



SPORTS

The first part of a series on freshman swimmers who are breaking records in the pool.

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FEATURES

WinterFest activities, which began Feb. 17, end this weekend with a tailgate.

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Climate of controversy

Science students look toward future under new president

By Kayla Miller
editor-in-chief

"We need you now more than ever."

This idea was woven into many conversations with multiple students and professors working in the biology department and the

Department of Earth, Environmental and Geographical Sciences (EEGS) calling for future scientists to continue fighting for environmental protection.

This is in response to the election of President Donald Trump, who has called climate change a "hoax," prevented federal agen-

cies from discussing climate science with the public and issued a hiring freeze for all federal jobs, including the National Parks Service and other common jobs for EEGS students.

Spenser Chicoine, a graduate student pursuing a master's in biology who studies the effects of

changing climate on brook trout native to the Upper Peninsula, said in an email that the denial of climate science makes it harder for him to communicate the importance of his research.

"On a grander scale, with climate change science under attack, I am anxious that my ability to study or talk about many of the issues I consider important may be restricted."

Additionally, some of the orders issued by President Trump were the advancement of the KeyStone and Dakota Access pipelines for completion and talk has surfaced on the defunding of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Professor Jill Leonard, who teaches ecology and biology, said it's common for her students to be hired by federal agencies like the National Park Service and that many are unsettled about what their future plans are.

"It's a big kerfuffle, and there are students who are being impacted right now. They don't know if they will be hired for jobs they thought they would be hired for. However, in the long term, that's probably a short term



Neil Flavin/NW

Graduate biology student Jacob Bowman and freshman fisheries and wildlife management major Maxwell Majinska examine brook trout in the NMU aquatics laboratory, which is coordinated by Professor Jill Leonard.

See CLIMATE • Page 4

NMU prof arrested at Standing Rock

By Winter Keefer

assistant news editor

Assistant Professor of Native American Studies Jud Sojourn was filming a Facebook live video when he was arrested for obstruction of a federal function, according to the Morton County Sheriff's Department at Standing Rock Wednesday, Feb. 22.



SOJOURN

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers set a 2 p.m. Wednesday deadline for the camp to be cleared, citing the threat of spring flooding. In the Facebook live video Sojourn, along with others, asked for more time to assist their grandmothers and pack their things.

Sojourn was still detained at the time of print but was expected to be bailed out by a Standing Rock legal team as soon as he was booked, said Associate Professor of Native American Studies Martin Reinhardt. The two attended demonstrations at Standing Rock over winter break.

Sojourn was at the Standing Rock Camp with Dakota Access Pipeline protesters for two days prior to his arrest. Reinhardt said Sojourn went there to help protect more vulnerable protesters such as elders and children and assist with packing supplies.

"It's a big concern when you have potential force, possible lethal force, used against people who are vulnerable," Reinhardt said.

He said he believed President Trump's pipeline executive orders led to the process being rushed, and the treatment of the protesters was no surprise after events in the past months.

"Today we saw the worst of the worst."

Muslim prof offers perspective on current events

By Winter Keefer
assistant news editor

"Islam says that the purification of the soul is the greatest fight. A place in the Quran says whether you are black or white, rich or poor, that doesn't count to Allah."

The travel ban executive order instituted by President Donald Trump was temporarily suspended earlier this month but fears still linger with people from many countries, even those not included in the ban, philosophy professor Azam Golam said.

Because the seven countries included in the ban are primar-

ily Muslim, rhetoric surrounding the ban can incite many misconceptions of the religion. Most of these misconceptions stem from lack of education or ignorance toward people from unfamiliar places, Azam said.

"I do not know what would be the reaction of the people if they knew I am Muslim or from a Muslim-driven country. There is a possibility that people could react in different ways," he said.

Azam is from Bangladesh, a country that is not included on the list of banned countries, but has an 86 percent Muslim population. He joined the faculty at Northern in the fall of 2016. Pre-



Emma Tembreull/NW

Philosophy professor Azam Golam teaches Intro to Ethics at NMU.

viously, he taught at the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh and the State University of Bangladesh.

Azam explained that he came to the United States because there

was greater opportunity to get a job in liberal arts. With the recent election and travel ban executive

See PROF • Page 4

Room, board rates set to rise

By *Dawn Lanier*
news editor

The cost of room and board will be more for students next year after the Board of Trustees (BOT) approved increased rates.

Additionally, the name, "The Woods," for NMU's new Quad 1 dorms was finalized at the most recent board meeting.

On Friday, Feb. 17, the BOT met and approved the housing rates for both existing and new dorms, to open in the fall.

Students will begin signing up for next year's dorm assignments in March. The cost to live in an existing double-occupancy room increased by \$237 to \$5,039 per semester, a 4.94 percent increase that also includes the "gold constant meal pass" dining option.

The cost to live in one of the new double-occupancy residential suites is \$5,432 per semester, \$393 more than the pre-existing dorms. The housing rates for the new dorms, proposed by EdR Collegiate Housing in May, was approved unanimously by the board.

Gavin Leach, vice president of finance and administration, stated rising utility costs, an increase in minimum wage and

See BOT • Page 4

Guest speakers shine light on dangerous drugs

By *Kelsii Kyto*

contributing writer

A discussion on controlled substances is being held tonight at 7 p.m. in the Jamrich Hall Auditorium.

Forensic scientist Zach Blaksmith and addiction medicine physician Dr. John Lehtinen will jointly host "Drugs: More Dangerous Than You Think" followed by a question-and-answer session.

The presentation will focus specifically on controlled substances, defined by the Farlex dictionary as "a drug which has been declared by federal or state law to be illegal for sale or use, but may be dispensed under a physician's prescription."



BLAKSMITH

The discussion brings awareness to the NMU community about the extreme danger posed by the use of controlled substances as well as the hidden dangers of the chemicals laced in these controlled sub-

stances. Additionally it will focus on the chemical effects these drugs have on the brain and how they affect the life of the user (possibly ending it). Tips will be given on how to avoid these dangers.

Blaksmith's talk, "What's in Your Drugs?" will address confiscated drugs and the possibility of them being laced with other harmful substances.

"[Blaksmith] analyzes all controlled substances confiscated at crime scenes and therefore knows what drugs are coming into the community and what many of these drugs are being laced with," Marsha Lucas, director of the forensic biochemistry program, said. "There are some very dangerous substances being mixed into some of the 'drugs' and people should be made aware of this."

Blaksmith works in the controlled substance and toxicology units at the Michigan State Police Crime Lab in Marquette, and is also a member of the crime scene response team. He has been working in emergency medical services for 14 years.

Dr. Lehtinen will present "The Addicted Brain," shedding light on what certain drugs do to alter the brain, and how that affects the drug user. Lehtinen is the only board-certified addiction medicine physician in the Upper Peninsula. He has been practicing in Marquette for over 36 years.

The purpose of the presenta-

tions are to inform the public about the current drug epidemic happening locally and nationally, as well as education on the dangers of using drugs, both just once and habitually.

"People may have the impression that it would be harmless to

ning, laughing), and the presentation will outline the importance of staying away from the temptation of drug experimentation.

President of the NMU Forensic Biochemistry Club and forensic biochemistry junior Noelle Sieloff said the goal of the event is to

People may have the impression that it would be harmless to experiment as long as you just use a small amount of the drug. There is no such thing as a harmless experiment with drugs.

— *Marsha Lucas*

Director of forensic biochemistry program

experiment as long as you just use a small amount of the drug," Lucas said. "There is no such thing as a harmless experiment with drugs; you are toying with the grave possibility of addiction, and the world of addiction is very harsh."

"When purchasing a drug from someone, you have absolutely no idea what is actually being sold to you, what additive could be in it to make it more addictive, or how your body will react to different substances. It is never wise to tempt fate," she added.

There are many different ways to release the natural chemicals of the brain without having to take a controlled substance (i.e. run-

inform community members and students in high school and college about what is happening in the local area with drugs and what they are seeing at the hospital.

"I think it is important for college students to understand the dangers when taking these certain drugs because it may not always be what you think," Sieloff said.

Both Lehtinen and Blaksmith will identify resources in which students can stay informed about the information and dangers of controlled substances.

The NMU Forensic Biochemistry Club is sponsoring the event and it will be free and open to the public.

LAURA LING

A Journey of Hope

Thursday, March 16

7:30 p.m. | Jamrich 1100

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In March 2009, Ling captured the world's attention when she was arrested and held captive in North Korea for 140 days after attempting to report on the trafficking of North Korean women.

An inspiring survivor and symbol of resilience, Ling offers fascinating insights into her role as a journalist, the importance of exposing the world to critical global issues, and what she learned during her time in one of the world's most reclusive countries.



Free for students with NMU ID | \$2 for general public



WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29°F 24°F	25°F 14°F	32°F 16°F
Snow Showers	Snow Showers	Mostly Cloudy

data from www.weather.com

STATE NEWS

Michigan ordered a Flint hospital to immediately comply with federal recommendations issued due to its association with a deadly Legionnaires' disease outbreak Tuesday. The order was given due to the hospital's water system being unsanitary and a possible source of illness. The order, which was issued by the State Department of Health and Human Services, said McLaren Flint has insufficiently demonstrated compliance with recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the fall.

NATIONAL NEWS

Police are arresting protesters who refused to leave the Dakota Access Pipeline protest camp by Wednesday's deadline. The arrests come a day after remnants of the camp went up in flames as protesters set fire to the wooden housing as part of a departure ceremony. The protesters have stayed on the federal land for six months as they tried to block construction efforts. While many planned to go peacefully, others said they would defy the 2 p.m. CT Wednesday deadline. Hundreds of officers from several states were on hand to handle arrests.

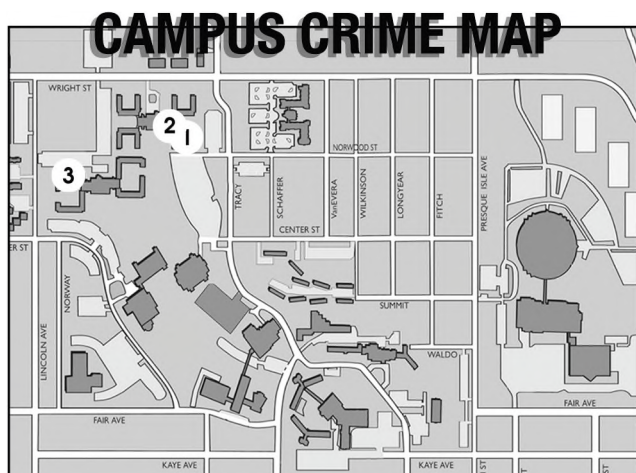
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A sheet of ice approximately the size of the state of Delaware is set to break away from Antarctica. Scientists suspect that it will be one of the largest breaks of its kind recorded. Larsen C—a sheet of ice in western Antarctica—is currently attached to its parent shelf by 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) of ice, according to UK-based research team Project MIDAS. Although this isn't the first time the Antarctic has seen icebergs produced in this way, Larsen C's split will significantly change the landscape of the continent.

WEIRD NEWS

After uproar on social media the president of Iceland was forced to clarify his outspoken stance on one of the defining questions of the age: whether pineapple should be allowed on pizza. Last week the president answered questions from pupils at a high school in Akureyri. He said his favorite football team was Manchester United and he was "fundamentally opposed" to pineapple on pizzas. The president then went further, saying that if he could, he would ban the tropical fruit as a pizza topping.

— Compiled from news sources



1. Criminal sexual assault was reported at 11:15 p.m. Sunday, February 19 at Magers Hall.

2. Marijuana was reported to have been mailed to the Magers/Meyland lobby at 4:27 p.m. Saturday, February 18.

3. An alcohol violation was reported at 1:05 a.m. Saturday, February 18 at Gant Hall.

Mixing tourism with ecology:



Photo courtesy of Jarred Battles
Sophomore outdoor recreation leadership and management major Noah Ballek observes a waterfall on the island of Costa Rica. He and nine other students spent winter break participating in naturalist tours and studying examples of ecotourism on the island.

ORLM students visit Costa Rica

By Nancy Swick
contributing writer

A recent trip to Costa Rica allowed 10 NMU students to participate in firsthand efforts of ecological conservation and ecotourism as they embarked on a two-week journey over winter break.

Costa Rica features varying climatic zones and landscapes, creating biodiversity that entices tourists and students alike to the area.

The Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management (ORLM) students were led by NMU professor Scott Jordan, who guided them through six locations on their journey.

First, the students worked with the University of Georgia (UGA) at a research outpost, participating in naturalist tours where they were introduced to the surrounding ecosystem as well as the history of development nearby, Jordan said.

"There were unique plants and animals everywhere we went," he said.

As an ecotourism trip, there was concern for the environmental costs of travelling abroad. Many ecotourism models strive to make up for the fuel used in travel by neutralizing the travellers' carbon dioxide output with alternative activities at the destination. Jordan said the NMU students gained experience with carbon neutrality through participating in a project with UGA researchers, where they put soil in bags that held tree seedlings to eventually be planted. In theory, the seedlings would offset

the amount of carbon dioxide they used for the trip.

According to the UGA Costa Rica Carbon Program, planting four native trees reduces one ton of carbon dioxide over the next several years. This will offset the average carbon dioxide emissions of travelers, which currently averages below one ton per person.

At other locations, the participants engaged in conservation of wildlife by working with locals in the protection of leatherback turtles, which are an endangered species due to egg poaching, Jordan said.

"Because it's not protected, people take the eggs and sell them," he continued. "The eggs are served with beer to tourists, so they're popular and a moneymaker."

The group went out at night to follow the turtles' paths in the sand toward their nests. Once the turtles laid their eggs, Jordan said they buried the eggs elsewhere on the beach to hide them from poachers and to promote gradual population growth.

The students saw wildlife from a different perspective visiting Playa Samara, a coastal area in the Guanacaste Province of the island. During a kayaking excursion to an island reserve, they snorkeled with sea turtles and squid, seeing the importance of protecting these species firsthand, senior ORLM student Jarred Battles said.

"Snorkeling with sea turtles was a surreal experience that I will remember forever. I easily could have spent several weeks or months at every place we went," Battles said,

adding, "here was just so much to explore and learn about the country, its inhabitants and the culture."

Engaging in this culture, the group took Costa Rican dance lessons and tasted traditional foods.

Playa Samara also served as a model for "traditional tourism" in contrast to the ecotourism model the students had explored elsewhere in the country. Jordan reaffirms that traditional tourism leaves greater negative impact on the culture and ecosystem of a given area compared to ecotourism practices.

"Throughout our trip, we noticed many locals had a similar respect for the land and the need to preserve it for future generations," junior ORLM student Emily Gantner said.

She explained how visiting a sustainable, organic coffee farm contributed to her understanding of conservation and sustainable living.

"Costa Rica was a life-changing opportunity," Gantner said. "I got hands-on exposure to how ecotourism provides for the locals of Costa Rica. My experience has encouraged me to utilize my degree and be an educator of responsible outdoor recreation."

Study abroad trips such as this are not restricted by major and offer hands-on experience in relevant fields of interest. Jordan emphasizes the valuable role of ecotourism in the field of outdoor recreation and said the department looks toward growth of courses offered in the subject in the near future. Until then, NMU plans for an upcoming Eco and Adventure Tourism trip to Poland in May.

BOT

Continued from Page 2

rising maintenance costs as factors in the decision to raise room and board rates.

The name of each individual dorm in the new Quad 1 will be decided at a later date. The decision to name the new housing structure "The Woods" came after a campus-wide survey where students gave input on a name they thought was best. Erickson said "The Woods" came out as most preferred.

The new name of the residence halls was also unanimously approved by the board.

"We think 'The Woods' is an appropriate name because it signifies pretty much where we are in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan," Erickson said. "It has an environmental theme which we all thought was very important."

Another item discussed includes NMU transferring land to the city of Marquette in order to build roundabouts at three nearby intersections including the intersections of Presque Isle and Fair avenues, Wright Street and Tracy Avenue, and along the north side of Wright Street between Sugar Loaf Avenue and Industrial Parkway.

BOT member Tami Seavoy decided to abstain her vote on the formal recommendation in order to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest because her law firm represents the city of Marquette.

The motion was approved by the rest of the board. Roundabout locations with set property transfers from NMU to the city are contingent on the city granting the university sign easement in those rights-of-way.

"We don't anticipate this to be a problem," Erickson said.

The death of former NMU student Anthony Herbert was recognized by the board members, after a moment of silence led by Vice President and Provost for Academic Affairs Kerri Schuiling. Herbert died on Jan. 17 in his dorm room. The board formally recognized and thanked Herbert's roommate, suitemates, resident advisor and one student who lived across the hall for their efforts in attempting to save Herbert on the morning of his death.

The Planning for Distinction project was the final recommendation approved by the Board, outlining the future of the university.

"I think this is a very important process for us to go through because it really links with our Strategic Planning Investing and Innovation and it's going to help guide us in how we really make investments into our wide range of programs both academic and non-academic," Erickson said.

CLIMATE

Continued from Page 1

effect on them right now but I don't think it will last forever," Leonard said. "For students, everything is immediate. They don't have any money, they can't deal with six months off. They go back to living in their parents' basement."

Senior ecology major Taylor Preul interned for the federal park service twice, once at the Sleeping Bear Dunes and once at Yellowstone National Park. She applied for a full-time job and although interviewed, she was not offered the job because of the hiring freeze issued by President Trump.

"It is kind of intimidating, especially as someone that's graduating, to know that there really isn't that much job security in the future," Preul said. "The hiring freeze, while it's only temporary it's only a 90-day hiring freeze it kind of is an indication of the future status of these sorts

of jobs, throughout the course of the administration." Preul said the administration's overall attitude toward climate science and natural resources is more imposing than the temporary hiring freeze.

"Oh let's just get rid of the EPA, that's scarier than the hiring freeze."

Because the freeze only affects jobs on the federal level, graduating students can still find work in the private, non-profit, state, local or tribal sector, Preul said.

"There are definitely a lot of job opportunities," she said. "You just have to know where to look. There are so many levels of resource management aside from the federal level so there's a lot that they don't directly control, like state parks, and state forests."

Despite the attitude of the current administration toward environmental protection work, students working in the EEGS department express an overall sense of hope for their future working in science, said senior zoology major Connor Richter.

"This is the time to do it," Richter said. "This is the time to make your voice heard and now is a kind of a more pivotal time than ever."

Working in the field might be harder than before but the oppression of the industry won't be a permanent thing, Richter said.

"I think it also opens up a lot of opportunities for study and opportunities to fight for what you think is right."

Students' chances of getting hired for the EPA may have temporarily decreased, but the private sector has responded and funding for climate change research has increased, said Sarah Mittlefehldt, a professor in the EEGS department who specializes in environmental policy, sustainability, and environmental justice.

Mittlefehldt is trained as a historian and understands how the political context surrounding environmental policy changes over time. While clean air and water were considered important issues in the 1970s, climate change dominates the discourse around

environmental issues today, she said.

Mittlefehldt also noted that swings occur from one presidential administration to the next. For example, President Ronald Reagan appointed the Secretary of Interior James Watt, who led a movement to open federal lands to private industry and argued for state control of public resources. The environmental community came together around this issue in the 1980s and it's doing so again, Mittlefehldt said.

"This administration has given otherwise disparate groups a specific rallying point to collaborate against," Mittlefehldt said. "Those concerned about social justice, environmental protection, and accountable governance now have a common challenge that can bring groups together."

"Many of our students in the EEGS department are very passionate, and very committed to environmental issues. That passion will fuel them to do good work no matter where they end up."

PROF

Continued from Page 1

order, he said there are fears from people who are from primarily Muslim countries either living or looking to travel to the states.

"I am afraid that all of these presidential orders will leave us polarized and isolated. I am afraid that because of these rulings some people may not want to hire me. It is a trauma," he said.

Azam's research is focused on social and political philosophy as well as issues in applied ethics. He also studies epistemology, a branch of philosophy that investigates the origin, nature, methods and limits of human knowledge.

Azam explained that these orders go against the view many people have of western countries.

"Why do people like western countries? Why is that? It is because of the philosophy of the political society, because of the philosophy of liberty and freedom," he said. "When we talk about humility, we talk about how people are free, how people are equal, we talk about respect."

Most people in the seven countries included in the travel ban are liberal, he said. Radical and terrorist groups go against many of the teachings of the Quran through their acts of violence and oppression. That is why there are so many refugees fleeing from their homes.

"If you kill or you hurt some-

one, you are hurting the whole of humanity," Azam said.

Much of the ban has left people confused, he explained. The people looking to travel to the United States are searching for liberty.

"A permanent fear, irreparable trauma, people are psychologically disheartened," Azam said. "What does it mean, this temporary ban? It means that we are pushing the liberal people to the radical people, right? Intentionally. You're pushing these people to the radicals."

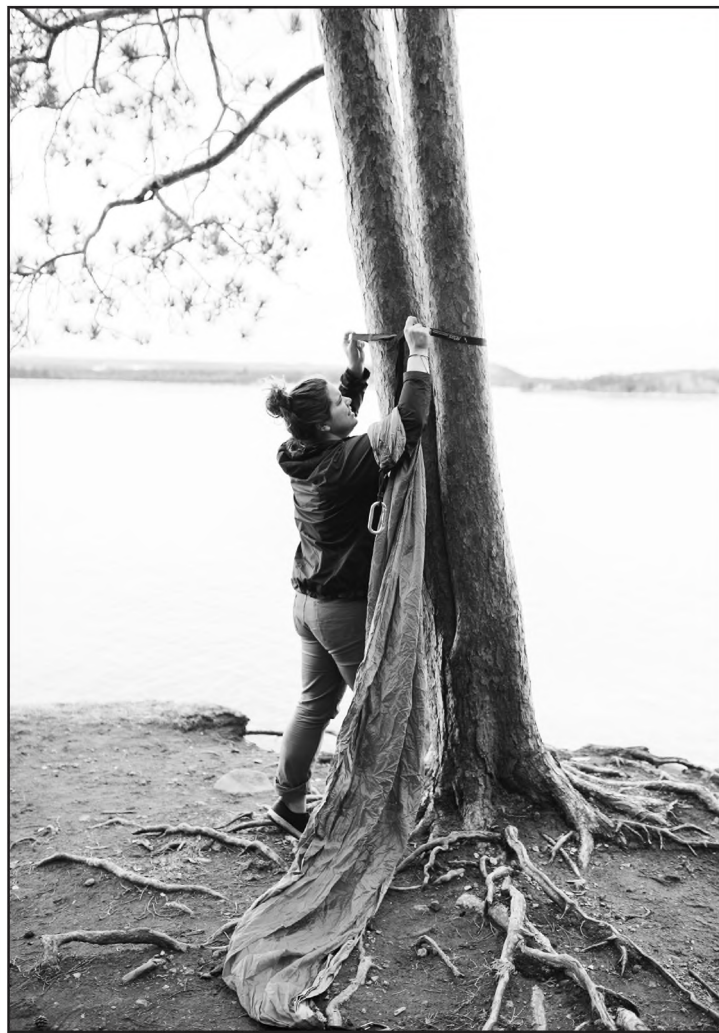
Azam said that the orders and rhetoric behind many of Trump's statements could affect more people than expected.

"I am worried about the liberal pillars of the country because if people lose their freedom of religion, lose their freedom of speech and the judiciary can't work properly, that would be alarming not only for the minorities but also for the majorities," he said.

The best way to fight ignorance is to expose yourself to someone else's culture, Azam said. He encourages students to attend the Muslim Awareness Forum at 3 p.m. in the Marquette Room in the University Center Friday March 3.

The forum will tackle misconceptions about Muslim beliefs, practices and lifestyle and compare them to Christianity and other religions. Speakers will include head of political science Carter Wilson and head of history department Keith Kendall.

Leave No Trace



Emma Tembreull/NW

Sam Ozanich, senior digital cinema major, installs an ENO hammock on Presque Isle with straps designed to not harm trees. Ozanich is a brand ambassador for ENO hammocks and an outdoor enthusiast.



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EDITORIAL



Environment threatened by Trump

“No challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change,” former President Obama stated during a 2015 State of the Union address.

But with an agenda reducing environmental regulations on industry building and pushing oil pipelines, placing the self-described “leading advocate against the EPA’s activist agenda” Scott Pruitt as head of the EPA, and a history of tweets about the fakeness and need for global warming, President Trump has created concern about the future of the environment.

Climate change and global warming related to human activity has been proven by reputable, scientific sources. Shifting temperature patterns have disastrous effects on ecosystems on a local and global scale. We can already see the changes, such as melting polar ice caps in Antarctica or extreme storms and flooding in the United States.

We are living on a planet with finite natural resources, such as water, minerals, land and oil. Imagine living in a world without clean water, or fuel in our cars or trucks that transport goods that

we consume daily. Once we use up or ruin these essential tools of life, we as a human race are done.

We can only imagine the world our future generations will live in. But fear and anxiety are no strangers to us right now with Trump as the POTUS. Those in science fields are already alarmed about the future of the globe, even without Trump’s actions and attitude about the environment. His strides forward will end up bringing us down faster and further.

We need to fight. The stronger threat of global warming and climate change should motivate us to protect the assets of the earth; we need to unite and actively protect the planet. Scientists and those involved in sustainability need to be louder now more than ever about concerns and what people can do to help. We must conduct our lives in a conscientious way to benefit the planet, such as recycling or conserving water and energy whenever possible.

Each of Trump’s actions against the environment only spark energy within those who seek to create change for a better future, not only for ourselves and our families, but the entire human race.

Money means less to millennials



Staff Column

Trinity Carey

As my third year in college is abruptly coming to an end, I’m wondering how many times I have already been asked “what’re you studying?” I’m a college student; this question is inevitable, I realize. But what is slightly more maddening is the reaction received when telling people my degree field. One I am overly passionate about, but is not overly prosperous.

Recently, I was made aware by a family member that my career choice is not as important as a distant cousin who’s studying to be a pharmacist, because she’ll be the one with a six-digit salary. I just shrugged it off, because hey, I’m happy and that’s what counts right? I like journalism and writing. It’s kind of my thing. I believe there is power in words. That there is a need for transparency in authority. That writing is a way to spread ideas and find like-minded souls.

Yet I am constantly being made aware of the so-called “death of the print industry” and lack of money to be earned in the field, but truly, I couldn’t care less.

I believe a vast majority of NMU’s student body would agree with me. NMU is mostly comprised of those pursuing degrees in the liberal arts. We want not necessarily to create careers out of our passions, but find careers we are passionate about. That’s what I find so intriguing about our campus as well as our generation—we value work with personal meaning over work that pays well.

The older generations seem to care more about the average salary and the benefits of one’s

career, instead of why someone may have chosen it. Those of previous generations were often unable to attend a university, let alone have the freedom to choose what job they would like to pursue. Now millennials are fortunate enough to have the choice, and we are ridiculed for choosing what we are passionate and curious about, instead of picking the career that will fill the currently empty spaces in our wallets.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics 2015 report, the annual wage working in the newspaper industry is \$40,860. Journalists are more than aware of this reality. Actually there’s a pretty popular saying about being a journalist—“everybody hates you, the hours are shit, but hey at least the pay sucks.” Instead of a pang of regret, we laugh. It may be true, but it’s worth it. The money doesn’t change the importance and zeal for writing and creating a print product.

If your passion isn’t being a surgeon or psychologist or a mechanical engineer and instead you want to be an painter, a stage manager or a writer, it’s okay because the importance lies in the love of your work. So, while your grandparents may not understand the job you’re striving for keep in mind that the meaning of value in life changes over time and right now our generation finds value in passion, pursuit and love of a craft.

Instead of focusing on the salary behind your studies, remember not everyone’s opinion of your life affairs really matters and that mass amounts of money earned can’t fill all the voids in life. Ignore the mean and do something you feel is meaningful. I want to find value not just in my paycheck, but how I earn it.

THE NORTH WIND 

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WRITERS WANTED

The North Wind is hiring opinion writers who can intelligently argue one side of political and social campus issues. To apply, stop in The North Wind office at 2310 University Center, 1401 Presque Isle Ave., Marquette, MI 49855

LETTER POLICY

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

Letters can be mailed to The North Wind, 2310 University Center, 1401 Presque Isle Ave., Marquette, MI 49855.

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

Warm weather isn't cool



Opinion Editor

Trevor Drew

Sometimes when I'm speed walking to class wrapped in multiple layers of thick, warm jackets and my hands shivering in the depths of my pockets to avoid the harsh cold of the outside, I like to imagine myself on a beach. A nice pair of shades, the sun beating down on me as I embrace the warmth and listen to the gentle tide roll in. That's usually my go-to fantasy but since last weekend I haven't had much use for it.

Over the weekend, much of the Midwest experienced unseasonably warm weather, including Marquette. On Sunday, temperatures reached a high of 59 degrees, tying for fourth highest February temperature in Marquette behind three other instances all occurring before 1980, according to the National Weather Service in Marquette.

Being a lifelong Michigan resident I'm used to the cold, so when a nice, sunny day comes around I make it a point to go outside because it probably won't last very long. As much as I enjoy warm weather every now and then during the deep freeze, sometimes it puts a damper on what makes the Upper Peninsula so appealing to some people.

It's Winterfest and the first person I saw on campus this week was wearing shorts and a t-shirt. There are events planned that

depend on a healthy amount of snow outside and all over campus students are building up a sweat as they walk around in sweatshirts in awe at the warm weather.

I'm not some lunatic that thinks the entire planet should be cold all the time, but I personally enjoy a slice of the year being dedicated to snow and the activities and events that come with winter.

An event that lined up with the weekend of warm weather was the U.P. 200, one of the top 12-dog mid-distance sled races in the Midwest, as well as being an Iditarod qualifier. The trail covers 230 miles of challenging terrain from Marquette to Grand Marais.

This year however, some of the track was impacted by the heat, shaking things up for many of the competitors.

Although the U.P. 200 was not completely stifled by the weather, mushers such as Frank Moe, who placed fourth in this year's race, had to make considerable changes to their strategy due to the strange heat.

"You try to run as much at night as possible, try to rest during the heat of the day from 11 o'clock to six if you can," Moe said. "It's not just the heat, it's what it does to the snow; the bottom falls out of the trail so it becomes all the more difficult for the dogs just to travel and add the heat on top of that."

Moe said that the dogs also require more water to compensate and added that at times he would even let his pups roll around in the snow to cool off and

stay hydrated.

Moe added that, like any sport, the conditions are something that all mushers have to deal with.

Along with the U.P. 200, NMU's Nordic Ski Team also had to deal with less-than-ideal conditions over the weekend at the NCAA Central Region Championships hosted in Ishpeming.

Junior Nordic Skier Ian Torchia described the races as "slow, brutal racing" in 50-degree weather and even noted that overheating was a concern.

"The organizers did a really good job; it was some of the best grooming I've seen for what they were given," Torchia said. "Between Saturday and Sunday they probably had an hour to groom everything because that was the only time it was below freezing."

Luckily, our beloved Nordic Ski Team was able to handle the heat and the team ultimately won the men's, women's and overall titles.

Like most Wildcats, I understood what I was signing up for when I decided to come to school in lovely Marquette. It may sound strange but it's kind of disappointing when we can't enjoy one of the most notable aspects of the area — the cold weather.

While unseasonal warmth is often welcomed, it definitely can throw a monkey wrench in the works for those who value the U.P. for its winter. While every now and then I'd rather be in Fiji with a nice mojito on the beach, I find it's best to be patient and sip hot chocolate and sit on the furnace until the time is right.

SOUND OFF

Is climate change an issue to you? Why or why not?



Ivan Swart, senior zoology, philosophy

"Not only do I think climate change is an issue I think it's part of a larger issue beyond how people approach the natural environment; we have problems of too much nitrogen, species extinction, acidification of the ocean, so there's a lot of different problems going into this one problem."



Cassidy Berlin, senior environmental studies and sustainability

"I think it's a very prevalent issue because it's the middle of February and we are sitting outside in the sun right now, no one has a winter coat on and for the first time ever I think climate change is coming to the surface in a way we can't ignore."



Adam Steinhauer, alumnus 2016

"I would say no because of the trends in warming and cooling of the earth throughout time; it's probably something related to that more than other things."



Tyler Bailey, junior business management

"Climate change is an issue to me because I like winter, I like the snow and the activities it brings."

compiled by Christin Deford

A reminder to go off and enjoy the outdoors



Guest Column

Loki Maguran

It's a weekend at Northern, it's the beginning of the semester and you and your friends have nothing to do. Your only source of entertainment is counting the asbestos particles in the air and hoping the cancer will relieve you from this boredom. Suddenly you hear that the hall is going on a hiking trip so you and your friends decide to tag along. You drive down 550 looking at all the beautiful trees forming walls on both sides of the road. You arrive at the hiking trail immediately immersed in the beauty of the trail. Everything is a bright shade

of green and you can hear birds chirping in the distance, you feel good inside, way better than you did being stuffed in your dorm.

This whole scenario is why I like going to Northern. What Northern may lack in on-campus activity it makes up with its surrounding landscape. We have an advantage that many other colleges do not have. Sure, frat parties and campus concerts are cool, but those can be found on a majority of campuses. How many campuses can you drive not even ten minutes away and completely isolate yourself in nature's beauty? There is so much to explore out there: waterfalls, caves, ravines, rivers, mountains, cool plants, islands and much more. So why not take advantage of it? Besides seeing all these cool things the benefits give even more reason

for exploring.

Now, I realize that there are some people who are not the most outdoorsy people. I'm not asking you to go hike twenty miles every day, but to just take advantage of what is available. Hiking in itself provides a lot of health benefits along with social ones. Just getting outside into the sunlight helps your body gather vitamin D which it needs to stay happy. Hiking helps overall body fitness decreasing obesity. After a long hike your body also starts to release endorphins regardless of how fast or slow you walk, helping decrease anxiety. Just got done with a hard test and need to relax? Go on a short hike; you will feel better at the end of it and be ready for the rest of the day. Hiking can provide many advantages as well.

Getting outside can introduce

Now, I realize that there are some people who are not the most outdoorsy people. I'm not asking you to go hike twenty miles everyday, but to just take advantage of what is available.

you to a wide array of different people. During the fall and spring many students at Northern spend a lot of time outside, inviting people to hike or sit around a fire. If you have trouble getting out to the trails find a group of people who are heading out; it is always good to have extra company on a hike and it's a great way to meet new people. Many different dorm houses on

campus will take their house on a hike multiple times during the year. This is a great way to get in touch with other members of your hall who also like to hike. So grab some friends, your boots and your outdoor backpack and go explore the landscape. Besides, I'd rather take a deep breath of fresh Marquette air than hangout with the asbestos in the dorms.



Photo courtesy of Center for Student Enrichment

The NMU Hip Hop Dance Crew performs their routine in the Airband competition held on Monday by the special events committee for the 2017 WinterFest.

WE'RE ALL MAD IN WINTERLAND

NMU's 2017 'Alice in Winterland' themed WinterFest concludes with tailgate and hockey game

By Trinity Carey
features editor

Even the sudden gush of what feels like spring in Marquette hasn't stopped NMU's 2017 WinterFest activities from commencing. Clue, an air band competition, tug-of-war, human sled dog races, and an obstacle course along with other events have already brought together students and organizations across campus.

WinterFest events run from Feb. 17 to Feb. 25 and are similar to university homecoming events. Likewise, the events are also themed, this year's: "Alice in Winterland."

NMU's Special Events Committee hopes WinterFest will involve students in campus events and the outdoors during the winter months, said special events coordinator and senior hospitality major, Megan

O'Brien.

"I think it brings more school spirit. We're trying to bring students together," O'Brien said. "You're competing for a purpose, to raise awareness, either for your student organization if nobody knows who you are, or it's hall pride."

Dorm halls, house based teams and student organizations compete against one another in each event. This year Spalding Hall has taken many of the wins, O'Brien said.

"We had some really good clues for our clue competition, that we thought were going to go the entire week and I get a voicemail on Monday that said Spalding already found the clue on Sunday night," O'Brien said. "They've been taking away most of all of the events. They're very excited

about everything."

This year the Special Events Committee added a few new events to the WinterFest activities such as a dinner to the Mr. & Mrs.

WinterFest competition.

"It's been around for awhile, but students say they like to see new things, especially with the air band competition. It's fun and great, but we just think it needs a little bit of a change. Otherwise, I think WinterFest is starting to kick off more than it has just with the addition of new events."

O'Brien said.

The WinterFest events will conclude with a tailgate, which

is another new addition, O'Brien said.

"For the past two years we've had really nice weather for sled dogs, tug-of-war and the obstacle course.

We normally have really cold weather so it's a nice change to have warm weather. We're looking forward to having some snow for Friday's tailgate event, hopefully there is a little bit of snow on the ground so it makes it a wintery tailgate."

The tailgate, open and free of charge to students

and community members, will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. in front of the Berry Events

Center and the PEIF. There will be activities for students and music from Double Trouble DJ's.

Saturday, the Special Events Committee is offering students the opportunity to purchase a ticket for a bus ride to Houghton to attend the NMU versus Michigan Technological University hockey game.

"It brings an excitement to the student body besides, you do homecoming in the fall and you have the rest of the year, and you're like 'well, what do I do now?'"

I think it's just a week of getting students excited about the things that are going on, on campus especially when it falls on a Michigan Tech hockey game...Students get really excited about that kind of stuff," O'Brien said.

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The pups plow through

Despite unusually warm temperatures the UP 200 safely crosses through downtown Marquette

by Noah Hausmann/Staff Writer

Friday afternoon the sky was cloudless, sunshine melting Marquette into slush. It was a beautiful day to go for a walk, but it didn't bode well for mushers, who hoped for colder temperatures to keep the trails firm and the sleds running smoothly. Still, Washington Street was loaded up with a snowy track, and a chill returned by evening, a breeze rustling the city. Cheering crowds lined the wooden barriers. Alaskan huskies howled as they waited for the race to start, itching to get on the trails.

It was just cold enough to see your breath.

Mushers bolted from the starting chute at 7 p.m. in downtown Marquette for the U.P. 200 and Midnight Run sled dog championships Friday evening, Feb. 17, embarking into the night for what would become a warm weekend of racing.

Organized by the Upper Peninsula Sled Dog Association, the 28th annual U.P. 200 race, which is an Iditarod qualifying event, drew 13 mushers from across the United States and Canada. With teams of 12 dogs, the mushers took on the 230 miles of trail from Marquette to Grand Marais and back again. Meanwhile, 15 racers competed in the 90-mile, 8-dog team Mid-

night Run race traveling from Marquette to Chatham and back, and 13 mushers led their 6-dog teams for the 26-mile, Jack Pine 30 Race around Gwinn on Saturday.

Musher Mary Manning from Hovland, Minnesota competed for her second year in the Midnight Run and would eventually place eighth at the finish on Saturday. Before her race Friday night, she made her final preparations and talked to a gaggle of dog-lovers surrounding her huskies.

"It's exciting as the team zips out of the chute," she said. "It's a crazy, fun time. You hold on for dear life sometimes. There's a whole lot of excitement at the beginning. But once you get out, the dogs mellow and just do their thing—they get into their groove."

Manning, who describes her age as "old enough to know better, but dumb enough to still try," has been racing on and off for about 20 years, and this was her sled team's fourth race of the season.

"Which doesn't mean I know everything. It just means I've been try-

ing for a long time," she said. "If I'm lucky I can win enough bucks to pay for gas. It's certainly not a money-making venture unless you're one of the top competitors. Most of us are just in it for the fun."

This year, the first place prize for the U.P. 200 was \$7,200, for the Midnight Run was \$2,300 and for the Jack Pine 30 was \$200, according to the official race website up200.org, which featured GPS tracking of sled teams and live-streaming of the events.

Unfortunately, the finish line for the U.P. 200 and Midnight Run had to be moved to Lakenenland in Harvey, about 14 miles short from the traditional location at Marquette's Lower Harbor, due to concern for the dogs' safety with warm weather worsening trails. The temperature neared 60 degrees on Saturday. In addition, three mushers dropped out of the U.P. 200 after the return-journey checkpoint at Wetmore.

UP 200

1st Place:

Denis Tremblay

2nd Place:

Martin Massicotte

3rd Place:

Ward Wallin

Midnight Run

1st Place:

Jake Golton

2nd Place:

Larry Fortier

3rd Place:

Joann fortier





**“You hold on for dear life sometimes. But once you get out, the dogs mellow and just do their thing—they get into their groove.”
-Marry Manning**

Above: Race volunteers help strap dogs in before take off on Washington Street.
Below: The race is now underway as a team of dogs pass by the Wells Fargo Building downtown.
All photos by Neal Flavin and Cristin DeFord

French Canadian musher Denis Tremblay of St. Michel-des-Saints, Quebec crossed the finish line at 9:35 a.m. Sunday to take first place in the U.P. 200 and his first win at a mid-distance sled dog race, with a total run time of 22 hours, 11 minutes and 14 seconds. This was his fifth time competing in the event. Next came Martin Massicotte of St. Tite, Quebec at 9:39 a.m., with Ward Wallin of Two Harbors, Minnesota in third at 9:46 a.m.

Jake Golton of South River, Ontario won the Midnight Run, crossing the finish line at 8:56 a.m. Saturday. Taking second place was Larry Fortier of Gaylord, followed three seconds later by his wife Joann Fortier. Meanwhile, Jerry Trudell of Calumet took first in the Jack Pine 30, which also had to be shortened due to weather.

The kick-off event on Friday brought together hundreds of spectators, some even standing on snowbanks to catch a better look at the race, and among them plenty of Northern students.

“It sounded like fun,” said Megan Roesner, senior digital cinema major. “The [sled dog] race is awesome. I came last year and it was the coolest thing. It’s my favorite.”

NMU students also joined with community members young and old to form a small army of some 200 volunteers, sporting green and orange safety vests. Many student organizations par-

ticipated, including Aspen Haus, which served as crowd control.

“One of our house goals is to volunteer more this year, so this is one of the ways to do that,” said Heather Montgomery, junior social work major, president of Aspen Haus.

Fraternities and sororities helped too, including Phi Sigma Sigma.

“One of our main pillars is philanthropy. We’re giving back to the community, especially with something as important as this is to the community,” said Norelle Lynch, senior management of health and fitness major. “It’s also fun because you get to bring the whole Greek community together too. We love Northern and Marquette, so it’s great to give back.”

During the cold of “half-time” between the U.P. 200 and Midnight Run starts, NMU’s family-friendly warming tent was rocking with party lights, space heaters and wall-to-wall patrons enjoying 24 dozen free cookies from Babycakes Muffin Co., 40 gallons of hot chocolate and Northern swag, as well as a photo opportunity with two retired sled dogs and U.P. 200 merchandise for sale. This was Northern’s third year hosting the tent.

“It was totally packed between races,” said Derek Hall, NMU assistant vice president of marketing and communications. “I’m just glad we gave away all the hot chocolate.” He chuckled.



'John Wick: Chapter 2' hits hard as first

By Jade Jenkins

contributing writer

After his return to the underworld of criminal activity in the first movie, John Wick is called upon to repay a debt that leaves an extremely large bounty on his life.

Story: As one character describes him, John Wick (Keanu Reeves) is a man of focus, commitment and sheer will. The stories you hear about this man, if nothing else, have been watered down.

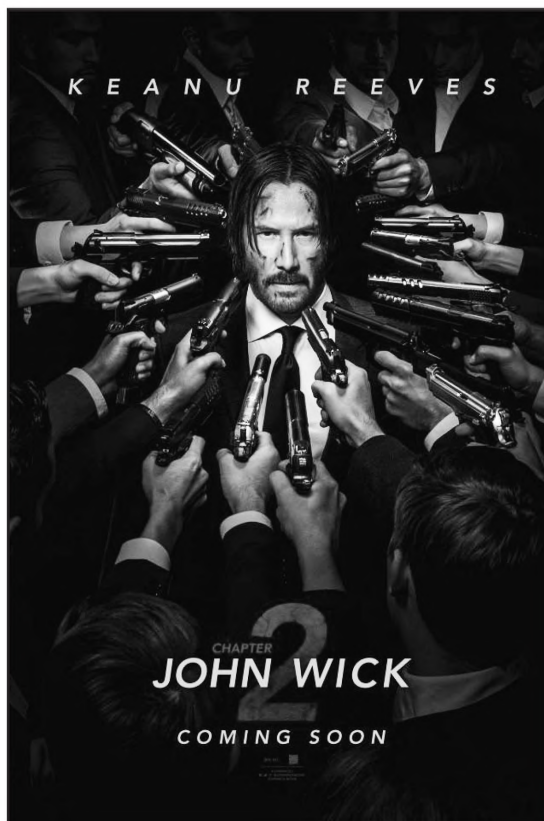
In the beginning John attempts to retrieve his car which had been stolen from him in the first movie. After this is accomplished, John thinks he is finally out of the hitman world, until he is forced to honor a blood oath he had made with an Italian playboy, Santino D'Antonio. After honoring this oath, Santino places a bounty on his head.

Throughout the movie John fights to stay alive. In the end the

bounty is removed, but due to the circumstances causing the removal he is put in an even more dangerous situation. The movie ends with John running through the streets with his dog at his side, leaving a perfect opportunity for a Chapter 3.

Characters: John Wick dominates the screen. Santino D'Antonio (Riccardo Scamarcio) plays a major role throughout, despite not seeing him frequently. Prior to the first film, John made a blood oath with Santino in exchange for help. Santino calls upon John in the beginning of the film when he finds a task he cannot do himself.

Winston (Ian McShane) manages the Continental, a hotel that the hitmen stay at but are not allowed to conduct business in. In the first movie you see Winston giving John some helpful hints as to the whereabouts of people, and that remains the case in "Chapter 2." Winston is a friend to John throughout the film, even



Film: John Wick: Chapter 2

Director: Chad Stahelski

Writer: Derek Kolstad

Starring: Keanu Reeves

Runtime: 124 minutes

Rating:



The movie is dark and dimly lit, giving you the eerie feeling of a murderous rampage about to ensue...“John Wick: Chapter 2” is arguably better than the first.

in the end after John has broken a Continental rule that is punishable by death.

Style: Adrenaline is constantly rushing in this action-packed film. The movie is dark and dimly lit, giving you the eerie feeling of a murderous rampage about to ensue. The music selection is similar to the first, with lots of heavy beats to

get you into the action scenes.

There is more dialogue in this movie than the previous, but again, it is kept to a minimum as the movie truly focuses on the violence.

Verdict: Going into this movie as a die-hard John Wick fan, watching it at least once a week, I was very skeptical as to how the creators could improve it. “John Wick: Chapter 2” is arguably better than the first. The movie follows along the same themes as the first, making it not only extremely action-packed, but also quite humorous if you are able

to understand the references.

The other benefit to “Chapter 2” is the number of kills. If you watch the first movie, you notice that there are not only a lot of kills, but a lot of shots through the head. This movie did not disappoint in that area, and in fact blew the number out of the water with a whopping 128 kills, 104 of which were headshots.

The film is extremely entertaining but you definitely need to sit down and watch the first one before you go see this in order to fully grasp why certain events are unfolding.

Shreddin' through the decades

By Kara Toay

copy editor

People of all ages dressed in neon colors and retro looks will be covering the ski hills of Marquette Mountain Sunday, March 5. Skiers will strut their stuff in flashy snowsuits and nostalgic skis for the second annual Vintage Ski Day.

The Beaumier Heritage Center is pairing up with the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame to organize and promote this skiing throwback day. For every ski pass bought, \$5 will be donated and split between the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame and the Beaumier Heritage Center, said Dan Truckey, director of the Beaumier Heritage Center.

The event will take place at 1 p.m. and begin with a ski race down Cliffs Ridge. Trivia and an oldest skis contest will be held throughout the day. Prizes

and vintage ski equipment for display will be provided by the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame and Museum.

“Skiing is a big part of the Upper Peninsula’s heritage and we thought it would be great because they’re [U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame] all about the history of skiing in North America and we’re about the U.P. history,” Truckey said.

Fifty-year-old ski films will also be shown in the lobby, with some films dating back even earlier.

“Everybody in the lodge gets into it. It’s a lot of fun, and skiing equipment and dress has changed over time,” Truckey said.

A fashion show will take place at 2 p.m. featuring ski wear ranging from eye-catching suits to homemade outfits. Last year around 20 contestants participated, but more are always welcome, Truckey added.



Photo courtesy of Marquette Mountain

The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame displays skis and ski wear of previous decades.

“We’ve had people show up in stuff from the 40s and 50s and stuff they’ve created and it’s different from what people

wear today.”

If you dress in vintage wear, a lift ticket is \$22 but the rest of the activities are free.

For more information about the event, visit the Beaumier Heritage Center Facebook page.

Future reflects upon the past

Hip-hop artist Future connects with his roots and sheds light on street life with self-titled album

By Andy Ridolphi

contributing writer

After a colossal 2016 Future, also known as Future Hendrix, purged himself of all social media accounts and moved back to his hometown of Atlanta in hope of getting back to his roots to construct his featureless, self-titled album "Future."

"Rent Money" is a hard-hitting introduction into the world of "Future." Future delivers lyrics intertwined with a rapid beat. This thrilling song practically jumps out of the speakers when turned up. The dark moody aesthetic works well mixed with the energetic delivery of Future gloating about his jewelry, women and illegal activities that has a hungry aggression in it.

Darker tracks like "Good Dope," "Zoom," "Scrape," "Flip" and "Super Trapper" are loud tracks where Future raps as a trap kingpin and successful hustler. These songs have a clean production, but begin to sound stale with not much substance.

In tracks like "POA," "Poppin' Tags," "Mask Off" and "High De-

mand," Future continues to rap about the ruthlessness and riches that got him from the streets to the top of the rap world. Future gloats

about his popularity and enjoying the fruits of his labor. "Draco" has a great laid-back vibe that is perfect for a cruise with the windows down and vol-

quickly makes this one of my favorites of the album.

Another exceptional track is "I'm so Groovy." The lyrics are laced with hypnotic drug indulgence that borders between recreation and addiction, giving it a dim groovy ambiance and a moody instrumental. His voice has an effortless, almost slurred sound. Future carries himself with a sly, cool confidence as if he were the most popular kid in high school.

Behind the façade of a confident drug lord and famous rapper, a troubled artist is buried. He raps about balancing his busy

lifestyle and intimate relations on tracks like "Outta Time" and "Massage in my Room" to softer beats that still carry a southern rhythm to them. Along with the rest of the album, he is attempting to drown himself in a cocktail of various substances to numb the pain of heartbreak and the anxieties that come with the paranoia of a criminal who has been thrown into the limelight.

Future's vocal inflections air his pain in a beautiful, harmonic way. He uses an abundance of auto-tune in order to use his voice like an instrument with the beat.

"When I was Broke" is a tragic love song about a girl who stayed with the rapper through hard times with no means. The two then struggle to stay together after gaining success and riches. Future fights with himself over how they began to fall apart when things

were supposed to get easier.

Future's singing is the best to date on "Might as Well." His melodies are soothing and enchanting as you can hear the struggle in his crackling voice.

"Feds did a Sweep" is a tribute to Future's friends back home who fell victim to the streets for the same activities Future raps about. Painting a vivid picture of officers flooding an abandoned trap house during a raid creates a dramatic portrayal of the harsher, more realistic side to the usually glorified street life.

Beneath the diamonds and outward rapper façade, Future is dealing with personal issues that create depth and a certain edge to the album. The introspective tracks make the rapper more personable than usual trap music.

Future has a duality to him as he bounces from lucrative drug dealer to troubled artist with a broken heart doing what he can to try and mend his wounds. "Future" has the versatility to be turned on when you are dressed in your favorite outfit and feeling fly, or to put on after a rough breakup when you don't have the energy to leave your room.

After the success of this album, Future announced this week he will be releasing a follow up album "HNDXXX" Friday, March 24.



Album: Future

Artist: Future

Label: Epic Records

Release Date: Feb. 17, 2017

Album Length: 63 minutes



"Future" has the versatility to be turned on when you are dressed in your favorite outfit and feeling fly, or to put on after a rough breakup when you don't have the energy to leave your room.

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Keeping a level head

Rookie Rachel Helm reflects on her accomplishments and growing up a swimmer

By Ryan Spitzza
contributing writer

Editors note: This is the first of a two-part series highlighting Rachel Helm and Lajos Budai, two swimmers who have made great strides their freshman year.

NMU varsity athletic teams generally have a diverse group of athletes year in and year out. The hockey team has players from Canada, Finland, Poland and Sweden. The volleyball team includes a player from Spain, the ski team has athletes from Austria, Czech Republic and Norway. For the swim & dive team, it's a very diverse roster that consists of 18 athletes from 13 different countries. Five of those athletes hail from England and one of those athletes is freshman swimmer Rachel Helm.

Helm has had a successful rookie season. After winning four events at the GLIAC Championships, two of which set school records, the GLIAC Freshman of the Year is getting set to compete at the NCAA National Championships in Birmingham, Alabama March 7 to 11.

The path to NMU wasn't a hard one for Helm. She wanted to come to the United States to swim and after contacting several

universities about swimming, the offers came pouring in. Helm received scholarship offers from Georgia Tech University, Florida International University, Long Island University Post and the University of Tennessee, but still chose NMU.

"Heidi [Voigt] and Matt [Williams] appealed to me the most," Helm said of her coaches. "Heidi made me feel like I was 'part of the team' before I was part of the team."



HELM

Helm, an English major with a journalism minor, is from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England which has a population of 250,000 people and up to 1 million people in the surrounding urban areas, so coming to Marquette was a change for her.

"It's a lot different; I lived

15 minutes from a city and 15 minutes from a beach," Helm said. "It's very small but it's very pretty here."

Helm started swimming at the age of 4 and had to tell a minor lie to get there.

"From a young age I used to watch my cousin learn to swim, but you have to be 5 years old to get lessons," Helm said. "I threw myself in the pool at the age of 4, so my mom kind of lied and said I was 5 so I could get some lessons."

Helm comes from an athletic family. Her dad competed in triathlons while her mom was a national champion cross-country athlete. Her younger sister also runs and swims.

Along with swimming, Helm was also a gymnast for 10 years and said she enjoys watching track & field.

Like any foreign-born athlete, coming to the United States can be an odd change at first. Helm became accustomed to it, however, and she did it quickly.

"Food is a big difference here as well," Helm said. "In the MP there's no vegetables where if you go somewhere in England it's all vegetables."

Some of Helm's favorite American cuisines include chicken alfredo and the pasta here.

Helm has also taken a liking to NMU and the city of Marquette, commenting on the local scenery the city has to offer. The mild winter hasn't been bad for her either.

"It's not as bad as everyone made it out to be," Helm said. "I don't know if this is just a good year or what."

Her favorite swimmer is Adam Peaty, a 22-year old Olympian who took a gold and silver medal at the Rio games last summer.

While Peaty is her swimming idol, she looks up to her father as her main role model and inspiration.

"I think just because I watched him do his sport; he gave up his sport so I could do my sport," Helm said.

On a typical day of competition, Helm follows a certain schedule that includes a wake-up swim, eating breakfast and listening to music. She also admitted to a few superstitions.

"I have to pack my swim bag in the same order, I have to touch my goggles three times and crack all my fingers and neck," Helm said.

The success Helm has had in her freshman season has been all but a walk in the park.

"It's been really overwhelming, but I think you just have to remain

levelheaded," Helm said. "Don't let the success get to you or affect you too much."

Helm said that her group of friends has helped her the most this season.

"Savanna Saunders, who took fourth-place at NCAA's last year, has been a big help. Nicola (Pasquiere) is another British girl I came with and the teammates I train with have also been a big help," Helm said.

Overall, Helm would call the season a success for both the men's and women's teams. The men are currently ranked ninth in the country while the women are ranked twelfth.

After college, Helm would like to work in journalism but her swimming future is uncertain.

"I don't know if I'd still be swimming," Helm said. "If I go back to England I'll still swim but if I stay here I won't be able to."

Up next for the Wildcats is the NCAA National Championships in Birmingham, Alabama on March 7 to 11. While Helm knows she's going, the rest of the women's qualification list has yet to be released. Joining her in Birmingham on the men's side will be freshman Lajos Budai and sophomores Renars Bundzis, Ryan Leonard and Janne Roovers.

Warm weather and Cross Country Skiing

By Nate Bellville
contributing writer

Despite temperatures being in the 50s through the weekend and a lot of snow loss, the Wildcats clinched the NCAA Central Region Skiing Championships, sweeping the men's, women's and overall titles.

The Men's and Women's Nordic ski teams hosted the NCAA Central Region Championships/Hall of Fame SuperTour at AlQuaal Recreation Area in Ishpeming over the weekend, the first national Nordic skiing race ever held in Marquette County.

Head coach Sten Fjeldheim had confidence in the team, despite the warm conditions.

"Considering the weather, the trails were about as perfect as they can be," Fjeldheim said.

Senior Adam Martin and sophomore Nicole Schneider each won individual crowns. Martin won the 20k freestyle and 10k classic, while Schneider won the 15k freestyle and 5k classic races.

Martin finished second overall in both of his races while Schneider placed second in the 15k free-



Christin DeFord/NW

Part of the Women's Nordic Ski team race in a freestyle event during the Central Region Championships.

style and 11th in the 5k classic.

For the men's team, senior Frederik Schwenke joined Martin in the top 3 in the 20k freestyle with his second place finish and in the 10k classic with a third place finish.

For the women's side, senior

Kristen Bourne and junior Vivian Hett swept the podium with Schneider. Bourne clocked in at second place in the 15k freestyle and third in the 5k classic, behind her teammate Hett, who placed second.

"We were really excited,"

Bourne said of the team sweep of the top 3. "It's always a goal of ours to sweep and sweep the first 3 spots."

As both teams prepare for the National Championships next month, coach Fjeldheim said the teams have a lot of work to do.

"We're all going to taper as a group a little bit," Fjeldheim said. "This week it's training and then rest, and then next week we'll do a moderate time trial out there."

He also said that the championship venue is new for everyone.

"The course is challenging," Fjeldheim said. "From what I recall back when, it is not super tough, but it is not easy."

Martin is positive the men's team has the confidence to win the national title.

"In terms of the Nordic titles, we'll do as well as we can to win," Martin said. "We'll see how the other regions are skiing, we haven't met them since U.S. nationals in January."

Bourne also believes the women's team can win the national title too.

"Our women's team throughout this season has been very strong," Bourne said. "I feel like as the season has gone on, we have really good momentum from our races to heading into NCAAs."

NMU will field both Men's and Women's teams at the NCAA National Championships in Jackson, New Hampshire on March 9-11.

SPORTS BRIEFS



HOCKEY

Senior defenseman Brock Maschmeyer was selected as one of 10 finalists for the 2016-17 Senior CLASS Award® in collegiate hockey. NCAA Division I seniors who have notable achievements in four areas—community, classroom, character and competition—are eligible for this award.

An alternate captain as a junior and senior, Maschmeyer currently ranks seventh all-time among Wildcat defensemen with 24 career goals. On January 21, he became the 20th Wildcat defenseman in program history to score at least 60 points in his career; he now has 65 points on 24 goals and 41 assists.

Maschmeyer has excelled in the classroom, being named a WCHA Scholar-Athlete all three seasons he was eligible to receive this honor. Wildcat fans can vote for Maschmeyer daily by visiting the Senior CLASS Award® website. Fan voting runs until March 28 and is one third of the criteria that determines the winner.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Northern Michigan Men's basketball team will take on rival Michigan Tech in its season finale on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Houghton. The Wildcats went 1-1 last week, taking on Ferris State and Grand Valley State on the road.

The Wildcats fell to GLIAC-leading Ferris State, 96-74, on Feb. 16. Naba Echols put up 23 points and four assists, thought it was not enough as Zach Hankins had a double double with 29 points and 12 rebounds.

The Wildcats then went on to face off against Grand Valley State on Feb. 18, dispatching them by a score of 82-77. Grand Valley State's Justin Greason scored a game-high 24 points, but Sam Taylor (24), Echols (21) and Marcus Matelski (14) answered back to help the Wildcats snap a nine-game losing skid to Grand Valley State.

LACROSSE

In its first game in program history, the Northern Michigan lacrosse team routed Northland 18-1 Saturday afternoon at the Superior Dome.

"Getting a win in your first game is always a lot of fun," said head coach Emilia Ward. "We scored really early and scored often. It was a lot of fun for the fans, who came out in full force." Northern Michigan came out strong in front of a crowd of 264 fans, netting seven goals in the first 10 minutes of the game. During that stretch, six different Wildcats found the back of the net.

"We had awesome support from our fans," Ward said. "They got our girls fired up to play and definitely helped them keep going for the full 60 minutes."

The Wildcats scored 18 unanswered goals, 10 in the first half and eight in the second, to down the Lumberjills, who are also in their first season of competition.

compiled from press releases



Neil Flavin/NW

Senior guard Bre Gaspervich looks for a teammate to take a pass during the game against Northwood.

Big, bad Bre

By Trevor Drew

opinion editor

In Saturday's game against the Grand Valley Lakers, sophomore center Taylor Hodell clutched the ball at the NMU baseline as multiple Lakers closed in on her trying to take possession. As Hodell pivoted away from the opposition and surveyed the court, she flung an overhead pass to senior guard Bre Gaspervich, who stood wide open outside the 3-point line.

A fraction of a second passed and without hesitation, Gaspervich cocked her arm and sent the ball flying into the hoop. Despite being fouled on the play, Gaspervich was able to pull off a perfect shot, all net followed by the satisfying swish every player strives for.

But

she didn't stop there. The team's only senior stood at the foul line for her and-one shot and with ease, knocked down the extra point, completed the 4-point play and solidified herself as a member of the program's 1,000 club.

"It's a really good feeling," Gaspervich said. "It tells a lot for everyone [on the team] because they're the ones that pass me the ball. I think it's really good for the team, just that we pass the ball that much that we have people scoring that much."

Head coach Troy Mattson not only praised Gaspervich for her ability on the court but also for her dedication and humble attitude.

"She has never wa-

also exceeding 1,000 points.

Reflecting on his first meetings with the team's sole senior, Mattson said that because of her short height, not many teams were looking at her after high school. He said the Wildcats were fortunate to have Gaspervich commit to Northern Michigan as she became a huge asset to the team.

"She leads by example more than vocally," Mattson said. "She is just amazing for what she's able to do for her size out there on the court. Rebounds, assists, taking charges, steals, it doesn't matter. She can do it all."

While she's still here, Gaspervich said she would like to cap off her career by winning the 2017 GLIAC tournament and move on to the NCAA competition.

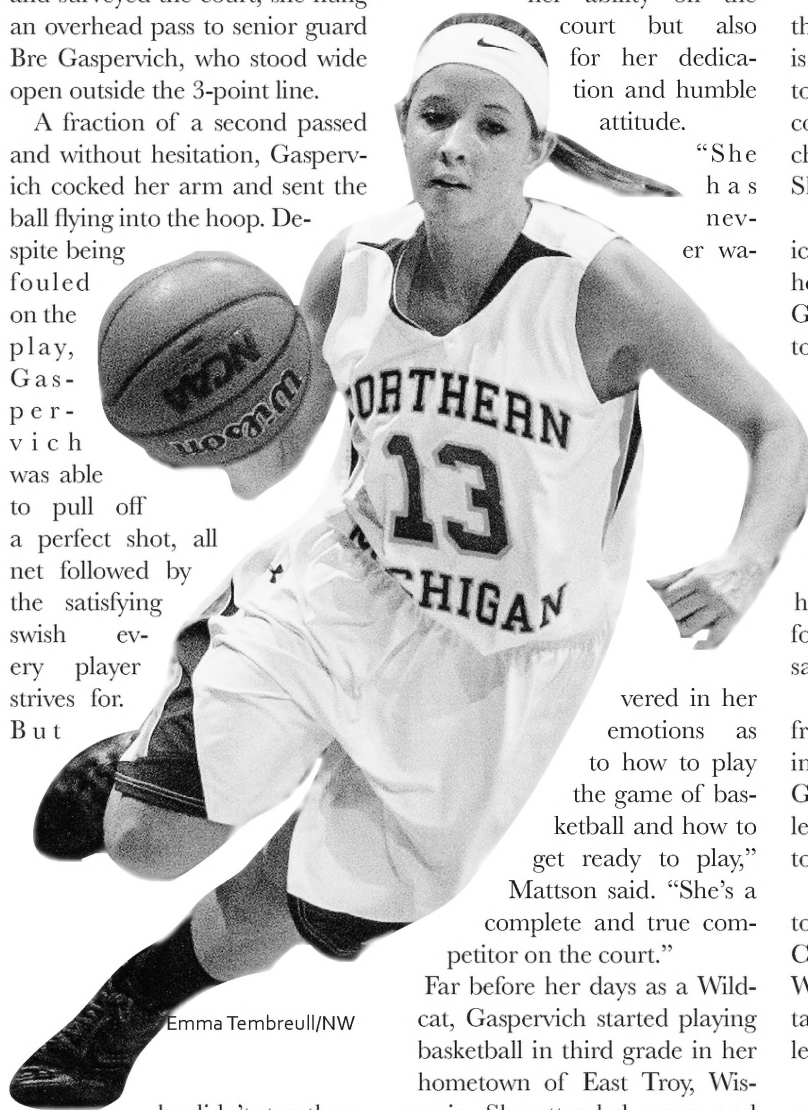
But once her time at Northern is through, Gaspervich hopes to pursue her career interests by attending graduate school and earning her Master's Degree in accounting and eventually achieving her dream of being an FBI forensic accountant, Gaspervich said.

"I've made a lot of life-long friends [at NMU]. I've had nothing but good experiences here," Gaspervich said. "I know I've learned a lot too, so I can't wait to take it out into the real world."

She said that she will be sure to come back to the Berry Events Center as a fan to cheer on the Wildcats as she has high expectations for the teammates she is leaving.

"We have a really strong core group of girls so I would like to see them win the North Division Conference [next year] because I know they can do it," Gaspervich said.

The Wildcats next travel to Houghton, Mich. for a date with rival Michigan Tech on Feb. 23.



Emma Tembreull/NW



'Cats battle for final playoff seed

By AnnMarie Kent
sports editor

A swift slap to the puck put Atte Tolvanen and the Wildcats' 5-game shutout record to rest just 3:26 into the first period of Friday night's game.

After a 9-game unbeaten streak and a 6-game win streak, the hockey team were swept by the Minnesota State University-Mankato Mavericks. Their series was a disappointing lead into this weekend's rivalry against the Michigan Tech Huskies.

Head coach Walt Kyle said it was a good contest against a very competitive team.

"I think it gave a us good look at how we're going to have to play and what we're going to have to do to be successful here in this stretch," Kyle said.

The long-standing rivalry between the Wildcats and the Huskies is renewed this weekend as the 'Cats look to grab one of the final playoff spots in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association.

NMU is currently ranked No. 8 after their loss to the Mavericks, getting knocked down from No.6. Only the top 8 teams get a seed in the playoffs. Junior forward Robbie Payne said the



Christin DeFord/NW

Junior forward Robbie Payne races for the puck against University of Alaska-Anchorage defensemen.

team is excited for the possibility of winning this series because six weeks ago they didn't see the playoffs as possible for them.

"Coming into this weekend we know if we win one game, if we win two games we're likely to be in the playoffs," he said. "We

know it's going to be a tough series but they're games we want to win."

Pending the results of the game the Wildcats could finish anywhere between No. 6 and No. 10 out of 10 in the conference. A stark difference for the team that

was 5-17-4, and ranked No. 10 just six weeks ago.

Freshman goaltender for Tech Angus Redmond made his debut the first game of the series last time the Wildcats met with the Huskies. In the Friday, Oct. 28 game Redmond also recorded

his first collegiate shutout in a 2-0 win. He continued the weekend of firsts with his first collegiate sweep when the Huskies beat the 'Cats 5-1 on Saturday night.

Junior forward Zach Diamantoni said while Tech has one of the best defensive groups in the WCHA, NMU has come along in the second half of the season.

"We're going to be a bringing a better game than we brought in the beginning of the year," he said.

Friday night's game brings the end of the season at the Berry Events Center, and the last home game for the senior class. Kyle said he hopes the rivalry and senior night will bring big crowds to the Berry.

"We have a good core of seniors here," he said. "They've given a lot to the program and they're a good class. I'd like to see them go out with a great crowd here on Friday."

Payne said they are always looking for a win against Tech but the fact that it's senior night makes them push a little harder.

"It's going to be sad to see them go," Payne said. "We're going to be looking for a big win, a big couple weekends here to finish their careers out."

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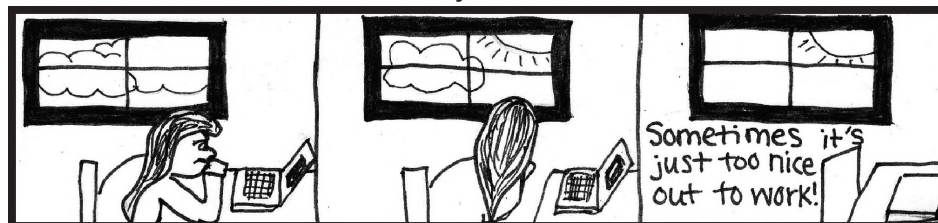
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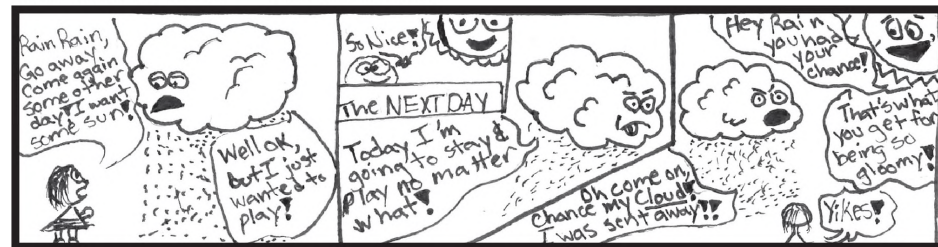
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