

WHITE PINE PRESS

We hew to the line; let the chips fall where they may.



#LoveTrumpsHate Rally Photo Essay pgs 6&7



NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
WHITE PINE PRESS

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NMC Calendar

Fall Semester 2016

Thanksgiving Holiday — No Classes
Wednesday, November 23 from 5 p.m. through Sunday, November 27
Semester Ends — Saturday, December 17
Grades Entered by 11 a.m. — Wednesday, December 21
Christmas Holiday — Friday–Monday, December 23–26
New Year’s Holiday — Friday, December 30 at Noon
through Monday, January 2, 2017
Spring Semester Payment Due — Thursday, December 8, 2016

Spring Semester 2017

Mid-Year Conference (Faculty and Staff) — Monday, January 9, 2017
Semester Begins — Friday, January 13
Registration for Fall 2017 Semester Begins — Wednesday, March 15
Spring Break — No Classes
Monday, March 27 through Sunday, April 2
Spring Holiday — Friday through Sunday, April 14–16
Honors Convocation — Friday, May 5
Commencement — Saturday, May 6
Semester Ends — Saturday, May 6
Grades Entered by 11 a.m. — Wednesday, May 10

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What Makes an American?

Ask an Undocumented Immigrant

James Robinson
Staff Writer

Jose Antonio Vargas is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, filmmaker, and media publisher. He has written for multiple daily newspapers and national magazines, including the *Washington Post*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Rolling Stone*, and *The New Yorker*. Vargas emigrated from the Philippines in 1993, when he was 12 years old, and he grew up living with his grandparents in Mountain View, Calif. At 16 years old, he rode his bike to the local DMV office to get his driver's license. However, when asked to provide proof of U.S. residency, he soon discovered that his green card was a fake. He is an undocumented immigrant.

After several years of hiding his citizenship status from the world, Vargas "came out" in a June 2011 article for the *New York Times*. "I'm done running," he said. "I'm exhausted. I don't want that life anymore." One year later, Vargas appeared on the cover of *TIME Magazine* with 35 other men and women "coming out" as undocumented immigrants. "I grew up here. This is my home. Yet even though I think of myself as an American and consider America my country, my country doesn't think of me as one of its own." He has emerged as the very public face of a major issue in contemporary American society—immigration and the meaning of citizenship.

Vargas is one of many undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States. According to the Pew Research Center, 11.1 million of the 317 million people in the U.S. in 2014 were undocumented immigrants. Of these 11.1 million immigrants, 5.8 million came from Mexico and 5.3 million came from other nations. Undocumented immigrants have received a negative connotation in our society, and with the election of Donald Trump as the next president of the United States, many face the possibility of deportation.

In Michigan, the fear of deportation has caused many migrant farmers to stop journeying north to Leelanau County to harvest crops in the summer and fall. As reported by Jacob Wheeler in *The*



Ticker, "Michigan employs nearly 50,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers statewide. Leelanau County is one of five counties that hosts between 2,000 and 5,000 workers. Grand Traverse has between 1,000 and 2,000." Father Wayne Dziekan and Gladys Munoz advocate for these migrant workers. Dziekan, when interviewed by Wheeler, said "It takes a lot of legal expertise, prayer and patience to walk with the people to sort out everything affecting them."

Utilizing both print and digital media, Jose Antonio Vargas "seeks to elevate the conversation around immigration and citizenship in America." Vargas accomplishes this goal through the use of two main media outlets — Define American and #EmergingUS.

Define American is a non-profit organization that "uses the power of story to transcend politics and shift the conversation about immigrants, identity, and citizenship in a changing America." The organization's website showcases personal stories of undocumented immigrants, and provides resources to empower immigrants and educate the public about this issue. The "Coming Out" campaign, inspired by the LGBTQ movement, "encourages undocumented immigrants to reclaim their identity and find solidarity among a broad community of immigrants and allies."

The #WordsMatter campaign seeks to address the language and stereotypes placed on

undocumented immigrants. Many Americans tend to refer to these people as "illegal immigrants" or "illegal aliens." Vice President-elect Mike Pence even referred to them as "criminal aliens" during the Vice Presidential debate. These terms are demeaning and legally inaccurate. The term "illegal" refers to the action, in this case immigration, and not the immigrant. As Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel said, "A person cannot be illegal." These terms "criminalize the personhood of migrants, instead of describing the legality of their actions." Define American offers neutral terminology, such as "unauthorized" or "undocumented immigrants," which humanize rather than criminalize.

The media startup #EmergingUS explores "race, immigration and the emerging American identity." Vargas created the organization to explore the changing demographics in American society and how they relate to defining Americans. He believes "immigration is connected to race, gender, class and LGBTQ issues. Our lives, in fact, intersect with one another." #EmergingUS stories are told with short documentary style videos, often accompanied by brief essays and other original content.

Define American and #EmergingUS empower undocumented immigrants to tell their stories, but they also challenge native-born Americans to earn their citizenship, much like how undocumented immigrants are asked to earn theirs. What are you doing to have a positive impact in your community and the country as a whole? Are you contributing your skills to help others? Are you being the best citizen you can be? Jose Antonio Vargas summed up American citizenship like this, "I would argue that undocumented immigrants show Americans what it is to be an American... it's something you earn, it's something you fight for. It's not just something that just lands in your lap."

Citizenship Pledge:

I pledge to be an active American.

To show up for others, to govern myself, to help govern my community. I recommit myself to my country's creed to cherish liberty as a responsibility.

*

I pledge to serve and to push my country:

when right, to be kept right; when wrong,

to be set right.

Wherever my ancestors and I were born,

I claim America and I pledge to live like a citizen.

Take the pledge:
defineamerican.com/citizenship

Writing Inspiration from Sanibel Island

Ann Hosler
Staff Writer

Returning members of the *NMC Magazine* literary staff had the opportunity this month to attend the 11th annual Sanibel Island Writers Conference at the BIG ARTS center on Sanibel Island, Florida (fgcu.edu/siwc). The conference had a variety of craft workshops—presented by established authors—to hone writing skills, live reading sessions of current and upcoming works by the presenters, and a panel led by experienced publishing agents and editors. Sue Monk Kidd (*The Secret Life of Bees*) spoke at the closing keynote, imparting an empowering message to anyone, regardless of age or background, to never give up and to follow their instincts and dreams.

Fiction Techniques

Nathan Hill, *The Nix*

Nathan Hill explained that using textures in your sensory details engages the mind more than common adjectives. For example, “leathery hands” puts the reader more in the moment than simply saying “strong hands”. He also cautioned against over-visualizing your characters. “You’re creating the illusion of a person,” Hill explained. “When you give the reader too much information, they actually care less, imagine less, feel less connected.”

There are a few tricks Hill recommended to close up the third-person narrative

distance between reader and character. During internal dialogue scenes, remove quotation marks from the thoughts; this abolishes the filter, making it more personal. Use the “free indirect style” by embedding the character’s emotions into sentences, having the narrator reflect the character’s thoughts and bypass direct tags such as “she thought”.

“You get to be the artistic tyrant of the book,” Hill said.

Fiction Lessons from TV Writing

Tom Piazza, *City of Refuge*; HBO’s “TREME”

“What you always want to do is make details tell. It’s the same thing with dialogue,” Tom Piazza advised our workshop group. “The details you choose have to be details that tell you something about character.”

Piazza described how characters and scenes were organized in the writer’s room of a TV show. One thing they did that sounded useful for any writer was use a different color index card for every character. Those cards detail every notable thing that occurs to said character. Then each episode writer sequences the cards so they “fold together in a way that feels balanced and natural.”

Whether you’re writing a script or a novel, Piazza advises that “as soon as you have characters placed in a certain moment in a certain time, something has to happen.”

Don’t let your characters waste time in their scenes; have them move events forward so that the reader is learning something new.

According to Piazza, the most important thing to remember as a writer is that “people never say exactly what they mean.”

Final Takeaways

NMC Magazine literary staff advisor and Creative Writing instructor Alissia J.R. Lingaur felt the greatest impact from the live readings. “It’s good to remember the author behind the written words, and when they read their work with emotion and enthusiasm, even an accent in the case of Richard Blanco, it helps to bring the piece to life for a reader. For some of the writers—Jim Daniels, especially—their readings reinforced why I like their work. And for others, Sandra Beasley, Joyce Maynard, Richard Blanco, their readings made me want to explore their work for myself.”

I found that the workshop presenters imparted unique insight on what made their specializations successful and how they apply common writing methods to their works. Writers from all genres came together to grow their skillsets, and the Sanibel Island Writers Conference provided a friendly atmosphere to do so. As I continue my studies at NMC, I look forward to more enrichment opportunities such as this.

The Long Night Against Procrastination

Zack Harrington
Staff Writer

The semester will end sooner than you think. Finals approach, test

anxiety follows, and if you’re like me you haven’t done your homework yet. You’ll push everything off ‘til tomorrow or the day after that, then pull an all-nighter just to make deadline. Eventually it all starts to catch up with you. Late in the day, the week, or the semester, you realize you only have so much time to finish your work.

The Osterlin Library has seen it often enough; students being shuffled out the door at closing time, sprinting to use the computers, the printers, the books. Wishing to aid the procrastinators in their plight, the librarians pulled a late night study session of their own and found a unique strategy: The Long Night Against Procrastination. A single night where students are spoiled by every resource at the library’s disposal. After the success of their Spring 2016’s intro of this amazing night, another has been scheduled for this semester on Thursday, Dec. 1, from 7pm to 2am at the Osterlin building.

What’s so amazing about the Long Night? Free services and food are provided so there’s no reason to stop studying. Pizza will be available at 7 p.m. and midnight, with Grand Traverse Pie for dessert. Plenty of coffee and snacks will be available, like last year when cookies and milk were passed around. A raffle held at midnight gives participants the chance to win a multitude of prizes (one example from last semester was Jimmy John’s coupons). Faculty volunteers will work around the clock with you as well. Librarians, Writing and Reading Center readers, math tutors... all happy to help.

NMC Librarian—Ann Geht revealed that the Long Night Against Procrastination was a strategy first employed by German universities. “It has a big German name I can’t pronounce,” said Geht, “but we read about it and wanted to try it. Because last semester a lot of students said they’d like the Long Night to return, we’re trying to have even more faculty volunteers.” Let’s be nice about not overstaying our welcome though. “Some students asked if the Long Night could last until dawn.” Maybe someday.

The Long Night also tries to balance the school with the cool, providing a plethora of stress relievers. Last year there was a nap room, a quiet room, hula hoops, Nintendo, and a board game where you as a player advanced depending on how much school work you accomplished. Librarian Tina Ulrich explains that not everything is planned out, so we’ll have to look for new additions as well.

Volunteers put a lot of time into this and dozens of students benefit. As the stress level of students rise, the faculty has worked to counter it. Whether it is extended hours or fluffy dogs in the library, attempts are being made to help everyone. This semester’s Long Night is another display of solidarity from students and volunteers to help you ace your class and succeed.

If you’d like to volunteer, contact Ann Geht (aghet@nmed.edu) or Tina Ulrich (tulrich@nmc.edu).



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Alumni Spotlight: Bruce Byl



The key to obtaining funds is applying! Submit a general application now at NMC's scholarship site to become eligible

When asked what he likes most about NMC, Byl says "Small class sizes, easy access to my instructors, the affordability factor, a beautiful setting and meeting and enjoying a diverse group of students." Although Byl pursued a career outside of the aviation industry, he still uses many skills NMC's aviation program taught him in his daily life. "I gained my wings! Confidence, accountability, learning, and practicing a systematic approach (checklist), and a useful understanding of the weather."

Byl also took many business classes while at NMC that have aided him in his current career as a local business owner. Byl's Herkner Farms makes fruit drizzle toppings for retail and foodservice industries. He attributes his success in the industry to "the hands-on attention from instructors who took an interest in my progress and success," and the small campus atmosphere of NMC which allows professors to facilitate a more conducive learning environment.

Byl's message for current students? "By all means, enjoy the journey! Get involved and engaged in campus life. Get to know your instructors as they thrive on helping students become successful. Give back as you are able, whether it's mentoring, tutoring, donating your time to a non-profit... whatever your passion is, but give back. That's what makes NMC and our community so great."

"Giving back and paying it forward," is what Byl finds most fulfilling about his position in the community and as a member of the Foundation board. "As a former scholarship recipient, I know how beneficial scholarships are to students who have the interest and ability, but lack the financial resources to pursue their passions. The Foundation is here to provide those resources and it's a great way for me to stay involved in NMC and help others."

Both a businessman and a philanthropist, Byl sets a great example for all NMC students and alumni. He is an asset to NMC, as well as the greater community.

Deanna Luton
Staff Writer

Bruce Byl is a 1979 NMC aviation program alumnus. He enrolled in classes at NMC after serving in the Marine Corps and has been a Foundation board member since 2006. Byl was awarded the Outstanding Alumnus award in 2009. In 2015, he was awarded NMC's highest honor "the NMC Fellow award."

While attending NMC, Byl received a scholarship that allowed him to continue taking aviation classes. He vowed that once successful, he would return the favor by providing and making accessible scholarships for college students that, like him, would benefit greatly from some financial assistance.

"Please consider all of the financial aid programs and scholarship funds available," Byl advises students seeking help with their tuition. "They are made available to benefit you and decrease the financial burden of your education. Even if you don't think you will qualify, ask. What do you have to lose?"

Letter to the Editor

The Importance of Multigenerational Friendships

Are you feeling depressed or lonely? Do you need sage advice? Do you need a purpose in life? If so, perhaps a multigenerational friendship could greatly benefit your life. Most individuals seldom think about the importance, or benefits, that could be experienced by interacting with people from different generations. For example, at college, people may sit in class or communicate online with students of all ages. It may seem awkward to befriend a kid from high school or a woman who's the same age as their mother or grandmother. Why is this? People often overlook the benefits that can be offered, and many times, do not understand that this type of relationship could profit them greatly.

Some people think stereotypically about friendships. Perhaps they believe some of the assumptions portrayed by the media. Other individuals may feel they are simply too busy or have nothing in common with others outside of their age group; they may chose to remain within their comfort zone.

I have personally seen dramatic transformations from neighbors, instructors, and people from all walks of life. Finding common interests is not all that difficult and can dramatically change people from the inside out. One example of this is a relationship I developed with an older neighbor who was a definite "Type A" personality. He seemed very serious, difficult to relate to and a bit closed off. Over time our relationship grew. He became a close friend who I shared all sorts of fun adventures with.

As a student at NMC who has studied this area, I have discovered many ways to encourage multigenerational friendships. The first is for people to be informed of the benefits they could experience by having these types of relationships. Older people generally live longer if they have a friendship with someone younger. The younger person may look out for them or encourage a more active lifestyle. In the same sense, having a friendship with someone older could help an individual who needs good advice or more life experience. These friendships may be mutually beneficial.

By people realizing stereotypes exist and not "buying into them," positive changes can occur. If people are able to find common values, mutual interests and shared history and focus on them, rather than the differences, things can improve. As intimidating as this sounds, how about initiating a conversation with that single mom, "cranky" old man, or lonely child?

About the Author

Andrew Estes is a freshman at NMC who has experienced many benefits from multigenerational friendships. He has also appealed to people in Traverse City's TEDx pitch night event to awaken a new "greatest" generation.



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Photo by Devon Hains



Above: Marshall Collins addresses the crowd and asks them to speak up when they see hateful acts being perpetrated. Left top: Rally goers show off their sign. Left bottom: A Trump supporter's flag can be seen in the distance.



Local rally brings community together with a message of love

Breanne Russell Just three days after the presidential election, approximately 500 people joined together in Traverse City's Open Space to rally against President-elect Trump's campaign platform and his rhetoric. On Friday Nov. 11, the #LoveTrumpHate event brought together a diverse crowd — all ages, all sexes and all ethnicities — to voice their feelings on the discriminatory and often hateful rhetoric that has been a trend throughout Trump's campaign.

With donated coffee from Higher Grounds in hand, people gathered with homemade signs and peace flags, emotional but steadfast in their goal to stand with those more vulnerable than they: Muslims, LGBTQ, those of color, immigrants, women and all that are threatened by Trump's political positions. The message was not that the people refuse Trump's win, but that he will be held accountable for any prejudicial actions taken during his presidency.

Since the election, hate crimes are on the rise. According to a *USA Today* article, post-election hate-crimes have surpassed those following the 9/11 attacks. NBC reports 300 plus cases of harassment or intimidation throughout the country. It seems the organizations and people responsible have gained a new sense of self-righteousness with the appointment of Trump, and his win has given them the go-ahead for such behavior. Reports include harassment and

violence against Muslims, African-Americans and other ethnicities, and has been most common on college campuses as well as K-12 schools. In his *60 Minutes* interview with CBS's Lesley Stahl however, Trump had a clear message to the perpetrators: "Stop it."

But some question if Trump will stand by his verbal denouncement. With the appointment of Stephen Bannon to Chief Strategist, many question his commitment to ending the discrimination. Bannon is a political conservative and executive chairman of Breitbart News, a website that panders to the alt-right and white supremacists. Former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke speaks highly of Bannon. "You have an individual, Mr. Bannon, who's basically creating the ideological aspects of where we're going," Duke told CNN. Many are concerned his extreme politics will further influence an already dogmatic platform.

The hope of peaceful protesters, in Traverse City and all over the nation, is that their actions will serve as a reminder that hate-mongering will not be tolerated; that civil rights are in place to defend all Americans, and we must stand together in solidarity. They believe that through persistence in action, people can make a change in a progressive direction. A concept, at least in Traverse City, that was recently validated.

The #LoveTrumpHate rally made international headlines, including *The Washington*

Post and *The Guardian*, when off-duty Traverse City police officer Mike Peters arrived at the event, sporting a Confederate flag and openly drinking beer, parking illegally next to the gathering crowd. After a confrontation where rally goers questioned his motives and judgement, Peters drove off. He has since resigned, following an outpouring of community voices calling for his termination. An investigation is ongoing to see whether or not Peters violated his code of conduct. Chief Jeffery O'Brien has denounced Peters' actions and said they are "not reflective of our department." Michael Moore told the *Revere Eagle* that we need to come together in a recent interview. "Moore said voters who cast their ballots for Clinton or against Trump need to be vigilant. He said they need to resist all forms of hatred, bigotry and harassment both at the local and national level."

Regardless of Peters's actions, the atmosphere of the rally was not one of rampant conflict. It was one of community. When one Trump supporter began shouting "Trump is President," he was quickly drowned out by chants of "Love Trumps Hate." And after sharing a few words of encouragement and support with each other over a megaphone, the protesters took to the sidewalks of downtown, spreading the word of love and encouraging others to join them in their endeavor.



Photo by Devon Hains



clockwise from top left: High school students support one another, draped in a LGBT flag. A sign references Trump's Pro-Life platform. Speaker addresses the hundreds-deep crowd. Women stand in solidarity for peace, and against discrimination. #LoveTrumpsHate rally takes it to the sidewalk, walking along Front street in Downtown TC. Rally goes' hands clenched in fists, sign of solidarity and support, and a protest against Officer Mike Peters' confederate flag. Protesters share their opinions via signs.



Photo by Devon Hains

Ann Holser
Staff Writer

Rosemary Butter Cookies

Earlier this summer I saw that a local coffee shop was selling Rosemary Butter Cookies, which looked absolutely tasty (and they were... but \$3 for 5 cookies?!?). After poking the internet for a bit, I unearthed a recipe from Martha Stewart and tweaked it. Her recipe yielded 60, mine somehow yielded 80, but I think that's because I rolled the dough logs a bit too small in diameter. Or she can't count. Or my oven is magical. If you don't have a completely flat surface available in your freezer you'll need two paper towel tubes, so it may require a bit of pre-planning the first time you're making it.

- Ingredients**
- 2 sticks (1 cup) unsalted butter
 - 3/4 cup granulated sugar
 - 1 large egg
 - 1 tsp vanilla extract
 - 2 1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
 - 3/4 tsp kosher salt
 - 2 tbsp dried rosemary
 - 1 egg white
 - Sugar for coating (granulated, sanding, or cane sugar such as Sugar in the Raw)

- Other Materials**
- 2 paper towel tubes (optional)
 - Parchment paper
 - Pastry brush
 - Pastry knife (optional, but useful if it has a ruler on it)
 - Portar & pestle (optional, to finely grind raw rosemary)

- Directions**
1. Add unsalted butter and granulated sugar to bowl, use electric mixer on medium speed until fluffy. Use a paddle attachment if you have one.
 2. Reduce speed to low and add the large egg and vanilla extract; mix until blended.
 3. Add flour, rosemary, and salt. Continue to mix on medium-low until well blended.
 4. Remove dough from bowl and split it in half. Shape each half into a log, about 1 1/2" in diameter.
 5. Roll each log in parchment paper. Slide the logs into the paper towel tubes (optional) or lay completely flat in freezer
 6. Freeze the logs for one hour
 7. Preheat oven to 375°F. Cover two baking sheets with parchment paper. Get the egg white and coating sugar ready.
 8. Brush one log with egg white and roll in the coating sugar. Slice the log into 1/4" inch pieces. Place on the baking sheets about 1/2" apart.
 9. Bake 20 minutes or until edges are golden. Move to cooling racks. Repeat with second log.
 10. Store at room temperature up to three days in airtight containers.



Yield: About 5 dozen
Adapted from MarthaStewart.com



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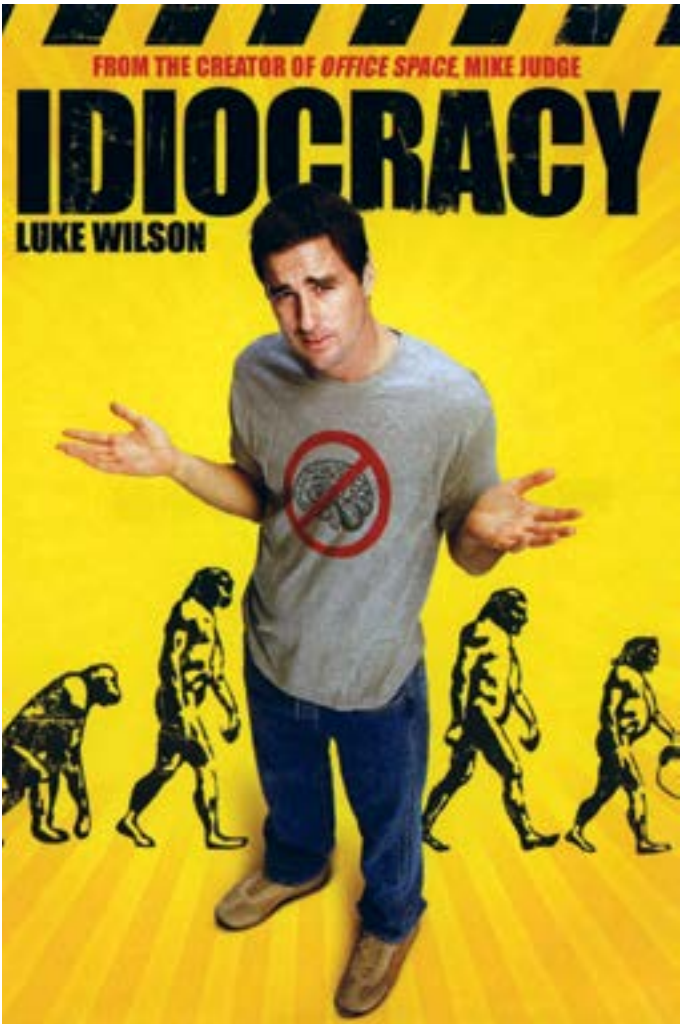
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Idiocracy Retrospective



Issac Vanderwal
Staff Writer

On the 10 year anniversary of “Idiocracy,” many amateur pop culture critics and analysts like myself argue that Joe could have woken up in 2016 and the plot would be more or less the same.

In both 2505 and 2016, politicians and elected officials threaten each other with schoolyard fights. The “locker room talk” of President-elect Donald Trump inspired Vice President Joe Biden’s threat to “take him behind the gym.” President Dwayne Elizondo Mountain Dew Herbert Camacho, in contrast, practically radiates intimidation (what can you expect from an actor built like Terry Crews?). One of the most popular TV shows in Judge’s fictional future, “Ow My Balls,” strikes a similar cord as “Tosh.0,” “Ridiculousness”, and “America’s Funniest Videos.”

In 2505, television programming takes up only about half of a huge flatscreen TV, the other half is a bombardment of obnoxious internet-style banner ads. Even the people are walking advertisements. They wear clothing plastered with commercial logos. Because water was determined to be a threat to the profit margins of a fictional sport drink, it was replaced in practically every form of plumbing except toilets. In the future, an automated Carl’s Jr. kiosk denies a woman trying to get food for her children, and almost immediately says that it “believes no child should go hungry.” Strikingly similar, here in 2016 we are seeing a number of philanthropic efforts by large food service chains to combat poverty and the CEO of Carl’s Jr. looking into the potential of automating service.

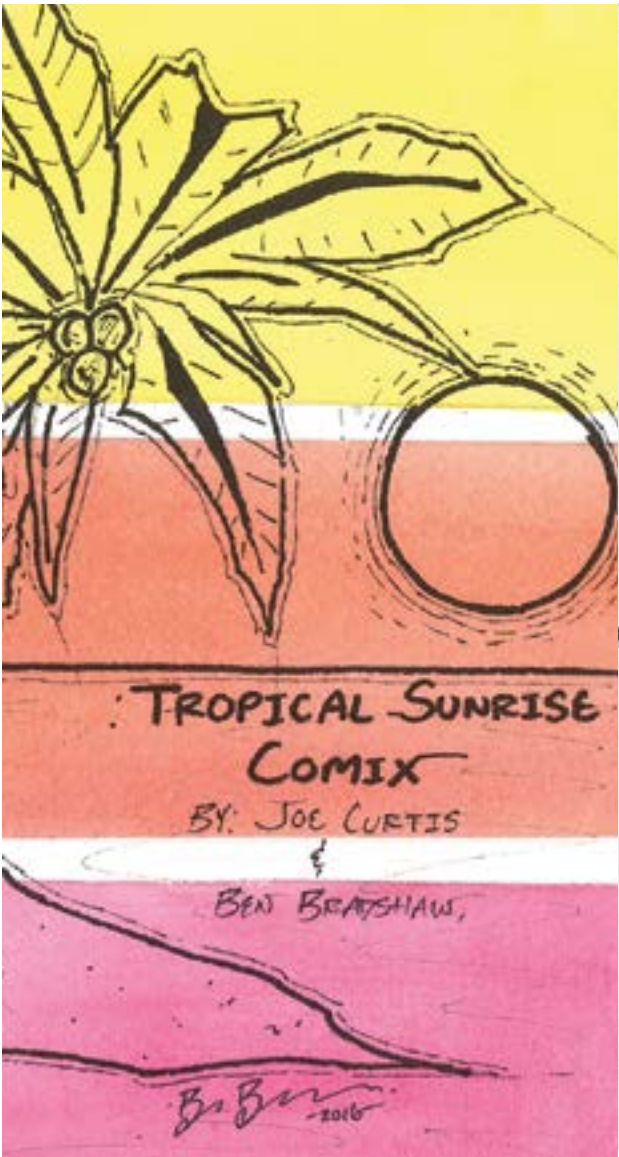
There is also a scene where a small army of police officers

open fire on an empty car as a clear display of excessive force. It forces laughter to diffuse the uncomfortable prevalence of police brutality, a trend that is all too familiar in today’s climate.

Like many of us worried for the future of our nation and planet, there are doomsayers who hold up the film as a new Book of Revelation. Some fans believe it serves as a cautionary tale of what happens when we glorify anti-intellectualism: we’re 490 years away from the events in the film, but we’re already moving towards a world depicted in “Idiocracy”.

Rewatching Mike Judge’s film, I realize that my brain has filled in a lot of details. The state of the world does not completely parallel “Idiocracy.” President Obama may have dropped the mic at his final Correspondents’ Association Dinner, but he didn’t make a point to raise his middle fingers at a State of the Union Address like “Idiocracy’s” President Camacho. It is a sci-fi comedy, and a good one at that, but what makes it a good comedy is the parallels in “Idiocracy’s” extremes.

This raunchy, over-the-top comedy has developed a cult following in the last 10 years, praising the film for its satire. What’s most interesting to me is that its original intent was not satire. We often wonder if art imitates life, or if life imitates art. “Idiocracy” is a perplexing line between these two concepts. The parallels to our reality are scary, but thankfully the differences are scarier. After the most fatiguing election season, I liked rewatching “Idiocracy” because it reminded me that things could be a hell of a lot worse.



Straight Outta College

Preparing for a Career After Graduation

Laureen Horan
Staff Writer

We're going to school for a reason. The main goal after graduation is to land a job with benefits, flexible hours, kick-ass pay... all the bells and whistles. The "dream job" comes in different forms for all of us. Some students are already working in their field, so they're finishing a degree to secure their spot. Others will have to seek open positions when the time comes.

Regardless of your individual career goals, you need to take time to seek opportunities in your field, look at the skills and requirements for jobs that interest you, and make connections with professionals in your field who can help you network with others.

When it comes to narrowing down your career options, knowing yourself is important, said Deb Maison, counselor at NMC's Advising Center.

"Know your abilities and interests. Think about your values. It is not just money that is important. It is also your mental, emotional, and physical wellness. The advising office has assessment tests that you can take to help sort this out. Also know where you want to live. Does the job you are thinking of require you to relocate? Is that what you always dreamed of or your worst nightmare?"

Beyond taking the right classes, students have to sharpen basic communication skills employers seek.

Treat college like it's your career: make a good impression by dressing nicely, using positive body language, and taking the time to introduce yourself to professors and classmates. Make it a priority to go to class on time, turn in assignments, and get involved in class discussions. Use lectures as an opportunity to practice active listening skills, and take charge in group projects to improve your leadership and critical thinking capabilities.

Another thing to keep in mind is professionalism. Many people consider college to be a rite of passage—a time to try different things, be a little crazy or irresponsible. In college, acting unprofessional might result in a bad grade or a lecture from an administrator or professor. However, in the workplace, acting unprofessionally can get you fired.

Take any opportunity you can to get hands-on experience in your field. Consider internships, apprenticeships and job shadowing.

To succeed in your workplace, you have to prove you are reliable. Deadlines are critical, much more so than in college. You may be able to schmooze your professor into giving you an extension on an assignment, but you'll find that missing deadlines is unacceptable in the professional workplace.

When it's time to look for a job, stay dedicated to searching and responding to openings. Use all available resources, track down job leads, and follow-up on all leads and interviews. Generally speaking, the more quality work you put into your job search, the better your results.

Your boss will want you to do something besides possess a degree. Look for an edge that others may not have, i.e. computer skills, fluency in another language, strong science and/or math skills, excellent writing skills or expertise in another technical area. There may be a skill gap the employer is needing to fill, said Maison.

Don't get discouraged if your first couple jobs after college aren't everything you've dreamed of. One of the harsh realities that many new grads face—especially in bad job markets—is that a large number of the jobs available for college grads are entry-level. These jobs often require long hours, low pay, and hard work. Show your employer that you're willing to work your way up in the company.

Take any opportunity you can to get hands-on experience in your field. Consider internships, apprenticeships and job shadowing. You cannot always count on relying solely on college to ensure that you have the skills and knowledge that employers require. It is up to you to make sure that both your education and experiences prepare you for the workplace.

Poets Meet Musicians

Deanna Luton
Staff Writer

I fell in love with live poetry and music during a free event in October at the Acoustic

Mead Taproom in downtown Traverse City.

Poets Meets Musicians (PMM) gave me my first glimpse at the potential of Traverse City's creative community. The ambiance of the Acoustic Mead Taproom is perfect for the ongoing event, typically held on the last Monday each month. This month it will be on Nov. 28 from 7-9pm. PMM provides an addicting atmosphere, combining the cozy comfort of a small venue with the sound of musical instruments, spoken poetry, and songs.

Some of the performances have a poetic element, but I have even read aloud a part of an article I've previously written. The only guideline is to deliver a story you are passionate about telling. This event is centered on sharing your talent in a comfortable space.

PMM evolved into its current state from an open mic night held at the Inside Out Gallery. Robb Astor and Tom Muir, as well as his wife Susan Odgers, saw a niche to be filled in the creative community in the Traverse City area.

If you have a love for poetry or music, PMM is enjoyable as both spectator and participant. The event is open to the community and free of charge. It facilitates a space where artists can freely share their new work with a small audience.

Reciting poetry aloud is very therapeutic and an artistic exercise for writers. Additionally, being able to play music to a room full of people is great experience for aspiring musicians.

Some of the patrons of PMM are members of Michigan Writers, a community of poets, writers, critics, editors, designers, and book-sellers, and everyone who values the written word. They publish the *Dunes Review* which is a collaboration of many Michigan writers. Membership for the organization costs \$40 and includes a subscription to the *Dunes Review*, as well as free or reduced admission to Michigan Writer's events, like the screenwriting seminar held earlier this semester at Scholars Hall in collaboration with the TC Film Festival.

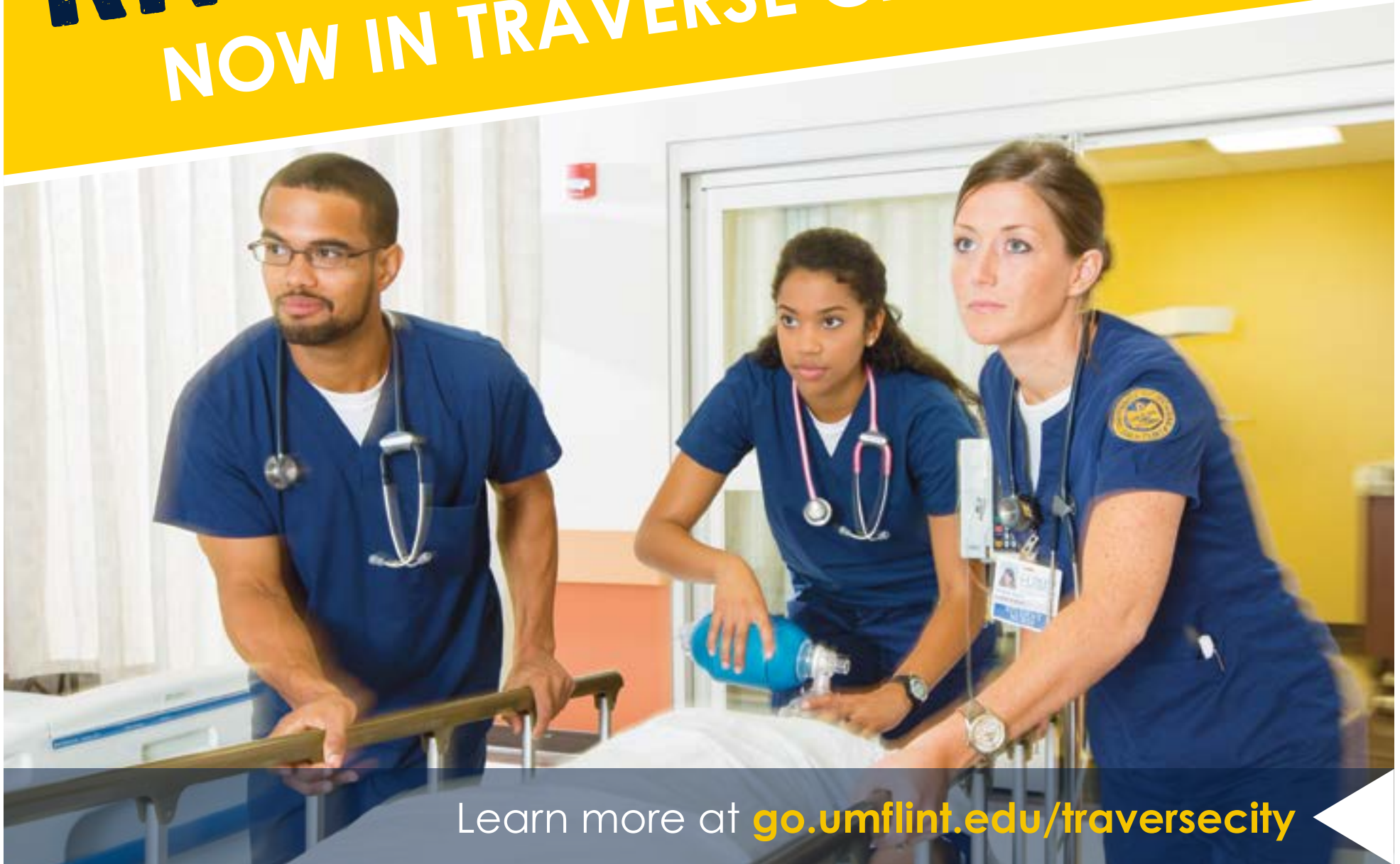
Another important event to the local creative community is Poets' Night Out, which showcases poetry from northwest Michigan poets. The 20th annual Poets' Night Out is scheduled to take place on April 23, 2017. Community members can submit poetry either in person or by mail, along with the applicable submission fee, to the Traverse Area District Library Woodmere branch by Jan. 25. Winning contestants will be able to read their poem aloud at Poet's Night Out, held at the Traverse City Opera House in the spring. Find detailed rules and information at poetsnightout.org. The submission fee is \$10 for individuals in the community and \$5 for seniors/students. Each poet may submit up to 3 titled and typed poems and a single poem may not exceed 20 lines. If a poem is selected, the winning contestants will grant the Traverse City Area Library a license to publish the selected poem in the either electronic or paper PNO Chapbook and potentially in PNO anthologies in the future.




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Gifts of food and money are left for a Traverse City man.

Give a Little, Gain a Lot

Tom Clarke
Staff Writer

A few days ago, I was out driving around and running errands. Like any other day, it was uneventful; just another 24 hours in the way of seemingly more important things I have planned later on in life. But as they say, there is no day like today.

I thought that to myself as I drove past a ragged looking man walking alongside the road. This was a man who I led myself to believe was homeless, or at the very least a man of limited means. Even if he had everything he needed, I no doubt expected a friendly face pulling up and offering a small meal would have been most welcome. Not necessarily because he needed it to survive, but because it may have eased whatever burdens he bore by a meaningful degree.

But time is money, and, what's more, money is money. It didn't help he was walking on the other side of the street so that if I had turned around and pulled up I would have had to call him over to my side so I could speak to him. Of course, we all come up with excuses like these to go about our normal routine. Who can blame us? It's not as if we grew up learning how to care for the needy. Why should we have to look out for people outside of our lives? Because, my friends, we are all family—at least if we choose to see each other that way. Often we ignore the fact people immediately jump from celebrating a holiday defined by candy and costumes to celebrating a holiday defined by presents and jolly music, which makes it important to consider why Thanksgiving is worth celebrating.

Thanksgiving is not about stuffing ourselves with the whole family in a warm house. It's no secret that Thanksgiving's foundation was the sharing of a meal between Native Americans and European colonists. But I think people have forgotten that it's not about the meal, it's about sharing what we have with others. As students, and people in general, we may not always have money to give, but somewhere in our daily lives, there is time we could spend better. If you have an inclination, as I do, to use what little time you can spare in service to others this Thanksgiving season, I can promise you will look back on that spent time without a single regret. The

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only question left is "How can we help others in need?"

Luckily, the internet never fails to provide. Look up volunteer organizations in Traverse City on nonprofitlist.org, and you will find several organizations such as American Red Cross of Northwest MI or the Goodwill Inn Homeless Shelter. Other non-profit businesses in service to the hungry and/or the homeless can be found at homelessshelterdirectory.org. Here, businesses like Safe Harbor of Grand Traverse provide meals, lodging, and/or health services to those in need of them. But these businesses don't just work themselves; they need volunteers to make a difference. If time is something you simply can't spare, donations as little as \$1 to soup kitchens can often provide up to *four whole meals*.

I don't need to say that you can make a difference. We all can and deep down, we know it. Rather than let ourselves dwell on the question of whether or not we can, let us instead ask how we can.

Everyday life can be numbing. It's understandable. I know how easy it was to disregard the man on the side of the road. After instances such as that, I have no excuse to complain about being bored or seeing no purpose in life.

Pick one business online that is looking for volunteers to help the needy. You don't have to immediately sign up, but research where the business is located or save an administrator's contact number so that your prepared when you feel ready to put yourself out there.

In general, remember to be kind and considerate. Somehow somehow, kindness find its way back to you, and you'll gain more than you lost. When you see someone in need, stop for a moment and think about what you can do. Let that moment define who you are.

Give This Season: Local food pantries

Traverse City High School Pantry
Main Office

Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
3962 Three Mile Road North

Trinity Church Traverse City
1003 South Maple Street,
Traverse City, MI 49684
231-946-2720
rzagore@tctrinity.org

The Father Fred Foundation
826 Hastings Street,
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-947-2055

St. Patrick Catholic Church
630 W. Silver Lake Rd South
Traverse City, MI 49685
231-943-4633
stpattc@stpatricktc.org