

What it means to be a Wildcat

Students should exhibit more pride for their college community and academics.

Forum looks at sustainability issues

Biologist Curt Meine visits Mead Auditorium to discuss local conservation and sustainability.

Hockey team splits against MSU

The return to conference play ends with a win and a loss against MSU.

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Kristen Koehler/NW

The International Olympic Committee voted to eliminate wrestling from the Olympics games starting in 2020. This could cause NMU's USOEC to close.

Olympic board vote could leave USOEC with an uncertain future

By Shaina James
editor in chief

Wrestling has been an Olympic sport since the ancient Olympic games, but the sport could be in jeopardy.

After the International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive board voted to eliminate wrestling starting in the 2020 Games, possibly taking NMU's Greco-Roman wrestling program with it.

On Tuesday, Feb. 12, the IOC

board voted to drop Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestling from the 2020 Games, while keeping the sport for the 2016 Games. There is a chance that the sport could win an appeal and the board could reverse the decision at a meeting in May, with a final decision being made in September.

The NMU United States Olympic Education Center (USOEC), the only facility in the country dedicated to training wrestlers for the Olympics, will

also be in jeopardy if wrestling is eliminated from the Games.

"Well, it is still not a 100 percent that wrestling will be taken out," said sophomore USOEC wrestler Parker Betts. "Right now we are taking it serious but trying to stay positive."

Along with competing in the Olympic Games, the Greco-Roman wrestlers at NMU also strive to compete in three different world championships.

"It doesn't change our goals — what we are trying to do up

here — because we are all striving for 2016 anyways," said Rob Hermann, USOEC head coach. "Also, every year before the Olympics is the world championship."

Hermann said three USOEC wrestlers went to the Junior Worlds last year, which is for wrestlers 20 years old and younger. There is also the University Worlds for wrestlers 27 years old and younger and the

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Potential for wolf hunt results in petition

By Amanda Monthei
news editor

On Friday, Feb. 15, Keep Michigan Wolves Protected U.P. coordinator Adam Robarge stood at the starting gate for the U.P. 200 sled dog race in downtown Marquette, collecting signatures on a petition that would retract a new Michigan law that would make wolves a game species.

Nearly two months ago, in late

December, Gov. Rick Snyder, R-Mich., signed a bill that would designate the wolf as a game animal in the state of Michigan.

While the bill did not make it legal to explicitly hunt wolves, it did open up options for the Natural Resources Commission to see that the animal's population would be controlled, and as soon as this fall, according to Robarge.

Since Friday, Dec. 28 when Senate Bill 1350 was signed by Snyder soon after the lame-duck

session in the Michigan legislature in which it was passed, Robarge has been focused not only on getting signatures, but on providing information to residents of the Upper Peninsula.

"There are days where I'm like, 'Am I doing the right thing? Is this the right thing?'" Robarge said. "But it's going well, we've got a pretty good acceptance of it around here."

The controversy surrounding a potential wolf hunt in Michigan

has been afflicted with extreme views on both sides of the issue, according to Robarge, who asserts that signing the petition does not put someone into a figurative "left" or "right" position.

"It might feel like it, but you're really not saying 'no' to a wolf hunt or 'yes' to a wolf hunt (by signing the petition)," he said. "You're saying that, yes we should all decide on this. It

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Marquette ranked No.1 for romance

By Jaymie Depew
contributing writer

Marquette is a city full of lovestruck movie-lovers, according to Redbox, which recently announced the top 10 cities in America with the highest and lowest renting rates of films in the romantic-comedy genre, ranking Marquette No. 1.

According to Redbox, which is a national movie rental provider, the cities topping the chart, aside from two in North Carolina, are all located in the Midwest.

Four of the top-rated cities are in Wisconsin, while there are also two in Iowa, two in North Carolina and two in Michigan, including Marquette and the Grand Rapids/Kalamazoo area. Seven cities in Texas and three in California were rated the least likely to rent romantic-comedies.

According to Kate Brennan, senior communications adviser of Redbox, the list of cities was ranked based on the tallied numbers of all of the Redbox kiosks across the country.

To get the accurate statistics, Redbox, focused on tallying the numbers of individual kiosks.

Redbox also has an option to rent movies through their website, but those statistics were not counted, according to Brennan.

"To ensure a larger market with more kiosks doesn't skew the results, we calculated the average rentals per kiosk," Brennan said.

Redbox hasn't been the only movie rental provider in the United States that has noticed a significance of romantic-comedy rentals in the area. Marquette's Family Video has as well.

"Valentine's Day this year was busier than expected," said Alison Nuemann, manager of Marquette's Family Video. "A lot of funny and cute movies

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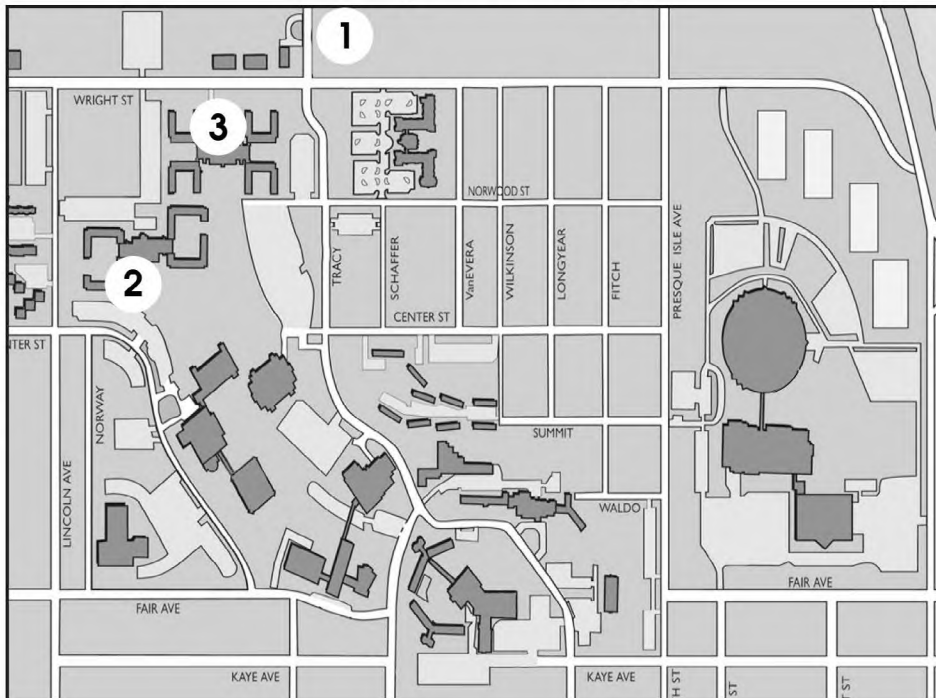
Campus Crime Map

Map Key

1. Larceny of personal property was reported at 1:55 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15 at the Jacobetti Center.

2. A student was reported drunk and disorderly at 10:05 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 17 at Spalding Hall.

3. A minor was found in possession of alcohol at 11:05 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 17 at lot 9.



Students paying for school on own strive for a balance

By Sam Banks
contributing writer

For students who have little or no help from parents, scholarships or other funds that would otherwise assist in getting them through school, loans and full-time jobs become some of the only options for continuing their education.

With 17 percent of NMU students not currently receiving financial aid, according to the NMU Financial Aid Fact Book, many work long hours over the summer and into the school year, carrying two or more jobs in addition to their workload as a full-time student.

Meghan Moshier, a junior wildlife management major, said as one of those students who works long hours at various jobs, she has time for no activities other than school and work.

"I work 30 hours a week at McDonald's and HOTplate while taking 15 credits at Northern," she said. "It's exhausting but I still try to make time for friends and stuff like that on the weekends or during the week when we're all free. But it's tough sometimes, sometimes you don't have time to study because you have to work."

This tight schedule doesn't allow much in the way of the normal social activities college life has to offer.

"I don't have much time for anything other than school and work," Moshier said. "When I do get a rare day off I'm too tired to do much other than sleep."

For students like Moshier, loans are the only way she could continue attending NMU.

"Without loans, I wouldn't be able to afford my books," she said. "It would be a lot harder for me to pay for my rent and sometimes food without that extra little bit of help. I have the Kalamazoo promise, which

covers a lot, but I have to pay for room and board and books and everything else. There are a lot of times where I'll be very close to being short on rent. In those cases, I'll work more, save more and budget better."

There are also the prototypical college experiences Moshier said she sometimes misses out on because of her financial situation.

"Skiing, long road trips like going up to Tech for winter carnival, a PEIF pass—but (missing some experiences) is part of the process," she said. "There are a lot of things I can do, like sledding, which is free, or we'll have roommate bonding by making dinner at the house instead of going out to eat."

Another student, senior art history major Taylor Adams, said she has faced similar budgetary dilemmas when it comes to fun over school and work. She worked nearly 40 hours a week in the fall, but is now only working one job — as an assistant in the president's office — 20 hours a week.

"I definitely focus on work and school because those are my main things," Adams said. "It's why I'm here. But because I've been balancing work and school, I don't get to do the fun things that college students typically do, and I don't get to participate in extracurriculars."

"I accept it though. There are times — because I'm really into mu-



Dan Marchky/NW

With some students relying entirely on their own income to get through school, many luxuries end up getting scrapped.

sic and theater — that I think it'd be really cool to do theater or choir. But I accept that this is the hand that I was dealt and this is what I have to do."

For the time being, Adams is paying for school with Federal Student Aid, including direct loans, and has also taken out private loans.

"I'm definitely freaked out (by having to pay back loans)," she said. "I've considered moving back in with parents (after graduating). Or should I continue and go back to school, or do I get a job right away?"

But while some students are paying off school by working full-time and also attending classes, some are accepting of their future, which more than likely involves paying back student loans.

"It's definitely scary," Adams said. "I've already thought about getting loans consolidated and have started budgeting for different jobs and salaries because I'm figuring out how much I have to pay monthly to pay back those student loans."



Local News

Substantial snowfall on Tuesday, Feb. 19 caused numerous car crashes and other accidents in the Marquette area, including a three-car pileup on M-553 north of Stonegate Drive in Sands Township near Marquette Mountain. In that crash, two individuals were taken to the hospital, while the third driver was not visibly injured on the scene.

The storm caused NMU officials to call a snow day at 1 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon, while the Michigan Department of Transportation also closed M-28 between Harvey and Wetmore due to blowing and drifting snow, as well as a number of crashes occurring on the stretch.

National News

Several national corporations have been hacked this week, including Apple, Burger King and Jeep.

Both the Burger King and Jeep Twitter accounts were hacked into on Monday, Feb. 18, while Apple employees had their Macs infected by hackers on Tuesday, Feb. 19. The latter was the largest known hack on Apple-made computers to date.

In regards to the hacked Twitter accounts, the Burger King account name was changed on Monday to 'McDonald's,' while the Jeep account logo was changed to a Cadillac logo. Both Cadillac and McDonald's have denied involvement in the hacks.

The hacks also included several vulgar tweets on both accounts.

International News

After a meteorite exploded over the Ural Mountains of Russia on Friday, Feb. 15, a sudden rush has been made to collect the rock fragments, which could be worth as much as \$2,200 per gram.

The meteor, which exploded near the city of Chelyabinsk in southwestern Russia, injured nearly 1,200 people last Friday as it sent shockwaves through the industrial town and other neighboring villages, according to www.reuters.com

Amateur space enthusiasts have estimated the fragments to be worth nearly 40 times the cost of gold per gram, any many residents of the village have taken to the streets in search of the the rock fragments.

NASA estimates that the meteor was around 55 feet long and weighed nearly 10,000 tons before it entered Earth's atmosphere. The blast that resulted from the meteor injured over 1300 people and caused \$33 million dollars in damages.

Weird News

A Wisconsin man was arrested on Monday after he overdosed on the drug Fentanyl, the active ingredient in his girlfriend's painkilling back patch.

The woman, who was also arrested, first called 911 claiming her boyfriend was having a reaction to the back patch, which he was allegedly helping her place on her back. When police and medical responders arrived, it became obvious that the man had in fact inhaled and subsequently overdosed on the drug.

In 2008, some Fentanyl pain relieving patches were recalled because they were found to be leaking, causing users to experience difficulty breathing, and other potentially fatal symptoms.

— Compiled from news sources

Sweet Celebration



Kristen Koehler/NW

Senior track athletes **Brittany Loomis** (left) and **Delaney Lovett** (right) celebrate before the final home meet of their careers at NMU. Loomis and Lovett are two of the four seniors that are graduating in the spring.

WOLF

Continued from Page 1

shouldn't come out of a Senate Natural Resources Committee of seven people in Lansing, chaired by a senator (Tom Casperson) with no formal scientific background.

The petition doesn't make you for or against a wolf hunt, the petition simply means that you are interested in making that decision for yourself come 2014."

In Michigan, referendums on legislation can be made within 90 days of the final legislative session in which the bill was enacted.

This gives Michigan residents, especially those who are vying for a referendum on the wolf hunt bill, until March 27 to get 161,305 signatures, according to Robarge.

If they succeed, the referendum would appear on the ballot in November, 2014.

But, while the petition is important to him, Robarge said he

is equally concerned with understanding where proponents and extreme opponents of the potential for a wolf hunt stand.

"I would like to understand what everyone's basis is," he said. "Where are they coming from? What do they think this petition means?"

"The basic question really is, 'Would a public wolf hunt result in the outcomes that the people who are advocating for it are hoping for?' And I just feel like where we're at at this point as a species ourselves, to make that decision ourselves without the data, I just don't get it."

The wolf hunt issue applies primarily in the western UP, where wolves have been known to cause problems for ranchers, farmers and dog owners, according to the U.P. Sportsmen Alliance member Dale McNamee.

"We believe that the wolf population in the Upper Peninsula must be controlled," he said. "We're not looking to wipe out the wolf population — we think they are a valuable member of animal society — but at

the same time, we realize that like everything else, they have to be controlled in order to protect them as well as protect us."

McNamee has been advocating the potential of a wolf hunt, which could occur as quickly as this fall if the attempts at a referendum fail.

He said that the U.P. Sportsmen Alliance, which has more than 40,000 members in the Upper Peninsula, will work cooperatively with the DNR to manage the wolf populations.

"At this point in time, we are advocating that the wolves must be managed," he said. "We are following the direction of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the people that are involved in managing and controlling the animal in a scientific manner."

In regards to the petition, McNamee and other proponents are not only worried about a decrease in the deer populations, they are also concerned about the pets, livestock and humans that cross the wolves' path.

According to NMU student

Topher Fast, who is a senior environmental studies major, it's the farmers, ranchers and dog owners that are the main backers of the legislation.

"Farmers are the ones at the root of the issue, claiming problems of loss of livestock due to the increase in wolf population," he said. "There are permits to shoot wolves if they catch them in the act, but [there are] also complaints that these haven't worked."

From a science background, however, Fast said the decision to allow a wolf hunt is coming too quickly.

"I believe it's too early to call wolves as game," he said. "Hunting is only one way to manage wolves and guard dogs are a way to help protect farmers without reducing the wolf packs."

In a release from the U.P. Sportsmen Alliance, McNamee outlines a few other concerns, including the unfamiliarity of many bill opponents with the locations that are affected by wolf populations.

USOEC

Continued from Page 1

Senior World Team.

"So our goals don't change trying to make the worlds this year and next year," Hermann said. "And then USA wrestling just got the bid to have the 2015 world championships in Vegas, which is huge."

As far as the Olympics go, the team is staying optimistic and encouraging the publicity for the sport and USOEC right now.

"There is nothing we can really do but stay positive and work on our goals right now," Betts said. "It is crazy how much support we are getting. We are just trying to show them that our sport belongs in the games."

Hermann said he can't predict what will happen to USOEC after the 2016 Olympics.

"I can't predict if the program is going to be here past that, but I like to think it is,"

Hermann said. "I really feel strongly that this will be overturned in May, when the delegation meets in St. Petersburg, Russia."

According to Hermann, they could not have asked for a better place to hold this meeting, with wrestling being Russia's No. 1 sport, affecting their heritage and traditions.

"There is going to be riots out there," Hermann said. "Wrestling to them is like having the Super Bowl over here."

Hermann said that the IOC board caught everyone off guard, including USA wrestling, international wrestling and USOEC since the vote was made behind closed doors and a closed ballot.

"I think [the IOC board] is already feeling the rumble from making this drastic decision," Hermann said. "Now that [the board] knows they aren't untouchable, they are going to get on top of this and our voice is going to be heard it."

"The 700 to 800 hundred wolves are not evenly distributed in the state and the only areas that will be targeted will be those with oversized populations with histories of wolf-human conflict," McNamee said in the release. "If you live in an area without wolves or very few it may be hard to understand that control is necessary."

However, NMU senior Amanda Weinart, who is a metalsmithing major and a member of the Native American Student Association, said the importance of the wolf is large in local Native American communities.

"It's important to us to be against the hunt because according to the traditional Anishnaabe storytelling, the wolf is sacred to us," Weinart said. "We still feel a connection to wolves, so it's really distressing that this is happening when there are less than 700 wolves (in the Upper Peninsula)."

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service, there were 687 wolves following the last survey in 2010-11

Campus Events This Week:

Thursday, Feb. 21 to Saturday, Feb. 23: "Fallujah." Showing in the Forest Roberts Theater at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 1 p.m. on Saturday. Cost is \$15 for the general public and \$5 for NMU students.

Thursday, Feb. 21 to Friday, Feb. 22: Sustainability and Forum. Begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday in the Mead Auditorium.

Sunday, Feb. 24: Soul Food Luncheon. Goes from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Jacobetti Center. Cost is \$7 for students.

Monday, Feb. 25: Speaker Tim Harris. Begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Lakes Rooms of the University Center. Cost is free.

Local Events This Week:

Saturday, Feb. 23: 6th Annual P.R.S.S.A Jam For Love. Begins at 4 p.m. at Marquette Mountain. \$20 registration fee.

Saturday, Feb. 23: 20th Annual Trenary Outhouse Classic. Begins at 2 p.m. in Trenary, Mich. Cost is \$2 for a race day entry pin.

New career services website eases employment search

By Chris Dittrick
contributing writer

Campus career services has opened a new website called Cat Career Tracks for students and alumni to seek employment, find a career path or to interact with potential employers.

According to Steven LaFond, assistant director of career services, the site has job postings that are searchable by keyword.

There is also a position type search that includes on-campus and off-campus positions, full- and part-time positions and even internships.

It is also possible to keep track or receive reminders of upcoming job fairs and career building workshops, according to LaFond.

"A person could choose to be notified by email or text message when alerts are generated," LaFond said. "These alerts could be calendar reminders and also whenever a new job posting comes up that matches set interests."

On-campus interviews are

also listed and there is the option to automatically sign up for interviews that the user is qualified for, LaFond said.

There is also an on-site personal calendar to view at a glance what events are upcoming.

LaFond said another feature the site has is the ability to submit an application and resume directly from the website using data in the user's profile.

This allows the user to keep track of which postings have been applied for and how long it has been since an application was sent.

Users can also upload multiple resumes to better target specific types of jobs, according to LaFond.

According to NMU student Katrina Morris, who is a junior entrepreneur major, the new Cat Career Tracks website is an improvement over the old job posting pages.

"The new website is really easy to navigate," she said. "A lot of the website for NMU is kind of complicated to get around, so it's nice to see one that isn't like a maze."

Kara Cox, senior secretary of career services, explained the benefits to employers, and said the system will make it easy to locate new talent.

Submitted applications are collected and searchable by specific criterion, Cox said.

There is also the option to search the pool of job seekers to find a particular set of skills or level of experience.

"In this way, it is possible for an employer to narrow down a list of candidates and even locate a candidate that may not know they are qualified," Cox said. "An employer can even contact a job seeker without first placing a posting."

The website is free to use for anyone with an NMU username. First time login only requires an NMU username and the user's birth date to start a profile.

Cat Career Tracks can be found at www.myinterfase.com/NMU/student for students and www.myinterfase.com/NMU/alumni for alumni.

Employers who wish to use the system have their own URL at www.myinterfase.com/NMU/employer. It can also be accessed from the NMU career services webpage at www.nmu.edu/careerservices.

MOVIES

Continued from Page 1

were rented."

Nuemann said there have been a lot of romantic-comedy movies released in the last couple of years. It's helped with the sales of that specific genre of film.

According to Nuemann, romantic-comedies that lean toward the "chick flick" sub-genre have been the most popular rentals this year. Popular titles such as, "What to Expect When You're Expecting," "The Vow" and "This Means War" have been considered a few of the top-rented movies at Family Video in that genre.

Nuemann said some of the titles have a longer shelf time in the new release section because of how well they're being rented by viewers. She also said if well-liked actors are in the movie, sales are generally going to be better than others.

Nuemann said winter weather has also potentially played a role in which rentals movie lovers pick as well.

"We want to watch something nice in the winter," Nuemann said. "The cold

weather makes us want to stay home and cuddle."

Nuemann said action movies come in second as the most popular genre for renters.

"Anything with Bruce Willis rents well when couples come in looking for both kinds of movies," she said.

Sundi Bennet, a sophomore community health education major, enjoys renting older romantic comedies, such as "Ghost," or various Lifetime movies because they're more creative and personal.

"I like them because they're less raunchy," Bennet said. "It's like handwritten letters are better than emails, and I just like the idea of a tortured soul in love."

Leah Blanchard, a junior philosophy major, said she favors some of the older classic romantic comedies.

"I like 'Swing Time,' and 'Dinner at Eight,'" Blanchard said. "I like anything with Jimmy Stewart."

For more information on the cities listed in both the top-10 most romantic and least romantic cities, go to www.redbox.com/release20130212.

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Women for Women holding hair donation drive

By Emily Pagel
contributing writer

The NMU student organization Women for Women will be hosting its fifth annual "Do You Have 8 Inches?" Hair Donation Drive from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 24 in the Payne/Halverson lobby.

According to Jenelle Pelletier, a member of Women for Women, all types of hair, including permed, bleached and dyed hair, will be accepted, provided it is eight inches or longer.

She said the hair collected during the drive will be donated to Children with Hair Loss, a nonprofit organization located in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.

Their mission is to supply wigs for children with medical-related hair loss at no cost. Women for Women has collaborated with Children with Hair Loss since 2008 to help with the efforts.

Women for Women reported that last year 2,610.5 inches of hair were donated during the hair drive, a record high for the NMU organization.

"I've been to the event for four years," Pelletier said of the first time she donated hair at the drive. "The first time I went, I cut my hair and there were a ton of people. People rally around and we keep track of how many inches that we collect in the lobby so people can visualize it, and it kind of encourages other people to cut

their hair, too."

Pelletier said students can donate hair even after the hair drive is over as Children with Hair Loss accepts donations on a rolling basis. The process is just as simple as going to the hair drive and can be done at any time.

Former NMU student Brice Burge has donated four times through the Women for Women hair drive as well as donating through other organizations since he was 14 years old.

"I donate with the eight inches campaign by Women for Women because it's a good cause and it's something that is easily done," Burge said. "Donating can be difficult when you're poor, so donating hair is a great option, and

donating in a drive like this can give a different kind of support for someone who may need or care for someone who needs the services of the Children with Hair Loss organization.

"To see, hear or read about a student organization that created an event for anybody to come and support the people who have to go through so much can mean a lot to people."

Women for Women will also be holding a bake sale during the drive and accepting monetary donations for students who are unable to donate.

This year's hair drive will also be incorporated with Relay for Life and Self-Acceptance week in an effort to spread awareness

about the upcoming events.

"We're trying to incorporate this with our Relay for Life team event," Pelletier said. "We have purple cancer awareness ribbon stickers that we're going to have for sale at this event."

Women for Women is a service organization based out of the all-female housing on campus. They hold events such as Striking Out Cancer, Self-Acceptance Week and Save Second Base. Women for Women meet 9 p.m. Monday nights in the Payne/Halverson basement and everyone is welcome to join. For more information about Women for Women, Children with Hair Loss or questions about the hair drive, email w4w.nmu@gmail.com.

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NMU STUDENT TICKETS ON SALE NOW; GENERAL PUBLIC TICKETS ON SALE MONDAY, MARCH 4. TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ALL NMU TICKET OUTLETS, BY PHONE AT 906-227-1032, OR ONLINE AT NMU.EDU/TICKETS.



EDITORIAL



Enhance NMU education for all

NMU's Retention Enhancement Initiative (REI) has provided high-risk students on academic probation with extra tutoring, hands-on learning and support outside of the classroom.

The rise in those students' grade point averages has shown the REI's emphasis on English is directly related to student success.

This fits in with NMU's "right-to-try" philosophy: students with low high school GPAs should be given a chance in college.

Students on academic probation should not be the only ones to benefit from academic returns on an investment in writing and reading comprehension.

Implementing a Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) initiative will provide students with ample writing experience in their chosen field.

Michigan Technological University has been a writing-across-the-curriculum university since the 1970s.

Michigan Tech's enrollment in the fall 2011 semester was 7,034 stu-

dents, comparable to NMU's own student population of 9,417 according to the 2011-12 NMU profile.

An emphasis on writing in all courses will grow both students' and professors' verbal and written communication skills.

Programs like the REI are fantastic: they provide students with the resources needed to reinvent themselves in college.

Struggling students should not be the only ones the administration focuses on. Giving students the opportunity to develop intellectually in their thinking and on the page makes a degree from NMU even more valuable.

NMU can make their programs more robust by promoting WAC in all departments.

Like the high-risk students the university admits, the administration should reinvent the NMU bachelor's degree.

Academic success can be attained by all NMU students, but they have to write to try.

Smartphones dull experience of living



Staff Column
Amanda Monthei

For about two months, I feel like I've been living Aldous Huxley's worst nightmare.

Or perhaps my new reality is living proof that his brainchild — a society of people numbed by instant gratification and technology — is, in fact, becoming our new reality.

Either way, I got a smartphone for Christmas, and this five-by-two-inch piece of technological artistry has since caused great havoc in my life.

If you're not familiar with Aldous Huxley or haven't read "Brave New World" since an English teacher forced it upon your unsuspecting and easily-confused ninth-grade soul, let me give you a quick recap: Huxley felt that our society would eventually amuse themselves to the point of no return. He thought our burgeoning desires would wreck us.

He feared a society that was passive, obedient and unknowingly oppressed under the veil of pleasure and "happiness."

We, members of American society, must now look no further than television or that little tablet constantly in our grip to see that Huxley's nightmare for humanity has become a reality for nearly all of us.

We live in a culture of relentless entertainment, of Instagram, Honey Boo Boo and whatever the guys over at MTV come up with when they're stoned.

We are stimulated by advertisements, fueled by capitalistic desires and motivated by whatever can give us instantaneous pleasure — whether it's a Big Mac, new boots or the ability to Google search any question, problem or suggested YouTube video that comes up in our everyday lives.

But in all of this assumedly instantaneous happiness that we've bestowed upon ourselves, it seems that we've lost our ability to be engaged, to be conversational and most of all, to be curious.

"But it's a smartphone. What could possibly be wrong with that?" you ask.

And I'll tell you: I don't en-

tirely understand where these feelings of despair are coming from.

After all, I can drop the thing from a second story window and still call my grandma who lives 1,700 miles away when I find it.

I can completely submerge it in water — or snow, as I've already done more times than I can count — without ruining my day with a waterlogged battery.

It tells me when there's going to be a meteor shower, a full moon, moderate snowfall or negative wind chills.

I can take pictures of whatever happens in my generally anticlimactic life and show about 700 people in seconds.

And, if I do everything right, it usually wakes me up in time for my 9 a.m. class. So what's the issue here?

Perhaps the issue lies in the fact that no matter where I go — whether I'm walking to class, getting coffee or eating dinner with friends — I see faces staring blankly at a screen of white light.

It's simple enough — when we begin to feel uncomfortable in a situation, it's easy to resolve the problem by running to a cell phone for cover. I can't say I'm not guilty of it, and it's an easy habit to fall into.

Falling into that habit was especially easy before this smartphone frustration, which has only recently set in for me. For a month or so, I, too, lived in a blissful app-filled Android existence. I understand what it's like to be embraced by the entertaining comfort of a super smartphone.

But then, I realized: is this how I want to experience the world?

From behind the shield of a seemingly perfect distraction from life, the world and interactions with others? That's what it comes down to, after all. We're a species that thrives on distraction, and that phone in all of our respective pockets provides that distraction whenever we want it to.

The problem here really lies in what is being missed when we become obsessed with technology. We're living in the backlit world of our phones rather than in the moment.

When we can become more aware of the lost opportunities that occur by being constantly distracted by technology, the sooner we can begin to embrace the experiences and interactions that truly make us human.

THE NORTH WIND

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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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Wildcat pride lacking on campus



Weekly Take Away

Lee McClelland

Being a Marquette native, I have heard my fair share of negative sentiments about attending Northern Michigan University.

Local colloquialisms like “Northern: where the N stands for knowledge” or “UCLA: University Closest to Lincoln Avenue” make Northern seem less reputable than it actually is.

This lack of pride in NMU is evident when talking to some students. Because NMU is a “right-to-try” university — meaning NMU believes students with low ACT scores and high-school GPAs should be given a chance to reinvent themselves in college — many students associate the ease of admissions with a poor quality of education or institutional reputation.

I know I did when I enrolled at NMU after discovering I could not afford Michigan State University’s high cost of tuition.

I discovered, though, that MSU would have crippled me financially, and the program I had intended to enroll in — astrophysics — was not my forte, despite my passion for the sciences.

After changing my major sophomore year, I had to ask: what does it mean to be a Wildcat?

The North Wind’s “Sound Off” section posed the question “Do students have school spirit?” to eight students on campus. While eight randomly selected Wildcats does not provide a university-wide consensus, the uniformity of the answers was telling.

Most associated school pride with athletics, such as the performance of the hockey or football team.

School pride does not hinge on athletic performance but instead

on the integrity of the academic institutions available to students in order to provide a sound education.

I am proud of NMU athletes, but I do not shoulder the burden of school pride on their shoulders, as toned and fit as they may be.

School pride rests in the accomplishments of each and every NMU student. Students should be proud to attend a university that has attracted the attention of President Barack Obama for our outstanding WiMax program and proud to live in such a beautiful environment.

Programs at NMU have gained national recognition and top rankings, such as education and art and design.

At the most recent Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) conference, NMU’s Superior Edge program was presented an Excellence Silver award.

These few facts do not define what it means to be a Wildcat but are a testament to the strong character Northern has on a national level.

Being a Wildcat is more than awards and athletics — it is about the collective character of NMU students.

Unlike other universities in America such as Harvard, Stanford and University of Columbia, NMU’s name does not carry the weight and reputation of the Ivy League giants.

NMU does not define its students with name recognition, and this is a remarkable thing.

Students define NMU. Because NMU is a small liberal arts college, it often goes under the radar. When students graduate, it is through their merit and accomplishments that NMU gains its notoriety. But the returns do not start after graduation.

At any university, students get what they put into to their own education. If you do the bare minimum in college, chances are your degree will not be as valuable as one held by a student who was

more involved on campus and did unrequired research and reading.

Perhaps it is those apathetic students who passively learn instead of actively engaging in classroom discussions and reading not pertaining to their in-class curriculum.

After eight semesters at NMU, I have come to a personal conclusion about what it means to be a Wildcat.

A Wildcat is a student who thrives in their academic environment.

A Wildcat will spend countless hours in the library reading JSTOR articles or reading back-issues of periodicals in order to research for a paper or a class discussion.

A Wildcat is a predator of opportunity that will pounce on a chance to grow intellectually, emotionally and professionally.

Identifying with your school allows you to further tap the vein of prestige and promise.

NMU students can complain about their university or they can channel that energy into making NMU an institution students can be proud of by vying for personal academic success.

NMU may be a “right-to-try” school with low entrance requirements, but it is a place students should appreciate. Attending NMU is not a right, by any means, but a privilege.

Ask yourself what it means to be a Wildcat. Try to become more involved in your studies and campus community.

Remember that you are responsible for NMU’s reputation even after graduation.

And that is the beauty of being a Wildcat: even after you leave, you’ll be defining the school that fostered your professional growth. That is truly something to be proud of.

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.

Importance of flu vaccines Moral obligation to protect others



Professor’s Corner

Dr. Zac Cogley

With much debate continuing to focus on the merits of getting vaccinated against the flu, here is something to consider: refusing to get vaccinated might be morally wrong.

I’ve recently become convinced this is true. Let me explain.

While no one particularly likes getting shots, the flu shot is not much of a burden. The cost of the vaccine is fully covered by most health plans; if not, it is usually just a small co-pay.

The vaccines are also incredibly safe: no one has ever died and serious allergic reactions are incredibly rare.

The costs of getting vaccinated are pretty minimal.

It is true that many people report getting a shot and then getting the flu; they then think the shot caused it.

However, since the shots take up to 14 days to take effect and the virus in the vaccines is completely dead, what really happens in these cases is that you came down with the flu before the immunity from the vaccine could stop it.

Hard luck, but it is not the vaccine’s fault.

On the other hand, even though the vaccine only provides protection against three strains of flu a year and is not completely effective (not everyone who gets vaccinated gets the same amount of immunity), the potential upside is really large.

Getting the flu is dangerous — the World Health Organization estimates between 250,000 and 500,000 worldwide deaths per year.

The flu also worsens other chronic health problems, including asthma, heart disease and diabetes and can lead to serious complications like dehydration or bacterial pneumonia.

Of course, most of the people who die from the flu (or get serious complications) are not college students, faculty or staff, all of whom are generally healthier than much of the rest of the population.

It is easy to think that each of our chances of getting the flu is pretty low. Even if we get it, we’ll probably recover with no problem. So there’s no harm in waiting for next year to begin getting vaccinated, we think.

Even if the benefits of getting vaccinated outweigh the personal costs, it’s still a bother

to do so. That’s a big reason many of us don’t do it.

This line of thought misses the most important issue: the effect that your flu vaccine has on other people.

To take the simplest case, if you get the flu shot but your roommate doesn’t, she still benefits from your immunity.

After all, if you can fight off those three strains of the flu then her chance of picking them up from you will be almost eliminated.

Similarly, if all your friends were to get vaccinated, your chances of picking up the flu from them would go way down, even if you didn’t personally get the vaccine.

Now consider other people who might catch the flu, in particular children and elderly people. Both groups are at much higher risk of getting and then dying from the flu.

Even if the vaccine only protects against three strains, both groups have a great incentive to get it. But unfortunately, both are also less likely to develop robust immunity as a result of the flu vaccine.

That means that the chances of a very young or very old person getting the flu has far more to do with the people with whom they interact.

The more people they are in contact with who have been vaccinated, the less their risk of serious disease or death. If most of the people they interact with have not been vaccinated, their risk of harm is much greater.

It is not just a question about convenience or inconvenience for you, it’s a question of how much of a risk you pose to others.

Unvaccinated, we pose a greater risk of passing along a potentially life-threatening disease, especially to vulnerable populations.

Vaccinated, we pose a significantly lesser risk.

When thinking about getting vaccinated, we need to think more about the larger social costs and benefits than just the minor inconvenience to ourselves.

Do we want to be less of a threat to others, or more of one? Whether we get that little shot has much bigger implications than just a small stick.

Editor’s Note: Dr. Zac Cogley is an assistant professor of philosophy at NMU.

The Professor’s Corner is a weekly column in The North Wind. Professors interested in appearing in The North Wind should contact the opinion editor at opinion.northwind@gmail.com

Ignorance binds Americans



**Campus
Comment**

**Lee
McClelland**

In the past weeks, there seems to be a question of whether or not Black History Month is a reputable holiday or one based on separatist ideals of recognizing African American accomplishments in American history.

Both sides of the argument have been addressed, yet neither seem to hit the nail on the head.

Historian Carter G. Woodson founded the Associate for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) and celebrated the first Negro History Week in February 1926, according to www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov. This would be the foundation for Black History Month.

The original intent of Negro History Week (which spanned both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass's birthdays) was not to segregate Black history from American history, but to celebrate an unacknowledged branch of American history.

This was not a time when African Americans were celebrated in the larger American society, nor would change come until the Civil Rights Movement and subsequent years of social acclimation to the change this legislation prompted.

Claiming that whites have never experienced anything like the plight of slavery is simply not true: what about the Jewish Holocaust during World War II?

The African Holocaust, the use of Africans as slave labor to establish the infrastructure and

economic base of the budding United States, was just as tragic and inhumane — a moral failing of a people using others for personal benefit with no incentive for change.

While not all whites were responsible for the Pan-Atlantic slave trade, that is not the point of Black History Month.

It is time one can choose to be aware of the great contributions to America that African Americans have made, just as May is a time to celebrate Jewish Heritage Month — though Jewish people are also white people.

Arguing over a sense of entitlement is beyond the point of the holiday. It is as petty as arguing that Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a social action which inadvertently states breast cancer is more important than other diseases.

Above all, America is not the melting pot it has been described as. It is a mix of cultures, ethnicities and other identities. The only way to discover your identity is to have it challenged; the only way to know your accomplishments and failures is to look at what you've done.

And perhaps the discussion I've seen in The North Wind reaffirms the thought of a legendary African American for whom Black History Month was founded, Frederick Douglass: "America is false to the past, false to the present and solemnly binds herself to be false to the future."

We can atone for the sins of our forefathers by never forgetting the mistakes they made, and that is the purpose of Black History Month. Perhaps this kind of social awareness is the first thing to challenge your own identity.

Don't turn from it. Learn from it.

Free markets promote tolerance



**Guest
Column**

**Justin
Bis**

You don't have to look far back into history in order to realize that as a race, humanity has taken a huge step forward since the advent of industrialization.

Not only were there vast improvements in material terms, often ignored are the cultural and ethical developments made possible by this revolution in man's relation to his fellow man.

Before industrialization, life in the West was homogenous. Differences in religion and nationality were the differences between life and death. Little tolerance was afforded in these pre-industrial times. Indeed a constant state of war existed amongst the rival petty princes. Political rights were minimal: they extended to the feudal lords, while every day serfs were treated like cattle.

Association between different peoples was almost nonexistent. States had almost no trade with each other — without trade, these people of different ilk had no reason to cooperate with each other. Where there is no cooperation, conquest and genocide become a reality. These were the Dark Ages, and man's relation toward one another was that of master and slave. Then all of that began to slowly change.

As competition in war necessitated better forms of production, the exceptionally greedy

and ambitious princes started to build manufactories for weapons and other goods that gave them an advantage in war. In order to run these manufactories efficiently, they delegated authority to those who were skilled at the logistics of business.

Gradually, these new businessmen and merchants came to be an important part of society — and they began to replace the landed gentry in importance. This is vital for a very important reason. The old European feudal system was based on force: summed up as "grow these crops or we will kill you!"

The new business class (or bourgeoisie) authority was based on cooperation: "let's make a deal and work together!"

I realize this is an oversimplification because in reality these changes were slow and had many setbacks. But nonetheless, the new spirit of cooperation spurred relative tolerance of other peoples and increasingly more so as the world became more and more industrialized.

Tolerance doesn't mean acceptance — people today still hate other people because of their religion, sex or nationality. Tolerance is about coexistence. In the practical world of industry, people can coexist together regardless of xenophobia. There are two basic ways of dealing with your fellow man. You can either use force or obtain their consent.

To use force creates the barriers we still find in society. To use consent breaks those barriers down and sets men free from one another.

We see it in history, and we continue to see it today. In today's political debates, the

fundamental relation between men is raging on. Every issue Congress deals with has two possible methodologies of implementation: force or consent. In dealing with the health care debate, we have two possible choices: to force people to buy healthcare insurance under threat of a fine or to allow individuals to choose between different insurance companies beyond state borders (make the market as free as possible).

Public assistance is another example of the choice we have between force and consent. I don't know about you, but forcing people to pay for other's expenses is not the action of a civil society. Instead, a system of voluntary charity should be implemented for the needy.

What about Affirmative Action? Because, at least to me, forcing some people to give up admittance to top universities because of their race does not lead to tolerance and peace in race relations.

Instead of those attempts to force men into relation with each other, real tolerance requires choice and consent amongst the partners. Tolerance depends on everyone being useful to each other, so each individual is indispensable in the scheme of things.

We can either have a world of warriors or a world of traders. Remember: the weapon of a warrior is a gun; the weapon of a trader is a handshake.

To quote the great French political theorist Frédéric Bastiat: "If goods don't cross borders, armies will." Which one do we pick? Will we continue the liberating influence of capitalism or shall we start the descent back into feudalism?

Decision to remove wrestling from Olympics hurts NMU, USOEC



**Guest
Column**

**Delaney
Lovett**

Raise your hand if you have ever watched wrestling during the Olympics.

OK, put your hands down. Now, raise your hand if you have ever watching the modern pentathlon during the Olympics.

Raise your hand if you know what the modern pentathlon is. You know, the combination of horse riding, shooting, fencing, swimming and running?

If you're still lost, you'll be surprised to hear that last week the executive board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) voted to remove wrestling as a core sport of the Olympic program,

beginning in 2020. This decision was made as part of a review of 26 summer sports, with the intentions of removing one and adding one later this year, according to ESPN.

The IOC program commission report analyzed the sports with 39 criteria that ranged from TV ratings, to ticket sales and global participation.

Despite being one of the Olympics' most historic events and the national sport of several participating countries, wrestling — both freestyle and Greco-Roman — ranked low in several categories.

Wrestling has been a part of the Olympics since the inaugural games in 1896, and its origins as a sport are ancient. It's a classic part of the Olympic program, and its removal will negatively affect hundreds of participating countries.

The news of the decision to remove wrestling is both upsetting and shocking, but it becomes even

more surprising when looking at the core sports that the IOC executive board recently added or chose to keep in place of wrestling.

The modern pentathlon had been considered the underdog going into the IOC's vote but statistically ranked slightly higher than wrestling in some categories. Other sports that were recently added, such as golf and BMX biking, just do not compare to the Olympic prestige of wrestling.

Watching middle-aged men swing a club at a little white ball doesn't provide half the entertainment value of an aggressive battle between two skillful athletes in peak physical condition. Olympic sports shouldn't overlap with recreation.

Northern Michigan University takes the IOC's decision personally, because it could contribute to the loss of one of the two remaining USOEC programs — one being Greco-Roman wrestling. Several

programs were recently cut due to funding issues, including short-track speedskating, boxing and freestyle wrestling.

The USOEC is something that we pride ourselves on here, and Marquette is a safe, secluded place for athletes to focus on Olympic dreams while getting an education. The one-of-a-kind program makes typical students excited to attend NMU; it's a great selling point for admissions that has undoubtedly contributed to a portion of enrollment decisions.

As a student-athlete at NMU, I have seen firsthand how much effort our USOEC Greco-Roman wrestlers put into training for such a physically demanding sport. They have Olympic dreams and have spent hours a day for years of their lives pursuing greatness.

While there is no impending deadline on other major wrestling competitions, none of these carry the same significance to athletes as

the Olympics. No competition is as ceremonious, as prestigious or as close to the hearts of competitors all around the world; athletes are not just representing themselves or their team, they're representing everyone in their country.

Campaigns to save Olympic wrestling have sprouted across the globe, as the sport is currently represented in 180 countries. The Olympic Committee of Russia, a wrestling powerhouse, plans to appeal to the IOC to restore wrestling to the program, according to ESPN.

The Internet has exploded with webpages, hashtags and petitions promoting the rescue of one of the original Olympic sports. The decision to cut wrestling will not be made permanent until May, so there is time to show support of the sport. Get involved in the movement to save Olympic wrestling and our university's original USOEC program.

THEATER DEPARTMENT SCARS OF WAR IN FALLUJAH



Justin Key/NW
The three Marines in "Fallujah" are played by Ryan Sitzberger, Brenton Fitzpatrick and Darin Casler.
The journalist and main character played by Maxwell Peterson and Woman played by Alexandra Marks.

TMENT FALLUJAH

EXPLORES

By Nolan Krebs
features editor

Most people are fortunate to find themselves unburdened by the horrors and tragedies that come with war. Often times, veterans return home with scars both inside and out.

The Forest Roberts Theatre's production of "Fallujah," written by Evan Sanderson and directed by theatre professor Ansley Valentine, explores the difficulties of adjusting after the war in Iraq.

The play follows the experiences of a journalist, played by senior English writing major Max Peterson, embedded in a Marine unit as he documents their lives. When he returns home, he finds time in Iraq has changed the person he once was.

"The lines between home life and war begin to blur,"

Peterson said. "Subsequently the lines distinguishing reality start to blur for him."

According to the National Center for Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), 10 to 18 percent of troops returning from Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom are likely to have PTSD after they return from serving in active duty. PTSD can occur after combat exposure or physical assault, and can lead to vividly re-experiencing the event and hyperarousal. Those with PTSD may also experience feelings of hopelessness, shame, despair, depression or anxiety, as well as problems with substance abuse.

Preparing for the role was different than previous productions, Peterson said. In addition to physical training, Peterson said the cast did extensive research to prepare for the role, including watching documentaries, live footage of Marines in action and speaking to

veterans who suffer from PTSD.

"We really wanted to express the story as best we could," Peterson said. "We knew that there could be someone in the audience who lived through something like this."

For Darin Casler, who plays "Marine Three" in the play, preparing for the role largely revolved around considering his personal limitations.

"None of us are Marines, or know what that could be like to actually be there," Casler said. "I tried to put myself in those situations, not so much try to imagine myself as a Marine."

The city of Fallujah, which lies 43 miles west of Baghdad, drew international attention in 2004 when four American security contractors were pulled out of their vehicles, mutilated and set on fire. Their corpses were hung from a bridge over the Euphrates River, and the subsequent broadcast of the

event caused major disrepute in the United States.

Casler said people coming to the play shouldn't be expecting action and gunfights, but rather an in-depth look at some of the issues surrounding war.

"People should keep an open mind, ["Fallujah"] is definitely R-rated," Casler said. "I think what Sanderson is trying to get across is that at the end of the day, both sides of a war have to go home and cope with a lot of things that can't be taken back. People who come to the play will have a better appreciation and way of looking at the war and what happens after."

"Fallujah" will be showing at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 21 through Saturday, Feb. 23, with a 1 p.m. performance on Saturday and all performances will be held in the Forest Roberts Theatre. Tickets are \$5 for NMU students, \$10 for students 18 and under and \$15 for the general public.



Conservation biologist to speak at public forum

By Barry Winslow
staff writer

For students in love with nature or drawn in by the world's natural habitat — or simply wondering how to do more to maintain the local landscape, then the Conservation and Sustainability Community Forum is something to check out.

The forum, which is held on Thursday, Feb. 21 and Friday, Feb. 22 in the Mead Auditorium in 2701 West Science, will feature Dr. Curt Meine, conservation biologist, historian and writer. Meine will be speaking about local conservation and sustainability issues.

Hosted by NMU's earth, environmental and geographical sciences department, the event is free for NMU students and will begin at 7:30 p.m. with a presentation by Meine on connecting conservation efforts across landscapes.

Meine, who is a senior fellow member of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, a non-profit, donor-supported foundation whose mission is to "inspire an ethical relationship between people and land through the legacy of Aldo Leopold," said he is excited about the love of conservation and coming to the Upper Peninsula to speak.

"I was lucky to have a family that loved the outdoors," Meine said. "I was always interested in the sciences and the land. In fact, my family has a cabin in Iron County, Michigan that I visited as a boy, so I'm a bit of a Yooper myself."

After the presentation, the forum will continue on Friday morning. From 8:30 a.m. to noon, there will be a light breakfast and a screening of "Green Fire: Aldo Leop-

old and a Land Ethic for Our Time" followed by a community panel discussion on local sustainability efforts.

Dan Love, a senior environmental science major, feels that Meine coming to campus will be something of value.

"I think more and more people are slowly beginning to understand the importance of conservation and the implementation of sustainable practices," Love said. "[Meine] coming to campus will allow other students and the local community to gain new perspectives and an increased understanding of these topics."

Meine is the author of "Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work." This biographical work was published by the University of Wisconsin Press in 1988 and was the first full-length biography of Aldo Leopold, an American author, scientist, ecologist, forester and environmentalist.

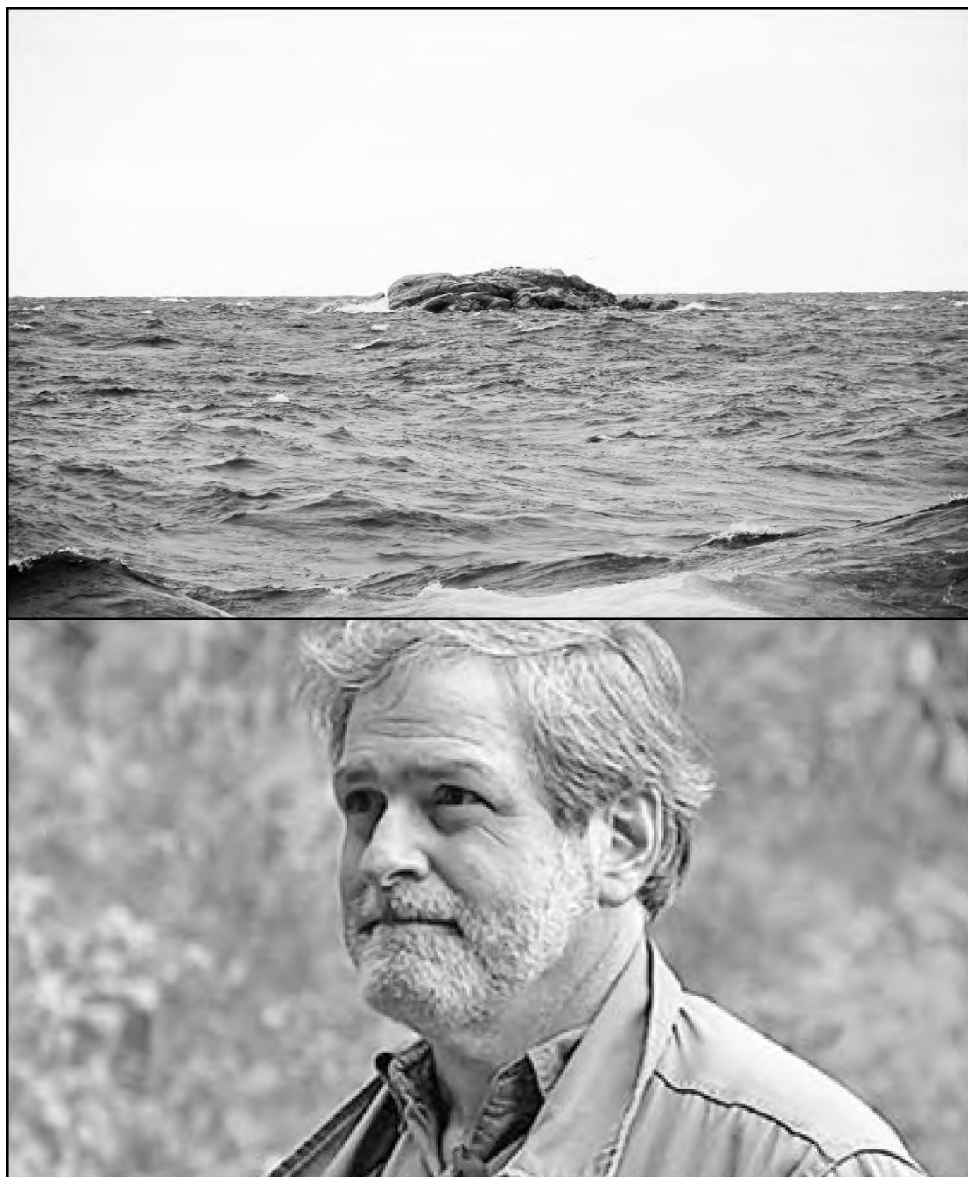
Leopold was also a professor at the University of Wisconsin and is known for his 1949 book, "A Sand County Almanac."

Meine's "Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work" went on to be named the Book of the Year by the Forest History Society.

Meine hopes to leave the Conservation & Sustainability Forum with great impact.

"Learn about your local landscape," Meine said. "The more one feels connected with it, the more one will care."

For more information about the Sustainability and Conservation Forum, call the NMU earth, environmental and geographic sciences department at (906) 227-2587.



Kristen Koehler/NW

Top: The public conservation forum will address issues regarding local sustainability practices. Above: Dr. Curt Meine, a biologist, author and historian, will be a guest speaker at the forum.

Student curates largest fighting video game conference in Midwest

By John LaPine
contributing writer

Five years ago, gamers Lee Cole and Marc Larson sat down in the living room of Cole's Ishpeming apartment to play a videogame called "Guilty Gear."

What they didn't know is that they were starting what would become the largest fighting video game tournament in the Upper Midwest.

Northern Fights is an annual video game tournament held by Push Button, Receive Combo (PBRC), a fighting video game club founded by Cole, a senior communications major, as well as Larson and Christopher Pepin, in

2009. This year marks the fourth Northern Fights event, and is shaping up to be the largest tournament since the event started.

"We're catching popularity in the Upper Peninsula," Larson said.

PBRC will be hosting a two-day event, on Saturday, March 9 and Sunday, March 10 in the Brule Room of the University Center.

Participants will compete against each other for cash prizes in games such as "Ultimate Marvel vs. Capcom 3," "BlazBlue: Continuum Shift Extend" and "Super Street Fighter IV: Arcade Edition (Version 2012)."

The first Northern Fights event

was held in January 2008, before PBRC was an official NMU group, and brought in around thirty fighting game enthusiasts from the area.

According to Larson, Cole, Larson and Pepin founded the group shortly after the tournament that would become known as Push Button, Receive Combo. Since then, the group has attracted the attention of students and community members alike.

Prize support comes mainly from the \$20 entry fee, which covers all eight tournaments of the weekend. All the money collected goes toward cash prizes or giveaways.

"All the entry fees — everything that we get — is going back out," Larson said. "We're not out to make money from this tournament."

However, this year, PBRC has received support from a number of different sponsors, according to Cole, including a big name publisher. Aksys Games, a video game publisher and translator, has provided PBRC with a number of prizes for this year's Northern Fights.

The company, which has published translated versions of series such as "Guilty Gear" and "BlazBlue," will offer plushies

and copies of their games to tournament winners.

PBRC members are excited to have to support of Aksys this year, and hopes the sponsorship will help increase club membership, Larson said.

"We've been fans of [Aksys's] work since we've been playing fighting games," Cole said. "We're trying to get our name out there with our big-name sponsor."

In addition, local game stores The Game-Well and Orbit have donated gift cards as prizes for the tournament.

Northern Fights even attracts participants from off campus, and from outside the local community, according to Cole. A group from Houghton drives down to attend PBRC's weekly meetings, while a group from Wisconsin makes the annual trip to Marquette to participate in Northern Fights.

The event even attracts players from as far east as New York City and Newark, N.J.

While Northern Fights is the largest event held by PBRC each year, the club meets regularly throughout the school year, every Saturday in the University Center, according to their website.

The participants of Northern Fights may be tournament-level players, but PBRC invites students and community members of all skill levels to join, according to Larson.

"We're open to all newcomers and all challenges," Larson said. "We don't discriminate based on skill level."

The club offers a unique opportunity for prospective gamers to try before they buy.

"Fighting games aren't something you can just pick up off the shelf and get into," Larson said. "It's definitely a niche type of genre. But you don't have to buy the games to find out if you like them. We offer games for members to try out on any given Saturday."

In addition, according to the Northern Fights website, this year introduces a free-to-enter side event called DEVO—a play on Evolution Championship Series, one of the largest fighting video game tournaments in the United States.

While DEVO features four of "the worst fighting games," according to the website, a main event will be a "Shaq Fu" tournament. Players will compete in the 1994 Shaquille O'Neal-branded fighting video game.

The winner will receive an exclusive "Shaq Paq," a package of "Shaq-related media," including a copy of the "Shaq Fu" video game, the films "Kazzam" and "Steel" on DVD, as well as "Shaq Diesel," the debut rap album by the former Orlando Magic center.

For more information, visit www.northernfights.com.



Nolan Krebs/NW

Push Button, Receive Combos a fighting video game club created by students.

Chit Chat channel Michigan's musical lineage



Album: Chit Chat

Artist: Chit Chat

Release Date: December 31

Label: PRTYNGG!

Runtime: 8:50



By Nolan Krebs
features editor

At the head of a wall-to-wall, sold out crowd at the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor, the four members of local garage-rock outfit Chit Chat are meekly performing a last-minute level check while the house music winds down.

While the chatter of 400 twenty-somethings fills the room, Izzy Johnson, Nick Melody, Kevin McKay and Joel Parkkila are performing some sort of pre-show ritual (which I would see them re-enact at another show two days later) consisting of a locking their hands together in a po-

lygonal shape — a scene not too dissimilar from a football huddle breaking before the first snap of the game.

As Johnson steps up to the mic and peeps an introduction, a couple rowdy audience members howl, “*%\$ yeah, Chit Chat!” and the band launches into “Attitude,” the first track off the band’s self-titled and self-released 7”.

The band’s steady but consistently satisfying style of gritty rock shows itself right off the bat: Stooges-style progressions backed up by Johnson’s half-shouted vocals and some truly wicked guitar work from Melody, who’s no slouch behind a Jazzmaster.

Johnson’s voice swells during the song’s opening and the crowd

responds accordingly: rigid fore-arms push sweaty bodies left and right while the outer rim looks on with \$2 beers in hand and heads jerking up-and-down in spectatorial approval.

As the first of four bands to play that night and undeniably the best of the three openers, Chit Chat held the crowds attention without a break.

All songs from Chit Chat’s 7” were delivered as tightly as on record, but with a boosted intensity and a solid stage presence: everyone in the room was well-aware that the band was killin’ it and having a blast doing it.

A highlight from both the live set and 7” is “Communication,” on which Johnson hands over vocals to the gruff but even-keeled shouts of Melody. The two are able to trade-off duties without a hitch; when Johnson isn’t stealing commanding the room as a frontwoman, she’s filling whatever

space is left with deliberate and tight guitar lines.

“Jelly” is a two-minute instrumental track that’s colorful enough to keep it out of filler territory, dotted with chords wrung out with tremolo. “Jelly” stands as a pretty good representation of the sounds and tones cultivated by Chit Chat: nothing groundbreaking, but for a listener with any sort of penchant for the punk, neo-psych sounds of bands like Jeff The Brotherhood or Ty Segall (whom Chit Chat was opening for that night), it does the body good.

The four-song 7” ends with “Undeath,” a slower-paced rocker that rides it’s own tom-and-

snare beat to a smooth finish, with surfy licks abound. “Undeath” is a good reminder that even if you can count the chords in a song on one hand, the right combination of simple textures can still render it infinitely enjoyable.

Chit Chat, i.e. a righteous rock band, reinvigorates the notion that there exists a musical lineage in the Great Lakes State outside of Seger and Kid Rock. Once upon a time, the Stooges and MC5 tore open a vibrant and incredibly influential punk scene that all started in Michigan.

Chit Chat, although young, is taking all the right cues to joining those ranks.



Photo courtesy of Chit Chat
Chit Chat includes members Izzy Johnson, Nick Melody, Kevin McKay and Joel Parkkila.

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Iceage holds nothing back on sophomore album



Album: You're Nothing

Artist: Iceage

Release Date: February 19

Label: Matador

Runtime: 28:30



By Kate Clark

contributing writer

It may come as a surprise to anyone who is familiar with Iceage's previous work, but in their latest album, "You're Nothing," which came out on Tuesday, Feb. 19, it doesn't sound like singer Elias Rønnefelt is shouting a garbled foreign language over a mouthful of blood.

In fact, half the time the lyrics are distinctly English, other times Rønnefelt's accent makes it sound like he's attempting to enunciate a keyboard smash. Created in Copenhagen, Denmark, where they are signed to Tambourrhinoceros, Iceage is actively en-

gaged in the city's scene with its members involved on other musical acts such as Vår and Marching Band.

Debut "New Brigade," which made it stateside with label What's Your Rupture?, came out in January 2011 to a fair amount of attention and acclaim.

A brash mess of noise that one wouldn't expect from a group headed by a clean-shaven Andrew VanWyngarden look-a-like, "New Brigade" is the perfect soundtrack for reckless violence and destruction. Take the fact that nearly all shots of the band performing involve a bloody nose as proof.

"You're Nothing," released through Matador, remains true to the band's style without so much white, teenaged male rage that

was ever present on earlier releases. Overall, the sound is more mature, with most songs managing to make it past the 2:30 mark while collectively showing a wider variety in sound and style.

The album's opening track and its most recent single, "Ecstasy," is decent enough but has a cringe-worthy chorus. But, if the five seconds of the word "pressure" being shouted repeatedly over a bass drum can be ignored, the reward is a nice little punk song.

"Coalition," released as a single in mid-January, and "In Haze" are easily the standout tracks of the album. They are the raucous songs of "New Brigade" refined. Both tracks are long enough that one can determine if they enjoy the song or not before it has ended and lacking the overly muddled distortion that plagues the debut.

"Morals" and "Wounded Heart" prove they can do things other than thrash about on guitars. Ballad-esque "Morals" begins with controlled strums and

piano before breaking out into a flurry of chords while Rønnefelt questions, "Where's your morals/ in this cursed land/ where Jesus hides?"

The catchiness of "Wounded Hearts" comes from its familiarity. While the rest of the album has the habit of spinning out of control, this is a track that loosely hangs on to some sort of format.

On "New Brigade," even though the lyrics were indistinguishable, titles (i.e. "Broken Bone" and "Collapse") alluded to what might have been listened to.

"It Might Hit First" gives a shout-out to this tactic because while there is no way anyone could make out the words, the title coupled with the songs beating drums and distorted guitars il-

licit that whatever it's about isn't too friendly. Actually, the lyrics feature crying and flowers but all things considered it probably euphuistic.

Speaking of impossible to understand songs, "Rodfaestet" is the only song where the excuse, "I have no idea what they're saying so I'll assume it's Danish" is accurate.

In fact, a report back from a Danish speaker on whether or not they are anymore understandable in their native language would be much appreciated.

This record is definitely worth picking up for anyone looking for a stripped-down punk album. Whatever "You're Nothing" lacks in cohesiveness, it makes up for with attitude — and lots of it.



Photo courtesy of Matador Records

Iceage formed in Denmark, where they made a name for themselves in the city's vibrant DIY scene.

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Strengthening lines brings MSU split

Return to CCHA ice time pushes 'Cats closer to final series on road

By Cody Boyer
sports editor

With only two regular-season series remaining in the season, the NMU men's hockey team travelled southbound to split their weekend against the Michigan State University Spartans following the loss to Michigan Tech.

Following an 8-2 loss against the Huskies, the Wildcats hit the road to play the Spartans on Friday, Feb. 15 and Saturday, Feb. 16 in East Lansing, Mich., winning the first night, 5-3, and taking a loss on the second, 4-2. Following weekend split, the 'Cats are 7-13-4-1 in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association and 13-15-4 overall.

NMU head coach Walt Kyle said the quality of play was considerably better during the weekend than it was last week against Tech, and the team is looking to make up for lost ground.

"Over the last week, all of us are really disappointed to where we have gone," Kyle said. "On Monday, we were 18th in the country and then we go and lay an egg against Tech. We drop there and then we go to East Lansing with a short line-up, and we did a great job on Friday."

On Friday, NMU was down four players due to injury, includ-

ing junior defenseman Wade Epp, senior defenseman Kyle Follmer, junior defenseman CJ Ludwig and freshman forward Cohen Adair. The Wildcats stole the lead early into the game with a score of 2-0 going into the second period.

NMU kept the goals going into the third period, bringing the score to 3-0. Michigan State pushed two goals past junior goaltender Jared Coreau in the third, with Spartans Matt Berry scoring at 9:41 and Jake Chelios tallying another at 14:52. The Wildcats scored two more goals past MSU goaltender Jake Hildebrand following one last goal from the Spartans, bringing the final score to 5-3.

Senior forward Matt Thurber scored two goals during the game, tallying his 15th and 16th career goals. Thurber's first goal of the night was a power-play goal, assisted by senior forward Brian Nugent and sophomore forward Reed Seckel. Junior forward Erik Higby earned the first goal of the game, assisted by Thurber and Seckel.

"Seckel's line was on fire," Kyle said. "They made all of our goals. They were really effective at moving the puck and getting to the net, and they also created a lot of opportunities and capitalized

on them."

Seckel tallied his 11th goal of the season and also scored two goals during the night. Seckel's first goal was assisted by freshman defenseman Ryan Trenz. His second goal went unassisted and was an empty-net goal.

Between the posts, Coreau saved 31 shots, while MSU's Hildebrand stopped 29 in his crease.

Coreau said the team's first CCHA win away from Marquette was a welcome accomplishment following the Tech game.

"We were mainly trying to bounce back this weekend and salvage some pride," Coreau said. "It was good because, with a loss like that against a rival team, we walked away feeling pretty low. That was our first win in the CCHA on the road. We did a pretty good job at accomplishing that."

On Saturday, the 'Cats wrapped up their weekend with a loss against the Spartans, 4-2. Sophomore defenseman Mitch Jones scored first for the Wildcats with his second goal of the season, assisted by Nugent and senior defenseman Scott Macaulay. Nugent shot the final Wildcat goal of the night unassisted, marking his first goal of the season.

At the conclusion of the night, the Spartans led in shots-on-



Kristen Koehler/NW

Sophomore defenseman Nate Taurence (6) has made appearances in 10 games this season. This season marks his first to get ice time with NMU.

net 43-20. In the crease, Coreau saved 39 shots, while Hildebrand stopped 18. Macaulay said the team is setting their sights on this weekend's match-up against No. 8 Bowling Green.

"It is going to be a huge weekend," Macaulay said. "With only four games left, every game counts. They are right ahead of us in the conference, so, if we get the job done this weekend, we can probably get ahead of them."

It has become a bit of a rivalry since they knocked us out the last two years. We haven't forgotten the stigma that those games have left, so we are going down there looking for two wins."

The traveling continues for the Wildcats as they face Bowling Green this weekend for their final CCHA series away from home. Puck drops at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 1 and Saturday, March 2 in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Dome crowded as 'Cats dash at home

By William Burns
staff writer

The Northern Michigan University track and field team hosted its one and only home meet of the season and placed in the top three in 11 events.

The Wildcats competed in the Northern Challenge at the Superior Dome on Saturday, Feb. 16 while getting prepared for the GLIAC Championships taking place next week.

The 'Cats were led by example from senior captain Delaney Lovett, who took first place in the triple jump, leaped for 10.82 meters. Lovett's distance was able to just edge out Lake Superior State triple jumper Katie Winniarski.

Lovett said she had a special reason to be excited about her performance this weekend because she got her first win in the triple jump.

"I was really excited to get the win," Lovett said. "That was my

first collegiate win in the triple jump, and it was really cool to do it at my last home meet ever. So it was a really good time for it to happen and although it wasn't my best jump ever, I was still happy with the outcome."

The 800-meter run also was a success for the 'Cats as all four athletes competing for Northern placed in the top four spots. Sophomores Katie Granquist and Caitlin Keskey came in first and second place. Granquist took first

with a time of 2:21.33, while Keskey placed second after running 2:29.27.

Freshmen Jaylee Brown and Abby Roche followed up in third and fourth place. Brown took third with a time of 2:29.78 and Roche came in fourth for the Wildcats with a time of 2:31.16. Senior Colby West had a first-place finish in the 400-meter dash. West was able to race the 400 meters in just under minute by running the race in 59.55 seconds.

Junior Sydney Schultz followed up just behind West in third place with a time of 1:01.65. Schultz and sophomore Brittini Wirtz competed in the 55-meter dash. Wirtz took first place after running the dash with a time of 7.37 seconds. Schultz finished in second with a time of 8.01 seconds.

The 3,000-meter run concluded with the top four spots being taken by the Wildcats. Senior Mallory Celaya finished with the top spot after she ran the event in 10:35.15.

Junior Chelsea Farquhar, senior Rita Waitas and sophomore Emily Allen finished the run in the second, third and fourth-place positions, respectively. Farquhar ran for 10:42.93, while Waitas came ran for 10:59.39.

Allen rounded out the 'Cats in the event with a time of 11:04.89.

Celaya, along with four other Northern athletes, were honored during the senior recognition event that took place early in the meet.

NMU head coach Chereé Hicks said while she never had the opportunity to spend a great amount of time with the departing seniors, she wanted to show them how thankful she was for the time and effort put in by her senior athletes.

"I think the recognition is really meant as a way to thank them for their time," Hicks said. "It was a way to say thanks to all the seniors who were recognized as captains by their peers and all the seniors who were simply great leaders on this team. It is sad to know we are losing a great deal of leadership."

The next competition is the GLIAC Indoor Championship that will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23 and Sunday, Feb. 24 in Allendale, Mich. The Wildcats will be competing in events that will determine conference champions. Hicks said her team is ready to step up to compete in the game.

"These young ladies have been competing hard all season," Hicks said. "We have been making small deposits in the bank. Now it is time to make a big withdrawal and cash in."



Kristen Koehler/NW

Freshman Jaylee Brown, sophomore Caitlin Keskey and freshman Abby Roche ran in the 800-meter run. Keskey took second place with a time of 2:29.27, while Brown placed behind her in third and Roche finished in fourth.

Skiers take first place

Wildcats sweep the slopes to take the CCSA Championship while on the road

By **Dustin Anand**
contributing writer

The Northern Michigan University men's and women's Nordic ski team came away with a win last weekend, securing the CCSA championship title.

On Saturday, Feb. 16 and Sunday, Feb. 17, the continuation of the CCSA championship took place in Coleraine, Minn.

On Saturday, the men's team competed in the 10 km Classic race where junior Erik Soderman finished first place for Northern out of 55 other skiers with a time of 26:14.2. Sophomore Kyle Bratrud finished in second place with a time of 26:19.2.

Bratrud said he was happy with his performance and how the team competed throughout the weekend.

"It feels good," Bratrud said. "It was close, good racing both days and everybody tried to make it for the competition."

Bratrud earned his first conference title of the year Saturday after the 10 km race.

The women's team raced in the 5 km Classic Race where three NMU skiers finished in the top five. Freshman Hannah Boyer finished second place with a time of 15:18.6, followed by junior Jordyn Ross with a time of 15:19.3 in third place and freshman Mary Kate Cirelli in fifth place with a time of 15:24.1.

Cirelli said she felt accomplished during her race and feels good about the competition.

"Personally, I was satisfied with my results," Cirelli said. "Everybody has so much talent and potential, we put our excellent coaching to work in every single race."

Sunday concluded the competition with the men's 20 km freestyle and the women's 15 km



Justin Key/NW

Junior George Cartwright finished with a time of 55:54.2 in the men's 20 km, taking fifth place. On Saturday, Feb. 2, he won the 1.4 km freestyle.

freestyle race.

Three 'Cats finished in the top five in the men's 20 km with Soderman finishing in first place again with a time of 55:25.1. Bratrud also finished in second place with a time of 55:26.2 and George Cartwright who finished fifth place with a time of 55:54.2.

Bratrud said he was pleased with the race results and how the weekend presented itself.

"In both races I finished second behind Erik Soderman," Bratrud said. "He won NAAs in the skate race last year so to come down to a sprint with him in the 20k was pretty sweet. I did not think I would be in that position at the beginning of the day."

Three 'Cats from the women's team finished in the Top 10 during the 15 km race.

Junior Rosie Frankowski finished in second place with a time of 48:23.3, along with Ross placing in fourth and Cirelli who finished in seventh.

The 'Cats seized the CCSA title with the men's team totaling with 303 points, while the women's finished with 292. With the combined scores, the 'Cats were titled first place, beating the University of Alaska who finished second with 514 points, and Michigan Tech finishing with 454 points.

Head coach Sten Fjeldheim said he was impressed with both team's performance and looks forward to competing in the NCAA regionals.

"This weekend went really well for both teams," Fjeldheim said. "This season has gone great thus far, our teams have been consistent and strong. Three guys and three girls are pulled for the NCAA championships, so we'll how the upcoming weekend goes."

On Saturday, Feb. 23, in Houghton, Mich., the 'Cats will be hitting the road to compete in the NCAA Regionals.

Wrestlers head to Cuba for Tourney

By **Cody Boyer**
sports editor

Over the weekend, the USOEC Greco-Roman wrestlers travelled to Havana, Cuba to compete in the Gramma Cup, leaving with one wrestler placing in his event.

On Saturday, Feb. 16, the Greco wrestlers duelled against 11 other teams, including Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Poland, Panama and Argentina.

The USA team emerged from the competition with two medals, overall, nabbing a silver and a gold medal.

USOEC head coach Rob Hermann said the competition was a tough one for the traveling team and they came out of it with valuable lessons learned.

"With every loss and every win, we are always learning," Hermann said. "The more we wrestle, the better that we become. Every time you can attend a training camp along with a tournament, it only enhances our training and our future."

Competing for the Northern Michigan USOEC, sophomore Parker Betts wrestled in the 120-kilogram weight division.

Betts came out with a victory against Panama, taking fifth place. Betts was the only Northern Michigan USOEC athlete to place.

Betts said wrestling in

Cuba presents many different challenges to the team, but the weekend revealed what they needed to do to prepare for the future.

"The competition in Cuba is always really tough," Betts said. "The Cuba guys are really tough, and the whole competition is really difficult, especially with all a majority of the other competitors coming into it with medals."

Next week, the Greco wrestlers will be returning home to train with the U.S. All-Navy Greco-Roman wrestling team.

The USOEC athletes will be training with the All-Navy team as they prepare for the Armed Forces Wrestling Championships.

The Championships will take place on Saturday, March 16 on the McGuire AFB in New Jersey.

The Greco wrestlers will also be holding a dual meet with the All-Navy team at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 26, in the Vandament Arena at NMU.

The event is free-of-charge to the public.

Hermann said the team is looking ahead with good resolve, and the focus is aimed at increasing their skill and experience in the competitions to come.

"Win or lose, we will come back as better wrestlers," Hermann said. "It is definitely a process. Everyone has to pay their dues."

USOEC lifter wrenches away bronze

By **William Burns**
staff writer

The Northern Michigan USOEC weightlifters competed in the National Junior Weightlifting Championship where one NMU athlete earned a bronze

medal in the event.

The competitors took to the gym on Sunday, Feb. 17 in Foster City, Calif.

Sophomore weightlifter Chris Young, from Oakland, Mich., took part in the 85 kg weight class and lifted for a total of 257 kg,

clinching third place.

Young lifted 110 kg in the snatch and then followed it up with a lift of 147 kg in the clean and jerk.

In weightlifting, the results are determined by the athlete who can lift the heaviest weight and has three attempts to successfully conduct a proper lift.

When two athletes lift for the same weight, the higher position is given to the athlete whose overall body weight is the least.

Young said he went into the event knowing that if he could force a tie with his opponent, who was already in third place, he knew he could get the win by way of a tie-breaker.

"I knew I had a chance at third when I saw the results of the other

guy's lift," Young said. "All I had to do was lift the same amount and I would earn third place because my overall body weight was less than my opposition."

USOEC head coach Vance Newgard said it was great weekend for not only Young, but other members of the team as well.

"Overall, it was a really great weekend," Newgard said. "Obviously the highlight would be Chris Young's performance. Not only did he get a bronze medal but we had other athletes that competed and had great results as well."

Sophomores Ann Bengry and Brian Budd both scored personal best lift totals this weekend.

Budd lifted for a total of 235 kg, surpassing his previous best

by 30 kg, and finished in seventh place in the competition.

Bengry passed her previous best by 5 kg as she lifted for 105 kg in the 53 kg weight class.

The next event for the USOEC weightlifters will be the Thunderdome Challenge.

The event will be held on Monday, Feb. 25 at the Superior Dome.

Young said he is looking forward for the home meet because the team is excited to be competing in front of their friends and families after being on the road as much as he is.

"We love doing what we're doing and it is really such a great atmosphere," Young said. "It's going to be really competitive and a lot of fun."



"We love doing what we're doing and it is really such a great atmosphere. It's going to be really competitive and a lot of fun."

— Chris Young
sophomore weightlifter

Road to regionals leads to two losses

By Georgette Breen-Naylor
contributing writer

The 'Cats ended their regular season with a pair of losses against the Ferris State Bulldogs on the road.

With Michigan State around the corner, the 'Cats traveled to Big Rapids, Mich. last weekend to play two games against Ferris State. The first game took place on Friday, Feb. 15. The upcoming Regional Tournament also starts with a game against the Michigan State Spartans.

This will be the first time that an NMU club hockey team will be competing in a regional tournament game. NMU head coach Carl Trosien said that his guys have been looking forward to Michigan State. Although the team didn't win last weekend, Trosien also said this past weekend was very beneficial.

"We got to see some young players get to play a larger role with having guys out of the lineup," Trosien said. "I think it reminded the team we can be beaten if we don't play our brand of hockey."

The 'Cats success has also allowed them to receive some air time from local station TV 6. NMU players and Trosien were interviewed after last weekend about the their first recorded regional tournament.

Ferris State won the first game against the 'Cats 5-1. The only goal scored by the 'Cats offense came from senior forward Kellen Michalak. Although the 'Cats didn't win, sophomore right wing Ben Hughes said they did get to work on some new plays.

"We got to work on some new plays that we never ran before," Hughes said. "It was also a good weekend for a lot of our top scorers to recover from injuries from the last few weekends of games."

The 'Cats were not able to score much in their first game against Ferris State. Trosien said the team had a few mistakes that cost them.

"We were sloppy at times in our own end of the puck," Trosien said. "They did a better job than we did taking advantage of our mistakes and penalties."

In the second game against Ferris State, the 'Cats were able to take the game into a shootout but lost 4-3. The 'Cats battled back from a 2-0 deficit but could not overcome it.

Junior right wing Mike Baudine, junior forward Kevin McNoh and senior center Brad Gicopoulos all scored for the 'Cats in the loss.

Senior defensemen Mark Novak said in both games they just were not getting the bounces to go their way.

"I think we had a hard time

finding the back of the net," Novak said. "We had a lot of opportunities to score but just could not seem to score."

Although the 'Cats ended their season with two losses, Novak said the team will be ready to work hard at practice this week.

"The whole team knows what is ahead of us," Novak said. "To work hard during the game and make Michigan State play Northern Michigan hockey."

The 'Cats will have to put last weekend's losses behind them and prepare for their first game in the regional tournament against Michigan State.

Trosien said the weekend's games against Ferris State were still regular season games, but meaningless when it comes to the post-season picture.

"Even as coaches, we approached the weekend as a chance to rest guys who needed to get healthy," Trosien said. "We got to see some younger players in a regular role to see how they would handle it from a developmental state."

While Trosien said it was a meaningless game, he still said that every game is important.

With a second match against Michigan State coming up, the 'Cats will have a chance for the school to get their first regional win in the history of the program.

"Winning is always the goal,"



Justin Key/NW

Senior defenseman Shane Feehery has contributed 21 divisional points during the 2012-13 season. Feehery has scored five goals and 16 assists.

Trosien said. "This is one of those weekends however the results, are not as important as preparing for Saturday and Michigan State."

With two losses ending the 'Cats regular season, Trosien said he believes that last weekend's games made his team realize that when they slack on their end, it's very hard to win games.

"We still need to learn to work as hard on defense as we do on offense," Trosien said. "These are all things we can take out of this

last weekend."

With Michigan State to look forward to, Hughes said the team is prepared.

"We've had our eyes on this weekend since the first game of the season," Hughes said. "We will be more than ready."

The 'Cats will open up against Michigan State on Saturday, Feb. 23, in Northbrook, Ill. This will be the first time that an NMU club hockey team will be competing in a regional tournament game.

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Weekend losses lead up to last series

By Katie Bultman
staff writer

The men's basketball team will host the final home series of regular season this weekend after coming off of a couple losses to Saginaw Valley State and top-ranked Wayne State University.

On Saturday, Feb. 16, the 'Cats faced the current No. 1-ranked team in the GLIAC North division. Wayne State won the game, 66-46.

Head coach Doug Lewis said the 'Cats are working on matching up to the more difficult teams, such as Wayne State.

"Any sport is all about matchups," Lewis said. "This game was a bad matchup for us with their quickness and athleticism, and we're trying to get better at that."

Early on, the game remained close between the two teams. The Wildcats took their first lead at 14:20 on the clock when junior forward Scooter Johnson, who finished with a team-high 14 points, hit a three-point shot to put the 'Cats up by one, 9-8.

The 'Cats lost their lead when Wayne State's Bryan Coleman hit a two-point jumper to give the Warriors the advantage.

After that basket, NMU could not recover the lead.

The 'Cats stayed closer to the Warriors in the second half when they scored 33 points to WSU's

38.

NMU also out-rebounded the Warriors in the overall game, 29-27.

Johnson said the team really worked on the rebounding end and managed to pick it up after the halftime break.

"We did a good job on rebounding," Johnson said. "We did a real good job of rebounding the whole weekend. We did alright on defense into the second half."

Sophomore forward Kendall Jackson put in 11 points for the 'Cats, contributed one steal and a block, and tied with WSU's Ian Larkin for a game-high seven rebounds.

Freshman guard Stephen Pelkofer hit four from behind the arc in the second half to tally his 12 game points.

Senior forward Joe Simon contributed five rebounds for the Wildcats, and senior forward TJ Cameron had three steals for the 'Cats.

Lewis said the team worked on the rebounding end of the game, but needed to master the defense to claim a win over the top-seed in the conference.

"We rebounded well as a team, and you have to do that if you're going to win," Lewis said. "The name of the game is defense and rebounding, and I think we did one of them well. We just didn't play defense."

On Thursday, Feb. 14, the 'Cats lost to Saginaw Valley State University, 51-57, leaving the Wildcats at 4-15 in the conference.

In the first period of the game, NMU held the lead by as much as 10 points. However, SVSU began to pick up the deficit, and a three-pointer from Saginaw's Brett Beland gave the Cardinals a one-point lead.

The Wildcats were down 29-30 going into the half.

Johnson said fatigue played a part in the lapse in play.

"We got a little tired and let up on defense," Johnson said. "We turned the ball over too many times and they scored and knocked off our lead."

In the second half, the teams tied the score six times as play continued to go back and forth. With 5:55 left in the game, the Cardinal's Damon Bozeman sunk a three-point shot that gave SVSU a lead of seven.

However, the 'Cats brought the deficit down to two with 1:58 left after Johnson finished a three-point play. At that point, the Wildcats were behind in a close 51-53 game.

The Cardinals made it to the line and sunk several free throws, which sealed the game for SVSU, leaving the Wildcats with a loss.

The 'Cats play Lake Superior State at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday,



Justin Key/NW

Junior forward Matt Craggs scored four points Thursday, Feb. 14, playing a total of 39 minutes. Craggs played 23 minutes on Saturday, Feb. 16.

Feb. 21 at the Berry Events Center, and then face Northwood at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23 at the Berry Events Center.

Johnson said the game against SVSU was a good experience for

the Wildcats to work together as a team.

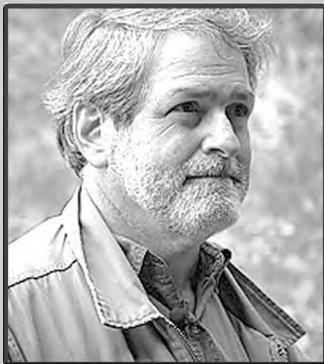
"We finished good as a team," Johnson said. "We came together, bonded, cut the lead down, and it was a pretty close game."

Community Forum on

Conservation and Local Sustainability

Presented by the NMU Earth, Environmental and Geographical Sciences Department

Thursday, February 21

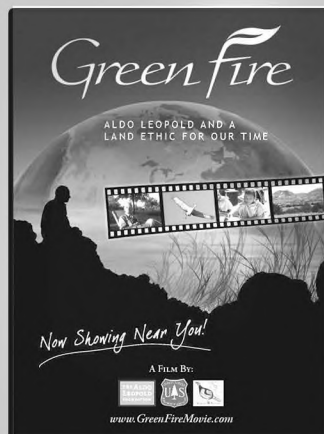


7-8:30 p.m. Mead Auditorium
2701 West Science Building

From Wild Lands to Working Lands to Urban Lands: Connecting Conservation Across the Landscape.

Presentation by Curt Meine, Aldo Leopold Foundation senior fellow, and author of *Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work.*

Friday, February 22



8:30-noon Mead Auditorium
2701 West Science Building

8:30-9 a.m. Light breakfast.

9-10:15 a.m. Screening of the Emmy award-winning documentary film *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time.*

10:30-noon Community panel discussion on conservation and local sustainability.

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Shout Outs

Mississippi — Lazy Southerners. It took you almost 150 years to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment. Though you could play a fast one on ol' Lincoln, did you? Well it takes more than a shot to the noggin' to throw this guy off! — **Abraham Lincoln**

Will.I.Am — I want to scream and shout and let it all out and scream and shout and let it out. I'm singing Nor-orthern Michigan. — **NMU**

Pope Benedict — I know how it feels to retire from the limelight. Many said I too was divine, until they discovered cholesterol. — **Eggs Benedict**

Rihanna — So you said you found love in a hopeless place. I didn't know you lived in Gant Hall? — **Gant Hall Resident**

Dick Cheney — You frighten me. — **Death**

Leprosy — I'm fallin', I'm fallin', I'm fallin' apart because of you. Not cool. — **Leper**

Sea Wolf — You're mom's a wolf. Zing! — **Middle Schooler**

Snow Days — I love how you are bringing me closer to my date with fate, the day when I cross the stage and turn the page. Keep on blowing, heck, keep on snowing. Soon I'll be down, in a gown—no frown—at the dome. Hurray! — **Soon-to-be graduate**

Snow — Where are you spring? Winter looks awfully odd. — **Someone who hates winter**

Someone who hates winter — Why are you asking me? Spring is out clubbing in Brazil, while I'm here chilling. By the way, Winter is my cousin. Uncool. — **Snow**

Bob — What happened to us? — **Robert**

Bob Seger — So glad to hear you're back on tour. It seems like it has been forever since you've turned the page. — **Book on Seger's nightstand**

Cowboy — I don't know how to tell you, but cows can't be boys. I've raised you as a boy...but you're a girl. I'm so sorry. I'm sorry if I hurt your veilings. — **Cow**

Like a boss — Why are we so afraid of commitment? I just want a raise. Not "like a raise" but a raise. Can't you see I'm, like, dying? — **Like an employee**

Olympics — Really? BMX over wrestling? Are you trying to become ESPN 8? Give us some real sports. We don't want golf—that's a hobby. We want Greco-Roman wrestling! — **America**

Soup — I will not burn my mouth on your sensual split peas and ham. I AM GUNNING FOR YOU! — **Manny**

Matt Lauer — Where in the world is—Matt Lauer? Newsflash: no one cares, Matt. You are uninteresting. We want Al Roker! We want Carmen San Diego! We want Tupac! — **Katie Couric**

NMU Grounds Crew — Thank you so much for all you do! We may not say it often, but thanks for plowing the entirety of campus so that we can make it to classes and park our cars! You guys rule! — **NMU Students**

Craigslist — The Casual Encounters section is really cutting into our business. Stick to free stuff and motorcycles. We'll deal with the cyber mistakes. — **E-Harmony**

Lent — I ate my first McFish. Apparently, I gave up shame for you. — **Observer**

Snow days — Thank you, but can you please happen on a Thursday. Thank you. — **Nwinder**

8 Tracks — Thanks for the inspiration this week. It was rough, but we got through it. Keep on keeping it funky. I want to rock your gypsy soul, too. — **OE**

Family — Thank you so much for everything last week. You guys are the best parents and I love my brothers. See you in a week. — **Shaina**

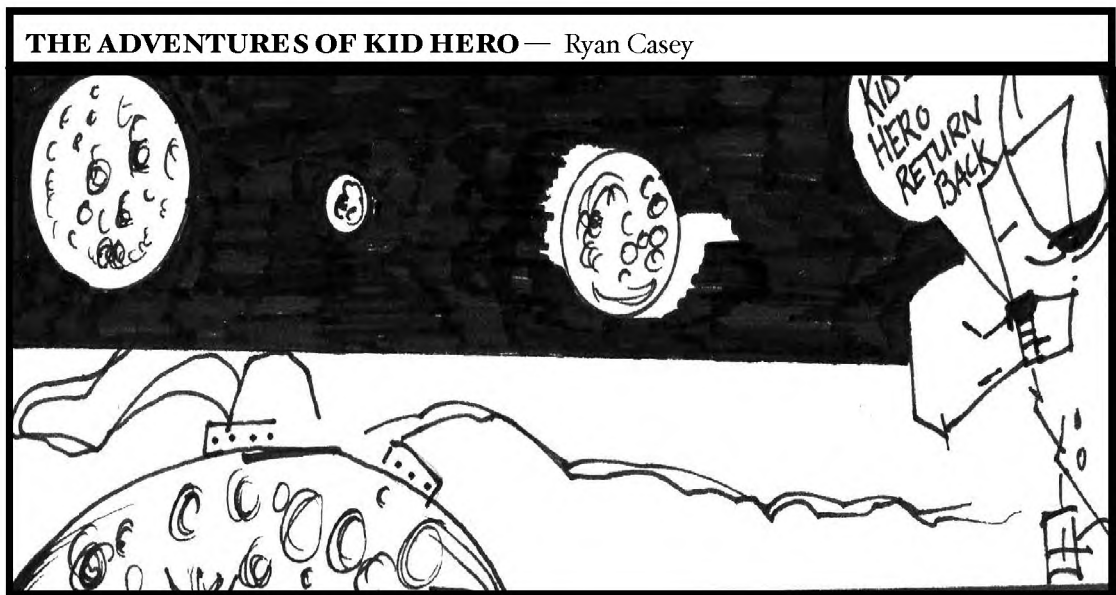
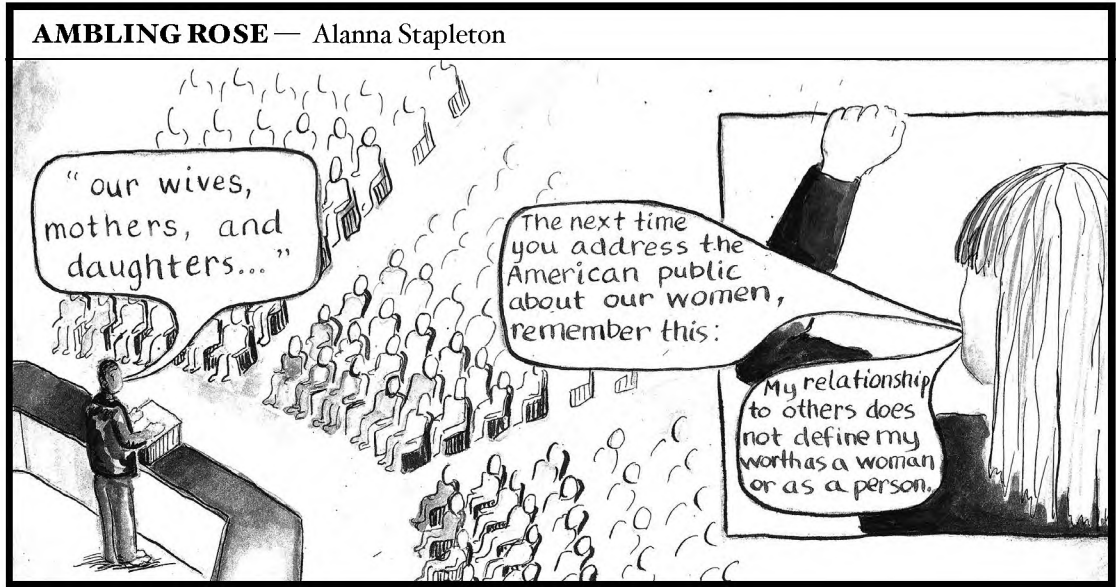
Jacob — One more week! I cant wait! I love you. — **Shaina**

Gaga — I love you and miss you! See you in a week! — **Shaina**

Inspirations

- Snow Days
- Pigs ear
- Palmer
- Fog machines
- Cover letters

- Mysteriously dry cheese
- The News



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Tim Harris

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~Walt Disney



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Born in 1986 with Down Syndrome, Tim's life has been defined by exceeding expectations. Tim is the only person in the U.S. with Down Syndrome who owns his own restaurant, Tim's Place: World's Friendliest Restaurant, where breakfast, lunch, and free hugs are served daily.

Monday, February 25

7:30 p.m. Great Lakes Rooms, UC

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