



SPORTS

Lacrosse team snaps losing streak and takes win over Notre Dame College.

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NEWS

T.V. personality Al Roker visits campus to break a Guinness World Record.

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Sharing Third Street

Business owners debate bike lanes and road closures at forum

By Cali Hunter

contributing writer

The Marquette Downtown Development Authority (DDA) hosted a public forum on Thursday to discuss the bike lanes on Third Street and the upcoming street closure for the Marquette Marathon.

The first issue at the forum concerned the closing of Third Street for the Marquette Marathon, which takes place annually on Labor Day weekend. In the past both lanes of traffic on the street have been closed to ensure the safety of the runners.

Stephanie Zadroga-Langlois, a member of the Marquette Marathon committee, said the race brings nearly \$500,000

to the community. However, many Third Street business owners spoke up about the negative impact it has on their businesses.

"It cut my business down by about 10 percent of what it could have been," said Bob Dudo, owner of Java Bay.

One solution, said DDA Executive Director Mona Lang, would be moving road barricades in closer to Third Street, to let people know that the businesses are open on the day of the race. She said putting up signs and advertisements letting people know the street is open would be benefit businesses as well. There was also a brief discussion of possibly re-routing the race around Third Street but since the marathon is

a Boston-qualifier, it would take a lot of time and manpower to create and certify the new route.

The route and closures for the 2017 race are set but the DDA hopes to come up with solutions that will cater to both Third Street businesses and the marathon participants in the future.

"There's not going to be a decision today," Lang said on Thursday. "This [forum] is really just to open up some dialogue."

The second issue addressed at the forum concerned the bike lanes on Third Street and whether or not they should be repainted. Many business owners favor the bike lanes, citing increases in business and accessibility for all customers. Some business owners said the



Lindsey Eaton/NW

The Marquette Downtown Development Authority hosted a forum Thursday discussing the sharing of Third Street between cars and bikes.



Lindsey Eaton/NW

Jonah Kerst rides her bike in the bike lane toward the intersection of Third Street and College Avenue.

lanes inhibit business, since drivers are afraid of colliding with cyclists.

"I haven't heard a positive comment about it," said Mike Valle, owner of Valle's Village Market. He said the bike lanes have actually decreased his customer count by nearly 100 per day.

Land said pedestrian-cyclist accidents have tremendously decreased since the implementation of the lanes; however, the number of driveways still makes riding in the lanes dangerous.

Jorma Lankinen, a resident of Marquette, voiced his concern on how the bike lanes make the street narrow, which can be dangerous for both motorists and cyclists.

"There's no space to legally pass bikers," Lankinen said, citing a law that requires a motorist to give a biker four feet of space

when passing them.

Greg Potvin, DDA board member, agreed there are dangers associated with the lanes, but that they can be solved if both drivers and cyclists know and understand roadway regulations and laws.

"We're not planning wizards," said Community Development Director Dennis Stachewicz. "There's a lot of method to the madness and this street is actually just one of many other streets in the community that are receiving treatments for complete streets or multi-modal transportation."

A capital outlay discussion will take place on the issue in June, and a budget meeting is scheduled for August that will determine the future of the bike lanes.

More information on these issues and how they affect the Third Street corridor can be found on www.mqctcy.org/authority-dda.

NMU public media faces loss under Trump

By Davon Lanier

news editor

The services of WNMU-TV and FM are in jeopardy if the preliminary budget proposal for 2018 submitted to Congress on March 16 by the Trump administration is approved.

The proposed budget by President Donald Trump calls for huge cuts in a wide selection of domestic programs while it would bolster military spending and Veteran's Affairs. It would cut the Environmental Protec-

tion Agency (EPA) by 31 percent, the State Department by 29 percent and Health and Human Services by 17.9 percent. Funding to several smaller government agencies like the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts as well as the Corporation of Public Broadcasting (CPB) would be completely gutted.

The CPB offers television and FM radio services like the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and National Public Radio (NPR) to ensure universal access to non-commercial-

ized content and telecommunications. It does so by distributing more than 70 percent of its funding to more than 1,400 locally-owned public radio and television stations.

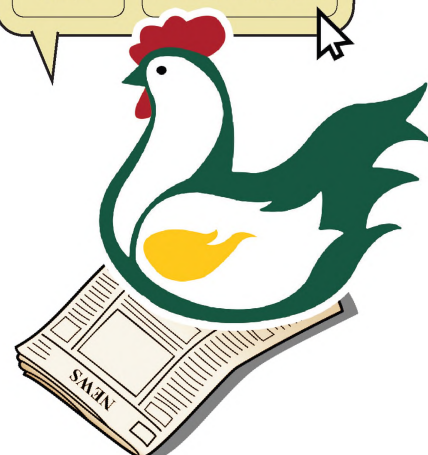
WNMU-TV and FM, which are PBS stations at Northern Michigan University, are among the stations funded by CPB. If Trump's budget is approved, they will potentially lose their services. Federal funds are especially crucial for local stations as well as local arts groups that often receive

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It looks like you are looking for something funny. I suggest you turn to the middle of this week's paper for our special edition of The Southern Blow. Do you want to go there now?

Sure

Get out of my face



Fair educates NMU campus on gender identity

By Jeff Maki
contributing writer

Approximately 70 people milled about the Jamrich first floor lobby yesterday, making the Starbucks look downright barren by comparison. The Gender Fair, just 20 minutes into its run time had already attracted a crowd drawn in by prizes and candy to be educated on gender issues.

Jump Start Team Leader and sophomore communications major Madeline Wiles said the main purpose of the Gender Fair was to bring education on the topics

gender identity," Wiles said.

The Gender Fair took place on Wednesday from 2 to 4:30 p.m. and was sponsored by the Multicultural Resource and Education Center (MERC).

According to the Human Rights Campaign, gender identity is "One's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither—how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves."

Having seen a Gender Fair poster a couple days prior, senior photography major Ezra Asohan expressed his opinion on the

Freshman earth science major Loki Domina attended in the few minutes she had before class and gave her opinion after viewing a couple of displays and chatting with the presenters.

"Do your thing," she said in regards to persons with non-conforming gender identity. "My idea of gender—I don't take into account society."

Social awareness and understanding of gender identity is better now than 10 years ago, Wiles said. In regards to people who disagree with the notion of non-conforming gender identity, however, she said, "Imagine if you're right-handed but you are told to write with your left hand even though you know you work better with your dominant hand. That's what it's like to be told your gender identity is wrong."

Among the groups attending the event were the Black Student Union who presented a station on black androgyny showing support for people, especially in black communities, to be able to dress as they like regardless of societal norms and not be judged for it.

At the front of the presentations greeting passersby and inviting them to join the fair sat sophomore public relations major Sarah Schollmeyer, who ex-



Lindsey Eaton/NW

Senior biology major Georgie Dohl shares information about gender identity with junior fish and wildlife management major Connor Loftus.

We're working with diverse people to promote the topic of gender identity to reduce the stigma of having a non-conforming gender identity.

— Madeline Wiles
sophomore, communications

of gender identity and the gender spectrum to NMU.

"We're working with diverse people to promote the topic of gender identity to reduce the stigma of having a non-conforming

movement, adding that he hadn't taken any classes on the topic of gender, but had friends who did.

"Oh yeah. I support this," Asohan said. "I came to learn what they do in this study."

pressed that she came not knowing about black androgyny.

The Gender Fair is important Schollmeyer said. "Gender is everywhere. Gender is fluid."

Rebecca Ulland, director of the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, had her GN100 Introduction to Gender Studies class create posters that were displayed during the event. Among the presentations were topics on representation of gender in fiction,

advice for non-traditional individuals and couples and fairness in the workplace.

"Being a part of the Gender Fair is important for the Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies students because this assignment connects what we have studied about the social construction of gender with praxis, which is defined as activism is informed by theory, research and evidence," Ulland said.

NMU spreads sexual assault awareness

By Kara Toay
copy editor

A week of events and activities intended to spread awareness about sexual assault on college campuses will take place the first week of April at NMU.

The Week of Action for the "It's On Us" campaign is put on by the Health Promotion Society and is working in collaboration with the Northern Michigan University Athletics Department, Housing and Residence Life, Public Safety, the Health Promotions Office, Women for Women and others.

The free event will kick off with a table in Jamrich from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday where people will be able sign a pledge. There will be more tables located around Jamrich throughout the week. There will also be contest throughout the week and prizes ranging from car stickers to a free parking pass for next fall, Megan McCormick, president of the Health Promotion Society and senior education major said.

"The whole purpose of it is to raise awareness and to show people they can have a stand in it and prevent this from happening," McCormick said.

Promoters of the event will also look at what is currently happening on NMU's campus and what students, faculty and staff want to see happen, McCormick said.

Each of the days in the Week of Action have their own specific theme.

On Monday evening there will be a showing of "Hunting Ground"—a documentary about sexual assault on campuses in the Jamrich Hall Auditorium.

Tuesday will be about affirmative consent. There will be a paper that people can write different ways to ask for consent as well as information on NMU's affirmative consent policy.

Wednesday will be about bystander intervention where Public Safety will take part as well as information about G.R.O.W.L.—which stands for Get involved, Reach out and recruit, Open communication, Weigh the risk and Leap into action and is NMU's acronym for sexual assault awareness, McCormick said.

On Thursday, the table(s) will present resources for survivors of sexual assault as well as how to get involved in clubs and organizations. McCormick said there will be a panel discussion at 7 p.m. in 1100 Jamrich that will feature people on Northern's campus doing things to educate on the prevention of sexual assault.

Don Peterman, crime prevention and community policing specialist, will be at the booth on Thursday and at the discussion panel.

"I think a lot of times with sexual assault people are like 'I don't have to be involved,'" Peterman said. "We all need to take a role in this intervention piece and standing up for others."



Peterman

In closing, at 8 p.m. on Friday Women for Women will host a discussion titled, "Hear Us Roar" in 1100 Jamrich. The theme is supporting survivors and hearing them share their stories. McCormick said slam poet Lauren Zuniga will also be at the event.

"It's easy to not think about this, especially if you've never been affected by it. I'm hoping it will really shine a light on the fact that this is a pervasive problem on all campuses, not just Northern's," McCormick said.

For more information about the "It's On Us" campaign, visit the Week of Action website at www.meganmccormick.wix-site.com/weekofaction or the event can be found via Facebook.

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|---------------|--------------|---------------|
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| Partly Cloudy | Cloudy | Partly Cloudy |

data from www.weather.com

STATE NEWS

Water lines at 18,000 homes in Flint will be replaced under a deal approved by a judge on Tuesday. This deal marks a milestone in the effort to overcome the decision in 2014 to draw water from a river without treating it to prevent lead contamination. Flint will be responsible for replacing lead and galvanized steel lines that bring water into homes. The cost could be as high as \$97 million, with federal and state governments covering the bill. Pipes at more than 700 homes have been replaced so far.

NATIONAL NEWS

President Donald Trump's Mexican border wall may be delayed as Republicans consider putting its funding on hold. Senator Roy Blunt said cash for the wall would be left out of a spending bill that must pass by 28 April to avert a partial government shutdown. His remarks came on Tuesday after Trump requested a supplemental funding bill to include money for the wall along with military programs, but Blunt signalled Trump's request could complicate negotiations.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

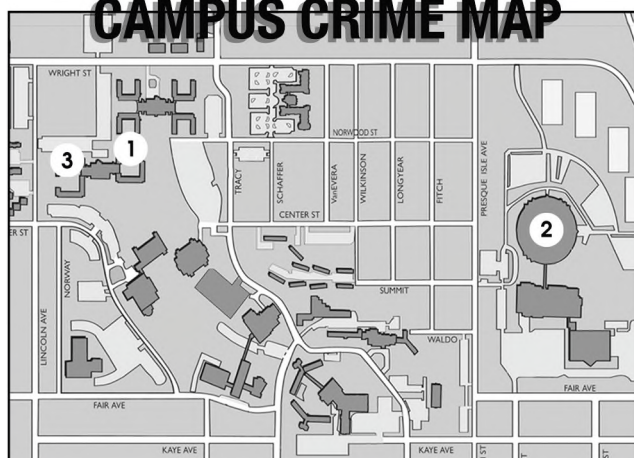
A missing Indonesian man was found dead inside the body of a python, according to local police. The man went missing Sunday on the island of Sulawesi, after leaving to harvest palm oil. In the search for the 25-year-old, police said that they had found a huge snake they suspected had swallowed the man. The reticulated python, reported to be 23 feet long, was cut open and the man's body was found.

WEIRD NEWS

An Australian man was bitten by a crocodile in northern Queensland on Saturday after jumping into the Johnstone River to impress a girl he had a crush on. He was at a backpackers hostel in the town of Innisfail when he started bragging that he could swim in the river, a known habitat for aggressive saltwater crocodiles. "It was all worth it. She's beautiful, caring and kind," the man said, talking about the girl he wanted to impress. "I've never heard a guy scream like that," the girl said.

— Compiled from news sources

CAMPUS CRIME MAP



1. A controlled substance act violation was reported at 10:28 p.m. Tuesday, March 28 in Halverson Hall.

2. Criminal sexual conduct was reported at 9:10 a.m. Tuesday, March 28 at the Superior Dome.

3. Four MIPs were reported at 2:15 a.m. Saturday, March 25 in Gant Hall.



Neil Flavin/NW

NMU community members listen at the summit on Friday where they learned what sustainability means and what the university is doing to be more sustainable. Public input was sought for future sustainable ideas at the session.

Reaching for S.T.A.R.S

NMU steps up effort to create plans for sustainability

By Noah Hausmann
staff writer

Leaders of the NMU Sustainability Advisory Council spoke at a Campus Sustainability Summit in Jamrich on Friday to present the council's findings on Northern's environmental impact and to gather input from the public on strategies for increasing sustainable practices.

Sarah Mittlefehldt, council co-chair and assistant professor of earth, environmental and geographical sciences and council member Jes Thompson, assistant professor of communication and performance studies, led the summit. The council includes over 20 members from many university departments.

"A lot of the key movers and shakers are here—people who are educated and have experience," Mittlefehldt said on Friday. "This event is just a first step among many."

The council shared highlights from its Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (S.T.A.R.S) inventory. The study, conducted over the last year, evaluated NMU's environmental impact using the previous three years' data compiled from across departments. The inventory has earned NMU a bronze certification from the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. S.T.A.R.S is a self-reporting framework for colleges to gauge their performance. Institutions are rated bronze to platinum in their level of sustain-

ability.

"We want to walk the walk. Let's put action behind the rhetoric," Thompson told the audience, mentioning her sustainability efforts at Colorado State University. "I was at a school that started bronze, and when I left we were platinum. We did it because we were strategic."

The inventory created a base-

ate about, which is exciting," Thompson added. "That's what we wanted, so we can go to [Erickson] and say, 'These are what are important to us.'"

Strategies for sustainability that were clearly popular included: create a sustainability office and staff, including a coordinator; provide academic credit and payment for student "EcoReps"

We want to walk the walk. Let's put action behind the rhetoric.

— Jes Thompson
assistant professor of communication studies

line for Northern to measure its current state and to plan for future progress. Sustainability was defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations.

Along with question-and-answer sessions, 50 short-term and long-term ideas to increase sustainability in several categories were presented. Attendees, about 25 university and community members, were asked to help prioritize these strategies. The goal of the council is to have data-driven recommendations and measurable objectives to present to President Fritz Erickson and the NMU Board of Trustees in April.

"There are clear areas that many [attendees] are passion-

to conduct outreach; institute a compost system; reduce food waste and launch a food recovery network to donate to people in need; buy food from more local farms; and incorporate sustainability learning goals into general university education.

Many of the students in attendance were leaders of campus groups promoting environmental awareness and advocacy, and all attendees showed passion for the cause.

"I'm concerned about sustainability on campus," said senior ecology major Clare Fastiggi. "I hope these ideas don't just remain ideas. I hope they're implemented into actions and that the motivations behind them continue on and are shared by the campus body."

MEDIA

Continued from Page 1

matching funds from other donors based on federal allocations.

Communication and Performance Studies (CAPS) students at NMU received an email last Tuesday encouraging them to sign a petition that circulated to inhibit the proposed cuts to CPB. More information about the "Protect My Public Media" campaign can be found at <http://protectmypublicmedia.org>.

Eric Smith, director of broadcast and audio visual services for WNMU-TV and FM said the station receives \$850,000 in grants from CPB that contributes to both the radio and TV services accounting for 35 percent of the total budget averaged between them.

"So if we lost that funding, it would be devastating. It would be hard for the stations to continue. It means that we wouldn't be able to operate anymore," he said.

Smith said the loss of TV services would be more detrimental than radio because radio accounts for 17 percent of the station's budget but television is around 39 percent.

"As a result, radio has less of

a reliance on CPB funding than TV but because both stations operate so close to their budget, there really isn't any extra money that could make up for that difference so it would be hard for the stations to continue."

Smith said the result of NMU's public media stations losing CPB funding is not yet conceivable because while CPB provides funding for the services, the NMU Board of Trustees holds the licensing rights for the stations and they would have to weigh in on how to move forward if the worst case scenario happens.

The WNMU-TV and FM stations have provided public media services to the public for over 50 years in radio and over 40 years in television. Smith said a loss of funding would have a two-sided effect on both the WNMU-TV station and CPB because the affordability of CPB-approved quality content for broadcasting purposes would disappear.

"While the CPB funding don't necessarily pay for those opportunities, we have other funds that come into the program then that do provide those opportunities and when you add those to the CPB funds, it makes up our whole budget and all the students that gain the experience here in

helping us provide programs to the community, that evaporates. It goes away and so the students are significantly losing if the stations are no longer able to operate," Smith said.

Mark Shevy, associate professor of communication and per-



Smith

formance studies said during his ten years teaching at the university, multimedia journalism and media production students alike have relied on the services of WNMU for learning purposes as long as he has been here.

"That's one of the reasons I really liked [NMU]. I've taught at Boise State before coming here and they had public radio, they had public broadcasting on campus, but they didn't have anything to do with the students. Here, it's a vital part of our program that we can teach certain

theory and methods in our classes but they can go to the public broadcasting on campus to actually hone their skills," Shevy said.

He said the CAPS department relies heavily upon WNMU to help students learn the skills that they need for studio TV production and getting experience in newscasting.

Trump's budget ultimately pushes for a total cut of \$18 billion from discretionary spending, set by congressional budget resolutions, and at the same time, proposes a \$54 billion increase in military spending, an overall increase of ten percent. Such a proposal would require a repeal of spending caps imposed by Congress in the 2011 Budget Control Act. Trump's spending outline for the FY18 budget has been defined as a "hard-power budget," which entails an increase in spending for defense and homeland security at the expense of many other programs in the discretionary part of the budget. Government funding for the current fiscal year will run out on April 28 and the 2018 budget needs to be in place by October.

There are 19 agencies in total that have been proposed to eliminate federal funding for. Fund-

ing for governmental programs like CPB, which was created by Congress in 1967, would be cut to zero. Last year CPB received \$445 million in federal funding.

The most significant cut in the budget targets the EPA, which potentially faces a \$2.6 billion loss of annual federal funding. This would be the lowest level of funding that the agency has seen in 40 years, adjusted by rates of inflation.

Smith said he believes that in a rural environment, like the Upper Peninsula, public broadcasting is one of the few ways people have of connecting themselves with educational, cultural and enrichment programs that are otherwise available in a larger city.

"That's what the public stands to lose if public broadcasting goes away," Smith said.

Another service WNMU-TV and FM stations offer to the community is a link to emergency alert services or a primary EAS facility to the Central Upper Peninsula. If an emergency broadcast is generated by the government or state police, it comes into the WNMU stations before being broadcasted to other nearby stations in the region who rebroadcast the information to the public.

Bellassai a blast



Christin DeFord/NW

Internet personality and comedian Matt Bellassai pokes fun at public figures during his visit to NMU on Tuesday, March 28. Bellassai is the producer and star of BuzzFeed's comedic web series "Whine About It."

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EDITORIAL



Emmalene Oysti/ NW

Facing Women's History Month

As Women's History Month comes to an end, Wildcats find themselves reflecting on what that title holds. We celebrate the role hundreds of women have had in history, bringing us to where we stand today.

Too often we are shocked at how things were in the past: lifestyles of covering ankles, being expected to cook meals and maintaining a level of polished beauty.

It is empowering to see how far we've come since then. The lines between gender roles and expectations are becoming more blurred every year. Powerful female speakers are no strangers to NMU and great female professors and leaders make each department even stronger. Even in our own North Wind office we have the privilege of working under a female advisor and editor-in-chief, when journalism is typically a male-dominated field.

Globally social media stories of body positivity are shared frequently, bashing the pressures of accustomed beauty ideals. Higher percentages of women are attending and graduating from college, pursuing more dominant roles in medicine, politics and the

military. Thousands of pink-clad people have been showing huge support to causes they care about.

All of these things are incredibly important for young girls to see and understand growing up. Kids of all genders will grow up in a better world than their parents did.

At the same time, we are still incredibly far away from where we need to be as a society and as people. Acknowledgement of women's rights should not be limited to one month. The gender wage gap is still present and affecting families, despite it being repeatedly dismissed as a sham and a myth.

We live in a world that makes pens specifically labelled for women, and taxes are placed on "luxury" female sanitation items like tampons and pads. A man who's been clearly recorded saying that he can grab women by the genitals can become the U.S. president.

As Women's History Month comes to an end it is important to see how far we've come in the world of women's rights, but it is even more imperative to know how much farther we have yet to go.

There are multiple types of intelligence

Staff Column



Michael Wilson

While surfing the Web one day I stumbled upon a graphic organizing the nine different types of intelligences. I've always resonated with the idea that everyone is smart in their own ways, but this was still a slightly new concept to me. I was intrigued enough by the information in the graphic that I did follow-up research on the topic. I learned that the theory of multiple intelligences was pioneered by Howard Gardner in his book "Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences".

In his book, Gardner breaks up the theory into nine different classifications of intelligence in which any given person can exhibit strengths or weaknesses in. The classifications are as follows: spatial (visualizing the world in 3D), naturalistic (understanding living things and nature), musical (distinguishing sounds and their different qualities), logical-mathematical (quantifying things and proving hypotheses), existential (tackling the questions of why we live and die), interpersonal (sensing people's feelings and motives), bodily-kinesthetic (coordinating your mind with your body), linguistic (being able to express your feelings in words) and intrapersonal (understanding yourself and your own feelings).

During my research I found various websites that provide tests you can take to evaluate yourself and discover what kind of intelligences are your strengths. To not much of my surprise I consistently received highest results for intrapersonal intelligence with musical intelligence as a close second (sometimes equal).

As an intrapersonally intelligent person I find myself constantly evaluating my own feelings and emotions in regard to nearly all aspects of my life. Throughout my life I have mostly enjoyed spending time by my-

self or with people I can relate to on a deep emotional level. The few people I have surrounded myself with have almost always been romantic or intimate in other ways. Since I was young, I always had a girlfriend and few girl-friends. I've always had a few best friends, and I never belonged to a large group of acquaintances or any cliques.

As for my musical intelligence, a day never goes by when I don't listen to music. I love discovering new, unique music and expanding my tastes. In fact, last year as part of a new year's resolution challenge for myself, I listened to an album I'd never heard before every day for the entire year. Because of this, I can find merit and value in every genre of music. As a musician I try and draw influence from all of them to create the most original sound I can.

Both of these strengths work in tandem to influence my emotions and personality. Possibly because of my strong sense of self, I rarely find myself crying or sulking during sad events in my life. However, there have been many times I have put on one of my favorite records and experienced more powerful emotions than I ever experience without music. Most music that has had significance in my life has left me in tears as I relate to the artists through their melodies and rhythms.

I urge everyone to figure out what kind of intelligences they are strong in so that they can analyze their life and hopefully shape their studies and personal life around their strengths. I believe the more we understand these different intelligences the more successful and happy we will all be with our lives and the decisions we make. Either way, whether you're aware of this theory or not, most likely your intelligence has already shaped your life dramatically if not entirely, but if you have not found your place yet and feel as if you don't have purpose or are unintelligent, just know that your unique personality and intellect is going to take you wherever you go once you harness it.

THE NORTH WIND

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All letters may be edited for grammar and length.

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

Five hours at Rokerthon



Opinion Editor

Trevor Drew

My eyes struggled to open as my alarm disrupted my sleep and cut my dream off too soon. Blindly I clawed at the side of my bed for my phone to turn off that terrible noise or at the very least put it on snooze. The light of my phone stung my sensitive eyes as I tried to get a closer look and remember why it was I had to get up. My phone read 4:30 a.m. and the reminder I set for the alarm bannered the screen: Trevor, don't forget to go to Rokerthon and DO NOT press snooze.

"Ugh," I groaned as I slipped out of bed and into the nearest clothes I could find. I usually try to avoid any time before 6 a.m. or else I get a bit weird but there was no getting around this one. I had to go interview people for our sound off and if I got a selfie there I would get extra credit for some classes, so off I went.

Call me unspirited but I've never been one for school activities and events. Maybe I think

I'm too cool, maybe I just think I have something better going on; either way it's never really been my thing.

Media pass and free breakfast sandwich in hand, I wandered around the dome trying to gauge how the next few hours would go down. Right off the bat I noticed that the line for registration was about half the circumference of the Superior Dome and there were a ton of people, students, faculty and community members.

At first it seemed like a whole lot of commotion. There were a bunch of guys with megaphones guiding the participants like sheep dogs. And then there were very long periods of standing, walking and migrating till the actual game of freeze tag started.

As the coffee kicked in and the atmosphere charged me up, my attitude towards the whole thing turned the other cheek. First off Al Roker is a darling man. He really knows how to captivate an audience and is shorter than I imagined. Overall he seemed glad to interact with everyone he could and really has an infectious, bright smile and head.

Along with Al Roker being a pretty cool guy, the event was actually a lot more enjoyable

than I expected. Once I got past the early time and the noise and nonsense, I came to realize that events like this benefit Northern and ultimately the community.

When I was walking around talking to people, asking why they showed up, there were plenty of students who were ecstatic about being on TV and promoting our beloved Northern Michigan University. "You're never going to get this chance again" was another phrase I heard a lot, probably because it's true. As silly as the world record for largest game of freeze tag sounds, you're more than likely not going to have the opportunity to break a world record lobbed at you again like this. You didn't even need to run, you could have just pretended like you were frozen. That's what I would have done.

Going forward, I'm going to make more of a point to get involved in events like the Rokerthon and students and community members should too. Along with the other things I mentioned, it enhances the NMU culture and brings the community closer together. Having pride in your school, town or community is the foundation to any livable area and Marquette is one of the nicest I've seen so far.

SOUND OFF

Why did you decide to go to Rokerthon?



Lauren Emblad, freshman biology

"I just decided to be here because it's a world record and it's on national TV and it's just really cool because there are so many people here to support NMU."



Steven Hallmann, junior economics

"Today I showed up for the pride of Marquette, the pride of the Upper Peninsula and just the school of Northern Michigan University. It's for a great cause, gets us on national TV. Go Cats!"



Mason Wallace, sophomore multimedia journalism

"I came down today because I'm actually in the field of journalism and I hope to one day be a TV anchor so I am pretty excited that the Today Show is going to be here."



Janay Walters, sophomore biology

"I'm here because I've watched the Today Show since I was little and I saw that he was doing his world record thing and I really wanted to participate and show my Wildcat pride."

compiled by Emma Tembreull

Content overload: dealing with evolving media



Guest Column

Tim Eggert

My family recently subscribed to the streaming service known as "Sling TV." In addition to our life-preserving Netflix account, this new membership was saluted by my ultra-practical mother for its capability to live-stream television from any device, anywhere, at any time. Now, negotiations over the shared screen are extinct; she can watch her favorite Lifetime movies while I simultaneously screen Shark Week. This isn't a sponsored endorsement for the television product, but rather an illumination of the subconscious allure that addicts us to streamable content.

In our technology-dominated and motivated culture, content defines us as individuals as perti-

nently as religion, clothing or diet does. Some are Breaking Badists, others Orange is the New Blackers, and many Stranger Thingsians. As a platform of identity that both separates and unites us, content functions through a common collective: emotions and interpretations.

We differ, however, by what we watch, and how we watch it. Content itself is an extensive mass of images, sounds and people inclusive of any show, film or video accessible via cable or the internet. Music and literature excluded, I consider content, generally, to be a reflective and reflexive portrayal of our reality. Essentially that's what we watch, and why we watch: to ruminate in the imitative displays of our lives.

Apart from convenience, this dynamic motivates subscribers, like my mom and I, to buy into multiple content streaming services. But is our loyalty to multiple sources really necessary to experience content? Sure, seem-

ingly infinite choices are sublime, but attempting to surf the sea of Netflix, Hulu and YouTube drowns me in waves of content. When I do uncover a supremely avant-garde show or film, I must commit to a specific source. However more often than not, I find

For most of us, however, content has transcended the screen, and saturated our concept of reality.

myself settling for a terminally-mediocre show just to get my fix.

This overload of content seems to be the secret to our beguilement. Our vulnerability to the superabundance of content stems from the commonplace cornucopia of products and services that we subconsciously expose ourselves to. Of course, this variation parallels the natural heterogeneity of humans, but our culture profits from dissimilarity. Don't get me wrong, I'm grate-

ful for the diversity in content; I prefer "Seinfeld" over "Friends," and "House of Cards" instead of "Gilmore Girls," but a single source with these choices would be expedient. One ultimate provider of content would unite us rather than segregate the cable-

classicists from the Netflix-elitists.

As an echo of our existence, content inherently unites us but disengages us from the collective through singularity. I don't supplicate myself to Netflix for the social benefits, but instead to isolate myself from negativity and to retreat to a pseudo-reality. No matter how much I imagine myself as a quasi-Mad Men character smoking cigarettes and drinking all day, I can recognize the severance of this reality from the

one I participate in daily.

For most of us, however, content has transcended the screen, and saturated our concept of reality. No longer do fictional characters remain bound to their own space, but become featured figures in our perceptive lives. Since we can't completely escape reality, we seek refuge in content. In this way, the singularity we consciously observe becomes magnified through the content we ingest, causing us to routinely return to and seek out its familiarity.

Ultimately content will continue to evolve and become increasingly more accessible. Perhaps our sequestered lives can only function through content and may unite us, no matter how much we try to eclipse individual reality. To escape the domination of streamable content, I encourage you to invite the spontaneity of material content into your reality and experience life, or at least turn off the TV.



Photo courtesy of The Forest Roberts Theatre

Cast members of the Forest Roberts Theatre production of "The Addams Family" musical (pictured above) put on the first ever production of the musical continuing throughout the weekend.

The ooky, kooky cast of the FRT brings a classic to NMU

By *Jade Jenkins*
contributing writer

"They're creepy and they're kooky, mysterious and spooky, they're altogether ooky," and if you remember them from the T.V. series and movies, you can now see them singing and dancing live onstage at NMU.

"The Addams Family" musical is coming to the Forest Roberts Theatre (FRT) with showings Wednesday, April 5 through Sunday, April 9.

The play, which has been in the making by Director Shelley Russell for a year, was cast last September, with rehearsals beginning in January.

Jill Vermeulen, a senior studying communications and theater, has been involved in theater since she was a child and will be playing the part of Morticia Addams.

"It's fun being able to see characters you recognize come to life. Being able to play Morticia is enjoyable because I get to take on a powerful female role. I get to show her archetype and still

be able to give it my own twist," Vermeulen said.

The musical is based on the 1964 T.V. series and three movies which were created in 1991, 1993 and 1998. This rendition of the familiar family first hit

Ohio. Neither of Wednesday's parents have met her boyfriend and when her father learns of the relationship, Wednesday begs him to keep it a secret from her mother. Things start to heat up when Wednesday's "normal"

Morticia, Uncle Fester, Grandma, Pugsley and Lurch all make appearances, along with some newer characters ancestors that range from a conquistador to a 1950s airline stewardess, who come back to make sure the

amazing relationship, very sexy and yet it's based on honesty and absolute loyalty," Russell said. "The humor is very contemporary, and yet oddly traditional. I laughed till I cried the first time I saw the show and then I looked at the actors and singers we have right now and thought, 'We can do this show.'"

Russell stated that not only is a classic family coming to life, but they do so in a great contemporary musical.

"There is a huge amount of dance in the show, including one killer tango, of course with Gomez and Morticia," Russell added. "But the main reason to come has to be the cast. They're kind of amazing. I feel like for this show, I really had actors who just are these characters. You'll see."

There will be performances at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, along with matinee showings at 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$15 for the general public, \$10 for students and \$5 for NMU students.

Broadway in 2010 and takes place after Wednesday Addams has turned 18 and fallen in love with an average young man from

boyfriend and his parents come over to the Addams' house for dinner.

Familiar faces such as Gomez,

family stays together.

"It's hilarious and the characters are so strange but so human. Gomez and Morticia have this

The humor is very contemporary, and yet oddly traditional. I laughed till I cried the first time I saw the show and then I looked at the actors and singers we have right now and thought, 'We can do this show.'"

— *Shelley Russell*

director and professor of theatre and entertainment arts

Rokerthon

America's favorite weatherman gathers crowd to break world record

Trinity Carey / features editor
Noah Hausmann / staff writer

Hundreds of Wildcats robed in green and gold covered the field of the Superior Dome before the sun even rose Tuesday morning to participate in breaking the world record for the largest game of freeze tag.

The crowd of 'Cats was joined by NBC Today Show weatherman Al Roker as he made his second stop for "Rokerthon 3." For the past two years Roker himself was the one breaking records, but for this year's Rokerthon the television personality is making his way to five college campuses across the country as they try to get their name into the Guinness Book of World Records.

Roker flew into "our neck of the woods" around noon on Monday and was greeted by the NMU pep band, cheerleaders and some local fans. Sporting a Stormy Kromer and outfitted in green and gold he toured the campus, making stops in the Art & Design building, the music department and the WNMU broadcast studio.

NMU was chosen as a destination for "Rokerthon 3" after being selected amongst many other universities in a video contest showing school spirit. Roker said the campus and spirit reminded him of his own university experience.

"I went to a school kind of like this—SUNY Oswego in upstate New York right on Lake Ontario and it's the same kind of feel," Roker said. "It's a small school, but it's got a big feel. There's

a lot of enthusiasm. There's a lot of school spirit, so that's pretty exciting."

Roker entered the dome just as a Northerner would; through smoke and out of the mouth of the inflatable Wildcat, joining the field with the student freeze tag participants. He let viewers of the Today Show know he had made his way to the 906 and of course provided the morning weather forecast.

NMU students broke into color-coded teams of 50 and three were designated "It" teams for the game. The clock struck 8:08 a.m. and the score board began to count down the 15 minutes required of playtime; so began the "pandemonium in the Superior Dome," as Roker described it.

Double Trouble DJs provided music and students commenced the world's now largest game of freeze tag with 634 participants beating the previous record set by Thomas School in London in 2015 of 438 participants.

The Guinness World Record official announced NMU had broken the record and Roker awarded a \$5000 scholarship from Pure-Point Financial to senior Sports Science major Megan Crane. NMU President Fritz Erickson decided to match the scholarship after two were given out at Roker's first Rokerthon stop at Oklahoma University and awarded a \$5000 scholarship to junior biology major Valerie Urban.

"We didn't want Oklahoma to get away with two scholarships," Erickson said. "We didn't want to be

one-upped by our friends down there. It was a special thing to do, and we really wanted to thank the students for being here. They did a great job."

Free egg and cheese sandwiches, muffins, doughnut holes and coffee were provided to energize the drowsy students. This food along with t-shirts, banners and other promotional materials was provided by the marketing department, which spent around \$9,000 of its budget, said Derek Hall, assistant vice president of marketing and communications. NMU plans to use the photos and videos from this event in marketing promotions for years to come, Hall said.

"It's well worth it. [Roker's] a big personality. You can't buy that kind of publicity. And it just goes to show that big things can happen even in a small place like Marquette," he said.

NMU did not pay Al Roker directly for the visit to campus, Hall said.

NMU student intern with the Today Show and senior criminal justice major Jared Jacques helped create the promotional video that got Northern its spot on Rokerthon and worked with NBC producers and public relations team to prepare for Roker's arrival. Having an event such as this on national television is an amazing opportunity for students to be a part of and for NMU, he said.

"I think we deserve a lot of recognition that we don't get. We're one of the best-kept secrets of the Upper Peninsula up here for sure," Jacques said.



n at NMMU

Left: The man of the hour, Al Roker, hypes up the crowd of tired participants with Wildcat Willy before the games begin.

Emma Tembreull/NW

Right: An NMU cheerleader participates in the game of freeze tag by unfreezing one of her teammates while dodging through the crowd of frantic students.

Lindsey Eaton/NW



Old Man Logan, a heartbreaking send-off

By Winter Keefer

assistant news editor

The final chapter of Hugh Jackman's Wolverine, based loosely on the "Old Man Logan" comics, hit at the heartstrings over and over again while moving through a much darker world than past X-Men movies. Though following many familiar X-Men characters, "Logan" worked as a stand-alone film to the rest of the series, marking its uniqueness through its rated R designation.

Plot: The opening scene of "Logan" quickly makes the R rating apparent as James "Logan" Howlett wakes up in his rental limo in the year 2029. He has clearly been drinking but is jolted awake to the sound of thugs breaking into his chauffeur limo that has become his only means of making a living. Logan gets out of the van and takes on the men but it quickly becomes clear that he does not have the strength or healing abilities that he once had. One of his blades can't even extend out of his knuckle to its full length.

This scene is full of blood and profanity, all the while making the audience cringe at the evident pain Logan is feeling. I was anticipating the rapid healing that was the trademark for a younger Wolverine, but instead was met with a rugged and limp-

ing old man. Through the movie you discover that Logan has been slowly poisoned by the adamantium coating his bones.

While facing deteriorating health Logan has also been taking care of Professor Charles Xavier, played by Patrick Stewart, as he goes through seizures and challenges of Alzheimer's. Professor X's mental health is complicated by his telepathic powers, making him a danger to the people around him if he has an episode. Logan clearly has a complicated relationship with the professor.

Logan's life takes a turn when a woman approaches him and begs him to take a young girl she has with her named Laura to the Canadian border. He refuses at first, but when threatening men come into town paving a deadly path to capture the girl, Logan, Professor X and Laura find themselves on the road to Canada.

Characters: The strongest part of "Logan" is the characters and how they grow with one another. You discover over time that a corporation used Logan's DNA to create Laura. Logan realizes this early on but doesn't know how to handle it.

At the same time Logan's relationship with Professor X continues to be complicated, but you see that they care for each other. Every relationship contributes to



Film: Logan

Director: James Mangold

Writer: James Mangold, Matt Frank

Starring: Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, Dafne Keen

Runtime: 138 minutes

Rating:



a heart-wrenching end and pulls the viewers through every trial.

The only downside I see to the character development is that there were many references to the past, but it was not clear enough to pull together a cohesive picture. If this was added, "Logan" would have held its ground as a perfect stand-alone.

Style: The lighting, writing, costumes and overall feel of this film was phenomenal. Never once did it stray from the dark-

ness of the story, but the characters and writing offered a bit of lightness when it was needed.

Director and co-writer James Mangold captured "Old Man Logan" in his rendition of "Logan" by embracing a different and darker world. Taking on the rated R film was a choice that proved successful.

Verdict: I don't cry often during movies. This one certainly made me shed a tear or three. It was a very well-orchestrated end

of an era.

While the rating allowed for more gore, I found the amount used appropriate. It was sobering to see Logan beaten down, making it clear that this was not another Wolverine movie, it was something more.

The plot was heavy but thought-provoking and every character fit a purpose. I am sad that this is the end, but Jackman certainly left a mark with this final film.

Waterparks dares to step out of punk genre

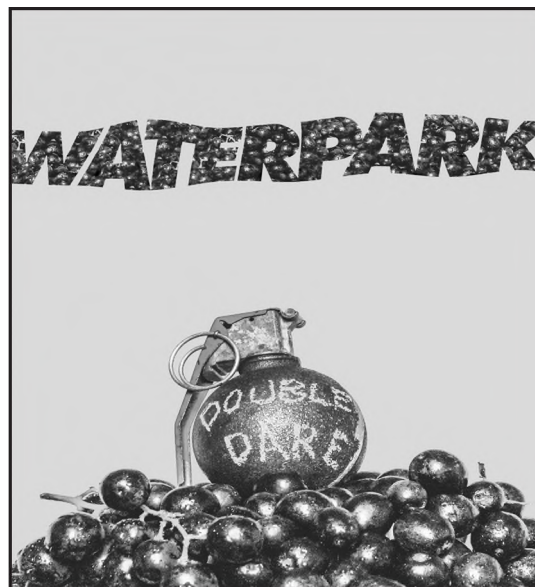
By Jamie Glenn

contributing writer

New age pop-punk band Waterparks has released their debut album "DOUBLE DARE" in which the trio works to mirror influences from other genres of Electronic Dance Music while working to carry soft alternative rock tones throughout their tracks. With only a handful of EPs and now a single full-length album under their belts, the three set a tone that is more diverse in its experimentation between many genres.

Though the band bleeds characteristics of many genres of music, they are mostly classified within the realm of pop-punk. Enthusiastic Generation X bands like Waterparks are attempting to redefine their music using old flavors and new techniques and change the genre of pop punk as a whole, as it makes its way back into the mainstream music scene.

With help from the Madden brothers, who are better known for founding the band "Good Charlotte," this Houston trio composed of guitarist and lead vocalist Awsten Knight, guitarist and backing vocalist Geoff



Album: DOUBLE DARE

Artist: Waterparks

Label: Equal Vison Records

Release Date: Nov. 4, 2016

Album Length: 44:19

Rating:



Wigington and drummer Otto Wood who have exposed a more fun and upbeat side of pop punk with tracks like "Royal," "Take Her To the Moon," "Dizzy" and "Little Violence." These tracks echo the sound Good Charlotte is known for. This sound showcases just how important influences from an older, more experienced band can impact the forefront of the pop-punk music scene as it reshapes itself to accommodate a new generation of listeners. This generation craves bands that are willing to

exceed the parameters the genre currently stands for. Waterparks does just that.

Songs like "Hawaii (Stay Awake)," "Palm Island," "I'll Be Around" and "Gloom Boys" take on a more EDM-style punk. The tracks echo more energetic and melodic tones that are comprised of some computer generated sounds that add layers to the songs that are already charismatic and full of heart. These songs offer listeners a chance to cut loose and dance to some cross genre tunes.

The lead single titled "Stupid for You" is a love song following a memorable narrative that discusses a number of stereotypes, but doesn't truly showcase the talent behind this group. Regardless the track is far too catchy and upbeat, leaving listeners wanting to hear it on a loop.

Some may wonder if tracks like "Powerless" and "21 Questions" fit within the album's collective narrative. These songs are fast-moving and exude a tempo not fit for the slow nature of this that is stacked near the end of

this record. Though these two tracks do offer a chance for listeners to step back and enjoy the change of pace, even if it's only offered in two songs.

Fans of the earlier EPs in 2012 titled "Black Light" and "Airplane Conversations" showed a much heavier sound that leaned more towards the punk side of this band's musical spectrum. It's clear that the group is still working to fine-tune their overall sound. Some of this experimentation, in moments throughout "DOUBLE DARE," can sound a bit messy or as if the band is playing it safe.

The lyrics of this album touch on topics regarding the innocence of youth, young love and a desire to discover new things. The effort that was demonstrated here can be appreciated as Waterparks fan base continues to grow.

Though the album was released late last year, "DOUBLE DARE" will bloom and flourish the most in the coming summer months. Waterparks may have a lot of growing left to do as a band but they are sure to be your new favorite discovery this summer.

Active Minds helps students stress less

By Alyssa Lambert
contributing writer

One in four Americans ages 18 and older live with a diagnosable mental health disorder, according to Active Minds, a non-profit organization. A group of six individuals came together about a year ago to create an Active Minds club at NMU and it is committed to spreading the message of the non-profit: to change the conversation about mental health.

Active Minds President Andrew Zuniga, a junior sociology major, said the club was started in response to the controversial email from the dean of students urging students not to discuss thoughts about self-harm with their peers.

The club aspires to work with the university to de-stigmatize mental illness and allow people to feel more confident discussing mental health.

Stress Less Week, which will be April 3 to 7 this year, is Active Minds's biggest event, focusing on the little things people can do to make others aware of mental health conditions. This is the second year the event has existed, providing one event per day to de-stress during a college

student's busiest time, between mid-terms and finals.

At 7 p.m. April 3, Stress Less Week begins with a showing of "Good Will Hunting," the story of a janitor working at M.I.T. who is living with an attachment disorder stemming from childhood abuse. Robin Williams, who plays Damon's therapist that helps him cope with his ailment, serves as a theme for the entire week.

"[Williams] played a big part in mental health and trying to de-stigmatize it," Zuniga said. "We want to honor that."

On Tuesday small sheets of paper will be available to people who want to write words of affirmation and post them throughout Jamrich to give people a quick tidbit of encouragement on people's way to class.

A study done in 2013 at Lake Superior State University found that coloring pre-drawn patterns can significantly reduce a college student's stress and anxiety levels, according to the Science and Education Publishing website, which is why Active Minds will be handing out coloring sheets and little packets of crayons in Jamrich on Wednesday.

"It's a simple thing we can

do. Sitting between classes, maybe between exams even, that can help a lot," Zuniga said.

The NMU Counseling Center will be presenting about the services they offer and how their office can help in any type of situation at 6 p.m. Thursday in 2317 Jamrich.

On Friday Active Minds will set up a station to paint worry stones, which can help relieve anxiety. These rocks have an oval indentation that is calming when rubbed.

Zuniga said he thinks this year's Stress Less Week won't necessarily be better than last year's, but promises it will be different because they are focusing on making people happy, even if just for a moment.

"It's literally finding the little things we can do to help people de-stress throughout the day," Zuniga said.

For more information, check out NMU Active Minds on Facebook or attend their weekly meetings at 5 p.m. on Mondays in 2309 Jamrich.



Photo courtesy of Active Minds

Non-profit organization Active Minds holds events to benefit the mental health of students. One way they do so is by bringing service dogs into the library for students to pet. The group will host "Stress Less Week" next week to raise awareness of mental health within the student body.

Contemplating the climate change crisis

By Kayla Bell
contributing writer

"Surviving the Anthropocene," the latest exhibit at the DeVos Art Museum, details all the ways humankind's fate on this planet is linked with the natural world, and vice versa. The exhibit features paintings, sculptures, photographs and other works from all over the world, taken from the museum's permanent collection.

In the current, highly-politicized world of climate change debate, it's natural that the tone of the exhibit be urgent. Right away the word

"Anthropocene," referring to the era of human inhabitation on this planet as a whole, asks the viewer to radically alter their usual perception of time and history in order to better understand what is at stake.

A major work in the exhibit is a mystical installation called the Tent of Casually Observed Phenologies. In the tent, giving tarot readings is Brooklyn-based artist James Leonard. Outside is a sign that describes it as "a portable sacred space for contemplating the impacts of climate change and correlated

environmental crises." It is an installation that unites many traditions and areas of the artist's interest, including the way divination can be seen as ancient precedent to art and poetry, different cultures' methods of prediction and all the ways practicing it in modern times can connect the disconnected present with a more earth-aware tradition.

In almost a moment of hopelessness, Leonard started searching for fortune tellers to help him understand his future. As he listened, he allowed their divining to change him and

started to take workshops and apply the readings to something he cared a lot about, climate change.

"Tarot felt like the one system I could open up more widely. There was also a level of familiarity, most people have some associations to tarot already even if it's on the margins of the culture," Leonard said.

The way Leonard uses the tarot to explore the issue of climate change is innovative in a cultural landscape in which it is discussed endlessly using the same numbers and figures. It is also a novel approach in its

interactivity: by inviting people into the tent with their own specific concerns about the environment, people are able to bridge the gap between their own notions about climate change and Leonard's unique perspective.

"This is helping me understand imagination as something that I think we should be esteeming as one of our sacred capacities. The importance of imagination in terms of problem solving, empathy, taking data or knowledge and turning it into meaning that we can navigate," Leonard said.

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Vandament lit by Waka Flocka's flame

By Andy Ridolphi

contributing writer

In the middle of a high-energy, sweat-covered crowd of young adults is where Waka Flocka Flame comes to life. At 8 p.m. Thursday, March 23, Northern Arts & Entertainment brought Waka to the stage of the Vandament Arena.

The opening act, Milwaukee hip-hop artist Mike Regal, started off with a high-energy performance that got the Vandament hopping. Regal and a few of his team members danced around the stage and ended by thanking the crowd for their energy.

Performing songs off Regal's new album, "Premonitions," the rapper played his laid-back tracks like "One Way" and "Keep Smoking" which the crowd received well. Regal's stage presence was hype for an up-and-coming artist. He had everyone chanting "Waka Flocka" as they waited for the renowned rapper to take the stage.

Waka hit the ground running. He sprinted out from behind the gym doors and up onto the stage screaming as the bass shook the floor behind his microphone. He came right to the front of the stage, towering over the crowd with his 6 foot 4 inch build. He scanned the group, his dreads falling behind his head and shoulders like a lion's mane. The audience's hands reached out in attempts to touch his tattoo covered skin.

The beat dropped and Waka jumped around yelling a few words here and there on top of his pre recorded tracks. Chants of "Brick Squad," his record label, were yelled back and forth between Waka and the crowd throughout his set.

Waka rapped over his songs, yelling every few words with wild enthusiasm. His voice roared through the microphone. The veins in his neck pulsed as he rapped along to a set list with songs ranging from his debut al-



bum "Flockaveli" in 2010 to his more recent work.

A mixture of his old trap anthems like "Hard in the Paint" and "O Let's Do It" still hold the mean energy and attitude they did as when they came out nearly a decade ago. He also performed his more recent singles "Slippin" and "Workin" that hit hard and with a more aggressive vibe taking the crowd back to his trap roots.

His set also infused his new EDM sort of style into the show. Waka hit the stage with more dance and turn-up music rather than his traditional drug dealing and hustling rap for part of the show.

The self-proclaimed "Turn Up God" was in his zone Thursday evening. The rapper who claimed to be "someone who can't rap, making money off rapping" is not noted for his lyrical abilities, but more adored for his loud, brash, unapologetic persona that jumps through the speakers and literally off the stage.

Midway through the performance Waka said, "I just want to party with y'all," before jumping into the throng of people and making his way to the back and front of the crowd shaking hands, jumping up and down and moshing, all while still rapping to the beat. His face held a huge smile as he yelled every few words of his lyrics as fans' hands reached out in attempt to touch the rapper.

The word "emcee" in the hip-hop world has an original meaning of Master of Ceremonies, and in that sense, Waka Flocka is a true emcee. Waka controlled the crowd as a conductor instructs an orchestra.

Besides a few fights here and there amongst concertgoers, the

crowd was very involved in the show. Waka was playful but respectful to the security at the show, even putting on a security guard's hat during his performance. He also thanked the police and the security that attended the event to make sure it was a safe environment to have fun.

"He [Waka] can come back and party with us anytime," Jake Polich, a freshman construction management major said after the show concluded.

Energy ran high even as the concert came to an end; everyone was hopeful Waka would come back out for an encore. The crowd slowly dispersed as friends regrouped after the controlled chaos subsided.

"Most lit concert I've been to up here [Upper Michigan]," said Derrick Granger, a Marquette resident who attended the concert with his fiancée.

Waka Flocka Flame left Marquette and NMU wanting more after a wild and exhilarating Thursday night at the Vandament. He fed off the crowd's energy, and vice versa.

The show wasn't an exhibit of musical talent, but it made for a great performance and night regardless. He ended the show teasing the audience he'd see them at the after party at the 906 Sports Bar and Grill.

Although Waka never appeared at the bar, the night was kept alive with a great atmosphere and lively performances by Mic Kellogg and Mike Regal. They kept the 906 bouncing until bar close.



Lauren Bichler/NW

Northern Arts & Entertainment brought New York rapper Waka Flocka Flame to NMU last Thursday to perform at the Vandament Arena.



Lauren Bichler/NW

NMU students and community members crowded the Vandament to see Waka Flocka Flame.



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Lacrosse losing streak snapped

By Trevor Drew

opinion editor

The Northern Michigan Women's Lacrosse Team snapped a 5-game losing streak with 22-10 victory over the Notre Dame Ohio Falcons in their second-to-last match before conference play.

Head coach Emelia Ward said that the win boosted the team's confidence which is especially good due to the start of conference getting closer and overall will help the inaugural squad's confidence.

"With a young program you're always going to kind of go through bumps in the road. For us as a coaching staff we kind of knew that this is going to be how the season went," Ward said. "For players it can be very frustrating especially for players who have had success coming out of high school or someone like Shelby who had a lot of success individually at her former program."

Sophomore attacker Shelby Klotz kicked off scoring for NMU and netted one within the first minute of play in the first half. Klotz would go on to score five more in the first frame and close out the second with three more, chalking up nine total. Klotz's nine-goal effort is the most posted by a Wildcat in a single during their inaugural season.

"We all realized that it's time to get back into it, we needed to get our heads back into it and this game really helped a lot," Klotz said. "We all had a positive attitude and we ended up working prob-



Neil Flavin/NW

Senior attacker Blair Osgood grabs the ball and carries it down the field at the Superior Dome during the Feb. 18 game against Northland College.

ably the best we have so far and getting the win."

By the 14:29 mark of the first half, the Wildcats hammered out an 11-2 advantage over the Falcons and closed out the half still nine points over their opponent 14-5.

Northern Michigan took four of the second half's first five goals even furthering themselves from the Falcons 18-6. Klotz capped off all scoring for the match when she found the back of the net twice in the final six minutes. The

game ended 22-10.

Senior attacker Blair Osgood (4g-1a), senior midfielder Savannah Stuch (4g) and freshman attacker Jordan Hanner (2g) also had multi-point outings while junior goalkeeper Brianna Bangle made four saves.

The team now prepares for their rematch against the Concordia St. Paul Golden Bears this Friday and their first conference game against the Mckendree University Bearcats Sunday, both games on the road.

The last time Northern squared off against Concordia, The Golden Bears toppled the Wildcats 14-8 at the Superior Dome.

"It'll be great to get a rematch against them, they're another first-year program so it's always nice to see where you match up," said Ward. "The game here at home, we had a couple kids kind of banged up so we didn't play them at 100 percent. We are going in much healthier this game so I think

[Notre Dame] are going to see a different team on Friday."

Based on their recent performances in games and in practices, Klotz said that she feels the team is ready to move forward in the season and to kick off conference play on the right foot.

"It seems that everybody's frustration and everything was gone. We were all working together. We had good attitudes, we're ready and we're excited for conference play," Klotz said.

Golf teams compete in Kentucky invitationals



Photo courtesy of NMU Athletics

Junior golfer Haley Hewer putts the golf ball on the green at Greywalls at the Marquette Golf Club.

By Ryan Spitzza

contributing writer

The Northern Michigan Men's Golf Team began its spring season with a fifth place finish at the GLIAC Spring Invitational at the University Golf Club in Lexington, Kentucky last Monday and Tuesday. The Wildcats shot a 600 over two rounds to take a fifth place tie with Findlay. Sophomore Martin Eliasson led the way for the Wildcats finishing in a tie for nineteenth place out of 72 players that competed. Eliasson shot a two-round total of 149 to hit five over par. Senior Dustin Dishaw was the next-best finisher for the Wildcats in twenty-seventh place followed by sophomores Owen Bayer, Logan Haight, junior Austin Elsner and freshman Chris Black.

57 miles north in Perry Park, Kentucky, the women's team also took fifth place out of 18 teams in its second spring tournament of the season at Perry

Park Country Club last Saturday and Sunday. The Wildcats shot a three-round 949 as a team while freshman Caro Els led NMU finishing in a three-way tie for fifth place shooting a three-round 226 for ten over par. Junior Haley Hewer was next in twenty-fourth place followed by sophomore Karissa Guthrie, junior Avery Rochester and sophomores Alyce Krumm and Baylee Dunmire.

Up next for the Wildcat men is the Great Lakes Midwest Regional IV held April 9-10 in Noblesville, Indiana. At last year's event, the Wildcats took seventh place out of 30 teams competing shooting a two-round total of 611. The women are right back at it this weekend when the team travels to Blacklick, Ohio for the NC4K College Classic April 2-3. As a first-year program the Wildcats took seventeenth place out of 19 teams at this event last year shooting a two-round total of 723.

SPORTS BRIEFS



FOOTBALL

Northern Michigan head coach Kyle Nystrom unveiled the football team's 2017 schedule Wednesday afternoon.

The slate includes 10 games, including four at the Superior Dome. The Wildcats will travel to two teams, Ferris State and Grand Valley State, that qualified for the 2016 NCAA Division II playoffs.

"It's a challenging schedule because of the power of our conference," Nystrom said. "The quality of football in the GLIAC will make every weekend a battle. Ferris State, Grand Valley State and Ashland are all on our schedule, and they're all playoff-quality teams year in and year out. For us, it's about taking it game by game. Every week is going to be about preparing and then executing to win the game."

Northern Michigan's opponents went a combined 71-43 in 2016. Seven of the 10 teams finished at or above .500, with four scoring at least eight victories. In the NCAA playoffs, the Bulldogs advanced to the semifinals while the Lakers reached the quarterfinals.

NORDIC SKIING

Northern Michigan's Adam Martin was the first collegian to cross the line in the skiathlon at the U.S. Distance Championships late last night at Birch Hill Recreation Area.

Martin placed fifth in an elite field of nearly 50, completing the men's 11.25 kilometer course in 1:00:6.5. He finished the classic section in 30:34.1 and the freestyle portion in 28:58.1.

In the women's 7.5 kilometer race, Vivian Hett (18th, 48:10.9) and Kristen Bourne (19th, 48:33.8) raced to top-20 finishes.

Northern Michigan alumni Caitlin (Compton) Gregg and Rosie Frankowski cracked the top 10, taking eighth (45:47.5) and 10th (46:00.6) respectively.

The Wildcats continue to compete at the U.S. Distance Championships on Wednesday.

HOCKEY

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

Wildcat fans can vote for Maschmeyer by visiting the Senior CLASS Award® website.

compiled from press releases

Track & Field begins outdoor season

By Nate Bellville

contributing writer

The Northern Michigan University Women's Track and Field squad is moving outside and beginning the outdoor track season. The Wildcats competed over the weekend in Raleigh, North Carolina in the Raleigh Relays. Hosted by North Carolina State University the meet was one of the biggest track and field invitational on the East Coast.

Five Wildcats medaled in their respective events; three of them would go on to be medaled in the top 10. Seniors Samantha Johnson and Jasmine Williams finished ninth and 10th in Friday's discus throw event, while junior Ine Mylle also placed ninth in Saturday's triple jump event.

Mylle said she was motivated to make the finals in her event in the invite.

"Beforehand, I told myself that I would make finals, and I did by finishing seventh to make the finals," Mylle said.

In addition to her teammates' top 10 performances, sophomore Shayla Huebner and senior Avadon James each placed inside the top 20. Huebner placed 15th in

the 400-meter dash with a time of 56.17, while James finished 14th in the 200-meter dash clocking in at 25.7 seconds.

Head coach Jenny Ryan was pleased that a few athletes took home honors during the event.

"The team competed well, even though it was a smaller group because the meet was at such a high level," Ryan said. "I think we had three of them hit their NCAA provisional marks and two of them got top 10 honors. Overall, all six had good results there."

During the winter, the team had a successful season indoors as well. In all of their meets during that span, the Wildcats finished in the top ten or better. Despite a couple events not keeping score, NMU won their only home meet of the season at the Northern Challenge at the Superior Dome.

NMU's full track and field team is expected to be ready in time as they continue their season on the road.

One person who was eager to come back onto the team is junior Jessica Kushner, who missed all of last season due to injuries.

"It's gonna be exciting, since it's been a while since I've thrown

javelin," Kushner said.

Kushner added that warmer weather coming in the spring will help her get used to helping her compete well her events.

"Honestly with the weather and overall surfaces, I see this as being a good transition," Kushner said. "It'll be a nice early spring season especially for the outside track events."

Ryan said that the meet should be better especially with having the weather cooperating and having to compete as a full team.

"It'll be a good start to see us as a whole team compete outdoors and such," Ryan said. "It looks like it's suppose to have great weather, but where at times it could get cold and windy as well."

Ryan also mentioned that the transition has gone smoothly based on the events from being in an arena to an outdoor setting.

"It's always interesting," Ryan said. "There are also some events that are competed outside that we haven't competed inside, so we get to see how we are doing within those areas."

They will compete at the Viking Olympics from March 31 through April 1 in Rock Island, Illinois.

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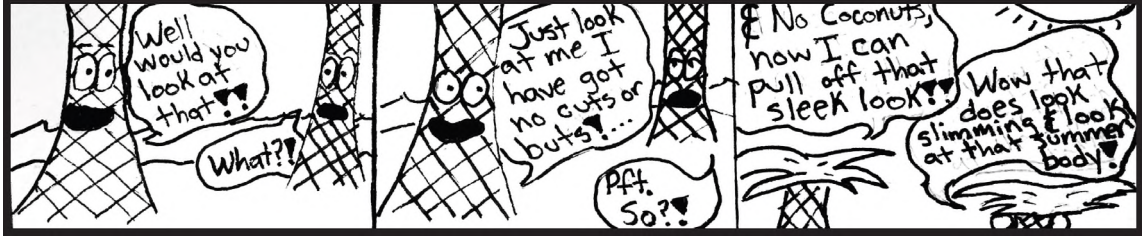


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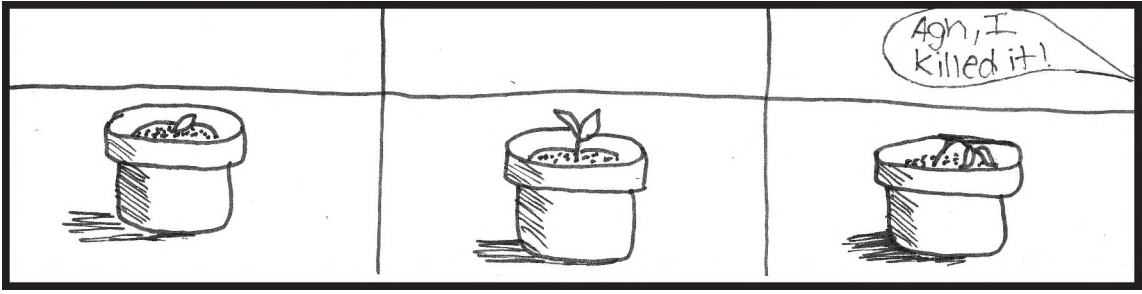
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APRILFOOLS

THAT SUMMER BODY! — Garrett B. Flores



DON'T HAVE A GREEN THUMB — Emmalene Oysti



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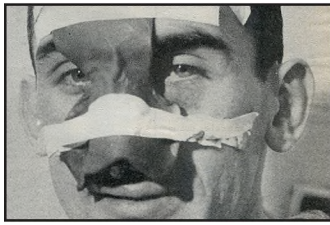
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SCHWEDDY BALLS

A new hockey coach is here to replace Salty Mile. You'll never guess who it is...

▶ See PAGE 7C



ALTERNATIVE FACTS

Splendabread Ridge will be home to SMU's new roller coaster.

▶ See PAGE 2C



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Lithe O'Graffe/SB

The new dorms will feature mannequins in place of human students because the enrollment at SMU is so dang low, there aren't enough students.

New neighbors in town

Due to low enrollment SMU to fill dorm beds with mannequins

By Lady Bo\$\$

chief editor in the land

The owner of an abandoned mall made bank last week when officials from Southern Michigan University bought out his supply of old mannequins to be used as fillers for the new dorm beds.

"The Landfill," set to open at the turn-of-the-century will feature 1000 new beds for the students of SMU. But with enrollment declining faster than the administration can track, drastic measures were taken to make sure beds didn't sit empty.

"We had to do something to make it appear as if we weren't going to be paying for all this construction, only to have it be obvious we don't have the students to support it... like seriously, drastic times call for drastic measures," President Ritz Snackpack said.

The mannequins used to stand tall for shoppers to admire the latest fashion trends, but now those same hollow persons will lay dormant in beds on the newest Target line of 1800 thread count sheets provided by SMU. According to officials only one professor was fired in order to pay for the amenities of soft sheets for the newest Chickens on SMU's campus.

"Amenities are really important to students, human or not,

because really when it comes down to it, being at college is more about the fun stuff than the education," Snackpack said.

Truckloads of lifeless fiberglass students are planned to arrive on campus this summer, only a few days after the human students move out of the old dorms. Over the summer the mannequins will sit propped up in chairs in classrooms of Jamrich Hall wearing wigs and a plethora of Chicken spirit gear in order to appear as if the campus is bustling with activity while prospective students and orientations groups tour the facilities, Snackpack said.

Once the dorms are open to the students the mannequins will be set in place by a special task force of interior designers hired by the president in order to make the new students appear as natural and lifelike in their new homes of the 4x4 dorm rooms.

Without faces, the mannequins might be a bit frightening to incoming freshmen who haven't been around long enough to understand truly how far the university is willing to go to appear better than it really is. To upperclassmen, the newest addition to campus won't be weirder than any other change that has happened over the last several years, Snackpack said.

"It may seem weird but this

is what all the other universities struggling with enrollment are doing, like really everywhere else. We have to keep up with the wolf pack, you see," he said. "It's a tough world out there."

The SMU community hasn't been completely in support of

gineering major Pheven McLovin, who's Twitter handle is @mannequinlover.

"I think it's so great the new dorm beds will be filled by something. I'd hate to see those expensive sheets collect dust," McLovin said. "I love mannequins, they

Amenities are really important to students, human or not, because really being at college is more about the fun stuff than the education.

— Ritz Snackpack
SMU president

the new arrivals on campus. Alumnus Willie Willerson said when he attended SMU in 2015, the empty rooms were great recreational spaces during the super cold winter months.

"Back in my day, we'd break into an empty room and use it for playing so many rounds of Go Fish, man it was insane," Willerson said. "Now, all these students are going to have to play their games of Go Fish in their actual bedrooms. It's just sad."

A big supporter of the lifeless students is senior futuristic en-

are just like people, but without all the talking."

The students should expect that for every five real human neighbors, there will be one mannequin neighbor, Snackpack said.

"Personally, I'm excited to see what these new neighbors will bring to the SMU campus. According to medical research, talking about your problems to inanimate objects masquerading as real humans can really relieve stress," he said. "And we all know how much stress today's college students are under, right?"

SB office to get free food

By Lithe O'Graffe

editorial writer

Starting next semester, SMU's event catering service Subtly Superior will deliver extra food from SMU events to the Southern Blow office.

"We've been seeing too much food go to waste," said Subtly Superior head person Stephen Robbins. "The Southern Blow office is usually just around the corner, and they seem like alright kids. Plus they're like lil' vacuums they'll eat anything."

Robbins explained that there's been an extreme excess of food not being consumed by event-goers, including potato salad, mac and cheese, sandwiches, and way too many brownies. According to current State of Michigan Health Department regulations, food and beverages not consumed during an event catered by Conference and Catering Services cannot be taken off the premises.

"It was kind of sad to see it all being thrown away. Trays of it. Even all the food that people hadn't touched," SMU student and catering employee Sarah Patters said. Patters, an environmental science and sustainability major, was the one who got the ball rolling to see change with the food waste.

"We kept seeing these hungry college kids going in and out of the newspaper office, and they would just stare at the food in the garbage. Their eyes would just kinda glaze over; sometimes we could even hear their stomachs growling. One time I even caught one of them stealing the leftover food from a table we were cleaning up," Patters explained.

A deal was then made between the catering service and the newspaper office. For free Subtly Superior advertising in the paper, the Southern Blow office would gladly take any extra or unwanted food leftover after events.

All Southern Blow editors are looking forward to the influx of nourishment. "We're pretty hungry. And pretty broke. It'll be kinda nice to actually have food to eat again," junior English major and article writer Perry McGraffe said.

Nature pulverized for new SMU attraction

Strategic planning brings new roller coaster to Southern Michigan University campus

By Knowa Homeboy

lowest paid employee

Pull down your safety bar and secure your pocketbook. Feel the wind rush through your hair and turn your flabby cheeks into billowing parachutes of adrenaline and ecstatic screams. Coming soon to a college near you!

Southern Michigan University announced plans Friday for the fall 2017 construction of “Thrillz Mountain,” an \$80 million roller coaster in its newest strategic initiative to increase enrollment.

SMU President Ritz Snack-pack explained the inspiration behind the project.

“We asked ourselves, ‘What do young people want?’ And we all scratched our heads,” he said. “So we put together focus groups of students and asked them what they would like in a university. And they all said the same sort of things—lower tuition, smaller class sizes, passionate professors and jobs when they graduate. So we decided to build a roller coaster instead.”

The ride will consist of 3,790 feet of Swiss steel track, including a 100-foot vertical loop, two inverted corkscrews and a zero-gravity roll for a total of five gut-wrenching inversions. The towering 200-foot roller coaster will be built on the summit of nearby Splendabread Ridge, which itself rises 470 feet above lake level.

After a short scenic hike up Splendabread, 32 riders at a time will be secured by over-the-shoulder restraints and ascend up the chain-driven lift hill to a height of 670 feet, where they’ll overlook a spectacular view of the forest and lakeshore. Then



Lithe O’Graffe/SB

The new roller coaster, “Thrillz Mountain” coming to SMU will raise enrollment because high school students love roller coasters, not passionate professors or college degrees that guarantee jobs after graduation, according to SMU officials.

they’ll plunge for a first drop of 188 feet, at a maximum speed of 60 mph—a total ride time lasting 2 minutes 15 seconds, with positive G-forces guaranteed to make you spill your lunch.

Unfortunately for construction to begin, part of the beloved Splendabread summit will have to be demolished. SMU is currently finalizing the leasing agreement with the city for the property.

“Oh, it’s well worth it,” said Whim Bam-Bams, director of superfluous engineering. “Our

new ‘Mountain’ will be way better. We’ve got to be fearless in the face of nature.”

Freshman procrastination major Joe McThrilled seemed moderately excited about the project. “Coasters are sweet, yo. I like ‘em. Besides, there are worse things the university could be wasting money on.”

But not all university members have been so enthused. A climate of controversy persists.

“[SMU] needs to seriously reevaluate its priorities,” said adjunct professor of lecture

and narcolepsy Les Overitman. “We’re short on classrooms which I don’t know how, considering enrollment is down. I’ve been teaching all semester out of a dumpster. What am I supposed to do with a ride like that? Have class up there? Students won’t be able to hear me or pay attention to my PowerPoints. They’ll be too busy upchucking on their homework.”

Conversely senior underwater basketball major Mia Oso-Disappointed wasn’t pleased it took SMU so long to come up with

the idea. “It’s infuriating,” she said. “I’ll be graduated and gone before the ride even opens. Despicable.”

SMU students will be allotted five rides on the roller coaster per semester as part of their student activity fee, and additional rides can be purchased for \$10 each. Community members can ride for \$12. There will be no minimum age requirement, but passengers must meet the minimum height requirement of 54 inches to ride—and no standing on your tippy toes!

Black Rocks gets a makeover in the name of ecology

By Knowa Homeboy

lowest paid employee

Black Rocks is a great place for a picnic, an icy dip—and now to watch paint dry.

In a grassroots project, volunteers wetted their brushes Saturday to paint Black Rocks black in an effort to restore the geologic formation’s original color, which has become degraded by erosion due to years of foot traffic.

The iconic rocky locale is a popular destination for cliff jumping, weddings and Sunday strolls, but recent pedestrian traffic there has increased as much as 47 percent from average months, in part because of the city’s controversial hammock ban as visitors have enjoyed their hammocks there in protest.

The movement to renovate and restore the location to its former glory began in the hoop house and compost garden of SMU senior floral interpretation major Saffron Breeze during a barefoot game of hacky sack with her fellow free spirits. The topic came to them in a shared vision, she said, and soon the community rallied around the project.

“We felt something off about the aura of Black Rocks,” Breeze explained. “The vibe of the place it just felt tired, downtrodden. The rocks were crying out for help. We knew we had to do something.”

After some debate about what color Black Rocks should be painted—some project members thought a more inclusive color scheme should be embraced—the traditional shade of black with

slight variants of off-black and near-black were chosen by a democratic show of hands.

On the sunny workday last Saturday volunteers also wielded glue guns in order to reattach and secure stones that had become displaced. The whole project was slow-going and meticulous but volunteers never lost their smiles, their faces and hands smeared in paint and glue.

We just felt something off about the aura of Black Rocks.

— Saffron Breeze
senior floral interpretation major

“It was sticky work, but totally worth it,” Breeze said. “When it was over, we were sticky and sweaty and we just wanted to wash off in the water—but no such luck.”

Volunteers were warned by paramedics and frantic SMU administrators not to go in the lake immediately after the project due to safety concerns that the paint used was lead-based. SMU, wishing to improve community out-

reach, had donated the paint for the project.

“We want to keep showing that [SMU] freakin’ loves the environment. I don’t know why folks are always hating on us for that. It’s like, get off our backs already, you know?” SMU Sustainability Manager Leif Malone had said before the lead ingredient was discovered by an inquisitive custodian.

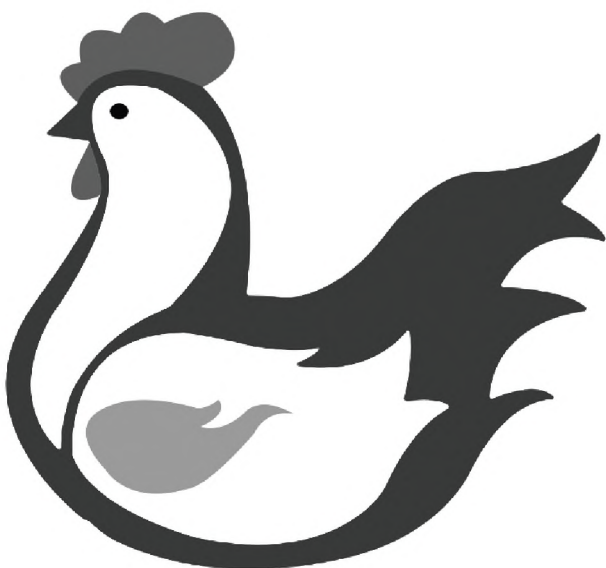
The paint was intended to be “LEED certified” for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a third-party verification system to ensure facilities are built to “green” standards. However, an unidentified SMU employee misread the project plans for the Black Rocks renovation.

“It could happen to anyone,” Malone added. “It just happened to happen to us—again.”

Opinion Briefs

Opinions from the SB staff

- “Gesundheit” is a strange way to respond to a sneeze.
- No one likes people who stick gum under chairs.
- Boxer briefs are the most acceptable form of male underwear.
- Tomatoes are slimy and just a no.
- You shouldn’t be able to own Sperrys unless you’ve sailed a boat.
- Organic deodorant should work.
- There is a special place in Hell for people who steal the last puzzle piece.
- Bic’s pens for women are a stupid idea.
- Don’t trust anyone who claims to love black licorice.
- Pineapple DOES go on pizza.
- Pineapple DOES NOT go on pizza.
- SMU needs a new class registration process.
- Megaphones are frightening and should be avoided unless necessary.
- “Primal Pit Paste” shouldn’t be a deodorant brand name.
- Veggie pasties are the best.
- Cats aren’t cool.
- People who don’t like cats don’t know what they’re talking about.
- Stealing your roommate’s coffee is remarkably uncool.
- Chemistry is such a nerd sport.
- Ohio is the worst state. Hands down.
- Not sure about Wendy’s. Man wasn’t meant to have a square burger.
- I prefer stalls over urinals.
- I was very cool in high school.
- The stairs in Jamrich are too damn high.
- Despite popular belief, Blastoise is the supreme starter Pokémon.
- The North Wind is fake news.



SMU students are the worst



The Thinker

Abuela T

Now, before I get started, let me just say that nobody loves and respects SMU students more than me. Many of my good, good friends are SMU students and they just think I’m the coolest. With that being said, I was horribly shocked, offended and disturbed when I turned on my television set and hundreds of good-for-nothing, hackey-sack hooligans were scurrying around Al Roker.

What kind of sicko would put these kinds of people on TV? Did you know those hippies eat dirt? I’ve seen it with my bare eyes, some barefoot, long-haired fella just kneeled down right in front of me, scooped up some earth and popped it into his mouth like a jawbreaker then popped back on his longboard and carried on like it

For a long time coming, I’ve stood idly by, minded my own business, sprayed the occasional student with the garden hose but I can’t just sit and do nothing any longer!

was nothing.

For a long time coming, I’ve stood idly by, minded my own business, sprayed the occasional student with the garden hose but I can’t just sit and do nothing any longer! Those hooligans must be stopped or else we will all be doomed to growing man-buns, hammocking and playing frisbee sports for the rest of forever.

The typical SMU student is a liar and a thief and should never be trusted. I say we as a town unite to put an end to the students of SMU once and for all with a trap. A trap so brilliantly conniving those Choco-wearing freaks won’t know what hit ’em.

We close off lower harbor

for a “Bop-bop-do-op Bash” and tell those Nalgene water bottle bozos that all SMU students that Waka Mocka Train, er was it Naka Blocka Flame? I don’t know the guy’s name but anyway, we tell them he’s going to be down there and they will flock. Flock like the mindless sheep they are and we will have them in our clutches! Once they realize the Maka Locka James isn’t at the Bop-bop-do-op Bash; we assure them that Mr. James just left but there is a bus around that will take them to the Maraca Croca Name concert. Once those dummies are on the bus, we send them to the only place that welcomes polite, wilderness loving sickos like that Canada.

Only drink decaf in Styrofoam

The benefits of Styrofoam and the dangers of coffee



Coffee Snob

Dino Mom

When I crave a genuine cup of coffee, I most certainly pray it arrives in the form of lukewarm, decaf and more specifically in a Styrofoam cup. Forget pour-overs, mass batches with pre-ground beans and artificial flavors are the stem of all happiness.

To break it down, caffeine is for fiends. College students in particular are under this erroneous impression that we somehow need this stimulant to meet homework deadlines, wake up on time for work or to pretend that sleep isn’t necessary. The truth is everyone at SMU gets way too much sleep and would be way more chipper without the strange, legal drug.

Paper cups are so aesthetic, if you’re a millennial hipster that is. Most paper cups actually do take more energy to create, but chemically-engineered polystyrene structures make my mouth water imagining all of the free coffee booths with really clumpy sugar and plastic stir sticks. Naturally the regular runs out quicker than decaf, so you’ll

be in great condition to get a prime cup.

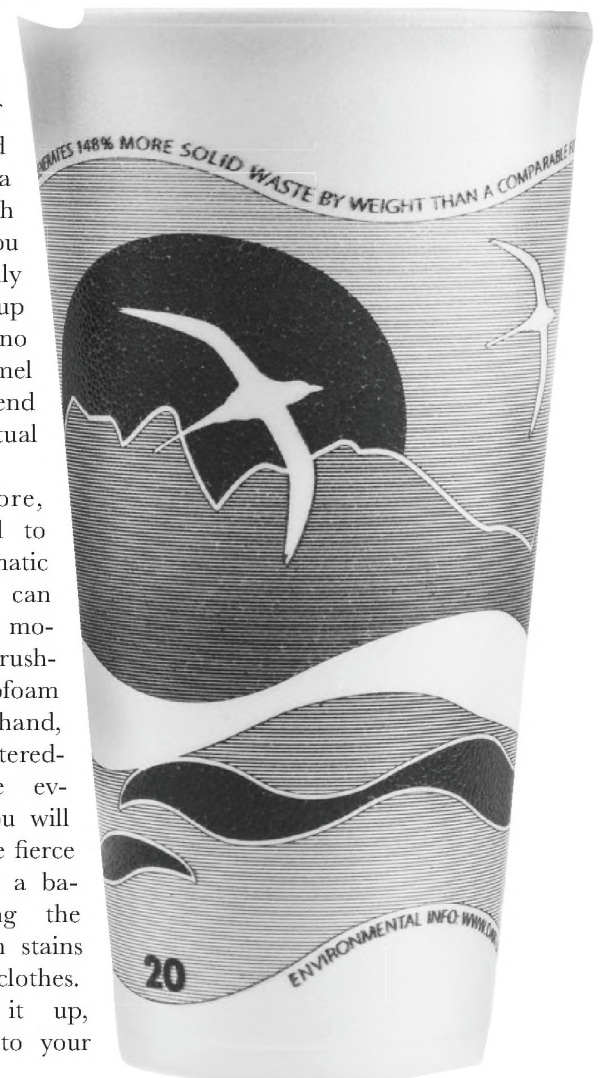
The only downside to the Styrofoam is that it insulates better than the average paper cup, and therefore your coffee might stay warmer to

dissolve your sugar clumps easier. If you wanted diabetes in a cup though anyway, you should’ve really just picked up a frappuccino with caramel glaze to pretend you’re an actual coffee snob.

Furthermore, if you need to make a dramatic point, you can have a Hulk moment by crushing the Styrofoam cup in your hand, splashing watered-down coffee everywhere. You will look far more fierce and feel like a badass donning the earthy brown stains all over your clothes.

To sum it up, don’t listen to your

barista. Espresso is depresso. Decaf in Styrofoam cups will ultimately make for the best possible content for an Instagram post for serious follower and life gains.



Public safety takes initiative to reduce ninja attacks

by

A. Snowflake / chief keef to be

In accordance with state guidelines, Southern Michigan University's Public Safety has been assessing the girthiness of every bush growing on campus in order to keep students safe from rogue ninjas often found living behind shrub-beries nationwide.

If a bush is found to be large enough for a ninja sized human to hide behind, the state determined that it must be removed for the peace of mind of the public institution.

"It really looks much better this way too," Head of Campus Security Clark Kent said, gesturing toward an expanse of bare, overturned soil outside of his office window. "This town is surrounded by too much nature, it's exhausting."

These state guidelines have proven to be relevant on SMU's campus as bushes have grown dangerously close to the maximum allowed girth, drawing a colony of ninjas into town.

"I swear I saw one the other night," Kent said. "A mysterious figure stand-

ing in the shadows was staring at a bush, waiting for the chance to move in."

While some welcome the removal of these bushes and enjoy the safety of a bush free campus, others contest the guidelines. Students protested around the bushes of East Hall Saturday chanting "save the bush" and "southern naturally" while brandishing signs.

Senior environmental studies major Ziggy Flowerchild made her voice heard by chaining herself to a bush.

"I like my bushes girthy," Flowerchild said.

She explained that she wanted to set a precedent for SMU students by protecting nature and welcoming people from all walks in life, including ninjas who live behind bushes.

"SMU is about acceptance. We like our bushes, we live to be one with nature and one with our fellow humans," Flowerchild said. "You know what I mean, man? Our slogan might be 'cautious brains' now, but I still stand behind 'southern naturally' all the way."

**"I LIKE
MY BUSHES
GIRTHY"**

**BEWARE
THE**



THE OF GIRTHY BUSHIES



Potato-heads mash out new SMU territory

New campus club features starchy spud samplings and carb carnivals

By Trintitti Scarey

creature of the night

The chicken or the egg? To be or not to be? Some of life's most puzzling questions, indeed. Here's another one for you: ketchup or gravy?

A surprising amount of SMU students are now gathering together to debate over which pairs better with potatoes and discuss their admiration for the starchy vegetable. The latest campus group, The Mashed Potatoes Enthusiasts of SMU, gather weekly and they do so while enjoying a plethora of potatoes.

Each of the 23 members currently affiliated with the club bring a new type of mashed potato for everyone to sample at their weekly meetings. Recipes have included "Mac and Cheese mashed potatoes," "Airplane Assorted Nut Mix mashed potatoes," "Poutine mashed potatoes" and club favorites that keep returning like "Dino-Egg Oatmeal" and "Leftover Halloween Candy from 2014" mashed potatoes.

The potato-heads are currently working hard toward making "starch life" a thing on campus by planning events to raise mashed potato awareness, some-



Lithe O'Graffe/NW

The "Leftover Halloween Candy from 2014" mashed potatoes (pictured above) was a certain crowd pleaser at the recent Mashed Potatoes Enthusiasts meeting. "I'm vegan," freshman Delilah Aurora added.

thing crucial to a happy student body, said Spudtator [potato club president] Tater Jackson, a senior business major.

The enthusiasts have begun

a petition to rename Spooner Hall, where they have been holding meetings for over two months, to "Sporker Hall," because what's the best way to

enjoy your mashed potatoes? "Why with a spork, of course," Jackson said.

The group has also planned a festival similar to that engineer-

ing school up North's Winter Carnival for SMU next year. Students and club members will gather to play mopball, build intricate mashed potato sculptures around campus and crown the SMU potato princess.

"I think having this carnival will instill potato culture within SMU forever," Jackson said.

Their mashed potato advocacy has not gone unnoticed around campus. More and more students are becoming a member of the club each week and SMU Dining is now offering a mashed potato alternative that is made without dairy for vegan students and potato enthusiasts.

Freshman environmental studies and sustainability major Delilah Aurora is excited that campus is trying to accommodate for mashed potato lovers and other populations of the student body.

"I'm vegan," Aurora said.

The group hopes bringing new events to student life will help to draw more students to their weekly meetings.

"We hope people will attend our events and be as excited about 'starch life' as we are," Jackson said. "Maybe one day we will have enough members that we could start a fraternity, like Alpha Epsilon Potato."

Fizbeth ventures on a SubLIME sexcapade!

By Fizbeth Falseplasm

lil' Mike Wilson destroyer

Sexual exploits leaving a bad taste in your mouth? I know I cannot be the only college student who has suffered from this phenomenon since turning 18, but I was able to find a most elegant solution: just as Marie Antoinette said, "Let them eat cake," I said to myself, "Well, let it at least taste like candy, anyway."

It was with this goal in mind that I set off to Southern Titillations, the premier shop for all of Southern Michigan University's after-dark (or between classes, if you're into that) needs.

Upon entering the store, I immediately got the impression that I was exactly where I needed to be. There were toys on the wall that were breathtaking in their anatomical correctness, and in the center of the shop there was a lovely circa-1989 mannequin, sporting a hot pink wig and a shiny faux-leather corset. This struck me as a good omen.

The products I was after were

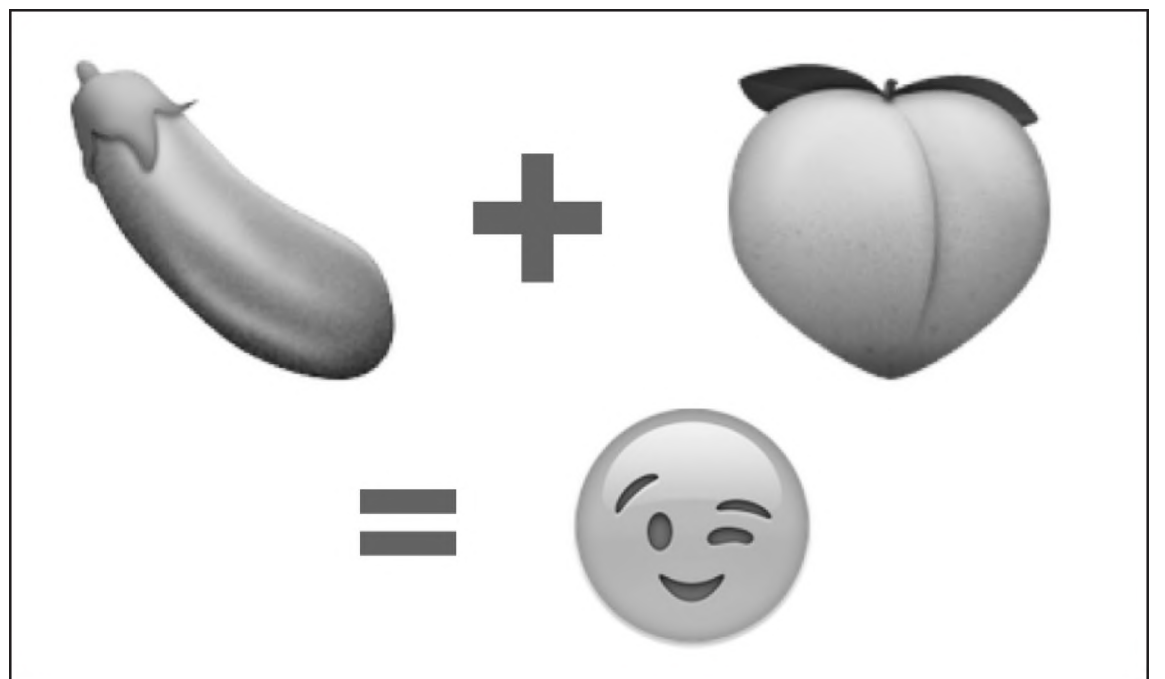
immediately adjacent to the mannequin (I learned from the clerk that she was their mascot, affectionately dubbed "Patty the Pleaser"), and I was astounded.

There were so many choices. Even in my wildest dreams I never would have expected Southern Titillations to provide the way they did.

A rainbow of bottles, from refined to gaudy, would have set any pleasure-seeker's mind spinning. I made my way to the flavored end, and while I was disappointed in the general gaudiness of the packaging (I was hoping for something with a bit more class), I could not fail Southern Titillations in the sheer amount of choices.

There were flavors from mocha to peach and everything in between. They came in single bottles, for beginners like me, all the way up to 24-packs for true connoisseurs. I settled on a tropical variety, "SubLIME Assistance" (key lime pie flavored), and went on my merry way.

Now for the real test upon reading the instructions on the



label I can absolutely say that this product does what it promises and then some.

Though I wish there had been more warnings about the adverse effect "SubLIME Assistance" could have on one's linens (the label did not, for example, indicate that it would stain red silk or pink polyester fur I learned

that the hard way) it got the job done.

In addition to using it as the manufacturer intended, I now also have an excellent sugar-and-water-based gel to rim daiquiri glasses at my next cocktail party. Truly the best of both worlds.

I really must say that I am impressed with what Southern Tit-

illations has to offer; I got to have my candy and eat it too. I would recommend "SubLIME Assistance" to anyone who wishes to sweeten their experience a bit, and I plan to return to Southern Titillations very soon, perhaps to peruse some of the more anatomically correct products they have to offer.

Misadventures in sportsball: The final one

By Lithe O'Graffe
editorial writer

Against all my wishes, I have been dragged to another sportsball game. Apparently it's the game of the year, meaning the be-all and end-all sportsball episode of the season. Whatever that means, man. I'm pretty sure that these guys will just play again next week.

The culprits of the dragging are none other than my boyfriend's family, whom I thought I could trust. Apparently I also missed their memo to dress up in intensely saturated colors and to paint my face with acrylic black stripes. I feel just a little out-of-place in my usual jeans and

hoodie. They look ridiculous, so it's not exactly my loss.

I glance toward the boyfriend for help, but he is also in 100 percent jersey-wearin' mode.

Once more I hope I am not singled out by the rest of the crowd, adopted boyfriend family included, by knowing literally nothing about this sportsball game. We venture to our seats oh neat, front row... Wait, isn't this the splash zone?

Gross. I realize that this is the closest I have ever been to the sportsball troupe of players. Lights flash and sounds boom in the arena, echoing off the walls and directly into my ears. I grimace, remembering the sudden jolts of sound from ancient sportsball games of the past.

Players hulk by past our seats, jersey-clad and testosterone-filled. Is this where the game begins? I can never seem to remember. It usually starts when the lights go down or the curtain goes up, right?

Announcements that sound way too happy for what they are pierce the sounds of people talking and background pop music playing. Then, the pre-recorded music of our country fills the air and all the good-natured 'Muricans quiet down and stare at the cloth representation of our nation. I begrudgingly stand up and join them. The music finishes, and clapping immediately ensues. Play-

ball? Play sports...ball?

Immediately troupe men slam into each other, zooming after the puckball. A mass of muscled guys come racing toward my seat at deadly speeds. I reel back in my beer-scented seat and flinch, absolutely waiting for my death. A quiet scream escapes my mouth as the puckball hits an unseen pane of thick glass in front of me, followed by a parade of sweaty bodies. I watch in amazement as the players zoom off as if they didn't just die from impact.

Laughter ensues from the boyfriend's family, directed at me and my scream of fear. I stare blankly at them, the people who have betrayed me. A pat on the back comes from the boyfriend, and I frown at him. I could've died.

All the noise blurs into an audible white noise in my head as I zone out, my eyes settling on a rogue smear of saliva left on the glass where a misfortunate player slammed his helmet-clad head. Happy announcements and music suddenly ring over the audience, and they all gleefully cheer in response. Something happened, I just know it.

Everyone is suddenly on their feet, standing. Can I not? I have to climb the multi-level stairs of Jamrich every day, twice a day. Like I get it, woo, we're excited, but c'mon.

Against all my wishes I am yanked up into the air by the jersey-clad boyfriend; he is yelling excitedly about winning.

I glance to the field court, and sure enough the players are engaging in a muscled and sweaty circle time, victory grunts abundant. The lights go dim and people stream out of the arena.

I ask the boyfriend's family to feed me pizza and wave goodbye to my final game of sportsball.

By Stanmarie
sports skank

Less than a month after former Southern Michigan University hockey coach Salty Mile was fired for the team not winning a single game, the athletic department has announced the new hockey coach: Gordie Howe.

SMU athletic director Woodland Vehicle said Howe signed a 40-year contract with the university directly after they raised him from the dead.

"We're very excited to have Howe joining us," Vehicle said. "We spared no cost to bring the greatest hockey player to SMU's coaching staff."

In the last year since Howe's death the SMU biology department has teamed up with the engineering department and have worked tirelessly to create the science to bring Howe to life.

The grounds crew was sent to Howe's resting place and dug up his body, while the engineering were waiting and ready to take him to the robotics lab to start the process replacing his organs with machines.

Senior biomedical engineering major, Algernop Krieger, is us-

ing the Howe Project as his senior design project and said he's very happy with the results of the experiment so far.

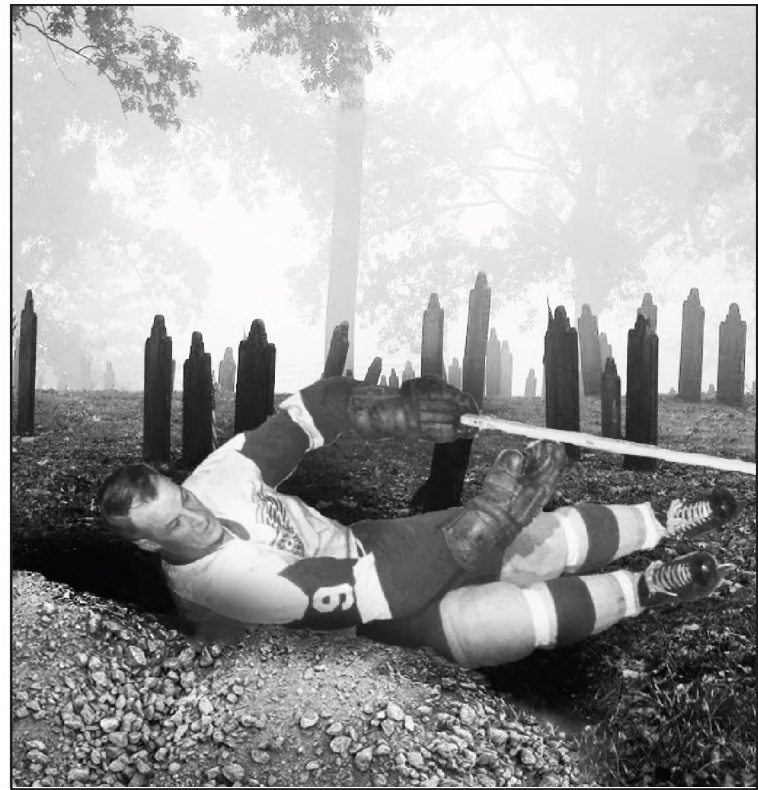
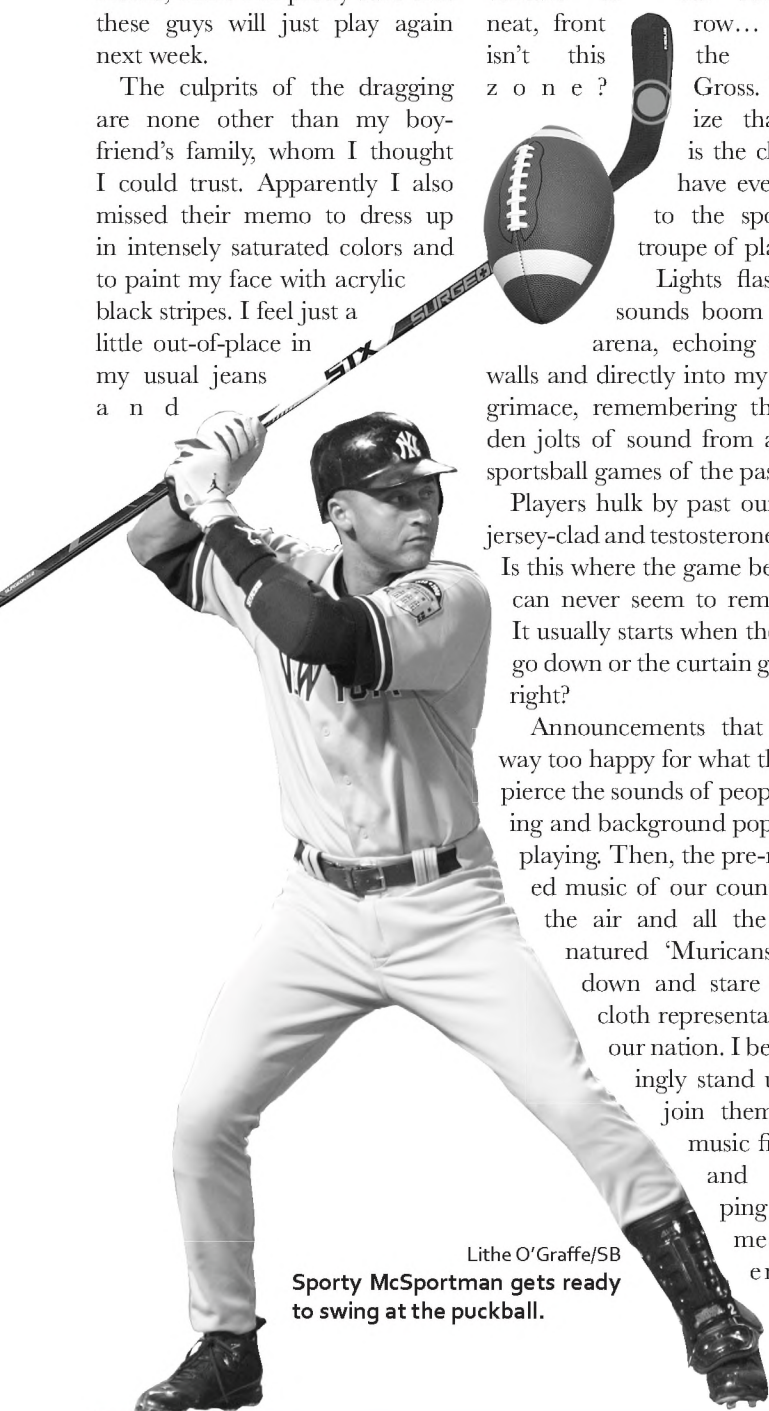
"In school you don't usually get the opportunity to work so hands on a project," Krieger said. "Plus building a working robot penis was challenging and pleasurable."

Vehicle said the project totaled about \$1.5 billion dollars, but added that they expect an exponential increase in crowds at the games with the addition of Howe.

"With a huge name like Gordie Howe on our side, it's basically impossible to not have sold out games," Vehicle said. "This is all a part of a plan to bring well known people to our coaching staffs to increase word of mouth about the university."

He said the next step for SMU will be bribe public officials to release Orenthal J. Simpson from prison so he can serve as the football coach for the 2017-2018 season.

When asked about his plans for the team for the upcoming season his only response was, "Gar larb rarr mawwr rrr." It seems the vocals from Howe still need to be worked out.



Dino Mom/SB

Actual photo of new SMU hockey head coach being exhumed.

Athletic board creates, implements new sport

By Abuela T
the thinker

Southern Michigan University Athletic Director Woodland Vehicle announced Friday that the SMU Board of Trustees unanimously voted to add an intercollegiate Spoopball team which will be implemented fall of 2017.

Spoopball, a game entirely invented by the board, is a combination of the world's most "honorable sports" according to Vehicle and is intended to

increase attendance as well as revitalize overall school spirit.

"Well, we started with just football and hockey but as we got cooking we added elements of games like red rover, hopscotch, shuffleboard, four square, dominos, cops and robbers and finally hide-and-seek," Vehicle said. "Since, at the moment, we are the only spoopball program in the world, we are hoping an elite-class team will really bring in a big crowd so we can finally start selling all

these stupid t-shirts."

Vehicle also added that while the rules are a bit overwhelming at first, he is confident that they will become second-nature to students and community members.

Spoopball is played on an ice rink similar to hockey. But unlike hockey, players are to crawl on the ice, bear style and use specialized helmets known as "flonkboppers" to guide the spoopball-ball into the opposing team's trombus. Players

may fling hamburger meat at the ball carrier to get him out and send him to "the bad place" which is essentially a penalty box where they will remain until Vehicle calls "jail-break." Once jail-break is called players will be given 30 seconds to form a human pyramid while singing "Tracks of my Tears" by Smokey Robinson, the official spoopball anthem, according to Vehicle.

"I don't know where we got the hamburger meat part but

that's the sort of thing that happens when a group of people open up, band together and create a masterpiece," Vehicle said. "Do you think everyone was stoked on baseball when it was first invented? Mark my words, give it a year or two, children all across the nation will be collecting spoopball cards and begging their parents for their very own spoopball-ball and trombus so they can be a part of the legendary SMU spoopballers."



SOUTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

