



SPORTS

Women's Lacrosse Team finishes its first homestand at the Superior Dome.

▶ See PAGE 13



FEATURES

The iconic lights on Washington Street welcome visitors to the new dine-in theater.

▶ See PAGE 7



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Kyle off the ice at NMU

Hockey coach arrested, contract not renewed

By AnnMarie Kent
sports editor

Just hours after NMU announced their release of former hockey head coach Walt Kyle from his contract, a warrant was issued for his arrest.

The Marquette County Sheriff's Department issued the arrest for one count of Residential Mortgage Fraud of \$100,000 or Less and one count of Forgery of a Document Affecting Real Property. Kyle posted his own bond of 10 percent of \$20,000 for each count.

Kyle's lawyer George Hyde, gave a statement on his behalf claiming that Kyle was innocent and the allegations against him were just Kyle's ex-wife attempting to avoid responsibility for the loans.

"These charges are the unfortunate result of his former wife's campaign to disparage him," Hyde said in the statement.

According to Hyde, the charges come from a 2014 loan that Kyle and his ex-wife, Ann Kyle, took out from River Val-

ley Bank. The loan was for repairs on their house that were completed before the couple divorced.

During their marriage, Walt claims he was granted general power of attorney on his wife's



For more on Walt Kyle's career, see page 12

behalf. He signed his wife's name for a loan and claims she had full knowledge and consent for the loan, which Ann now claims she had no knowledge of. "These charges against my client, Mr. Walt Kyle, are extremely unfortunate and a prime example of misunderstanding and misrepresentation of the facts," Hyde said.

NMU Athletic Director, Forrest Karr, said in an email that the decision to release Walt from the program had nothing to do with the legal matters at hand.

Walt's arraignment is scheduled for 8:15 a.m. on April 3.



Photo courtesy of Jud Sojourn

Flags in the camp sit below Turtle Hill, a burial site taken over by the Dakota Access Pipeline company.

A story of Standing Rock

A professor arrested recounts his experiences

By Winter Keefer

assistant news editor

Assistant professor of Native American studies, Jud Sojourn returned to NMU the Tuesday before spring break after he was arrested at Standing Rock the week prior.

Sojourn was welcomed back to the Center for Native American Studies Office with cheers of "to freedom" as faculty and students lifted black and white striped cups in a toast.

"It's a conflict zone," Sojourn said, describing the Standing Rock camp where protesters stood against the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. "When you're there it just seems like you're in a war zone."

Each individual could decide for themselves whether or not they wanted to stay at the camp after an eviction notice was sent warning protesters that they could be arrested after 2 p.m. Wednesday Feb. 22 if they stayed. The eviction cited flooding as a safety hazard but many were encouraged to stand and remain in prayer because they didn't see any chance of a flash flood, Sojourn explained.

"Every 10 feet is an opportunity for conversation, it's an opportunity for a song and it's an opportunity to make a heartfelt appeal to their hearts, you know what I mean? A heartfelt appeal to their being, to their person," he said.

The burning of Oceti Oyate, translated to All Nations Camp, was a ritual performed after the

if they contained potentially hazardous materials.

"It carries all those dreams as you slept up and away. It also keeps your adversary from taking personal items and in a sense putting bad feeling in them if they carry negativity," he said.

The plan was to regroup about 100 feet up the road from Oceti Oyate after the burning. This was

It's a conflict zone. When you're there it just seems like you're in a war zone.

— Jud Sojourn
assistant professor of Native American studies

initial eviction notice.

"I was there after the fires had already begun," Sojourn said.

He said that the burning of the camp was meant to send the prayers, experiences and good thoughts held in many of the structures into the air in the form of flames and smoke. The ritual was controlled and some buildings were intentionally left alone

where Sojourn was later arrested when he followed an elder woman into a wall of law enforcement.

Sojourn said law enforcement and private security hired by the Dakota Access Pipeline used fear tactics including heavily armed security and threats of felony charges to scare protesters away.

See ROCK • Page 2

New task forces to access resource allocation in campus programs

By Davon Lanier
news editor

Academic Provost Kerri Schuiling addressed a number of rumors around campus in a recent Campus Connect article containing the nominations for two new task forces within the ongoing "Planning for Distinction" project.

The new Academic and Support task forces will

serve to move the "Distinction" process along with transparency and comprehensive review of academic programs that require a redistribution of resources.

The Academic Task Force is co-chaired by Carol Johnson, professor of Office Information Systems in the College of Business and David Wool, director of the Honor's Program.

The Support Task Force is co-chaired by Tricia Bush, Associate Athletic Director of Outdoor Recre-

ation and Jeff Korpi, director of Housing and Residence Life.

Schuiling stated in the Strategic Resource Allocation (SRA) update that NMU is moving away from across-the-board cuts to use SRA as a method of assessment for planning purposes when it comes to programs within departments.

See SRA • Page 4

From captivity to spreading hope: Visiting journalist shares her story of survival

By Kelsii Kyto

contributing writer

Upon being freed after 140 days of captivity in North Korea, an award-winning journalist will share her story with the NMU community tonight in the Jamrich Hall auditorium.

TV/web host and award winning journalist Laura Ling will present "A Journey of Hope" at 7 p.m in 1100 Jamrich.

Ling will talk about her captivity in North Korea that resulted from her attempting to report on the trafficking of women in the country, a story that has been projected internationally on multiple news networks like the Korean National News Agency CNN. She will also be presenting a six-minute video that gives a sample of the different stories that she has worked on from around the world before going into her presentation.

"The presentation opens up an awareness of different equity and

equality issues around the world that she's tackled. It will open up thoughts and ideas of people about what's going on." Rachel Harris, adviser of Platform Personalities said.

Ling dedicates herself to raising awareness and educating the public on important global issues such as slave labor, women's rights in the Middle East and the energy crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa.

"The awareness of what's going on in the world is important. It is important to try and educate yourself on what's happening and know the issues in your community and your country," Harris said.

Her written work includes a co-authored book titled "Somewhere Inside: One Sister's Captivity in North Korea and the Other's Fight to Bring Her Home." She wrote the book with CNN reporter and sister Lisa Ling.

"It was fascinating because her

sister Lisa Ling spoke at NMU the same year she was held captive. Within weeks of her speaking here, her sister was captured in North Korea. We were all well aware of her situation at the time. Bill Clinton helped her get out, and I'm anxious to hear what diplomatic efforts got her out of prison in North Korea. I think they'll find the presentation very worthwhile," Harris said.

Ling is also the host of "Conquered" on Z Living Network, a series about people who have crossed controversial lines to achieve their goals. Additionally, she has hosted two documentary series on the E! Network and develops programming for Seeker, Discovery Communication's digital network.

Ling has received numerous awards including an Emmy, a national Edward R. Murrow award, as well as a national Gracie Award.

The presentation is being held by Platform Personalities and the



Kayla Miller/NW

Laura Ling's speech at NMU, coming Thursday at 7 p.m. is advertised among other campus fliers outside of the Wildcat Den in the U.C.

Student Activity Fee.

"She has a couple different things that attracted students to pick her. Having been held captive in North Korea and being an award-winning journalist

tackling social justice issues. The students thought that was very interesting," Harris said.

The event is free for NMU students and \$2 for the general public.

A Look at The Woods



Kayla Miller/NW

The sink cabinets sit in a newly built dorm where sinks will be outside the bathroom in the suite style rooms.

ROCK

Continued from Page 1

"The point is to wear people out, make them tired so that they will leave. And, it also is meant to give you a sense that the entire place is toxic and dangerous," he said.

After Sojourn was arrested in a group of 10 he was taken to the Morton County Courthouse, which doubles as a jail. He said he was transported in a van with his hands zip-tied. When they parked, they were taken down an alley into a garage, patted down and stripped to one layer of clothing.

"Some of [the guards] are actively trying to be mean to you and some of them are just nice, as if they were told to be mean to you but they can't quite pull it off," he said. "They don't have the heart to. They're just North Dakota everyday people, everyday police."

After about an hour, the group was given back their boots and put back into the van, still in one layer of clothing. Sojourn said the heat was turned off and the guards didn't talk at first but eventually warmed up to them

and turned the heat back on. He felt as if the guards were told to intentionally try to make them feel as if they would be killed.

Once booked, they were held for several hours in a hallway with the door unlocked so they could try to escape at any time, Sojourn said.

When Sojourn was taken to his cell, he said the inmate in the bottom bunk took his mattress.

"If it's true what he said he was a murderer and he had killed a man in a drug deal, shooting through the front door of a car and injured the man in the back seat," Sojourn said. "So he was looking at prison time."

"He proceeded to be one of the most racist people against Native people I have ever met, saying things that I could not repeat. He was also very friendly."

Sojourn said he gave his pendant to his cellmate before he was bailed out, hoping to leave the man with a piece of compassion.

"In a sense he represented the underbelly, the dark side of North Dakota racism," Sojourn said.

There were many eye-opening moments during his experience, Sojourn added. He said even one of the guards thanked him for protecting the water.



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data from www.weather.com

STATE NEWS

Michigan officials are looking for information from Enbridge Inc. on the loss of a layer of protective coating on the Line 5 pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac. The information was pinpointed in a federal work plan from the company. The potential failure of the controversial pipeline's anti-corrosion system will be a major discussion point at the next Pipeline Safety Advisory Board meeting in Lansing on March 13, at which a new independent technical report questioning the historical adequacy of line inspection reviews will be distributed.

NATIONAL NEWS

A federal judge in Hawaii blocked President Donald Trump's new travel ban Wednesday afternoon, hours before the ban was set to go into effect. The effects of the ruling apply nationwide, meaning travelers and refugees from the six Muslim-majority countries outlined in the plan will be able to travel to the U.S., countering Trump's second ban. "This is, in the opinion of many, an unprecedented judicial overreach," Trump said in response to the block.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

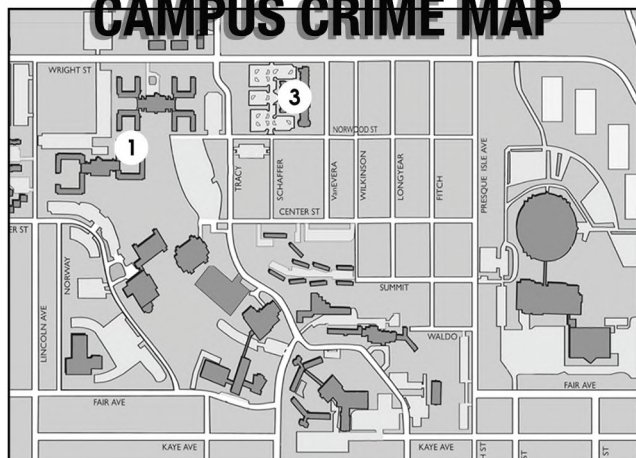
Voters in the Netherlands are voting Wednesday in an election widely seen as an indicator of populist sentiment across Europe. Conservative Prime Minister Mark Rutte is facing a tight battle with far-right rival Geert Wilders, whose anti-immigrant, anti-Islam stance has landed him in court, but also won him widespread support in a country that is increasingly polarized by austerity and immigration issues.

WEIRD NEWS

A goldfish in San Antonio was given its own underwater wheelchair made by an aquarium worker Wednesday. The goldfish suffers from swim bladder disease, also known as flipover, a condition that keeps it from holding itself upright. The worker wrapped tiny tubing around the goldfish and then added valves underneath to prop it up like it was in a chair. He added a chunk of Styrofoam on top to lift the fish.

— Compiled from news sources

CAMPUS CRIME MAP



1. Possession of marijuana was reported at 11:28 p.m. Monday, March 13 in Halverson Hall.

2. Larceny of personal property at an unknown location was reported at 2:40 p.m. Monday, March 14.

3. Possession of marijuana and alcohol was reported at 1:09 a.m. Saturday, March 4 at Woodland Apartments.



Photo courtesy of Banzai/NW

High school students in Houghton apply financial literacy skills to lessons they are already learning as part of their core curriculum. Banzai is a free program provided by Michigan Tech Employees Federal Credit Union.

Houghton area schools apply financial skills to K-12 curriculum using free software

By Loki Jacobson

contributing writer

A new program aimed at helping students learn financial responsibility is being offered to K-12 public school students in the Upper Peninsula.

The program is called Banzai and is being used by teachers from the Houghton public school district as a way of preparing students for financial skills they will need once they graduate high

school. Banzai works through a partnership between local credit unions and local K-12 schools, promoting financial education programs with no cost to teachers or students. Banzai has provided services to over 27,000 teachers nationwide.

Emily Inman, public relations manager for Banzai, said she hopes to provide free education on financial literacy to all teachers and students who otherwise might not have the opportunity to learn such things. "I would like to see students and teachers have the opportunity to benefit from our free financial lit-

eracy software. Not many things in life are free but Michigan Tech Employees Credit Union is making that possible for local teachers and students," Inman said. Jennifer Ruben, a high school teacher in Houghton, has been integrating the program into her curriculum for high school seniors. Ruben said she found the program was simple and easy to use in her classroom and that it was nice the program comes free of cost.

"My students did enjoy this, however, we did find it a bit easy. It did spur many great topics and discussions that connected other things that we were covering in class. Overall, it was a great activity and I plan to use it again in the future," Ruben said. She recommends other teachers to use the program if their schools do not already offer a personal finance class, and even if they do, Ruben added it is a useful tool to find a connection from the

Once adulthood starts, bills don't ever stop. Whether it's rent, auto insurance or unexpected accidents, bills are constant. I don't think adolescents are educated enough on the simple basics of finance and Banzai can fix that.

— Emily Inman
public relations manager, Banzai

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class to real world examples.

At the end of completing the Banzai program students are given \$50 toward a checking account to apply the skills they have learned from the program.

"Once adulthood starts, bills don't ever stop. Whether it's rent, auto insurance or unexpected accidents, bills are constant. I don't think adolescents are educated enough on the simple basics of finance and Banzai can fix that," Inman said.

More information about the Banzai program can be found at: <http://www.sacfcu.com/banzai-financial-literacy-program.php>.

Returning speaker brings fresh perspective on leadership skills and acquiring success

By Kayla Bell
contributing writer

Dr. Antoine Moss, also known as the “Man of Inspiration,” will speak at NMU in the Marquette Room of the University Center for a second time on Monday March 20, 2017. His speech is titled, “Young. Brilliant. Different. How to Succeed in College and Life in a Different World!”

Dr. Moss has spoken on realizing goals at universities nationwide, written two books on success plans, and helped develop a leadership program for NASA. He has also received numerous accolades for his work, including spots on the “25 Under 35 Movers & Shakers in Cleveland” and “AT&T’s 28 National Movers & Shakers for Black History Month.”

The topics covered during his motivational speeches range from strategies for securing competitive internship positions to identifying one’s dreams and overcoming the obstacles, that stand in one’s way of achieving them.

Moss has spoken in a wide

variety of settings to large groups of college students, television audiences, and also worked directly with clients in developing leadership and success skills.

Moss is known for participating in several internships during his time as a college student at Cleveland State University. Some were with highly prestigious institutions like NASA, the FBI and the U.S. Senate.

Coming from the troubled inner city of Cleveland and a single-parent household, Moss said his determination and strong sense of self allowed him to persevere.

“I had to look around me for ways to get out of the impoverished situation I was in. I was able to do that because when I looked around I found sources of inspiration. I had mentors and coaches that helped lift me from where I was at,” Moss said.

The theme of this year’s appearance will focus on why respecting our differences and building relationships is central to one’s own success.

“A choir has sopranos, altos and tenors they all have

their note to carry and we all have our note to carry in life. If we carry our note with the right tune and at the right time, it makes a beautiful sound,” Moss said.

Moss will return to NMU as part of the King-Chavez-Parks Visiting Professors Program, which aims to expose college students to professors from diverse backgrounds. It is part of a larger King-Chavez-Parks Initiative of the state of Michigan.

This event is coordinated by Shirley Brozzo, Associate Director at the Multicultural Education and Resource Center.

“As a success coach, he’ll share ideas on how to make yourself stand out in an interview or on the job. His presentation will be filled with information, wisdom and humor. Come prepared to laugh along with him and learn from his successes and his failures,” Brozzo said.

This event is free to students as well as the public.

Antoine Moss can be reached on Instagram at @Mano-Inspiration or on Twitter at @2PositiveTweets.



THE CENTER FOR STUDENT ENRICHMENT IS NOW HIRING FOR 2017-18 STUDENT STAFF POSITIONS

CENTER FOR STUDENT ENRICHMENT GRADUATE ASSISTANT
Responsible for assisting with leadership initiatives and Volunteer Center operations. Assist in the overall operation of the office and advise the Special Events Committee.

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SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR
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SUPERIOR EDGE/VOLUNTEER CENTER COORDINATOR (2)
Responsible for assisting with presentations, individual meetings, and promotional activities regarding Superior Edge and is also responsible for promoting and implementing programmatic components in the NMU Volunteer Center.

APPLICATIONS AND JOB DESCRIPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.NMU.EDU/CSE AND IN THE CENTER FOR STUDENT ENRICHMENT (1205 UNIVERSITY CENTER)

APPLICATION DEADLINE
FRIDAY, MARCH 24

SRA

Continued from Page 1

“The goal is to identify which programs and services are contributing to the success of the university and which ones are not contributing as well as they might, or as well when compared to other programs and services. These programs and services may require phase out or change,” Schuling wrote.

Academic programs will be placed in five groups, or quintiles, to determine their value to the university. Schuling said programs placed in the fourth or fifth quintile may have a higher chance of losing their resources but that depends heavily on recommendations presented by the senior leadership.

She went on to quell a rumor that 20 percent of all academic programs would be cut after a value-based assessment of all programs is conducted, and that individuals working in programs or support services in the bottom quintile will not automatically lose their jobs.

Schuling assured that there is no goal to eliminate a set number of programs within any department. She noted it is true, however, that resources from some programs and services will be redistributed, and those programs and services falling under transformation may require said resources in order to transform.

Placement of a program in the fifth quintile means that program

would be recommended to either lose an undetermined amount of resources or be phased out altogether. Schuling emphasized that regardless of which programs are potentially phased out, all faculty contracts will be honored.

Collected data will not show Planning for Distinction working groups the contribution that each academic program makes to the overall credit hour production of the university. Schuling said the data exists only at the course and student level, meaning the attribute of each student in each class is known, including their major, second major and minor.

“I don’t care which reason an institution is specifically aligning with. The only reason to undertake this is to make the university better to make it the best institution it can be given your current resource realities,” Larry Goldstein, head of Campus Strategies, LLC, and consultant for the “Planning for Distinction” campus-wide assessment, said on the second day of a two-day information session held at the end January.

“We’re going to use, as the control mechanism, last year’s audited statement so June 30, 2016 audited financial statements to ensure every dollar of revenue and every dollar of expense is attributed to one or another program or support function at the university. Nothing escapes review,” Goldstein said later in the session, adding, “Everything will be evaluated. Either on a set of criteria that is going to be

developed for academic programs or a different set of criteria that will be applied to support functions.”

Tristan Ruiz, president of the Associated Students of Northern Michigan University, worked closely as a student with the Coordinating Committee that was responsible for nominating task force members.

I don’t care which reason an institution is specifically aligning with. The only reason to undertake this is to make the university better—to make it the best institution it can be given your current resource realities.

— Larry Goldstein
head of campus strategies, LLC

He said in an email that being a student on the SRA Coordinating Committee is a huge responsibility because the outcome of this process will directly affect the future of everyone at NMU.

“What I did was try my best to put aside some biases I have from being involved in different groups and academics on campus, and help the two task forces be as balanced as possible with people I felt would do well with working together on a difficult task and would also defend student interests on those task forces,” Ruiz said. “Obviously

that’s difficult because every faculty and staff member contributes something to students but what I have had to learn to do is look at the bigger picture: the success [of the] university as a whole and not just what I enjoy or what my friends enjoy.”

“I support the decisions of the Coordinating Committee so far

and I believe it is important for everyone to have faith in this project. We are going through SRA for a reason and in my opinion, this is better than letting President Erickson more arbitrarily decide where cuts should be,” Ruiz also said.

A campus-wide forum update on SRA is scheduled for from 3 to 5 p.m. on Thursday March 16 in the University Center Great Lakes Rooms Huron/Erie. More information about the “Planning for Distinction” project can be found at: <http://www.nmu.edu/planningfordistinction/resources>.

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EDITORIAL



Emmalene Oysti/NW

Facing the arrests of our NMU mentors

Faculty and staff are the leaders and role models on NMU's campus, providing students with knowledge and advice for careers and futures. Wildcats often take pride in their department or major because of fantastic professors and staff. As we graduate, we leave with degrees in our hands crafted from multiple semesters of interacting with professors, coaches and more on campus.

Our leaders here on campus are supposed to be people we can look toward for guidance in both school and future endeavors. With this in mind, how do we look upon the recent arrests of two professors and one coach?

It is unsettling to see our mentors that we interact with regularly at NMU to be charged with a crime. Faculty and staff need to be held to a higher standard of leadership, inside and outside of the classroom. It is imperative that students and even prospective Wildcats are able to look up to their leaders on campus for guidance in both academic and social issues.

Just as with the actions of students and alumni, it is important to be able to

add to the reputation of NMU instead of hurt it. We need to be able to look at all faces of NMU as people we can respect and honor.

An arrest, however, should not warrant immediate disrespect or job loss. There is a distinct difference between being arrested on two counts of fraud and being arrested for protesting and standing up for civil rights: One is honorable and inspiring, one is not.

When faculty or staff members are arrested for reasons that are righteous, it can bring pride to the student body. When they are arrested for reasons that are less than honorable, it immediately represents the school and its students poorly.

While everyone makes mistakes, it is important to remember that these are people that we often ask for important letters of recommendation, or use their names on a résumé as a reference. We do not want a future employer to look up a reference and be met with the wrong kind of arrest headlines.

Their experiences and reputations of the university directly reflect on us and our future decisions.

Friends can make traveling even better



Staff Column

Kara Toay

I am a quiet and shy person and don't really go on many trips or try new things, but I have been trying to change that. It is important that everyone experience new things. I always stick with what I know I'll like and is comfortable to me, but this spring break I went to Panama City Beach with my sister and three of my friends, Zina, Rhonda and Ryan.

When my sister first approached me saying that Rhonda wanted to go somewhere warm and they were thinking of taking a trip to Panama City, that once was a huge spring break destination until an alcohol ban was put in place for the month of March. I was a little skeptical and nervous about going. I have never been on a road trip with anyone outside of my family or band program so going with just a group of friends was an experience in itself.

The friends I went with got me to try new things and we had a lot of great adventures together, like going to the zoo. One of my friends had never been to the zoo; we found Zooworld nearby and she was able to go for her first time and see giraffes and even pet a baby goat that was the newest addition.

Another experience I will never forget is the cheap hotel we stayed at the first night on our drive down. It was a Howard Johnson in downtown Nashville, Tennessee right next to a biker bar, although

we couldn't see it because of the fence. The door didn't lock very well except with the dead-bolt and there were people yelling and threatening each other over money outside our door at midnight. This was something none of us had experienced or want to again. We all kept saying it was like something that would be in a movie.

This trip was also important to me because my friend Rhonda is transferring to another university. This trip was memorable because all of us grew closer throughout the week and learned to look at hotel ratings before we booked them.

On our last night in the city we got some small bottles that had Panama City Beach written on them and went to watch the sunset and put sand in them. This was one of the first sunsets I had gotten to see at the beach and being able to see it with them, especially my friend Rhonda, who had been wanting to go see a sunset all week, is something I will always have with me.

Even if you aren't able to afford to go anywhere expensive, doing small things to make memories and experiences is a great thing to do. There are many places to go that won't cost a fortune where memories can be made and you can become closer with friends, even if it is just hanging out and talking or something as simple as going to the zoo.

As for me, I already want to experience more things and I am really glad that I went on this trip with friends. I know that life will not always be like this, with fun and exciting new encounters, but I will always be thankful for this opportunity I have been given.

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.

Simply Superior



Guest Column

Samuel McCullough

On the past Thursday of spring break, I found myself weary, sweaty and nearly bored to death from my six and a half hour drive back from Illinois. However, as I sat in my car listening to stand-up comedy, I began to feel a warm glow spread across my face. But not from Louis CK, or Tom Segura, and no, it wasn't anything Chad Daniels said either. What had transformed my insipid countenance was no joke, but a body, in quite a superior way, if you will. For as I crested the hill just past the Quiznos and Krist gas stations, a vast field of blue suddenly dominated my view. I found myself all the happier at being conquered, because that meant I was home.

Initially, I found my sudden joy to be odd; why would Lake Superior instill such a feeling of peace in me? Especially since I was just looking at it from a car, doing 65. Can't really see much of anything going that speed, at least not in detail anyway. But nonetheless there I was, grinning like the cheshire, stricken with joy all because I saw some water. And it seemed so strange that water, something that I take for granted nearly every day, could

impress such a swelling sense of interconnectedness. As I sat and thought for the remainder of my drive though, the answer seemed to come crashing through: nature is one hell of a conviction.

What I mean by that is we all come to Northern for different reasons; some for the vibes, some for the affordability, but most for the locale. Because really, how many students can walk across a sandbar, pack over their heads, to study in a hammock? How many students can finish a night off with freshly-made friends stargazing? How many students can make those friends in a happenstance meeting on a hike between classes? 10,000 of us know the answer. They aren't joking when they say, "Northern naturally" because there's a simple yet eloquently powerful binding force that comes from appreciating nature. Everyone in Marquette seems to have it.

Just how nature produces variety, so too do the folk of NMU. Here you can find environmental science majors who fence, or aspiring biochemists who've got a heart for philosophy. Or an English major who's a photographer, or a speech pathology student who is a terror on a volleyball court or perhaps a pre-med student with a nose for journalism. But despite this seemingly dense wall of differences, one thing remains constant with nearly every NMU student: we all love being

outside, in some way, shape or other. We laugh in the face of cold and snow, and sometimes even ask for more. We never waste sunny days, for they are few and far between and almost everyone owns a pair of boots.

But while it's true that Northern isn't much of a standout academically, with maybe a few "I'll give you that," it is undisputed that the U.P. is one of the most beautiful places in the United States, and maybe even the world. Every fall the entire UP changes color, seemingly without any warning. And every winter the sky lights up, but no, there isn't a rap concert in town; it's just Mother Nature. That, of course, is coupled with all the snow and ice to make a southern school superintendent consider canceling indefinitely. At a glance, Northern really seems to turn away the faint of heart, although those that may think so will be pleasantly surprised.

With all of the aforementioned reasons, one can see why so many find NMU to be so much more than just a college. It's a place to be as diverse and wild as the Upper Peninsula we find ourselves nestled in, a place to truly become Northern. So the next time I'm tired and sweaty and sore from a particularly drab drive and I see that big blue lake swooping into view to beat back the apathy with a riptide of excitement, I'll be glad I that I get so excited, naturally.

SOUND OFF

Did you go anywhere interesting over spring break?



Destiny Beckwith, sophomore surgical technology

"I went on a mission trip to Mexico. We drove so that was fun, I went with His House through the campus ministry."



Megan Gasser, sophomore business management, construction management

"I went out to Colorado so that was pretty fun. I skied a lot, hung out with friends and I had a job interview."



Kana Otani, freshman political science

"I went to Los Angeles during spring break and I met my younger sister who was visiting from Japan. We went to Disneyland and it is the funniest thing. I met so many characters it was awesome. My favorite character is Winnie the Pooh so when I met him I was really excited."



Thomas Hagan, junior physics

"I went to church."

compiled by Lindsey Eaton

CORRECTION

In the March 2 issue, Alex Svoboda was incorrectly identified in the Sound Off.

Go on a vacation, staycations aren't that fun



Opinion Editor

Trevor Drew

Ah spring break, sprawled underneath a palm tree on the golden sands of some beach far away as I'm bathed in the soft, pink sun beams of the horizon. My closed eyes are hidden by mirror-tinted shades that pair nicely with the Tommy Bahama shirt I bought earlier and I slowly drift off into sleep without a care in the world.

Although I enjoy this fantasy, it is not how I spent my spring break; in fact the opposite. Attempting to further distance myself from the bottom of my bank account and avoiding a gruel-

ing 8-hour car ride downstate, I canned the possibility of going anywhere interesting for SB-2017 and had a staycation in good old Marquette.

At first it was great, as any break from work is. I got to sleep in, goof around and get more acquainted with my living room. I really didn't mind chilling out with my roommates and running around Marquette. But unfortunately, as I got into the later half of the week and all my friends went off on their own trips and there was nothing to do, I came to wish I did something cooler with my time off.

I don't mind hanging around my house for a few days, but when there is no one else there and the uninviting chill of the outside world traps me

inside, I go nuts.

The last fleeting days of my break were spent in a state of comatose brought on by my own boredom. I played Skyrim a number of hours I'm embarrassed to admit and failed to complete the work I was naïve enough to task pre break-Trevor with.

As I scrolled through my Facebook feed I found it was saturated with pictures of peripheral friends and family in places like Florida, Hawaii and even Japan.

While I'm glad I saved money, I wish I would have at least driven somewhere cool for a day or two, even if it was just somewhere else in Michigan. My Tito Andy once told me that the best part of being on vacation is seeing yourself out of context and I agree. As much as I love it in Marquette,

It's refreshing to get a glimpse of somewhere new for a while or even do something you wouldn't normally do, like charitable work, for example.

I think many people are better than me but people who spend spring break traveling with groups and working on humanitarian projects are definitely better than me. This year, NMU's His House Christian Fellowship traveled down to Juarez, Mexico to build houses for poor families around the area. While kids my age are spending their time off helping those in need, building hospitals and parks and stuff, I'm trying to persuade myself to venture out into the cold for some food.

Someday I'd like to go and help someone somewhere in the world

for vacation. Travel gives you insight to the world and what others have to deal with and providing relief for those who need it seems like a good way spend free time.

Trips are expensive so maybe extravagant adventures to far-away lands might be unrealistic for the typical poor college student but your time can be better spent compared to hanging on the couch. A small road trip to Minneapolis with friends could be a way to save money while still being adventurous. If you're finding it hard to even budget, why not volunteer at local programs right here in Marquette? Above all, it may be enticing to just chill but that gets boring, painfully so. So while you can, take yourself out of context and see what it's like to be out of your element.



Christin DeFord/NW

The Delft has re-opened its doors on Washington Street, this time as a dine-in bistro. The eatery contains a unique open-style kitchen to view cuisine as it's being prepared.

DELFT LIGHTS UP WASHINGTON

By *Dain Holter*
contributing writer

The old and angled marquee lights up the letters D-E-L-F-T in yellow and orange as you pass underneath, as they once did years ago. Before, the lights were a symbol of a night out to see a show. Now, the sign means dinner and a show.

The Delft Bistro is the newest restaurant in downtown Marquette, serving up a great variety of some unique modern American fare. Pass under the old theatre's shimmering marquee to get an up-close-and-personal view of the open kitchen which sits at the front of the restaurant. It's as if the kitchen is in its own little glass box for everyone to watch. The atmosphere inside the old theatre is open and welcoming and a movie screen covers an entire wall.

The wood accents around the restaurant give it that classy yet "rough around the edges" appearance. I was a bit confused with the overall theme; are they trying to be a gastro pub or a dinner theatre? I couldn't tell.

The server kindly greeted us and led us to our table. Along

the way, she gave us the choice to sit on either the first or second floor. You can't see the kitchen from the second level and that was a dealbreaker for me; the choice was easy. Having the open kitchen at The Delft is certainly a draw, especially when it's the only kitchen of its kind that I know of in the U.P. The concept gives The Delft an opportunity to showcase sanitation and to physically show the steps it takes to turn fresh, high-quality ingredients into mouthwatering meals. Most chefs are proud of the delicious food they create and the open kitchen allows the perfect avenue for these chefs to showcase their beautiful food



and exceptional skills.

For a newly-opened restaurant the beer, wine and cocktail menu is fair in size compared to most places in town. I went with the server's recommendation from the signature cocktails, "The Double Fill Up" (\$10), which has rye whisky, fresh lemon, simple syrup, pomegranate molasses and mint. The cocktail was simple but very smooth. It was the perfect drink to sip on while I awaited my appetizer.

To start off the meal, I ordered the Octopus Appetizer

(\$16) which had a base of white bean cassoulet, then seared octopus, romesco, grilled ciabatta, arugula and lemon confit. In all

the times I've tried octopus, it has never been as tender as they were able to achieve at The Delft. It simply melts in your mouth, but I wish they would showcase the octopus more. It is supposed to be the main component of this dish and I feel the other flavors just compete with it. Overall it's the most tender octopus I've ever had, but it didn't have anything to bring the whole appetizer together. Each separate component of this dish was tasteful, but it wasn't a cohesive plate.

For my entrée, I ordered "The

Feature" (\$14), which is The Delft's signature burger. It comes with two beef patties, American cheese, house sweet pickles, caramelized onions, spinach and dijonaise on a toasted brioche bun and served with house-cut Kennebec Fries. I opted to add bacon (+\$2) and an egg (+\$1) to my burger. Instead of your standard plate, they place your meal on a slice of a log, which is a cool touch. I ordered my burger cooked medium. Shortly after its arrival and into the first bites it tasted pretty good, but the burger was clearly cooked well done. Getting past the overcooked burger, this was a well-composed dish. The cheese was melty, and the homemade pickles had the perfect contrast with the dijonaise. I thoroughly enjoyed the burger and the fries were the perfect, crispy side dish.

All in all, I had a good meal at The Delft. The service was speedy and our waitress was polite. Their menu is concise and unique, but also spendy. They have a good idea here, but I feel when I'm paying this much for a meal, I expect an experience that truly wows me and The Delft Bistro left me searching for more.

It's as if the kitchen is in its own little glass box for everyone to watch.

STUDENTS EXHIBIT A



BY TRINITY CAREY
FEATURES EDITOR

Shattered glass, scorched wood, picture frames and a TV screen make up four NMU students' interpretations of the term "Lost and Found." These intricate and unique art pieces using the mediums of photomontage, 3D sculpture, photography and animation creatively use the space of a small gallery in the lower level of the Peter White Public Library.

The Marquette Arts & Culture Center March SmallWorks Gallery's exhibit titled "Lost and Found" holds the work of Emma Goebel, Zachary Halford, Jeni Ihrke and Truman Jones who collaborated, curated and created this interpretive gallery. The four brainstormed themes for the art exhibit and agreed upon a topic they could all take their own direction with, said sophomore graphic design major Emma Goebel.

"I think ["Lost and Found"] is something like self-exploration, since college is kind of the time that you make for yourself and find for yourself."

Goebel said her interpretation came from a class project. The idea was to pick a song and show it through photomontage or the process of selecting and editing separate sections of images to form a cohesive picture, which she took her own twist upon.

"I really liked that idea because I love music. Except I chose to use songs from my past and use people I'm close to, to also make it more personal," Goebel said.

With this focus she was able to revisit the art of photomontage, a medium she hasn't used since her youth, and find songs from her past to interpret for her additions to the exhibition, she said.

The three other students found their inspiration in other places. Ihrke chose photography as a medium and took her photos with disposable cameras. Jones used lost and found parts to make sculptures and Halford created an animation about a robot finding parts, Goebel said.

The SmallWorks gallery allows for more flexibility with artwork. It's a smaller-scale

gallery that looks beautiful even with few pieces, said City of Marquette Arts & Culture Center Manager Tiina Harris.

Harris is impressed with the high-end work students created for the gallery.

"I like the fact that the students did it independently outside of class or a teacher suggesting it," Harris said. "I think it's a really great community connection these students made."

The gallery is an interesting opportunity for the community to see what students are working on, which can inspire local artists as well, she said.

"I think the student body really offers a glimpse into what is happening in the contemporary art world."

The Arts & Culture Center is a resource for students and offers a way for them to exhibit locally. The Center's goal is to support and advocate for a vibrant arts and cultu-

re community here in Marquette, Harris said.

"It's definitely a hub for the arts and culture community," she said.

The Center is currently working toward a public art ordinance that would lead to one percent of capital improvement projects going towards public art and an arts and culture commission to decide on these projects and installations, Harris said.

"When students come back a few years from now I think the city is going to look really different."

The gallery will run until March 31 with a closing reception offering food and drink from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 30.

AT THE PETER WHITE

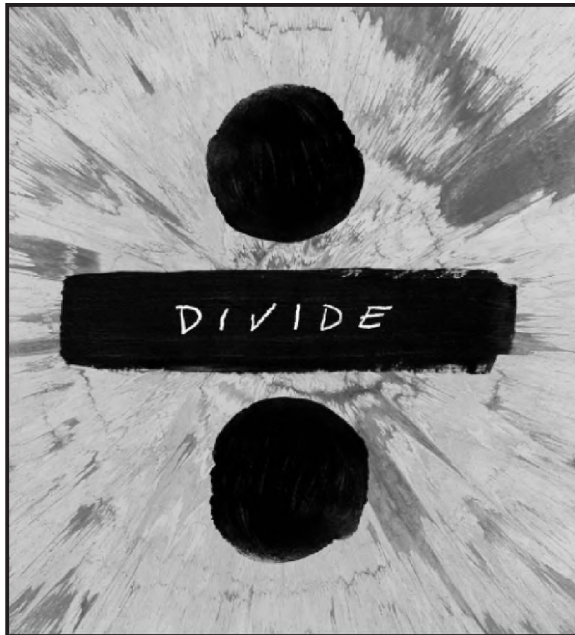


Jeni Ihrke, senior art & design major, uses the untraditional medium of a disposable camera for her photomontage of subtle everyday environments (above).

Undeclared freshman Truman Jones created a series of three humanoid sculptures: “Shatter Me” (left), “Rip Me” (below) and “Scorch Me” (right). All are constructed of found objects.



Sheeran revives originality with 'Divide'



Album: Divide

Artist: Ed Sheeran

Label: Atlantic Records

Release Date: March 3, 2017

Album Length: 46 minutes, 14 seconds

Rating:



By *Jamie Glenn*
contributing writer

Ed Sheeran has taken the music scene by storm with his latest album "Divide." Writing songs mostly for other artists like One Direction, The Weeknd and Justin Bieber has made it time for Sheeran to use his creative freedom and make another album of his own.

In his third studio album titled "Divide," he reflects on the importance of family, his disregard for fame and the evolution of his most recent relationship. Sheeran shut the world away after the success of sophomore album "X" in 2014. He returns after over a year of silence to mix and match tones that popularize the sounds of his Irish heritage.

He is sure not to fall flat by offering thought-out and precise lyrics for listeners. It's in this third album he best interweaves his unique formula of quick-witted lyricism, fast acoustic strum and a steady loop pedal, leaving listeners with a romantic tone that lingers.

In 16 songs this UK native echoes the importance of character-driven narrative and storytelling in songwriting. This formula has always been unique but may stick out now more than ever in a music scene overflowing with sounds of electronic dance music and rap. It's good to see the world still has room for Sheeran's musicality.

Tracks like "Hearts Don't Break Around Here," "How Would You Feel," "Drive" and

"Happier" are songs that remind listeners that Sheeran can master a romantic tune much like the

In 16 songs this UK native echoes the importance of character-driven narrative and storytelling in songwriting.

sounds previously heard on "X."

It's tracks like "What Do I Know?" and "Save Myself" where we hear a much deeper effort, in which Sheeran reflects on the meaning of life, politics and the importance of self-love. Listeners may put this record on

when looking for 2 a.m. songs that are deeper, philosophical and somber. The album overall is slow-burning and might just withstand the test of time.

Sheeran recalls sounds from his earlier days with faster romance songs like "Galway Girl." The track gives its own bright, new folk twist to an old Irish favorite that has been covered by a number of grassroots folk artists.

"Eraser" is a catchy rap-esque style song much like sounds heard on an earlier album titled "5." "New Man," a track of similar style, is the ultimate burn thrown at an old love. This group of songs are quick-witted and offer loops that are left to linger in the ears of listeners.

With this album Sheeran states it's all about where you come from, putting romance aside to

in Belfast. This track is a beautiful narrative of the decades leading up to the inspirations that now influence Sheeran.

With this song one might find themselves lost in the sounds of more dominant lyrics on the record, but it should not go unheard in the midst of more popular tracks like "Shape of You" or "Castle on the Hill."

Another graceful bow to family can be heard in the track "Supermarket Flowers," a song commemorating Sheeran's late grandmother. It's clear Sheeran took some time before constructing this record to decide what message he felt was most important to convey. It's in these more bareboned songs of personal reflection that we hear his true value of family.

Though much of this album flows together as a strong collective story, the island sound of "Barcelona" along with the glazed ramblings of "Bibia Be Ye Ye" are a bit off-kilter and don't seem to fit on "Divide."

Regardless, a majority of the tracks on this album can be enjoyed no matter one's mood or life chapter. It offers a unique experience and shows a tremendous amount of growth for Sheeran as an artist, but doesn't leave behind the characteristics that make him unique and enjoyable as an entertainer.

"Divide" is a strong turning point for Sheeran and will leave fans, both new and old, spinning this record for years to come.



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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.

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New Zelda game offers breath of fresh air

By Marc Moore
contributing writer

“The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild” is an open-world game done right, with variety in aesthetic and gameplay to keep you exploring for hours on end. Like the previous games in the series you play as Link, an adventurer predestined with the task of saving Princess Zelda and defeating Ganon. Unlike previous Zelda games, you are given free rein to accomplish this goal in whatever way you see fit. You can go from dungeon to dungeon in any order, finding weapons and armor and upgrades that will help accomplish your goal or you can sprint straight to the final boss with a slim-to-none chance of success.

Exploration is a feature of every open-world game, but few have mastered it the way “Breath of the Wild” managed to. Hyrule is a vast continent packed to the absolute brim with discovery and mystery and there’s nothing stopping you from investigating it all. An orange glow upon a towering mountain’s peak? Climb your way to the top to check it out. A strange island shrouded in fog out at sea? Soar from a high altitude with your hang glider or sail with a raft to reach its shore. The only thing hindering your ability to explore is an upgradeable stamina meter that can be constantly replenished

with food and potions, meaning that with preparation, the sky’s the limit.

While traversing the varied landscapes of Hyrule, you’ll inevitably run into enemies that need to be slain for treasure, progression or equipment. The variety in these encounters is astonishing sometimes you’ll be assaulted by arrows from Bokoblin, you might be electrocuted by a Yellow ChuChu, or you could be pummeled by a skeleton tossing his limbs at you. The way that you handle these enemies is varied as well. You could blast an enemy camp with bombs, use arrows to quietly take out foes one by one or just run in swinging your sword to finish them off. Combat in “Breath of the Wild” is challenging and diverse, offering fresh experiences in every scenario.

Your equipment will often determine your success in battles, especially because of the new weapon degradation feature “Breath of the Wild” introduces. Your swords, axes, shields and bows will all break after a certain number of uses, forcing you to manage your inventory carefully. Before fighting difficult enemies, it’s important to make sure you’re equipped with the tools to survive.

Between battles and weapon management, you’ll frequently stumble upon Shrines mini-dungeons that require puzzle-solving and a mastery of tools to conquer.



Game: The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild

Developer: Nintendo

Artist: Satoru Takizawa

Writer: Akihito Toda

Platforms: Wii U, Nintendo Switch

Rating:
9/10

At the beginning of the game you’ll find a toolkit of items called runes that can be used to experiment with objects in the world but are often required to unlock doors or reach platforms to complete Shrines and get Shrine Orbs essential items that allow you to upgrade your health or stamina.

While “Breath of the Wild” improves on almost every aspect of “The Legend of Zelda” and open-world games in general, it’s definitely not perfect. Some Shrines require the use of tedious motion controls that will have you fighting with the controller more than the puzzle. Certain abilities that you find turn boss fights that might have been a challenge into a cake-

walk. Weapon degradation and inventory management is usually interesting but can quickly become frustrating when you’re constantly trashing weak weapons to make room for decent ones. The story is fun, but some poor voice acting sours moments that would otherwise be extraordinary.

The most disappointing part of “Breath of the Wild” is its graphic performance. The fantastic art direction makes every region in Hyrule look gorgeous and feel alive, but certain parts of the world are too dense with action for the game to keep up. In areas with lots of effects, like explosions or lasers or moving grass, the game slows down, sometimes completely

freezing for seconds at a time. The action and exploration is so enjoyable that something as obnoxious as stuttering frame rates is a painful reminder that even incredible games have flaws.

Even with these issues, this game succeeds in many areas where other video games fail it’s fun from beginning to end. After over 40 hours of roaming Hyrule, battling enemies and completing the main story, there’s still wildly new Shrines, enemies, weapons and areas to discover. The Zelda series has felt stagnant and formulaic for a few installments but “Breath of the Wild” innovates enough to claim a spot as one of the most captivating games in the series.

Comedian comes to NMU

By Noah Hausmann
staff writer

Rocking a killer afro, born in Brooklyn and raised in a large Hasidic Jewish neighborhood, she became a journalist, then turned comedian, spinning her unique stories with wit into hilarity. She finds humor in everything, and her next stop is Northern.

Comedian Chloé Hilliard will perform from 8 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 17 in Jamrich Hall room 1100. The event is free and organized by the student group Prime Time Productions.

“[Hilliard] is really funny,” Brittany Porydzy, advisor to Prime Time Productions, said. “She has a great act, and she has a great résumé [of appearances].”

Hilliard made her national TV debut on NBC’s “Last Comic Standing” and has since appeared on AXSTV’s “Gotham Comedy Live,” Comedy Central’s “The Nightly Show,” Tru TV’s “Almost Genius” and MTV’s “Acting Out.”

Before that, for over 10 years Hilliard was a culture and entertainment journalist, writing for The Village Voice, Essence, Vibe, King and The Source. For her expertise on hip-hop culture, she’s appeared on CNN Headline News, ABC News, Our World with Black Enterprise and C-Span. Her work has also been featured in Best African American Essays: 2009.

“It’s something different to bring to the table for sure,” Porydzy said about Hilliard’s experience.

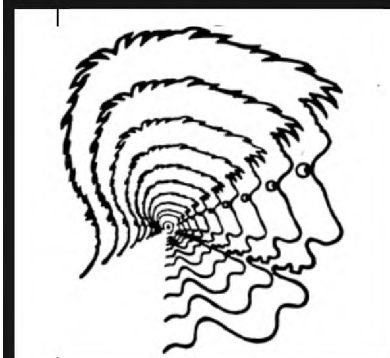
Leaders from Prime Time Productions went to the National Association for Campus Activities Northern Plains Regional Conference last March. There they got to preview many different performers’ acts and were impressed by Hilliard on stage.

“She does comedy in a classy way too she’s not very vulgar although I haven’t seen her full act yet,” Porydzy added, clarifying that you never know what jokes a comedian is going to tell.

“It’s on St. Patrick’s Day too, so this could be a good alternative to students who won’t be out drinking or who just want to get out. It’s in Jamrich too, so they won’t have to go far. Prime Time is very excited for her to come. We love putting on events for students especially when they show up,” she said with a laugh.



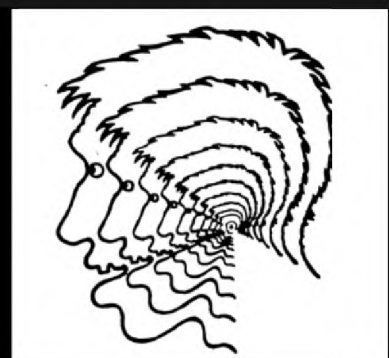
Photo courtesy of Prime Time Productions
Brooklyn journalist turned comedian coming to NMU, Chloé Hilliard.



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Walt Kyle's career in hockey

By AnnMarie Kent
sports editor

On Friday, March 10 the NMU Athletics department announced they would not be renewing hockey head coach Walt Kyle's contract.

Athletic Director Forrest Karr said the decision came from reviewing the season.

"After evaluating the year, we felt it was in the best interest of the program to go in a different direction," Karr said, adding that a national search will be conducted for the next head coach.

Kyle is an alumnus of NMU and held the head coach position since June of 2002 when he became only the second person to hold the title of Wildcat head coach.

Regardless of not extending his contract, Karr still has good things to say about Kyle.

"Walt has played a major role in the most significant moments in Northern Michigan hockey history," Karr said. "I enjoyed working with him, and I am

thankful that he always supported every program in the department. I appreciate his work and dedication to the hockey program and wish him well in all future endeavors."

Kyle played two seasons for the Wildcats after he transferred from Boston College, and was named captain of the team his senior year. He recorded 90 points at NMU with 31 goals and 59 assists. His senior year the team also advanced to the NCAA Frozen Four.

After graduating with a degree physical education the spring of 1981, Kyle immediately took a position of graduate assistant coach under the first Wildcat head coach Rick Comley. Kyle was promoted to assistant coach in 1982, a position he held until 1992.

Kyle was the top assistant coach for the 1991 Wildcat team that won the NCAA Division I National Championship.

He continued his coaching career as assistant coach for the National Hockey League teams



Photo courtesy of NMU Athletics

Former head coach Walt Kyle coaches from the bench during a game at the Berry Events Center.

the Anaheim Ducks and the New York Rangers. He also was the assistant coach for Team USA in 1994.

Kyle made his return to NMU

hockey in 2002 where he has been head coach for 15 years.

During his career as head coach he racked up a 265-263-68 record, coached six 20-win

seasons and a 2010 NCAA Tournament appearance. He also coached multiple players that went on to make appearances in the NHL.

Cross country ski team hits East Coast

By Trevor Drew
opinion editor

Over the spring break the Nordic Ski Team traveled down to Jackson, New Hampshire to compete against over 20 other schools in the 2017 NCAA Skiing Championships March 9-11.

Unlike other competitions in the season, The NCAA Championships combine the scores of both men's and women's teams as well as alpine and nordic scores.

As a combined team, the Wildcats finished eighth at the National Championships with a point total of 182. Northern Michigan had the highest score out of teams participating in a single discipline and fourth among all nordic teams. Northern even outscored schools competing in both nordic and alpine races.

On the first day of races, the Wildcats shot out on the right foot with three athletes, junior Vivian Hett and seniors Adam Martin and Fredrik Schwencke, earning All-American finishes.

Hett placed sixth out of 40 racers in the Women's 5K Classic with the time of 15:34.5. Schwencke and Martin placed sixth (26:40.2) and seventh (26:50.5) respectively in the Men's 10K classic.

On the second day, Martin placed sixth in the Men's 20K freestyle, completing the course in 46:21.5, his second All-American finish of the weekend.



Christin DeFord/NW

Women's nordic skiers race during the NCAA Central Regional Championships in Ishpeming.

Head coach Sten Fjeldheim said he thought the women's team had made great improvements from last year and commended them for a solid performance at this year's competition. Fjeldheim said Martin was the "star" on the men's side because of his back-to-back All-American finishes despite an icy course which featured many hills.

"This year [the track] was rock hard. It was really icy and fast, I mean it was scary fast, athletes were getting up to 40-some miles per hour downhill," Fjeldheim said. "We had a couple of athletes who had some crazy falls, broken poles but they persevered."

One of the Wildcats who took a tumble was Hett, who fell twice during the weekend. Hett said it

was unfortunate but she noted that there were plenty of other athletes tipping over during events.

"Almost all of the field went down at least once," Hett said. "It was very technical, there were a lot of technical downhill throughout the entire course."

Although the conditions were not ideal, proper weather and

track consistency are never guaranteed and the amount of variables the athletes must overcome is simply a natural aspect of skiing, Martin said.

"You can't ski quite the same when it's that icy," Martin said. "I think you have to race a little harder because it's quite a bit faster so you have to be more deliberate, maybe a little more precise with your technique."

To combat unideal conditions, the athletes and coaches also alter their equipment so it is most conducive to the track's texture.

Fjeldheim and assistant coach Shane MacDowell arrive to the track hours before a race just to experiment with different skis and waxes to find the best combination depending on the weather, course profile and alter the athletes' skis accordingly prior to racing.

Fjeldheim said he usually takes a fleet of 12 test-skis and has even developed a sort of database of different combinations corresponding with certain conditions.

"I've been doing this for a long time so I've kind of got a handle on it but it's still challenging," Fjeldheim said. "We spend hours and hours on testing skis and testing wax. We don't just show up and pull out our skis and go."

Northern Michigan next races at the U.S. Long Distance National Championships on March 27-April 2 in Fairbanks, Alaska.

SPORTS BRIEFS

SWIMMING & DIVING

Four Wildcats earned All-American accolades on the final day of the NCAA Swimming & Diving National Championships Saturday.

Lajos Budai was crowned an All-American for the third time during these NCAA championships, taking third (43.33) in the 100 freestyle.

Rachel Helm, who Friday became Northern Michigan's first national champion since 1999, captured All-American honors in the 200 backstroke with a third-place (1:57.05) finish.

Renars Bundzis and Angela Probstfeld took home their first All-American awards. Probstfeld claimed third in the 3-meter dive (476.75) while Bundzis finished seventh in the 200 backstroke (1:46.38).

"Having four All-Americans on the last day of competition at the NAAs was a great way to end our 2016-17 season," said head coach Heidi Voigt. "I couldn't be prouder of this young team we brought to Birmingham. Being part of this amazing experience will foster drive and motivation for next year."

With today's results, the Wildcats will bring seven All-American trophies back to Marquette. All-Americans Budai, Bundzis, Helm and Probstfeld are all underclassmen.

HOCKEY

Northern Michigan's Dominik Shine signed with the Grand Rapids Griffins, the organization announced Tuesday afternoon.

Shine wrapped up his collegiate career with 97 points (48g-49a) in 131 career games. As a senior, he became the first Wildcat since 2007-08 to net 20 goals in a single season.

Shine becomes the second Wildcat currently in the Red Wings organization, joining Jared Coreau. He will play on an amateur tryout agreement for the remainder of this season and will then ink a standard player's contract for 2017-18.

FOOTBALL

Northern Michigan head coach Kyle Nystrom announced the football team's spring practice schedule and spring game Wednesday afternoon.

"We just shifted gears out of conditioning and fourth-quarter programs into football practice," Nystrom said. "We have to establish and teach how we practice, the fundamentals we employ, the schemes we employ and the effort that we want from our players."

The spring game is set for Saturday, April 8 at noon. It concludes a four-week practice schedule and is free to the public.

"We're going to have to evaluate our personnel and maybe at some point adjust people to strengths that they have and weaknesses that we have," Nystrom said. "We'll know more when we get into it. For now, we plan on doing a scrimmage, but if we're not where we need to be health-wise we'll do a controlled scrimmage, offense versus defense."



Neil Flavin/NW

Senior midfielder Savannah Stich carries the ball during the season opener against Northland College.

Women's lacrosse team falters in the dome

By Nate Bellville

contributing writer

While most students were home or away on vacation during Spring Break, the Northern Michigan University Women's Lacrosse team wrapped up their first homestand at the Superior Dome.

The program has come from being a club sport years before sophomore defenseman Tori Aidif being one of those ladies who pushed for the team to be a varsity sport. Aidif was happy that the team transitioned from being a club sport to a varsity team.

"It was very fun being in a club, but the transition to varsity [sport] has been super great," Aidif said. "We had to work a lot harder, a lot more structure but it's a lot of fun."

Head coach Emilia Ward was pleased with her first weeks of coaching the team.

"It's going great so far," Ward said. "I think we are on pace to be the [team] we set out early in the season."

However, the Wildcats wound up losing to both the Aquinas College Saints 20-12, and to the Concordia University-St. Paul University Golden Bears 14-8.

During the Saturday, March 4th game against the Saints, the Wildcats had a 3-2 lead after senior Blair Osgood netted two

goals in a span of less than a minute. Through the rest of the first half, both teams would swap leads until the Saints took a 13-9 advantage into halftime.

In the second half, Aquinas had momentum carrying with them through the rest of the game. NMU scored three of four final goals from freshman Jordan Hanner, sophomore Shelby Klotz, and senior Savannah Stich in the final minutes, but couldn't pull a comeback en route to the program's first loss.

Klotz led the Wildcats with five goals on all five of her shots on goal, while junior goalkeeper Brianna Bangle made seven saves.

During the Tuesday, March 7th game against the Golden Bears, Hanner opened the scoring at 31 seconds into the game on a free-position shot past the Golden Bears goalkeeper Katie Lottsfeldt. Concordia came back, scoring five unanswered goals. Hanner snapped NMU's scoring drought as she scored the next two goals to make it a 5-3 game. However, the Golden Bears took a 7-3 lead into the half.

When Concordia-St. Paul came out and scored four of the second half's first five goals, giving them a 11-4 lead, the Wildcats rallied back.

Hanner netted goals to put NMU within four points. How-

ever, Golden Bears' Kallie La-Valle's goal helped Concordia-St. Paul up by six. The Golden Bears would close the game out with Sheila Osbourne's two goals in the final three minutes.

Hanner lead the scoring overall with six goals, while Bangle finished with 12 saves on the contest.

With a 1-2 start, Ward said the young team has plenty of room for improvement.

"I think we're fully capable of competing with these teams for 60 minutes," Ward said. "A lot of it is not about wins and losses, it's showing improvement for us."

Ward said that more consistency and development would improve the team going forward as well.

"Our goal is to continue to build ourselves going forward as we start conference play in April," Ward said.

Redshirt-Freshman Graison Ringlever said they can improve on the next road trip.

"We're definitely gonna see some good competition," Ringlever said. "I think that if we have to improve in one area, it would definitely be set on offense."

The Wildcats begin their road trip as they visit Georgian Court University in New Jersey on Friday and Shepherd University in West Virginia on Saturday.



Track & Field team competes in Alabama

By Ryan Spitzza

contributing writer

Three Wildcats qualified and competed at the NCAA Indoor Track & Field National Championships last week held at the Birmingham Crossplex in Birmingham, Alabama with two earning NCAA All-American accolades.

Junior Kameron Burmeister earned All-American accolades after taking 11 out of 17 in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 17:12.02, earning NCAA All-American second team.

Burmeister said she couldn't be happier with her performance.

"I was just happy to have finally qualified to run at the NCAA championships," Burmeister said. "My only goal going into the race was to try and be the best version of myself I could be."

In the weight throw final, senior Jasmine Williams capped her indoor season by earning All-American honors for the second time in her career. Williams finished eighth out of 18 with a throw of 19.10 meters, good enough to break her own school record and earn a spot on the All-American first team.

Junior Ine Mylle was the third Wildcat to compete in Birmingham.

Mylle came home fourteenth in the triple jump final with a jump of 11.97 meters.

Mylle said the experience was a good one for her and her fellow teammates.

"Being able to compete on the highest level in the country and seeing all these other good performances and athletes compete and that you look up to, but then you realize you're one of them," Mylle said.

It was a good experience for Head Coach Jenny Ryan as well, calling the trip a success and commend her three competitors.

"All three of them moved up from where they were ranked going in and to come back with two All-Americans was definitely exciting," Ryan said. "They all performed so well. The entire experience was great."

Ryan called the entire indoor season a success as the team prepares for the upcoming outdoor season opener in two weeks.

"I was really happy and really impressed with how the kids competed all year," Ryan said. "We had great results and kept breaking records; they definitely stepped up from where we thought they would be."

Mylle also said the indoor season is great prep for the outdoor



Steven Sprague/NW

Junior jumper Ine Mylle takes a jump during the Northern Challenge at the Superior Dome on Jan. 21.

season which she believes is more of a challenge.

"Indoor season is more of a preparation period for me," Mylle said. "When I go home in the summer all I do is compete outdoors so it's a longer and more challenging season for me."

Burmeister said both the indoor and outdoor seasons have their own entities.

"I enjoy indoor because there is no variability in the conditions

and you can always count on being able to run a strong, consistent race," Burmeister said. "I'm excited for outdoor as well because the weather is nice and I am able to run the 10k."

Up next for the Wildcats is the Raleigh Relays, the outdoor track & field season opener held in Charlotte, North Carolina March 24-25.

"It's a high-level meet with a lot of division one schools and

they have standards for teams to qualify for the meet," Ryan said.

The Wildcats will travel to Charlotte with just seven athletes, but Ryan believes it's good for the team going forward.

"It's important for those kids to get a jump on the season and get some good competition right away," Ryan said. "When you go up against some of that high level competition, it helps pull you up even farther."

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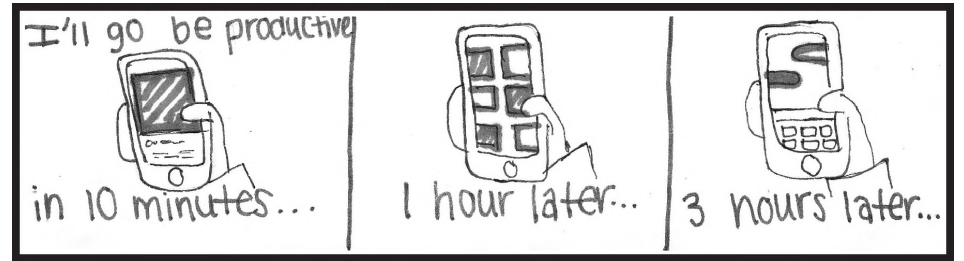
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