

Campus under construction

A look inside the new dorm rooms expected to be finished next semester

By Davon Lanier

news editor

Next semester, 400 new beds will become available on campus as NMU moves forward with an \$80 million housing project to replace the old Quad One dormitories.

As of now, the southern buildings of A and C in the six-wing housing facility are complete and will be ready to be filled by students in the fall.

"There is nothing in [buildings A and C] that will prevent us from moving forward," Jim Thams, director of engineering and facilities planning said. "In both instances we're up four floors—we have the roofs on. Building A is completely dried in—shingles installed; windows in. We've completed mechanical and electrical rough-in and we are working on drywall—that includes taping and mudding."

He said Buildings A and C are the farthest along in the project so far and every building will have four floors.

There are four stories up now for half of Building B, Thams said. Building B will include a basement containing all of the mechanics and wiring for the new facility. There were also roof trusses put on last week,



Christin DeFord/NW

A hallway of Building A, pictured above, is lit with utility lights as construction for the new dorms continues to progress. The new dorms are expected to be open for use by students beginning in the fall semester.

and both the floor and deck were poured. Thams said Building B took longer than others because of the mechanical additions to the basement. He also said the rest of the building will come out of the ground, above the basement, potentially starting this week stating, "We should have walls starting to come out of the ground here shortly."

Thams said footings were set around Building D prior to winter, with the addition of one stair tower. He added that NMU is letting the building sit until spring to resume construction.

The rest of the buildings will open in pairs subsequently every semester, with the two middle buildings of B and D expected to open up the winter semester

of 2018, followed by buildings E and F the next fall semester.

Thams said the lodge, which will serve as the central hub for the new dorms, is just starting to come out of the ground as well and will open up in mid- to late October.

"At the same time, we're also working on the connector link," he added.

The connector link will run east to west, connecting all of the six new dorm wings to one another as well as the Marketplace.

Thams said there was a Request for Proposal process, where developers submitted their own proposals to assist NMU with the housing project and EdR was selected. He noted that there was an "extensive" process of evaluation before NMU shortlisted down to three potential candidates, and EdR was ultimately chosen as the right fit. He said the decision was made with regards to both evaluated costs and the characteristics of the team.

"They were chosen because, at the end of the day, they brought the best team to the table and they're a very reputable company," Thams said.

The new housing project, which began in July 2016, is being brought to campus in collaborative effort between Tennessee-based national collegiate housing developer and manager EdR, Nuemann/Smith Architecture, NMU Engineering and Facilities Planning, along with Walbridge Construction Management.

The next building slated for demolition is Halverson, which will begin in the summer and the project is expected to be complete by the fall semester of 2018.

University officials address travel ban

By Winter Keefer & Kayla Miller

editorial staff

"Northern Michigan University values all students, faculty and staff—regardless of country of origin, immigration status, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, political orientation or other characteristics."

President Fritz Erickson sent a campus-wide email Monday to address an executive order is-

sued by the White House Friday, barring citizens of seven nations from traveling to the United States. The seven countries included in the order are Libya, Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Iran.

NMU does have students and possibly faculty affected by the executive order, Erickson said.

"We don't disclose private information about students or faculty. And we have a long history of not disclosing information,"

he said.

NMU is currently looking to assess the direct impact of the executive order on students and faculty through the Office of Student Affairs, Dean of Students and Human Resources and is reaching out to students who may be impacted, Erickson said. The university will comply with laws, but has announced its plans to support students and faculty affected by the ban.

"One of the things I'm most

proud of as Northern Michigan University's president is our tradition of being a strong and caring community." Erickson said in his email. "The responsibility we carry to support each other, regardless of similarities and differences, has been a Northern hallmark for more than a century."

Brent Graves, president of the NMU Chapter of the American



ERICKSON

See BAN • Page 4



SPORTS

The men's and women's Nrodic Ski teams competed in two different races over the weekend.

▶ See PAGE 12



FEATURES

Kings and queens are set to take the stage for the 21st annual NMU Drag Show.

▶ See PAGE 10



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'Planning for Distinction' talks sweep campus

By Winter Keifer

assistant news editor

Meetings started this week to outline the recently announced "Planning for Distinction" project, providing question-and-answer forums to NMU community members on how the university is looking to find the most effective way to measure programs and allocate resources.

Head of Campus Strategies, LLC, and Consultant for the "Planning for Distinction" campus-wide assessment, Larry Goldstein ran the public information meetings. Goldstein's company helps institutions of higher education create strategic plans and establish criteria for evaluating academic programs and support functions to help make informed decisions on how to properly utilize resources.

"I think that American higher education employs some of the brightest people in the world with fantastic educations, and yet they amazingly learn how to add and not how to subtract. So, when a program gets created it will be there forever," Goldstein said in the first NMU community forum on Tuesday morning.

Goldstein explained that programs that are added through higher education are rarely taken away regardless of performance or budget limita-

tions. He said that when cuts are necessary, across-the-board reallocation does not work.

"In my experience, across-the-board cuts lead to mediocrity," Goldstein said.

The "Planning for Distinction" project is meant to move data collection involving campus programs into the hands of those most closely involved using a top-down bottom-up model, he explained. Senior leadership brought the project forward looking to gain insight from campus employees who work more closely with campus life.

"People in senior leadership don't know what they don't know. They don't live the life of a typical faculty or staff member," Goldstein said.

The highest positions allowed on the two task forces that will be created will be department heads, Goldstein said. The two task forces will be academic and support, academic encompassing strictly teaching based programs and support involving any auxiliary or non-academic programs that provide assistance to academics.

Like many universities across the nation, NMU faces budget cuts every year, Goldstein said. The task forces will have the job of setting up a system of measurements and criteria for programs specific to NMU.

"I think this is a good way of questioning the status quo and investing resources," Goldstein said.

Transparency is a key component of this plan, Goldstein said. Reports will be made based on both quantitative and qualitative data provided by programs on campus and will be shared with the NMU community when sent to senior leadership.

"I won't work with a campus that doesn't want to treat this in a transparent manner," Goldstein said.

Brent Graves, biology professor and president of the NMU-AAUP expressed support for the "Planning for Distinction" project.

"What's good for the university is good for the faculty," Graves said.

This will not be an easy process, he added. However, in the long run it will be positive for the faculty, students and university in making sure that NMU's strengths are emphasized.

"Every year there are budget cuts. Every year costs go up faster than our budget does so we've got to cut someplace," he said.

Cost is the most serious problem facing higher education, University President Fritz Erickson said. From state budget cuts to needing to compensate for inflation along with the cost associ-



Neil Flavin/NW

Consultant Larry Goldstein speaks to NMU community members about strategic planning for future university investments.

ated with operation and maintenance of the university, expenses keep rising.

"The biggest chunk of it is really the disinvestment by the state and public higher education and that's been a travesty," Erickson said.

Some programs do not need to be closed, but they need an investment or change in direction to attract students, he said.

"What they're looking to do is figure out where we should be really investing in programs and looking at each program in terms

of viability for the life of the university and what we can do to really increase that," Erickson said.

Erickson believes that the university has been too centralized in its decision-making process in the past. What he would like to do is empower individuals to make decisions for departments they are most familiar with and involved in.

"If you leave it to me, I won't know the intricacies of what's the best direction for a particular program. I won't know enough," he said.

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STATE NEWS

After serving on the bench for 26 years, U.S. District Judge Gerald Rosten, the man responsible for rescuing Detroit from bankruptcy, is retiring from his position and turning to the private sector. Rosen, 65, is known for engineering an \$820 million deal that helped Detroit exit the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history in just 18 months. He also overturned Michigan's ban on partial-birth abortions, overturned three terrorism convictions in the Detroit Sleeper Cell case and improved the Eastern District's jury pool diversity.

NATIONAL NEWS

Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz vowed to hire 10,000 refugees globally early this week in response to President Trump's executive order banning immigration from seven Middle Eastern countries. "We will neither stand by, nor stand silent, as the uncertainty around the new administration's actions grows with each passing day," Schultz said in a message to employees posted on the company's website on Sunday.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

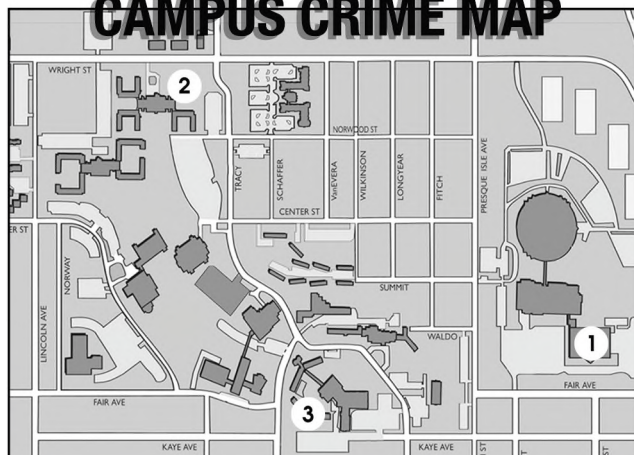
The process of Britain leaving the European Union moved forward Wednesday when members of the UK parliament voted in favor of allowing the government to begin divorce talks. Members of the House of Commons voted by 498 to 114 to advance the bill that would give Prime Minister Theresa May the authority to invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty—the formal process of leaving the EU. The size of majority in favor of triggering Article 50 on Wednesday means the bill is almost certain to become law.

WEIRD NEWS

When a drug dealer in northern Australia raised the price of weed, an unhappy customer called the police to complain. The unidentified woman said the marijuana price hike was "outrageous," then refused to reveal any further details out of an apparent fear of incriminating herself and hung up. Despite marijuana being illegal in the Northern Territory, the department decided to use the incident to pursue other dealers. "If you know a drug dealer who is ripping you off, give us a call," the organization wrote on Facebook. "We'd love to help."

— Compiled from news sources

CAMPUS CRIME MAP



1. A simple assault was reported at 1:06 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Berry Events Center.

2. A controlled substance and alcohol violation was reported at 10:23 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28 in Meyland Hall.

3. Larceny of private property was reported at 12:15 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15 in West Hall.

Medical features add safety measures to campus buildings



Christin DeFord/NW

Sharps containers have been placed in restrooms throughout campus, providing a safe place for needles to be disposed of. Automated External Defibrillators have also been added to various campus locations.

By Jade Jenkins

contributing writer

This summer, NMU approved the installation of multiple medical safety features throughout campus, including Automated External Defibrillators and sharps disposal containers.

After waiting multiple years, Public Safety and Police Services received the approval to place 30 sharps disposal containers throughout restrooms around campus to be used for disposal of needles, lancets, and syringes.

Mandy Magno, Occupational and Environmental Health Specialist, took charge in getting these safety items placed around campus.

NMU is currently creating a Sharps Policy which will give people a way to learn about medical sharps and safe ways to dispose of them. The policy is being created to help minimize exposure to bloodborne pathogens, such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Human Immunodeficiency Virus, which are easily transferable through used needles.

There have been a couple of needle stick accidents with NMU faculty and staff in the past, said Magno. Needle stick accidents can happen if a sharps disposal container becomes too full and needles poke out of the container or even when a needle is put in the trash and pokes out the side of the garbage bag.

"If somebody has a place they can dispose of their medical sharp more easily and confidentially, it will make our campus much safer for our employees, students and visitors," Magno said.

Sharps disposal containers were installed around campus in August 2016. They were placed in every first floor women's and men's restroom in most buildings on campus. If there was a unisex

restroom, one was installed there instead. The University Center and Cohodas have sharps containers on multiple floors.

If students that live on-campus are in need of a sharps disposal container in their room, they can request one from Public Safety and Police Services, and drop it off to Magno when it is full to get a new one.

Used disposable sharps are to be placed in puncture-resistant containers, as close to the use as possible. The sharps are then picked up by a licensed medical waste disposal company and taken to a processing area for decontamination and safe disposal.

All employees have been sent an email with the location of the sharps containers if they are needed and stickers are being made for paper towel dispensers in all restrooms to direct students, employees and visitors in need of where sharps containers are located.

If accidentally stuck with a needle, immediately wash the exposed area with soap and water. If that is not available, use a skin disinfectant such as rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizers. Contact NMU Public Safety and Police Services, Human Resources or the Health Center as soon as possible and seek medical attention, Magno said.

Along with needle dispensaries, NMU also purchased and installed 21 new Defibtech Reviver View Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) on campus over the past year.

AEDs are portable electronic devices that can be used to treat Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA), a condition where the heart suddenly stops beating. This is one of the leading causes of death in the United States and can happen to anyone at any time.

Out of the 21 AEDs that have

recently been purchased, none placed on campus have had to be used. However, they can also be found in police cars, Public Safety vehicles and at the PEIF, where they are used occasionally.

Magno is working alongside others to determine the best way to provide optional CPR/AED training for NMU employees.

The hope is that more people will be responsive, and if they have training, be willing to help quickly and efficiently.

"The more people trained in CPR/AED procedures means critical care is immediately provided, increasing survival rate for the victim," Magno said.

It is not yet required, but in order to use an AED, a person should go through CPR/AED training.

Barbara Coleman, associate professor of health and human performance, discussed a few classes that allow for this training at the PEIF and through the nursing program. There are also courses offered outside of academics for others who may want to have CPR or AED training.

"An American Heart Association Community Training Center is located in the School of Health and Human Performance and American Red Cross classes are available in Recreational Sports. Both are located in the PEIF," Coleman said.

Public Safety and Police Services student employees check all sharps containers and AEDs weekly.

With the AEDs, they check for a green flashing light. If it has turned red, there may be a maintenance problem, or expired pads or batteries which is fixed right away. Sharps containers are changed when they get three quarters of the way full and a new container is put in its place.

Snyder appoints new BOT members

By Ellen Lindbloom

contributing writer

Gov. Rick Snyder recently appointed three new members to the NMU Board of Trustees in late December.

Lisa Fittante, Alexis Hart and James Haveman were each selected by Snyder to carry out eight-year terms and to replace retiring Trustees or those with remaining contracts.

"We welcome these excellent appointments for filling out the board membership and look forward to their contributions to meeting the challenges and opportunities we face in the coming years," Scott Holman, chair of the NMU Board of Trustees, said in an NMU press release from December.

Fittante, a Michigan native from Kingsford, is currently the president of Fittante & Colenso CPA PC, a member of the Dickinson Area Partnership and the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants.

She earned an associate's degree in accounting from Lansing Community College and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from NMU.



Fittante

Fittante will replace L. Garnet Lewis, who was appointed by former Gov. Jennifer Granholm in 2009, and will serve an 8-year term until Dec. 31, 2024.

Hart, who is from Royal Oak, currently serves as the director of NAFTA and Human Resources Shared Services for Daimler AG,

which is a German multinational automotive corporation. She previously held positions at Mercedes-Benz Financial Services, Daimler Chrysler Financial Services and the Chrysler Corporation.



Hart

Hart has a bachelor's degree in human resources from Michigan State University and a master's degree in industrial relations from Wayne State University. She will replace H. Sook Wilkinson and will also serve an eight-year term until Dec. 31, 2024.

"I am excited to be involved with this wonderful university and to work with this outstanding board, administration, faculty, staff and students," Hart said in an NMU press release.

Haveman was formerly the director of the Michigan Department of Community Health but currently serves as a trustee for the Grand Rapids Public Museum Foundation Board. Haveman resides in Grand Haven with his wife Barbara and is a father of two and grandfather of seven.

Haveman is also a board member of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation as well as the Institute of Healthcare Policy and Innovation National Advisory Board for the University of Michigan.

Haveman holds a bachelor's degree in accounting, economics and sociology from Calvin College and a master's degree in social work from Michigan State University. He will fill a vacancy created by

the resignation of Thomas Zurbuchen and will serve until the end of Zurbuchen's eight-year term which expires on Dec. 31, 2020.

Haveman previously served on the Ferris State University Board of Trustees from 2002 to 2010 when he was appointed by former Gov. John Engler. He and NMU President, Fritz Erickson, served together during that time when Erickson was the provost at Ferris.



Haveman

Haveman said he initially applied to be a Trustee for NMU because he loves the Upper Peninsula and he was looking forward to working with Erickson again.

He hopes to bring that past experience to his new role here at NMU. He said he is interested in the economic development of the U.P. and believes that hospitals and universities play a large role in this region.

"Workforce demands are changing," Haveman said. "I want to make sure the university is thinking 20 years down the road."

He said his biggest goal is to help grow the university by making sure that the curriculum is academically sound, keeping enrollment up and being fiscally responsible.

"I look forward to working with the total NMU community to listen, learn and contribute in a manner that represents the mission and values of the university. I also want to assist NMU as it contributes to the economic revitalization of the Upper Peninsula," Haveman said.

BAN

Continued from Page 1

Association of University Professors (AAUP), said he thought Erickson provided a supportive statement.

"AAUP isn't going to be in favor of anything that disrupts higher education and I think that this, for many people, is highly disruptive of higher education," Graves said.

In a post on the AAUP's website, the Executive Committee of NMU-AAUP issued a statement: "We strongly oppose the travel ban and its implications for religious and ethnic discrimination. We plan to work with the Academic Senate to thoroughly discuss and respond to these events as a university community."

In the same post, three NMU professors denounced the travel ban and called for a stronger response from Erickson.

"I want to encourage our university leadership to stand up boldly against the oppressive

dictates of President Trump," said Associate Professor of Native American Studies Martin Reinhardt in the post.

Jonathan Allen, professor of political science, said he sees the ban as a threat to the community, and he hopes his colleagues can see that as well.

"I do not want this matter to be treated simply as a question of offering 'listening' sessions, counseling, etc., to directly affected students or faculty/staff," he said.

Graves, speaking as an individual faculty member, defended Erickson's statement, saying many members of the NMU community hold different political ideologies and the university and university president cannot be expected to enforce one perspective over another, Graves said.

"It's our duty as individuals to speak out, but it's my perspective you don't tell anyone else what they have to say, including the university president," he said. "And, he can't speak for everyone else."

CORRECTION

In the article titled, "NMU begins campus-wide assessment" from the Jan. 26 issue, Gavin Leach was misidentified in the jump on page 4. He should have been correctly identified as the vice president of finance and administration.

Wildcat Women's Lacrosse



Neil Flavin/NW

The new varsity Women's Lacrosse team practices for their upcoming season in the Superior Dome. The season opener kicks off on Feb. 18, with games running until the end of April.

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EDITORIAL



What 'the media' means for real journalism

During the inauguration of President Trump, violent protests organized under the #DisruptJ20 crew broke out in Washington, D.C. Under the mission to shut down the inauguration, the group of roughly 230 people smashed windows and destroyed a limousine.

At least six journalists zoomed in to cover the events. But instead of bringing accurate news to the public, they were charged with felony rioting. Despite being released, the journalists have preliminary court hearings scheduled within the next two months.

The journalists were doing their jobs in order to bring important information to the public. These arrests bring an alarming message about the freedom of the press and the future of journalism.

In a world where "fake news" is a phrase being thrown at genuine news sources and "alternative facts" aren't facts at all, we need watchdogs now more than ever. Our freedom of speech needs to be protected.

The foundation of trust between the people and "the media" has been deteriorating. This negativity has bled into people constantly bashing news sources with antagonizing comments and

President Trump calling the media "the opposition party" on Twitter.

What does "the media" really mean? It has become an umbrella term for anything on the internet or television, and at the same time a scapegoat for an upsetting piece of information. Today, journalists keep getting scooped into the mess of "the media." Accurate news stories get downgraded to the same level as biased news commentators, or even the same level as horoscope quizzes.

Too often people are sharing stories without checking for credible sources, a recent publish date, or even reading the entire story. Clickbait articles with bogus headlines and biased "alternative facts" get cycled through more people than actual news.

Freedom of speech affects everyone, and as journalists and members of the public, we need to remain strong in an ironic, upsetting era that "fake news" gets read more than the legitimate sources that President Trump consistently targets. We need to remain brave when fellow journalists setting out to report the truth get arrested by police in an attempt to keep the peace.

Reflection on a year of vegetarianism



Staff Column

Savanna Hennig

With the arrival of February, I think about a few different things. Immediately I reflect on how many couples lust after cheap heart-shaped chocolates and bouquets of dead flowers.

After a pause, however, I remember that it was a year ago I started to go vegetarian. It was while pink and red Hallmark cards littered every store I was thinking about how my life would be if I never consumed meat again.

My quest with vegetarianism honestly began in 2012 after getting astonishingly sick from eating a rare piece of prime rib. It was around Christmastime when my vomit-hazed brain vowed to never eat meat again. Less than a week later, I stumbled when confronted with the most perfect lasagna on New Year's Eve.

Last year in February, things got interesting. I started talking to a guy on OkCupid. He was an animal lover, enjoyed being outside, and had the cutest smile in all of his photos. Chemistry rolled between us when we texted, and even more so when we met in person. We were a 95 percent match with one problem: He was vegetarian, I was not.

In order to solve this mismatch, I took a dive into the world of being meat-free. After all, it wasn't going to be permanent.

The first three months were the hardest. Cravings for meat leaked into my dreams—and I can admit that having a dream about a cheeseburger is really, really weird. You wake up both incredibly hungry and in a panic that you broke your meat-free streak.

Grocery stores and potlucks become this peculiar ordeal where you spend more time nos-

ing through the ingredients than actually eating. Family members are astonished at your lifestyle change. I remember distinctly my mom and dad, comfortable in their Hamburger Helper way of life, exclaiming over the phone, "Are you okay? If you don't eat meat, what do you eat?" Or the infamous "Well if you come home, I don't know what to feed you."

After this period of trial and error, you become comfortable. You find meatless replacements for your usual cooking and recipes, ingredient lists become easier to read and restaurants become less tedious. You thrive on hummus, black beans and a colorful array of fruits and vegetables. Of course, you still have junk food—such as fake chicken nuggets or seven layer burritos at Taco Bell.

Encouragement for this lifestyle also comes from so, so many articles about vegetarians being healthier than meat-eaters, or how being meat-free reduces your carbon footprint.

My strongest motivator is from the ethics standpoint, slammed into focus by Paul McCartney's video "If Slaughterhouses Had Glass Walls We'd All Be Vegetarian." As months tick by, I find myself wondering how many chickens or pigs I would've eaten by now if I had continued eating meat; perhaps how many I've saved.

As these 12 months roll into a tidy year, I reflect on where I've come. I feel healthier and overall better about what I eat. Dreams of bacon or cheeseburgers rarely visit my sleep. My parents, of course, still don't know what to feed me—But my dad, rather than piling both meats and cheeses onto one single tray for Christmas, separated them out "for the veggie eaters."

And of course, as February visits me again, I have to remind the same vegetarian guy with the cute smile to buy me some cheap heart-shaped chocolates and a bouquet of dead flowers.

THE NORTH WIND 

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Letters can also be submitted via email to editor.northwind@gmail.com, or through a website submission on www.thenorthwindonline.com.

“Us or them” culture



Opinion Editor

Trevor Drew

The time following the election has been surreal for me. Up until now, I've always enjoyed and expected a certain amount of certainty in my life. But these last few months have shown me that nothing is set in stone and if it could happen, it eventually will.

My dad instilled me with a love of music. Growing up, father Drew was constantly sharing his favorite songs from his youth and explaining what it was like growing up in “the old days.” One song that has always struck me was “Ohio” written by Neil Young and performed by Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. The song was written as a reaction to the Kent State shootings of May 4, 1970, where four students who were protesting the Cambodia campaign, a series of military operations conducted in eastern Cambodia announced by President Nixon, were shot and killed by national guards who were trying to ease the chaos.

I'd hear the story of the Kent

State shootings every now and then from my dad and it always seemed so alien to me. How violent, how sad. A protest or an assembly of anything like that was always something I heard about in history classes or from my parents but never actually saw or experienced. My dad sometimes explained it as an “us or them” kind of feeling that I never quite understood until the last few months.

The division in the American people is very palpable these days. Families refusing to speak to each other, lines being drawn between friends and frustration and grief flooding the airwaves. More and more often I see people daring their friends to unfollow them if they don't appreciate their opinion. With more protests organized by students and young Americans, I can't help but wonder if we are on the verge of an era where an “us or them” mentality permeates the culture. But with this new paradigm, more of America's youth will vocalize their concerns.

As the days go by and more executive orders roll out, it seems the critics of Trump grow more and more upset and many college students vocalize their outrage. My world grows un-

certain, as do the lives of many across the country. Everything is up in the air and my thoughts are built on a thin foundation of frustration.

As terrible as the feeling is, I've found one cannot ignore what your gut says. I've been operating under the understanding that your feelings are always valid and that freedom of speech is a necessary thing to exercise.

Although I fear for the future at times, it's imperative to not lose hope and to trudge into the unknown with an a thunderous yet gentle voice.

Another gem from the past father Drew passed along to me was a folk singer Phil Ochs. Throughout his life, Ochs wrote dozens of protest songs criticizing U.S. involvement in Vietnam. I've been a longtime admirer of Ochs not only for his musical talent but for his dedication to righting wrongs however he could.

When things seem hopeless and the lies and the truth become harder to distinguish, I remind myself of the words of Ochs: “Even though you can't expect to defeat the absurdity of the world, you must make the attempt. That's morality, that's religion, that's art, that's life.”

SOUND OFF

Would you be willing to pay extra to live in the new dorms? Why or why not?



Nick Scarpino, junior environmental sustainability

“No, because I love the old dorms. If they're building them for everyone, why should I have to pay more?”



Noah Nyquist, freshman athletic training

“If I were going to pay extra, I'd have to be able to see them first. See what's better about them to be willing to pay extra.”



Caitlyn Anderson, sophomore social work

“I would pay more for the new dorms for sure because they're nicer, bigger, cleaner, not worn down.”



Dylan Kallery, freshman criminal justice

“I think I would do that to meet new people maybe. And they're brand new.”

compiled by Dawon Lanier & Emma Tembreull

Letter to the editor

Dear editor,

In regards to the editorial published in last week's edition, as a young American I find myself agreeing with all of the ideas articulated, and I found it was poetic.

However, as a child of the Age of Information, I have to say that ignorance cannot be so gently subdued.

Because when I think back on the apparent vortex of information that has so seemingly taken over our daily lives, I am faced with a single, recurrent question: how has ignorance been allowed to prevail?

This will often flow to, “How have riots become commonplace in our ‘forward society’?” How has western democracy, the ideology that placed a man on the moon, devolved into a passionate climate change denier being elected president? How have we so seemingly disregarded what people have died for, and continue to perish be-

cause of, the happenstance of melanocytes?”

When anything one could want to know is just a few keystrokes away, it's hard to dispel such smallness as anything other than a choice.

Knowing what we know and having nearly endless access to what we don't, is there not an inherent responsibility to better one's surroundings? Or at the very least consider more than oneself? How can anything less be justifiable?

Now, clearly I am not advocating for the omniscience of everyone, that's just not probable. And of course, ignorance, in innocence, is forgivable.

But when fear and hate supplant compassion and empathy, that is indefensible. We owe it to ourselves, each other, and future humans, to not be anything less.

- Samuel McCullough
freshman, neuroscience

Fast food fallacies



Guest Column

Tim Eggert

Last week as I settled in to catch a new release at the local cinema, I was eclipsed by the trailer for the upcoming film, “The Founder.” For those unfamiliar, the biopic will chronicle Ray Kroc's success in establishing McDonald's as the global fast food monarchy. Once I got over the new reality that McDonald's has penetrated the movies, I realized just how integrated, influential and ironic the fast food industry has been and continues to be in our culture.

Let me preface my gripe by admitting that I do not hold credibility when it comes to criticizing cuisine or the business surrounding it. There are certainly many professional and academic sources which consider this topic, and have the reputation to report on it. Respectively, however, I think my relationship with the golden arches and its culinary comrades validates my voice just as much as anyone who consumes burgers and fries.

I've always had a love-hate affair with fast food. Sure, I was manipulated by marketing and toys as a kid to demand happy meals and to don a cardboard crown, but what millennial childhood didn't

feature this? As I grew up, I finally came to terms with the unethical and unhealthy truths of my childhood nutrition. Even now, I still concede to late night cravings and travel conveniences with dollar-menu and all-day breakfast fixes. But this isn't an addiction, it's an affirmation of the fast food industry's inescapable grip.

If targeting my impressionable adolescent mind with animated personalities and pop-culture endorsements wasn't enough, the industry has shifted its scheme toward millennials by incorporating a pseudo-café atmosphere and health-food menu choices into their image. I don't go to Burger King for a salad; I go to commit caloric suicide. By virtue of their fast-food status, we shouldn't condemn chain restaurants like these for their lack of a healthy substitute.

Instead, we ought to relish in the obvious irony associated with their branding. When McDonald's declares its “official sponsorship” of The Olympics, or Sbarro infiltrates high school cafeterias, I can't help but laugh at the insensitive industry for their blatant ignorance. Do these culinary corporations really expect us to be fooled by an endorsement from Gabby Douglas or LeBron James?

Don't get me wrong, there are a handful of industry identities with honest, health-conscious models, but they remain secondary to the big dogs without a celebrity en-

dorsement, or a corrupt marketing strategy. Despite their good intentions, restaurants of this caliber follow suit to the major corporations with controversial ingredient sourcing and unethical employee policies.

Between the buns of the fast food industry is the manipulation of cultural cuisine to fill the pockets of American corporations. Restaurants like Taco Bell, Panda King and Pita Pit market their menus under the disguise that foods are “inspired by” global recipes, fooling consumers into eating appropriated delicacies. Most of all, this expropriation manifests in the personalities associated with fast food chains. Specifically, Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) and Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen are guilty of presenting stereotypical identities affiliated with their food. Some might argue that spokespeople like Colonel Sanders for KFC and Annie for Popeyes are neutral personifications of those cultures and their food. However, I see both as carefully choreographed clichés, and interpretively offensive.

Ultimately, I just want to stress an awareness when it comes to fast food. Whether that consciousness is of culture, ingredients or ethics, know your nutrition. Regardless of my own culinary cognizance, I'll probably opt for fast food in the succeeding weeks for the sake of convenience, or by the spell of the special sauce, and maybe even see a movie.

WWI Remembered



photo courtesy of: marquette regional history center

Photo courtesy of Marquette Regional History Center

The poster for the current exhibit on display at the Marquette Regional History Center "World War I Remembered: How Marquette County Served."

How soldiers from the 906 served

By Cali Hunter

contributing writer

Photographs stained with age, letters to loved ones about wishes of returning home, rugged military uniforms and posters pushing for the rationing of food cover the walls. Numerous news articles and shiny awards fill the glass cases waiting to be admired. The tragic and heroic stories of soldiers from Marquette County hang on every wall, asking to be read and begging not to be forgotten.

With this year marking a century since the U.S. entered WWI, the Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center is featuring an exhibit that reflects on veterans from the Upper Peninsula.

Starting Feb. 1, "Soldier Stories: the U.P. in WWI," will highlight personal experiences from the Upper Peninsula and how soldiers from the U.P. impacted the conflict.

Dan Truckey, director of the Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center, collaborated with people from

various historical organizations in Marquette County to create the exhibit. One of the driving factors for Truckey in creating the exhibit was the fact that younger people feel "disconnected" from the war because it hap-

They're largely forgotten now. It's just a way for us to remind people of the sacrifices they made.

— Dan Truckey

director of the Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center

pened so long ago, he said.

"We're just trying to help a new generation come to terms with what this conflict was all about," Truckey said.

Even though World War I hap-

pened 100 years ago, our society is still dealing with ramifications from it, such as conflict and war overseas, he added.

"They're largely forgotten now. It's just a way for us to remind people of the sacrifices

they made," he said.

There are no more living veterans from WWI today, said Truckey.

The Marquette Regional History Center is also featuring an

exhibit reflecting on WWI contributors from the Upper Peninsula. The display titled, "World War I Remembered: How Marquette County Served," will feature first-hand accounts of Marquette-area soldiers and sailors, as well as the role played by the local Red Cross and other organizations during the war. Both of the exhibits will outline how the war affected the U.P.

Jo Wittler, a curator at the center, hopes the exhibit will not only outline the collective war efforts by numerous Marquette County organizations, but also help the community understand how the war affected people from this area.

"I hope people will understand what a huge impact it made on people's lives," Wittler said. "It was an extremely traumatic war."

Wittler also said while the exhibit is informative, she hopes it will inspire people to learn more about the war themselves by doing further reading and research.

"It kind of inspires you to look at what's going on in the world and how that can relate to what came before, because things don't just happen out of the blue," she added.

The exhibits were made possible by a \$15,000 grant from the Michigan Humanities Council. The money will also be used to help fund upcoming events that will complement the exhibits, Truckey said. These events will consist of concerts, movie showings at the Peter White Public Library, a "Downton Abbey" dance featuring WWI-era music and a WWI Symposium that will take place in April.

A full schedule of the events can be found at wwlremembered.nmu.edu. The Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center exhibit premieres at 5 p.m. and the Marquette Regional History Center exhibit will start at 6 p.m. Coffee and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. For more information about the exhibits, contact Dan Truckey at heritage@nmu.edu.

Two Games.

by Trinity Carey/features editor

The average person produces 4.3 pounds of waste per day, according to the Duke University Center for Sustainability & Commerce. NMU has a student population of 8,303 students as of 2016. That's over 35,000 pounds of waste produced by the university per day.

The NMU Sustainability Advisory Council in partnership with Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority hosted the first Zero Waste Challenge on Monday, Jan. 30 during the NMU women's and men's basketball games against Michigan Tech.

The goal of the event was to challenge game attendees to sort their trash into compost, recycling or waste bins to reduce the overall amount of waste produced at a sports event.

A total of 80 pounds of waste was produced at Monday's game, but only five pounds went to the landfill. That's roughly 94 percent diverted from the landfill with 75 percent being composted, 19 percent recycled and six percent landfilled, according to Stephanie Raboin, a sustainability advisory council member.

"I think it challenges the community members and students who are there as well to think about what can I sort? What do I create that's waste? Can I be composting? What could I be doing more on my own?" Raboin said. "Every person every piece adds to that. So this event is really our platform to connect with the campus and the community."

The council's goal is to evaluate the university's current sustainability status and see how new efforts and initiatives can become more of Northern's mission.

There were seven recycling spots for game attendees to sort their waste. These recycling bins came from campus areas where they are already implemented such as Jamrich. Northern is looking into getting more of these bins around campus, Raboin said.

"Being able to have those sorting stations and have people know and be comfortable with how to sort their things properly, they just have a little bit more awareness and you are enabling them to follow it," she said.

By facilitating this event, the council hopes to bring awareness and make people more comfortable with the small efforts they can make to become more sustainable.

"It can open your eyes to what more you can do elsewhere and people can take that inspiration home and have that apply to their lives," Raboin said.

Wildcat Willy sported a Zero Waste Challenge T-shirt as did close to 50 students and council volunteers at the event.

"It's an area where students were really asking and pushing and I think that's great that students are able to push and help support the university in making the efforts to be aware," Raboin said. "I think there is more that students can do than they even realize. It's being aware of your water consumption, being aware of your food waste, being aware of the electricity you're using and all those things you have control over."

Sarah Babcock, sophomore outdoor recreation leadership and management major helped those attending the games sort their waste into the proper recycling bins while conversing about simple improvements on campus and at home to live more sustainably.

"Educating promotes the longevity of our planet so you don't hurt it and sustain it for future generations," Babcock said.



Steven Sprague/NW

Senior student volunteers, marketing major Jake Doetsch and environmental studies majors, Libby Kennedy and Andrea Hunt stand by to assist attendees.



Steven Sprague/NW

Students volunteer to bring sustainability awareness to the campus and community.

"Every person every piece adds to [it]. So this event is really our platform to connect with the campus and the community."

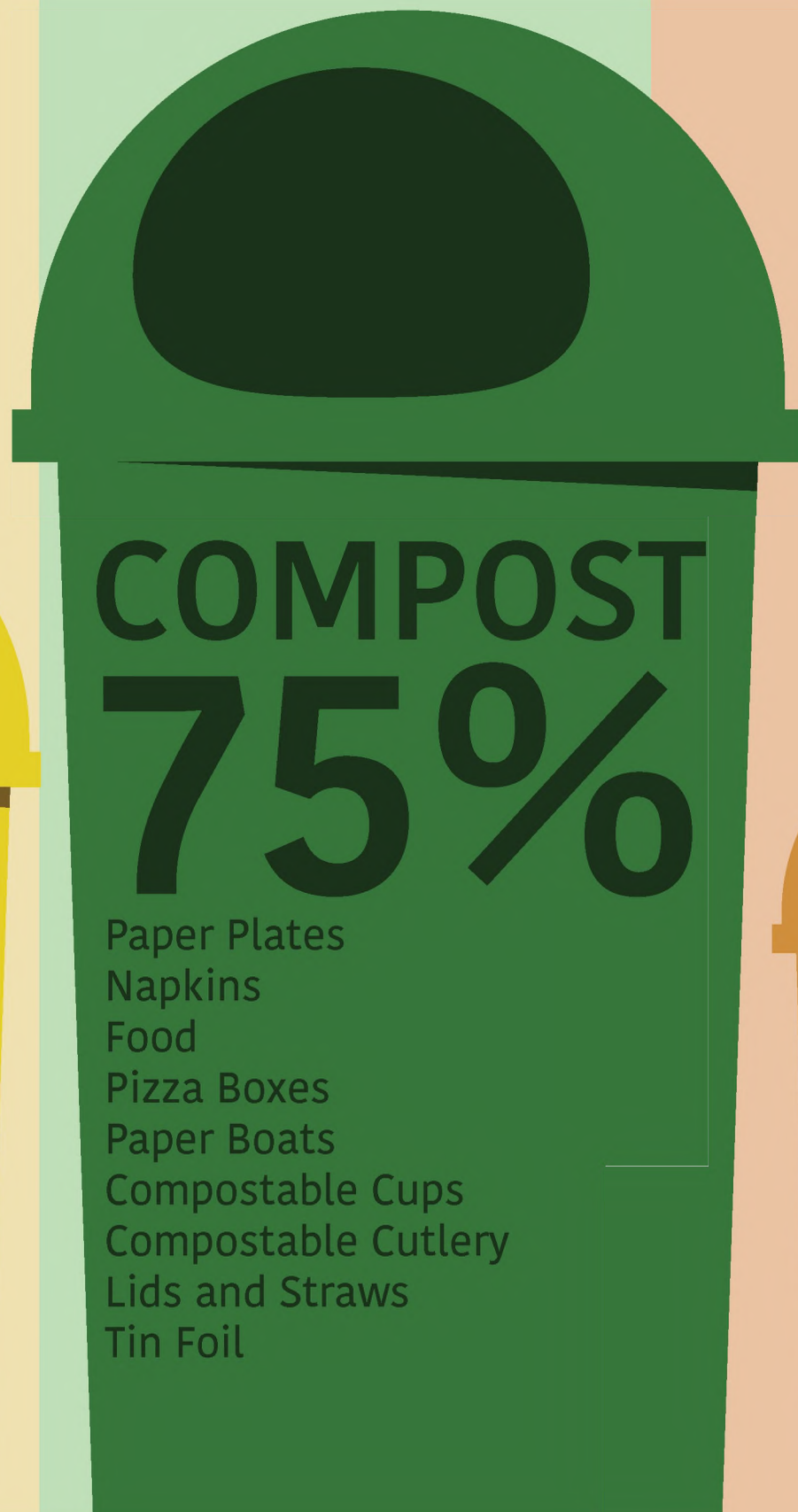


Zero Waste.



80 pounds

of garbage was sorted into three bins



Video game shines too much light on fairy tale theme

By Jett Martin

contributing writer

“Child of Light” is a role playing game (RPG) where you take on the role of young Aurora, who, for all intents and purposes, died in her sleep only to wake in the land of Lemuria and was tasked with the job of collecting the three lights of the land: the sun, moon and stars.

It has an in-your-face fairy tale quality to it and follows the formula of “mother dies and father remarries the evil stepmother.” Yet, it varies from the typical fairy tale setup as the stepmother and her daughters try to destroy and take over the kingdom.

The fight system in the game is similar to an Active Time Battle (ATB) style where there is a progress bar on the screen that shows how close you and the enemies are to the active section that gives players the ability to attack.

For my playthrough I felt that the game was okay. The art style was amazing and some of the characters had to have been some of my favorites I’ve seen in awhile. The game tries to add a little something to the basic ATB fighting system.

Rubella was one of the most amusing characters. She is a jester whose main dilemma is that her brother left to join the circus with-

out her, so she joins Aurora on her adventure in hopes of reuniting with her brother. The main thing that makes her comical is the fact that she seems to purposefully not rhyme. At the end of her dialogue there is always a pause before her last word, like she is thinking what doesn’t rhyme just to mess with the constant rhyming from other characters.

The art in some of the cut scenes or event scenes of the game are done with a stain glass design similar to that of “Beauty and the Beast.” The rest of the art is similar to that of Japanese watercolor, delicate with a touch of whimsical. A design element that I found truly beautiful was the waterlike movement of Aurora’s hair when she suddenly stops moving.

The interesting fighting mechanic in the game is the use of Igniculus the firefly. He can be used in battle to distract and slow down enemies giving you a chance to get a few extra hits in or to heal your team. He can also be used outside of fighting to reach items you can’t get to.

If you want to play co-op Igniculus is the character player two controls. The downside of playing him is that the player’s role is much more passive.

Some things that aren’t so great is that the rhyming doesn’t stop with

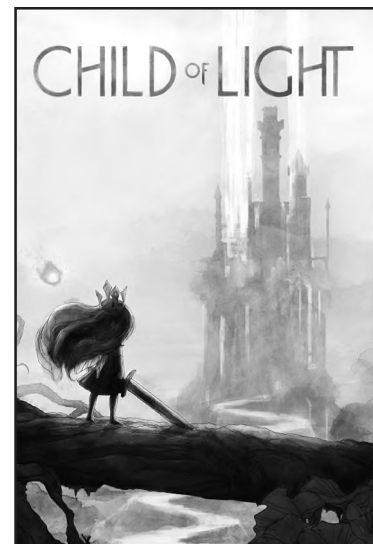
the narrations, the music sounds similar throughout and the fighting isn’t all that difficult.

I get wanting to stick to a fairy tale theme, but after a while the rhyming seems pretty forced. Not rhyming from Rubella keeps it from getting annoying for a bit longer. It still gets old though.

The soundtrack definitely adds to the atmosphere of the game and is beautifully done, though a lot of the tracks sound very similar to one another. That doesn’t mean it’s completely terrible. It’s calming, with its moments of intensity, and is rather enchanting.

Other than being able to use Igniculus in battle, the game is a pretty basic ATB style role play game with battles that feel like one big grind session since you can quickly find out enemies weaknesses, but you can always bump up the difficulty setting to fix that.

The only fights that prove to be difficult are the boss battles, since they actually use status effects to modify your character’s original stats such as lowering your speed or your attack power. These effects



Game: Child of Light

Developer: Ubisoft Montreal

Artist: Yoshitaka Amano

Writer: Jeffrey Yohalem

Platforms: Playstation 3 & 4, Xbox One, Xbox 360, Microsoft Windows

Rating:



are mainly used on players simply to make winning more difficult. Some common status effects in the game are to either slow you down so it takes longer to reach the attack section of the progress bar or to completely freeze you in place for a certain amount of time. It also isn’t explained that the space bar is how you select your actions in a fight when playing on a computer. There are also some pretty easy puzzles in the game that don’t

truly add anything.

Overall, for what you pay for the game you get a lot out of it. It’s available for \$14.99 on a large number of platforms such as Playstation 3 and 4, Playstation Vita, Playstation Portable, Xbox 360 and One, Wii U, Microsoft Windows and Steam — an online game platform.

A short trial of the game is available for download for free on Steam.

Drag show comes to NMU

By Jamie Glenn

contributing writer

NMU is set to bring exotic music and vibrant costumes while staying true to tradition with the 21st annual Drag Show.

NMU’s Queers & Allies, a group aiming to create a safe and welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ students, will be hosting this year’s drag show on Friday, Feb. 3 at the Vandament Arena. Doors are set to open at 6:30 p.m. The show will start at 7:00 p.m.

A long weekend filled with celebration of diversity and drag is happening around the area, including an amateur show and an after-party in the Vandament Arena following the NMU Drag show. The after-party will include a meet-and-greet with the kings and queens, a photo booth and dancing until 11 p.m. Saturday will bring a workshop with guest speaker JAC “Midwest Genderqueer” at 1 p.m. in the Cadillac room of the UC to

wrap up the celebration.

Given the high demand of local drag performers, Queers & Allies decided to bring in out-of-town acts to bring something different to this year’s show, said Event Coordinator Erica Krause, a junior criminal justice major.

“There’s a lot of performers coming from all over the midwest, four queens coming from Chicago, two drag kings from Cincinnati and one king from Minneapolis,” Krause said. “It’s really awesome to see what each performer has to offer, all of them have different styles and different things that they bring to the show.”

This show aims to deliver something a bit different to the stage this year, with a diverse group of individuals coming together to share their love of performing.

“We have a lot people of color coming in, which was my goal, some latina performers. One of the performers is Two-Spirit,” Krause said. “The show hasn’t really had this kind

of diversity before.”

Performers in the show will be using their platform to educate those in attendance about the struggles and misconceptions surrounding the LGBTQ+ community. Krause hopes to unite both performers and audience members, she added.

“The crowd can expect a really good time. I wanted to bring something that people have never seen before, let them know that the community is bigger than just [the local drag scene] by bringing in a diverse crowd of people,” Krause said.

An amateur drag show for NMU students is also being held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2 in the Explorer Rooms of the University Center. Each performer gets to perform one song to be judged by the four queens visiting from Chicago. The winner will get to perform in the NMU Drag Show. The cost to attend is free for NMU students and \$5 for community members.

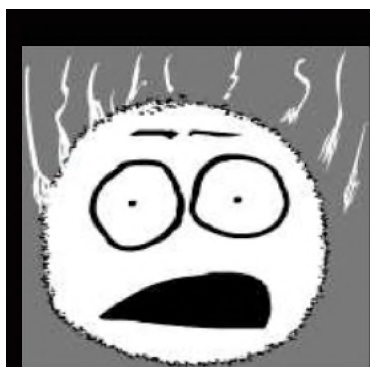


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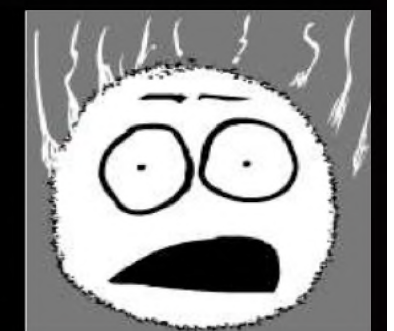


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'Split' film is unpredictably good

By Jade Jenkins
contributing writer

Director M. Night Shyamalan brings people with mental disorders into the spotlight with his newest thriller, *Split*. The film stars James McAvoy as Kevin and focuses on his dissociative identity disorder that has long intrigued and confused medical science.

Story: Kevin has been diagnosed with 23 separate but distinct personalities by his psychiatrist, Dr. Fletcher. Opening with three girls getting ready to head home from a party in Pittsburgh, the movie quickly takes a horrific turn as we see the girls get kidnapped by Kevin and wake up in a locked room. The movie follows the girls as they try to figure out the many sides of their captor and how to escape from him.

Simultaneously, Kevin is trying to deal with three of his unpredictable, vindictive personalities (Patricia, a strict British woman, Dennis, a solemn, muscular pervert with OCD and Hedwig, an energetic 9-year-old boy) that have begun taking over.

Characters: There are many characters that you meet throughout this movie, however, the actors are fairly limited. McAvoy stars in almost every scene of this movie. Due to his personality changes, which range from child to woman, you see all his different characters but not different actors.

One of the girls, Casey (Anya Taylor-Joy), having been in a situation similar to this before, tries to keep the others safe the best way she knows how, by remaining calm and playing into the Kevin's different personalities.

McAvoy is frequently seen visiting his therapist, Dr. Fletcher (Betty Buckley), who is trying to help him become aware and in control of his more negative personalities.

Throughout most of the movie, Dr. Fletcher is unaware of the fact that Kevin has kidnapped the girls, although she sees it on the news a few different times. When she finds out, she tries to go and help, but Kevin has developed his 24th personality and it is too late.

Style: This movie was borderline a horror film with most of the scenes showing very dark or dimly lit areas. Due to the cross between horror and thriller, there isn't a lot of unnecessary talking, with more scenery shots and facial expressions that viewers have to pay attention to.

Most of the dialogue is seen when McAvoy is playing his part of Hedwig, and when he is visiting Dr. Fletcher. The lack of speaking really adds to the intensity and thrill of the movie, making you have to constantly pay attention in order to understand. The music throughout the movie was mostly instrumental, which added to the eeriness of the film.

The movie also features flashbacks to help understand the



Film: Split

Director: M. Night Shyamalan

Writer: M. Night Shyamalan

Starring: James McAvoy, Anya Taylor-Joy, Betty Buckley

Runtime: 117 minutes

Rating:

★★★★☆

storyline. There are a few flashbacks from Kevin's childhood, but most are from Casey's childhood, which gives viewers a bit of an understanding as to why she acts in a more calm and understanding manner as compared to the other girls.

Verdict: *Split* is a very thought-provoking movie, but despite its good parts, there is some work that needs to be done.

The best part of this movie is definitely McAvoy. He does an amazing job of switching personalities, some of which you

see happening on camera. The camera work is excellent, creating very realistic scenes that leave the movie full of suspense, and give you that creepy feeling.

There are quite a few dry parts in the movie though. Between having to build up each character, and each of Kevin's personalities, there isn't a lot of time left for action.

There is also a somewhat claustrophobic feeling due to the amount of time spent underground, which Shyamalan curves by periodically showing

Kevin interacting with his therapist.

The length of the film and the amount of content that still needed to be addressed left a bit of confusion. It gives an explanation as to how Kevin developed his personalities, but it doesn't go very in-depth. The film needed more backstory to really be able to understand where the negative personalities developed from. This made the end of the film a bit frustrating, however it was left wide open for a sequel.

PLATFORM PERSONALITIES PRESENTS:
KEITH KNIGHT
GENTLEMAN CARTOONIST



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
7:30 P.M. • GREAT LAKES ROOMS, UC

Free for students with NMU ID, \$2 General Public

Keith Knight is the creator of three popular comic strips: *The Knight Life*, *(th)ink*, and *the K Chronicles*. For nearly two decades, this multi-award-winning artist has brought the funny back to the funny pages with a uniquely personal style that's a cross between *Calvin & Hobbes*, *MAD*, and underground comix. Keith is part of a generation of African-American artists who were raised on hip-hop, and infuse their work with urgency, edge, humor, satire, politics and race.





Nordic skiing takes podiums

Photo courtesy of NMU Athletics

Senior skier Adam Martin pulls ahead of two opponents during the U.S. Cross Country Championships in Soldier Hollow, Utah.

By Noah Hausmann
staff writer

On the road in Minnesota, the Northern Michigan Women's Nordic skiing team dominated in the 5K freestyle at the Duluth Central Qualifier, held Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Marshall School ski trails, capturing the top three spots. All the lady Wildcats placed within the top 10 of the 120-athlete field.

Sophomore Nicole Schneider won the title, completing the course with a time of 13:18.5, while junior Vivian Hett took second (13:41.7) and senior Sophie Schimpl came in third (13:49.0).

Junior Caroline Brisbois placed fourth (14:05.3), senior Kristen Bourne sixth (14:14.4), sophomore Sophie McDonald eighth (14:20.3) and sophomore Sarah Bezdicsek crossed the finish line ninth (14:21.5).

Men's and women's head skiing coach Sten Fjeldheim said the season has been going well for the younger skiers on the teams and for Schneider in particular.

"Schneider has been on fire the last couple of weekends," said Fjeldheim. "She just destroyed the field last week in Wisconsin she won by 30 seconds. She's skiing really well, and she's only a sophomore, so that's been impressive. She's won the last two weekends by a pretty good margin."

Hett described the feeling of being on the successful women's

team and also her concerns about qualifying for the NCAA championships.

"It's exciting, but at the same time it's challenging because only three of us can go to NCAAs, so it's fun but it's also hard racing against only your teammates. It

live," Fjeldheim continued. "The snow came a little late this year, but it didn't throw us off too much. Global warming, it's not good but it sure doesn't feel like that today. It's perfect now."

On the men's side, freshman Lars Sonsterud earned a spot on

The snow came a little late this year, but it didn't throw us off too much... It's perfect now.



— Sten Fjeldheim
head coach

can be a very interesting dynamic," she said. "Last year I qualified for the NCAA team, and I'm hoping to do so again. The girls' team is strong, and all of us are really strong enough to make it. I would be happy to make it there and represent our team again."

Because of rising and falling temperatures, the trails were icy this weekend. Due to the poor conditions, Sunday's planned events were cancelled. But now with new snowfall, the trails are looking better.

"It hasn't been ideal, but we're fortunate that we live where we

the podium in the 10K freestyle, taking third with a time of 24:48.4. Senior Sam Elfstrom placed 10th (25:20.1) and freshman Zak Ketterson 11th (25:39.3) were also among the first 15 skiers to cross the line.

"I've been impressed with our guys this season," Ketterson said. "We really rise to the occasion. We have seniors doing well, but when you also have freshmen doing well it looks good for the future. It's exciting, especially knowing those guys will be your teammates for the next couple years."

Meanwhile on Saturday, senior

Fredrik Schwencke competed in the 50K classic at the Noquean Ski Marathon in Marquette. He placed third in the race, which was shortened to a 31K due to conditions, after crossing the line with a time of 1:31:46.3. NMU alumni Kyle Bratrud won the race at 1:31:35.3 and Felicia Gesior finished 20th, second among female competitors, after clocking in at 1:45:09.2.

In Soldier Hollow, Utah, senior Adam Martin of the men's ski team is competing in the Under 23 Cross Country World Championships Jan. 30 to Feb. 5.

The Wildcats' next race is this weekend at the Central Collegiate Ski Association Distance Championships in Houghton, Feb. 4 and 5.

"Michigan Tech has some good guys, and there's good guys from every school," Ketterson added. "But for the most part it's just racing your teammates, since some of the top guys on our team are some of the best guys in the region, which is cool because the practices are like the races it's the same guys you're racing against."

Feb. 18 and 19 the NCAA Central Region Skiing Championships will be on the Al Quaal trails in Ishpeming.

"These next two weekends will be critical in qualifying for [the national championships]," Fjeldheim explained. "I'm sure we'll have a full Nordic team qualify three men and three women."

Men's Basketball hits the road for rematches

By AnnMarie Kent
sports editor

After a disappointing home-stand the Wildcat Men's Basketball team hits the road to rematch against two of those opponents.

In six days the Wildcats played three different opponents at home and were unable to come away with a win in any of the games.

Thursday, Jan. 26 the Wildcats fell to Ferris State University in a 86-80 contest. They continued play on Saturday, Jan. 28 against Grand Valley State University where they lost 79-56. The final game in the five-game home stretch was the contest against the Michigan Tech Huskies on Monday, Jan. 30. The Huskies beat the Wildcats 76-62.

Assistant coach Charles Belt said the games were disappointing because it wasn't the kind of basketball the 'Cats usually play.

"We're a team that plays with pace, we play fast, we get a lot of shot attempts," Belt said. "I didn't think for whatever reason, whether it's playing three games in six days, that we played with the pace we needed to to be successful."

The Wildcats tip-off against the Laker Superior State University Lakers at 9 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 2.

The Lakers beat NMU on Jan. 19 at the Berry Events Center in a 90-80 game.

The Lakers are currently sixth in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference with a 8-6 conference record and 11-7 overall.

The weekend continues with a game at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4 against the Northwood University Timberwolves.

In the last game against the Timberwolves, NMU broke the 100-point threshold for the first time since 2012.

The Timberwolves are currently 14th in the conference, one place below NMU.

They are 3-11 in the GLIAC and 5-18 overall, compared to NMU's 4-10 GLIAC record and 6-13 overall.

The next couple of games being on the road aren't a concern for Belt.

"We also, despite not having the grand total of wins that we want, we've had success this year," Belt said. "We've had periods where on the road we've won three, four games in a row."

SPORTS BRIEFS



FOOTBALL

Head football coach Kyle Nystrom announced the first nine class of 2021 signees on National Signing Day.

"We're excited and happy with the young men who signed with us today," Nystrom said. "They'll have a great future at Northern Michigan. We're happy with where we're at in the recruiting process considering our late start. This is just the beginning, and we'll continue signing prospects until April 1."

The group includes players from five different states: Michigan (5), Wisconsin (2), Arizona and Minnesota. Two of the Michigan natives hail from the Upper Peninsula.

"Our base recruiting areas will be Michigan, Wisconsin and Chicago," Nystrom said. "But we will recruit any player, anywhere, that has the potential to help this program."

FLASH STORE

The Northern Michigan Track & Field team will host a flash store Jan. 31 to Feb. 21, with all proceeds benefiting the team.

The gear features the new Wildcat logo, which was introduced in April. Go to the NMU Athletics website to find the link and purchase half-zip tops, long-sleeve t-shirts and more.

TRACK & FIELD

Kameron Burmeister and the 4x400 relay team of Sydney McPeters, Paige Dutcher, Lynsey Collins and Shayla Huebner set Northern Michigan records at the Jet's Pizza Invitational, held Friday and Saturday at the SVSU Fieldhouse.

McPeters, Dutcher, Collins and Huebner placed third with their time of 3:56.78 while Burmeister took third in the 3,000-meter run after crossing the line in 9:57.02.

Ine Mylle captured a title in the triple jump with a mark of 38-6.75. Kieren Becker, Collins, Huebner and Kelly Pietrzak clocked in at 12:29.51 to win the distance medley relay.

"The team had a great meet against some strong competition," said head coach Jenny Ryan. "I was very happy with how we performed, and it was exciting to break two school records."

Huebner (400-meter dash, 57.75) and Avadon James (60-meter dash, 8.00) raced to fifth-place finishes.

Dutcher took sixth in the long jump (16-5.75) while Mylle finished seventh in the 60-meter hurdles (9.28). Becker (1-mile run, 5:08.04) and Dana Shove (shot put, 38-5.00) earned eighth-place finishes.

The previous 3,000-meter run record was set in 2004 by Jennie Lahr (10:07.89). Burmeister had run the second-fastest 3,000-meter (10:17.04) in 2015.

The Wildcats return to action at the Lake Superior Challenge in Duluth, Minn. on Feb. 4.



Neil Flavin/NW

Sophomore guard Tess Weatherly drives for the basket during the game against Northwood University.

Wildcat Women's B-ball topples Huskies

By Trevor Drew

opinion editor

After claiming a 66-42 victory over Ferris State and being edged by Grand Valley 56-53, the Women's Basketball team closed out a 5-game homestand with an 11-point victory over rival Michigan Tech Monday at the Berry Events Center.

Although the team went 4-1 in their last five games, head coach Troy Mattson was slightly disappointed by the loss to Grand Valley and added that the contest could have easily ended in a Wildcat victory.

"It was a heartbreaker on Saturday, leading [Grand Valley] with less than 10 seconds to go," Mattson said. "I thought the girls responded really well against Michigan Tech and played a really great defensive game. And defensive rebounding we were at the top of our game."

The 'Cats totalled 27 defensive rebounds while Tech chalked up 18.

Northern kept the Huskies off the board for the first five minutes of play and built an 8-0 advantage which would grow into a 17-6 advantage as the Wildcats closed out the first quarter.

The Huskies went into the

second frame on the right foot and outscored the 'Cats 18-9, chipping away at their lead and went into the locker room with a 2-point deficit, the score 26-24.

Layups from sophomore guards Sydney Dillinger, Darby Youngstrom and freshman forward Jessica Schultz strengthened the Wildcats' grip on their lead in the third quarter. Freshman forward Erin Honkala would cap off NMU scoring with a layup in the last 30 seconds of the frame. Four free throws from Michigan Tech's Lindsay Winter in the last seconds of the third cut the lead to 42-35.

The ladies kicked off the fourth quarter with a 5-2 run. Michigan Tech managed to claw back into a 4-point striking distance at the 4:09 mark of the final frame the score at 52-48.

Northern Michigan managed to never give up the lead and closed out the contest with 14 free throws.

Senior guard Bre Gaspervich paced the Wildcats with 20 points, scoring 11 in the fourth quarter, following Youngstrom who totalled 15 points.

After the homestand, the team now stands sixth in the GLIAC with the conference record of 9-5. While the team has found

success on their own turf, the team is currently 2-5 for away games as they prepare for two road games against teams the Wildcats beat in their recent homestand, Lake Superior State and Northwood University.

Despite past losses on the road, Mattson is confident that the team will carry their winning momentum into this weekend.

"I think we will play well on the road. We know what we are doing out there on the defensive end and the rebounding effort has been really good," Mattson said. "If we continue to do those things we are going to give ourselves an opportunity to win these games."

Youngstrom said that she hopes to see defensive plays, such as steals or defensive rebounds, to lead to more offensive opportunities. She added that the offensive end of the team is evolving but it is imperative that they continue to excel in the defensive zone.

"We have to be the road warriors out there and try to bring our A-game because they now have home-court advantage so they are going to be coming after us especially since we beat them once already," Youngstrom said.





Christin DeFord/NW

Freshman defenseman Philip Beaulieu takes a shot against the University of Alaska Anchorage Seawolves.

Hockey team squares off in Ohio

In the final stretch of the season the team hits the road to take on the Bowling Green Falcons

By AnnMarie Kent
sport editor

A week of rest and conditioning has the Wildcat Men's Hockey team ready to take on the Bowling Green State University Falcons in one of the final series of the season.

While head coach Walt Kyle wasn't happy to have a bye-week when the team has built up so much momentum during the last few weekends, he said he's glad some players got the rest and rehabilitation that they needed to play well through the end of the season.

"The second half of the year you always have some fatigue and we do have some guys that are dinged up," Kyle said. "It was good for those guys to get a rest."

Sophomore forward Jordan Klimek said the team is feeling good after having a week off but was disappointed to have the bye-week when they did.

"We were starting to roll and putting our game together so I guess you could see it as a little slump in that way," Klimek said.

The team travels to Bowling Green, Ohio for its second series against the Falcons this season.

The Wildcats last saw the Falcons at the Berry Events Center on Nov. 11-12 when the Falcons were the third team of the season

to sweep the Wildcats. The Falcons scored five goals both nights of the series but the Wildcats were unable to respond as well.

The first night NMU only got one goal past BGSU and the second night recorded three goals against the Falcons. Freshman defenseman Philip Beaulieu led the scoring in the series with three assists.

The Falcons are currently ranked fourth in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association, right behind the Minnesota State University-Mankato Mavericks who the Wildcats face off against Feb. 17-18.

Klimek said Bowling Green is a tough team that plays a hard, gritty game.

"Going into Bowling Green they have a small rink and usually have a great atmosphere in there and tons of energy," he said. "I'm looking forward to some fun games down there."

The Falcons have won the last six games against the Wildcats. The last time NMU came out with a win was February 2015 while the Falcons were ranked No. 8 in the country.

BGSU is 12-11-1 within the WCHA and 14-15-2 compared to NMU's 5-12-3 in conference and 7-17-4 overall.

Kyle said the team isn't focused on their standings, but rather on what happens moving forward.

"Right now we're at the point where you do control your own fate," Kyle said. "If you win you're probably going to get in. As coaches you're focused on trying to be the best team that you can be and give yourself the best shot to win every night."

The Wildcats and the Falcons each have WCHA top scorers on their team. Junior forward for the Falcons Mitch McLain leads the WCHA with 16 goals and senior forward Dominik Shine puts NMU in the stats with his 15 goals. Shine was injured earlier in the season and has appeared in eight fewer games than McLain has.

Kyle sees a trend with Shine; during the second half of seasons he tends to take off, playing at a new caliber.

"He's doing that now, he's playing at a higher level than he's ever played at," he said. "Right now he's the most dangerous guy in the league."

While the team has had a lackluster season, freshman forward Darien Craighead says the feeling in the locker room is a positive one.

"It's just the guys in the locker room," he said. "They just keep levelheaded when things aren't going right."

The puck drops at the BGSU Ice Arena at 7:07 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 3 and Saturday, Feb. 4. Games are broadcasted at WCHA.tv and on local radio at 100.3 FM.



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INSPIRATIONS

- Four dozen cream cheese wontons
- They were from The Rice Paddy
- Shoutout to Aoy
- Hugh Jackman on my coffee box
- It's pretty good coffee, thanks Hugh
- Awkward Jimmy John's orders
- "She could step on me and I would say thank you."
- Valentine's Day month
- Spiders in the hallway
- Jackie's spider in water glass horror story
- She almost drank it
- She. Almost. Drank. A. Spider.
- Bring me MORE cream cheese wontons

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