

N O R T H W E S T E R N M I C H I G A N C O L L E G E

# WHITE PINE PRESS

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

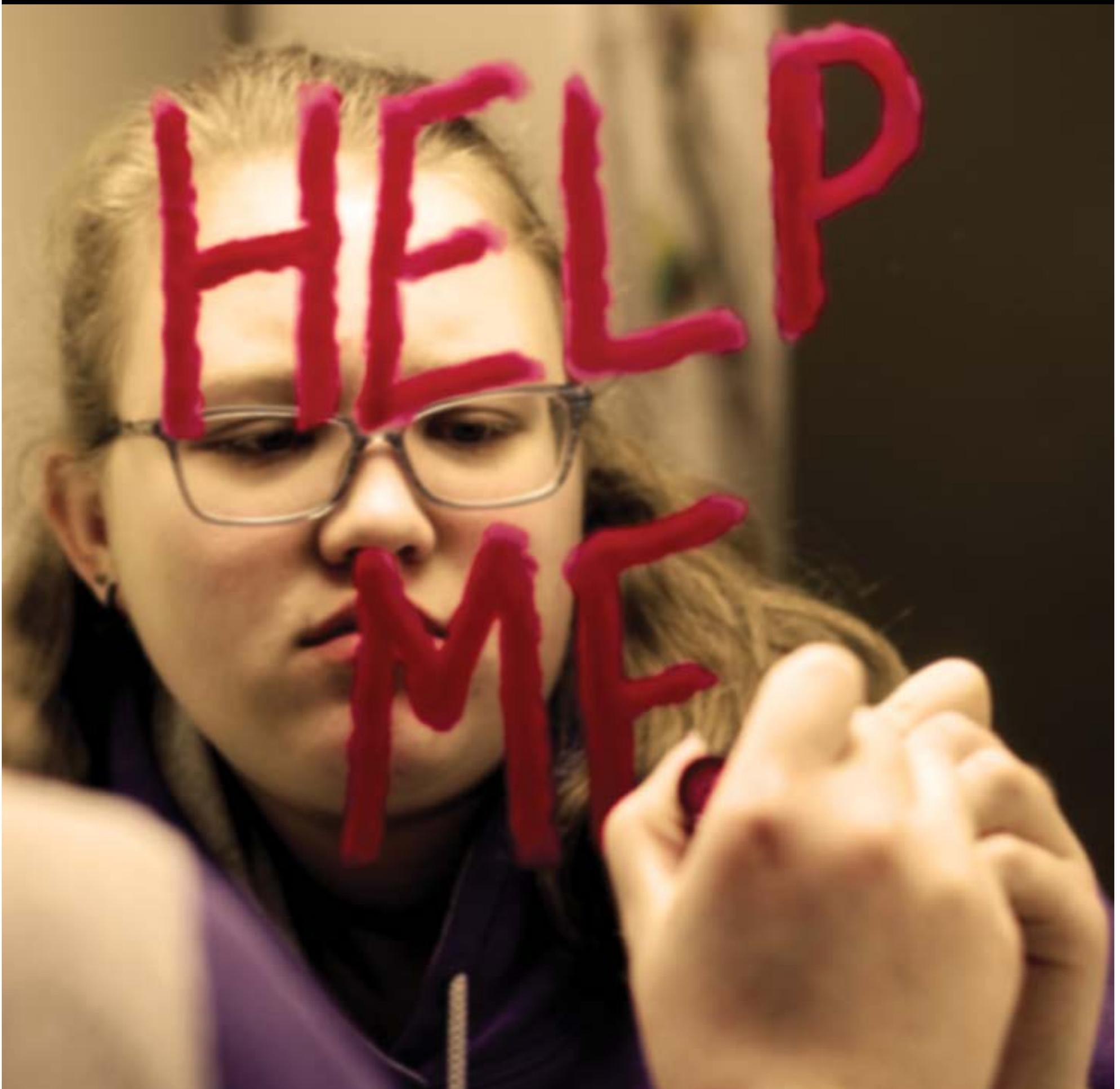




Photo by Ann Hosler

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

# WHITE PINE PRESS

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## NMC News

- Fall 2017 registration is now open! Sign up for classes either online in Self Service or in the Records & Registration office.
- The North Hall dormitory will be a new option for the fall semester.
- Hawk's Nest will not be a living option for the 2017/2018 school year.
- A new welding associate degree has been approved effective Fall 2017.
- A new one-year 23-credit baking certificate has been approved effective Fall 2017.
- Online registration will have a new look starting April 7

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# Appreciating Sunshine Week



**MICHELE HOWARD**  
Contributing Writer

*NMC Governments Documents Library and City Commissioner for Traverse City*

The sun is finally beginning to shine in northern Michigan, so the Osterlin Library joined journalists and other librarians to celebrate Sunshine Week, March 13–17. Sunshine Week is a national non-partisan effort to highlight the critical role of open government and freedom of information at the local, state, and federal levels. Our government's information isn't just available for reporters or businesses—US citizens are urged to recognize that having access to our government officials and information is one of the foundations of our democracy.

Our founding fathers all felt that an informed electorate was instrumental to true governance. Incidentally, Sunshine Week coincides with James Madison's birthday on March 16, who once wrote, "A popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or, perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a

people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

This powerful phrase is best executed with the tool for compelling the government to release information called the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request (pronounced foy-a). FOIA was passed in 1967 and gives citizens the right to request information and records from any federal agency. Every federal government agency is required to have a FOIA office, each with a procedure and timelines for responding to requests.

Citizens also have a right to request records from state and local governments. The State of Michigan has routinely been graded an "F" for government integrity, and 50th out of 50 states by Center for Public Integrity. Why? The law in Michigan is more about who you can't FOIA as much as whom you can. You can place a FOIA request with any public body at any level of government, including any public body created and funded through a state or local authority, except Michigan courts, Michigan Legislature, the lieutenant governor, and the governor's office. That's a lot of government business that Michigan citizens don't have a right to see unless the governing bodies release that information.

Currently, there is a movement to reform FOIA in Michigan because of the Flint Water Crisis. As people and the press began to learn about Flint water, FOIA's were sent to every relevant agency in Michigan. Thousands of pages from executive agencies were denied. People persisted and even sued, and the Michigan House of Representatives passed 10 bills on March 17 that seek action to change the exemption law. This is democracy in action based on a FOIA request denial.

What type of information would a student FOIA? The request for information must be specific, but it could be crime data from a local government, accident data for Michigan Department of Transportation, protest data from the FBI, or even student loan information from the US Department of Education.

It's important to remember that FOIA requests aren't hard to do. Not only do we have a right to information available through a FOIA request, it's also our duty as citizens to make our elected representatives accountable for their actions. I think founding father John Adams said it best: "Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people, who have a right ... to that most dreaded and envied kind of knowledge, I mean, of the character and conduct of their rulers."

## FOIA Important Links

**FOIA at NMC:** [nmc.edu/about/freedom-of-information-act](http://nmc.edu/about/freedom-of-information-act)

**FOIA.gov:** [foia.gov](http://foia.gov) - Everything you need to know Federal FOIA requests.

**Michigan Coalition for Open Government:** [miopengov.org](http://miopengov.org)

**FOIA Letter Generator:** [splc.org/page/lettergenerator](http://splc.org/page/lettergenerator)

**FBI Vault:** [vault.fbi.gov](http://vault.fbi.gov) - A database of over 6,700 FBI publicly available FOIA. Topics include UFOs, Jimmy Hoffa, and more.

**Google Transparency Report Card:** [google.com/transparencyreport](http://google.com/transparencyreport) - This report lists how many times a governmental or law enforcement agency requests user data and Google's response rate.

**Sunshine Week:** [sunshineweek.rcfp.org](http://sunshineweek.rcfp.org)

**Deanna Luton**  
Staff Writer

## Spring Into a Month of Free Events

### MARCH 24–30

The State Theatre will show free movies over spring break! Check out the master schedule at [stateandbijou.org/calendar](http://stateandbijou.org/calendar). There's something for everyone!

### APRIL 11–15

NMC Student Life, Voices, and Students United for Gender Rights (SUGR) are bringing the "Take Back the Night" campaign to campus for Sexual Assault Awareness Week. A variety of events will take place over four days to support survivors of sexual assault and educate the public.

To kick it off, "Ask a Survivor" will be held in the West Hall conference room on **Tues., April 11** from 10am to 1pm. This Q&A will feature Natasha Alexanko, whose own sexual assault case was backlogged (along with countless others), meaning that the rape kit was performed and samples taken but never tested. Her case remains unsolved. She started the movement "Natasha's Justice Project" and is now a spokesperson for sexual assault survivors, shedding light on untested rape kits.

Also on **Tues., April 11** at 6pm, a free self-defense class will be held at the NMC Oleson Center.

On **Weds., April 12**, Title IX certified spoken word poet Olivia Gatwood will host a performance at the Oleson Center from 6:30–7pm (doors open at 5pm).

On **Thurs., April 13**, the Take Back the Night rally and march will take place at 5pm outside West Hall. A speak out will follow at 6:30pm at the Hagerty Center, giving survivors an opportunity to voice their thoughts and feelings. For more information on Take Back the Night events, contact the Student Life Office at 231-995-1118.

There will be a free self-defense seminar presented by White Tiger Martial Arts on **Sat., April 15** from 11am-1pm at 4125 Cedar Run Rd. in Traverse City. The seminar is geared toward individuals who are 14 years of age or older. Limited space is available, so reserve your spot now. As the flier states, this is real life learning for real life situations: "One lesson could save your life, increase your awareness, and empower yourself." Classes are taught by grand master Jim Adkins, who has over 41 years of experience in martial arts and a 9th degree black belt in Kenpo. For more information call 231-313-6900.

### APRIL 23

The 20th annual Poets' Night Out will take place on **Sun., April 23** at 7pm at the Traverse City Opera House. General Admission seating is free for this event. Chosen submissions from residents throughout Northern Michigan counties will be read aloud at the event. Come enjoy the magic of bringing written words alive. According to the organizers, "Poets' Night Out offers a platform for poets of all ages in our community, professional or amateur, to have an affordable opportunity to become published, to read to a receptive audience and to network with fellow writers." Email [pno@tadl.org](mailto:pno@tadl.org) or call 231-932-8502 for more information.

# On Air at WNMC

## Volunteer Opportunities in College Radio

**Lindsay Schmandt** Staff Writer  
Thinking of volunteering on campus? Check out NMC's radio station WNMC, whose DJ staff is almost entirely comprised of volunteers. Founded in 1967, WNMC started as a student organization that broadcasted solely to student dorms on campus. Today the station reaches six northwest Michigan counties.

"We've spent a lot of time since I've been here capitalizing on our 600-watt broadcast area—which is much bigger than we had before 1997," said Eric Hines, WNMC station manager. "We've tried to make the format more consistent and predictable, and have built the listenership. I've also helped introduce a bunch of new services: web streaming, two-week programming archive, [a] website, 24-hour broadcasting, digital archive, and a morning show."

Hines has worked in community radio since 1987, and since he was hired at NMC has worked extensively to make WNMC into what it is today. "I think the region here was very short on public radio options. When I arrived here in 2000 there was only Interlochen Classical Radio, and that was hard to get in some places. There has always been a strong orientation at the station toward serving the community at large. I have plans students and faculty advisors made for the station from the 1970s that talk about building a format much like we have today, and trying to do a lot of local news and issues programming. This was part of the initial justification for making WNMC a real broadcast station rather than a campus-only station."

WNMC now reaches more than 8,000 weekly listeners. Though most listeners can tune in at 90.7 FM, they can also listen online ([wnmc.org/listen/index.html](http://wnmc.org/listen/index.html) for more details). The station programming has expanded, too. WNMC broadcasts a variety of informational and musical programming, ranging from news to talk radio to a variety of music genres such as jazz, alternative rock, electronic, and more. The radio station's DJs add an additional layer of individuality as well.

WNMC's DJ staff consists of both community members and NMC students. Students are usually recruited through Hines' Broadcasting Practicum class and are encouraged to find friends to volunteer and participate as well.

Rachel Pernick, a Traverse City community member, has just finished volunteer training to



Photo by Lucy Davis

Erin Hines, studio manager, readies the mic at WNMC.

become a DJ. Pernick says she's always been interested in radio production, and was excited this opportunity was so accessible to anyone within the community. "There is a series of three trainings to become a DJ, followed by the eligibility to be chosen for a time slot. The training program is really put together with very experienced, knowledgeable DJs who are comfortable and eager to train new people," Pernick says. During her final training session, Pernick was able to run the entire session and is now qualified to be scheduled on her own. "Training is an opportunity to thrive and succeed, but also the opportunity to make mistakes. All volunteers take the job seriously, but also know that everyone is a volunteer and we all make mistakes." Pernick is excited to be a part of the WNMC community and adds that it's a wonderful opportunity, especially for students, because the schedule is so accommodating.

For more information about training, volunteer opportunities, and the programming schedule visit [wnmc.org](http://wnmc.org).



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# Hell on Earth: The Realities of Sex Trafficking

**Breanne Russell**  
Editor in Chief

*You are an 11-year-old child living in Cincinnati with your mother. Some days you don't go to school. Some nights you go to bed hungry. When your mother is at home, she acts strange, but this is normal. One evening, she dresses you up like a little girl. A man you've never met comes into your room, sets up a camera and approaches your bed. You wait for your mom to tell him to leave, but she doesn't. Afterward, she wipes the tears from your eyes and tells you, "You're a good girl. You did the right thing."*

*You are a teenage girl, 14, living in Lansing. You start chatting with a man online. He is 23. For a week you communicate and plan to meet him. Your mother sees you leaving and chases you out the door but you jump into his car. For two days, you stay with him at his MSU apartment. He takes naked pictures of you but you don't know he's putting them online, offering you up for sex. One day he enters your room with a man you've never met. He turns to you and says, "You owe me."*

*You are a young man, maybe 20 or 21, living at the Goodwill Inn in Traverse City. You've had some difficulties and are trying to get your life together. A man approaches you and offers you a place to stay for free, promising to teach you some auto mechanics. You go to his auto shop, and he clears out a space in the attic for your things. There are other men, too, and room is tight, but it's better than being homeless. Your phone minutes run out and he tells you he'll fill them, just come by his office that evening. You walk into his office, his pants are down, and he says, "I help you, you help me."*

Sex trafficking does not discriminate. It involves all ages, sexes, races, and socio-economic statuses. It is everywhere, and unlike the movie *Taken*, it is not limited to sensationalized kidnappings and rarely ends well.

This was the predominant message at the Human Trafficking Conference, hosted by NMC Student Life and Students United for Gender Rights (SUGR), on March 10 at the Hagerty Center. The above stories are true, and offer just a glimpse into the world of sex trafficking.

The five hour event, which was open to NMC students, faculty, and the community free of charge, aimed to expose the very real and very tragic subject of sex trafficking, both at a national and local level. The conference itself took almost a year of planning, said Student Group Coordinator at Student Life and SUGR co-founder Caleb Yorty-Killion, who wanted to bring the two entities together and collaborate on a single project. Last spring, SUGR "traveled to Nashville and worked with shelters for women coming out of sex trafficking. We were so inspired by what we saw there and the connections we made that it seemed almost negligent to not bring attention to the topic in our own backyard."

Yorty-Killion was able to secure a handful of speakers, including survivors of sex



flickr.com/photos/iragelb

## WARNING SIGNS

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid.
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement.
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse.
- Has few or no personal possessions.
- Is not in control of their money; has no financial records or bank account.

- Not in control of their own identification.
- Not allowed or able to speak for themselves.
- Inability to clarify address.
- Avoiding eye contact, social interaction, and authority figures/law enforcement.
- Checking into hotels/motels with older males.
- Poor physical health, appears malnourished.
- Tattoos/branding on body.
- Untreated sexually transmitted diseases.

trafficking, advocates working in Michigan, and Traverse City chief assistant prosecuting attorney Noelle Moeggenberg, who handles local criminal sexual conduct cases. His main goal was to make the conference accessible to everyone. "Given the wide range of attendees, from NMC students who may have never even heard of trafficking to social workers who may already have some training in the topic, we wanted the information to be as accessible and relevant as possible. We really wanted to equip the audience with resources for grassroots organizing against trafficking."

Educating the audience was the first priority and statistics were in heavy supply. Big numbers were rolled out: human trafficking is the second largest criminal enterprise in the country, and Michigan ranks second for human trafficking cases in the U.S.; upwards of 100,000 children are involved in sex trafficking, and 300,000 are at risk for sexual exploitation. Though some have questioned the validity of these statistics, including *The Washington Post* in multiple Fact Checker articles from 2015, for most numbers don't matter—it is happening and needs to stop. As Manassah Project coordinator Nikeidra Battle-DeBarge said in her presentation at the conference, "If one child is being trafficked, that is one too many."

Some see Michigan at greater risk for trafficking for a few reasons: the proximity to Canada, the ability to leave the state within a few hours (from most major cities), the prevalence of truck stops and rest areas, and

major community events such as Cherry Festival in Traverse City and Art Prize in Grand Rapids.

Cases are on the rise in Michigan. In 2016, according to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, Michigan saw a 257% increase in reported cases in the last five years.

In last six months, Detroit has seen major busts in sex trafficking. In Oct. 2016, Detroit FBI Violent Crimes branch ran an operation in three Michigan locations and rescued 19 minors from a sex trafficking operation. Two teenagers and three women were being held captive in a Detroit basement in Nov. 2016, drugged and forced into prostitution. Last month 14 women were rescued from a Detroit hotel, where investigators uncovered a sophisticated trafficking ring.

Some attribute the startling surge in cases to police officers and federal agents who are better trained in identifying sex trafficking (state police are required to undergo training, city police are not). Others, such as trafficking survivor Theresa Flores, who spoke the NMC conference, say that drug dealers have turned into sex traffickers because "the product never runs out." You can sell drugs once, but you can sell people over and over again.

In 2014, Governor Rick Snyder passed into Michigan law a bill protecting human trafficking victims under 18 from being prosecuted as criminals, and ensuring them medical and psychological aid. The goal is to help them break free from their perpetrators. But for many women who have been

manipulated into distrusting authority, the police are the last entity they would reach out to—and many communities lack the proper resources to help these victims long-term.

Lisa Thomas, NMC Dean of Students, is unaware of counseling services in Traverse City designed for victims of sex-trafficking. "There are certain agencies in the community that would certainly step forward, like Women's Resource Center or Goodwill Inn, if the individual needs housing, but I don't know the specific organization at this time whose mission is primary working with sex trafficked individuals."

Thomas also works in Student Life at NMC, which would be the first resource on campus for a victim of sex trafficking. She said that if the student was an adult (cases involving minors would immediately be reported to authorities), they would approach the situation as any other confidential counseling matter. "We would try and work with them and find out if they want to report this to the police, do they want legal help, do they need housing, counseling... we would do an immediate assessment on what needs they had and what they wanted to pursue resource-wise."

College students are often more vulnerable to trafficking. They may be new to an area, have housing insecurity, involved with drugs and alcohol, and have financial instability. Thomas says no reports of sex trafficking at NMC have been filed, but she has seen cases of sexual assault. "It is really important that we not be naïve, too, to think that our town is safe from this. The conference and other ways that our community can get tuned into how they can help is a really important step."

Following the conference, Yorty-Killion has seen an outpouring of community support. "It's been amazing to see so many members of the community begin to talk about human trafficking at a local level. I recently attended a meeting of the Traverse City Human Rights Commission where members who had attended the conference opened the conversation to potential future initiatives."

As of now, future conferences or campaigns have not been set, but Yorty-Killion is hoping to implement more educational resources in the community including a "S.O.A.P Up" event during Cherry Festival. The S.O.A.P (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution) Project, founded by Flores, focuses on education and increased awareness of sex trafficking—and literally puts stickers with helpline information on soap that can be distributed to area hotels.

Currently, Traverse City does not have its own sex trafficking task force. Often these cases are discovered during drug-related busts. "Since trafficking is such a new issue in the public eye, local efforts and resources to combat it are fairly recent and few," said Yorty-Killion. "This is why it's so important to raise awareness about this topic and to get the community energized and engaged, so that we can bring these resources to this area where they may not yet exist."

# NMC Art Department Juried Student Art Show

**Ann Hosler**  
Staff Writer

This year marked the first time that Northwestern Michigan College's annual juried art show was presented in the Dennos Museum. Hundreds of artwork pieces from both NMC students and local area high school students were featured, covering a large variety of categories such as printmaking, watercolor, drawing, photography, ceramics, 2D design, and more. Nearly half of NMC student submissions were juried out of the show due to gallery space constraints.

Mike Torre, head of the NMC Art department, explained that the college's art faculty judged the high school pieces while two local professionals—Sue Ann Round of Michigan Artist's

Gallery and Amber Elliott of Grand Traverse Photography and Design—judged NMC student art. “[They] were very generous to donate their time and expertise in choosing the best works for the show,” Torre said. “The NMC Art Department instructors who served as judges were not only impressed with the work but the quality of instruction our local area high school students are receiving.”

“We were especially thrilled about being in the Dennos,” humanities instructor Glenn Wolff said. “Our jurors did a great job and made suggestions on how work could be grouped when it was hung. That input helped a lot. I already see a lot of teaching moments happening.”

Jason Dake, the Curator of Education at Dennos, described how the recent construction allowed them to work the student art show into a gallery. “We had some flexibility in our schedule with construction, and I have been in conversation with the NMC Art Department for about a year. So we managed to work out an agreeable schedule and move forward with the exhibition. There are always hiccups along the way, but I think overall the show turned out well.” Dake said that he looked forward to visitor feedback. “This is a chance to try something a little different and decide what it means for the future.”



Top left and right: Reception for the student show at the Dennos with Mike Torre, Alex Smith, and Glenn Wolff. Bottom right: prints from students enrolled in the Print Making class this semester.

There's always a learning curve for utilizing a new space, especially when the art show has been restricted to the walls of the Fine Art building in the past. Dennos Museum's executive director Gene Jenneman was “okay with the results” but observed some points for improvement. “Given the gallery space that was selected by mutual agreement, I would have liked to have seen an exhibition that was more tightly juried to fit the space better and enable the installation to be a bit less visually overwhelming. But that is part of the process of refining the approach to this exhibition being installed in the Dennos galleries in the future.”

Torre discussed how the Fine Arts building, while a historic piece of architecture itself, was not designed for exhibitions. “The most exciting aspect of this year's event is the prospect of continuing to exhibit student artwork from NMC and the local area high schools in the Dennos Museum,” he said. “All of the students and teachers are dedicated to continuing these events in the Dennos.”

Whether or not the annual juried art show will be

exhibited again in the museum is uncertain, but Dake said that the Dennos will “remain open to conversation about future exhibitions.” Both Dake and Jenneman commented similarly regarding scheduling, with Jenneman explaining in depth. “The future of this endeavor will to some extent be determined [by] our annual exhibition schedule as to when or if it can be accommodated, and efforts to refine the selection process based on gallery space available to maintain the standard of installations we prefer for our gallery spaces.”

“It is no secret that I have evolved in my acceptance of the idea of doing this exhibition at the Dennos,” Jenneman said. “Since we normally charge admission I was uncomfortable charging to see student level work. Our current circumstances have put us in a position where we would not be charging full admission due to construction and we are now offering the exhibition free of charge for its duration. This now gives us an opportunity to assess our future engagement with this project.”





“This is a chance to try something a little different and decide what it means for the future.”

Both Dake and Jenneman shared their impressions of the student art. “As someone who has taught visual arts at many levels, I’m always impressed by the range of materials and subject matter presented in the show,” Dake said. Jenneman added that “As this exhibition was juried ... one assumes that it represents the best of the work available from the area high schools, with consideration to represent all area high schools who entered, and NMC art students. I think our visitors will generally be impressed with the level of student work selected.”

Numerous awards were given out to both high school and NMC students during a reception at the Denmos Museum on Friday, March 17. Awards included honorable mentions, third,

second, and first place, as well as best in show, all spanning across the various categories of art. The juried art show exhibition ended on Thursday, March 23.

Top left: “The Dragon’s Bath” by Aleksandra Hissong, tied for 2nd place. Top right: “Sitting Pretty” by Amanda Costalas of Benzie Central, 3rd place. Bottom left: Rufus James, NMC painting professor. Bottom right: “Jacob Ram” by Kenna Marar, tied for 3rd place.

Photos by Lucy Davis and Ann Hosler



# March Madness: 15 Minutes of Amateur Hour

**Maya James**  
Staff Writer

March is alright: shamrock shakes, how much beer my older brothers can drink on St. Patrick's Day, small pockets of what feels like spring weather followed by very cold and violent snowstorms that collapse all hope someone could have for summer to come back again.

Also March Madness.

It is that time again—everyone has their picks for the final four. My family in Los Angeles holds onto UCLA for dear life, urging me to represent. My Traverse City family wants me to root for Michigan State. But behind the scenes of all the excitement, who is really winning?

According to *Time*, the NCAA stands to make another \$797 million from a \$10.8 billion contract agreement, which hands off college basketball media rights to CBS and Turner Sports. After scholarships and grants, it is questionable if players ever see a cent of the mass revenue.

During press interviews, NCAA president Mark Emmert makes sure to specify that college players are “students, not athletes.” This choice in rhetoric ensures student athletes are viewed as “amateurs” and will not receive any form of payment or special treatment for their services. These rules extended to Rick Majerus, coach of Utah, who was penalized in 2003 for buying student athlete Keith Van Horn fast food, as well as Jamal Fenton, a University of New Mexico player, who was suspended in 2012 for accepting a \$250 discount on a ballroom for his birthday party. The lack of monetary

compensation has left the lives of these “student athletes” spiraling into poverty and lack of a proper education. In 2016, Florida cornerback Jalen Tabor tweeted that college sports is “a modern form of slavery.”

According to the National College Players Association report “Price of Poverty in a Big Time College Sport,” in 2009/2010 the bottom third of college basketball players in the NCAA lived \$3,000–5,000 below the annual poverty line. The average full-scholarship athlete still earns nearly \$2,000 below the annual poverty line on and off campus. If college basketball players were paid a fair-market price for their services, they would be worth about “\$121,048 and \$265,027 respectively.” When NCAA coaches like Dan Mullan, John Calipari, and Dabo Swinney make \$4–\$7 million annually, colleges could afford to compensate athletes beyond the scholarship incentive.

Almost 40 percent of all NCAA players, although unpaid, work more than 40 hours a week on the basketball court. Over 150,000 student athletes receive NCAA scholarships, but very few are full-ride, and scholarships cover fewer than one third of their 460,000 players. To top it off, the NCAA says that only 1.1% of college basketball players have the possibility to become pros. If a player is injured, their future is dim. The first NCAA president, Walter Byers, admitted in his book “Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Exploiting College Athletics” that he and his associates “crafted the term student athlete” to avoid the necessity of workers’ compensation. If an athlete is

injured, they may not return to finish their degree at all. Such was the case of Kyle Hardrick, who, after a knee injury, could not return to school to finish his degree and returned home to live with his mother.

Though scholarships may assist in paying tuition, student athletes find fault within courses to appropriately prepare them for post-college jobs—or post-injury jobs. In a recent lawsuit filed against the University of Chapel Hill, student athletes claim they were commonly enrolled in “paper courses,” classes which are pass/fail and have little instruction and are particularly geared towards black athletes, such as Swahili or African American studies. The NCAA states that its role is to “establish and maintain an environment in which a student-athlete’s activities are conducted as an integral part of the student-athlete’s educational experience,” but pressure from coaches on educators to pass student athletes is all too common.

Food insecurity is another stress that many athletes face. As former NCAA basketball player Shabazz Napier explained, sometimes there are “hungry nights” for players. This food controversy eventually drove the NCAA to run a campaign providing meals to the very few full-scholarship athletes. This plan does not apply to all NCAA athletes, and even if it does apply to the athlete, the amount of time they receive to eat throughout the day is questionable.

No matter who fills your March Madness roster, the clear winner is the NCAA.



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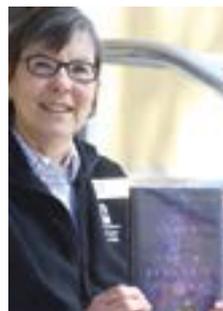


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# Spring Break Reads

**Andrea Grabowski** Staff Writer With spring break just around the corner, it's the perfect time to do some reading that is not in a textbook. Some of the librarians at Osterlin have recommended their favorite books to the students. From a beautifully crafted doorway into the past to a practical look at current student life, to a short story collection, these book picks are sure to be interesting reads.

**Ann Swaney**  
*"The Smell of Other People's Houses"* by Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock



This young adult novel follows the four lives of Alaskan teenagers in 1970: Ruth, who has a secret; Dora, who doubts whether she can escape where she came from; Alyce, who lives on a fishing boat but wants to dance; and Hank, who decides to run away with his brothers. Soon, danger strikes all four.

When Swaney noticed the title on one of Osterlin's kiosks, she was intrigued. "We had visited Alaska a couple of years ago and I like reading about it, so that made it even more appealing. I took it home and read it in a couple of afternoons. I found it to be an excellent read – it was surprisingly funny, dramatic, and thoughtful in turns. It is set... in a couple different spots in Alaska, by an author who grew up in Alaska, working both in the fishing industry and as a reporter." Swaney thinks it "might appeal to both male and female students."

**Ann Geht**  
*"The News Media: What Everyone Needs to Know"* by C.W. Anderson, Leonard Downie, and Michael Schudson



Geht loves the "What Everyone Needs to Know" series of books from Oxford University Press. "Each brief title offers a balanced, authoritative overview of a complex issue like campus politics, the gun debate, hydrofracking, or—my personal favorite—the news media." Written in a Q&A format, "The News Media: What Everyone Needs to Know" looks at the past, present, and future of journalism, and addresses a variety of questions and topics. Geht suggests that "if you need to wrap your head around a complicated topic quickly—[such as] before your next paper is due—this series of books should be your go-to."

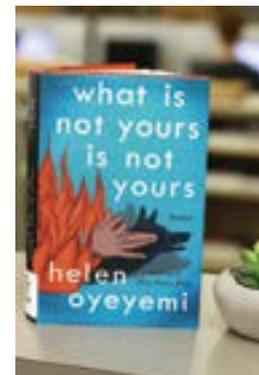
**Tina Ulrich**



*"Paying the Price: College Costs, Financial Aid, and the Betrayal of the American Dream"* by Sara Goldrick-Rab

"This is an amazing book about what students are really up against when they go to college," says Ulrich. "Goldrick-Rab followed 3,000 community college students for six years—whether they stayed in school or not—to find out how people cope with the cost of college. What she found was that for many, many people getting a college degree is almost impossible. She chose 50 of the 3,000 to interview in person at regular intervals. Their stories of homelessness, hunger, student debt, and family struggles are heartbreaking. Our system of student financial aid is inadequate and outdated. This book really opened my eyes!" The cover summary adds that "Goldrick-Rab offers a range of possible solutions" to how America can solve these problems. "What's not an option ... is doing nothing."

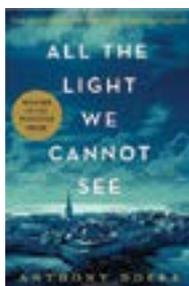
**Joelle Hannert**



*"What is Not Yours is Not Yours"* by Helen Oyeyemi

"Why do people shy away from short story collections? I think they're perfect for busy, stressed-out college students!" says Hannert. The nine stories in this collection by a British novelist now living in Prague are based around the idea of keys. "[They] are just as immersive as a novel...but shorter, and oftentimes weirder. A con-artist gifts her lover a haunted rose garden, puppets carry on lives of their own, and drowned prisoners take over the marshland of a dystopian fairy-tale kingdom. Some stories are firmly rooted in the present, while others are timeless, but all hold at least a hint of the fantastical." Hannert recommends that you "keep this in your bag for a brief literary escape between classes."

**Rochelle Hammontree**

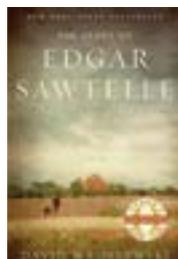


*"All the Light We Cannot See"* by Anthony Doerr

"All the Light We Cannot See" is a novel about a Parisian man who builds a miniature model of his neighborhood so his blind daughter, Marie-Laure, can memorize it and navigate on her own.

When the Nazis occupy Paris, they flee with a precious jewel to the walled city of Saint-Malo, where the girl's reclusive great-uncle lives by the sea. Meanwhile, over in Germany, an orphaned boy's skill repairing radios lands him in a Hitler youth academy. "More and more aware of the human cost of his intelligence, Werner travels through the heart of the war and, finally, into Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure's converge," says the cover. It is "beautifully written," says Hammontree. "It took the author 10 years to write, and I enjoyed every page of this book! [There is] so much in depth of the characters."

*"The Story of Edgar Sawtelle"* by David Wroblewski



Another favorite of Hammontree's, Wroblewski's first novel tells the story of Edgar Sawtelle. He was born mute, speaking only in sign, and lives an idyllic life with his parents on their farm in the woods of northern Wisconsin. They raise a fictional breed of dog, and one of them, Almondine, is Edgar's lifelong friend. Things change when his uncle comes and their peaceful life becomes tumultuous. "This book has good and bad characters," says Hammontree, "and the mystery of it all is intriguing. It starts out as a happy story, but turns into something quite unexpected."



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# Marvel's Iron Fist: Spoiler Free Review

**Zack Harrington**  
Staff Writer

Audiences who have never read a comic book are being introduced to superheroes by way of movies and television. Recently, Netflix introduced many viewers to Danny Rand, a.k.a. Iron Fist—Marvel's kung-fu character. Born from '70s nuance, Iron Fist is from that weird section of C-grade superheroes, rated somewhere below Spider-Man but above the Guardians of the Galaxy. Our classification of heroes has drastically changed in recent years, with blockbuster hits catapulting characters from obscurity into the limelight. The fresh perspective that Marvel Studios gives flailing characters has saved many heroes, such as Daredevil, from damnation. In this current climate of comic-hero resuscitation, how has the Iron Fist fared?

Not well. "Iron Fist" is the latest superhero crossover show (until "Marvel's: The Defenders" is released on Netflix later this year). It doesn't do the Marvel superhero formula justice. Granted, Iron Fist cannot tackle the gritty, brooding violence of Daredevil, the racially and socially honest Luke Cage, or the independent and psychological Jessica Jones. But Iron Fist should have easily been able to deliver charming, yet charged, martial arts action. However, the scene cinematography is often cut short—the complete opposite of the longer takes that Daredevil was acclaimed for. The lighting takes advantage of the teal and gold representative of the Iron Fist's costume, but doesn't do enough to immerse the viewer. In fact, Finn Jones, the actor portraying Danny Rand, often fights in gray clothing, doing nothing to differentiate him as a superhero. Even slow motion "Matrix"-style fighting would have been welcomed. The action simply comes off flat.

The foil that makes the entire superhero genre interesting is the villain. Many viewers are likely unfamiliar with the rogues gallery of "Iron Fist" and the show doesn't do anything to help clarify. Even the antagonist needs a personality and plot outside

of a costume and villain role—such as Daredevil's Wilson Fisk, Jessica Jones' Kilgrave or Luke Cage's Cottonmouth. Whether they are menacing the hero or simply paying rent, they were real people. This facet is strong in "Iron Fist," as villain Ward Meachum evolves into the most interesting character of the show, first as the childhood bully of Danny Rand and then through his slow descent into villainy. It's a shame that his story has nearly nothing to do with the protagonist.

There needs to be mention of how "Iron Fist" handles Eastern Asian culture. Actor Jessica Henwick is a stand out, not only as a woman of Asian descent, but as an all-around badass. If her character's personification as a superhero is nurtured, she has the potential to appear in other Marvel shows (a la "Punisher"). The critique that Danny appears as a "white savior" should be considered not entirely accurate as Danny "earns" the title of Iron Fist. These positives, along with how many of the Marvel Netflix shows shoot scenes entirely in Mandarin or Japanese, show that its creators take the culture seriously. However, the writers fall victim to an easy trap. They wrote characters that disregard information entirely if it sounds too Eastern. This trend is common with writers as American audiences usually cannot identify with Eastern names and as a result, cannot take them seriously.

To conclude, "Iron Fist" will not be the epic standalone show you'll want to binge like "Daredevil" or "Jessica Jones." It does have references to its sister and brother shows as well as to the Marvel cinematic universe, with plans to join the greater community with "Defenders" and beyond. Finn Jones even mentioned that Danny Rand's first story doesn't actually end until the "Defenders" mini-series does. As this review was written after only seeing the first nine of thirteen episodes, that's a relief. If you're invested in Marvel or comic book cinema, "Iron Fist" is worth riding out. As for me, I'll just finish the last few episodes and wait for "Defenders."

# The Haiku Music Review

**T.J. Hall**  
Contributing Writer



## Almighty Do Me A Favor *Time Spent Moving And Losing*

A long tooth gift horse,  
hourglass figure of speech,  
will answer to, "Toots."



## Loma Prieta *Desperate Living*

The best things in life  
become so sorely cliché.  
Someone takes over.



## Palace Winter *Hearts To Kill*

Postmodern dancing,  
us stark naked in wire-  
frames,  
slick like olive oil.



## Horse The Band *Desperate Living*

The best things in life  
become so sorely cliché.  
Someone takes over.



## Body Count *"No lives matter" single* (Bloodlust out March 31)

Xenophobia.  
Seriously, shit is fucked.  
Have a nice spring break.



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You are invited to join WMU- Traverse City for an opportunity to learn about available face-to-face and online degree programs at our open house.

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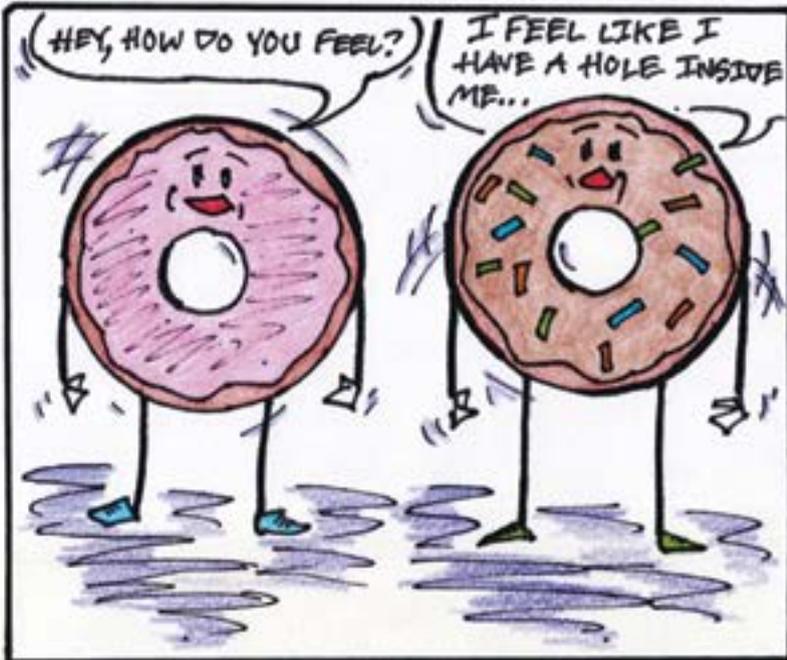
**Joe Sanok**  
Host of the #1 Mental Health Counseling Podcast, *The Practice of the Practice*  
  
*Slow Down To Spark Innovation*  
*Why the Key to Happiness and Business Growth is Cutting Back*



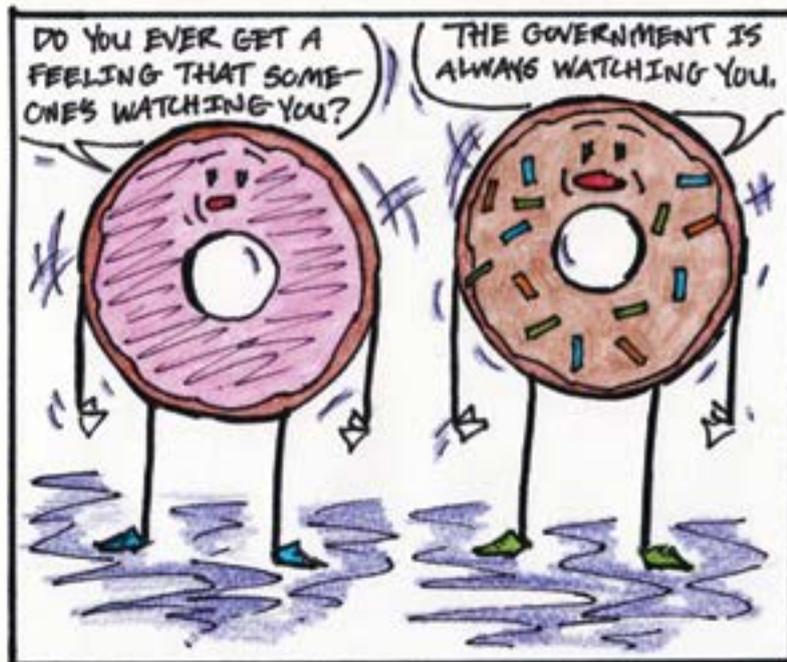
**Yarrow Wolfe Brown**  
Leelanau Conservancy, Program Manager  
*Many Hands Make Light Work*  
*How Organizational partnerships can benefit students and the community by assisting in watershed planning and collecting water quality data.*



TROPICAL SUNRISE COMIX PRESENTS...



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STORY BY JOE CURTIS  
ART BY BEN BRADSHAW.

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## Finding Truth in the Era of Fake News

**James Robinson**  
Staff Writer

Freedom of the press is one of the cornerstones of a democratic society—a freedom not all countries enjoy. According to watchdog organization Freedom House’s 2017 “Freedom in the World” report, of the 195 recognized countries in the world, 87 have free press, 59 have partly free press, and 49 have no free press. Of the roughly 7.5 billion people living on the planet, 2.9 billion (39%) live in free press countries. The United States is fortunate enough to be one of the 87 countries with free press.

**Many media outlets have migrated from fair, balanced reporting to polarizing views of the world. While they may not be reporting blatantly false information, confirmation bias has warped this information to a certain point of view.**

The First Amendment of the Bill of Rights protects citizens from laws “abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.” Americans have the freedom to seek the truth and share it with their fellow citizens. Our press can write what they want to write, within reason, without being sanctioned or overseen by the government. This freedom comes with great responsibility, as *White Pine Press* Editor in Chief Breanne Russell mentions in her Match 10 Letter From the Editor. She adds, “We as a society have the power to say whatever we’d like, which means citizens must work that much harder to sort out what is quality information. It is both a blessing and a curse.”

This curse has become more apparent with the escalation of fake news and confirmation bias. The term “fake news” refers to false information or propaganda published under the guise of real news. This includes satire, such as *The Onion*, and tabloids, such as the *National Enquirer* or *National Examiner*. However, some people have begun using the term to describe

media outlets and news stories that don’t align with their views. President Trump has repeatedly referred to the news media as fake, dishonest, and “the enemy of the people.” Is this true? Has the press become fake and dishonest? Has media failed the people?

To a certain extent, yes. Many media outlets have migrated from fair, balanced reporting to polarizing views of the world. While they may not be reporting blatantly false information, confirmation bias has warped this information to a certain point of view. *The Wall Street Journal* has developed a fascinating web application—Blue Feed, Red Feed—which allows readers to compare conservative and liberal Facebook posts side-by-side. When I typed “gun control” or “abortion” into the topic search bar, posts generated on either side of the argument displayed articles with emotionally charged or suggestive images and headlines that drew me away from the facts. The news sources tended to showcase bias rather than balanced coverage.

The *White Pine Press* also tends to be biased in our news coverage. Russell recognizes, and I agree, “...that perhaps the *White Pine Press* has failed in this aspect. We often print stories that could be labeled as liberal or overtly opinionated. Fundamentally, we are not a liberal entity—but many on our staff are. The *WPP* is a reflection of its writers.” Both the *White Pine Press* and the larger media outlets must work to create well-rounded news coverage, thereby remaining a credible source for all our readers.

While the press has a duty to inform its readers with balanced news coverage, our readership has a responsibility to think critically about the news they read and hold the press accountable for the bias and fake news they print. So how can readers recognize bias and fake news and remove it from their news coverage?

First, check to see who wrote the article. What claims does the author make? Do they have a certain stance on an issue and tend to write about it in a certain way? See if you can find other articles on the same topic and compare their facts and

views on the issue. What sources do they cite? Quality news tends to have multiple primary sources, while fake news has questionable sources that can be disproven through further research. When in doubt, dig deeper to find the primary sources. When was it published? Who published it? Be careful with breaking news, as it usually contains errors at the beginning and will be corrected multiple times as the situation progresses. Depending on who publishes the article, the facts may appeal to multiple perspectives or only one side of the issue. Try to find media outlets that keep their bias in check. How does it make you feel? Be aware that fake and/or biased news might make you feel strong emotions. Don’t let your bias seep in. Take things at face value until you know whether they are true or untrue.

In the end, people will always be opinionated on certain issues and bias may never fully dissipate. It’s our job as journalists, and as informed citizens, to recognize the difference between fake and quality news, control our bias, and seek the truth.

### Further Resources:

- **All Sides – Don’t Be Fooled By Bias, Think for Yourself:**  
[allsides.com](http://allsides.com)
- **Fake News Watch (Golden Gate Xpress):**  
[goldengatexpress.org/2017/03/01/the-fake-news-watch-media-literacy-ep-4](http://goldengatexpress.org/2017/03/01/the-fake-news-watch-media-literacy-ep-4)
- **Blue Feed, Red Feed (The Wall Street Journal):**  
[graphics.wsj.com/blue-feed-red-feed](http://graphics.wsj.com/blue-feed-red-feed)
- **2017 Freedom in the World Report (Freedom House):**  
[freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/freedom-world-2017](http://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/freedom-world-2017)