, this was an offensive shootout, something head coach Carl Trosien was happy about.

"We played a lot better early, we had a lot more energy," Trosien said. "We came out kind of flat last night."

Coach Trosien said the team came out stronger in the second game. Northern Illinois was able to come back from a few goal deficit but couldn't close the gap as the 'Cats took home the win 6-5. Senior defense Mark Novak said

he thought the 'Cats came out stronger in this game.

"We came out really hard in the first," Novak said. "We just wanted to play tonight a little more, we weren't as hesitant."

Northern Illinois would be the team that started slow in the second game as the 'Cats took an early lead. The 'Cats seemed to have more energy in the second game which helped them to build a lead and hold on for the win against Northern Illinois.

"I think they found some legs, and we got up a few goals," Trosien said. "It was a big difference, we just came out stronger in the first period."

Playing from behind during the first game, the 'Cats made a big improvement in their second game against Northern Illinois as they held a steady lead throughout. The final game in the 'Cat's weekend was considered an exhibition, and it was also a chance for those who do not get to play to have an opportunity. Sophomore right wing Ben Hughes was one of the players that went on the trip.

"It was more of a game that we could mess around a bit," Hughes said. "We let all the veterans have a rest today and just had all the

It was a good time for all of us rookies to spend time playing together and get ready for the big games coming up.

— Ben Hughes
sophomore right wing

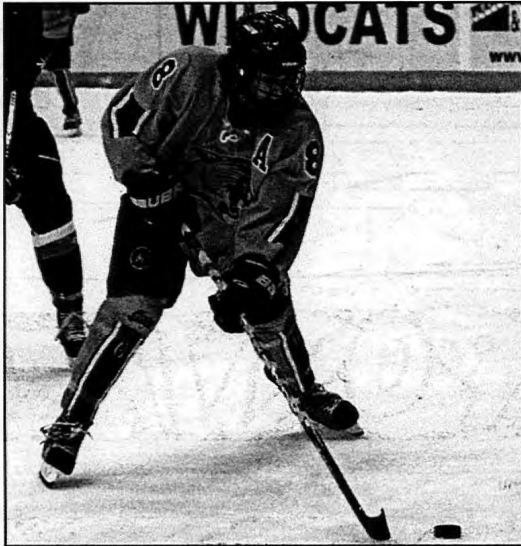
rookies, besides a few starters."

Although the 'Cats lost to Finlandia, Trosien said they were able to gain some experience for their younger players. Hughes said the veterans had earned the day off after a tough two game weekend, one of which went into overtime. The 'Cats ended this weekend by picking up one win and earning one tie.

Ben Hughes said there were some starters who joined the rookies to help them gain some game experience.

"It was a good time for all of us rookies to spend time playing together and get ready for the big games coming up," said Hughes. "The rookies had a good time playing another game with our assistant captain Novak."

The 'Cats will rest up as a team and travel to Minnesota to compete in the WCHA Tournament this upcoming weekend on Friday, Feb. 8 and Saturday, Feb. 9 in Blaine, Minn.



Justin Key/NW
Junior right wing and assistant captain Mike Baudino (8) leads the charge against St. Norbert earlier in the season. Baudino has three season goals.

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Shout Outs

Family — I cant wait to see you guys next weekend! Dad you finally get your Doghouse wings and mom you get your girls. Love you all!— **Shalna**

Lee — Love how your brain convert random thoughts into humor.— **Jo P**

Monday Nights — Thanks for starting the week the right way! Eyebrow.— **The Fitch Place**

Sea Star — I miss hanging out with you between classes.— **H**

My two "special" graddaughters — Have a happy wonderful life. May all your dreams come true. Love you both forever and a day.— **Gaga**

My two sisters — Have fun at the ski jumps! I wish I could come. Love ya both!— **Your older and much wiser and cooler sister**

U.S. Drone Policy — Why don't you ever call me anymore? — **U.S. Constitution**

Richard III — We always thought that you'd be underneath one of our parking lots.— **Burger King**

Ta-Nehisi Coates — I am excited for you to come speak on campus. You're one smart dude!— **OE**

Dolphins —Enjoy being safe, while we're all netted and slaughtered for Jimmy John's subs.— **Tuna**

Shepard — Thanks for the pie. You sure know how to whip up a mean dish, lad.— **NW Staff**

Bill Cosby —Sweater or no sweater, that is the question.— **Lee**

Last Week — You were awful. I am truly glad you've been crossed off my calendar you sadistic array of days.— **Student**

Ski Jumps — We're right there with you on suicide hill.— **Livers**

Bruce Springsteen — I'm glad you're rocking my face off. Keep up the good work you modern day George Washington, you.— **America**

Former EIC — Thank you for stopping in. We miss you, come by more please! Looking forward to our girls night out.— **EIC**

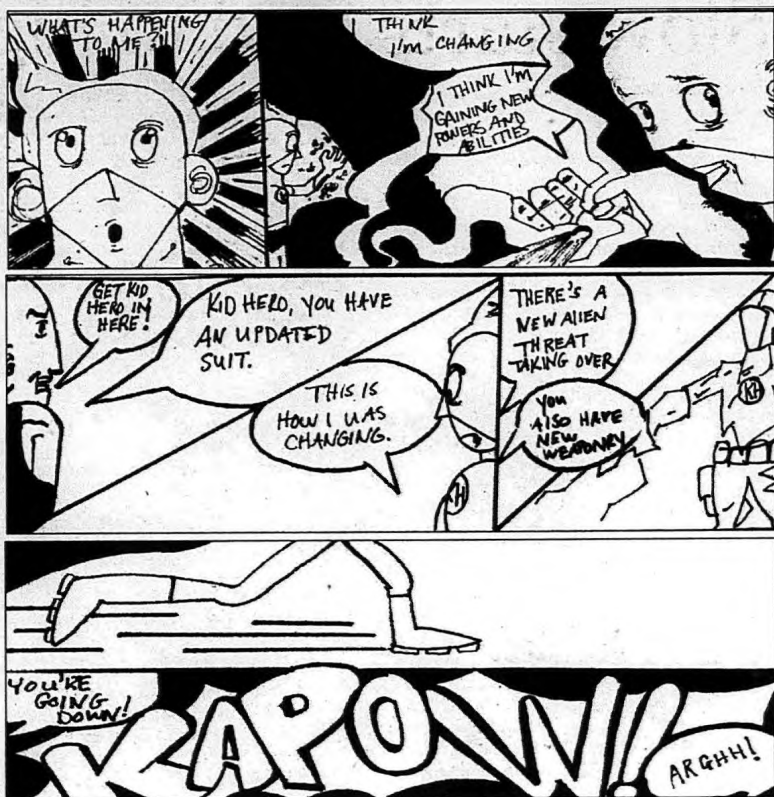
NW staff— Awesome job this week! I wonder who will get the windy. You guys are great. Keep up the great work.— **EIC**

NW staff— I enjoyed my visit. Thank you for feeding me and reminiscing with me. Let's do it again soon.— **Former EIC**

NMU Track Girls —Let's kick some GVSU butt.— **The captains**

- Inspirations**
Delaney
8:30
Wildart
Buffets
Sad Lee
Outhouse Races

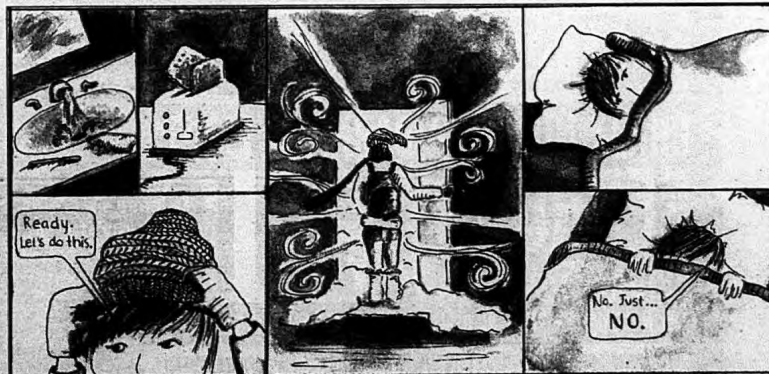
THE ADVENTURES OF KID HERO — Ryan Casey



SWEDLAND — Josh Swedlund



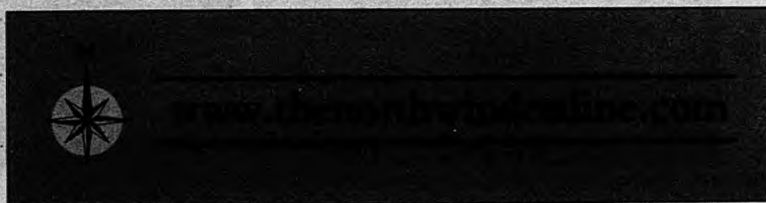
AMBLING ROSE — Alanna Stapleton



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- MONDAY FEB. 18
- TUESDAY FEB. 19
- WEDNESDAY FEB. 20
- FRIDAY FEB. 22
- SATURDAY FEB. 23
- SUNDAY FEB. 24

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